

CARITAS NOW

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BROOKLYN AND QUEENS MAGAZINE | 35 HOMES AND COUNTING

125+
YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES



Fresh Starts

ACROSS CATHOLIC CHARITIES BROOKLYN AND QUEENS, NEW HOMES, HEALTHY BEGINNINGS,
NEW CAREERS, AND \$1.8 MILLION IN GENEROSITY

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

I am grateful to write to you in my first Fall issue of Caritas Now as President and CEO of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.

Since July, I have made it a priority to visit our programs across both boroughs: older adult centers, homelessness prevention offices, food pantries, and affordable housing residences. At each one, I have met staff who serve with skill and compassion. I have also met neighbors facing real hardship who are finding the support they need to begin again. Some of those visits are pictured here.

This issue is about fresh starts. You will meet Gerald Smith, one of the first residents of the Gail P. Duke Senior Residence in Brownsville. It is our 35th affordable housing development and a home for 141 older New Yorkers. You will read about two new Baby Cafés in Jamaica and Woodside, which offer free breastfeeding support to new and expecting parents. And you will see how more than 750 supporters raised \$1.8 million at our Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner. Those funds sustain our 160 programs and services.

At that dinner, we also honored my predecessor, Monsignor Alfred P. LoPinto. His 50 years of service built the foundation we stand on today.

None of this work is possible without you: our donors, volunteers, and partners. For over 127 years, your generosity has allowed Catholic Charities to meet our neighbors where they are and walk with them through difficult times.

As the Christmas season approaches, I ask you to stand with us again. You can give through our Christmas Toy Drive, make a year-end gift, or offer your time.

Thank you for your faith in our mission. Together, we can offer every neighbor dignity, stability, and the chance to begin again.

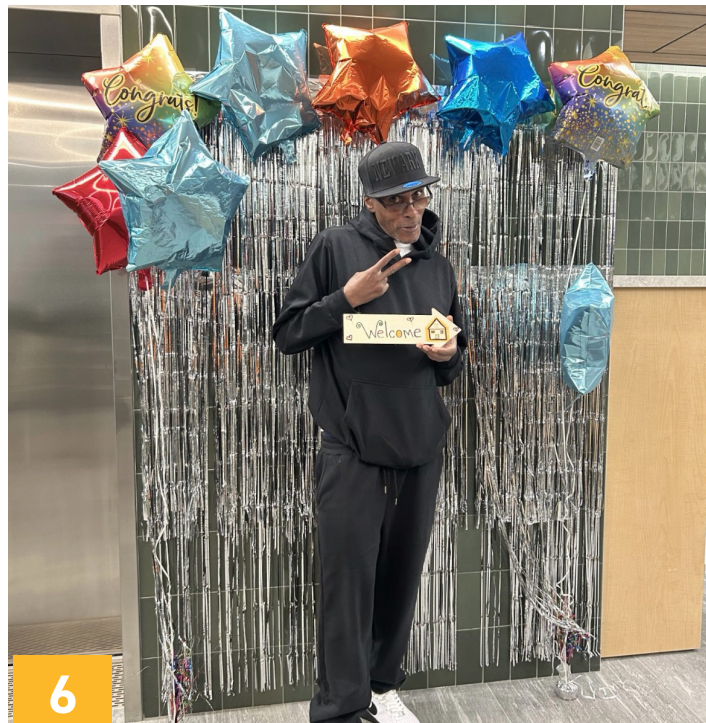
With gratitude and prayers,


Very Reverend Patrick J. Keating, Esq.
President and CEO





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For over 125 years, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens has been providing quality social services to the neighborhoods of Brooklyn and Queens and currently offers 160-plus programs and services for children, youth, adults, older adults, and those struggling with mental illness. Since 1975, Catholic Charities Progress of Peoples Development Corporation, the affordable housing developer of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, has been transforming vacant land and buildings into affordable housing units and transforming the lives of individuals and families. We've completed more than 4,567 units with supportive services for seniors, families, veterans and the formerly homeless. Since 2020, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens has provided much-needed food packages and services at 60 Catholic Charities parish-based food pantries and has distributed over \$15 million in food.

CARITAS NOW Magazine will bring you quarterly insight into the programs and services offered by Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.

For more information, or to be removed from our list, contact:

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CARITASNOW@ccbq.org or 718-722-6202

A Place to Call Home: Celebrating the Gail P. Du



Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens celebrated the ribbon-cutting and opening of the Gail P. Duke Senior Residence, a milestone in our ongoing mission to provide affordable, dignified housing for older adults. This \$143.4 million development now offers 141 safe, sustainable apartments and supportive services for low-income seniors in the heart of Brownsville, Brooklyn, with supportive services that will enhance the community and each resident's well-being.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 8, Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Brooklyn, and Very Reverend Patrick J. Keating, Esq., President and CEO of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, were joined by city officials, partners, and community leaders to celebrate this achievement. Their presence highlighted the vital collaboration between Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, city agencies, and generous supporters whose commitment makes projects like this possible.

"Affordable housing remains one of the greatest needs in our city," said Very Reverend Patrick J. Keating. "For 50 years, Catholic

Charities Brooklyn and Queens has led efforts to address this challenge. The Gail P. Duke Senior Residence is our 35th affordable housing development. Thanks to the dedication of our partners and supporters, 141 older New Yorkers now have a place to call home."

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens' Progress of Peoples Development Corporation, the agency's affordable housing arm, remains one of the nation's largest providers of faith-based affordable housing, with more than 3,000 units for seniors, families, veterans, and the formerly homeless. The new Gail P. Duke Senior Residence reflects our ongoing commitment to safe and affordable housing.

ake Senior Residence



This important project was made possible through a blend of public and private funding, including city, state, and federal partners. Robust financial support, ranging from tax credits and grants to dedicated project-based vouchers, ensures long-term affordability and sustainability for every resident. Such backing is a testament to the shared commitment to our seniors' well-being.

Bishop Brennan shared, "Today is a day of great joy as we celebrate the completion of the Gail P. Duke Senior Residence. Catholic Charities has once again put human dignity at the center, providing safe, affordable homes for those who need it most." The Gail P. Duke Senior

Residence is built with the future in mind. The residence features all-electric heating, cooling, and hot water designed to the highest standards of efficiency and comfort. Built to strict sustainability and resiliency standards, including backup power, it keeps residents safe and healthy, and helps them age in place with dignity. The residence honors Gail P. Duke, a dedicated Brooklyn community advocate and long-serving board member of the Catholic Charities Progress of Peoples Development and Management Corporations, whose career and compassion have improved countless lives. At the ribbon-cutting, Ms. Duke expressed her hope that every resident will



find comfort and stability in their new home. "We all deserve to spend our days in an appealing environment," Ms. Duke shared. The residence includes a vibrant 10,000-square-foot older adult center. Residents enjoy daily hot meals, educational activities, fitness classes, and case management, creating a caring, active community and supporting a healthy lifestyle. ■



Meet Gerald Smith: A Fresh Start in a New Home

Among the first to move into the Gail P. Duke Senior Residence is Gerald Smith, age 56. Gerald's story is one of hope and new beginnings. After losing his mother as a child, Gerald stepped up to care for his younger siblings. Life brought challenges including housing instability, health struggles, and hard times, but Gerald never gave up on building a better future.

Moving into his new apartment on October 1st marked a turning point for Gerald. With a warm welcome and the keys to a safe, comfortable home, Gerald feels a sense of peace and belonging he hasn't felt in years. He looks forward to staying connected with his family, making new friends in the building, and giving back to the community that has supported him on his journey.

Photos of the Gail P. Duke Senior Residence show bright, inviting spaces where residents like Gerald can finally feel secure. A photo of Gerald on move-in day smiling with staff captures the joy and gratitude that come from having a place to truly call home.

Gerald's story reminds us what your support makes possible: second chances, brighter days, and lasting change for real people. Thank you for opening the door to hope for neighbors like Gerald. The Gail P. Duke Senior Residence, which began construction in 2024, was developed by Catholic Charities Progress of Peoples Development (CCPOPD) Corporation. In 2018, CCPOPD was awarded a City-owned site through the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development's (HPD) Brownsville RFP. As sole developer of Site C3, CCPOPD built on nine adjacent vacant lots along Livonia Avenue between Mother Gaston Boulevard and Christopher Avenue, and in May 2022 acquired an adjacent out-parcel (Lot 25) to improve the site design and financial feasibility. ■





Supporting New Families: Baby Cafés Open Their

Families in Jamaica and Woodside now have a welcoming place to get free breastfeeding support. During World Breastfeeding Week in August, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, joined by Northwell Health Long Island Jewish Forest Hills, opened two new Baby Café locations. These bright, friendly spaces are run by the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services WIC (Women, Infant and Children's Nutrition) Programs and offer resources and encouragement for parents, expectant parents, and caregivers.

The Baby Café program is simple but powerful. Families can

drop in anytime to get help from trained breastfeeding professionals or connect with other parents. Whether it's a first-time mom looking for advice or a parent wanting a comfortable place to relax and chat, everyone is welcome. The collaboration between Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services WIC Program and Northwell LIJ Forest Hills comes from a shared goal of becoming a licensed Baby Café provider to offer a free, drop-in community space offering professional breastfeeding support, evidence-based lactation guidance, and peer connections for new and expecting parents.

Funded by the New York State Department of Health, the Catholic Charities WIC Programs help moms and babies thrive. The agency wants every child to have the best start in life, which

includes supporting breastfeeding, healthy pregnancies, and strong families. With the addition of these two Baby Cafés, the agency is reaching even more families who might not otherwise have access to these vital resources. When the Baby Cafés opened in early August, families, partners, and neighbors gathered to celebrate and explore the new spaces. It was a joyful time filled with hope for new beginnings.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity and commitment of the donors and supporters who invested in these new resources that help bring vital breastfeeding support directly into the Jamaica and Woodside communities.

Mary Hurson, Senior Vice President of Family Services at Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, shared: "Breastfeeding



Doors in Queens

support can make all the difference for new parents, and we're proud to bring these resources directly to Jamaica and Woodside, where families need them most."

Lorraine Chambers Lewis, President of Northwell Health Long Island Jewish Forest Hills, said: "By working together, we're helping parents feel confident and supported throughout their parenting journey."

At both Baby Café locations, mothers can relax, share tips, and make friends. Trained staff are always on hand for one-on-one help, and parents can even weigh their babies to track their growth. Most of all, these Cafés offer a caring community where every family is welcome. Thank you for helping us support families and build a brighter future for children in Queens. ■

Your Generosity, Your Way

Gifts of stock and IRA distributions can do more good — for those we serve and for you.

Did you know you can give a gift of stock directly to Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, rather than selling it first? Giving appreciated stock can help you avoid capital gains taxes, so more of your gift goes where it matters most.

If you're 70½ or older, an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) lets you give directly from your retirement account. It can count toward your required minimum distribution and lower your taxable income. That's why more and more of our donors are choosing these tax-smart gifts. Each one helps a neighbor in Brooklyn or Queens find a meal, a home, or a helping hand.

More Ways to Give

- Real Estate
- Charitable Trusts
- Donor-Advised Funds
- Planned Giving and Bequests

We can help you explore your non-cash giving options. Reduce your taxable income, reach your giving goals without affecting your day-to-day cash flow, or leave a lasting legacy of generosity. For more information, call 718-722-6202 or visit ccbq.org/plannedgiving.

Please consult your financial or tax advisor about your situation.





Pictured from left to right: Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Brian Long, Bert Rahm, Paul Michels, Steve Rosenberg, and Very Reverend Patrick J. Keating, Esq.

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens raised \$1.8 million at its annual Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner on Thursday, September 24th, 2026, at Cipriani Wall Street. More than 750 donors and supporters attended the Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner to support Catholic Charities' 160-plus programs and services and to honor individuals who embody Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens' mission of helping those most in need. The funds raised at this year's dinner help us continue to serve our neighbors throughout the boroughs.

The evening's program was led by Most Reverend Bishop Robert J. Brennan, Chair of the Bishop's Humanitarian Dinner, and Very Reverend Father Patrick J. Keating, Esq., Co-Chair and new President and CEO of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens. Monsignor Robert Romano, Assistant Chief Chaplain of the NYPD's Chaplains Unit, emceed the event. This year's Bishop's Humanitarian Award honorees are **Paul Michels, Esq.**,

retired partner, Cullen & Dykman, LLP, received the award for decades of service to the Diocese of Brooklyn and tireless commitment to supporting those in need; **Turner Construction Company**, represented by Bert Rahm, Senior Vice President and General Manager, was honored for its decades-long dedication to building strong communities and its exemplary commitment to corporate responsibility; and **Greystone, Inc.**, a dedicated supporter of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, was recognized for its commitment to strengthening communities through affordable housing. Steve Rosenberg, Founder and CEO, accepted the Bishop's Humanitarian Award on behalf of the company.

The Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Service Award was presented to **Reverend Monsignor Alfred P. LoPinto**, retired President and CEO of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens. For 50 years, Msgr. LoPinto has championed social justice and compassion, leaving a profound and lasting impact on our organization and the communities we serve. This

special honor celebrates his visionary leadership and lifelong devotion to uplifting others. In recognition of Msgr. LoPinto's remarkable service, New York City Council member Lincoln Restler presented him with a proclamation at the event.

Brian Long, Key Principal and co-founder of Long and DeLosa Construction, received the Ubi Caritas Award for his deep commitment to compassion and community—values at the heart of Catholic Charities' mission.

We also celebrated the John J. Farrell Award recipients for 30 years of dedicated service: **Rita Antonsanti, Halina Engler, Hurguens Jasmin, Rosalva Medina, Jacek Niedzwiedz, Ida Nieves, Hermine Pelta, and George Stathoudakis**. Their steadfast commitment embodies the spirit of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.

The evening was filled with joy and friendship, featuring gourmet dining, signature cocktails, and lively entertainment—all made possible through your generous support. ■



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Save the Date!

Saturday, April 17, 2027

Coat of Arms Mass and Luncheon
Immaculate Conception Center
Douglaston, New York

Thursday, June 17, 2027

Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan + Peter J. Striano
Memorial Golf Classic
North Hills Country Club

Thursday, September 30, 2027

Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner
Cipriani Wall Street
55 Wall Street, NYC

For details on these and future events visit: www.ccbq.org,
contact the Office of Development and Communications at
718-722-6202 or email us at ccbq.events@ccbq.org

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Christmas Toy Drive

This holiday season, join us in spreading Christmas joy to families in need. Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens is collecting new toys for children (ages 0-17) and gift cards for teens for our annual Santa's Toy Shops, happening on December 10-11 and 17-18, 2026.

Click here or scan the QR code to start shopping!



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