



Changing Lives...  
Building Communities™

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BROOKLYN AND QUEENS

# HopeWorks

VOLUME 7

WINTER 2011

## In this Issue:

Volunteer of the Year	1
Honored by US Census	2
Meet a Little and her Big	3
New Playground	4
News Notes	5
Bishop's Testimonial	
Reception	6
Saints Joachim and Anne's	
20th Anniversary	6
Event Photos	7
Save the Date	8



Every year, The New York Times sponsors **The Neediest Cases Fund** to raise money to help seven of New York's major non-profit agencies, including Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens. The Times publishes a series of articles in the Neediest Cases Campaign profiling people whose lives have improved. For a copy of our Neediest Cases booklet, contact Sephora Rosario at 718-722-6224 or srosario@ccbq.org.

## Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens Honors Libba Claude as their 2010 Volunteer of the Year



Libba Claude accepts the Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Pictured are (from l. to r.): Renita Pfifer, a participant of The Children's Center; Libba Claude, CCBQ's Volunteer of the Year; Sister Elaine Roulet, CSJ, Founder of the Children's Center; Robert Siebel, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens; Alessandra Rose, Director, The Children's Center; Elaine Lord, Superintendent of the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility.

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens proudly acknowledged the invaluable service of Libba Claude, an extraordinary woman who donates her time and resources to the hundreds of families from The Children's Center at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in Bedford Hills, New York. Operated by Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, The Children's Center is a unique model program that unites children and their incarcerated mothers. A special ceremony honoring Libba Claude as Catholic Charities' 2010 Volunteer of the Year took place in January at The Children's Center.

Mrs. Claude's service to The Children's Center began more than fifteen years ago, when she first volunteered as a driver for the Center's visitation programs. Traveling across the state, she brought children back and forth to the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility so that they could enjoy visits with their mothers, who were often serving long sentences.

Soon after she became a Children's Advocate, acting as a liaison between an incarcerated mother and the various entities that impact her child, such as guardians, schools, hospitals, social workers, social service agencies and the family court system. Through the years Mrs. Claude has kept children and their incarcerated mothers closely connected, despite the physical separation imposed by their circumstance. In 2005, hoping to create a more normal environment for children to visit with their incarcerated mothers,

Mrs. Claude tirelessly raised funds for a playground and garden to be constructed adjacent to the Facility's Visiting Room.

*continued on page 2*



Become a fan...  
"Like" us on facebook!

### Letter from the CEO



Robert Siebel

Dear Friends:

In this issue of Hope Works, we are pleased to share with you some of the highlights of the past few months at Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens. From profiles of our Volunteer of the Year and our Big Brothers Big Sisters Program to spotlights on our Home Delivered Meals program and the Bishop's Testimonial Award Reception, we hope you enjoy reading about the work that goes on each and every day within our nearly 180 programs.

For a more in-depth look at Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, please take a few moments and visit us on our newly redesigned website at [www.ccbq.org](http://www.ccbq.org). The streamlined and expanded site offers a wealth of information about our programs and services, including client success stories, video and media clips, service locations, hours of operation, funding sources and even subway routes to our sites. In addition, you can sign up to receive our free electronic newsletter or make a donation through the site. We hope you enjoy visiting us online, and please feel free to contact us with any ideas or comments you may have.

Sincerely,



Robert Siebel  
Chief Executive Officer  
Catholic Charities  
Brooklyn and Queens

### CCBQ Honors Libba Claude as Volunteer of the Year

Thanks to Mrs. Claude's dedication The Children's Center "Patio" is a beautiful and welcoming site that hosts joyful reunions and sun-filled visits for mothers and their families. The Patio includes a basketball court, jungle gym, bench swings and picnic tables. On many occasions, you can see Mrs. Claude, tending lovingly to the patio garden that brings so much beauty to the area.

"What a joyful, beautiful place we have created for our visiting children," says Mrs. Claude. "There is no greater thrill for me than to hear the peals of laughter and squeals of delight coming from the children as I work in the garden that surrounds the area." An effective fundraiser, Mrs. Claude gives generously of her time to support many of The Children's Center's other initiatives. Most recently, Mrs. Claude arranged for The Children's Center to be the beneficiary of a new 15-seater passenger van, donated by the Al Smith Foundation, to bring children back and forth from the Facility for visits.



Libba (center left) and the Women of Bedford Hills Correctional Facility.

Mrs. Claude has accomplished a lifetime of good work by selflessly giving her time, talent and resources to a host of not-for-profits and boards throughout the area, including Northern Westchester Hospital, The East Side House Settlement and Henry Street Settlement. She is also an active member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Bedford. In 2006, Mrs. Claude received the Sarah Powell Huntington Leadership Award from the Women's Prison Association.

As evidenced by her ongoing and wholehearted commitment, Mrs. Claude's heart,

though, resides with the women incarcerated at Bedford Hills and their families. "I know that I have found my ministry in my prison work," says Libba. "Being 'in the trenches' with these women and their families has brought me enormous gratification and pleasure. For that, I am thankful every day!"

Without the invaluable service of volunteers like Libba Claude, Catholic Charities cannot make a difference in the lives of the many people we serve. For information on ways you can become involved, contact Brian Gavin at [gavnb@ccbq.org](mailto:gavnb@ccbq.org) or 718-722-6060. ■



Catholic Charities was recently awarded a plaque for its commitment to help ensure that the communities we serve are accurately represented in Congress and eligible for the funding needed for important community programs, services and facilities.

### Catholic Charities Honored by U.S. Census Bureau

This year, Catholic Charities partnered with the U.S. Census Bureau to develop and implement an outreach and awareness campaign for the 2010 Census by incorporating local resources to educate residents on the importance of getting counted. Catholic Charities' strategy was to educate the community on what exactly the Census was, the concept behind it and why it was imperative that they participate. In recognition of that initiative,

## Mentoring Program Helps Youth Realize Their Potential



Catholic Charities  
**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
 of Brooklyn & Queens

Before sixteen-year-old La'Shawn Sylvester became part of Catholic Charities mentoring program, La'Shawn was timid and introverted. However, within two years at our Big Brothers Big Sisters program, La'Shawn has blossomed and now has the necessary support system and guidance to forge ahead and achieve her dreams. Dedicated staff matched her up with her "Big Sister" Jennifer Velasquez, who was recently crowned Miss Puerto Rico of the National Puerto Rican Parade. And thanks to the support and positive influence of her mentor and caring staff, La'Shawn has become outspoken and confident, and is developing strong leadership skills that will serve her well in the future. She is excelling in school, meeting new goals and creating a bright future.

Since being part of Catholic Charities, La'Shawn's mother, Julia Thompson, says La'Shawn has become a sociable young lady with a clear focus and direction in her life, which is crucial to the success of teenage girls today. Her current grade point average is 90% and her Math and Science grades have significantly improved thanks to the tutoring she receives from her mentor.

A sophomore in high school, La'Shawn is studying Business Finance. She is a leader in school and serves on the school's Student Council. She also helps find advisory board members and individuals to sponsor the school's student body so that they can go on trips and have after-school activities. She is involved in round table business exploration discussions with the office of the Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz. Currently, she is a member of Toastmasters International and is

completing an internship at the National Academy Foundation.

Although only in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, La'Shawn is already exploring various colleges and will soon start visiting prospective campuses, where she hopes to major in Business Law. Recently, she joined the Leaders of Tomorrow Program sponsored by the National Academy Foundation, which helps her learn college readiness skills and finance information such as how to start and maintain a bank account.

Ms. Thompson is grateful for the positive difference our mentoring program has had in her daughter's life and for giving her daughter a "Big Sister" whose friendship will last a lifetime. La'Shawn comes back home beaming after her outings with her "Big" and loves to share her experiences with her mom. She feels inspired to make a difference and now has a clear direction for her future.



Her "Big Sister" Jennifer shared that "since meeting La'Shawn, I have witnessed her blossom into an amazingly confident and driven young lady. In the past few years, she has identified her high school and college goals, and participated in various educational opportunities that have added to her accomplishments. Our match has provided us both with a genuine and solid support system where she can rely on my guidance and I in turn have her support in all my endeavors. Our outings went from quiet moments to on-going conversations about all things under the sun!"

"I think mentoring programs are necessary in the community because they help to empower our youth. As a Latina, I have a vested interest in my community, and I feel that I have a responsibility to give back to the community that affected my own upbringing. The youth today have less guidance and positive role models directly accessible to them, so I am very proud of organizations like Catholic Charities Big Brothers Big Sisters and their work to connect the two," says Jennifer. ■





### New Community Playground in Jamaica, Queens

P.S. 50 students in Jamaica, Queens recently celebrated a new community playground. After-school children and staff members at Catholic Charities assisted in the design of the playground, which will benefit 256 children daily. The playground will be used by students at the school and by participants in the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services Out of School Time Program.

"The Out of School Time Program provides a safe haven for children while their parents are working, and provides academic and social enrichment throughout the school year," said Mary Hurson, Administrator of Family Services. "We are so happy that the children of this community will be able to benefit from this playground. It is a prime example of how Catholic Charities builds strong youth development programs for our community."



Over 25 Catholic Charities After-School program children participated in designing their new playground at PS 50 in Jamaica, Queens.

### A Blizzard Doesn't Stop Home Delivered Meals



*Photo Caption: Northeast Queens Home Delivered Meals Program staff pictured are (from l. to r.): Joe Davanzo; Henri Vaval; Frantz Coupet; Alan Abbey; Shamelia Persaud; Jennifer Iacovelli; Maria Hay and Robert Lent.*

meals were served and by Wednesday normal meal delivery service

"I'm so very proud that the staff was able to provide this service during such difficult weather conditions," said Judith Kleve, Vice President, Older Adult Services. "We were told by DFTA that we were the only meal provider operating during the blizzard, and CITYMEALS was so impressed by the dedication of our staff at these two programs that they want to honor them in some way soon."

Other programs and services also remained open during the blizzard, as well as on Christmas Day. The Ozone Park Senior Center served 75 meals on Christmas Day and delivered meals to over 150 senior citizens, while the Catherine M. Sheridan Senior Center served more than 70 meals on Tuesday, December 28th despite the fifteen inches of snow which converged on the area two days earlier. On Wednesday, December 29th, the program served 77 meals despite the fact that buses remained stranded and corners impassable.

In the midst of one of the worst winter storms in recent memory, staff members at Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens mobilized into action to ensure that our most vulnerable seniors still had food to eat.

On Sunday, December 26th, the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services (CCNS) Southwest Queens Home Delivered Meals program delivered 534 meals. Generally, the program is closed on Sunday, but the ten drivers and three managers were able to come together during a holiday weekend to serve their clients. Many seniors were surprised and touched by their unexpected Sunday delivery.

On the day following the storm, the CCNS Northeast Queens Home Delivered Meals program delivered 350 meals to their "at-risk" clients. The staff braved snowdrifts and snow-packed roads in order to ensure that their frailest clients received a nourishing meal. The dedicated staff did not end their day until all the clients on their list were given their meals. On the Tuesday following the storm, over 540 meals were served and by Wednesday normal meal delivery service was resumed to all clients.



# News Notes

## St. John's University Day of Service at our Northside Senior Center Sponsored by Home Depot

Students and alumni from St. John's University visited various Catholic Charities programs this fall to lend a helping hand. As part of St. John's University's Day of Service, entitled "What a Difference a Day Makes," St. John's alumni visited the Bayside Senior Center to volunteer and garden, while a group of students spent the day painting at the Queens North Community Center's Leaders In Training GED Program (previously known as the Flowers with Care Youth Services GED Program).

In addition, nearly 40 St. John's lacrosse players volunteered their time and talent to paint and revitalize our Northside Senior Center in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Ayana Rush, Project Director, was on-hand to coordinate the beautification efforts to benefit our seniors. Paint and paint supplies were donated by **The Home Depot** and a painting tutorial was provided by KBM Contracting. We are grateful to the St. John's students and alumni who took part of this revitalization project!

## Hundreds Receive Warm Coats this Winter

During this brutally cold winter, many families and individuals are unable to afford proper cold-weather attire. Fortunately, Catholic Charities was able to provide 200 slightly worn winter coats in partnership with Burlington Coat Factory and Brooklyn Heights dry cleaners Azzuro. Erin Carman, director of the Brooklyn Community Centers, obtained \$800 donation from Fidelis Care to fight the spread of bed bugs to the coat recipients. Coats were picked up and dropped off on a rolling basis to ensure a continuing supply of coats for clients in need. Clients were able to visit the Brooklyn Community Center on a first-come first-serve basis. There was an increased need for coats this year with 160 of the 200 coats distributed within two weeks.

## Correctional Officers Join Catholic Charities Meals-On-Wheels Program to Deliver Food to the Homebound Elderly

The New York Department of Corrections officers of Riker's Island volunteered this past October with our Meals-On-Wheels program to deliver much-needed food to frail older adults. Volunteers spent a day with Cassandra Curry and assisted her with deliveries on her Queens route. While delivering meals they witnessed the bond and care she took with all the individuals. Throughout the 5 hour ride, they exchanged stories and built a bond that they wish to continue with further involvement with the Meals-On-Wheels program once a month.





### Kathleen A. Dunn and Rev. Msgr. Austin P. Bennett Honored at the 62nd Bishop's Testimonial Reception



Pictured (l. to r.): Most Reverend Joseph M. Sullivan, Retired Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn; Sister Ellen Patricia Finn, OP, Deputy Executive Director, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens; Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn; Kathleen Dunn, Vice President for Development of Community Preservation Corporation (CPC); Reverend Monsignor Austin P. Bennett; Robert Siebel, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens; Reverend Monsignor Alfred LoPinto, Vicar for Human Services; and, Jim Ryan, Television Broadcast Journalist.

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens and Catholic Charities Progress of Peoples Development Corporation honored Kathleen A. Dunn, Executive Vice President for Development, CPC Resources, Inc., and Rev. Msgr. Austin P. Bennett, P.A., J.C.D., at the 2010 Bishop's Testimonial Award Reception in December, at Stage 6, Steiner Studios, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn, New York. Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D., Bishop of Brooklyn presided. Veteran News Anchor Jim Ryan was Master of Ceremonies.

Catholic Charities has become one of the largest faith-based providers of affordable housing in New York City, with more than 3,000 units of housing for low-income older adults, families and formerly homeless individuals. "Catholic Charities considers affordable housing to be one of the cornerstones of our mission. For low-income older adults, families and the formerly homeless in New York City, we are able to offer a fresh new start and hope for the future," said Robert Siebel, Chief Executive Officer.

Kathleen A. Dunn, Executive Vice President for Development, CPC Resources, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Community Preservation Corporation, received the 2010 Progress of Peoples Achievement Award for her outstanding leadership and commitment to affordable housing and community development. As manager of two Opportunity Funds totaling over \$150 million, Ms. Dunn has overseen the creation and redevelopment of over 14,000 units of affordable housing throughout New York State, including the acquisition and rehabilitation of the Parkchester Apartments, a ten-year-\$230 million effort to revitalize the 12,000 unit community in the East Bronx.

A committed leader in the field of affordable housing for the past thirty years, Ms. Dunn began her career as a junior project manager in the City's Washington Heights Neighborhood Preservation Office of HPD. She later became the agency's Deputy Commissioner for Development and was responsible for the planning and implementation of the public/private initiatives under Mayors Edward Koch and David Dinkins' \$5.2 billion ten year housing plan.

Rev. Msgr. Austin P. Bennett, P.A., J.C.D., received the 2010 Ubi Caritas Deus Ibi Award for his distinguished and selfless support of human services. A native of Brooklyn, Rev. Msgr. Bennett was ordained on June 11, 1949. Rev. Msgr. Bennett received his Doctor of Canon Law degree in 1958 and graduated Summa Cum Laude. From 1960 through 1997, Rev. Msgr. Bennett held the post of Director of the Diocesan Finance Office and was responsible for establishing pension plans for both the clergy and lay employees of the Diocese.

Over the years, Rev. Msgr. Bennett has been closely associated with the administration of the Catholic Medical Center of Brooklyn and Queens, serving as first Vice Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committees. He also acted as Chairman of the Board of St. Mary's Hospital in Brooklyn, NY and is a member of the Board of Trustees for Maria Regina Residence in Brentwood, NY. He has been named a Supranumerary Protonotary Apostolic by the Holy Father, and is a Knight Commander of the Order of the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre. ■



Pictured at the Saints Joachim and Anne Nursing and Rehabilitation Center's 20th Anniversary Mass are: (top) Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn and Mario DeNicola, son of resident (bottom) Phyllis Ruggiero and Mario DeNicola.

### Saints Joachim & Anne Nursing & Rehabilitation Center Celebrates 20 Years

In February, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio celebrated a Mass honoring the 20th Anniversary of our Saints Joachim & Anne Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. The Mass took place in the nursing and rehabilitation center's chapel, and Bishop DiMarzio was joined on the altar by Most Reverend Alfred LoPinto, Vicar for Human Services of the Diocese of Brooklyn. Organized by staff at the nursing and rehabilitation center, the mass drew about 200 residents and their families. An affiliate of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, Saints Joachim & Anne Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is a 200 bed health care facility overlooking the Atlantic Ocean in historic Coney Island, Brooklyn. The home provides compassionate care and a welcoming setting for both short-term and long-term residents. Elderly who require 24-hour nursing care receive high quality nursing and medical care from board certified physicians, including post-acute and short stay, long-term care, rehabilitation services, general medical care and medical subspecialties, specialized diet, recreation and pastoral care.

## EVENT PHOTOS



< Fifteen delegates from Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens joined more than 1,000 representatives from around the country in celebrating Catholic Charities USA's 100th anniversary in Washington, D.C.



< For turning vacant land into affordable housing for New Yorkers in need, John Tynan, Director of Housing for Catholic Charities Progress of Peoples Development Corporation, the affordable housing affiliate of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, was honored by Enterprise Community Partners with the noteworthy Community Renaissance Award at Cipriani's in New York City.



< Mayor Michael Bloomberg recently visited Catholic Charities Narrows Senior Center in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. Pictured are (from l. to r.): Senator Marty Golden; Mayor Michael Bloomberg; and Robert Siebel, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.



Donna Corrado, Chief Operating Officer of Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, Inc., affiliate of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens, was honored by the Council of Senior Centers and Services of New York City, Inc. (CSCS) with the Reverend Robert V. Lott Humanitarian Award for her commitment to transforming the lives of people in need. Pictured are (from l. to r.): William Dionne, President, CSCS; Donna Corrado; and Bobbie Sackman, Director of Public Policy, CSCS.



Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens recently hosted a Professional Networking Event bringing together dozens of individuals from the legal, financial, corporate and non-profit sectors. This was an exciting opportunity to forge new relationships and share the invaluable work of Catholic Charities with a diverse crowd. If you are interested in joining us at a future networking event, please contact Jason Soto at 718-722-6211 or jsoto@ccbq.org.



Changing Lives...  
Building Communities™

**Catholic Charities  
Brooklyn and Queens**  
191 Joralemon Street, 12 Fl  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
Tel: 718 722 6202 | Fax: 718 722 6220

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Brooklyn, NY  
Permit No. 5139



**ACCREDITED**  
Council on Accreditation  
for Children and Family Services

Like us on  
Facebook

Become a fan...  
"like" us on facebook!

## SAVE THE DATE!

### March 5, 2011: Coat of Arms Mass of Thanksgiving and Luncheon

will be held at St. Joseph's College and The Bishop's Residence. For more information, contact Jason Soto at 718-722-6211 or [jsoto@ccbq.org](mailto:jsoto@ccbq.org).

### June 22, 2011: Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner

will be held at Pier Sixty, Manhattan. For ticket information, contact Jason Soto at 718-722-6211 or [jsoto@ccbq.org](mailto:jsoto@ccbq.org)

Check out our newly redesigned website at [www.ccbq.org](http://www.ccbq.org) featuring improved access to our programs and services



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN GIVE TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND RECEIVE AN INCOME FOR LIFE, REMEMBER CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN YOUR WILL, OR SIMPLY MAKE A DONATION TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES, PLEASE CONTACT **BRIAN GAVIN** AT **718-722-6060** OR [GAVINB@CCBQ.ORG](mailto:GAVINB@CCBQ.ORG).

## HopeWorks

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens' Newsletter, Winter 2011

CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
BROOKLYN AND QUEENS  
191 Joralemon Street, 12 Fl  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
718-722-6204  
E-mail: [LucyG@ccbq.org](mailto:LucyG@ccbq.org)  
Web site URL: [www.ccbq.org](http://www.ccbq.org)

**HOPE WORKS**  
is published by the Office of Development and Communications

Chief Executive Officer  
Robert Siebel

Director  
Development & Communications  
Brian Gavin

Associate Director of Marketing  
Maria Parker

Associate Director of Communications  
Lucy Garrido-Mota

Marketing and Media Relations Associate  
Sephora Rosario

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED