



# HOPEWORKS

Summer 2019



## CCBQ Afterschool Students Shine at Bishop's Humanitarian Awards Dinner

### Pierrepont Tenants Enjoy July 4th Fireworks on Their Very Own Rooftop!



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Over 100 tenants experienced the beauty of the Macy's July 4th Fireworks from their rooftop.

### CCBQ Raises \$1.4 Million at 2019 Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner



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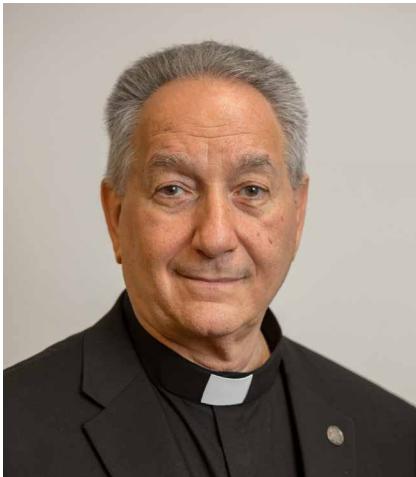
The Russo Family of Gargiulo's Restaurant in Coney Island, Brooklyn, was one of 4 honorees honored at the Bishop's Dinner on June 19th.

### Vice President Honored by New York State Catholic Conference



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Mary Hurson, VP of Family Stabilization Services, honored by the NYS Council of Catholic Charities Directors.



*Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,*

*We are in the middle of one of the hottest Summers we've experienced in quite a while; I hope everyone is staying cool.*

*The Spring, as you will note from the stories in this issue of Hope Works, was a busy season. With the cooperation and support of our many contributors, volunteers and staff we were able to have one of the most successful events in recent years. A very special part of the Bishop's Dinner was the presentation by our young participants in the afterschool program who performed selections from popular Broadway shows.*

*The summer finds Catholic Charities as busy as ever with special programs for over 1,000 youth to activities for our 8,600 seniors at the centers which are also used as cooling centers on these very hot days.*

*The work of Catholic Charities never ends and it is only possible with your continued support. God bless and have a refreshing and relaxing summer.*

*Sincerely,*

*Rev. Msgr. Alfred P. LoPinto*

*Chief Executive Officer*

## CCBQ Tenants Enjoy July 4th Fireworks on Their Very Own Rooftop!



▲ 4th of July Fireworks from the rooftop of Catholic Charities Pierrepont House for the Elderly.

On July 4th, the Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens Pierrepont House for the Elderly tenants enjoyed a front row view of the Macy's Fireworks right from their rooftop. Msgr. Alfred LoPinto, President and CEO of Catholic Charities, joined the tenants for the wonderous event and everyone was in a "New York State of Mind" for the gorgeous display. Pierrepont House for the Elderly, located in Downtown Brooklyn, is one of 24 affordable housing residences for low-income seniors. Catholic Charities is one of the largest providers and developers of affordable housing for low-income seniors in the nation. ■

## CCBQ Childhood Artwork Selected to Show at Christie's Auction House



▲ Ashley Luna proudly points at her artwork on display at Christie's Auction House in Manhattan in June.

The Catholic Charities Sunset Park Early Childhood Development Center in Brooklyn recently partnered with *Studio in a School*, a visual arts program designed for youth ages 3 to 5 years old. Through this enrichment program, children developed essential developmental skills, including working together, vocabulary and self-confidence through the art of creativity.

Ashley Luna and Betzabe Alvarado, students from the Sunset Park ECDC, were selected to showcase their work at the Young Visions 2019 Art Show held at Christie's Auction House in Manhattan. To see more of the program's highlights, visit [www.ccbq.org](http://www.ccbq.org). ■

# Catholic Charities Raises \$1.4 Million at 2019 Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner

On Wednesday, June 19, 2019, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens proudly hosted the Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner at Cipriani Wall Street. The agency's most important fundraiser of the year, the Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner raised \$1.4 million to benefit the 160+ programs and services of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.

For their leadership and commitment to the well-being of those in need, Catholic Charities presented Nicola DeAcetis, Principal, MDG Design + Construction, Richard Lagnese, Sr., President, Allied Construction and Design, and The Russo Family, Owners, Gargiulo's Restaurant with the Bishop's Humanitarian Award. Frank Fusaro, Co-Founder and President of The Forum Group, received the Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Service Award. Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens also presented six employees, John Belfon, Sarai Bosques, Josefa Castro, Elaine Merchant, Jessica Russell, and Wendy Schwartz with the John J. Farrell Award for their dedication of 30 or more years of service to the agency, directly



▲ Nicola DeAcetis, 2019 Bishop's Humanitarian Award Honoree, accepts his award as Msgr. LoPinto looks on.



▲ The 2019 Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner honorees, along with Msgr. Alfred LoPinto and Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio at Cipriani Wall Street on June 19, 2019. From left to right are: Anthony Russo, Nino Russo, Michael Russo, Louis Russo, Rachael Russo, Richard Lagnese, Sr., Msgr. Alfred LoPinto, Nicola DeAcetis, AIA, Most Rev. Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D., Frank Fusaro, and Very Rev. Patrick J. Keating, Esq.

impacting their commitment to the mission of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.

**Nicola DeAcetis, AIA** is a principal of MDG spearheading design and construction. In this capacity, Nicola has become highly regarded in the industry for his expertise and creativity in solving difficult construction challenges with the most efficient use of resources, time, and financing. Nicola sees New York's most disadvantaged properties as an opportunity for hope and urban renewal. It is his goal to bring top quality design and finishes to all affordable housing developments in New York City.

**Richard Lagnese, Sr.** is the Chief Executive Officer of Allied Construction. Allied Construction and Design Corp. is located in Rockaway Park, New York and was founded in 2012. This organization primarily operates in the Design Services industry.

**The Russo Family** are owners of Gargiulo's Restaurant. Originally opened in 1907 in Coney Island by the Gargiulo Family, the restaurant passed from its namesake family to the Russo Family in 1965. To better serve their customers growing needs,

the Russo brothers opened a 300 seat catering hall in 1983, with the Waterfall Room added shortly after.



▲ Frank Fusaro, 2019 Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Award Honoree.

Family and tradition always being foremost, the original Russo brothers passed the reins on to the younger set of Russo brothers, Louis, Michael, Nino and Anthony, in the early 1990's.

**Frank Fusaro** is a CPA who co-founded and serves as President of The Forum Group, a 100 person veteran-owned recruitment and

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# Catholic Charities Raises \$1.4 Million at 2019 Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner

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▲ Richard Lagnese, Sr., 2019 Bishop's Humanitarian Award Honoree with the Most Rev. Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph. D., D.D., Bishop of Brooklyn.

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consulting firm established in 1974. He is the past President and current Chairman of the Columbus Citizens Foundation, a 600 member philanthropic organization. He serves on the Board of the Cooley's Anemia Foundation, St. Vincent's Services and the Tobin School of Business of St. John's University.

For over 25 years, the Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner has been held annually through the generous support of concerned individuals and organizations who champion the agency's mission on behalf of children and families, older adults, the mentally ill, the formerly homeless and the isolated. It has generated millions of dollars in support of the work of the agency. "There is increased urgency to provide services to those in greatest need during these difficult economic times," says Msgr. Alfred LoPinto, President and CEO of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens. "Now, more than ever, we are relying on our friends in the community to support the agency's critical mission." ■

## CCBQ Afterschool Students Shine at Bishop's Humanitarian Awards Dinner



▲ Catholic Charities Afterschool actors and teachers pose after performing a medley from *The Lion King* and *Annie* at the 2019 Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner.

Sixteen youngsters from the Catholic Charities Afterschool Program performed a medley of songs from *The Lion King* and *Annie* at the Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner. The children's confidence and talent were on display as they sang and danced on stage for the crowd of more than 700 inside Cipriani Wall Street. The performance enabled Catholic Charities to provide the children with a valuable enrichment opportunity, while at the same time enabling the audience of donors and corporate supporters to witness the student's and staff's hard work and commitment.

"This was a wonderful opportunity for our children," said Shakima Bell, Director of Project Management for the Afterschool Programs provided by Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens. "The smiles and astonished looks when we entered the building

were priceless, and the way they described their experiences to their parents afterwards was nothing short of amazing. Their hearts were filled with great joy."

Shakima added that the experience made the children feel like little superstars. "I believe this opportunity provided them a valuable experience and taught them to always dream big and always work hard towards their dream. This was a moment never to be forgotten." ■



▲ Catholic Charities Afterschool members performing a musical number from *Annie*.

## VP Honored by Catholic Conference



▲ Mary Hurson, Vice President of Family Stabilization Services, receives the Vincenza DeFazio Award from Very Rev. Patrick Keating, Esq., Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

**M**ary Hurson, VP of Family Stabilization Services for CCBQ, recently received the Vincenza DeFazio Award for outstanding contributions to the work of the New York State Council of Catholic Charities Directors. Mary has been part of the CCBQ family for 42 years and chairwoman of the NYS Council of Catholic

Charities Directors' Committee for Children and Families since 2005. Mary's connection to CCBQ began as a teenage volunteer in the Operation FUN Program. After graduating from Fordham University, she began working for Catholic Charities' Training for Life program for developmentally challenged children and adults. After completing her master's degree in Social Work from Hunter College, she held a number of posts before being named Vice President of Family Stabilization Services. "Mary's commitment to helping families enhance their quality of life is reflected throughout her programs, the team she leads and those she serves," said Msgr. Alfred LoPinto, President and CEO of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens and affiliated agencies. "We are proud of her dedication to serve at-risk families and congratulate her as recipient of the 2019 Vincenza DeFazio Award." ■

## CCBQ Honored as "Heroes of the Month" by Bklyn Borough President

**I**n March 2019, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens was one of four organizations honored as "Heroes of the Month" by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. The ceremony at Brooklyn Borough Hall recognized Catholic Charities for providing free services to Federal workers during the government shutdown earlier this year. Accepting the Citation on behalf of Catholic Charities were Richard Slizeski, Vice President for Mission, Jennifer Smith, Food Pantry Supervisor and Joanna Shkreli, Event Facilitator.

During the 35-day Federal government shutdown, Catholic Charities distributed grocery packages, fresh produce, toiletries, gas cards, food vouchers and Target gift cards to furloughed government employees at pop-up food pantries. Walk-In Center staff



▲ CCBQ Office of Mission staff pose with honorary citation presented to Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens on behalf of the Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams (at right).

and caseworkers were also onsite to address individual needs.

Kosher soup kitchen Masbia and small businesses Massage Outpost and Sweet Chick were among the other organizations recognized. ■

## CCBQ Senior Center Celebrates 100th Birthday for Longtime Member, Vivian Levy



▲ Vivian at her 100th Birthday Party at the CCBQ Center.

**C**CBQ'S Brooklyn Heights' St. Charles Jubilee Senior Center celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of longtime member, Ms. Vivian Levy in July. A life-long New Yorker, Ms. Levy has spent her life giving back to her native Brooklyn, first as a school teacher to young children at P.S. 188 in Coney Island and later as a Guidance Counselor at schools in both the Bedford-Stuyvesant and Williamsburg neighborhoods. An activist at heart, she marched against the Vietnam War, for Civil Rights, and for Women's rights. She was an active member of the Brooklyn Parents for Peace, an organization committed to peaceful resolutions to conflict. After her husband passed away, and at the suggestion of a friend, Vivian became a regular member of the Catholic Charities St. Charles Jubilee Senior Center in her neighborhood of Brooklyn Heights in 2011. She has credited the senior center, its staff and fellow members with giving her a "late-life renaissance" through their activities, trips, and congregate lunches. Vivian is just one of the many stories from our 160+ programs and services that Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens offers; a luncheon and a small award ceremony was held in her honor to commemorate this milestone celebration. ■

# Volunteers Live Out the Mission of CCBQ!



▲ Regina Spencer welcomes Catholic Charities Home Delivered Meals Driver and is thankful for the program that has "helped her a great deal."

outreach to the elderly and homebound. The program combines the spiritual foundation of mercy with the best practices of outreach to this part of the community. Consultations for social service referrals are also included.

## Friendly Visiting Program

In Southwest Queens, the Friendly Visiting Program enables volunteers to be matched with a homebound senior to provide support and companionship on a regular basis. Volunteers provide weekly support through visiting, reading, shopping, and other activities identified and needed by the senior.

## Corporate Volunteers

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens also works with corporate groups of any size to strengthen community relationships by providing volunteer opportunities at agency events serving those in need. Corporate groups can support Catholic Charities through a variety of specific needs, from gardening with seniors to helping paint the playroom of an early education center.



▲ Corporate volunteers and friends of Catholic Charities, DeSales Media Group, poses with Sparky the Dragon, official mascot of the New York Islanders during Kids Fun Day 2018 in Astoria, Queens.

## In Appreciation

During National Volunteer Month, Catholic Charities hosted several celebrations to honor and thank its many volunteers. Luncheons were held in both Brooklyn and Queens, and volunteers in the Friendly Visiting Program were honored at an appreciation dinner at Vetro Restaurant



▲ Volunteers from the South West Queens Friendly Visiting Program pose for a group photo with their Certificates of Recognition during an appreciation dinner in Howard Beach, Queens.

In the Spring, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens celebrated National Volunteer Month and we are fortunate to have the support and dedication of hundreds of volunteers who offer their time and talent to aid our brothers and sisters in need. Catholic Charities offers a wide array of volunteer opportunities, which include delivering food to over 2,000 homebound seniors, friendly visiting, spiritual volunteers and simply offering a helping hand at one of our social service programs throughout Brooklyn and Queens. Here is a glimpse of our volunteer programs in the agency:

## Home Delivered Meals

For the volunteers in the Catholic Charities Home Delivered Meals Program, the work is an opportunity to connect with others on a meaningful level. These volunteers not only offer a warm meal and a welcoming hello, but they also provide a safety check to the homebound elderly. Trained to listen to footsteps and see if clients are well, these drivers are sometimes the only people clients see, especially during the winter months when it becomes crucial to ensure the elderly are safe, healthy, and warm. If someone is without heat or hot water, our drivers can identify additional needs and areas of assistance.

## Witnesses of Mercy

Responding to Pope Francis' call to be witnesses of God's Mercy to the marginalized, the Office of Mission offers training and resources for parish leaders and volunteers to engage in

and Lounge in Howard Beach, Queens. Volunteers in attendance received Certificates of Recognition, gift bags filled with promotional items and a volunteer lapel pin for their service.

Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens offers many ways for individuals and groups to get involved at locations across the Diocese of Brooklyn. Ways to assist include serving as Activity and Workshop Instructors, Kitchen and/or Clerical Help, Food Pantry, Gardening and Painting, Community Events, especially during Thanksgiving and Christmas, Friendly Visiting, Witnesses of Mercy and the CCBQ Junior Board. Catholic Charities will begin parish based volunteer orientations in the fall. Visit our website and our social media channels for dates and more information. ■

**Interested Volunteers are encouraged to complete our Volunteer Application and learn more by visiting our website at [ccbq.org/volunteer](http://ccbq.org/volunteer)**

There are many ways to assist

- Activity & Workshop Instructors**  
If you have a special expertise in teaching, we would love to hear from you and engage in a class.  
[Read More](#)
- Kitchen and/or Clerical Help**  
Help serve lunch, clean offices, staff answering, vehicle wash and various administrative.  
[Read More](#)
- Food Pantry**  
At the CCBQ food pantry, Catholic Charities is often asking volunteers to pack food.  
[Read More](#)
- Gardening & Painting**  
The group only wants to give in service and volunteers are welcome to participate in this.  
[Read More](#)
- Community Events**  
Individual or group activities are often needed throughout the year at our community events.  
[Read More](#)
- Friendly Visiting**  
In Eastern Queens only, we match individuals with homebound seniors to provide support and companionship.  
[Read More](#)
- Witnesses of Mercy**  
Responding to Pope Francis' call to be witnesses of God's Mercy to the marginalized, the Office of Mission offers training and resources for parish leaders and volunteers to engage in.  
[Read More](#)
- Junior Board**  
The Young Adults Board is CCBQ's newest group of volunteers.  
[Read More](#)

# Catholic Charities Events Photos

Photos: Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens



▲ Mrs. Irene Principe and Mr. Thomas Principe, Esq., Members of the Bishop's Coat of Arms Club at the Annual Brunch hosted at the residence of the Bishop of Brooklyn.



▲ Most Rev. Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D, D.D., poses with Kelli Hunter-Petruzzillo, new member of the Bishop's Coat of Arms Club during the 2019 Coat of Arms Brunch.



▲ The NYPD Ceremonial Unit Honor Guard performs the National Anthem/Pledge of Allegiance at the 2019 Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner.



▲ From left to right: Emmie Glynn-Ryan, Esq., General Counsel, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens; Mary C.E. Thompson, Board of Trustees, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens; Mr. Jim Ryan, former anchor, Good Day New York on FOX 5/WNYW; Very Reverend Patrick J. Keating, Esq., Deputy CEO, Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.



▲ From left to right: Dr. Sean Mulligan, Dr. Allison Mangini, Mrs. Lainey Lee, and Mr. Dan Tamburelli of Allied Construction at the 2019 Bishop's Humanitarian Award Dinner.



▲ The DeAcetis Family with Nicola DeAcetis AIA, Principal at MDG Design and Construction (center) and 2019 Bishop's Humanitarian Award honoree after receiving the Award.



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Brooklyn & Queens

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**SEPTEMBER 23, 2019**

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