



### Our Mission

Cardinal McCloskey Community Services strives to protect, empower and promote independence for at-risk children and families and those with developmental disabilities through quality community-based services.

### Our Vision

As a dynamic organization, we will lead, advocate and serve to enhance lives by anticipating and responding to community needs.

### Our Values

Treating all people with compassion, dignity and respect

Promoting responsibility for innovation and excellence

Embracing the diversity and unique talents of all

Helping each person to realize their potential

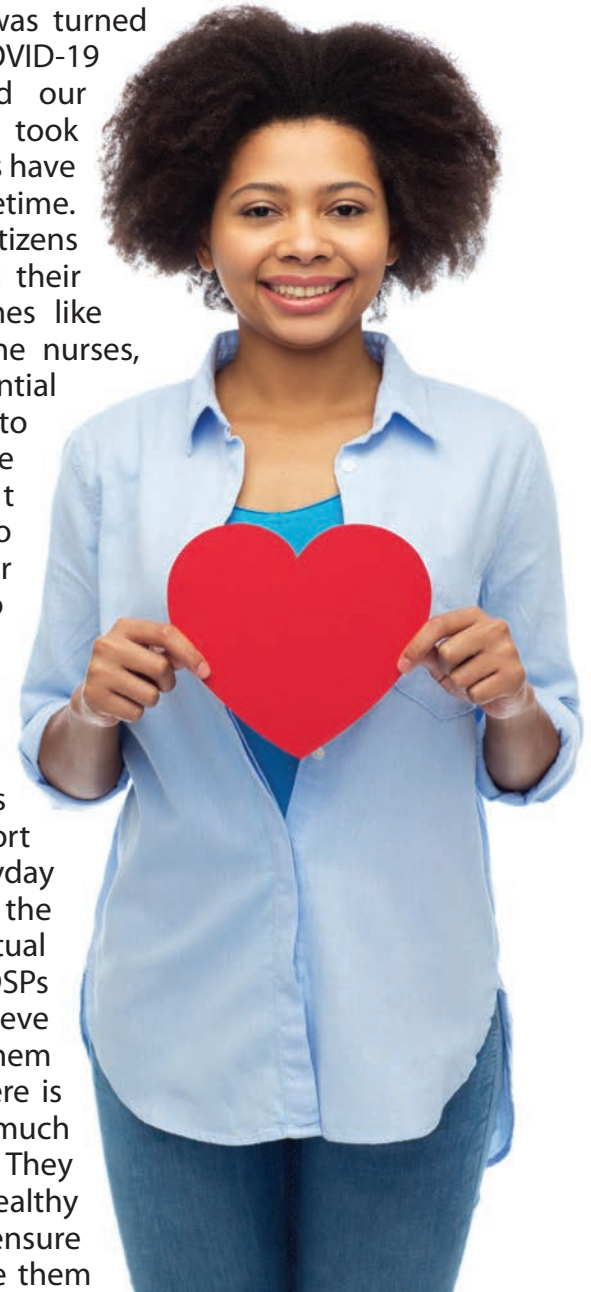
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## Heroes With Heart

The entire global community was turned upside down this year as the COVID-19 pandemic quickly interrupted our lives, threatened our health, and took friends and family too soon. Few of us have witnessed anything like this in our lifetime. In times like these, individual citizens often show their fighting spirit and their determination and courage. In times like these, heroes reveal themselves. The nurses, doctors, first responders, and essential community workers who enable us to care for our loved ones, we celebrate even more now. We show great appreciation to the strangers who show kindness and generosity in our hour of need. Sadly, this year was also marked by division, but we stand firmly united in our appreciation for the heroes all around us.

Here at Cardinal McCloskey Community Services, our heroes are in abundance! Our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are truly everyday heroes. They have always championed the abilities of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. DSPs spend each day helping others achieve goals they set for themselves, lifting them up as they soar to new heights. There is no greater mission and they do so much more. And they do so much more. They help them to take on the day with a healthy breakfast and a warm smile. They ensure they button their coat as they guide them to experience all that the community offers. They welcome them home and sit with them to share stories of the day. They laugh and celebrate, comfort, and reminisce. It's in each of these moments, and in between that, our DSPs shine. They made each person feel special and able, full of promise, love, and respect just as they are.



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## A Message from the President & CEO's Office

Dear Friends,

We have been tested and challenged in ways we have never been before, yet we are still persevering. Through all the unknown, we have managed to stand strong, and it is because of you. Your generous donations of time, effort, and support have meant so much to us during these troubling times.

Throughout the pandemic, CMCS has taken a series of precautionary measures to ensure that program operations across all of our divisions remain uninterrupted. We continue to provide the support and monitoring necessary to keep the children, families, and adults that we serve safe. Our Direct Support Professionals remain connected to our children, families, and adults either in person or through teleconferencing.

To ensure everyone's safety while working in our homes, we implemented an educational campaign to promote handwashing, a detailed disinfecting protocol, increased monitoring of health status, social distancing, and expanded PPE use.

We began this school year with so much uncertainty and fear. In-person, remote learning or a hybrid are the

options that families had to choose from. Our education team continues to provide distant learning opportunities to all of our children through various applications.



**Beth Finnerty**

Our most valuable resource has been our staff. Our frontline workers showed up and showed support each day. Our team of Direct Support Professionals worked these past ten months and continue tirelessly to help those who desperately needed their help. Every day we see their generous spirit and steadfast commitment, and we are eternally grateful that they are a part of our CMCS family.

We live in a time of constant change, and we need to be able to prepare our children, families, and adults to meet their opportunities and challenges as best they can. As we embark on another year at CMCS, I ask that you

consider the many lives that CMCS has changed because of your past and continued support—and the many more we will be able to impact with your continued generosity.

Wishing you and your family a healthy, happy, and safe holiday season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Finnerty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## Virtual Walkathon



This year CMCS held their first Virtual Walkathon as we honored our frontline staff who have been working tirelessly and diligently to keep our clients, children and families safe. The execution of our mission and vision would not be possible without their strength, resilience and fortitude, so we thank them wholeheartedly.

The afternoon was wonderful as our families, clients and staff were brought together and engaged with one another. A special thank you to all of our amazing virtual walkers and donors: it was delightful to see over 150 registrants and 20 teams participate!

Thanks to you, we raised over \$60,000 which helps us to enhance and build our programs!

A special thank you to all of our sponsors who contributed so much to the incredible success of the event. We could not have done it without you!

A special thank you to our national anthem singer Kenya from our Developmental Disabilities Services Program, Dr. Ursillo, Chief Operating Officer, and our host Sophia Hall of WCBS Radio, for doing an amazing job virtually hosting the event and keeping us active and engaged!

Thank you to our fundraisers: you did a phenomenal job raising funds for our programs and services and congratulations to our Top Fundraising Prize Winners!

## Virtual Wine Tasting

During these unprecedented times and to ensure safety for all, we took an inventive approach to host our 2020 Wine & Dine Event virtually! Although we were unable to gather in person, it was so wonderful to connect with each of our guests. We were joined live via Zoom with a total of over 80 participants and everyone contributed to a successful and superb afternoon.

Thank you to Lori & Paul Guillaro who graciously hosted this year's Wine & Dine as a virtual event on such a lovely afternoon.

Thank you to Peter X. Kelly for preparing an exquisite meal, Eric Zillier for expertly pairing his wine selection with the meal and Tony Corso for his incredible donation of wine. We hope everyone enjoyed their course!

Finally, thank you to everyone who participated in our Fund-A-Need, our online auction and donations to support the programs and services that keep our clients healthy and safe every day. Your continued generosity has aided our mission and helped us raise over \$133,000!





## Family Fun Togetherness Night

If the past several months were a challenge for you, can you imagine what it's been like for our children in foster care who have not been able to connect with their own families and friends?

Since the pandemic began, in-person visits of children with their birth families were halted, tragically preventing them from being able to see, hug or bond with their loved ones.

In an effort to alleviate the feelings of loneliness and isolation, CMCS organized a successful "Family Fun Night" campaign. Thanks to the generous support of our donors and CMCS Community, we raised over \$6,000 in donations. These funds provided a healthy, nutritious meal to children and families in our foster care programs to bring families together and foster a sense of community and familial bonding during these difficult times.



Because of your generosity, a memory like this will help carry them through until their next visit and the joy that goes with it!

## Backpack Campaign



Although "back to school" was anything but normal this year, the children in our care were still able to start the school year off, whether at home or in the classroom, with a new backpack and school supplies. They were more than prepared!

Our annual Backpack Campaign raised over \$8,500, which was used to supply the children in our care with a myriad of school supplies, including backpacks, crayons, glue sticks, pencils, pencil caddies, and more.

Our donors' generosity has allowed us to ensure those in our care can have a full school experience either from their classrooms or their living rooms!

While we know a backpack won't remedy the complex issues they face, we know that it will surely brighten their first days of school.

# Golf Outing

On September 14th, we hosted our 13th Annual Golf Outing at Leewood. The day was filled with golf, food, prizes, and good friends of Cardinal McCloskey Community Services. We raised over \$141,000 to support the life-changing programs that aid our children, families, and adults in our care. The generous support of our greater CMCS community, friends, donors, and sponsors allows us to continue fulfilling our mission.

This year's golf outing took place solely on the green. Once given a tee time, each golfer indulged in a light, "grab n' go" style breakfast before hitting the green for a full round of golf.



Throughout various holes on the green, golfers were greeted by multiple mini pop-up stations with food, drinks, raffles, and let's not forget the sanitizer. There were designated lunch stations complete with a self-serve, buffet style meal. When golfers completed their round at the end of the day, everyone received a prepackaged giveaway bag, including a mask and a small sanitizer bottle bearing the CMCS emblem.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors and participants who made this year's outing possible. With your support, we were able to make this event safe, achievable, and successful!





# CMCS Heroes With Heart

This pandemic caused us all to question the extent of our own bravery. We wanted to be home, safe, and sound with our loved ones huddled close. Our DSPs were courageous and have never wavered. They left their families and the safety of their homes. They knew the residents depended on them now more than ever. This is their work, but it is no less heroic. They showed up and continue to show up, in the face of anxiety and fear, to care for those they care about despite the real risk, without question or complaint. Instead, many shared they wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

They didn't just show up. They showed up with heart! They wore masks for 8, 10, 16 hours. They continued to work tirelessly and meticulously to monitor symptoms carefully and reduce exposure. They calmed and reassured those anxious and scared. They taught everyone how to wear a mask and maintain social distance. They looked for new and engaging ways to fill all the extra leisure time. They learned telehealth options to keep appointments and facilitate virtual visits with loved ones and games with friends.

Through all of these challenges, with our teams' efforts on the frontlines, it was tough for the virus to penetrate our front doors. But the risk is real. Our prayers remain with our St. Theresa's and West Nyack teams as we continue to mourn the loss of those we will forever hold in our hearts. We pray their devotion continues to give them strength.

Think of all the challenges we have faced over the last several months in our own lives: the stress, the worry, the loss. And think of how tired we are. Now imagine facing all that and working as a DSP every day. And it is every day. Our team members know all too well how much they are needed and

that there are far too few of them who choose this challenging work. To stand up again and face another long day is nothing short of miraculous.

At a time when we frequently hear of heroes, we don't often hear of DSPs. They are our unsung heroes. To help shine a light on our DSPs and the essence of their work, we unmask a few who represent the many...

Doreen Johnson knows what it's like to work tirelessly every day and give her whole heart to our Elmsford residents. Prudence



Bagampeshera is amazing in his commitment to exceptional services, no matter where or when. Sylvester Williams is ever diligent in ensuring safety and teamwork at Locust. Shauntaye McKelvin's positive attitude lifts us all up, well beyond the Deveau home. She and Annette Guitard took the ropes, ensured medical appointments were kept and exceeded all expectations. Bernadette Jean-Louis continues to provide the steady guidance of her twenty years' experience to her work with the gentlemen at Truman. Melanie Melendez and Fatayshia Livingston were thrilled to encourage the ladies of Waterbury in a spirited and competitive treasure hunt.

Our entire Day Habilitation and Supported Employment teams moved their work to our homes to support those now home every day. These team members jumped right in wherever needed, and we are grateful for their assistance and applaud their professionalism. As the weeks passed, our day services required creative solutions so that participants could benefit from services, despite the quarantine. Marissa Schmidt and Ashley Savage developed a fun, engaging virtual experience that became the highlight of the day for so many. Sam Lamonoff and Jonathan Girardat ensure supported employees now furloughed continue to be supported in their ambitions.

Just a few of our heroes help tell the story of many. But the stories and the heroism doesn't end there. Look closely, and you will see our DSPs, Habilitation Specialists, and Job Coaches supported as always by a dedicated team of Managers and Supervisors. Some experienced great loss and personal challenges and still gave their all. Deon Rowe, Princess Lawson, and Roger Timothy faced the darkest of days and yet carried on in extremely difficult situations and helped steady the ship in stormy seas.

Managers Jessica Baker, Lorraine Marshall-Hill, Sylvia Gager, and more provided the much-needed leadership and teamwork, working alongside DSPs, wearing a mask while also wearing many more hats than usual.

The picture is not complete without focusing on others crucial to the effort. Our nursing and clinical teams provided the confidence, expertise, and commitment necessary with the medical uncertainty of this disease. Hiring and Training continued in earnest as we needed to expand our frontline capacity and ensure they had the tools to be successful. Our highly-skilled, very devoted Coordinators and Directors

guided the teams, together with support from our Quality Assurance and Human Resources teams and many others. Such collaboration and unwavering commitment was critical and persisted in the ongoing and all-encompassing coordination and communication required to put a comprehensive COVID response into action, pivoting continuously throughout each day to adjust to ever-changing needs.

When all this began, we thought it would last a few weeks. Eight months later, we are still at it. And things continue to change frequently. So we remain vigilant as our work is not done.

The stories and the pictures cannot begin to do justice to those who literally worked non-stop for months, all to help others not only survive but thrive, and who continued to give long after they had nothing left to give.

Our gratitude is endless and cannot be expressed enough. To all our CMCS Heroes, we know how very essential you all are. We also know just how big your hearts are!

Quotes shared early on still reflect the strength and spirit of our CMCS Heroes..

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Abraham Lincoln said, "No man stands so tall as when he stoops to help (others)."

If one truly is measured in these moments and is as tall as when he helps those in need, you would each reach the heavens!

**FROM OUR HEARTS TO YOURS, WE THANK YOU, WE SALUTE YOU, OUR VERY OWN CMCS HEROES WITH HEART!**

## Foundation Grants

Cardinal McCloskey Community Services is grateful to our corporate and foundation grantors for their generous support of CMCS programs and projects:

Our successful COVID-19 campaign received grants from Catholic Charities, the New York Community Trust, the Robin Hood Foundation (first-time grant) and the Westchester Community Foundation (first-time grant). We used this funding for critical needs in response to the pandemic, including direct assistance to children, youth and families; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning and social distancing supplies; technology to provide remote services and Heroes Pay for essential staff in our group homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Strategies for Success Program, our educational advocacy and support program for youth in foster care, received grant funding from the Hagedorn Fund, the George Link, Jr. Foundation, Inc., the Charles A. Mastronardi Foundation, the Theresa and Edward O'Toole Foundation, the People's United Community Foundation, and the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation. We also received a grant from St. Faith's House Foundation for Strategies for Success in Westchester, specifically for home tutoring for children in our Westchester Treatment Family Foster Care (TFFC) Program.

The Sunrise Drop-In Center, a safe haven for homeless, runaway and at-risk youth in the South Bronx, was awarded a grant from the New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund, Inc. for supplies for youth, including clothing, shoes, and toiletries; as well as sheets, towels, pillows and cots for youth who stay overnight. We also received a grant from the Hyde & Watson Foundation to renovate the kitchen and floors at the Drop-In Center.

Developmental Disabilities Services received a first-time grant from Aging in America for physical upgrades to our group homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to enable residents to remain in their homes as they age.

We received a grant from the **Rosalie J. and C. Daniel Maldari Family Charitable Foundation** to strengthen our long-term commitment and to expand our efforts to support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for our staff, the youth, and the adults we serve.

We received grants for general operations from the Sarah I. Schieffelin Residuary Trust and the Wasily Family Foundation.

CMCS thanks all of our funders for their partnership in supporting our response to critical unmet needs of the 5,000 individuals we serve.

## Employee's Corner

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise, Melanie Melendez has not stopped making sure that her patients are getting the care they need. On a daily basis, she has carried out her in-person responsibilities as a Direct Support Professional, a role in which she cares for six women with developmental disabilities who live in a group home run by Cardinal McCloskey Community Services.



**Melanie Melendez**  
*Direct Support Professional,*  
*Cardinal McCloskey Community Services*

"Our agency has helped us create an environment for them to make sure that they're safe and make sure that they live a normal life," Melendez says.

Early on, when Westchester County was struggling to contain the coronavirus outbreak, Melendez says that Cardinal McCloskey Community Services ensured that everyone was wearing masks, employees and residents had their temperature checked at least twice a day, and the facility itself was disinfected three times a day. If a resident became sick, Melendez put on the appropriate PPE and never stopped striving to ensure that her patients were given their medication and food, and were also comfortable and happy.

"We try to put a smile on their face and try to make them feel happy and not feel sick and sad," Melendez says. "It kind of breaks our hearts, but we also want to make sure that they don't get anybody else sick."

On a typical day, Melendez works with the six women living in the group home to review their food, socialization and community goals, and to help with their daily exercises and to take them to their appointments. A few activities organized by the home include dance class on Mondays, music on Tuesdays, and zumba or hip hop on Wednesdays.

"Throughout the days we make sure that they're actually active, so they don't have to think so much of wanting to go home or think so much about COVID-19," says Melendez.

In addition to working full time at Cardinal McCloskey Community Services, Melendez is also going to school to study business management. In the future, Melendez says she hopes to open her own agency to care for people with developmental disabilities, specifically focusing on providing care for individuals with Down Syndrome.



## Holiday Gift Drive

Throughout a year of unprecedented stress, loss and trauma, Cardinal McCloskey Community Services was determined to provide some holiday cheer to the children and individuals in our care. Despite the many challenges we have faced this year, providing a kind gesture such as giving infant supplies to families with newborns or warm clothes to a Drop-In Center youth, engendered the spirit of hope and joy in every child, youth and adult with developmental disabilities. With the continued, generous support of local schools, organizations, and individual donors like you, we were successfully able to ensure that all of



our clients received age appropriate items for the holidays. From clothes and books to toys and games, everyone will have a gift to open. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to keeping the spirit of the holidays alive!

### *Companies, schools and churches include:*

- Annunciation – Our Lady of Fatima Parish Junior Ladies Guild
- Annunciation School in Crestwood
- Archbishop Stepinac High School in White Plains
- Edgewood Elementary School in Scarsdale
- Fordham Preparatory School in the Bronx
- The Montfort Academy in Mt. Vernon
- Our Lady of Sorrows White Plains
- Resurrection Church in Rye
- The Sherry Netherland Hotel in New York City
- St. Augustine in Larchmont
- St. Gregory the Great in Harrison
- St. John's The Evangelist and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in White Plains
- St. Luke's in Somers
- St. Theresa's School in Briarcliff Manor
- The Toy Box in Mamaroneck
- United Way of Westchester
- Weichert Realty in Rye



## Giving Tuesday

For this year's #GivingTuesday our CMCS community gave back in a big way! Over 30 donors, friends and staff members tuned into our first CMCS Virtual Giving Tuesday Event held on Tuesday, December 3rd! The evening consisted of an opening address from our President & CEO Beth Finnerty and our wonderful and engaging host Audrey Erazo-Trivino, Senior Vice President of Programs & Coordinated Care for leading us in a fun evening of carols, games, prizes and fundraising! Congratulations to our prize-winners and everyone who donated to help us continue fulfilling our mission.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US REMAIN #CMCSstrong!**



Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we raised  
**\$18k**



Your generous donation has led to loads of smiles from happy children and youth in our programs

*Thank You.*

*WE DO GREAT THINGS AT CMCS,  
FOLLOW US AND SPREAD THE WORD!*



## Ways To Give

In these challenging economic times, CMCS is more reliant than ever on private philanthropy. We have several methods for you to help CMCS continue its life-changing work. You can make your tax-deductible contribution to CMCS in any of the following ways:

**Check:** Please make your check payable to Cardinal McCloskey Community Services and mail it to us in the enclosed envelope.

**Credit Cards:** We accept American Express, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. Please fill out the enclosed envelope, contact us by phone, or visit our secure website: [www.cmcs.org](http://www.cmcs.org)

**Matching Gifts:** You can double your gift to CMCS if you or your spouse work for an organization with a Matching Gift Program.

**Planned Giving:** A Planned Gift is your commitment to the future of Cardinal McCloskey Community Services and demonstrates your lasting legacy to our mission.

**Bequest:** You can leave a bequest to CMCS in your will or trust. A donation through your will or trust is fully tax-deductible and enables us to provide critical assistance to those in our care.

**Real-Estate:** Gifts of personal residence can be made for an immediate income tax deduction or with a retained life estate, the donor or designee can live in their home for the rest of their life. After that time, the real estate is owned outright by CMCS, without the complications of probate proceedings. This gift allows the donor to receive current income deductions for the discounted value of the property.

**Stocks/Mutual Funds/Securities:** You can avoid capital gains tax on securities held long-term and provide an income tax deduction equal to the fair market value at the date of transfer.

To plan your gift, please contact Shiemicka Banner, Vice President of Philanthropy at (914) 940-6042 or [sbanner@cmcs.org](mailto:sbanner@cmcs.org) for further information. As always, we recommend that you consult a tax professional with any specific questions.

*Thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity*

## Becoming A Foster Parent

Jamal Needs You! Change the Life of a Child by Becoming a Foster Parent!

Jamal is a young adult who has been in foster care since he was 10 years old. Jamal has a relationship with both his parents, but unfortunately he could not live with either of them due to their inability to care for him. Since being in foster care Jamal moved to several homes, until he was moved to Ms. Jacob's foster home. Jamal finally found a foster mother and home that provided him with the guidance, nurturing and structure for him to be able to learn, grow and succeed. Ms. Jacob's compassion, understanding and support provided stability and structure for Jamal as he was navigating through life and the struggles and trauma's experienced due to being in foster care.

Cardinal McCloskey Community Services is in need of more loving, nurturing caring adults like Ms. Jacobs to provide compassion and care to youth in foster care. Our foster parents provide temporary care to children of all ages from infants through adolescents and of various ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds. Adults who are committed to opening their hearts and homes to inspire, teach and support children in our foster care programs make the best foster parents. Our devoted staff will assist you through the process of becoming a foster parent and continue to support you throughout your foster parent journey of supporting and nurturing youth in foster care.

For additional information on becoming a foster parent for children in our Bronx programs please call 718-993-7700. For our Westchester program please call 914-620-5043.







**Cardinal McCloskey**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Cardinal McCloskey Community Services**

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