2016 is the year Cardinal McCloskey Community Services celebrates our 70th Anniversary. After WW II, thousands of rural poor, immigrants and refugees flooded New York City seeking a new life. Many who sought prosperity found themselves unemployed and in need of assistance. Sadly, one of the long-lasting effects would be the displacement of thousands of children and with it, the overwhelming need to care for these children.

Our humble beginnings in 1946 on Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains as a home and school for abandoned children has grown into so much more.

What Does 70 Years of CMCS Look Like?

- Tens of thousands of children who suffer neglect and trauma receiving the love, care and support they each deserve
- Individuals with developmental disabilities who now live in homes that provide them with the opportunity to live more fulfilling and independent lives
- Thousands of young children in the poorest neighborhoods of the Bronx changing the path of their future in our Early Childhood Education programs
- Delivering specialized medical and clinical services so that the children, adults and families we care for can grow and embrace new opportunities
A Letter from the President & CEO’s Office

Dear Friends,

There is no other way for me to start this letter other than saying thank you. 70 years ago our agency embarked on a mission of serving at risk children and families. Our name, Cardinal McCloskey Community Services, references community. Community in that we reach to those in the communities we serve to help and to provide hope and support to those in need.

Equally important for us is that community also stands for the support that you have given us over the course of 70 years. Without a caring and generous community of supporters we would not exist. The work we do would not be possible. The work we have done would not have happened without the community standing by us. So on behalf of every child we helped care for, every individual with a developmental disability, and every family that in some way benefited from this care, we thank you.

2016 has already been a very busy year for the agency. Change in this very dynamic world we live in is a given. Some of the change is thrust upon us and some of it is a result of changes we initiate to insure we are properly positioned to serve in the many ways we have over the course of 70 years. The introduction of managed care into our service model creates opportunities for efficiencies in the long term but these mandated changes require a significant change to current processes, IT requirements and staffing responsibilities. These are part of the changes that are thrust upon us and as an agency we must react, but we must do so in a way where we continue to serve with the highest quality of care while change surrounds us.

In March we completed and submitted an application for the Cardinal McCloskey Community Charter School in the Bronx. The curriculum for the school focuses on the special needs and care of children in foster care. As we have seen over the years, and as we heard it over again as we interviewed foster parents in our preparation for our application, the trauma and the stigma associated with children in foster care follows them everywhere. We know that a child will never be able to thrive in a typical school environment that is not suited to meet their unique and complicated needs. Even more so, school for these children should be an opportunity for growth and healing and not another avenue that leads to self-doubt and hurt.

We have a lot to accomplish in this upcoming year and will need your support. Our Stepping Up for CMCS Walkathon in April was a wonderful opportunity to see many of you. It is a great day when staff, children and adults in our care, and you, our supporters, can all join together, enjoy each other’s company and see first-hand the progress and growth of those we serve.

Thank you again for all that you have done for us in the past and your continued support as we will work our hardest to meet the challenges of the next 70 years.

Sincerely,

Beth Finnerty, President and CEO

Grant Announcements

Recently, Cardinal McCloskey Community Services was awarded a two-year grant of $150,000 from the van Ameringen Foundation for our Clinical Services Program, which provides additional in-house therapy to children in foster care. In addition, we’d like to thank the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in the City of New York for their grant of $5,000 for the Clinical Services Program.

We are also grateful for the continuing support for our Strategies for Success Program, an educational guidance program for youth in foster care, by the Charles A. Mastronardi Foundation with a grant of $15,000.

The TD Charitable Foundation awarded us a grant of $7,500 for Hayden House, our emergency shelter for abused and neglected children; and our Individual Residential Alternatives (IRA) Group Homes for residents with developmental disabilities in Westchester.

Finally, we are grateful to the Anne Anastasi Charitable Foundation for a grant of $10,000 and the Sarah I. Schieffelin Residuary Trust for a grant of $4,000 to support our work.

Cardinal McCloskey Community Services expresses our gratitude to all of our corporate and foundation grantors for their continued support. With their help and yours, we are able to continue to provide extraordinary care to those we serve.
On Saturday, April 9th, Cardinal McCloskey Community Services held our 6th Annual Stepping Up for CMCS Walkathon at Iona Preparatory School in New Rochelle, NY. It was a chilly morning but we were blessed that the snow held off until after the walk concluded. What an inspiring sight to see the gathering of children and adults we care for braving the cold to walk with all of those who support the mission of CMCS. Seeing participants arrive by the car and busload fills us with such excitement as our staff, friends, members of our Board, community partners and those we serve meet on the track to walk side by side for a common goal.

This year’s event was incredibly special as it was the inaugural event of our 70th Anniversary! We are inspired by the growing number of participants who join our event year after year in support of CMCS. We are so grateful for News 12 Anchor/Reporter Michelle Brown who graciously hosted the Walkathon again this year. Michelle kicked off the Walkathon with some lovely words about the work of CMCS for the past 70 years before introducing our stars, Rachel and Janell Jones, who sang the National Anthem. Our resident hype man, Dr. William Ursillo, got the crowd motivated as the McCloskey Care Bears led our laps around the track.

The Walkathon continues to be such an uplifting day for all who participate. While it is so important that we enjoy the day so much, it is even more important that we are there for a common reason – to support those who need our help. Thank you for Stepping Up with us and supporting our next 70 years.

A special thank you to the Grogan and Grossman families!
We would like you to meet Lalisbeth. Lalisbeth (or Lali for short) is 23 years old and in the fall of 2015 she made the Dean’s list at Manhattan Community College where she is studying Community Health Education. She is expecting to make the Dean’s list again this semester and is taking a full 5 course class load. Lali also works full time as a teacher’s assistant at a Head Start location in the Bronx.

At the age of 21 Lali aged-out of foster care and since that time she has been living on her own.

Her day starts in Brooklyn, where she lives. She travels from Brooklyn each morning to her job in the Bronx. When her day ends at Head Start she travels to Chambers Street in lower Manhattan to attend class. At minimum her days require her to travel to 3 of the 5 boroughs of New York City.

On Saturdays she is back to Manhattan Community College for more classes. It is an extraordinary schedule for anyone, but particularly special for someone who has been confronted with adversity and challenges from the time she was a young child.

Lali first came into our care at CMCS in 2005 when she was just 12 years old. Like too many other children there were serious issues at home that resulted in her placement in foster care. She talks about growing up in her neighborhood, trying to figure out the difference in the sounds of fireworks versus gunfire. Similar to the experiences of other children in foster care she talks about the difficulties of being in school, particularly for her in 10th and 11th grade. Unfortunately for children in foster care there is a stigma that they live with that carries over into school with classmates and teachers alike.

Lali says that she wasn’t the best student in high school. She says others may have labeled her as being lazy but she explains that she was just scared and she needed someone to understand what she was going through.

At the age of 23 Lali is still very much a part of the CMCS family. She is a Youth Leader in our Preparing Youth for Adulthood (PYA) program and she visits the agency often, imploring the teens she sees here to “take advantage of everything that CMCS has to offer.” She tells them that she was just like them and warns that before they know it they will be 21, and in her words “it’s no fun and games when you’re in a shelter.”

Back home in Brooklyn, she is pushing for a community garden and she has been certified by the ASPCA as part of their effort to capture, vaccinate and neuter stray cats. In the years to come she would like to be a foster parent and one day open up a center for homeless teens, providing a safe haven with services that will help them turn their lives around. She explains that this will have to wait as her schedule is full now with her full time job, a full course load at college, and the semesters ahead where she is planning to continue her time on the Dean’s list.

 Cardinal McCloskey Community Services as your vehicle to improve the lives of children, teens and adults in need.

Did you know that John Cardinal McCloskey was:
- The first President of Fordham University (originally founded as St. Johns College)
- The first American Cardinal
- Dedicated his life to the plight of the homeless, the poor and the developmentally disabled
- Responsible for overseeing the construction of St. Patrick’s Cathedral.
2015 TOY DRIVE VOLUNTEERS

As in year’s past, we were very fortunate to have many volunteers help with the daily work that was required to keep the enormous inventory moving in and out and organized for our Toy Drive. We cannot thank each and every volunteer enough!

USI sent over a team of helpers to assist with the heavy lifting. We were thrilled to get the extra hands! This terrific group came in two shifts with 10 volunteers per shift and worked tirelessly with organizing toys and clothes, breaking down recyclables and much more! As you can see by the photos it was work combined with smiles and fun. A special thank you to Ivonne Cante for making this happen!

USI has helped support the agency professionally in addition to supporting our events and our mission. Many thanks! ★
Alexander Hamilton High School Lends a Hand

Prior to our Walkathon, study hall students from Alexander Hamilton High School used their class time to express their creativity and care for those we serve. To support the 6th Annual Stepping Up for CMCS Walkathon, students took time out of their day to create 3 banners for our 3 Day Habilitation rooms. These banners will be displayed in each room as a reminder of the compassion from our local community. Many of these students also volunteered at our Walkathon by providing face painting and running our carnival games. We are so grateful for the support of these students and look forward to continuing to partner with Alexander Hamilton Schools.

Fordham University Students Study for a Cause

For the second year, students from the Gabelli School of Business at Fordham University worked on a consulting assignment for CMCS. CMCS has been preparing introductory research on the possibility of opening a charter school in the Bronx. The students’ assignment ran parallel to our internal efforts in preparing situational and competitive analyses as well as marketing and fundraising efforts. The commitment and effort that these students invested in this project was evident from the start and their knowledge of the subject matter and the manner in which they presented it would make you think they were years into their professional careers. Thank you to Megan Baugh, Joe DeMarco, Kelly Harkness, Alex Milo, Stephanie Niamonitakus, Pritam Patel, Sofia Sarubbi, Ken Toyoda and to Dr. Janet DiLorenzo for her guidance and direction.
A CMCS Artist Shows Her Work

Resident artist Michelle O poses next to her self-portrait entitled, “Going Out to the Sagamore” at the 39th Annual NYSACRA Conference Art Show April 21, 2016 at The Sagamore in Bolton Landing, NY.

Michelle’s passion is painting. Whenever she has the opportunity, Michelle can be found at home creating her next work of art. Michelle’s mother is an art teacher and Michelle relishes following in her Mom’s creative footsteps. When not painting, Michelle is either working or enjoying playing her keyboard, dancing, writing song lyrics or going out to dinner and a movie with her friends.

This year’s conference theme was "Listen Up!" It expresses the importance of listening intently and the tremendous value of self-expression and how people with disabilities have a right to express themselves and let their desires and preferences be known and heard. The NYSACRA Conference is the premier event in the support field for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

CMCS artists with art work on display included Ivica F, Sherri K, Betsy D, Jeffrey E, Paul S, Caldwell D, William C, John P, George O, and Deborah Z.

CMCS is an active member of The NYS Association of Community and Residential Agencies (NYSACRA) where we share best practices and promote and advocate for supervised residential living alternatives, day habilitation, prevocational and vocational training, family care and respite services, clinical services, and educational and preventive education services. This year’s conference was attended by Dr. William Ursillo, COO; John Downey, Director of DD Services and NYSACRA Committee Member; Patricia Newman, Behavior Support Psychologist; Yadira Pimental, Program Manager; Melvese Rountree, Residence Manager; Roger Timothee, Residence Manager; Margie Thompson, DSP1; and Michelle O.

Additionally, Residence Managers Ms. Lisa Reinhardt and Ms. Cynthia McDuffie; DSPs Amanda Burke and Prudence Bagampesha and Ivica F., Sherri K., Deborah Z., Caldwell D. and Paul S. attended the Art Show. ★

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

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

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.

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.

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 transfer securities to CMCS, please contact Kerry Gutekunst at (914) 997-8000 ext. 114 or kgutekunst@cmcs.org.

Please consult with your tax advisor, and thank you for your continued support of CMCS; we could not fulfill our mission without your help!
SAVE THE DATE

The 9th Annual
Cardinal McCloskey Community Services
Golf Outing & Dinner
Monday, September 26, 2016
at Leewood Golf Club
Eastchester, NY

www.cmcs.org
SAFE CHILDREN • STABLE FAMILIES • SUCCESSFUL LIVES

For more information, please visit www.cmcs.org
or contact the Development Office at
(914) 997-8000 ext. 114 or kgutekunst@cmcs.org