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.

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Sunrise Drop-In Center, A Safe Haven in the Bronx

Cardinal McCloskey’s Sunrise Drop-in Center hosted its annual Christmas celebration on Wednesday December, 21st. The Christmas dinner was prepared by the Drop-in center staff as well as staff from our city office who welcomed the teens and young adults who use our Drop-in center as a pathway to help get their lives back on track.

They enjoyed their Christmas dinner while listening to music and engaging in conversation with each other. Once dinner was over, the staff handed out gifts to our drop-in center clients and their children. They were thrilled to receive gifts and excitedly tore through the wrapping paper so they could see their presents and show each other their gifts. The drop-in center was able to provide gifts from our toy drive through the generosity of our donors, local parishes and schools and Boy Scout troops among others.

At the Drop-in Center we work with teens and young adults that come to us seeking refuge, support and guidance. Many of them have experienced childhood trauma ranging from parental neglect to abuse to exposure to community violence. For the youth that attend the Drop-in Center, their efforts should be applauded. They have many reasons why they could give up, but they don’t. They are looking to change their lives and get to a place where they can hope and believe in a future beyond what they’ve seen and experienced on the streets.

They are looking for better lives and are actively working toward that goal.

Most do not have a family to turn to for help. Unfortunately, some families shun their children due to their inability to cope with their children’s mental health needs. Other families may have the desire to support these youth, but not the financial means to do so.

With nowhere to go and no one to turn to for support, these teens and young adults often fall victim to the streets. Unfortunately for these children, these streets are their home. They have little in the way of options. It is where they play, how they travel to and from school, and where they spend their free time. They sleep on trains and sleep in abandoned buildings because they do not have shelter. They do not have access to mental health treatment so they may turn to drugs to self-medicate. They sometimes join gangs in an attempt to belong and feel like they are not alone in the world.

Through targeted workshops, educational and vocational referrals, assistance with housing, and medical and mental health services we help these teens and young adults obtain stability and connect them to community resources. With their determination and our guidance, they are able pursue and further their education, gain employment, and acquire the skills necessary to becoming healthy, empowered and independent individuals. Our work at the Drop-In center has helped young men and women who were lost, find meaning in their lives and end the cycle of abuse, neglect and intolerance so they can create better lives for themselves and their children.adx
A Letter from the President & CEO's Office

This past year, celebrating our 70th anniversary, was a tremendous reminder as to the history of our organization and the history of serving in the Catholic tradition.

It is also a reminder of all who came before us at CMCS, and with it a sense of pride knowing the high level of care that has been set and the great responsibility we carry to insure that we meet these standards of care each and every day.

There were so many exciting and important events in the past several months. We have seen the expansion of our Strategies for Success program, advocating and supporting children and their families with educational opportunities so that school for them becomes a pathway for change. We have also seen the launch of our Hearts to Home program where donors help youth who are aging out of foster care and transitioning to independent living. The program helps them furnish their apartments so that they have a feeling of self-worth and hope as they live on their own for the very first time.

Our Early Childhood Education Division (ECED) has relocated to 629 Courtlandt Avenue, reflecting the growth of our early childhood education and Head Start programs. CMCS received a BIP Grant from NYS (Balancing Incentive Program) to make strategic investments to help individuals with developmental disabilities. We are using the BIP grant to target employment goals within our Day Hab services.

I hope you read our newsletter article that features our 70th Anniversary Gala. It was an amazing night as we had the opportunity to honor Lori and Paul Guillaro and Mary Theresa and John McCombe. Both the Guillaro’s and the McCombe’s have made our mission their mission in helping serve others. Their generosity and willingness to reach out to others on our behalf is a testament to their commitment to helping those in need.

The feeling here is undeniable that the 70th Anniversary has acted as a very proud moment for us all, allowing us for a brief period to focus on the accomplishments of this special agency and the groundwork that was laid for us.

The energy that we feel from your support helps drive us. We have been fortunate to see an increase in grant and foundation support and we continually add new donors through both our events and outreach efforts. It is humbling at times to see the support we receive and it only serves to reinforce our commitment to some of our most vulnerable children, adults and families in our communities.

As always I thank you for your ongoing support,

Sincerely,

Beth Finnerty, President and CEO

Join us on St. Patrick’s Day

For the first time, CMCS will be marching in both the New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Friday March 17th and at the White Plains St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Saturday, March 11th.

We are very excited to participate in the NYC Parade as our namesake, John Cardinal McCloskey, was responsible for overseeing the construction of St. Patrick’s Cathedral! (Did you know that he was also the first President of Fordham University?)

On the Saturday prior, we will be marking our heritage in the White Plains parade as Cardinal McCloskey Community Services (then known as the Cardinal McCloskey Home and School for Children) first opened our doors to care for children on Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains, just next door to Stepinac High School.

Would you like to march with us? If so, please contact Kerry Gutekunst at KGutekunst@cmcs.org. Availability will be limited so please contact us soon.®
Taking the Stage—The Stars Shine Again!

Once again the stars came out to shine at our 14th Annual Taking the Stage Talent Show on November 14th, 2016 at the Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford NY.

From the children in our Early Childhood Education Division to the youth and young adults in our Foster Care programs, all demonstrated their talents, experiences and their courage through song, poetry and their artwork. It is clear how much effort and care our artists put into the preparation for this very special day.

It is an amazing experience for them to step onto the stage, under the spotlight and hear the cheers of the crowd. The same is true for our artists who proudly stand by their paintings hearing complement after complement of how impressive their artwork is.

CMCS staff, who themselves have a background in art, work with these children and young adults and you can see the improvement and the evolution of their work over the years. It is more than just artwork though, it is an outlet for these children and young adults. It is a way for them to tell their story and share their experiences in a productive and healthy manner.

Before coming into care with CMCS, these children and young adults in our foster care programs did not typically hear adulation from those who were there to care for them. They were not encouraged to explore the talents they had or seek new challenges. On the contrary, these are children who suffered parental neglect, trauma and abuse.

Imagine their feelings as they step on that stage, almost too nervous to continue, then hearing the applause and cheers of others. It is no wonder this day is a highlight for them and one they do not want to miss.

It is a day that the entire agency enjoys as our individuals with developmental disabilities attend and help cheer on the performers, or show their artwork that is on display as well.

Thank you to News12 for your continued coverage. A very special thank you to our event sponsors, Tim and Nancy Joyce, James and Nicole Grogan, USI, Maureen Medure and Catholic Charities for supporting Taking the Stage and all of our performers, poets and artists! 🌟
On Wednesday, October 26, 2016, Cardinal McCloskey Community Services celebrated 70 years of service with our Platinum Anniversary Gala at the New York Athletic Club! This event was an extraordinary evening of friendship and celebration as we took stock of all that we have accomplished in the past 70 years. Moreover, it was an opportunity to honor all of those who have supported our work. We were honored to recognize two couples who have been steadfast supporters of CMCS for more than a decade – Paul & Lori Guillaro and John & Mary Theresa McCombe. To top off an already incredible evening, we were humbled to have NBC NY Anchor, David Ushery, join us as the evening’s emcee.

When Cardinal McCloskey Community Services first opened our doors in 1946, it was a safe haven for children whose families could not care for them after World War II. Since then, we have grown to meet the needs of hundreds of thousands of children, families and individuals with developmental disabilities.

During the gala we enjoyed a video showcasing our accomplishments over the past 70 years (please view this video on our website at www.cmcs.org), but we also heard personal stories from those who are part of our history. Our honorees shared inspiring details of how they got involved in CMCS and what drives them to continue supporting our mission. It was heartwarming to hear what our organization means to them and to share what they mean to us. We were also fortunate to hear firsthand from a young woman who lived in one our CMCS’ Tappan Home beginning when she was 11 years old. It was wonderful to hear how she benefitted from CMCS and to hear her amazing success story as she leads a successful, productive life. The words of her story resonated with us:

“Cardinal McCloskey’s heart is in providing for these children that haven’t had the love, the care and the attention that they so greatly need. Cardinal McCloskey helps these children so that they don’t have to lose their youth. They show them how to trust and that they have someone they can count on. They help them understand that they can be something and that someone believes in them. I truly believe that my life was saved at Cardinal McCloskey.”

This extraordinary event was made possible through the support of so many. We would like to thank our Platinum sponsor, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, and our 70th Anniversary sponsor, USI, for all that you did to make this event a success. Thank you for your tireless support of CMCS.

We are so grateful to be able to do the work we do every day and have a positive impact on the lives of all of those we serve. None of the work we have done in the past 70 years or the work we will continue to do is possible without your support. As we look back on CMCS’ history, we thank you for making our work possible. Here’s to 70 years! 🎉
Cardinal McCloskey Proposing Charter School in the Bronx

Children in foster care face unique challenges and obstacles that leave them at a severe disadvantage to their peers in school. They face challenges that are intensified by the uncertainty in their home lives, the neighborhood influences around them, and the difficulty of living through and coming to terms with the trauma and tragedies they face.

Without support services, dropout rates for children in foster care at the high school level approach 50%.

Education, as we know, is a pathway to change. A key component of the Cardinal McCloskey Community Charter School will be the focus that will be placed on children in foster care. The school plans to have an array of on-site, wraparound support services so that most, if not all, of the child’s needs will be taken care of at the school. If approved, the school hopes to open in September 2018 and initially serve kindergarten and 1st grade. Each year a new grade will be added until the school serves kindergarten through 8th grade.

The proposed Cardinal McCloskey Community Charter School has been hosting community outreach meetings to provide information about the proposed school and to gather community input. In addition to community meetings, Cardinal McCloskey Charter School committee has been speaking with local politicians and visiting schools and businesses to discuss the mission of the proposed school and gather feedback.

There are many steps involved and the application and review process set by SUNY to obtain a charter is very stringent. Comprehensive plans, including the school curriculum, expected outcomes and strong community support are all key factors in the application process.

For more information please visit the charter school website; cmcscharter.org or call 718-402-0081, Ext 227.
Towel Drive – All It Takes Is An Idea!

The Development Department regularly visits our Bronx offices. This past summer, after visiting the Drop-In-Center, our team asked Nicole Brown, the Administrative Supervisor, if there was something they might need. Nicole immediately responded, “Yes!” She explained that the Drop-In-Center always has a need for towels. Many of the youth that frequent the Drop-In-Center shower there. Although the towels are washed after each use they do become threadbare. This past September, the Development Department asked the Valhalla staff if they could donate new or very gently used towels. The response was incredible! Within one week over 500 towels were brought in. Brianne Lynn, Human Resource Specialist, ran her own towel drive with her friends and that brought in almost 400 towels! The Drop-In-Center was thrilled to have a new stock and one of the youth actually remarked that the new towels were “awesome”.

Day Hab Volunteers Help Our Toy Drive Succeed!

The 2016 Cardinal McCloskey Community Services Annual CMCS Toy Drive was an incredible success. Once again the men and women in our Day Hab program are a big reason why. Our Day Hab volunteers made sure that we were ready to start the holiday season, helping organize a huge selection of brand new toys, clothing, sporting equipment, books and other gifts which guaranteed there would be a holiday gift for thousands of individuals in our care.

Now three years in a row, CMCS was allowed to use open office space, rent free, at our Valhalla location to store the gifts that were donated. We would like to thank Mr. Larry Kwiat and Mr. Robert Swierbut of SL Green Management, LLC for their support of our drive. CMCS could not have accomplished moving in and out the tremendous inventory without the space to keep it organized.

CMCS is always so fortunate to receive donations from local parishes, schools and organizations. Our corporate donors included: Arbonne International, Keevily, Spero & Whitelaw, The Sherry-Netherland Hotel, Paramount Group, Enterprise Fleet Management, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, Sterling National Bank and Richard Bernstein Advisors. From the individuals who were able to donate just one toy to the organizations that sent hundreds of gifts we are so grateful. CMCS is only able to hold such a successful toy drive due to the enormous generosity of every donor.

As in years past, CMCS was lucky to also have many volunteers! The Iona Prep Varsity Baseball Team sorted clothing and moving hundreds of boxes for us. A group of fifth grade girls from Edgewood Elementary School spent an afternoon putting out toys for the next day of shopping. A Scarsdale Boy Scout Troop spent an afternoon volunteering.

A special thank you goes to our intern, Laura Russo, whose help was extraordinary throughout the entire Toy Drive. Laura worked at CMCS through the month of January to complete all inventory and storage for the beginning of our next drive.

The CMCS Toy Drive gets bigger every year due to the generosity of everyone involved. We truly appreciate every gift and every moment of volunteering. Thank you all so much and we look forward to being in touch with everyone this coming December. ✯
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!*
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Cardinal McCloskey Community Services
115 East Stevens Avenue, Suite LL5
Valhalla, New York 10595
914-997-8000

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

STEPPING UP FOR CMCS WALKATHON
SAVE THE DATE
CMCS Walkathon at Iona Prep
May 20, 2017

WINE TASTING & DINNER
May 7, 2017
SAVE THE DATE!