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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His Eminence, Cardinal Timothy Dolan Spends the Day with the Children & Families of Our Monsignor Boyle Head Start Program

Joined by Catholic Charities Executive Director, Monsignor Kevin Sullivan during their Lenten journey in preparation for the celebration of Easter, His Eminence, Cardinal Timothy Dolan entered the doors of CMCS’ Monsignor Boyle Head Start Program. It was all smiles as he was welcomed by the students performing festive songs in their decorative hats depicting farm animals. During this journey, His Eminence visited five different locations apart from Monsignor Boyle to build hope for the weak, the sick, and the forgotten throughout Westchester, the lower Hudson Valley, and New York City. Many of the parents of our youngsters were on-site to participate in a very joyous roundtable discussion sharing their experiences as parent advocates for their children with Cardinal Dolan and Monsignor Sullivan.

Located in the Norwood section of the North Bronx, Community District 7, an area known for its diversity, Monsignor Boyle Head Start provides childcare services to over 200 children through Head Start/Early Head Start center-based classrooms for those from Birth to 5 years of age and Universal Pre-Kindergarten (4 year-olds) full-day services.

Each classroom is equipped with a Certified Teacher and Assistant Teacher. At the site there are Family Advocates who work with the parents to provide emotional support, Cooks who prepare breakfast, lunch and a healthy afternoon snack each day for all students, Custodial staff and an Education and Site Director who provide educational support to the teachers.

Children’s minds are like sponges, exposing children to new experiences at a very young age shows them what the world has to offer. This visit will be memorable. Thank you to Catholic Charities for organizing this visit and helping us to change the trajectory in the lives of our children and families.
A Letter from the President & CEO’s Office

Summer is such a special time of year for so many as it often represents family gatherings and time to relax a bit more than usual. Each day at CMCS, there are moments that are so special and conjure a mixture of emotions. A painting done by a child in foster care that contains so much beauty and emotion can evoke an incredible sense of pride to know that we are a part of helping this child grow beyond the trauma and pain they have experienced. Or it could be as simple as a hearty morning “Hello!” we receive from an adult with autism who for years did not have the ability to communicate at any level.

These moments serve as constant reminders of the commitment we make daily for the work that we do and the support made possible by your staunch belief in CMCS and our overall mission and vision. There has been so much happening at CMCS over the last few months and I know you will agree that recent developments have made it possible to serve even more of those who need us. This has been a very exciting time and I am thrilled to share our news.

Jennifer Fedele, who has worked at CMCS since 2003, is the Founding Principal of the Charter School, and Edrick Brown is the Director of Operations. Since the Charter School hired them in November 2018, they have been hard at work laying the foundation for a successful opening. George Grace, the President of the Board of Directors, and the other board members have been actively involved in the preparations.

We have been active online and in your communities as well. We kicked off the Spring season with our wonderful annual Wine Tasting event at the home of our very generous hosts, Lori and Paul Guillaro. It was the most successful Wine Tasting event to date and it was our privilege to honor the Grossman and Linde Families. We took our CMCS enthusiasm with us at our yearly Walkathon event and the New York City Saint Patrick’s Day Parade. Most recently, with your generous support, the children in our foster care programs became “Explorers for a Day” at the Bronx Zoo with over 130 children and families in attendance.

This truly is a very exciting time to be a part of Cardinal McCloskey Community Services. While the summer can typically be a time when work slows down, it is certainly not the case at CMCS! This only means that we have more opportunities and work ahead of us to continue to help in our legacy of helping others.

There isn’t a day that goes by that we are not thankful or recognize the importance of the support we receive from you and your faith in us. Please know that your belief means so much to us and to the children, adults and families we serve.

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer with your family and friends and we look forward to a busy Fall season!

Be Well!
Fondest Regards,

Beth Finnerty

Cardinal McCloskey Community Charter School

We are excited that the new Cardinal McCloskey Community Charter School is opening for students on August 28th, with the teachers starting on August 12th. The Charter School currently has 158 students enrolled in Kindergarten and 1st grade, with the capacity to enroll another 15-20 children. The school will occupy four floors in Aquinas High School in the Bronx, a renovated building where they will have a beautiful gymnasium and their own cafeteria.

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The Sanctuary Model is key to the success of the Charter School and differentiates our school from others. This model is a trauma-informed framework that promotes a safe, nurturing and nonviolent environment, where at-risk children can maximize their potential to learn, heal and grow.

Our very own “McCloskey Cares” Mental Health Clinic that opened in January of this year is off to a fantastic start! This program is a tremendous addition to the continuum of care that CMCS provides to children and families; the work that is being done daily in the clinic is helping to address the unspeakable trauma that some of our children have gone through and with this service, they do not have to go through that experience alone! CMCS is grateful to all of the foundations that awarded us grants this fiscal year.

One of our greatest achievements for the agency is the first time grant award we received from The Hyde and Watson Foundation to renovate the family waiting and visiting rooms at our facility at 529 Courtlandt Avenue in the Bronx. Our goal is to create a safe, welcoming and therapeutic environment for the children and families who receive services at CMCS. This could only have been accomplished by the generosity of The Hyde and Watson Foundation and we are so appreciative of their commitment and faith in our mission.
A Day To Remember On The Hudson

Each year one of our most important and enjoyable fundraisers of the year takes place in Garrison, New York at the home of Lori and Paul Guillaro. The Guillaro family has hosted the Wine Tasting and Dinner for the past 14 years. Their generosity and commitment to CMCS is on full display as they open their beautiful home and welcome both our longtime friends and new supporters who embrace our mission of helping at-risk children and families.

This incredible event was very special as the Grossman and Linde Families were this year’s honorees and the recipients of The 2019 Chuck Houghton Memorial Service Award. This included Mr. & Mrs. George and Patricia Grossman, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. George and Tara Grossman and Mr. & Mrs. Mark and Helene Linde. The Grossman/Linde family has been committed to the mission of CMCS for many years and they have provided not only tremendous financial support but also dedicated their time and efforts to countless CMCS events. George Grossman also currently sits on the CMCS Board of Directors.

The event raised over an unprecedented $215,000.00. Included in this amazing total is the $73,450.00 raised during the “Fund-A-Need” portion of the afternoon that was hosted by Phil Orlando. Phil also hosted the exciting Live Auction that raised $22,800.00. These totals are even more impressive considering the room was filled with over 120 guests. Thank you, Phil, for a job truly well done!

A highlight of the afternoon was a beautiful and heartfelt acceptance speech by George Grossman. George spoke about how important CMCS has been to his family and that finding a permanent home for his brother, Richard, has left his entire family with the comfort of knowing the care Richard receives is unparalleled and ever changing to his needs.

The day wouldn’t be complete without the culinary expertise of Chef Peter X. Kelly of the Xaviar’s Restaurant Group, Mr. Ned Kelly for the beautiful décor and Sommelier, Eric Zillier, who gave perfect descriptions of the wine being served from wine connoisseur, Tony Corso. Thank you to all of those who attended and supported the event. We look forward to seeing you next year for the 15th Annual Spring Wine Tasting.
A Wild Adventure at The Bronx Zoo

On Friday, June 28th, CMCS held our 3rd Annual “Explorer for a Day” event at the Bronx Zoo for children and families in our foster care program. A day filled with warm smiles and sunshine, our Explorers were greeted with a light breakfast, “Explorer” t-shirts, and a bag full of goodies including a scavenger hunt, animal stickers, and some snacks for their trek.

Our Explorers searched high and low all over the zoo for clues to help them solve the scavenger hunt. Spending the morning and afternoon roaming the jungle and traipsing through the savanna, they took a break to refuel with a nutritious and balanced lunch at the Dancing Crane Pavilion.

Back on the prowl, our Explorers returned victorious and were able to trade in their completed scavenger hunts for an assortment of fun, zoo-related prizes. It was both a fun and educational day for everyone!

Events like these are so critical to the children and families in our care. Not only is it a fun day out, but it is a day that provides these children and families with the simple gift of joy. Because of our donors’ generosity, they were able to support over 130 children with the opportunity to attend the event and visit the Bronx Zoo – many for the first time.

Thank you to all of our philanthropic donors and Bronx Zoo staff for making this day special for so many youths. Your efforts and contributions go a long way and touch the lives of these individuals irrevocably.
On Saturday, May 4th, Cardinal McCloskey Community Services held our 9th Annual “Stepping Up For CMCS” Walkathon at Iona Preparatory School in New Rochelle, New York.

We were once again blessed with a beautiful sunny day for our walkathon and it was a tremendous sight to see the gathering of children and adults we care for alongside all those who support CMCS. It is such an exciting moment for us as we see busloads of people arriving and joining staff, friends, members of our Board and more on the track walking together side by side.

We welcomed a newcomer this year as Sophia Hall, Long Island Reporter for WCBS 880 Radio, hosted the Walkathon. Sophia kicked off the Walkathon with some beautiful words describing our work before she introduced our star performer, Kenya, who sang the national anthem for us. This was Kenya’s second year performing the anthem and her enthusiasm and talent was outstanding.

The Walkathon has turned into such an uplifting day for all of us. It is certainly important that we enjoy the day so much, but it’s more important knowing that we are there for a reason, and that reason is to support those who need our help. Thank you for being there for us.
A Life of Dedication

For 48 years, Sister Marie Hess has dedicated her time and service to others. Affectionately recognized as a “petite powerhouse”, Sister Marie is known best for her ability to command a room and her unyielding compassion towards everyone she encounters.

After 25 years as a teacher, Sister Marie decided to pursue a position at the Cardinal McCloskey School and Home for Children where she volunteered for several summers. In 1971, she accepted her charge of creating a program to prepare youths for independent and self-supported living. With great thought and care, Sister Marie’s program “Preparing Youth’s for Adulthood” (PYA) has flourished, resulting in countless youths successfully enrolling in and completing college or vocational school.

A pillar of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, Sister Marie truly embodies vision, compassion and understanding. With grace and humility, she is a shining example of hope, faith, and excellence.

CHANGE THE LIFE OF A CHILD:
BECOME A FOSTER PARENT!

Consider opening up your heart and home to a child in need of support and care. Share the love of family and help change the life of a child.

Our foster care programs are in need of nurturing foster parents to provide loving and stable homes to provide temporary care to children who cannot safely remain in their homes at this time. Cardinal McCloskey Community Services provides care to children of all ages: from infants through adolescents, and of various ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds. Our staff will assist you through the certification process and continue to support you throughout the time the child is in your home.

The rewards of helping to care for a child in need of foster care are those you can feel in your heart.

For additional information on becoming a foster parent for children in our Bronx programs, please call: 718-993-7700. For our Westchester County program, please call 914-620-5043.
The fifth floor of 529 Courtlandt is the location of the new McCloskey Cares Clinic. After years of planning, the clinic opened in January serving children, families, teens and young adults. The McCloskey Cares Clinic offers a safe, therapeutic environment to those facing life stressors and trauma that can lead to serious mental health problems.

To greet individuals coming to the clinic it was important the visitors entered a bright, welcoming, attractive space putting them at ease. With the support of two foundations, The McKeen Fund and a recent grant from the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, CMCS is able to furnish the waiting room and the counseling rooms with attractive and comfortable chairs, tables, and lighting. A beautiful array of sunny colors and artistic touches make each area unique. Bookcases housing books, games and age-appropriate educational materials are accessible throughout the clinic, ensuring younger visitors have stimulating activities as they and their families wait for appointments. We have also provided our clinicians with essential therapeutic toys, games and books to be used during therapy sessions.

We welcome our friends and supporters to visit the McCloskey Cares Clinic to see firsthand the beautiful spaces created throughout the clinic. This truly friendly environment will promote healing and will be a destination the children and families will look forward to revisiting.
FOUNDATION GRANTS
SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2019
(received Oct 2018 – July 11, 2019)

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

- **The Strategies for Success Program**, an educational advocacy and support program for youth in foster care, received grant funding from Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, the Hagedorn Fund, the Rosalie J. and C. Daniel Maldari Foundation, the Charles A. Mastronardi Foundation, the New York Community Trust, People’s United Community Foundation and the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation.

- The new **McCloskey Cares Clinic** received a grant from The Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in the City of New York for therapeutic toys, games and books.

- **Hayden House**, our emergency shelter for abused and neglected children in Westchester, received grants from St. Faith’s House Foundation for the ASPIRE after-school program and from the Charles A. Mastronardi Foundation for Bunny’s Closet.

- **Developmental Disabilities Services** received grants from the Foundation for Empowering Citizens with Autism (FECA) and the Westchester Medical Center Health Network for our Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Program.

- We received a first-time grant from **The Hyde & Watson Foundation** for upgrades to the Courtlandt family visiting and waiting rooms.

- **CMCS** received a grant from the Dormitory Authority of the State of NY (DASNY) for technology upgrades.

- The **Cardinal McCloskey Community Charter School** received a grant from the Charles A. Mastronardi Foundation for student needs.

- General operating grants were awarded to CMCS from Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, The McKeen Fund, the Sarah I. Schieffelin Residuary Trust, and the Wasyly Family Foundation.

CMCS thanks all our funders for their partnership in supporting our response to critical unmet needs of the more than 4,000 families we serve.

**Take Us Out to the Ballgame!**

The New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund provided CMCS with 164 tickets to the June 25th Yankees vs. Toronto Blue Jays game at the Stadium. Families and children in our programs, CMCS staff and their families all had a great evening watching the Yankees win 10 – 8 over the Blue Jays.

In addition to these much appreciated tickets, the Yankee Community Benefits Fund has been a generous partner for over three years, by providing essential items for the Sunrise Drop in Center in the South Bronx. Now open 24 hours a day, the numbers of youth in need of assistance have grown. With the Yankee funding CMCS has been able to provide at-risk, runaway and homeless youth with meals, showers, clothing, MetroCards, socks, undergarments, hygiene supplies, and educational supplies for youth and the children of parenting youth. These very basic items have an enormous impact in assisting our youths. As they feel better about themselves their self-esteem grows and they know there are many who care deeply about them and their future.

Our thanks to the New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund and to Veronica De Jesus, Consultant and Community Liaison, for her help and thoughtful consideration and the opportunity to attend an exciting Yankees game.

Everyone at Cardinal McCloskey Community Services are true Yankee fans!
Mary Theresa McCombe and her husband, John, have been dedicated partners in the CMCS mission for over 12 years. Their generosity and commitment to the agency includes their focus on specific activities, such as John’s dedication to the CMCS golf outing and Mary Theresa’s personal interest in issues related to foster care and youth aging out of care. Both have shown the dedicated efforts that lead to decisive results.

“While one percent of youth in foster care may enter a four year college, less than 2 percent ever get their degree before the age of 25, compared with 24 percent of the general population….”

As the parents of three children, the McCombes recognize the variety of expenses associated with a college education. They are also profoundly aware of the challenges confronting youth in foster care and the overwhelming challenges these youth face in pursuing an education. These challenges are the results of multiple placements leading to increased frequency in changing schools, which can deny youth in care the stable social and educational foundations that are essential to maneuver through the college selection and the financial aid processes. While CMCS staff guide each student in the ‘Preparing Youth for Adulthood’ programs, the absence of a parent or other mentor who provides financial and emotional support during college years is the most frequent reason the college dropout rate amongst these youth is so high.

Mary Theresa, seeing the urgency and difficulties facing a youth trying to remain in school, took the lead. Working with CMCS staff, she created and underwrote the McCombe College and Vocational School Assistance Program. In three years, over 45 young men and women have benefited from her program and funding. Not one of these 45 youth needed to leave college or training due to financial needs.

Scholarships and financial aid do not cover many expenses facing students. As this program evolved, CMCS staff monitored the students as they settled into their studies and urged them to communicate shortfalls and the essentials they needed. Books, school supplies, outfitting, dorm rooms, travel expenses, medical emergencies, and materials for independent projects, computers, software, and supplemental food cards quickly surfaced as areas where financial help was required.

Youth who have decided to follow a vocational training program have also benefited from McCombe funding. Fund for tuition, fees, licensing, uniforms, equipment, tools, and books have helped young men and women enter into a variety of fields and occupations including; fitness instructor, chef and food services, security work, beautician and cosmetology.

McCombe funding on average was just $1,266 per student. This is a relatively low sum considering that it represents a huge investment in the personal human potential of each youth. By allowing students in foster care to continue in college or vocational training, we have seen the power that an education has reflected in more youth achieving their dreams of being proud of their educational successes and in being able to provide for themselves.

A quote from Lee Iacocca

“I was fortunate to get a scholarship when I went to Lehigh University and Princeton… Somebody was kind enough to spend their money to educate people that they would never get to know. That’s what I think philanthropy is about.”

Sincere altruism, honed organizational skills, and masterful networking capabilities characterize Mary Theresa whose charitable work in her own community and far beyond, has touched so many lives. In 2016, Mary Theresa’s second venture for foster youth also began at CMCS. Through the Hearts to Homes program, donors purchased essential household furnishings and made monetary donations to supply the many things needed to furnish a first home for a young adult aging out of care. CMCS staff help each young adult create a “wish list” that included items such as bedlinens, cookware, furniture, lighting, cleaning supplies and other necessities providing all the household furnishings needed as a young adult begins their new independent life. Hearts to Homes is now an independent agency, supporting youth at eight different foster care agencies, including Cardinal McCloskey. CMCS is very fortunate to have the partnership of John and Mary Theresa McCombe. Mary Theresa’s ingenuity along with her philanthropic commitment has provided many youth aging out of foster care with support and comfort. She’s offered a caring helping hand as they set out to lead independent and fulfilling lives.
CMCS’ ANNUAL PLANNING

As we begin the new fiscal year, CMCS is unveiling our new FY 2020 Annual Plan. Our Annual Plan marks a path towards reinforcing our organization, building upon the capabilities of our staff, and positioning us for success in the broad continuum of services and supports we provide to our communities.

At CMCS, each Annual Plan reflects the integration of our agency mission and the stewardship and leadership that we all bring to our work each day. As we pursue our Annual Plan goals, we integrate our overall agency plan with the goals of our departments and the goals of each individual staff, through our One Page Plans. This connection between agency and individual staff goals is critical! The stewardship of our staff is our greatest resource and the key ingredient in our accomplishments.

CMCS hopes to soon release our new five-year Strategic Plan which will guide the agency for Fiscal Years 2020-2024; we anticipate formal approval by our Board of Directors very shortly. You will see that our new Strategic Plan is focused on bolstering CMCS and our programs for the future. As an agency, we have much to be proud of; now is the time to plan for our sustained success!

GOAL 1
Facilitate excellence and professional growth in CMCS staff and leaders.

GOAL 2
Maintain and develop the essential fiscal resources that support and advance our goals.

GOAL 3
Invest in the infrastructure we need to operate most effectively and efficiently.

GOAL 4
Nurture and reinforce a healthy organizational culture that reflects our values of community and safety, for those we serve and for our agency staff and supporters.

GOAL 5
Set new directions for program growth which build on our successes, areas of expertise and marks of distinction.
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 at 115 E. Stevens Avenue, Suite LL5 Valhalla, NY 10595.

**Credit Cards:** We accept American Express, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. Please contact us by phone or visit our website at [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.

**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

12th Annual CMCS Golf Outing & Dinner
Monday, September 16th, 2019
Leewood Golf Club

17th Annual “Taking The Stage” Talent Showcase
Sunday, November 3rd, 2019
SUNY Performing Arts Center, Purchase, NY

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