On Saturday, April 6th, Cardinal McCloskey Community Services held the 3rd Annual “Stepping Up For CMCS” Walkathon at Iona Preparatory School in New Rochelle, New York. Over $50,000 was raised and it was attended by more than 250 people who came out to walk and help cheer on the walkers. The Walkathon has become a great day for CMCS workers, consumers, clients and friends to join together and support our agency. The weather was beautiful, making the day even more perfect!

This year’s walk featured the musical talent of the amazing Marching Cobras of New York. The music entertainment continued with the DJ talents of Beatz Entertainment. CMCS volunteers organized a friendly team competition, where each team showcased their creativity and enthusiasm by making banners and even custom made tee shirts! Just a few of the teams that participated were the Glee Team, the Dream Walkers, the Fast Steppers, the Sun Raisers, the Little Flower Team, and the Walking Warriors.

Congratulations to top individual fundraiser Jamie McCombe and both the B2H and Glee Teams who tied for top team fundraiser! At the close of the event, President & CEO Beth Finnerty personally thanked everyone for their participation and reiterated that the success of CMCS always depends upon the support of our friends on days like this.

An enormous thank you to this year’s Stepping up for CMCS Walkathon sponsors: USI Insurance, The Grogan Family, The Grossman Family, TD Bank, The Guillaro Family, Hudson Pharmacy & Surgical Supplies, 953 Realty, Rosin Steinhagen Mendel, Metropolitan Transfer, Hudson Valley Bank and all of our other sponsors. We would also like to thank all of the teams and individual fundraisers who made the Walkathon such a great success.

And finally, let’s not forget that an event such as this could never happen without the dedicated volunteers of CMCS.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Walkathon!
Dear Friends,

Summer is upon us and I hope that it has been an enjoyable one for you. It is a time of year when families and friends gather to enjoy time together. And it helps serve to remind us of the support we have had and the need for us to be there to help support others.

The first six months of 2013 have been special for us at CMCS and thanks to you, our friends, our agency has been able to continually respond to the needs of those in our care. Your support has ensured that we are able to protect, advocate for, and serve the most vulnerable members of our community each day.

Just recently, through our EarlyLearn NYC initiative, our Day Care Programs have transitioned from basic child care to a more comprehensive school readiness program in line with Head Start performance standards. Our work here is supported by research which demonstrates that there is tremendous value in ensuring that these youngsters have the “head start” that they need to succeed and don’t enter kindergarten already behind their peers and in need of remediation.

In addition, CMCS was recently able to expand our Day Habilitation program allowing us to increase the number of adults with developmental disabilities we serve. You can read more about our new Day Hab space on page 6. This expansion is a true testimony to how outstanding the program is, and to the work of the terrific staff who made this possible.

Finally, our Family Foster Care program has made tremendous strides by bringing our clinical services in-house. Thanks to the generosity of our foundation partners, we now provide comprehensive therapy to well over 90 children in our care, a number that continues to grow. This has significantly increased the amount of collaboration that can occur between each child’s social worker and therapist and, as a result, many of our youngsters are more aptly coping with trauma and living more successful and fulfilling lives.

These and other advancements in recent years have solidified CMCS’s reputation as one of the premier social service agencies in New York. Our record of success has not gone unnoticed, as CMCS was recently named Agency of the Month by the New York Non-Profit Press, an accomplishment we are incredibly proud of.

I hope that over the course of the summer that you keep in mind that these program advancements and the success of those we serve are directly connected to you and your generosity. Without you, we couldn’t continue to serve the children, families and adults with developmental disabilities that so desperately need us to survive. Thank you on behalf of each and every one of them!

Thank you again for your generosity and I hope you enjoy these warm summer months.

Beth Finnerty
President & CEO

Building Dreams One LEGO At A Time

CMCS’s Courtlandt Avenue location is proud to now display a magnificent LEGO mural in the reception area of the second floor. The mural was donated to CMCS by Deutsche Asset & Wealth Management and was installed this June. It is a picture of the San Diego skyline, designed by LEGO Systems, and it was assembled over three days by Deutsche employees attending a financial conference in that same city. The assembly required a custom board that was color coded for each brick and participants then placed a corresponding brick on the board.

Over 8,000 individual bricks were used to build the mural! Once the construction was complete, Deutsche Asset & Wealth Management decided to donate the mural to an organization that benefits children. Mrs. Nicole Grogan, a member of the CMCS Board of Directors and Lead Account Manager for the conference, suggested our organization. Mrs. Grogan and her co-workers expressed the following: “Our hope for the mural was to install it in a place where children and their families would enjoy an intricate LEGO display, and also where children could view a picture of a LEGO city skyline and think about how they can build their dreams for the future.” CMCS would like to express our sincere appreciation to Nicole Grogan; Abby Witkin, V.P. Marketing at Deutsche Asset & Wealth Management; Sara Palermo, Events Service Manager at 2020 Exhibits; and The Deutsche Bank Foundation.
A Very Good Year!

On May 19, 2013, Cardinal McCloskey Community Services was delighted to be, once again, invited into the beautiful home of Paul and Lori Guillaro for the 8th Annual Spring Wine Tasting & Dinner. Their Garrison home is the ideal location, overlooking the majestic Hudson River and West Point. This year’s Wine Tasting & Dinner was our most successful yet! Over one hundred guests sampled extraordinary wines from the private collection of connoisseur Tony Corso and each was expertly described by sommelier Eric Zillier. Everyone also enjoyed delicious foods prepared by acclaimed chef Peter X. Kelly, owner of Xavier’s Restaurant Group.

As guests entered the dining area, Lori took the podium with her husband Paul at her side and thanked everyone for attending this important event. Lori spoke passionately about the mission of CMCS and reminded all of the importance of the work we do. At this time, Beth Finnerty joined Paul and Lori and announced that CMCS was privileged to honor the Guillaros with the first ever “Hall of Fame” Award. It recognizes Paul and Lori for their loyal dedication and unwavering commitment, their contribution towards our goals, and for making our organization stand above the rest.

The day also included the unveiling of CMCS’s new Agency Video. The video was created and produced by Paul and Lori’s son, Daniel Guillaro, and it was received with great enthusiasm. The official release of the video will be Fall, 2014.

Following the video, a young man featured in the video, Justin, took the podium and shared his personal story. Justin described his experiences in the foster care system and the life changing effect that his participation in our Preparing Youth for Adulthood Program and the staff of McCloskey, particularly Sister Marie Hess, Sister Jeanne Shary and Paul Brown have had upon him and his own personal success. He received a standing ovation at the end of his remarks when he told our guests that, in spite of the adversity he experienced, he is currently pursuing his bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice at Monroe College and has a 3.2 GPA.

The evening’s festivities concluded with a live auction of ten incredible prizes, including a fishing trip on the Long Island Sound; a custom-fitted suit; four tickets to the Subway Series; an evening in New York with a Broadway show, dinner, and accommodations at the Four Seasons; a catered party in your home including wine and customized invitations; Tahitian Pearl earrings from the Mastoloni collection; dinner for two at the Boathouse and an overnight at the Conrad; and an evening at the Metropolitan Opera, including dinner at the Grand Tier. Special thanks to the Grossman, Grogan, DeSoiza, Corso, Mastoloni, Murphy, Rosin, Foley, Wangeman and Zauner Families, and to Lord & Taylor in Scarsdale for donating these amazing prizes.

We are also truly indebted to Paul and Lori Guillaro, Tony Corso, Ned and Peter Kelly, Sommelier Eric Zillier, auctioneer Paul Jones, and all of our Board members and friends who purchased tables or otherwise participated in the event; without their support and generosity, we could never have raised more than $100,000 to sustain the vital services that we provide at CMCS! ★
The Development Department Can Count On Her Support

Guadalupe Torres is a member of the Supported Employment program and has been working with our MIS department since March 2010. Ms. Torres’ breadth of skills, including her expertise in records maintenance, caught the eye of the Development team. Her professionalism and work ethic now benefit both departments at CMCS. Congratulations to Ms. Torres. In the past six months, Ms. Torres has gained various responsibilities and assisted with major events including the Toy Drive, Walkathon, and Lord & Taylor’s Day for Charity; and has successfully implemented a paper records filing system for the department. Her willingness to help, eagerness to learn and ability to work across departments has established Ms. Torres as an asset not only to her team, but to the agency as a whole. To sum it all up, Christina Camardella (Director of Special Events and Communications) says it best “Guadalupe is an absolute pleasure to work with. Her terrific ‘can do’ attitude and always smiling face have been a tremendous asset to our department and I look forward to continuing to see her grow and acquire new skills as we continue to work together.”

*The Supported Employment program at CMCS is a vocational training and support service that assists adults with developmental disabilities to achieve their professional career goals while receiving long term assistance obtaining and maintaining sustainable competitive employment. For more information, please contact Melinda McFadden (Coordinator of Supported Employment) at 914.997.8000 ext 101 or MMcFadden@cmcs.org.

B. Smyth at The Gramercy Theatre

Motown Records rising star and CMCS supporter, B. Smyth, performed at The Gramercy Theatre in New York City on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 and CMCS was there! B. and his management team were kind enough to host over 100 youngsters from our foster care programs and our Drop In Center for this thrilling night.

Buses staffed by CMCS employees and volunteers, and filled with our very excited youngsters, left our 529 Courtlandt location for a big night out in the Big Apple.

As usual, B. Smyth did not disappoint and gave an electrifying performance, including singing his hit single “LEGO!” More importantly, he gave our kids a gift they won’t soon forget. They were treated like VIP’s and had an opportunity to leave some tough obstacles placed in their lives behind for the night.

Thank you B. Smyth, Phillana Williams and Michelle Boyce-Sanchez for their extraordinary gesture. B.Smyth is a true star, and the children of Cardinal McCloskey Community Services are proud to call him a friend.
CMCS Lights It Up Blue

April 2, 2013, was World Autism Day and thousands of people joined together to help shine a light on autism by wearing blue. Cardinal McCloskey Community Services recognized this important day and our employees participated as well by wearing blue jeans to work! Raising awareness around this critical issue is important to CMCS — 1 in every 88 American children now have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder — a 78% increase since 2007.

Payless Pays It Forward

In March, 2013, CMCS held its first ever “Payless In-Store Event” at the Payless Store on 2902 Third Avenue, Bronx, New York, as part of the Payless Gives Shoes 4 Kids Program. Cardinal McCloskey Community Services was honored to be included in this program. It is implemented in all 50 states, Canada, Puerto Rico and 11 Latin American countries and gives $1.5 million of free shoes to children of families in need. CMCS was selected to be a part of this program and was given 100 gift cards valued at $20.00 each to be used by the children and young adults in our care. And what a thrill as for some of the children this was their very first pair of new shoes.

It was a very cold winter day but that did not stop over 50 children, youth and their families from shopping! The children and youth were able to choose their very own shoes and there was plenty of help for trying on new styles and sizes. Everything from sneakers, boots and dress shoes were available as well as Payless accessories such as socks, hand bags and jewelry. The experience of shopping for new shoes lifted spirits and brought a huge smile to each child’s face.

CMCS would like to thank Payless for this fantastic donation and for choosing CMCS to be a part of this program. We truly appreciate their support!
CMCS is proud to announce the June 2013 expansion of our Valhalla Day Habilitation program. This expansion has allowed us to increase the number of adults with developmental disabilities that we are able to serve. Since our expansion we have acquired new, additional space for this program right across the hall from our current Day Habilitation site. This additional space will allow us to create unique learning environments in each room to meet the needs of the individuals we serve. CMCS is one of the very few agencies nationwide providing adult ABA services, thus filling a growing need.

Our Day Habilitation program emphasizes community integration, volunteering and the development of vocational and independent living skills. Participants attend regularly scheduled recreation activities fostering opportunities to improve their socialization skills. Each individual is afforded opportunities to volunteer in the community, in environments such as Food Patch, Soup Kitchens, Adult Day Care centers, and pre-schools, among others. We also help various organizations prepare their bulk mailing efforts. Through these opportunities and others, we promote greater independence in all areas and support their chosen endeavors.
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:
Tuesday, September 10, 2013
6th Annual Golf Outing & Dinner
Leewood Gold Club
Eastchester, NY

SAVE THE DATE:
NOVEMBER 2013
Taking the Stage Talent Competition
Details to follow...

Stay-tuned for more information on how to reserve your spot for these upcoming events!

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