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.

When Help Arrives
Kiara is 9 years old. She was born in the Bronx and lives with her mother and father. Kiara was born with diplegic infantile cerebral palsy, restricting her to the use of a wheelchair. She requires full time care. If you met her you would see that even through her pain, she prefers to smile.

Her mother and father struggle with the daily choice of splitting time so that one of them can be at home to help care for their daughter versus seeking additional hours at work due to the bills that far outweigh what they earn each week. The days are not easy and the stress builds by having to cope with these decisions day in and day out.

What we think of as simple tasks can be a major undertaking for Kiara and her parents. Just getting up and ready for the school bus presents challenges. Having to negotiate elevators in their building that constantly break down, subway stations that are not handicap accessible causing them to make long trips even longer, provide uncertainty and frustration at every turn.

Making matters worse is that Kiara, at age 9, was still in the same wheelchair designed for her when she was just 2 years old. Kiara grew, and outgrew her wheelchair. And Kiara, along with her parents, suffered. Her primary care physician failed to provide them with any assistance in recommending more appropriate care with an orthopedist or other doctor. Nor did he volunteer information so that the parents were not aware that Medicaid would cover the cost of a new wheelchair.

Repeated absences from school and other issues the parents were dealing with would raise flags and soon Kiara’s parents were being questioned about the care of their daughter.

Unfortunately the reality was that they were falling further and farther behind because of her needs. Kiara’s parents were experiencing the dreadful thought that they may end up losing their daughter, despite their hard work and love for her.

The Preventive Services team at Cardinal McCloskey, supported by your donations, serves families facing challenges that would test the parental capacities of many of us. Our Special Medical and Developmental Preventive Services, Family Treatment and Rehabilitation and our Family Connections programs are all built on services and goals to keep families together and help them cope with difficult family situations and acquire the necessary skills that will allow them to be self-sufficient.

In 2012, Kiara and her parents were referred to Cardinal McCloskey Community Services, specifically those in our Preventive Services group.

They were assigned a case planner who worked with the family to understand their background and difficulties they were having. Kiara’s family wasn’t familiar with the services available to them and they had extreme difficulty trying to navigate their way when they inquired about them. Our case planners work with families each and every day so they not only know what services are available (like transportation) but how they can go about utilizing these services.

Kiara’s mother was also introduced to the CMCS Parent to Parent program. This program puts people in direct touch with other families who have been in similar situations and they act as a support structure as families come to know
Dear Friends,

As we enjoy our summer it is hard for me not to look forward to September and the visit that Pope Francis has scheduled for New York. It will be an exciting time and we feel blessed that the Pope will be in our area.

His visit will start on September 24th with an evening prayer at a Vespers service held in St. Patrick’s Cathedral. On Friday the Pope will also be visiting the 9/11 Memorial where he will hold a multi-religious service paying honors to those who passed away.

A highlight for CMCS is that a number of children in our care will be attending the Pope’s visit to Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem. This will obviously be a momentous occasion for these children and we feel blessed that we will be a part of his visit.

The last months, like most months, have been busy ones for CMCS. We kicked off the spring with our Walkathon. Thanks again to Brother Leto at Iona Preparatory School for the use of the track, gymnasium and grounds. Spring also brings the Wine Tasting and Dinner at the home of Paul and Lori Guillaro and this year, like years past, was exceptional. Exceptional not in just the beautiful surroundings of their home but exceptional in the generosity of both the Guillaro’s and all those who attended and helped support the programs we provide to children and families in need.

The upcoming months will also bring challenges as we prepare to handle the new managed care initiatives and mandates being implemented by the State. We have assembled a team internally to work with and form a coalition of partner agencies so that we “have a seat at the table” as these procedures and processes are reviewed and established. Changes like these are not new and we must adapt. But these changes do put stress on existing resources as we are required to do more with less. It is through your support that we maintain our level of care so that all in our care can reach their human potential.

After months and months of hard work we are happy to say that our 2 new residential homes for adults with autism are approaching their move-in dates. The dedication, care and resolve of our staff here at CMCS cannot be overstated. From advocating for and being on the front lines at contentious community meetings, these employees have willingly put themselves in very difficult and stressful situations. We know that we, and the families of these adults with autism, owe them a debt of gratitude for the love and commitment they continually show for others in need.

We count on your support in so many different ways, as do the children, teens and adults in our care. It is through your donations that allow us to change the lives of so many as we give them hope and opportunity to lead healthy, safe and fulfilling lives.

Sincerely,

Beth Finnerty
President and CEO

Grant Announcements

Cardinal McCloskey Community Services expresses their 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.

Specifically, we would like to extend our thanks to some of our more recent grant funders. We are so grateful to The Wasily Family Foundation for their grant of $50,000 to support our general operating expenses. In addition, our gratitude goes to The John P. & Constance A. Curran Charitable Foundation, The Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation, and The Charles A. Mastronardi Foundation for making grants to support the Strategies for Success Program of $135,000 over the next three years, $100,000 and $15,000 respectively.

Thank you to The Thomas & Agnes Carvel Foundation for their grant of $100,000 to support the restoration of our 529 Courtlandt Avenue location following the flood that we experienced in February. ★
On May 3, 2015, Paul and Lori Guillaro again welcomed us into their home for the 10th Annual Spring Wine Tasting and Dinner. The Guillaro’s are such gracious and generous hosts and we hear over and over again that it is the type of day that people hope just doesn’t end. Their support over the years and willingness to open their home to all of us in the spirit of supporting our work cannot be overstated.

A tradition has been established at the Guillaro’s, and it is one of the highlights of the day, when a young adult who was a part of the CMCS foster care programs approaches the podium and addresses all those in the room, sharing stories of their life and how the support they received impacted and changed their life for the better.

As part of this year’s program we were instead treated to a video where 5 young men and women who spoke at the previous Wine tastings were featured as they gave uplifting updates on their lives and how they have progressed over the last few years. These were stories of learning how to be a loving, caring mother, of college graduations and seeking master’s degrees, of full time jobs and learning that it was OK to have dreams and chase them.

After the video and to the surprise of our hosts, the Guillaro’s were presented with a gift from these very appreciative young men and women.

It was a first hand glimpse at the power we have to help change lives.

Another highlight of the day was when the 3rd Annual Hall of Fame Award was presented to Dr. Ann Marie Palermo. We would like to thank and congratulate Dr. Palermo for her service and her selfless approach in the care she has given to the children in our care over the years. In typical and humble fashion, after hearing of her selection, Dr. Palermo expressed that she did not feel worthy to win this award, citing the “commitment of those around her, who give so much of themselves.” The sentiment of giving of yourself as a trait of our employees is evident and one of the primary reasons the care we provide to those in need is so special.

As the evening continued, guests were seated for dinner, and Paul and Lori Guillaro gave a beautiful speech welcoming and thanking the guests and speaking about the importance and significance of the work we do at CMCS. Lori then introduced the Sommelier, Eric Zillier, who gave perfect descriptions of the wine being served from wine connoisseur, Tony Corso’s collection.

Everyone enjoyed the magnificent food prepared by Chef Peter X. Kelly, owner of Xavier’s Restaurant Group.

The evening concluded with a live auction of ten amazing prizes including a private sailing tour on to the Statue of Liberty, Broadway tickets, a custom made suit, Metropolitan Opera tickets, a CMCS original painting, a Lord & Taylor/Chanel beauty experience, a CMCS diamond necklace, Yankee tickets and a stay at the Ritz-Carlton Westchester. A special thank you George and Tara Grossman, Edward and Marie Foley, Paul and Lori Guillaro, Jim and Nicole Grogan, Frank and Lorraine Frustace, Anton and Anna Zuaner, Conrad and Shannon Wangeman, Mark and Helene Linde, Sandy and Valarie Yaeger, Melinda McFadden, Lord & Taylor/Chanel, and the Ritz-Carlton for donating these amazing prizes.

CMCS holds the deepest gratitude to everyone who made this event possible, especially Paul and Lori Guillaro, Tony Corso, Ned and Peter Kelly, Sommelier Eric Zillier, auctioneer Paul Jones and all Board members and friends of CMCS who purchased tables or participated in the event. Without your generosity and support events like the Wine Tasting are not possible and we would not have been able to witness the impact of your support. ★
MAKING STRIDES AT THE CMCS WALKATHON

On Saturday, April 18th, Cardinal McCloskey Community Services held our 5th 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.

The day started out with a surprise and welcome news that The Office of the County Executive, Rob Astorino, issued a Proclamation noting that April 18th, 2015 is Cardinal McCloskey Recognition Day. County Executive Astorino offered his sincere appreciation and warmest wishes for us for many more years of success following our mission to reach out and help those in need.

We welcomed a newcomer this year as News 12 Anchor/Reporter Michelle Brown hosted the Walkathon. Michelle kicked off the Walkathon with some beautiful words describing our work before she introduced our star performers, Rachel and Janell Jones, who sang the national anthem for us.

From there The Marching Cobras (fresh off of their appearance in the Academy Award winning film “Birdman”) turned up the volume, got our hearts beating and led the way around the track.

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. ★
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY LENDS A HAND

In January of 2015, Dr. Janet DiLorenzo of Fordham University reached out to CMCS President and CEO Beth Finnerty. Dr. DiLorenzo teaches a class at the Gabelli School of Business where students take on the role of professional consultants and act in an advisory role on specific subjects assigned to their team's.

CMCS assigned separate projects to each of the two 2 consulting teams.
Beth Finnerty (CEO), Dr. William Ursillo (COO), and Luke Dougherty (Director of Marketing) briefed the two teams at the Rose Hill campus and fielded a variety of questions from the students so that each team understood the scope of the assignment and would move forward in preparing a “Problem Statement” to be presented as a first step.

After the presentation of the Problem Statements each team participated in a site visit, observing our Day Habilitation program in our Valhalla office and attended an additional Q and A session.

The teams then moved forward, collecting and evaluating data, drawing conclusions and developing recommendations based on their research.

Their final presentations were held on the Bronx Campus of Fordham University.

As stated by CEO Beth Finnerty, “We were all so incredibly impressed with every aspect of their preparation, research and presentation. There are many challenges facing non-profits today and it is critically important that we can properly evaluate all of the strategic options available to us. These Fordham students provided both a great deal of clarity on these options and fresh thinking and ideas that we plan on executing in many different areas.”

We would like to thank Fordham University, Dr. DiLorenzo and CMCS Board Member John McCombe for his role in putting us in contact with Fordham.

To the Fordham students, we hope you all enjoy your summer vacations and congratulations and good luck to those graduating. Based on what we observed you are all looking at very bright futures! ★

A Continuing Partnership for CMCS with “Tickets For Kids”

Beginning in 2013, through an organization named “Tickets for Kids”, Cardinal McCloskey Community Services has been generously offered tickets for the youth in our foster care programs. Recognizing the hardships of the children in foster care, Tickets for Kids donates tickets to various sporting events, movie premieres, concerts and shows. This has all been a wonderful opportunity for some of these children to attend these types of events, many for the first time.

Groups have attended New York Mets Games, New York Liberty basketball games, the New York City movie screenings of “The Duff” and “Max”, Disney Live at the Westchester County Center, the Ringling Brothers Circus and New York Cosmos Soccer games.

It is such a special treat for these children to be able to enjoy these activities and spend time with friends, giving them some time away from the problems they face on a daily basis.

We are so grateful to “Tickets for Kids” as these experiences would not be possible without their generosity. ★
A THANK YOU TO STAFF AND PARTNER AGENCIES

In February of 2015 our Courtlandt Avenue office, the hub of our foster care programs, suffered extensive damage from a burst water pipe. All four floors occupied by CMCS were deemed unsafe and uninhabitable.

CMCS reached out to our partner agencies for assistance in securing office and visiting space to ensure that our program operations were uninterrupted and that our families could still receive their much needed services. The response we received was amazing! Our friends at The Children’s Aid Society, Catholic Charities, Abraham House, St. Anthony’s Free Clinic, Leake and Watts and so many more answered our call to action. The 150 employees who were displaced could continue their work and support the families we serve in the highest manner possible.

The re-opening breakfast was attended by over 100 people, and it was a wonderful opportunity to thank our staff and friends for helping us fulfill our mission during a very difficult time.

Thank you to all who helped CMCS and thank you to our staff for your dedication and determination.

The Courtlandt Avenue office is once again a safe haven to families and children in need.

CMCS WEARS BLUE ON WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

On Thursday, April 2nd, Cardinal McCloskey Community Services, joined with the global autism community and celebrated World Autism Awareness Day. The goal of this important day is to raise awareness of those with autism and help raise funds for additional research. CMCS offices participated as we dressed in blue to show solidarity with the cause.

At Cardinal McCloskey Community Services we employ Applied Behavioral Analysis with our adults with autism. ABA has been a proven effective treatment for autism and CMCS is one of first agencies to incorporate it into our therapies with our adults in a residential setting. We have been using the principles of ABA to help teach several of our residents allowing them to communicate in ways that they couldn’t before.

By supporting World Autism Awareness Day programs and research continue advance. Thank you to all who wore blue or a blue ribbon to show their support.
Payless Paves The Way With A Pair Of New Shoes

For the third year in a row Cardinal McCloskey Community Services was selected as a charity partner to participate in the Payless Gives Shoes 4 Kids Event. This program gives $1.5 million of free shoes to children of families in need. Cardinal McCloskey Community Services received 100 gift cards valued at $20.00 each to be distributed at the event.

This year’s in-store event was held on May 14th from 3:00 to 6:00pm at the Payless Store at 2902 Third Avenue in the Bronx. A group of over 100 children, including foster and homeless youth served by CMCS participated in the shoe-shopping trip. For many of them, accustomed to used and hand-me-down shoes, this was their very first pair of new shoes ever. Everyone had a great time choosing sneakers, summer sandals and more.

A special thank you goes to store manager, Teddy Evans, and his employees who worked so hard with our large group to make sure all of our shopping needs were met. ★

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!
that they are not out there alone and on their own. Having someone to reach out to when you feel the stress of raising and caring for a disabled child is invaluable. It gives families hope, guidance and confidence that they can continue.

The Preventive team worked with the parents and helped educate them about the services available to Kiara, like access-a-ride, which would ease her travels to and from school.

The days have improved for Kiara and her family. They obviously are still faced with challenges but with your support of programs like these, children like Kiara can remain at home with her parents.

Lastly, with the assistance of her Family Support Specialist at CMCS, Kiara did receive a new wheelchair and she is mobile and independent as never before. Kiara’s story is just one example of the thousands of children and families you have helped through your support of CMCS.

(Names in this story were changed to help protect the privacy of the family.)