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# Your Support Saves Lives

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Impact Report | Spring 2025



# Providing Help. Creating Hope.

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Dear Neighbors,

Catholic Charities of New York helps solve the problems of New Yorkers in need – non-Catholics and Catholics alike. For too many New Yorkers, food insecurity remains a pertinent problem.

Everyone needs nutritious food to thrive. While New Yorkers are working hard to provide for themselves and their families, one in four do not have enough money for essentials.

An estimated 1.5 million New Yorkers are struggling to get enough food. The reality is that more and more of our neighbors are at risk of hunger. No one should have to choose between food and basic needs.

Our Feeding Our Neighbors program focuses on ensuring no hungry neighbor is turned away. Through our lifesaving food programs, we reach 50,000 New Yorkers monthly.

Chef Lidia Bastianich knows what a difference our caring assistance can make because she experienced it firsthand as a young girl.

"I came as a refugee to the United States when I was 11 years old," says Lidia. "Prior to that, I spent two years in a refugee camp. Food was always of great importance and the lack of food was of great concern to us."

"We didn't have anything or any family members awaiting us. Catholic Charities found us a place to live," shares Lidia. "I am an avid and strong supporter of Catholic Charities, for what they have done for me and my family." Now, Lidia is an Emmy award-winning public television host, best-selling author, successful restaurateur, and champion of immigrants and refugees through her philanthropy and advocacy work with Catholic Charities.



From feeding the hungry to welcoming immigrants and refugees like Lidia, this work would not be possible without our caring community of supporters.

We consider ourselves truly blessed to count you as part our Catholic Charities family. Thank you for your compassion and generous support.

With gratitude,

**Monsignor Kevin Sullivan**  
Executive Director



# Your Generosity in Action

Catholic Charities is leading the effort to fight hunger in New York. Each year, we provide millions of meals to New Yorkers facing hunger and food insecurity through our vast network of food pantries, soup kitchens, pop-up pantries, and special meal delivery services.

## Because of you:



**10,000,000+**

meals served by  
our ongoing  
food programs.



**230,000+**

soup kitchen  
meals served.



**108,000+**

home meals  
delivered.



**7,500+**

people enrolled  
in nutritional  
assistance programs.

# Reflecting on the Third Anniversary of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

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**More than 6.5 million refugees have fled from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a conflict which has triggered the largest refugee exodus in Europe since World War II. Over 500,000 of these Ukrainian refugees have arrived in the United States, and New York State leads the country in welcoming them.**

**Since the beginning of the war three years ago, Catholic Charities of New York has supported more than 4,000 Ukrainian refugees.**



During the onset of the conflict in February 2022, Catholic Charities immediately took action and responded to the Ukrainian refugee crisis. We were among the first organizations that city, state, and federal governments turned to for partnership in refugee resettlement efforts.

"Catholic Charities took on leadership without hesitation," says Iryna Dovbnia, Project Director of Ukrainian Response at Catholic Charities Community Services.

"Among all the resettlement agencies in New York City, we are handling the largest number of Ukrainian refugees

so far," says Iryna. "Our hands are always open for newcomers. We are always welcoming and helping – no matter what."

Catholic Charities helps newcomers to navigate unfamiliar systems and processes, overcome cultural challenges, learn English, find work, and make a new home. These services are critical to integrating refugees into American life.

"Catholic Charities helped me a lot," says Olha, a widower and mother of two from the devastated city of Mariupol. "They gave me money to support myself when I first

came here because I didn't have a job. They helped me to find a job."

From providing new furniture and rental assistance to enrolling in public benefits, Olha has found a critical support system in Catholic Charities.

"We are very happy to be here," says Olha. "We very much appreciate the opportunity to study here, to work here."

On the third anniversary of the war, Catholic Charities remains committed to standing with Ukrainian refugees, offering support and solidarity as they rebuild their lives.

# Empire State Development: Upgrading Our Bronx Food Hub Elevator

## **Empire State Development invested \$100,000 to help upgrade the elevator at Catholic Charities Community Services South Bronx Center Food Hub.**

New York has one of the poorest congressional districts in the United States – the Bronx. Within the community, our South Bronx Food Hub serves as a symbol of hope for New Yorkers in need.

We distribute food to more than 40 different sites throughout New York. Each month, approximately 100,000 pounds of packaged food and fresh produce is accepted and distributed to our large network of food pantries and community soup kitchens, making sure New Yorkers are getting the food they need.

At the South Bronx Food Hub, we accept large pallets of donated food for re-distribution to smaller food pantries. The passenger elevator was not originally intended to be used for freight, in service of a food storage center and food depot.

However, the onset of COVID and post-pandemic inflation have increased food donations and demand for food deliveries – increasing the strain on the elevator.

"The fact is that the need has increased so much. We are seeing more and more people at our food pantry lines," says Lakisha Morris, Director of Operations at Catholic Charities Community Services.

The existing elevator cannot handle the weight and

frequency of this food transportation and it breaks down regularly. This negatively impacts our food programs and distributions, resulting in significant delays and the reduction of deliveries to our food pantry network.

Empire State Development has generously partially funded the upgrade the South Bronx Food Hub elevator. Catholic Charities is seeking additional support to complete this elevator upgrade project to meet the growing needs of our neighbors facing hunger.

For more information on this funding opportunity, please contact Anna McLeod at [Anna.McLeod@CatholicCharitiesNY.org](mailto:Anna.McLeod@CatholicCharitiesNY.org) or at **914-278-3887** by phone.





Photo by Kathryn Gamble

## New York Community Trust: Investing in Social Work's Future

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### **New York Community Trust awarded a \$250,000 grant to Catholic Charities Community Services to help enroll women asylum seekers in Fordham University's Master of Social Work program.**

In collaboration with Emma's Torch and Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services, Catholic Charities Community Services has developed a model for social workers serving forced migrants to address challenges within communities impacted by forced migration, particularly among women asylum seekers.

While supporting women asylum seekers, the project has broken new ground in the field of social work for newly arrived immigrants:

- Developed a course on migration for Fordham's master's level students using narratives provided by asylum seekers focused on policy and advocacy.
- Trained six women, who sought asylum and lived through gender-based trauma, to co-teach the course.

- Established internships at Catholic Charities Community Services for 25 master's level students to provide case management and trauma-informed care to 100 asylum seekers.
- Selected and financially supported one woman asylum seeker who enrolled in Fordham's master's in social work program.

Thanks to the generous support of New York Community Trust, together we are investing in the future of social work – and the future of serving communities in need.

# 16th Annual Catholic Charities Gala: An Evening in Support of New Yorkers

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**Our Gala is a premier, must-attend event that attracts New York's top corporate leaders in finance, real estate, technology, law, philanthropy, culture, media, and politics – to name a few. It includes a four-course meal, live performances, and an award ceremony to recognize our Honorees presented by His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Monsignor Kevin Sullivan.**

## 2025 Gala Honorees

We are deeply honored to announce the recipients of this year's Deus Caritas Est Award in recognition and appreciation for providing help and creating hope for New Yorkers in need.

### **Marcos A. Rodriguez**

*Founder, Chairman and CEO  
Palladium Equity Partners, LLC*

### **Susan L. Camerata**

**Michael T. Rooney, Sr.**  
*RDC Development, LLC*

## Special Tribute

### **Monsignor Kevin Sullivan**

*Executive Director, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York  
for his dedicated leadership and concern for New Yorkers in need*

Please join us for this special event. The Gala will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at the American Museum of Natural History. For more information, please contact our Gala Office at **347-545-2501** or **CatholicCharities@cmevents.net**



# Leave a Legacy of Help and Hope

**Your legacy commitment helps us to continue our lifesaving work and carry out our mission of providing help and creating hope.**

A planned gift is a wonderful way to support Catholic Charities while accommodating your own personal, financial, estate-planning, and philanthropic goals. With smart planning, you may actually increase the size of your estate and/or reduce the tax burden on your heirs. For more information, please visit: [CatholicCharitiesNY.org/GiftPlans.org](https://www.CatholicCharitiesNY.org/GiftPlans.org)



## More Ways to Support Our Mission

### Give

Your tax-deductible gift will enable us to continue to deliver programs and critical services to New Yorkers in need. Please visit: [CatholicCharitiesNY.org/Donate](https://www.CatholicCharitiesNY.org/Donate)

### Charitable Gift Annuity

A charitable annuity is a simple agreement between you and Catholic Charities. In exchange for your gift of cash, stock, or mutual funds, Catholic Charities will pay you (and, if desired, another beneficiary) a fixed income for life. After your lifetime(s), proceeds remaining from your gift support our lifesaving work. For more information, please visit: [CatholicCharitiesNY.org/CGA](https://www.CatholicCharitiesNY.org/CGA)

### Donor Advised Funds

A donor-advised fund (DAF) is a philanthropic giving vehicle like a charitable savings account. It provides an immediate tax benefit to you and allows you to easily support Catholic Charities. You can make a grant to Catholic Charities through our DAF Direct portal by visiting: [CatholicCharitiesNY.org/DAF](https://www.CatholicCharitiesNY.org/DAF)

### Estate Planning with FreeWill and MyCatholicWill

Having an estate plan in place is a powerful way to protect the people you love, safeguard your assets, and create a legacy that sustains the causes you believe in. Visit: [CatholicCharitiesNY.org/FreeWill](https://www.CatholicCharitiesNY.org/FreeWill) or [CatholicCharitiesNY.org/MyCatholicWill](https://www.CatholicCharitiesNY.org/MyCatholicWill)

### Gifts of Stocks and Securities

You can easily donate appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds and support the lifesaving work of Catholic Charities. The total value of the stock upon transfer is tax-deductible and there is no obligation to pay any capital gains taxes on the appreciation. To learn more, please visit: [CatholicCharitiesNY.org/Securities](https://www.CatholicCharitiesNY.org/Securities)

### IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions

If you're 70½ or older, you can donate up to \$100,000 per tax year directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to Catholic Charities without reporting the withdrawal as taxable income. To calculate your required minimum distribution (RMD) and make a tax-free gift to Catholic Charities, please visit: [CatholicCharitiesNY.org/IRA](https://www.CatholicCharitiesNY.org/IRA)

### Other Ways to Give

From rewards programs to donating real estate and vehicles, discover the many ways you can support our lifesaving work: [CatholicCharitiesNY.org/WaysToGive](https://www.CatholicCharitiesNY.org/WaysToGive)

### Questions?

If you have any questions, please reach out to Emily Chau in our Planned Giving Office by email at [Emily.Chau@CatholicCharitiesNY.org](mailto:Emily.Chau@CatholicCharitiesNY.org) or 646-794-2018 by phone.

**Connect with us to learn more and get involved!**

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