



Your Support Saves Lives



Providing Help. Creating Hope.

Dear Neighbors,

At Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, our mission calls us to meet our neighbors where they are, especially in moments of uncertainty and need. The Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Memorial Community Center in Harlem is a powerful reflection of that mission in action.

Each day, the Kennedy Center opens its doors to individuals and families seeking stability, nourishment, and connection. It is a place where a senior can share a warm meal in a welcoming setting, where a young person can find mentorship and encouragement, and where a family facing hardship can access the support needed to remain safely in their home.

What makes the Kennedy Center so impactful is not only the breadth of services it offers,

but the way those services come together under one roof to care for the whole person. From food assistance and housing support to youth programming, tenant education, and case management, the Center provides both immediate relief and a pathway toward long-term stability.

Just as importantly, the Kennedy Center is a welcoming gathering place for the community. It brings together neighbors, partners, and local leaders, creating a shared, trusted space rooted in dignity, compassion, and hope.

This work is made possible through the generosity of our donors and the dedication of our staff and volunteers. Together, we are able to respond to needs while building stronger communities.



Because of this shared commitment, the Kennedy Center remains a place where neighbors can turn in times of need and find not only support, but a renewed sense of hope and belonging. It is a reflection of what is possible when compassion is put into action.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Antonio Fernández".

J. Antonio Fernández
Chief Executive Officer



Your Generosity in Action

With your critical support, Catholic Charities upholds the dignity of each person as made in the image of God by serving the basic needs of the poor, troubled, frail and oppressed of all religions.

Because of you:



10+ Million

meals served by
our ongoing
food programs



138,000+

families in crisis
supported



108,000+

immigrants and refugees
welcomed and integrated



99,000+

children and youth
provided care

How the Kennedy Center Helped a Harlem Neighbor Stay in Her Home

For more than 70 years, the Kennedy Center in Central Harlem has stood as a hub where neighbors find not only services, but community, dignity, and support in moments that matter most. Each month, 4,000 visitors walk through its doors, accessing a range of programs that meet immediate needs while building pathways toward long-term stability.

From the Kennedy Center food pantry, which provides nutritious food to thousands of households each year, to senior services offering warm meals in a dignified, welcoming setting, to activities for youth, the Center serves our neighbors in need at every stage of life. Housing stability and eviction prevention services, along with tenant education workshops and case management, equip families with the tools to navigate financial challenges and remain in their homes.

At its core, the Kennedy Center reflects a simple but powerful idea: neighbors helping neighbors every day.

That support became life-changing for Abbey, a Harlem resident who faced overwhelming challenges. A child welfare specialist who had spent her career helping others, she suddenly found herself in need of help after being diagnosed with stage-four lung cancer. While undergoing treatment, she was also seriously injured in a car accident, leaving her unable to work and struggling to keep up with basic expenses.

"I came home from the hospital, and I received the rent bill, and the amount that was on the bill stressed me out," Abbey shared. "How am I going to recover from this?" Through Catholic Charities' Housing Stability and Eviction Prevention services site at the Kennedy Center, Abbey connected with

a caseworker who helped her apply for emergency assistance. With support covering rent arrears and utility bills, she was able to remain in her home and focus on her recovery. "It was a huge relief," she said. "To have someone that understood my story and was willing to help take one thing off my plate was very helpful."

Abbey's story reflects the profound impact of this work. Beyond the numbers, it is the compassion behind the services that leaves a lasting impression. "We used to pray on the phone," Abbey said. "Even after my case was finished, she would check in with me. That meant a lot."

Today, Abbey is continuing her recovery and rebuilding her life. Her story is a reminder that in times of crisis, access to support can make all the difference – and that at the Kennedy Center, help is never out of reach.



Youth Development: Fostering Success in School and Beyond

Catholic Charities of New York supports young people through targeted programs across Central Harlem, serving hundreds of children and teens annually and providing year-round support from elementary school through young adulthood.

In Central Harlem, these services address persistent inequities. The poverty rate is nearly 10% higher than it is citywide. The neighborhood also has the third-highest incarceration rate in New York City, and 33% of elementary students miss 20 or more school days annually. These challenges underscore the need for consistent academic, social, and mentorship support.

Our Alianza youth development program operates five days a week during the school year across schools and community-based sites. Students receive daily homework help, small-group tutoring, and focused instruction in literacy and math, while staff monitor progress and stay in close contact with families and schools. Participants show improved attendance and stronger academic performance.



To help facilitate these outcomes, a new Computer Lab is planned for the Kennedy Center in 2027.

Programs offer arts, STEM, and recreation alongside social-emotional learning focused on communication, self-regulation, and conflict resolution. The Hoop Haven basketball program at the Kennedy Center helps youth build confidence and discipline through sports. Alianza supports young people through culturally responsive programming and community-based opportunities.

For middle and high schoolers, services include leadership development, with guidance on high school completion,

college applications, and financial aid. Job readiness training covers resume writing, interview preparation, workplace expectations, and financial literacy. Alianza also offers internship and summer employment opportunities, while Kennedy Center focuses on career exploration.

All of this leads to measurable results: higher attendance, improved academic performance, and increased graduation rates. Young people leave better prepared for college and careers, with the skills needed for long-term success and stability.



The Joy of Helping Our Neighbors: Why Donors Support the Kennedy Center

For more than a decade, Susan Trammell has supported Catholic Charities with a thoughtful approach to giving, guided by her belief that generosity is a real privilege. Her enduring commitment includes support for the Kennedy Center, where young people find guidance, stability, and new opportunity to grow.

Susan says she tries to be intentional about where she gives, focusing on organizations that make a clear difference in people's lives. Living in New York, she is often reminded how many neighbors are struggling, and she values the way Catholic Charities of New York responds with practical solutions rooted

in compassion. "Using a donor-advised fund enabled me to be more thoughtful about my giving," she said. "I asked myself who the people are that I most want to help, because the need is so great. Catholic Charities does a lot of that work, so I started giving in a small way, and over the years it built up."

Her connection to the Kennedy Center grew after visiting the Harlem community center, where she saw firsthand how Catholic Charities of New York meets young people where they are. The Center offers a wide range of services, including Hoop Haven, a youth basketball program that helps bring students into a safe and

supportive environment. "What impressed me is the agility of Catholic Charities," Susan said. "These students may have difficulty in school or at home, but someone figured out basketball speaks to them. That's the organization going out and meeting people where they are."

"It's a privilege to inconvenience yourself for someone else," she said. "We don't realize how lucky we are to be able to help someone. To be able to say, today I did something for the good – that's a real privilege."

Read the full story:
CatholicCharitiesNY.org/Susan

17th Annual Catholic Charities Gala: An Evening in Support of New Yorkers

Hosted at the iconic American Museum of Natural History, our Gala on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, is a premier gathering of New York's leaders across industries. The evening includes a four-course dinner, live performances, and an awards presentation honoring our distinguished honorees, led by His Excellency Archbishop Ronald A. Hicks and CEO J. Antonio Fernández.

2026 Gala Honorees

We are honored to announce the recipients of this year's Deus Caritas Est Awards (God is Love) in recognition and appreciation for providing help and creating hope for New Yorkers in need.



Dina M. DiLorenzo

President of Guggenheim Investments



Joseph M. Otting

Executive Chairman, President, and
Chief Executive Officer of Flagstar Bank, N.A.

Please join us for this special event. 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.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 phone at **646-794-2018** or Emily.Chau@CatholicCharitiesNY.org by email.

Connect with us to learn more and get involved!

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