



Cardinal McCloskey  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Cardinal McCloskey Community Services

# Newsletter

WINTER 2018

## 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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## "McCloskey Works" — An individualized approach to supported employment

Work is something we do to help improve our lives. This can be for financial reasons, for family, for a higher cause and for personal reward. Work can give us a sense of accomplishment and value. It challenges us, improves our confidence, and can often give us a chance to give back to the community we live in. For people with disabilities, these rewards and feelings of accomplishment are equally important. However, finding opportunities in the workplace can be difficult to achieve.

Cardinal McCloskey Community Services' Supported Employment Division continues to grow and attract new business partners that provide a wider range of employment opportunities for the individuals we serve. Our highly trained staff of job coaches and job developers focuses on discovering each individual's unique abilities, while also locating

Thank you to all of the companies that employ our very dedicated workers!



employers who can provide opportunities for each individual to reach their true potential. Once a match is found, and an individual is hired; we provide workplace supports and guidance until the individual has gained the skills and confidence necessary to work independently.

New York State has added a number of new supported employment initiatives that provide financial support to businesses hiring people with disabilities, and Cardinal McCloskey Community Services has successfully utilized these programs to create customized employment opportunities for the individuals we serve. Some of our business partners include **Starbucks, Bed Bath and Beyond, Briarcliff Schools, Westchester County Department of Parks, Hudson Pharmacy, US District Court, ABB Optical and DeCiccio Markets.**

If you know an individual who might benefit from our services, or an employer who would like to become one of our business partners,

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# A Letter from the President & CEO's Office

Our Christmas and New Year's season has passed. Relatives, visiting children and friends are now back home or in school and we can reflect upon the blessings of the season. The pace at which we move through the holidays can be fast and feel somewhat overwhelming.

Then we are reminded of those who do not have the bonds of family and close friends. So many people, children and adults alike, yearn for the company of loved ones. Each year, each season and each and every day, we are aware of the needs of the adults and children in our care and the importance of feeling the love and compassion of others. The thousands of toys donated to our Toy Drive and your support of the artists, singers and poets at Taking the Stage are examples of the difference you make each and every day for those in our care.

The growth that we see in children in foster care and the adults with developmental disabilities is a sight to behold. To see the smiles and looks of pride that resulted from their accomplishments at **Taking the Stage** is a perfect example. Previously withdrawn and experiencing the effects of trauma and neglect, many of these children could never have pictured themselves standing proudly on center stage.

With your support, the future is looking brighter for those we serve! We have taken the next step forward with **The Cardinal McCloskey Community Charter School**, as we are now accepting applications for our September 2018 opening. At Hayden House, we are expanding our residential and therapeutic services to meet the needs of youngsters who have experienced trauma.

The feedback we receive from the companies and employers in the **McCloskey Works** program is incredible. For the companies hiring an adult with a developmental disability they see that it brings a dedicated, committed and caring employee to their workforce. CMCS job coaches are on hand for both beginning and ongoing training. The added benefit is how a member of our McCloskey Works program can raise the spirits and energy of all those around them.

I wish you all the best for 2018 and thank you for your continued support of our mission. Our work cannot continue without you.

Sincerely,

Beth Finnerty, President & CEO



Beth Finnerty

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## "McCloskey Works"

please contact Sam Lamonoff, Job Development Specialist at 914-997-8000, x-135 or email Sam at [SLamonoff@cmcs.org](mailto:SLamonoff@cmcs.org). ✨



## 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 ext. 257. For our Westchester County program, please call 914-620-5043.





## THE 2017 TOY DRIVE DELIVERS!

Each year, space in our building (*generously donated by **Turbonomic**, an IT company that delivers workload automation*) is transformed from ordinary office space into rooms filled with Santa's helpers and toys for thousands of children and families in our care. Though there is magic in the air, the behind the scenes work and effort is a result of a shared commitment.

The work begins as early as October, as we reach out to others, and others reach out to us. It is a major transformation as over 50 volunteers from CMCS staff, DD Service Individuals, vendors, CMCS donors and students from local schools work to help insure that each child and family is included and feels the magic of Christmas

This year alone, over 6,000 toys were collected and distributed to those in our care from over 50 corporate and individual donors! To know that these children woke up on Christmas morning with gifts wrapped and ready and smiles on their faces, is all due to you and your support.

On behalf of all these children and families, we thank you for continually making a difference in the lives of others. ☆



## FOUNDATION GRANTS

Cardinal McCloskey Community Services is grateful to our corporate and foundation grantors for their generous support of CMCS programs and projects: **The Strategies for Success Program**, an educational advocacy program for youth in foster care, has received grant funding from: **John P. and Constance A. Curran Charitable Foundation, Hagedorn Fund, Rosalie J. and C. Daniel Maldari Family Charitable Foundation, Charles A. Mastronardi Foundation, New York City Council Discretionary Funds, Theresa and Edward O'Toole Foundation, People's United Community Foundation**, and the **Alfred E. Smith Foundation**. **Hayden House**, our emergency shelter for abused and neglected children in Westchester, was awarded a grant from: **St. Faith's House 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.* ☆

## March With Us in the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade

We would like to invite you to march with us on Saturday March 17th in the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. It is a perfect match as our namesake, John Cardinal McCloskey, was responsible for overseeing the construction of St. Patrick's Cathedral and we will be marching past this beautiful church as we make our way down 5th Avenue.



*Marching in the parade was a highlight of 2017! Please join us. RSVP to Kerry Gutekunst at [KGutekunst@cmcs.org](mailto:KGutekunst@cmcs.org) or by phone at 914-997-8000 x114.* ☆



# 15th Annual TAKING THE STAGE Talent Showcase

If you have ever attended the CMCS *Taking the Stage Talent* Show, you know that the day itself is a celebration. It is a celebration of talent and creativity, but more so, it puts on full display the growth, the healing and the confidence that has been built over time. The effort, dedication and hours of hard work are met with beaming smiles, cheers and appreciation.

In so many ways, Taking the Stage is a representation and culmination of all the positive influences our programs and services can have on the children, young adults and adults in our care. Traumatized and neglected, many of these children would have had trouble simply making eye contact with others when they first came to CMCS. Now they have the strength to stand proudly before hundreds of people. Nervous, yet poised and self-assured because of the support and care they have received.

A major highlight of this year's show was the participation of the adults with developmental disabilities in our programs. As they took the stage, sang and played their instruments, you could see the sheer joy on their faces. The looks of pride and achievement overwhelmed the audience. The looks of joy and accomplishment stayed with our performers for days and days and the retelling of their moments in the spotlight were shared again and again.

It is expected that we focus on the day of the performance as the main achievement, but it is the positive impact that the weeks and weeks of practice bring. Building trust and confidence and sometimes feeling for the very first time what it means to a child when they know that they are worthy of love and that they are told that they can achieve things.

We would like to thank our Velvet Rope Sponsor, **The Joyce Family**, our Backstage Sponsor, **The Houghton Family** and our Spotlight Sponsor, **America's Kids – Youngland**.

We would also like to thank our Annual Sponsors, **Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of NY**, **Compufit, LLC**, **Hudson Pharmacy** and **USI**. We hope to see you at Taking the Stage next year! 🌟







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## CMCS and our Early Childhood Education Division lends a hand

Soon after Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, leaving a path of destruction and devastation, a task force representing Region II Head Start traveled to Puerto Rico to assess the state of the early childhood schools. We were honored to have our very own Dr. Reva Gershen-Lowy, SVP of Early Childhood Education, selected to serve on this team.

The Head Start team worked to help find families and provide support in helping distribute food, water, baby formula, diapers, wipes, clothing, cleaning supplies and more.

The commitment continues to help those affected, as the National and Regional Head Start Programs are working to develop a plan for rebuilding infrastructure, reopening schools and finding alternate Head Start locations as necessary.

In our offices here, our own CMCS staff and the adults in our care volunteered their time to help organize, pack and deliver supplies to collection locations for delivery to Puerto Rico and the thousands of people suffering as a result of this storm.

So many people in the communities we serve have families in Puerto Rico. Our ability to help is set by the example of all those who have helped CMCS and those in our care. We thank you all for your support. ☆



**Applications are now being accepted!**

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The Cardinal McCloskey Community Charter School  
**Opening in September 2018**  
 Applications are being accepted for Kindergarten and 1st Grade

For more information please email us at [Admissions@CMCCS.org](mailto:Admissions@CMCCS.org) or call us at 718-402-0081 x227

- A safe and supportive school based on a trauma informed approach for children who have suffered trauma and neglect
- A rigorous and data-informed academic program
- An extended day program and staffing model that promotes personalized instruction
- Comprehensive wrap-around services that promote each child's emotional, developmental and behavioral growth

Visit us at [CMCCS.org](http://CMCCS.org)




## The Charter School Admission Process Has Begun!

The countdown has begun! In September 2018, the Cardinal McCloskey Community Charter School will open its doors in District 10 in the Bronx. Applications are now being accepted for both kindergarten and first grade and a new grade will be added every year. Each grade will have 3 classes with 20-25 students per classroom.

The school will offer an extended day program and staffing models that promote personalized instruction. Comprehensive wrap-around services will promote each child's educational, emotional and behavioral growth. Good luck to all of the applicants and their families! ☆

## Hayden House's Commitment to Growth and Change – Meeting the Critical Needs of the Children of Westchester County

CMCS' **Hayden House**, located in Ossining, NY is the hub of our children's residential programs. The services provided there continue to grow and change into an even greater resource for children and families who have experienced significant trauma. It is undeniable that the children arriving for residential diagnostic treatment at the Hayden House come with very complex needs. The immediate and intensive care they receive through certified medical, social work, child care, therapeutic and educational staff helps them begin the journey of healing and ultimately improving their long-term outcomes. We partner with local Department of Social Service agencies to determine permanency goals for each child, staying true to the mission of every child deserving a family. More and more, the child welfare system is moving away from placing children into institutional settings and to placing them in therapeutic foster homes where they can receive intensive, quality, community-based treatments.

The purpose of a child's stay at Hayden's diagnostic program is to create a comprehensive treatment plan based on a specific set of evaluations.

Our social workers, educators, and licensed clinical staff create a personal

plan and path for each child and the staff is able to build a positive therapeutic relationship with the child. This enables our staff to be able to expertly match a child with a therapeutic foster parent for the next part of their journey if appropriate. As a result, our Therapeutic Family Foster Care (TFFC) program is thriving. In the past year alone we have graduated nine new foster families who are now ready and waiting to welcome additional children into their homes!

The facilities / physical plant at the Hayden House are always being evaluated and improved. Thanks to private funders, we are thrilled to have a newly outfitted Wellness Room for our youth. The room is a "state of the art" exercise gym that is outfitted with a new, high-quality durable shock absorbing floor and modern exercise equipment such as an elliptical machine, a treadmill, and a stationary bike. Also installed were three new SMART TV's including a large screen TV where meditation, workout and fitness videos can be streamed.

We are very grateful to The McKeen Fund, the Ronald McDonald House Charities - New York Tri-State Area, and The Mastronardi Fund, who have partnered with CMCS to support the complex needs of the children at Hayden House. ☆



## 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](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](mailto: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!**





**Cardinal McCloskey**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

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# SAVE THE DATE!

Join us and march in the  
**NYC ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**  
Saturday, March 17th, 2018

**CMCS WALKATHON**  
Saturday, April 28th, 2018

**WINE TASTING AND DINNER**  
Sunday, May 20th, 2018

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