



Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York Participates in the 108th New York Times Neediest Cases Fund Campaign



The New York Times Neediest Cases Reporters Help Raise Millions

The Neediest Cases Fund has told the stories of the less fortunate since 1912. This year, the reporters Elisha Brown and Sara Aridi were tapped to tell these stories. They reflected on their experiences and what they hope readers will take away. The campaign has raised over \$300 million since it began and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of NY has been a participating agency for years.

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She Survived a Series of Health Scares. Then She Was Almost Evicted.

Evelyn Marin learned she had pancreatic cancer after having operations to remove tumors from her brain and cysts from her spine. Sidelined for months, she fell behind on her rent. Evelyn Marin had been out of the hospital for less than two months — after operations on her brain and spine, and to remove her pancreas — when she received an eviction notice from her landlord.

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Mother and Daughter Find Hope Through Mentorship Program

After years of raising her daughter, Nydia, on her own, Rita LaRosa sensed that Nydia needed another role model in her life, someone who could offer a different perspective. When Nydia turned 7, she received a big sister mentor to help her through ongoing school bullying.

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“Mommy, I Love You” Struggling Single Mom and Young Autistic Daughter Bounce Back

Angela Terrero’s daughter, Astrid, was about a year old when the unsettling behavior began. She started crawling late and did not respond to her mother when she called her name. She squirmed and cried when Ms. Terrero tried to hug her. Later, when she started walking, she stood on her tiptoes. She took Astrid to a pediatrician and, after some evaluation, learned that her daughter had autism. “That’s when I felt completely lost,” Ms. Terrero said in a recent interview with the New York Times.

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Destinee Gonzalez Finding Her Future while Helping Her Brothers

Destinee Gonzalez Gil was nervous when she sat for the SAT exam last year. She was allowed extra time to complete it because of a learning disability, but her nerves got the better of her as the hours flew by, and before she knew it, her time was up. She scored lower than she had hoped and was crushed. The test anxiety started at an early age. When she was 6, her 2-year-old brother, Devin, died. He had a neurodegenerative disorder that was so rare his doctors could not identify it. The disorder stunted his cognitive development and led to regular seizures, leaving him bedbound.

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Longing for Stability After a Childhood Spent in Hospitals

Silas Waller has measured his life in hospital stays. He has neurofibromatosis, a genetic disorder that causes tumors to form on nerve tissue. The condition makes it hard for him to walk. “My childhood was a constant string of going to and from hospitals,” said Mr. Waller, 18. “My first year of high school, I had over 50 absences, purely because I had that many doctor’s appointments.”

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From Homelessness to a Life of Giving Back

Rosella Tedesco is one of the millions of Americans whose life was upended by the Great Recession. In 2009, she lost her job as a secretary for an insurance adjuster in Manhattan. She was 52 and worried that age would keep her from finding work. Over the next year, she went on a handful of interviews to no avail. While job hunting, she started receiving unemployment benefits and food stamps. And in 2011, still jobless, she realized she would soon lose her unemployment benefits.

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Miguel Angel Guity: The Journey of an Unaccompanied Minor

When Miguel Angel Guity Mejia was 16, he packed his Bible, a pair of shoes and some clothes in a knapsack. In the dead of night, he left home without saying goodbye to his family. They had no idea he was fleeing Corozal, the coastal village in Honduras where he grew up. “I was getting scared,” he recalled this month, four years after his journey began.

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Taekwondo Gave 2 Children an Outlet. It Gave Their Mother a Break.

Both Frances Ramirez's children — Edwin, 8, and Emma Jade, 6 — have attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, which makes it difficult for them to sit still, focus or follow directions. Often, Ms. Ramirez said, she feels as if she has to fight to get through to them. When her children asked if they could take taekwondo lessons, she was torn. She thought that learning a martial art could help them with their behavioral issues, but money was tight.

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