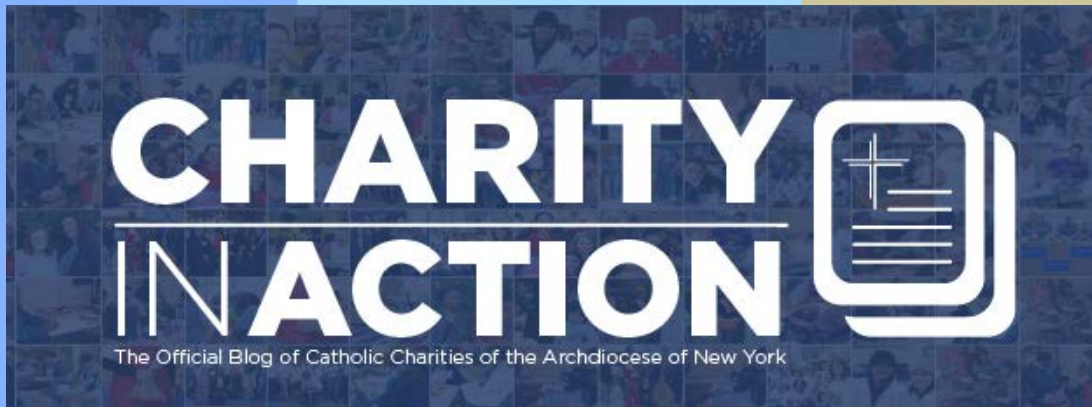


# Charity In Action: Bi-weekly Roundup



## Reflections from the Border

Catholic Charities of New York deployed a team of staff volunteers to help one of our sister agencies, Catholic Community Services, at the former Benedictine monastery in Tucson, AZ. The need is both great and varied as the local Catholic Charities agencies are inundated with migrant travelers. One CCNY volunteer, Richard Espinal, is sharing his eyewitness story.





## **Catholic Charities NY: Disaster Response Partner of the Year!**

New York Disaster Interfaith Services, a faith-based federation of over 60 organizations partnering to provide disaster readiness, response, and recovery services, honored Catholic Charities Community Services NY as its Partner of the Year at its award celebration held at the NYC Bar Association on May 30th.

“We are thrilled to honor Catholic Charities as our partner of the year,” said New York Disaster Interfaith Services Executive Director Peter Gudaitis, “specifically for almost two years of collaborating to support Hurricane Maria evacuees from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Whether in or outside of New York, Catholic Charities NY steps in when disasters strike. From the World Trade Center disaster to Superstorm Sandy, Catholic Charities has served as the premier provider and coordinator of disaster relief.

Sadly, many still suffer from the destruction Hurricanes Maria and Irma wrought on Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in 2017. We collaborated with our partners from the New York Disaster Interfaith Services to respond immediately, collecting and distributing essential food, funds and necessities. And we provide longer term support, helping relocate those who fled to our shores.

Now, with hurricane season and all the threats that come with it officially began on June 1, Catholic Charities NY remains ready to help.





## **New Study Backs Emergency Lifesaving Treatment for Drug Overdose**

A recent study in the Journal of the American Medical Association advocates for expanding access to naloxone for the emergency treatment of opioid overdose. Researchers found a 34% reduction in opioid deaths in states that allowed pharmacists to directly dispense naloxone. Catholic Charities of New York, a leader in confronting the opioid crisis in New York State, offers services and access to treatment programs and Naloxone (narcant) training programs. Approximately 1,500 people have been trained by Catholic Charities to administer narcant in the event of an overdose.





## **Catholic Charities NY Celebrates Terra Firma & Its Support for Immigrant Youth**

On September 25, 2013 a small group of about twelve unaccompanied immigrant children gathered at a pediatric clinic in the South Bronx. They had arrived with their lawyers and legal advocates. It was the first-ever meeting of the “Immigrant Youth Clinic,” a new initiative designed to address the unmet medical, legal, and mental health needs of unaccompanied immigrant children, who had begun to arrive to the United States in historic numbers. They face enormous challenges: at risk of deportation, acculturating to new environs, and processing traumatic histories as targets of persecution, torture, and abuse. [Terra Firma](#) (Latin for “solid ground”) was created to help.





## **Former Santa Elf Faces Homelessness**

For years Lisa, a former elf in Macy's Santa Land; in an earlier life a person-sized Bubba Gump shrimp barking "come on guys and try our food", and, earlier still, a walking Pop Tart, cheered pedestrians throughout New York City's Times Square. Her work as a costumed-character-for-hire work was as close as she could get to her dream of acting on Broadway. Surprise attacks from a sudden brain tumor, rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn's disease eat away at her body and mind. They stole her work, her sense of self and ultimately left her homeless. Fortunately, she found her way to Catholic Charities NY.





## **Reflections from the Border**

By Annie Kibrick

Over the course of my team's weeklong deployment, the converted Benedictine Monastery received over 500 new individuals released from immigration detention. During their stays, the guests received medical care, safe shelter, regular meals, new clothing and shoes and an opportunity to connect with their sponsors to purchase their Greyhound bus tickets enabling them to reach their final destinations. I spent most days volunteering in the store where families would pick out new clothing and shoes.





## **A Conversation about Foster Care and Summer Youth Employment 2019**

Commissioner David Hansell is the Commissioner for New York City's Administration for Children's Services. Commissioner Hansell shares some information and trends regarding foster care here in the City of New York, and what New York City's Administration for Children's Services is doing to improve the lives and experiences of the foster children in their care.

Eddie Silverio is the Division Director of Catholic Charities Community Services Alianza Division here in the Archdiocese of New York. As we approach the end of the school year and the beginning of the summer break, Eddie shares a bit about Catholic Charities Community Services Alianza Division's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) that runs in conjunction with New York City's Department of Youth and Community Development. This program enables eligible youth to earn money over the summer, as well as build up their resumes with some solid work experiences.

Michael Sanchez is a Training Monitor for Catholic Charities Community Services Alianza Division Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Michael is also a former SYEP Program participant and shares what his experience of the Summer Youth Employment Program has been.

**JustLove airs on SiriusXM 129, Saturdays at 10:00 am  
and Sundays at 5:00 am on the Catholic Channel.**



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