



Cardinal  
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White Plains, NY



## Did you know?

- ★ We have celebrated 15 years of being awarded NY City's "Outstanding Achievement Award" for adoption services.
- ★ Our Child and Adult Care Food Program provides over 450,000 meals annually (taken from 2007 annual report).

### Hayden Children Visit New York Life

Hayden House, our residence for abused and neglected children, provides around-the-clock emergency intervention and shelter to children in crisis. Children come to Hayden directly from courts, hospitals, police stations and social service agencies, often with nothing more than the clothes on their back. Many of them have never set foot in an office building and never dared dream of doing this.

The employees at New York Life Insurance Company in Sleepy Hollow heard that some of children at Hayden had taken up knitting, and decided to invite the children to their own knitting group. This Wednesday "lunch group" knits blankets for organizations who serve those in need.

When the children arrived at the New York Life offices, they were presented with 20 large blankets, created by the knitting group with the children

in mind. The children have few (if any) personal belongings, so to have something created with them in mind was truly special. Later in the day, the children enjoyed lunch with the New York Life staff. Cardinal McCloskey School Principal Jennifer Fedele says "It was a wonderful and unique experience. You would be surprised how many of the other children have made requests to learn how to knit, and they all want to have lunch in an office building." This is an example of how something that seems so simple can leave an enormous impression and brighten the children's day.

After lunch, the participants were presented goodies bags filled with knitting supplies, including yarn, needles, knitting books and patterns. As soon as the children returned from their trip, they put on their brand new New York Life T-shirts and snuggled up in their blankets. Many thanks to the New York Life staff!

*Robert Ciarcia, 50, was born with mild mental retardation and epilepsy. Up until two years ago, Robert lived alone with his aging mother. When she was placed in an assisted living facility, Robert was left without a home. When Robert's older brother Howie heard of Cardinal McCloskey Services' Individualized Residential Alternative (IRA) group homes, he was impressed by the individualized treatment plans designed to guide each resident toward reaching their personal goals. Robert was*



*placed in our Elmsford residence where he adjusted seamlessly to a group setting. Described by Elmsford's Program Coordinator, Jyl Gabriel, as, "such a hard worker," Robert holds jobs at Yonkers' Office of the Aging and at a local movie theatre. Two years later Robert's siblings have witnessed a beautiful transformation from a shy and quiet man into a man who is comfortable advocating for himself. That transformation can best be expressed by his sister Theresa...*

### In Her Own Words:

My brother Robert Ciarcia is a happy and thriving two-year resident at Cardinal McCloskey Services' Elmsford residence. Robert is enjoying the best years of his life under the kind and exceptional advocacy of Elmsford Residence Manager Sydnee Petersen and her staff, who mirror her warmth, graciousness, support and professionalism.

This past June, Robert turned 50 years old and the staff festively decorated the dining room with effort and enthusiasm to make Robert's birthday truly special. I brought a cake to Robert's party but had to leave to pick up my daughter from school. The Elmsford residence has such a comfortable and positive environment, that I had to force myself to leave.

This past August, Sydnee suggested our recent vacation with Robert to Hershey Park in Pennsylvania. Sydnee let me see that if we each paid our share from our tax refunds, it was possible for Robert to have

a family vacation. We all had a wonderful time and were even joined by some family from Ohio, whom Robert hadn't seen in years. If not for Sydnee's advocacy, planning and advice, we would have missed out on this wonderful family vacation, which we plan to do again next year.

Sydnee and her staff do more for my brother than I could ever imagine. They are not workers, but heroes. When Robert visits my home during the holidays, Residence Counselor Denise Braxton actually irons his clothes and packs his suitcase to perfection. I don't even own an iron and I wouldn't do all of that work for my own family, and yet Denise does this out of love for my brother. The Elmsford staff goes beyond their basic job requirements to bring not only support to their residents and their families, but joy. They are true role models for me and are a great blessing to my entire family.

Dear Friends,

The Promise of a tomorrow. This is what we are to those in our care: an abused child living in constant fear; an adult with developmental disabilities who has no place to go after his family can no longer care for him. Many of the children, families and adults we care for don't know how they will survive to the next day. They feel powerless when faced with seemingly impossible odds.

We provide a vast array of services through 20 different programs to the many people who rely on us. Only once these most basic needs are met and sustained, can we then help them with their specific underlying challenges.

Imagine trying to feed a growing 13 year old on just \$25 a day? Today, we receive less than this to care for our foster children—not only for food, but for their clothing, housing and other necessities as well. As you can see, government funding only provides the most basic support. We need your support to give those we serve the hope and opportunities for the future that we

believe everyone deserves. We need your help to meet all of our ultimate goals—safe children, stable families, secure futures.

I spend a lot of time speaking to our supporters about the work we do here at Cardinal McCloskey Services. It is never difficult to illustrate what their generosity truly means for the children, families and adults in our care. The successes and transformation we witness every day are a source of constant inspiration to all of us. I ask you to join us with your financial support as we go forward to provide the promise of a tomorrow to those who unfortunately might not otherwise have one.

Sincerely,

*Beth Finnerty*

Beth Finnerty



*What we are doing is so much more than providing a service to enhance the lives of those we serve—we are providing the promise of a tomorrow.*

Grant Announcements

- In July 2008, we were awarded \$25,000 from Ronald McDonald House Charities. These funds will be used to purchase medical and educational supplies, as well as towards the renovation of the playroom / visiting area at our 149th Street Office in the Bronx.
- In July 2008, we were awarded \$20,000 from New York Life Foundation. These funds will be used to establish the DIRECTIONS Program at Hayden House, an education-based life skills development program for abused and neglected teens living at Hayden House and attending the on-site Cardinal McCloskey School.
- In August 2008, we were notified that we have been awarded the Accessibility Works grant from

- IBM. This grant will provide 10 new computers for our group homes in Westchester County. This will allow our group home residents to have increased web accessibility and usability through IBM's newly developed Accessibility Works software.
- We were also notified that we were awarded 6 Young Explorer computers from IBM for our Group Day Care Centers in the Bronx. Young Explorers are colorful, child-friendly computer stations designed by Little Tikes and IBM and loaded with award-winning educational software from Riverdeep—The Learning Company. This will integrate technology into our children's education and increase their comfort level with computers.

1st Golf Outing a Huge Success

On Monday, September 15th, Board Member John McCombe and his wife Mary Theresa hosted our Inaugural Golf Outing & Dinner at Leewood Golf Club in Eastchester, NY. This event, which attracted more than 70 golfers and an impressive array of sponsors, raffle and auction donors, was a great success, raising over 45,000.

This beautiful fall day kicked off with brunch in the clubhouse before a 12:00 p.m. shotgun start. Golfers played 18 holes, which included contests for Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin. Many also chose to participate in our multiple Hole-in-One Contests, one being the chance to win a Jaguar, but unfortunately no one was a big winner.

Guests then gathered in the club house for a cocktail reception and dinner buffet where they browsed tables filled with raffle prizes and silent auction items, including sports tickets, a Tiffany & Co. bracelet, packages at the Ritz Carlton and Doral Arrowwood and foursomes at local golf clubs. Mr. McCombe and CEO Beth Finnerty spoke of the important work of Cardinal McCloskey Services and Board Member George Grossman, whose brother Richard is a resident of our Elmsford residence, shared his personal experience about what CMS has meant to his family. Our resident auctioneer, Board Member Gene DeSoiza, auctioned off five special live auction items. Lastly, Mr. McCombe announced the winners of the raffle prizes and silent auction items. This first ever golf outing was truly a special day thanks to our Board Members, many friends and supporters of Cardinal McCloskey Services.



*The event's hosts John & Mary Theresa McCombe pictured with CEO Beth Finnerty*



*Even CMS retirees came out for the day. Former CMS Assistant Executive Director Eddie Dee pictured here with his family.*

