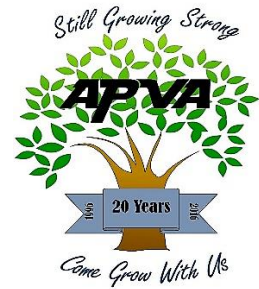




APVA Member Spotlight



October 2016

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Mary Ellen Kwiecinski, Volunteer & Intern Coordinator Catholic Charities - Diocese of Rockville Centre

I began my journey with Catholic Charities in 1995 in the Office of Public Affairs & Development. A year later I transitioned to a position with our Residential Services Program which opened my world to working with people with special needs. During that time, I came to understand and appreciate the day-to-day operations of a 24/7 program and experienced firsthand, what it was like to work with people on so many different levels.

In 2007, I was appointed the Volunteer and Intern Coordinator. Since Catholic Charities has so many different programs serving such varied populations across Nassau and Suffolk counties, I'm able to secure volunteers of all ages, interests and backgrounds. We welcome individuals as well as group volunteers and collaborate with high schools, colleges and parish groups. I also partner with university internship placement programs.

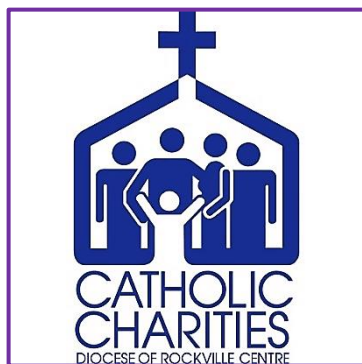


Being an APVA member for several years, I find the workshops provide helpful opportunities to listen and learn from other people's direct experiences. The workshops are targeted and the many guest speakers insightfully address specific topics and challenges associated with volunteers and volunteer management.

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About Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rockville Centre

Founded in 1957, Catholic Charities of Rockville Centre is a leading human service provider on Long Island. Our more than 600 employees provide a full range of services that are available to people of all faiths and backgrounds out of our 68 sites throughout Long Island. We serve an average of 58,000 Long Islanders each year at all stages of life, from expectant young mothers to frail seniors, including the poor, the working poor, and those in crisis.



Programs include affordable housing, nutrition and social services for seniors, chemical dependence services, HIV/AIDS housing, a residence for the mentally ill adults, maternity services, residential programs for children and teens with emotional disturbances, food and nutrition, housing for people with physical disabilities, group homes for people with developmental disabilities, outpatient mental health services and immigrant and refugee services.

Through our Parish Social Ministry (PSM) program we partner with 134 Catholic parishes who serve an additional 100,000 neighbors each year. This unique affiliation allows for front-line outreach in all the communities of Long Island and truly distinguishes Catholic Charities from other human service providers. Our motto, *Care With Dignity...Life With Hope*, is our goal for each person we serve.

Catholic Charities Volunteer – Mr. Bill Brennan

Bill Brennan began his volunteer work in 2013 as a chaplain at Talbot House, Catholic Charities' 24-hour, medically monitored substance abuse withdrawal center. He chose this particular ministry as Talbot House played a key role in his own son Michael's recovery from addiction.

Michael was just completing medical school and had decided to pursue a career in chemical dependence services when he was tragically killed in a car accident. Bill chose to carry on his son's work. He has a unique ability to challenge clients with grueling self-examination while simultaneously arming them with hope in their progress. He not only asks them to address who they are at core, spiritual levels but he helps them visualize who they want to become. But most importantly, he gives clients the emotional and spiritual tools to actualize that vision. He teaches concrete principles of self-discovery, strength (spiritual and emotional), forgiveness, and self-respect and instills the value of maintaining a positive attitude. He also offers his confidential pastoral counseling to any client who seeks it. He is the calm in the storm and truly a rock of wisdom and stability for those struggling with chemical dependence.

