

Tillyer, P.A.-Rehabilitation Center



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Paterson
www.CCPaterson.org

PROVIDING HELP
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CONNECTIONS



WINTER 2025



STRAIGHT & NARROW NEW FACILITY INAUGURATED IN HONOR OF MSGR. HERBERT TILLYER

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Blessing and ribbon-cutting of drug and alcohol rehab honors longtime leader of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson

Collette Liddy

Excerpt from Beaconnj.org - December 10, 2025

Paterson, NJ

"We will rebuild." That's what Msgr. Herbert Tillyer said to Scott Milliken, CEO of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Paterson, on Aug. 19, 2019, after a six-alarm fire had destroyed the main building of the drug and alcohol rehabilitation center, Straight & Narrow. The two had been in the Paterson Fire Department's command center mobile trailer all day with Angela Nikolovski, executive director of Straight & Narrow. They were assured by officials that everyone had escaped safely, and thanks to the American Red Cross and St. Joseph's Hospital, clients had been cared for and relocated.



Milliken shared the story on Dec. 8 as over 200 community leaders, lawmakers, volunteers, and supporters gathered for a blessing and ribbon-cutting of the new state-of-the-art facility, fittingly named the Monsignor Herbert K. Tillyer, P.A. Rehabilitation Center in honor of the former chairman of the board of Straight & Narrow and longtime leader of Catholic Charities organizations. With Msgr. Tillyer's vision and wisdom, said Milliken, they have rebuilt the premier, best building they could for rehabilitation.

Nikolovski, executive director of the comprehensive social service nonprofit, said the grand opening is a testament to what can be achieved when people work together on a shared vision. "We have transformed our vision into a reality and reimagined what recovery and treatment can look like in our community." This will allow Straight & Narrow to expand, she said, reaching and serving more individuals and families, providing "innovative, compassionate care in a space designed for healing."

The \$30 million project, a 50,000 square-foot facility, features a 50-bed halfway house for men, a state-of-the-art food-service dining and commercial kitchen to serve approximately 3,000 meals a day, men's and women's clinical and outpatient services, pastoral care, and administrative offices. The building is located next door to other Straight & Narrow buildings, not affected by the fire. Straight & Narrow also offers a Mommy and Me program, a Wellness Center featuring a CrossFit trainer, and Gymboree for clients' children. Plans are underway to develop a halfway house for women, including women with children, and renovations are underway for the medical adult daycare center.

"I have always said that working in Passaic County as a leader is a special network of people," said Milliken. The dream was realized because of many generous, skilled individuals, said Milliken as he thanked NK Architects, Natoli Construction, the Catholic Charities Board of Trustees led by Father Martin Glynn, the Catholic Charities team, lawmakers including Congresswoman Nellie Pou and State Sen. Benjie Wimberly who helped secure New Jersey State budget funding, Paterson mayor André Sayegh, Passaic mayor Hector Lora, Ron Jampel, a volunteer, who guided them through the New Market Tax credit procedure, New Jersey Capital, AFLI-CII Housing Investment Trust and Valley Bank. The agency also received support from the Diocese of Paterson's Diocesan Ministries Appeal, \$1.6 million from the American Rescue Plan through the City of Paterson for an HIV program, and a grant from the Moglia Foundation to build a Wellness Center.



CEO SCOTT MILLIKEN ON “BEYOND THE BEACON” PODCAST

During the October 29th episode of the podcast, Scott Milliken thanked Bishop Kevin Sweeney, Tim Potter, and the faithful supporters of the Diocesan Ministries Appeal, which enables services across Passaic, Morris and Sussex Counties including:

- Robotics program for youth in Paterson
- Straight & Narrow's brand-new facility with a state-of-the-art kitchen serving 3,000 meals daily
- Renovated group homes for adults with disabilities
- Comprehensive services reaching 45,000+ people annually for our most vulnerable neighbors



View the episode at beaconnj.org/beyond-the-beacon-episode-99-how-your-gift-powers-hope-across-the-three-counties-of-the-diocese/ and make a difference today at: dopappeal.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIOCESE OF PATERSON

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NJ'S LONGEST-RUNNING GROUP HOME OPENS DOORS AT NEW LOCATION

Collette Liddy

Excerpt from Beaconnj.org - November 18, 2025

Clifton, NJ

Christmas came early at Murray House in Clifton, N.J.

"Welcome home!" Joanna Miller, executive director of the Department for Persons with Disabilities (DPD) of Catholic Charities of the Paterson Diocese in N.J., and her staff exclaimed as they greeted clients of Murray House, a group home for men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Murray House staff and clients joined diocesan and community leaders, family members, and volunteers for the blessing and ribbon-cutting celebration of the group home's new location on Nov. 14. DPD is part of Catholic Charities. Opened in 1971 by DPD founder Fr. Jack Wehrlen, Murray House was the first group home for men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Garden State. The home is named in honor of Jimmie Murray, who had a developmental disability and died in 1969. DPD aims to make the move to the new location by Christmas.

Residents were excited to tour the home and see their bedrooms freshly painted in the colors they selected. Laura Beahm said her sister, a resident of Murray House for 14 years, is looking forward to moving in. "My sister called me every day about it. The house is beautiful. I love the garden, the ramp. It makes you feel so safe," Beahm said. Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney led the blessing and prayer.



"We thank God for the gift of life and the gift of family. And the family needs a home. And we're so grateful to all those who have made this moment possible. We pray that every family would know peace and happiness in a safe home," Bishop Sweeney said.

"During the ribbon-cutting, Miller presented a plaque to the Murray family for its dedication, in partnership with DPD, for more than 50 years in making the home "a beacon of compassion and dignity."

Jimmie's brothers, Dennis Murray, vice president of the board of Catholic Charities, and Patrick Murray, officer in charge of the Paterson Police Department, and other family members, celebrated the milestone with residents and the community. The late Father Jack Wehrlen, founder of DPD, and the Murray family opened the first Murray House in 1971. Bishop Sweeney thanked community and government leaders for their support, including U.S. Rep. Nellie Pou and State Sen. Kristin Corrado, both of whom attended the event.

"This is a sign of hope in this Jubilee Year of Hope for the Church. Look what we can do when we work together as neighbors and as a community," Bishop Sweeney said. The lawmakers applauded the Murray family and the DPD staff for their commitment to helping the residents flourish and grow. They wished the residents much happiness in their home.

"All of you will become one family. That is what we all want," Pou said.



Corrado noted that there was a time when homes like Murray House were not available for "our most special and wonderful residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities." It takes a village, said Corrado, adding, "Every person in this room is part of that village." Scott Milliken, CEO of Catholic Charities, said it has been their dream to relocate Murray House so that the residents can age in place.

"It's a testament to our belief that every person deserves to age with dignity, independence, safety, and comfort. This fully accessible ranch-style home in Clifton will ensure they can continue to thrive safely in the place they love. Murray House has set the standard for compassionate, person-centered care for over five decades. This relocation honors that legacy while securing their future," Milliken said. "This is your home, and you can stay here for a very long time. Enjoy it, live well, and prosper."

"They're engaged in many activities. They worship there. They shop there. They take part in recreational activities and all the different activities that make Clifton a great place for them," Miller said.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES LIVE ON ONNJ!

Scott Milliken was live with ONNJ's host Ken Rosato to discuss the new Murray House in Clifton and the importance of accessible group homes for our residents to thrive and safely age in place while integrating within the community they call home. View the clip on: onnj.com/videos/murray-house-moves/

CARITAS GALA: AN UNFORGETTABLE CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

On November 13th, the Caritas Gala, was hosted at the Meadow Wood in Randolph, to celebrate the impact of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson and to honor those whose compassion and service embody the spirit of Caritas, love in action.

Over 260 guests were greeted by a beautiful balloon arch, champagne, hors d'oeuvres, plated dinner, venetian hour and a program highlighting the Caritas Gala honorees.



We were honored to celebrate:

Paul and Anne Krump

The Bishop of Paterson Award presented by Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney, who spoke on Paul and Anne's generosity towards the Diocese: "We are able to do so much of the work of the Diocese because of people like Paul and Anne Krump - who are a great blessing."

Rev. Monsignor John E. Hart

DPD Executive Director Joanna Miller presented The Fr. Jack Wehrle award, honoring his lifelong dedication to the community, and his heart for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Rev. Owen B. Moran

Fr. Owen Moran's ministry beautifully reflects his deep compassion for working families and those experiencing food insecurity. His commitment to feeding the hungry is seen across our Diocese. Carlos Roldan, director of food pantries said: "To him we are all the same, we are all children of God." Joseph Murray, Executive Director for CFCS, presented the Msgr. Giordani Msgr. Mark Giordani Award to Fr. Owen.

Harpreet Peleg

CEO of Building America CDE and Chief Financial Officer of the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust., Harpreet Peleg played an instrumental role in helping Straight & Narrow rebuild after the devastating fire at 410 Straight Street six years ago: "I know this Paterson community" she said, "it is a part of my story."

Lucia George shared her powerful testimony of transformation from facing life's many challenges while supporting her young family, to volunteering at Hope House in Dover, to now serving as a Housing Case Manager helping others navigate the same struggles she once overcame. "I give all the glory to God," Lucia said, her voice filled with gratitude for the faith and support that carried her through every obstacle. Her story reminds us why we do this work: because everyone deserves a chance to rebuild, and with the right support, transformation is truly possible.



Catholic Charities Veteran Partner of the Year Ariel Jacob Luna paid tribute to all veterans and honored Veterans Day during the gala.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who attended and supported the Caritas Gala. Because of your support we can look forward to a 2026 filled with possibility.

A NIGHT TO HONOR, THE PIO COSTA FAMILY AND THE ROSALIND PIO COSTA FOUNDATION

Totowa, NJ

On September 19th, laughter and conversation filled the room as Catholic Charities hosted the 4th Annual Creating Hope Beefsteak at St. James of the Marches, Totowa. Thanks to the year-round dedication of our co-hosts, Joellen and TJ Scillieri, and with the generosity of St. James pastor, Fr. Marc Mancini, and School Principal Lelia Pappas, we hosted a beefsteak dinner and tricky tray to honor the Pio Costa Family and the Rosalind Pio Costa Foundation.



A TESTIMONY TO RECOVERY

by Nancy Nakhle

Recovery programs are vital as they often serve as the first point of contact for individuals at one of the most vulnerable stages in their lives. Reaching out for help is not an easy step and is often taken after enduring significant personal hardship, trauma, or loss.

It is here that the recovery journey truly begins where individuals are met not with judgment, but with open arms and a belief in their potential to heal. We understand that first impressions matter, and we are committed to making each one count. This commitment continues throughout every stage of treatment, creating a space where growth, trust, and transformation can flourish. Below is a message from a client preparing to complete treatment in our male residential program, a powerful reflection of the journey taken and the hope that lies ahead:

“Since arriving to Straight & Narrow, I’ve learned a lot about myself. I have learned my triggers, warning signs and coping skills. I would like to thank everyone at Straight & Narrow for the caring help I have received. The staff and counselors took their time and helped guide me through my early recovery with understanding towards a successful future in recovery.”

Thank you, M.J.W!

11-YEAR-OLD COLLECTS 164 HOODIES FOR FAMILIES FACING THE COLD

Sofia Silveira

On September 2nd, Luke Minetti, a student at St. Anthony School in Hawthorne, took action to help individuals in need by collecting 164 sweatshirts for the Father English Food Pantry community. "It was all him" said his mom, Brenda Minetti, who helped him complete the logistics of the complex operation.

Understanding that colder months can bring added hardship for those struggling to make ends meet, Luke mobilized his classmates and their families. Luke collected, sorted and organized sweatshirts of all sizes and colors, ensuring every donation could find its perfect home.

The sweatshirts were delivered to Carlos Roldan, Director of Catholic Charities Food Pantries, who expressed gratitude for Luke's compassion and leadership. Acts like his remind us that generosity knows no age and that one person's effort can truly make a difference for many.



CEO SCOTT MILLIKEN AND LEADERS JOIN CCUSA CONFERENCE IN PUERTO RICO

Our CEO Scott Milliken, Board of Trustees Treasurer Sole Anselmi, CFO Mukesh Saxena, and CFCS Executive Director Joe Murray attended CCUSA's Annual Meeting in beautiful Puerto Rico on October 8th.

This gathering brought together Catholic Charities leaders from across the nation to share innovative best practices to serve those in need, connect and collaborate with colleagues old and new, and renew spiritually, strengthening our mission right here in the Diocese of Paterson. When compassionate leaders unite, amazing things happen!



QUIET ON SET! STRAIGHT & NARROW FILMS WITH:

EMPOWERED

HOSTED BY MEG RYAN

We're beyond thrilled to share that Straight & Narrow was selected to be featured on Empowered, hosted by Meg Ryan! Our hearts are so full after this amazing experience. This is an incredible exposure opportunity to share our story with audiences across America about our people-centered approach to recovery, and the exciting brand-new treatment center that rose from the ashes after a devastating fire.



Interviews were filmed for Scott Milliken, Catholic Charities CEO; Angela Nikolovski, Straight & Narrow Executive Director; Dr. Hayman Rambaran, Medical Director; our friend and advocate Michael Jackson.

Filming took place at the new Monsignor Herbert K. Tillyer, P.A. Rehabilitation Center.



HONORING A TRUE DSP HERO: MARY DELAOSA OF THE GRUENERT CENTER SPECIAL NEEDS DAY PROGRAM

by Joanna Miller



It is with great joy and deep admiration that we celebrate Mary DeLaOsa, of our Special Needs Day Program, who was awarded on September 19th with the NJ Association of Community Providers Hero's Award for her extraordinary compassion, leadership, and unwavering commitment to those she serves.

Helping to revive the Special Needs segment of the annual Day Program Talent Show, week by week, Mary transformed a simple idea into a joyful experience that brought the program together.

Mary DeLaOsa exemplifies what it means to serve with both skill and heart, both towards her clients and colleagues. Her care is genuine, her impact profound, and her dedication to the dignity and respect of those she serves is extraordinary. We are proud to honor her as part of NJACP's DSP Heroes, a fitting recognition for someone who turns compassion into action every single day.

STRAIGHT & NARROW ATTENDS EVENT TO HONOR LIVES LOST TO ADDICTION

by Nancy Nakhle

On September 6th, Women's Residential Treatment proudly participated in the "Hope Sheds Light Celebration of Hope Walk" a powerful community event dedicated to raising awareness, celebrating the journey of recovery, and honoring the lives lost to addiction. Walking side by side with families, peers, and supporters, our clients shared stories of transformation and resilience, reinforcing the message that recovery is possible and that no one walks alone.



CELEBRATING OUR GREATEST ASSET: CATHOLIC CHARITIES STAFF

The Christmas season brought extra sparkle to Catholic Charities this year as our Human Resources team pulled out all the stops to create an unforgettable Christmas party at The Brownstone in Paterson. The evening was a vibrant celebration featuring music with DJ, a fun photo booth, and the highly anticipated Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest, which sparked plenty of laughter and friendly competition among staff. The celebration was evident with the seemingly endless raffle prizes, ensuring that every employee, including those who couldn't attend because they were working in our programs that evening, had a chance to win.

Our commitment to being an employer of choice extends throughout the year with meaningful initiatives designed to support and recognize our team members. Staff received branded quarter-zip pullover shirts for Christmas and a sweatshirt to commemorate the exciting buildings and capital projects underway. We're actively upgrading IT equipment and computers to ensure our team has the tools they need to serve effectively. We provide numerous training opportunities to support professional development and career advancement. Throughout the year, program leaders recognize staff achievements during meetings and events, ensuring contributions don't go unnoticed.



Each year, we also conduct an Employee Satisfaction Survey to better understand what we are doing well and where we can improve. We take this feedback seriously and work throughout the year to address identified areas of improvement, with the goal of creating a supportive and engaging workplace where employees feel valued.

To support a smooth onboarding experience, Human Resources conducts check-ins via survey with new hires on 7 days, 30 days, 45, and 90 days to ensure they are settling well and have the support they need. We are also proud to offer a generous benefits package, including generous paid time off and paid holidays throughout the year.

We proudly recognize employees for their accomplishments and contributions to our organization. We believe it's important to acknowledge the great work our team does and to celebrate successes together.

We thank all staff for being an essential part of our Catholic Charities organization.

EVENTS UNITE TANK PULL COMMUNITY PARTNERS SERVING NJ VETERANS

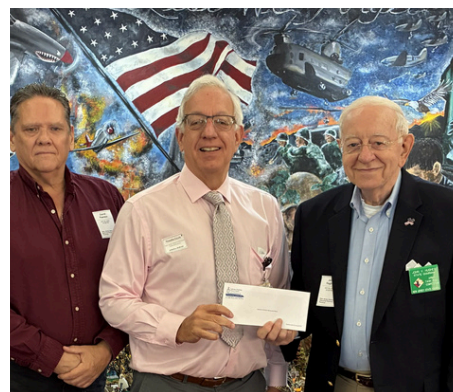


The 15th Knights of Columbus Catholic Charities NJ Army Tank Pull benefitted high-impact initiatives and programs.

On September 5th, community partners were invited to share collaborations and to receive funding support for essential programs serving NJ veterans.



On December 9th, members of Passaic County's veteran community were invited to an appreciation luncheon hosted by the NJ SOS Veteran Stakeholders Group and Knights of Columbus. All enjoyed festive food, entertainment from the The Belle Tones and a visit from Santa Claus.



TANK PULL BENEFICIARIES in 2025:

Welcome Home Vets of New Jersey, Paramus Veteran Memorial Home, Hudson County Wreaths Across America, NJ SOS Veteran Stakeholders group, Operation Sisterhood of YWCA of Northern New Jersey Homes For Veterans, Paterson Food Pantry, Wyckoff YMCA Veterans Program, Atlantic Health Care True North Program, County College of Morris Veterans Program, Paterson Veterans Council, Clifton Cares, Clifton, Veterans Parade Committee, Clifton Avenue of Flags

Show your Support! Join us for these Upcoming Events!



56th Murray House Dinner Dance

February 15th
Sunday, 6pm

The Brownstone
Paterson, NJ



Dunk for Disabilities

February 19th

Thursday, 5pm and 7pm

Jefferson Township High School
Jefferson Township, NJ

John Taggart Memorial Golf Outing

May 15th
Sunday, 7am

Great Gorge Golf Club,
Vernon, NJ



16th Knights of Columbus & Catholic Charities NJ ARMY Tank Pull

June 7th
Sunday, 7am

1000 Clifton Avenue, Clifton, NJ

52nd Wiegand Farm Golf Classic

June 22nd
Monday, 7am

Crystal Springs Resort,
Hamburg, NJ

For information about any of these events, contact: info@ccpaterson.org or 973.737.2077 Ext. 4170



Merry Christmas
— & —
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Make a Difference this Christmas

ccpaterson.org/tree

We wish you and your family many
blessings throughout this Advent and
Christmas season and a happy and
healthy New Year!



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