A Connection That Lives On

For a young child like Rita, facing the loss of a parent changes everything – and leaves plenty of unknowns an eight-year-old shouldn’t have to go through.

But in working with Catholic Charities New Hampshire, Rita gained the support she needed – and years later, is reaching her dream of attending college.

Rita’s fondest memories involve volunteering with her mother, Karen, at St. Vincent de Paul Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Berlin. They loved to regularly pay visits, doing the resident’s nails and keeping them company. For her, they were the perfect mother-daughter moments.

But things changed suddenly. Karen was diagnosed with melanoma and passed away shortly after, leaving behind Rita, her father and ten siblings.

Recalling her time volunteering with her mother, Rita reached out to Catholic Charities New Hampshire and Nicole Plourde, Deputy Director of Parish & Community Services at the Berlin district office, for some guidance.

“Without Nicole, I wouldn’t have made it to college,” Rita recalls.
Grant Recognition

Thank you to the following organizations that recently awarded grants to support Catholic Charities NH’s programs and services.

Norwin S. & Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation ... $25,000, Immigration Legal Services
New Hampshire Bar Foundation
Hon. William F. Batchelder Fund ............ $10,000, Immigration Legal Services
NH DOJ - VOCA Grant .......................... $293,079, Immigration Legal Services
Alice J. Reen Charitable Trust ............... $10,000, Parish & Community Services
Ray & Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust ........ $5,000, Our Place

Your Legacy
Make a lasting impact by naming Catholic Charities NH in your will or estate plans. For more information, contact Karen Moynihan at 603-669-3030.

Because of you!

Thanks to your generous contributions and investment in Catholic Charities, so far this year, you created hope and changed lives for 1,982 individuals across New Hampshire. This includes:

- 1,426 individuals moving forward from poverty, homelessness and other life-altering obstacles through our Parish & Community Services program. This work has impacted more than 3,000 household members.
- 291 New Hampshire residents working to overcome stress, anxiety, depression, substance abuse and other major life issues through our Counseling Services.
- 122 immigrants seeking assistance in applying for naturalization, family-based visas, adjustment to lawful permanent residence or asylum through our Immigration Legal Services.
- 95 young mothers and families develop loving, safe and nurturing homes for their young children through the Our Place pregnancy and parenting program.
- 48 adoption services clients looking to grow families or reunify with their biological relatives.

Looking Back - Moving Forward

For more than a century, children have played, laughed and thrived on the grounds of the St. Charles Children’s Home in Rochester. Today, the newly formed St. Charles School provides special education for students who face severe behavioral and emotional challenges. Learn how St. Charles continues its tradition of helping children succeed at cc-nh.org/kidssucceed.

Rita Continued

Nicole helped Rita establish an Individual Development Account (IDA) through the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund. Through her savings in the account and the resulting matched funds, Rita was able to help pay for community college and complete her associate’s degree. She then secured her first job on the support staff at a local elementary school.

Then Rita came across another roadblock - the IDA program with the Community Loan Fund was cut from the government’s budget. But Nicole was there.

“Nicole worked with me on updating my resume, so I was able to get a better full-time job with benefits. It even has the future potential of paying some of my tuition,” Rita says.

Rita is now an early intervention paraprofessional in the Berlin schools. She also waits tables, she says, because she’s determined to finish her degree without student loans.

And thanks to her mom’s connection with Catholic Charities New Hampshire, and the generosity of donors who make these programs possible, Rita is achieving her ultimate dream.

“I want to be a financially stable adult when I get out of college,” Rita says with determination. “And I’m going to do it the smartest way possible.”