Kassandra’s dream was simple. Since she was a little girl, she always wanted to be a nurse.

But even simple dreams take work and sometimes mean conquering unexpected challenges.

Kassandra’s journey to becoming a nurse started when she received a scholarship to take general education credits at a local community college, which she did for a year and a half while also working a full-time job. But the scholarships ran out all too quickly. She was faced with a question that many young people face: “How am I going to be able to afford and complete school?”

When her daughter was born, Kassandra applied for local assistance to make ends meet. For her, it became a real challenge of simply surviving.

Kassandra didn’t give up though. When her daughter turned six months old, something changed. She knew it was time to finish school because now, it meant a better future for her daughter.

“I recognized that even though I didn’t know how to balance school, care for my daughter, and still manage life and work, it was more important than ever to keep my dream alive,” Kassandra remembers. “No more ifs, ands or buts because I had to give my daughter the best life I could.”
Kassandra Continued

It was one day at the Department of Health and Human Services that Kassandra saw the Catholic Charities poster about financial fitness.

“It was on the wall, basically speaking out to me,” she recalls about seeing that poster. “You can always get better with money, and I figured I had nothing to lose.”

She called the number on the poster. On the other end was Leonard Campbell, community outreach coordinator at Catholic Charities New Hampshire’s district office in Laconia.

They soon met, and Leonard sat down with Kassandra and her boyfriend to go through their monthly expenses, teaching them how to use a spreadsheet to manage their budget and identify opportunities for savings.

Leonard also helped connect Kassandra with additional resources that provided matching funds for education.

Nursing school – her dream – was becoming a reality. “Without the help of Catholic Charities, I wouldn’t have made it through school,” Kassandra says.

Kassandra graduated without the burden of student loans and is now a registered nurse at a hospital in the North Country.

But she’s still not done. She has plans to one day purchase a single family home where her daughter will be able to stay in one school district through to graduation. Even more, thanks to Leonard’s help, she’s pursuing her bachelor’s degree.

“Mine and my daughter’s life will forever be different now,” she says about working with Catholic Charities New Hampshire. “If a donor ever wonders if their contribution makes a difference, let me assure you, it certainly does.”

14th Annual Mardi Gras Gala

Mardi Gras Gala Supports Families in Need

Join us at our 14th annual Mardi Gras Gala on Saturday, February 9, 2019, at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. The Mardi Gras Gala raised over $130,000 last year, supporting services that provide pathways out of poverty.

The Mardi Gras Gala is a Louisiana-themed event that celebrates the culture of New Orleans, home to one of the world’s most recognized Mardi Gras festivals. Festive decorations transport guests to the French Quarter where they participate in the silent auction, games of chance, and are treated to Cajun and Creole inspired cuisine, live music, dancing and entertainment.

Get your tickets today: cc-nh.org/mardigras

A Look Back in Time

We’re going back to October 1988. Here is Mother Paul Marie chatting with a child at the then St. Charles Children’s Home in Rochester. St. Charles recently became St. Charles School, a full-time, private special education provider for students facing behavioral, social and emotional challenges. We are excited for the future of St. Charles School and the impact it will have supporting youth who may struggle in a traditional classroom.

Grant Recognition

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

PhRMA ................................................. $1,500 Immigration Legal Services

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.