

# Reflections



 CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES  
NEW HAMPSHIRE



## **A Lifeline Delivered** *How You Came Through for Nancy*

Sitting in her favorite chair, Nancy smiles as she hears the knock on her door. Not long ago, medical setbacks left her feeling isolated and scared, but thanks to your support, Nancy now manages her limitations and maintains her independence with renewed hope.

Living alone on a fixed income with chronic medical conditions, 2020 was especially difficult for Nancy. She fell and broke her hip in February and underwent major abdominal surgery in April. She recalls thinking, “I can barely move, no way can I get myself to the doctor. What am going to do?”

Her situation began to improve when she connected with CareGivers, a Catholic Charities NH program that helps older adults like Nancy better live independently and avoid isolation through rides to medical appointments, food delivery, and emotional support services. Caring Rides volunteers helped Nancy get to medical appointments during her recovery, but 2021 brought more challenges. A car accident resulted in her giving up her license after doctors diagnosed her as legally blind.

“I just thank the Lord that I didn’t hit a child,” she remembers.

With mounting medical bills and limited mobility, Nancy felt alone and desperate. “I sat in my chair and cried. But thankfully, CareGivers came into my world once again.”

Nancy reached the door and opened it. A smiling CareGivers volunteer entered with two large bags full of groceries. Caring Cupboard volunteers make monthly grocery deliveries to homebound older adults in Greater Manchester and Nashua, providing fresh meat, vegetables and dairy, as well as dry goods.

For most like Nancy, these deliveries help ease financial burdens and provide vital nutrition. Without them, she would likely face food insecurity, unsure where her next meal may come from.

“On the first Thursday of every month, I can count on groceries coming to get me to the next month,” she marvels. “What would I do without it?”

While Nancy continues to face health challenges, she is deeply grateful for the support she receives.

“The volunteers and donors are so kind and give of themselves and keep me going,” she shares. “I give you my deepest, heartfelt thanks.”



## **A New Era at New Generation**

### ***Brandy Rickaby's Full-Circle Journey from Resident to Executive Director***

Brandy Rickaby sits at her desk, smiling confidently and proudly, reflecting on her incredible journey.

Seven years ago, she was a mother with a newborn, with a history of substance use, and on the brink of homelessness. Now she has taken over as Executive Director of New Generation, the program that lifted her into a life filled with resilience and new purpose.

Brandy first moved into New Generation in 2018 with her infant son. The Catholic Charities NH program provided more than shelter, offering a supportive community that helped her overcome substance use, gain essential skills, and thrive as a mother. In less than a year, she and her son moved into an apartment – a place they could finally call home.

Impressed by her dedication and ambition, Brandy was first offered a job at the program's on-site Second Generation Thrift Shop and eventually rose through the ranks to become Family Services Manager, where she shaped the program's case management services to help other mothers carve their own paths out of homelessness.

When Executive Director Elsy Cipriani recently departed to lead the New Hampshire Food Bank, Brandy was the natural successor. Now at the helm, her vision is clear: to implement the lessons of her own journey and reinforce the belief that no mother or child should face homelessness alone.

"Collaborating with our dedicated team and amazing community partners to tailor programs that meet our clients' needs fuels my passion," says Brandy. "This work embodies a journey of transformation, resilience, and hope."

As she looks to the future, Brandy's message to those she serves is deeply powerful and personal: "Our circumstances do not define us, and every challenge we faced has been a stepping stone toward something greater. I have been right where I was supposed to be this whole time."

Thanks to your support, Brandy's story transcends personal triumph; it embodies the life-altering journeys – dreams achieved, lives rebuilt, and countless happy endings – that you make possible.



## Mardi Gras Magic – Thanks to You!

On February 22, Manchester was transformed into a spectacular celebration of community and compassion at the 19th Annual Mardi Gras Gala.

Amid the fun, dancing, mouthwatering Cajun cuisine, exciting games and auctions, and stylish masks and beads all around, over \$260,000 in net proceeds raised to shine the light of hope and healing for our NH neighbors facing their darkest days.

A special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, CGI Business Solutions and all of our sponsors, attendees and volunteers who for making this wonderful evening a resounding success!

Circle the Date Now! To mark our 20th Gala and Catholic Charities NH's 80th year, join us for a Valentine's Day Masquerade Ball on Saturday, February 14, 2026 in Manchester!



## Golf Fore Veterans – Register Today!

The 8th Annual Fore the Veterans Golf Tournament is coming up Friday, June 27th at Stonebridge Country Club in Goffstown. Proceeds directly benefit veterans facing homelessness, post traumatic stress and other struggles, who are rebuilding their lives at Liberty House. [libertyhousenh.org/golf](http://libertyhousenh.org/golf)



## Grant Recognition

Thank you to the following organizations that recently awarded grants to support CCGH's programs:

- Adelard A. and Valeda Lea Roy Foundation
- Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund
- Blanche M. Walsh Charity Trust
- Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation
- Lane and Elizabeth C. Dwinell Charitable Trust
- Speedway Children's Charities
- TD Charitable Foundation
- Wireless Zone

## 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](tel:603-669-3030).



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## Bill's Big Moment, Made Possible by You

Just a few weeks ago, Bill was biking through the brutal winter snow and slush to get to work. Today, this Navy veteran beams with pride as he clutches his brand-new driver's license – a powerful symbol of how far he's come on his journey to independence at Liberty House.

For Bill, and other veterans at Liberty House, securing important documents are important milestones. In the past year, 31 residents got their licenses, 34 obtained birth certificates and another 34 secured social security cards. With each step, their confidence builds and doors open to meaningful employment and permanent housing.

A smile like this isn't just for a piece of plastic – Bill knows that another barrier to his independence has been removed and that a new life is within reach. Your support helps veterans like Bill achieve these life-changing moments.

Thank you for being part of his success!

