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Little Flower's 95th Anniversary Gala a Huge Success

On Thursday, May 9th, it was a lovely spring evening at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, with birds singing and flowers blossoming. Friends and supporters of Little Flower gathered at the garden's beautiful, glass-walled Palm House to celebrate 95 years of Little Flower making a difference in the community. Those in

attendance enjoyed live jazz, drinks, and delicious food.

The guests were moved by speeches from special guests such as our Humanitarian Award Honoree, Karen Persichilli Keogh, Secretary to the Governor. Karen spoke about her and her husband's experience adopting their daughter through Little Flower, and how much it meant to their family. A Little Flower alumnus, Carrie Relf, shared her experience receiving support from Little Flower when she was a youth in foster care, and how it inspired her to go on to receive a master's degree in social work and to found a nonprofit that supports youth transitioning out of foster care.

From ticket sales, a silent auction, sponsors, and a live appeal, the event raised a total of almost \$400,000 for our organization. We are incredibly grateful to all the supporters who made this event such a huge success. With the funds raised, we will be able to provide vital services to the children, youth, adults with disabilities, and families we serve.



Volunteer Spotlight: Cathy Ricci, Toy Room Helper

When Cathy Ricci moved to Long Island from Austin, Texas, three years ago, she decided to start volunteering at Little Flower, organizing and shipping the many in-kind donations we receive. “I wanted to keep myself busy, and to give back to the community,” said Cathy. She regularly organizes the toy room and sorts the donations for distribution and delivery, which is often a big undertaking! The holiday season is the most chaotic, as the toy room becomes flooded with presents at the end of the year. She is a large part of the reason that children and youth we serve can receive their in-kind requests.

“I love it. I love it. I just love it,” says Cathy. “It just makes me feel good about myself. I like to be busy. I feel like the kids need this—plus, it’s a mess over there! Somebody has to take care of it.” We are so grateful to Cathy and everything she does to ensure the donations we receive are quickly delivered to the children and youth who need them.



Residential Treatment Center Youth Attend Riptide Game

On March 23rd, a group of youth and staff from Little Flower’s Residential Treatment Center went to see the NY Riptide, a professional men’s indoor lacrosse team based out of the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, NY. The team has a legacy program in which generous donors provide Riptide game tickets and experiences to nonprofits from Long Island and nearby areas. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the game. We are so grateful to the NY Riptide for making this special night happen for the RTC youth!

Historic Photo Corner



Little Flower Youth have always had a special connection with music. This photo from 1955 shows a dapper-looking band posing with their instruments. Little Flower is currently raising funds to create a music space for youth on our Wading River Campus. Will you [donate here](#) to help us keep this musical tradition alive?

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