

Howard Beach site. OMRDD has had a long and valued partnership with Catholic Charities. This organization not only has experience successfully serving the aging population, but has extensive knowledge of what residential services for individuals with developmental disabilities want and need.”

The development site consists of approximately three acres in Southwest Queens on the site of OMRDD’s Bernard Fineson Developmental Disabilities Senior Office. The two existing structures on the property occupy 111,000 square feet. The site was originally constructed as a private hospital in the 1960s.

### Phoenix Shelter Supervisor Honored as Saint Mary’s College 2009 Outstanding Young Alumna

Gayla Spenney, shelter supervisor at My Sister’s Place, a domestic violence shelter for women and their children operated by Catholic Charities Community Services in Phoenix, was recently honored with the 2009 Outstanding Young Alumna Award, awarded annually by the Alumnae Association of Saint Mary’s College. The award honors a woman who is outstanding in her personal, professional, or volunteer accomplishments and exemplifies the standards, ideals, and mission of the College and the Alumnae Association.

Spenney has been a voice for the voiceless and help to the helpless since her career in social work began soon after graduating from Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, IN. While she majored in communication studies and English literature, Spenney felt a calling to social work soon after graduation. Her career path began in Phoenix working for Aid to Adoption of Special Kids, while beginning her master’s degree in social work at Arizona State University. Upon completing her master’s degree from Arizona State University, Spenney found her way to Catholic Charities Community Services and My Sister’s Place domestic violence shelter. In 2006, Catholic Charities honored Spenney with an exceptional service award for her dedication to helping victims of domestic violence.

### Boston CFO Jennifer Mendelsohn Named CFO of the Year by *Boston Business Journal*

Jennifer Mendelsohn, CFO for Catholic Charities of Boston, was named “CFO of the Year” in the non-profit category by the *Boston Business Journal*. Honorees are awarded on their leadership and accomplishments in guiding their businesses’ financial operations, as well as their community involvement.

Mendelsohn heads the operations of 140 programs and 40 sites around Eastern Massachusetts. Among her many extraordinary accomplishments within the agency, Jennifer helped the agency migrate to a new software program that streamlined payroll and Human Resources management. She also added a 403b plan to the employee benefits program, and serves as head of the agency’s Finance, Real Estate, and Investment Committees.

In the community, Jennifer has served on the Parent Advisory Council for The Sharing Foundation, a nonprofit organization with the mission of meeting the needs of orphaned and disadvantaged children in Cambodia. She also serves as Vestry for the Grace Episcopal Church in Newton and is very active in her children’s school activities.

### Bishop Christensen of Superior Diocese Leads Effort to Assist Families Facing Foreclosure



Soon after Bishop Peter Christensen was installed as the tenth bishop of the Diocese of Superior in the fall of 2007, he asked Catholic Charities to be especially sensitive to the needs of families facing home foreclosure. He urged Catholic Charities to collaborate closely with parish priests, other Catholic lay service organizations, and community ministerial associations, in reaching out to families and provided additional resources to Catholic Charities Bureau to expand its Housing Counseling services. He particularly asked Catholic Charities to assist distressed homeowners who were encouraged by aggressive, out-of-state mortgage brokers in securing adjustable rate sub-prime mortgages that have now put them at risk of losing their family home.

“The real tragedy is that many of these families were eligible for government first-time homebuyer financing through local banks at fixed rates. They often rushed into these purchases unaware of the long term consequences of their decisions,” said Sandy Al-Qudah, director of the Catholic Charities Housing Counseling