You Helped a Young Assault Victim Find Hope Through the Cabrini Center

Rachel was only 13 when an older cousin began sexually assaulting her. He threatened to kill her and her family if she told anyone. After months of abuse, she discovered she was pregnant. Scared and heartbroken, she found the courage to tell her family. Her family was undocumented, and they feared calling the police would result in their deportation.

Despite their fears, they reported the assaults to the police. The whole family helped provide information and identify the suspect, who was arrested.

Thanks to you, attorneys at the Cabrini Center helped Rachel and her family gain a visa that provided valid, legal status and an official identity in the United States. The visa also put them on the path to citizenship.

At age 14, Rachel gave birth to a baby girl. Because of your support, having legal status meant Rachel could get a driver’s license, finish high school and pursue a career in dentistry. Her mother now helps take care of the young child so Rachel can go to classes. Legal status also allowed Rachel’s father to start a successful landscaping business, which his wife and son help run.

Because of your help, the Cabrini Center enabled Rachel and her family to overcome trauma and made a new life possible.
For 75 Years, Catholic Charities Has Answered the Moral Imperative to Welcome the Weary

Good News Now

Spring 2018

President and CEO
Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW

With heartfelt gratefulness,
changing lives. Thank you, and may God bless you.

We are so grateful God has called you to partner with us in individuals who have nowhere else to turn.

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offered to the weary traveler is offered to Jesus Christ himself, the needs of our brothers and sisters who are in difficulty and to solidarity. Solidarity is born … from the capacity to understand
to leave their homeland: a duty of justice, of civility and of

In 2017, speaking in Rome, Pope Francis said, “We have a moral imperative.”

In 2017, speaking in Rome, Pope Francis said, “We have a duty toward our brothers and sisters who … have been forced to leave their homeland: a duty of justice, of civility and of solidarity. Solidarity is born … from the capacity to understand the needs of our brothers and sisters who are in difficulty and to take responsibility for these needs. For us Christians, hospitality offered to the weary traveler is offered to Jesus Christ himself, through the newcomer: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matt. 25:35).”

Thanks to our faithful supporters, we can assist people like Rachel, who was assaulted at age 13 but has found hope and a new life in our welcoming city. You help us turn tragedy into triumph, allowing us to provide assistance to vulnerable individuals who have nowhere else to turn.

We are so grateful God has called you to partner with us in changing lives. Thank you, and may God bless you.

With heartfelt gratefulness,

Program Feature

Your Support Helps Crime Victims Who Turn to Catholic Charities for Legal Assistance

With your support, the Cabrini Center is able to provide relief to victims of violent crimes who are otherwise unable to afford legal representation. Elisa Griswold, Cabrini Center Crime Victims Program Supervising Attorney, and Camille Van Kole, Equal Justice Works Fellow/or Staff Attorney, are two of the many attorneys that are able to help these families rebuild their lives thanks to you.

Every year, because of you, Cabrini’s Crime Victims Assistance Program helps hundreds of immigrants who have been victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault and other crimes with legal services to rebuild their lives.

Some victims of domestic violence and sexual assault often do not report crimes out of fear of deportation, fear of further violence to themselves or their families, and fear their children will be taken away. Federal immigration law provides special visas to victims to encourage them to report and cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of crimes to keep our communities safe.

Thanks to you, the Crime Victims Assistance Team has been extremely successful in helping provide clients legal services, reuniting victims with their families, and connecting them with critical resources across Houston such as counseling, housing or food assistance.

Sometimes, a client will say, “I’m so thankful you’re helping me get a visa, but I don’t have diapers for my kids today.” Thanks to your support, Catholic Charities is able to provide tangible help through its network to take care of clients’ immediate, urgent needs.

Helping Hands

Thank you to the team from Deloitte for sorting donations at our warehouse that will help refugee families begin a new life here in our welcoming city!

Get your group involved in volunteering with Catholic Charities by contacting Karina Hernandez at 713.874.6645 or KHernandez@CatholicCharities.org.

New Programs

Catholic Charities Introduces Two New Programs Serving Galveston Community Thanks to Your Help

Catholic Charities has served the Galveston community through major natural disasters since 1943, and the organization has supported individuals and families in the midst of personal disasters as well.

Because of your generous support, Catholic Charities will expand its services to those in need in the Galveston and Bay Area.

As part of the organization’s plans to establish a long-term disaster presence throughout the Houston region, the Disaster Recovery Services program will expand services to those impacted by natural disasters in the Galveston and Bay Area. Thanks to you, Catholic Charities will be able to offer basic needs, financial assistance, and case management services to help them rebuild their lives.

The Galveston Bay Area office of Catholic Charities also introduced a new program for women veterans.

The Women Veteran Services program will extend its current services for female veterans to those in Galveston County. With your help, Catholic Charities will offer case management, housing assistance, utility assistance, and a peer-to-peer group to help women heal from past trauma.

The program will also offer one-on-one VA claims assistance in Galveston on a monthly basis to connect the women to additional services and support that may be available to them.

Your support also enables Catholic Charities to continue offering our transitional housing services for any woman veteran in Galveston that is homeless.

Catholic Charities has served the Galveston community throughout the years.

Parts of Galveston County have been devastated by disasters like Harvey, but with your help, Catholic Charities is able to offer case management services to help families rebuild and recover.

Enclosed is my donation for Catholic Charities in the amount of:

☐ $500 ☐ $250 ☐ $100 ☐ $75 ☐ $50 ☐ Surprise Us! $__________

Name: ______________________________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________________
Phone: _______________________  Email: ________________________________________

Return this coupon in the envelope provided to make your gift today.

Yes, I support Catholic Charities!

Make your tax-deductible donation payable to: Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Thank you for helping Catholic Charities serve more than $5,000 people in need every year!
Catholic Charities commemorated its 75th Anniversary at its Share the Mission Mass and Reception at Strake Jesuit on March 18, 2018.

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo celebrated mass with supporters and friends of Catholic Charities who enjoyed music provided by the St. Clare of Assisi Catholic School choir. He highlighted the organization’s mission of service to help those in need become self-sufficient, and thanked those in attendance for their dedicated support of Catholic Charities throughout the years.

The mass was followed by a reception where guests mingled, and enjoyed light bites and refreshments. Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate 75 years of changing lives with us!