



# ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Throughout eight decades, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston has evolved to adapt and meet the changing needs of our community, offering compassion and dignity to our neighbors in need.

The agency has fed people experiencing poverty, provided stable housing, strengthened families, and welcomed the stranger, extending assistance to refugees and migrants seeking a new and better life. In the face of natural disasters, the agency offered respite following hurricanes, floods and an unprecedented winter storm. Most recently, Catholic Charities continued serving people in need as the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc on our world virtually overnight.

The foundation of our work is and always has been rooted in Catholic social teaching, which emphasizes care for the destitute. In a world often driven by self-interest, we draw inspiration from the example of Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve. Through this lens, we extend a helping hand to the less fortunate as they seek to regain independence and an opportunity to survive and thrive.

For 80 years, Catholic Charities has kept its eyes and actions toward those in the greatest need, made possible by our generous and faithful donors, volunteers, and other dedicated supporters throughout the Archdiocese. Despite the world's sickness, sadness, and division, Catholic Charities has remained steadfast to its vision of "People of faith helping people in need achieve self-sufficiency and dignity."

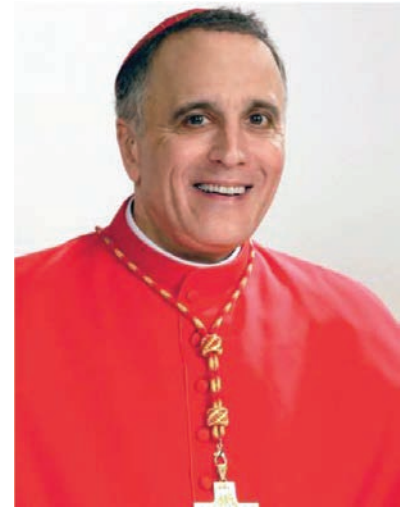
With your continued generosity, I am confident that Catholic Charities will remain a luminary in our community to those who turn to us in their darkest hours. Let us continue to be people of faith, extending our hands to those in need and embodying the principles that Christ himself exemplified.

May God bless you and the good work of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Daniel Cardinal DiNardo*

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo  
Archbishop of  
Galveston-Houston



His Eminence  
Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate our 80th anniversary, we are humbled and inspired by the incredible growth and impact we have achieved together over eight decades to help the most vulnerable.

Despite our growth, we have never lost sight of our dedication to serving the marginalized. Instead, through your help, we created innovative programs and initiatives that further our mission to assist even more people in need.

This past year was no different. As we emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, we responded to its many ripple effects, particularly in the form of soaring inflation rates, housing market fluctuations, and increased costs that have affected the everyday lives of families across our region.

Among the many ways we answered the call was the opening of the Beacon of Hope Isle Market in Galveston, extending a helping hand to those who struggle with hunger while consolidating and expanding Catholic Charities' footprint in the greater Galveston-Houston area. Additionally, we initiated an innovative, wrap-around model of services to help people experiencing housing instability.

At the core of our mission lies the belief that every individual is precious, and the dignity of the human person must be upheld above all else. This principle will guide our strategic direction for the next 80 years as we focus on enhancing the lives of those we serve by investing in technology, nurturing our talented team, and creating spaces that foster growth and connection. With your support, we envision Catholic Charities as the most efficient and effective social service provider in the Archdiocese.

Thank you to our donors, partners, and friends who join us on our mission to serve those in need and change lives.

In the Peace of Christ,



Gretchen Martinez Penny  
*Board Chair*



Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW  
*President and CEO*



Gretchen Martinez Penny



Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW

## Catholic Charities: 80 Years of Offering Hope to Our Community

In the words of Pope Francis, “The poor are not people ‘outside’ of our communities, but brothers and sisters whose sufferings we should share in an effort to alleviate their difficulties and marginalization, restore their lost dignity, and ensure their necessary social inclusion.”

These profound words embody the mission and spirit of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston as we celebrate eight decades of compassionate service. Throughout the last 80 years, thanks to your abundant generosity, we can feed the hungry, offer respite to refugees, assist immigrants, and provide shelter to the homeless while preserving the dignity and increasing self-sufficiency of each person we serve.

Our life-changing work began in 1943 when Bishop Christopher Byrne assigned Monsignor John J. Roach the task of creating Catholic Charities. The “Needy Family” program, the first initiative of Catholic Charities, provided emergency food and rent for area families. Soon after, the organization was deemed as a United Way agency, positioning it as a transformative force to positively change lives.

Throughout the years, Catholic Charities grew and evolved. Despite numerous name changes, our mission remained the same: to provide caring, compassionate services and advocate for social justice in collaboration with parishes and communities. Today, the organization is a steady presence in the Houston community, providing an array of support for children, seniors, families, refugees, and many others in need.

All that we have done and will continue to do to help those on the margins would not be possible without you. You have allowed us to remain a ray of hope in our community for the last 80 years, and your dedication to Catholic Charities will give us the support we need as we seek new and innovative ways to reach those in greatest need.

We look forward to furthering our mission, always guided by the teaching of the Catholic faith and grounded in God’s boundless love.



*Early office location at 1111 Lovett Boulevard*



*At 3520 Montrose Boulevard from 1983-1999*



*Current location: 2900 Louisiana Street*



## Key Milestones in Our History

- 1943** – Catholic Charities founded in Galveston; Bishop Christopher Byrne appointed Msgr. John Roach as the first executive director; Needy Families program provided families with emergency food and rent, help for pregnant women, counseling, foster care and adoption
- 1951** – Agency became a United Way agency
- 1963** – Agency adopted the name “Catholic Family and Children Services”
- 1972** – The name changed once again to “Catholic Community Services”
- 1975** – Refugee Resettlement began as a parish-based initiative to welcome Southeast Asians after the fall of Saigon
- 1986** – Began the Texas Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance, now known as the St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance
- 1987** – Opened Unaccompanied Juvenile Care Foster Care, now known as St. Michael’s Home for Children; began caring for HIV/AIDS clients, now known as the Stable Homes program
- 1995** – Diocese transferred Guadalupe Area Social Service Center, Villa Guadalupe and La Casita to serve the poor, homeless and elderly
- 1996** – Agency name changed to Associated Catholic Charities; acquired Catholic Charities of Galveston County from Diocese, which became Beacon of Hope Center in Galveston
- 1999** – Moved to the 2900 Louisiana Street location from 3520 Montrose
- 2001** – Agency returned to its original name, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston; Disaster Recovery program developed in response to Tropical Storm Allison
- 2003** – Catholic Charities began providing care for unaccompanied refugee minors and opened the St. Jerome Emiliani International Foster Care and Group Home
- 2005** – Disaster response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita
- 2010** – Catholic Charities opened offices at the Moran Health Center at 2615 Fannin Street
- 2011** – The Mamie George Community Center opened in Richmond, thanks to a land donation by the George Foundation
- 2012** – Catholic Charities incorporated the Lotus Project, later known as Permanent Supportive Housing under Women Veteran Services; Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW named President and CEO of Catholic Charities
- 2013** – Expanded Counseling Services to provide free in-school counseling at the 10 inner-city Catholic Schools in the Houston area
- 2015** – Blessed Beginnings launched to provide pregnancy/parenting education
- 2017** – Catholic Charities responded to the widespread devastation of Hurricane Harvey, expanded the Disaster Recovery Program
- 2020** – The agency launched comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including administration of the massive Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- 2021** – In response to the U.S. withdrawal of Afghanistan, the Refugee Resettlement Program nearly doubled in staffing to serve the influx of Afghan refugees
- 2022** – Galveston’s Beacon of Hope Center expanded the food pantry to become the self-select Isle Market



## Catholic Charities' Strategic Plan: Guiding the Way to a Brighter Future

In 2023, Catholic Charities made significant strides in advancing our comprehensive strategic plan. This plan is not merely a blueprint but a guiding light illuminating our path forward toward 2027 and beyond. It is a promise to those we serve and a commitment to invest in technology, people, and places to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Drawing from lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic and our 80-year legacy of service, we have the opportunity to transform the way we serve people and the potential to help more people than ever before.

At the core of our plan are people: the people we serve, the people we employ, and the people we engage with our mission.

As we look forward to the future, we are dedicated to enhancing the accessibility and efficiency of our services as we treat each individual and family with respect, dignity, and compassion in a warm and welcoming environment.

We realize we can only fulfill our mission with the commitment of our incredible staff. Our strategic plan outlines clear objectives for creating and maintaining a workplace that values diversity, nurtures talent, and acknowledges hard work.

Finally, our strategic plan calls for broadening our base of community support as we look to engage more groups and families through outreach, volunteerism, and other engagement opportunities. Cultivation of more donors and faithful stewardship of their gifts are top strategic initiatives as we create new and different ways to contribute to our mission.

With your continued support, we look forward to another year of transformative service to our community. Together, we will build a brighter future for countless individuals, helping those who need it most.

## Expanding Our Reach: Nourishing Communities Through Hunger Relief Initiatives

*“ ... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink ... ”  
Matthew 25:35*

In 2023, as the world began to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we maintained an even higher level of service for people who battle food insecurity across our communities.

We are grateful for your unwavering support during this past year, which allowed us to distribute 4.3 million total pounds of food to families and individuals facing hunger across our region, helping our neighbors in need 354,824 times through food fairs, food pantries, and other programs.

We expanded our efforts to alleviate hunger in Galveston, a community where nearly 15% of the population grapples with food insecurity. Because of your help, Catholic Charities was able to answer the call with the opening of the Beacon of Hope Isle Market.

This innovative market within the Galveston Island Community Center is designed as a “client choice” system, a best practice in food pantries. The approach empowers families and individuals to select items in a dignified grocery environment that caters to their unique preferences and nutritional requirements while minimizing waste.

Three times larger than the original food pantry, the Beacon of Hope Isle Market underscores our promise to address hunger on a larger scale. The expanded space also allows us to provide increased efficiency in financial assistance, case management, and volunteer engagement.

Your generosity has been instrumental in helping us serve low-income families and individuals in Galveston, providing not only food but hope for a better life. Thank you!



## Empowering Families for Eight Decades

Catholic Charities' 80-year history of creating and nurturing hope for countless families across the region serves as a lifeline for those facing hardship and adversity. At the heart of our mission is an unwavering commitment to the family unit, meeting basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter to alleviate immediate hardship while fostering stability and resilience.

Families are at the heart of every Catholic Charities program, from Blessed Beginnings – which provides parenting education to give children the best start, to Refugee Resettlement – where we help families build a new life after escaping from unspeakable violence in their countries of origin. Refugees come to America with full authorization from our government after an extensive vetting process. In the last year, our Refugee Resettlement Program grew dramatically as we welcomed newcomer families from Afghanistan, Ukraine and other nations.

While providing access to the essentials is crucial, Catholic Charities also recognizes that families require so much more than material assistance. Because of you, we offer a wide range of wrap-around programs, including counseling and mental health services. In times of crisis, families find solace in the compassionate care provided by professionals who help them understand and successfully navigate their struggles.

Thanks to your generous spirit, the impact of Catholic Charities extends into education and workforce development, helping families break the cycle of poverty and overcome substantial hurdles with the tools they need to create a brighter future.

Regardless of how many and what types of services we provide, our commitment is to restore dignity and self-sufficiency to families so that they are not merely recipients of aid but active participants in their own transformation. In doing so, we create a ripple effect of positive change that strengthens the very fabric of the communities we serve.



# FISCAL YEAR 2023

July 1, 2022 –  
June 30, 2023

# 353,824

**TIMES PEOPLE IN NEED  
RECEIVED SERVICES**

\*duplication between programs



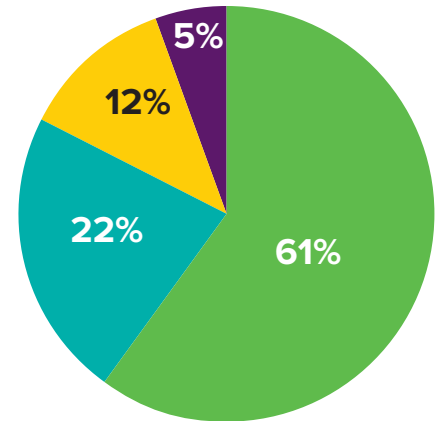
More than **90¢** of every dollar you gave went directly to children and families who need a helping hand



**22,919** volunteer hours;  
**3,562** volunteers

## SERVICES PROVIDED

(Numbers of times clients were served)



Food Fairs **213,269**  
Food Pantries **79,377**  
Individual Services **42,093**  
Information & Referrals **19,085**

## HOW YOU HELPED CHILDREN



**Blessed Beginnings** program provided education and support to **867** young parents



**73** inner-city students received **mental health counseling** -- to help with their behavior and academic achievement

## HOW YOU HELPED FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS



**1,054** households received **financial assistance** to cover utilities



**783** families received **counseling** to help them cope with the stress of everyday life



**2,076** families were provided with **housing assistance**, including emergency shelter and help with rent



**205** crime victims received counseling, emergency shelter, food, and financial assistance



**124** women veterans were provided with career, mental health and peer support



**16,236** nutritious free meals were served to **seniors** in Patty's Cafe at the Mamie George Community Center

## HOW YOU HELPED REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

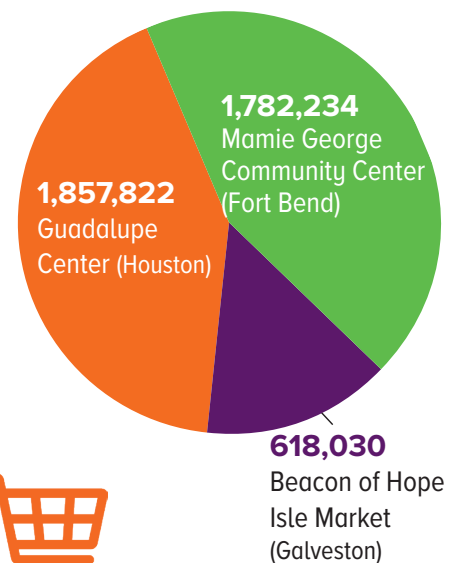


**8,717** refugees were helped to settle in our community



**5,811** immigrants received information, assessments, and legal representation

## 4.3 MILLION POUNDS of food distributed



**Thanks to your generous gifts, children, seniors and families avoided the desperation of hunger**

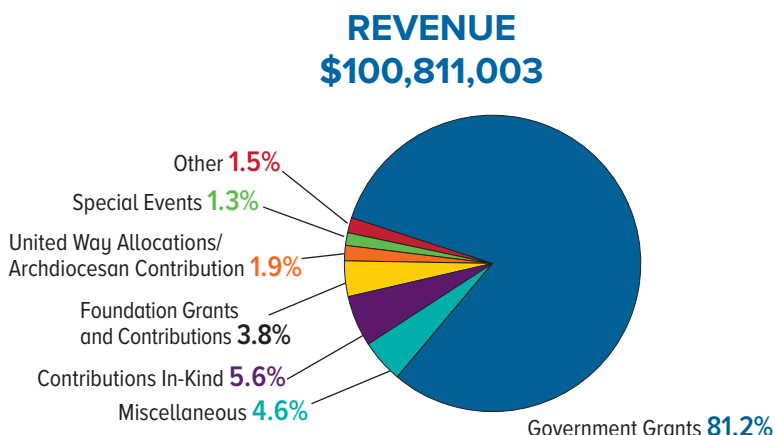
# FY 2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2023 (unaudited)

*Note: Includes activity from Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program, now the Houston-Harris County Eviction Intervention Program*

## REVENUE

Government Grants	\$81,893,449
Contributions In-Kind	5,678,304
Foundation Grants and Contributions	3,827,209
Special Events	1,342,974
United Way Allocations	1,071,173
Archdiocesan Contribution	852,500
Miscellaneous	4,603,493
Other:	
Program Service Fees	544,399
Investment Return	961,501
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$100,811,003</b>



## EXPENSES

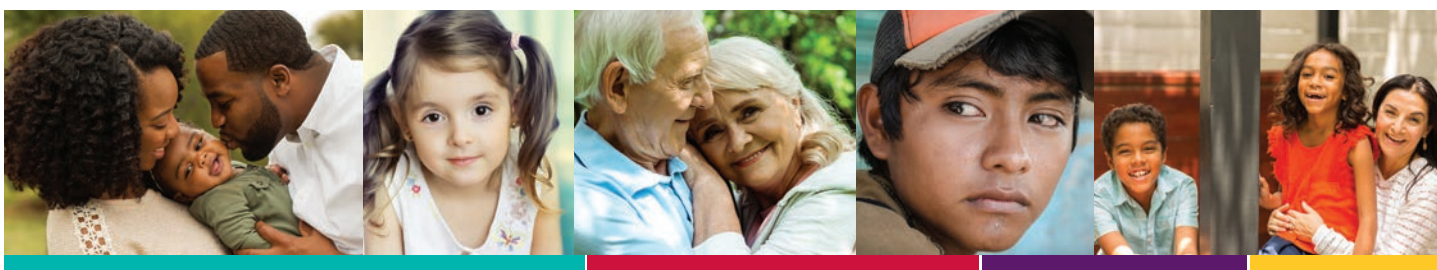
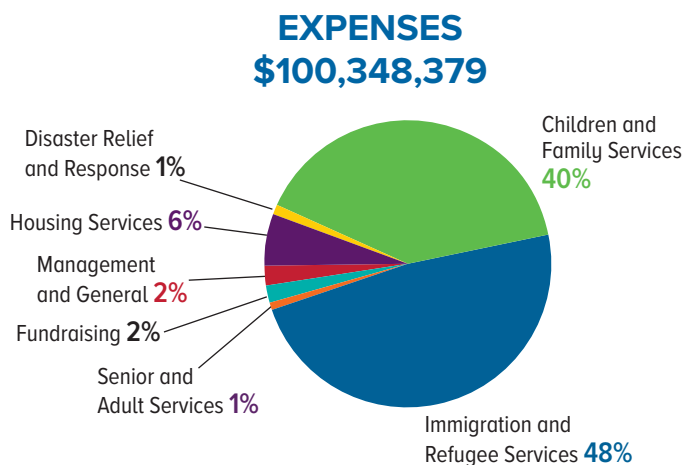
### PROGRAM SERVICES

Children and Family Services	\$39,727,930
Senior and Adult Services	674,329
Immigration and Refugee Services	48,590,151
Disaster Relief and Response	1,006,114
Housing Services	5,480,892
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$95,479,416</b>

### SUPPORT SERVICES

Management and General	\$2,424,620
Fundraising	2,444,343
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>\$4,868,963</b>

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$100,348,379**



# Board of Directors | Advisory Boards 2022-2023

## Board of Directors

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of Galveston-Houston*  
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David Harvey, Jr.  
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*President/CEO*  
Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW

\* *ex officio*

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Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston*

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Sister Pauline Troncale CCVI  
  
*Regional Director*  
Elizabeth Kinard





## OUR VISION

People of faith helping people in need achieve self-sufficiency and live with dignity.

## OUR MISSION

Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities helps people in southeast Texas by providing caring, compassionate services and advocating for social justice in collaboration with parishes and communities.

## OUR CORE VALUES

**FAITH** Inspired by the Gospel and our Catholic tradition, we serve as a healing presence with special concern for our neighbors who are vulnerable, respecting their diversity and dignity.

**INTEGRITY** We foster a high quality workplace and inspire trust through personal leadership. We are honest and ethical in all aspects of our organization.

**COLLABORATION** We work together with people who support common values and vision to achieve shared goals.

 **Catholic Charities**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON  
People of Faith. Helping People in Need.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston  
2900 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77006 • 713.526.4611 • [www.CatholicCharities.org](http://www.CatholicCharities.org)

