

GOOD NEWS NOW

The newsletter of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



Summer 2020



Raghad fled violence in her home country to find a better life in the U.S. but struggled to find work. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholic Charities helped her receive the training she needed to earn a new job, thanks to your support.

You Helped Raghad Find Employment During a Pandemic

Raghad is bright young woman and a friendly smile. She worked hard to earn her degree and was excelling in her career in her native Iraq.

But, because the increasing political unrest and violence put her life in danger, she made the tough decision to flee, and with what little money she was able to save took a chance at a new life in the United States.

Despite her education and experience, Raghad struggled to find work in the U.S. Her bills began to pile up, and she wondered how she would survive.

Then, because of your support, Raghad found help through Catholic Charities. She enrolled in one of our vocational training programs that helped her develop a plan to find work. She attended workshops on job readiness to learn how to write a resume, interview skills and how to network.

With so many newly unemployed people looking for work because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Raghad's struggle to find a job became even more difficult. However, thanks to your support, Catholic Charities continued to serve people in need like Raghad. Staff connected her to employers within their network and helped her prepare for interviews.

With their help, Raghad impressed employers with her experience and professionalism, and secured her first professional job in the U.S. in quality management.

"I want to thank Catholic Charities for their efforts in providing me with tools and advice to navigate my job search journey until I landed my first professional job in the U.S. I'm so grateful!"

Thank you for helping people like Raghad earn jobs and become self-sufficient!

You Help Bring Food and Comfort to Vulnerable Fort Bend Seniors



For Ramona, the only food she has to eat comes from deliveries to her home during the COVID-19 pandemic, made possible by gracious donors like you.

"Some days I cry." These heartbreaking words come from Ramona, one of the seniors who, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, can no longer come to the Mamie George Community Center (MGCC) in Richmond each weekday for fellowship and a nutritious meal.

Because of you, seniors like Ramona receive meals and groceries to keep them nourished as the pandemic rages through the summer heat. Volunteers deliver food, smiling and maintaining safe distance to protect this vulnerable population. For many of the seniors, these deliveries are the only food they'll have.

With your support, seniors like Ramona know that they are not truly alone, even if they can't come to the center for fitness classes and spend time with friends over a jigsaw puzzle. While the visits from the volunteers are comforting, Ramona still looks forward to the day she can return to the MGCC "I love to be at the Center. I miss that. It's killing me every day."

In addition to food and companionship, many seniors came to the MGCC to escape the summer heat. Now stuck in houses without air conditionings, they are suffering in sweltering heat. Thankfully, gracious donors like you are making sure that seniors don't have to suffer. The Center recently received a generous donation of air conditioning units for the seniors we serve.

The first unit went to a single grandmother who cares for eight grandchildren. She and the youngest child were recently hospitalized with serious health conditions. Typically, they cool their home with three air conditioning units, but all three stopped working. They are very grateful to be able to cool a portion of their home.

Thank you for enabling Catholic Charities to continue bringing comfort, nourishment and dignity to seniors like Ramona!

Continuing To Serve



To the poor also extend your hand, that your blessing may be complete. Sirach 7:32

Dear Friends,

Earlier this summer, Pope Francis began his homily by emphasizing Sirach 7:32:

"This pandemic arrived suddenly and caught us unprepared, sparking a powerful sense of bewilderment and helplessness. Yet hands never stopped reaching out to the poor.

This has made us all the more aware of the presence of the poor in our midst and their need for help."

We all face uncertainty in our daily lives amid the COVID-19 pandemic, but these words are as timely as ever.

Many families already struggling to survive continue to face great hardship. Thousands have lost their jobs and face hunger, homelessness and isolation.

But because of you, Catholic Charities has continued to serve our most vulnerable brothers and sisters during this crisis. We have been able to uphold our mission and ministry to provide help and hope to those families in desperate need.

In just a few months, we provided more than 1.3 million pounds of food to 115,000 people through our "drive-thru" food distributions so far. More than 2,600 home deliveries to vulnerable seniors and parents of young children unable to leave their homes received food, supplies, diapers and more, thanks to your generosity.

Despite the challenges, Catholic Charities is committed to our mission as people of faith helping people in need. With your help, we will continue to extend our hand to the poor and vulnerable, and meet whatever needs arise from this crisis.

I continue to pray for God's mercy and protection for you, and hope you are all safe and healthy. Thank you and God bless you!

In the peace of Christ,

Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW
President and CEO

Program Feature

Virtual Services

Your support helps us keep serving during the pandemic...virtually



Thanks to you, the coronavirus can't stop Catholic Charities

Because you are with us during times of crisis, Catholic Charities never missed a beat in providing services when the COVID-19 pandemic first hit our community. Your support enabled us to make quick adjustments to ensure that our staff continues to serve people in need while maintaining a safe distance. Even though we can't provide a hug or a handshake, we can still reach out via phone calls, texting and e-mail to connect with low income families whose ongoing struggles are compounded by financial loss caused by the pandemic.

Catholic Charities uses technology to open the door to food and financial help through our Family Assistance Program. People who are in danger of hunger or homelessness can enter a request for rental assistance through our website, CatholicCharities.org, and find a schedule for the latest drive-through food distribution at one of our network of food pantries.

Thanks to the resources you make available to us, Catholic Charities can use web-based video-conferencing tools like Zoom to keep families informed. Our St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance held virtual "Know Your Rights" legal presentations, known as "charlas," in addition to maintaining an in-person presence at their offices on the North Loop.

The Blessed Beginnings Life Center holds parent education classes via Zoom, to ensure that young parents can maintain contact with others during a time when group gatherings can't be held.

With your support, Catholic Charities' Counseling and Behavioral Health Clinic uses video counseling to maintain visual contact with their clients while they're miles apart. The online Zoom-like setting allows the counselor to interact more effectively with the client by reading body language and facial expressions during the session.

Mission Moment

COVID-19 Response



You Helped Provide More Than One Million Pounds of Food to Thousands of Families in Need

Since the beginning of March, Catholic Charities has served more than 1 million pounds of food at our “drive-thru” food distributions at our regional food pantries. With your help, more than 100,000 individuals greatly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic have been able to receive to provide nutritious food to feed their families.

Thank you for serving as the hands and feet of Christ to these vulnerable families!

Volunteer with us!

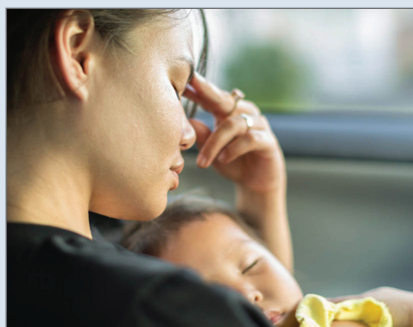
Our food distributions need compassionate and dedicated volunteers to continue serving the community. Sign up online or learn more at CatholicCharities.org/volunteer.

Mamie George Named as Houston Food Bank Super Site

Beginning in June, Catholic Charities' Mamie George Community Center (MGCC) began serving as one of the Houston Food Bank's Neighborhood Super Sites, hosting large-scale food distribution to hundreds of area low income residents who are struggling even more to keep food on the table during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This partnership enables Catholic Charities to serve 50% more families in need with up to 60 pounds of food items including non-perishables, fresh milk and produce, and frozen meats.

Thank you to our donors, volunteers, and partners who continue to help feed struggling families!



Thank you for helping Catholic Charities serve almost 100,000 people in need every year!

✓ **Yes, I support Catholic Charities!**

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

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Surprise Us! \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

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

We're on a Mission. Come join us!

2020 Mission of Love Campaign benefiting Catholic Charities in Fort Bend County

Because of your support, Mission of Love has been instrumental to the growth and success of Catholic Charities' Mamie George Community Center over the past six years. But during the pandemic, we are taking a different approach so your contribution will have maximum impact now when it's needed most.

While we are not able to hold our annual gala this year, we are still on a Mission of Love to help struggling families in our community.

Please join our 2020 Mission of Love campaign by making a gift or becoming a sponsor to help vulnerable families and seniors in Fort Bend County receive life-saving programs and services.

We hope you will join us in recognizing our 2020 honorees Tom and Norma Petrowicz. When circumstances permit, we will honor them in person by hosting a Thank You Celebration at the Mamie George Community Center.

For more information, please visit us at CatholicCharities.org/missionoflove or contact Matt Johns at 713-874-6659 or MJohns@CatholicCharities.org.

MISSION OF LOVE

Benefiting Catholic Charities in Fort Bend County

TOGETHER In Spirit

Together, We Can Help Families In Need

Thank you! While we missed seeing you in person, we are grateful to have had your family join ours virtually for our Together in Spirit online fundraiser on June 25. You helped us raise more than \$124,000 for the families we serve! Because of you, thousands of families have received food, emergency financial assistance, diapers and baby items, counseling and more during this global crisis.

Missed the event? You can re-watch anytime on our website at CatholicCharities.org/together.

100 years from now you can still be giving to Catholic Charities.

Leave a charitable bequest to Catholic Charities and create a personal legacy that endures *forever*.

Our brochure explains everything you need to know to set up an endowment, memorial fund ... and more.



Contact us for your **FREE** brochure:

713.874.6624

bequests@catholiccharities.org



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