



Spring 2019



Thanks to you, this week Mary's family will eat healthy foods like these oranges and apples that she received at the Guadalupe Center food fair.

Because of Your Help, Mary Can Feed Her Family

You make the difference for thousands of families like Mary's through Catholic Charities' Family Assistance Program.

Mary wears a cheery yellow cap to a recent food fair at Guadalupe Center that reflects her tenacity to get through life: "I pray to the Lord every day and every night. I'm pretty sure he'll open a door to help us."

Thanks to your kind heart and generous gifts to Catholic Charities, Mary's family is one of the thousands served each month by the Family Assistance Program at the Guadalupe Center.

Mary has no car and must ride the bus, pulling a battered maroon suitcase that she uses to transport food back home. The nutritious food you help provide to Mary at the food fair is a godsend. "We barely have enough money to pay the rent and bills. There's no money left for groceries," she says.

Because of you, the staff at the Guadalupe Center is helping Mary apply for food stamps, which she hopes will give her family budget a little breathing room.

Your support for Catholic Charities gives Mary hope. "I don't want to give up on life. Every day counts. Every day is precious to me."

Myths and Facts: What's the Truth About Hunger?



It's easy to make assumptions about families who need help keeping food on the table. Here are some common myths – and facts – about hunger.

MYTH: If you're hungry, you must be homeless or unemployed, or just plain lazy.

FACT: Most of the families who come to our food pantries are not homeless, and they have at least one working adult. Four in ten working families are struggling to get by: people like retail workers, waiters, administrative assistants, school teachers.

MYTH: Hunger – or food insecurity – happens somewhere else, not near me.

FACT: Do you have a friend or neighbor who has had to deal with long term unemployment or a major medical crisis? They could be dealing with food insecurity as a result. That's what happens when there isn't money to buy enough nutritious food for a healthy lifestyle. Food insecurity is everywhere – literally in every single county and congressional district.

MYTH: The problem is so overwhelming that I can't make a difference.

FACT: Your gifts to Catholic Charities make all the difference for a family that struggles with hunger. We can make your donations go a long way toward preventing hunger for families who visit one of our five food pantries throughout the greater Houston area. Thank you for your support!

Open Your Hearts and Hands to Others

We are all called to be “People of Faith.
Helping People in Need.”



Dear Friends,

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...” Matt 25:35

A central theme threaded throughout Scripture is the call to help those who are in need. It's not just a suggestion. It's a requirement for those who follow Christ's command to love our neighbors.

Thanks to your faithful support, Catholic Charities prevents hunger and homelessness for thousands of our neighbors every year. Our Family Assistance Program stands ready with arms wide open to serve God's children through five different food pantries throughout the greater Houston area. Our compassionate staff spends time with each person who comes in to see what else they need in addition to food: money to cover the rent or utilities, a warm coat in winter, or help paying for medicine.

Because you walk with us, last year we helped nearly 53,000 people in need through our Family Assistance Program. In fact, those families represent the majority of all those who are helped by Catholic Charities on an ongoing basis. We're grateful that your gracious support allows us to meet essential human needs.

Please accept my warm gratitude for your continued partnership in obedience to our Savior.

In the peace of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia N. Colbert".

Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW
President and CEO

Program Feature

Help and Hope, Not Hunger and Homelessness

Your compassion for our neighbors in need helps us prevent homelessness



Because of you, in addition to food the Family Assistance Program keeps families safely housed by providing financial assistance with rent and utilities.

With your support, Catholic Charities keeps families fed and in their homes through the Family Assistance Program, which operates from locations throughout the greater Houston area.

In a typical week more than a thousand families come to the Family Assistance Program because they're experiencing an emergency of some type: not enough food to eat, an eviction notice or a threat to turn off utilities. Because of your support, a program staff member spends time to identify the needs of each person, then offers meaningful aid to move past the crisis.

Almost everyone comes in needing food. Because of you, our five food pantries provide more than a million pounds of food annually. At two locations – Guadalupe Center and the Mamie George Community Center in Fort Bend County – pantry operations are supplemented by food fairs, held on Saturdays, open to anyone in the community.

Food fairs are designed to get massive quantities of food into hungry households quickly and efficiently. On a recent weekend at Guadalupe Center, volunteers passed out oranges, onions, yams, and more to 200 people at the Saturday food fair. The weekend hours make it easier for working, but low-income, families to participate.

Because of you, in addition to food the Family Assistance Program keeps families safely housed by providing financial assistance with rent and utilities. Caring program staff help in many other ways, including helping people sign up for benefits that can help them stay food secure, such as SNAP (commonly known as food stamps).

People of Faith. Helping People in Need.

Your Ongoing Support Provides a Blessing to the Poor

With your support, as long as poverty exists, Catholic Charities will be here to provide help and hope to people in need.

“For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’” Deut. 15:11

Mission Moments

Food for Hungry Families Throughout Galveston-Houston

Your gifts keep the doors open at a network of area food pantries



Thanks to your generosity, Catholic Charities' Family Assistance Program provides emergency food and financial help to families at five locations:

Guadalupe Center

On weekdays, the Lewis and Joan Lowenstein Foundation Pan De Vida Food Pantry serves nutritious groceries to families from any zip code. Two Saturdays a month, we host large-scale food distribution in a farmers market-style setting.

Trini's Market at Mamie George Community Center in Fort Bend County

Considered a model for food pantry operations, Trini's Market allows families to select the food they want to take home during weekday visits. Once a month, a Saturday food fair distributes massive quantities of fresh produce and other nutritious food to anyone in the community.

Bay Area Food Pantry

Based in the United Way Bay Area Service Center, the food pantry provides nutritious food to families who struggle to have enough food for a healthy life.

Beacon of Hope Food Pantry on Galveston Island

The Beacon of Hope is the only city-wide food pantry in Galveston available to help anyone in need, located in the Galveston Community Center near other social service agencies.

Beacon of Hope Food Pantry in Texas City

In addition to supplementing family food supplies, the Beacon of Hope in Texas City provides needy families with emergency financial assistance for expenses such as rent or utilities.

Volunteer Spotlight

We are often asked if children can volunteer, and the answer is YES! Many thanks to the team from Memorial Hermann who made their time serving at our Guadalupe Family Assistance Center a family affair! Thank you so much for pitching in to help to feed hungry families!

Want your group to volunteer with us? Call 713.874.6645 or sign up at <https://CatholicCharities.org/volunteer>.



Thank you for helping Catholic Charities serve more than 85,000 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.



PANCAKE FESTIVAL

\$5 all-you-can-eat pancakes

June 8th – 7am - 12pm

Benefiting programs and services
in Fort Bend County

FREE carnival games, face painting,
jump house, live entertainment and more

Mamie George Community Center
1111 Collins Road, Richmond, TX 77469
281-202-6200

Diaper Drive

Help us keep babies from low income
families clean and dry. Donate diapers
in May to the Houston Catholic Radio
Month of Mary Drive for Diapers,
benefitting Catholic Charities.

Donation locations and times are
available at

www.CatholicCharities.org/diaperdrive

Month of Mary

DRIVE
for
DIAPERS

HELP FAMILIES OF SMALL
CHILDREN IN NEED

Donate or drop off diapers at a
Catholic Charities location near you



Benefitting
Catholic Charities
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON
**BLESSED BEGINNINGS
LIFE CENTER**

in partnership with
KSHJ AM 1430
Guadalupe Radio Network

How Your Gifts Are Used

At Catholic Charities, we are grateful for your
support and put your gifts to work immediately
helping the most vulnerable in our community.
Each year more than 90% of the gifts received
are used to help those who have the least.
Your gift has a tremendous impact on those
we serve, helping to lift people out of poverty
and setting them on a path to self-sufficiency.
Thank you!

3%



Management and
Fundraising

97%



Programs and
Services



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.

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Contact us for your **FREE** brochure:

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