

CHRISTUS FOUNDATION GRANT

Catholic Charities Provides Free Counseling at 10 Schools

To strengthen families and students in 10 inner-city Catholic schools, free counseling services are available through Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston thanks to CHRISTUS Foundation for Healthcare.

The foundation awarded a generous grant of \$175,000 for two years, totaling \$350,000. This funding, beginning in September 2013, has allowed Catholic Charities to place two full-time, bilingual licensed counselors to rotate among 10 schools serving children from Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade. Working with Sister Charles Anne Solomon, Associate Superintendent of School for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, the program hopes to seek additional funding to allow four full-time counselors to serve 15 schools by the start of 2015–2016 school years.

"Thanks to the generosity of CHRISTUS Foundation for Healthcare, we now have the ability to expand our mission of service into 10 Catholic Schools where we are delivering support, education, and healing to a number of young students and their families," said Ernesto Lopez, Director for Catholic Charities Counseling Services.

"Delivering these services directly within the schools, at no cost to families, and in either Spanish or English will eliminate a number of barriers that might otherwise prevent these children and their caregivers from accessing these services on their own...We have already been met with very positive and enthusiastic responses from a number of parents, teachers, principals, and pastors," Lopez said.

In one such case, an 11-year-old boy was referred to counseling by his mother due to a recent divorce between his parents. The child was exhibiting anger, self-injury and low academic performance, according to the counselor. He attended counseling and a safety plan was completed by working closely with his mother to learn healthy coping strategies and positive ways to express his feelings. He has adjusted to school and a new home and has made new friends.

Sister Charles Anne said, "The whole issue of mental health is very important for our schools. We want to equip our children with life skills to help them have a successful future."

The issues being addressed include bullying, social isolation, depression, building self-esteem, and interpersonal relationships. Each school will have a counselor present at least one day per week, with the counseling team providing individual counseling, group counseling and presentations to students and families.

Supplemental counseling work will include educational services for teachers, principals and school staff. All services will be made available free of charge, addressing the needs of low-income families who lack adequate medical insurance coverage.

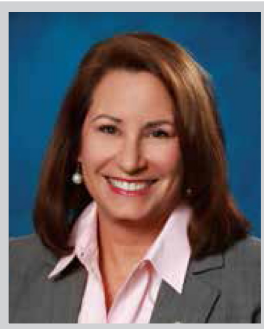


Sister Charles Ann Solomon, OP, Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and Catholic Charities Counseling Services Director Ernesto Lopez meet parents and children at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School

Research shows school counseling services positively impact students by:

- 1 Improving students' academic achievements
- 2 Decreasing classroom disturbances by improving student behavior
- 3 Reducing test anxiety
- 4 Helping students and families with coping skills

FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO



Dear Friends,

Recently I attended an event to support Star of Hope, an agency that we collaborate with on a regular basis. Amy Grant, a Christian artist, performed as the entertainer that evening. I keep remembering the words from one of her songs, "Greet the Day." In the chorus she sings, "Lord, lead me to the ones I need

and to the one who's needing me, I won't assume the worst is true and I'll do the best that I can do. This is how I greet the day."

Since attending the event, I have often reflected on these words as they pertain to our work at Catholic Charities and asked myself, "Is this how we greet the day?" As I observe our programs, staff and volunteers and pass through our busy lobby, I know that every day God leads us to the people who need us most.

With 15 programs in four impact areas, we can provide services like housing, life skills education, food, emergency assistance, and counseling—services that help to strengthen families. Sometimes, I will admit, it can be daunting to find the resources needed to sustain

our programs. But, together, we can either focus on problems, or, we can focus on opportunities. It is all a matter of perspective. So, as a ministry, we choose to greet each day by focusing not just on the tremendous issues and barriers our clients face, rather, we focus on their uniqueness, their dignity as a child of God, their gifts, their strengths and we work really hard to help them with resources that enable them to become more self-sufficient.

For those who suffer from poverty, it is not an easy road out of poverty. They need someone to help them, to believe in them, to support them when things go wrong, and to celebrate when they take a step forward. We want to support our families to see and access opportunities—that help them out of poverty forever.

I am so grateful for all of you who provide your time, your talents and your financial support to help us advance our mission. You see possibilities in each person that we serve; each person is an opportunity to share God's love and grace through our many programs and services.

Thank you for all that you do. Today, my prayer for you is that God leads you to the ones who need you and that you are led to the ones that you most need, too.

In Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia N. Colbert". The script is fluid and cursive.

Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW
President/CEO

Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Catholic Charities announced the election of new board officers at the annual meeting held on March 25. The board and staff are collectively dedicated to leading Catholic Charities in the implementation of the new strategic plan, "Building Bridges to the Future." In addition to welcoming the new officers, board and advisory members, Catholic Charities recognized outgoing board members Dennis Malloy and Anne Dunlap, as well as outgoing board chair David Harvey, Jr.

"We are deeply blessed in many ways as we work to benefit the least among us, but in no greater way than by the caliber and commitment of those who guide us and lead us at the Board level," said Cynthia Colbert, President of Catholic Charities.

"Each of our officers and our board members manage overwhelming demands on their time, but each generously devotes their talent and treasure to Catholic Charities."

BOARD OFFICERS 2014–15

JAMES E. BASHAW, CHAIR, is the president and CEO of James E. Bashaw and Co., a proud father of two young adults, a husband, and a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church. He joined the board in 2007, becoming Vice Chair in 2011. "I am humbled to be the new Chairman of Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston. This is an awesome agency that serves over 77,000 of Christ poor and disadvantaged in our area each year. As I often say, Catholic Charities does what Christ calls us all to do—feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick and in some cases we see to the burial of those who have completed their mission here on earth," said Mr. Bashaw, whose term began on April 1.

JOHN KAFKA, VICE CHAIR, is the President and CEO of Chamberlin Roofing and Waterproofing. He has served on the board since 2009 and is also of St. Michael's Catholic Church.

KEVIN RECH, TREASURER, is Senior Vice President and Manager of Amegy Bank. He has been a board member since 2011 and is a member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

LISA GANUCHEAU, SECRETARY, has been a board member since 2012, and is a parishioner both at St. Vincent de Paul in Houston and Holy Family in Galveston.

Catholic Charities welcomes our new board leadership! Please keep them in your prayers as they guide Catholic Charities in implementation of the new strategic plan.

"THE CARDINAL'S KREWE"

Inaugural Fundraiser Big Success for Fort Bend

Catholic Charities hosted a fun-filled inaugural fundraising dinner "The Cardinal's Krewe," with His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo at the Sugar Land Marriott Town Center.

The Mardi Gras-themed event on February 27 raised more than \$116,000 with festivities including an underwriter's reception, live auction, masks and beads galore, dinner, and remarks from Cardinal DiNardo.

To highlight its Fort Bend services that help senior citizens and families in need, Catholic Charities introduced its newly appointed Mamie George Community Center Executive Director, Beth Zarate, who has returned to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston after serving three years as the Executive Director of Lubbock's Catholic Charities.

"Before going to Lubbock, I was the Parish Social Ministry director for Catholic Charities in Houston and served on the planning committee to build Mamie George Community Center so it's wonderful to help bring services to the community," Zarate said.

"I am so excited to be coming back home to Fort Bend," said the Fulshear native.

Another invited speaker, Humberto Perez, one of the center's senior clients, shared his story about how the center served as a conduit to form new friendships for him and his wife as well as services such as art classes and nutritious meals.

Mark and Susan Ryan chaired the event, while Gene and Pat Reed, of EE Reed Construction, served as the underwriters. These individuals went above and beyond to ensure that this was a fun and festive event for all who attended. Fort Bend County Judge Robert Hebert served as the master of ceremonies and Commissioner James Patterson did an outstanding job as auctioneer. ARTreach's artist Mark DeLeon wowed attendees with a live painting of a giant Mardi Gras mask that was auctioned off.

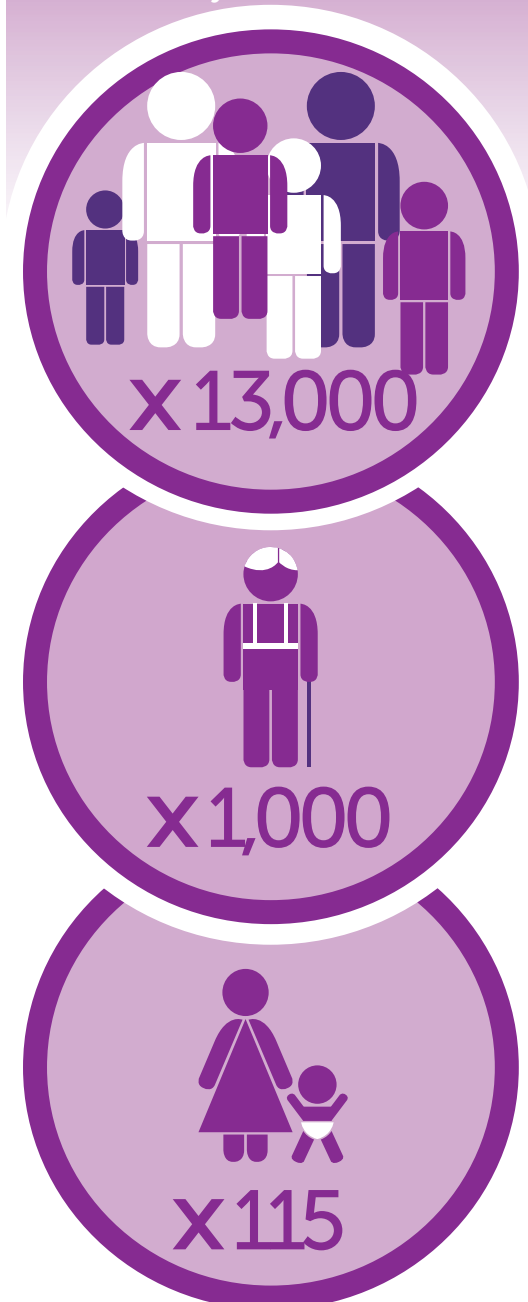
Other auction items included a gold crucifix necklace blessed by Pope Francis, which was generously donated by Susan Ryan and Diane Terry, and a hand-sewn quilt designed by sixteen seniors at the Mamie George Community Center and quilted by Pat Hebert.

All proceeds benefit Catholic Charities' Fort Bend County services at the Mamie George Community Center, 1111 Collins Road in Richmond, and the Rio Bend Foster Care Community.



From left to right: His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo and The Cardinal's Krewe Chairs Susan and Mark Ryan

Last year, more than 13,000 people were served at the food pantry at Mamie George Community Center and more than 1,000 seniors received congregate meals in the cafeteria. In addition, 115 people, including foster children and parents were served in our St. Jerome Emiliani program, including our Rio Bend location in Richmond, Texas. The funding will impact the lives of seniors, families and foster children. Thank you Fort Bend County!



BIRTH MOTHERS

The Everlasting Gift

When Kacey Weinkam was pregnant with a little boy, she said she felt lost and confused because she knew that she could not care for him at the time. Now she wants to help other birth mothers who have chosen adoption as a loving option by being part of the "The Everlasting Gift," a retreat for birth mothers hosted by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Catholic Charities helped me find the right path. But I know other birth mothers may still need the positive healing that they did the right thing by choosing adoption for their child.

—Kacey



The retreat is open to all women, clients and non-clients, who have made the choice to place their child for adoption. It is scheduled for August 15–17 at the peaceful and wooded Cenacle Retreat Center, 420 N. Kirkwood Road.

Rev. Monsignor Frank Rossi, pastor of St. Michael Catholic Church, who will be the spiritual director of the retreat, said, "Sometimes the most difficult decisions of our lives are the most blessed. For a single or vulnerable woman to lovingly offer her newborn child through adoption to a married couple longing to be an expanded family is an act of deep faith and selfless love."

He added, "It leaves in the heart of the birth mother a mixture of joy and sadness, certainty and doubt. This retreat is an opportunity for birth mothers to come together in a spirit of prayer and support, seeking God's continued grace on them and the children whom they gifted with life."

The Everlasting Gift committee chair Lisa Miranda said, "Our retreat recognizes that a birth mother will always have love in her heart for her child. I want our birth mothers to know that they are incredible women who

From left to right: Adoption Specialist Colleen Kitowski, birth mother Kacey Weinkam, The Everlasting Gift Committee Chair Lisa Miranda and Vice President of Children's Services Lanette Gonzales

have given the most miraculous gift of love and life to a loving couple. But they are not forgotten and we understand that there is an emptiness in their hearts that needs to be acknowledged."

Colleen Kitowski, adoption specialist for Catholic Charities, agreed wholeheartedly and said this will be a retreat that can help them heal.

Kitowski said, "The goal of the retreat is to honor the courageous choices these women make—to give life to their baby. There are so many choices now, but they have chosen life for their baby and given a child everlasting love."

To donate towards the scholarship or to register to attend the retreat, please call Colleen at 713.874.6760 or email ckitowski@catholiccharities.org. Online registration and donations will also be accepted at www.CatholicCharities.org

HONORING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Dedicated volunteers at Catholic Charities contributed more than 27,500 volunteer hours at the Mamie George Community Center in 2013. According to the think tank, Independent Sector, volunteer hours are estimated at a value of \$22.50 per hour. So this translates to \$618,750 in services! Patricia Garmon, Volunteer & Social Enterprise Initiatives Manager for Mamie George, thanked the volunteers at a Feb. 17 event, saying "WE truly appreciate our volunteers and we want to acknowledge them for giving their time, talents, energy and resources to help those in need in our community."

St. Laurence Catholic Church in Sugar Land sponsored youths at the Mamie George Community Center in Richmond to start spring planting in the community garden. All of the food harvested will be used for our senior citizen clients. The parish won our Charity in Action award this year. Thank you, St. Laurence!

Caritas Day on April 5 brought 500 volunteers from the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart to assist agencies across the city, including our Catholic Charities' senior citizens by helping with yard work. Other groups played games



From left to right is Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart parishioner Elsie Hernandez, Pastor Fr. Lawrence Jozwiak, and Joseph Hernandez

with children at our St. Michael's Homes for Children. Thank you Co-Cathedral!

Joiner Law Firm attorneys and staff held an Easter Egg Hunt for foster children and their families on March 29. They set up the Easter egg hunt, along with crafts and games and also provided lunch. A fun day was had by all!

With April being Volunteer Appreciation Month, we are scheduled to hold an April 23 Appreciation dinner for our volunteers to show how thankful we are for their support.

Strengthening Families in Texas City

Texas City residents, in need of rental assistance and wanting to improve their education for a better job, will benefit from a new partnership with Catholic Charities and the College of the Mainland.

Catholic Charities' Texas City office, at 712 5th Avenue North, will refer clients to participate in the College of the Mainland's Adult Education Program, after Catholic Charities President/CEO Cynthia N. Colbert and President of the College of the Mainland Dr. Beth Lewis signed a memorandum of understanding recently.

Case Manager Annie Cazares, who oversees the Catholic Charities' Texas City office, said, "This collaboration with College of the Mainland will assist clients and students in career pathways through COM's ESL, GED, and GED vocational training."

The training certification program is for local in-demand jobs that are listed in the Gulf Coast Workforce Development Board's High-Skill/High Growth Occupations List or students transitioning to college credit through COM's Adult Education program, College Success Academy.

Catholic Charities' Texas City office has assisted a total of 240 families or 568 individuals with basic needs in 2013, Cazares said.

The office received \$9,000 in federal funding from the Emergency and Shelter program to help distribute to clients in need of rental assistance.

Volunteers
make a
difference!!

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR A COMPLETE LISTING, BUT HERE ARE A FEW WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP OUT:

Food Pantry Volunteer at the Guadalupe Center in Houston. Volunteers are needed to meet and greet clients, assist with food orders, and keep the pantry running.

Front Desk Reception at our 2900 Louisiana office, especially those who are bilingual English/Spanish.

Mentor young mothers and fathers in our Pregnant and Parenting program.

Soccer sponsor for our foster care and shelter programs.

For more information, call Rhonda Sepulveda, Volunteer Manager at 713.874.6672 or email at rsepulveda@CatholicCharities.org



James "Jeb" Bashaw, *Chair*
John Kafka, *Vice Chair*
Kevin Rech, *Treasurer*
Lisa M. Ganucheau, *Secretary*
David Harvey, Jr., *Immediate Past Chair*
Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW, *President/CEO*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

John R. Allender
Clark D. Baker
George Henry Brueggeman, Jr.
Richard Celli
Monit Cheung, Ph.D., LCSW
Mary A. Cronin
Nancy Z. Evetts
Jeffery D. Hildebrand
Albert Kasumaj
Andrius R. Kontrimas
Stan Marek
Diana Davila Martinez
Gene Reed
Laura M. Robertson
Marlene C. Williams
Michael W. Youtt

ADVISORY DIRECTORS
Most Rev. George A. Sheltz
Auxiliary Bishop

Alice and Philip J. Burguières
Tammy Linbeck Casey
Cynthia Cisneros
Robert Corrigan, Jr.
Percy Creuzot, III
Anne Dunlap
Donald Earthman
Harriet Foster
Keith Fullenweider

Chuck Gremillion
Colin F. Hageney
Lution B. Hill
Elizabeth Hussein
Arnold Johnson
Patrick Leung, Ph.D.
Dennis Malloy
William "Bill" Neeson
Roxann S. Neumann
Roseann Rogers
Teresa Valderrama

CARITAS CIRCLE

Cathy and Giorgio Borlenghi
Burguières Family Foundation
Ann and Clarence Cazalot
Jerrie and Donald Earthman
Michelle and Hector Herrera
Ginny and Dennis Malloy
The Marek Family
Trinidad Mendenhall
Carol and Odis Peavy
Pat and Gene Reed
Sally and Bill Slick

JOIN US!!
SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2014
SOUL MAN **HONORING MOST REV. GEORGE A. SHEL TZ**
2014 Spirit of Charity Gala

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
HILTON AMERICAS
www.spiritofcharitygala.org

ON A MISSION FROM GOD
For additional information, please contact:
Zarinah K. Poole at 713.874.6649 or zpoole@CatholicCharities.org

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM



CONTACT:

866.915.GIVE (4483) seven days a week.

TOWING:

We will tow your vehicle at no cost to you.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE:

Get a tax deductible receipt and help our cause.