

80TH ANNIVERSARY TIMELINE

- 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
- 1978** – Msgr. James A. Jamail, MSW, named second Executive Director
- 1982** – The Friendly Visitors program acquired from United Way, later called S.A.F.E. (Services to the Alone, Frail and Elderly, and then Senior Services
- 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 Homes for Children; began caring for HIV/AIDS clients, later known as the AIDS Ministry program
- 1993** – Anna M. Babin named as president
- 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** – Bonna Kol becomes President of Catholic Charities; 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 incorporates 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, which led to further expansion of the Disaster Recovery Program
- 2018** – Celebrated 75 years of Catholic Charities of service to area communities
- 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