



Volunteer Spotlight

H&R Block

We are grateful to have many partners in the community who have joined us and became part of our One Mission, One Team. One of those partners is H&R Block. Beginning in December 2013, Toni Morales-Awobokun, Manager of Multicultural Initiatives at H&R Block, approached Catholic Charities with a unique project that we saw as a great opportunity for our clients. This opportunity is only available to non-profits. H&R Block offered to provide free financial workshops and resources to our clients if we provided them the platform to present. In April of 2014, this project became a reality and we saw the impact immediately. Sandra Martin, H&R Block tax professional, and Toni come to our information sessions that explain immigration laws twice a month. Following these "Charlas" is an opportunity for a free consultation with an Immigration Attorney or Accredited Representative. At the beginning of the Charla, Sandra will spend between ten to twenty minutes explaining the importance and benefits of paying taxes and answering any questions the clients may have. Examples of the questions they are asked are, "What if I get paid cash?" "How do I file taxes if I do not have a social security number?" "Why is it important to file taxes if I am undocumented?"

One of our key services to refugees and immigrants is to empower them through education. We offer ESL and financial classes, trainings for jobs as well as other resources. H&R Block partners with twelve agencies, including Catholic Charities, to offer free educational workshops for financial literacy specifically designed in response to the needs of the local community. When asked what made Catholic Charities stand out as a partner for this program, Toni responded, "Catholic Charities is reaching the same community we want to empower. By teaming up

with the services you already provide to this population, we are maximizing our efforts and outreach that much more."

We can see our partnership with H&R Block growing and even extending to some of our other programs such as The Villa for Women in Transitional Housing. We truly appreciate their efforts in helping us educate our clients and move them towards self-sufficiency.

SANDRA MARTIN
H&R Block Tax Professional

TONI MORALES-AWOBOKUN
Manager of Multicultural Initiatives



H&R BLOCK®



Throughout the year, we see clients exiting our programs by becoming self-sufficient, but we also see new people at our doors who have never before been faced with poverty. As we quickly approach the holiday season, we will see families asking for financial assistance for the first time in their lives, we will see new children needing a foster home, we will see new refugee families arriving from Syria and numerous other countries, and we will see more people in our food fair lines on Saturdays twice a month. In preparation to meet the needs of both new and current clients at our door, we consider what love looks like. Saint Augustine once said, "It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows

of men. That is what love looks like." During this time of decorating and shopping, we invite you to join us in putting that view of love into action. We have many opportunities for you to participate in efforts to alleviate poverty, and let your generosity show others what love truly is. May God's peace and blessings be with you always.

With gratitude,

Cynthia N. Colbert

Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW

"LET'S MOVE!" in Fort Bend

Do you have arthritis or a related rheumatic disease? Are you seeking ways to reduce pain and stiffness, or restore your joint range of motion? Do you want to increase your strength, or improve your balance and endurance?

Come to the Mamie George Community Center and "Let's Move!" This is a recreational group exercise program offered by the Arthritis Foundation specifically for people with arthritis and related diseases. The program's multiple components help reduce pain and stiffness and help maintain or improve mobility, muscle strength and functional ability.

"Let's Move!" classes are held on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Each class includes a variety of exercises that can be performed while sitting, standing or lying on the floor. Individuals from basic to advanced capabilities will benefit from the program. This class is taught by Terica Jemerson, Health Educator from TSU, trained and certified by the Arthritis Foundation.



Photo: Let's Move! Health Educator, Terica Jemerson, is introducing the group to an easy move designed to reduce pain and stiffness—Many of the exercises can be performed while sitting.

*Providing Help.
Creating Hope.*

in Galveston

This summer we were challenged to raise a total of \$12,500 to match the very generous donation from Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church. This would provide \$25,000 that would go to support those most in need in Galveston. With the support of the Archdiocese, Catholic Charities raised half of the required match and needed your help to raise the remaining \$6,250, which had to come from local fundraising in Galveston and Holy Family Parish. We are proud to say that you met and exceeded that challenge! Including the \$12,500 donated from Moody, we raised \$25,847! Thank you for helping us strengthen families in Galveston so that they can regain their self-sufficiency and live with dignity.

JOURNEY FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

flow chart

UPCOMING EVENTS

15TH ANNUAL CMC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, November 7, 2014 at Gus Wortham Golf Course. For more information contact:
MARILU DE LA FUENTE | 832.395.7029
marilu.delafuente@houstontx.gov

#GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, December 2, 2014.
Join us and be a part of a global celebration of a new tradition of generosity! For more information visit:
www.CatholicCharities.org/Events

A CARDINAL'S CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 13, 2014. For more information contact:
ZARINAH K. POOLE | 713.874.6649
zpoole@CatholicCharities.org
You can also visit:
www.CatholicCharities.org/ACC

SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS

To volunteer, donate or learn more about the program, contact:
MATT JOHNS | 713.874.6659
mjohns@CatholicCharities.org
You can also visit:
www.CatholicCharities.org/SYB

REASONS WHY THESE CHILDREN LEAVE THEIR HOME COUNTRY

Crushing poverty, desire to see their parents, violence, and gang threats

The majority of these children are coming many miles ranging from El Salvador (approximately 1,173 miles), Honduras (approximately 1,162 miles), and Guatemala (approximately 1,092 miles)

CROSSING THE BORDER

Almost all children are picked up by the Border Patrol

Sent to a processing center and their immigration case is opened



Within 72 hours, by federal law, the child is transported to a shelter under the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement

ARRIVING AT THE SHELTER

Once the child arrives in shelter, an ORR contracted case manager will work to reunify the children with family members or family friends in the United States

Given medical attention, counseling, basic needs, education and legal assistance

THE END RESULT

1 of the 2 following outcomes

1

If a child can acquire legal relief in the United States, they can stay

Forms of relief are asylum, special immigrant juvenile status, visas for victims of certain violent crimes and visas for victims of human trafficking

2

If they cannot acquire legal relief, they may request to depart to their country of origin or be ordered removed



We are so grateful for the monetary and in-kind donations that were given towards the Humanitarian Relief this summer. Throughout the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, and in fact throughout the country, people responded to the call immediately and wanted to help in any way possible. Many people hosted drives to gather food, clothes, and other in-kind donations at their churches or corporations. Taylor Isaac in Illinois had his 6th birthday party and asked his guests to donate money to the cause rather than buying him a gift and raised \$285! Thanks to the support of people like you, we were able to take a box truck full of supplies to the Rio Grande Valley. Thank you to responding to this urgent need!



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Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
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