

GOOD NEWS NOW

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



Winter 2021



Already struggling, Josh and Laura had to miss work when their 4-year-old daughter tested positive for COVID-19. The lights were cut off, and they nearly lost their home. Thanks to you, they received the help they needed to begin getting back on their feet.

You Helped Keep the Lights on For a Family of Five

Laura and Josh are hardworking parents with three daughters. But like many families, the pandemic brought unforeseen hardships, and it almost cost Josh and Laura their home.

First, Josh contracted a severe infection that forced him to be hospitalized. Then he had to quit his job because he was no longer able to do the required heavy lifting due to his illness. To make ends meet Josh took a retail job for about a third of his previous job's pay.

Then their 4-year-old daughter tested positive for COVID-19. Both Laura and Josh were forced to quarantine and were unable to work. The family cut back on expenses as best they could. As the bills piled up, their electricity was shut off. No lights, no heat, and no internet for their 11-year-old to attend school virtually.

Because of your support, Catholic Charities was able to help the family during this challenging time. Their utility bill was paid so the family could cook meals, stay warm, and their eldest daughter could keep up with her schoolwork. Then, caring staff delivered boxes of food along with Christmas presents for the girls.

Thanks to your generosity, Catholic Charities was also able to pay their next month's rent, to make sure the family of five could stay in their home. Laura and Josh were relieved to have some breathing room to catch up until they could return to work. "We can get on our feet again after this."

Thank you for helping families like Laura and Josh's when the hard times come!

COVID-19 Response

Thousands of Families Found Relief Thanks to Your Support

The past year was unprecedented and challenging, but because of your faithful support of our mission, it was also one that filled us with gratitude. Thanks to you, Catholic Charities was ready and able to respond to the great needs of our neighbors during the COVID-19 pandemic. You helped us provide food, emergency financial assistance, diapers, supplies and more to those families who needed it the most, all while maintaining our usual life-changing programs and services.

THANK YOU!

See below the impact you made in 2020:

 **Food Assistance**
3,644,462 Pounds of food
281,611 Individuals served

 **Meals for Children**
133,875 Meals

 **Calls for Help**
20,997 Total hotline calls

 **Financial Assistance**
2,424 Households
\$1,840,848 \$\$ Assistance

 **Volunteers**
1,506 Individual volunteers
15,324 Hours of service

 **Home Deliveries**
6,469 Total deliveries

Numbers are between March 18, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Welcoming the New Year



"I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us, and we change things."

– St. Teresa of Calcutta

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! The past year was certainly a challenging one. Many of us have made many adjustments at home, work and in our daily lives without any certainty of when things will return to "normal."

These changes have been difficult, and for the most vulnerable families in our community, they have been devastating. Many people lost their jobs, faced hunger and homelessness, and were uncertain about their futures.

But as I reflect on the past year and welcome in the new one, I am grateful for your steadfast support of Catholic Charities, which has enabled us to not only survive but grow during this pandemic. Because of you, we served more pounds of food in a few months than we previously had in an entire year, provided more opportunities for virtual services, and continued to maintain our regular programs and services throughout the year.

Change brings the opportunity to grow to better serve our community. And thanks to your generosity, Catholic Charities has been able to adapt our services to meet whatever needs arise from this crisis.

As we welcome in 2021, know that with your faithful support, we are committed to our mission as people of faith helping people in need, and will continue to serve the most vulnerable families in the Greater Houston region.

May the grace and peace of Christ bless you now and in the New Year ahead.

In the peace of Christ,

Cynthia N. Colbert

Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW
President and CEO



Thank you for sharing the spirit of Christmas with children and families in need

Thank you! You helped us raise more than \$129,175 during the 12 Days of Christmas Giving campaign! Because of your support we can provide food to hungry children, diapers to single mothers, and emergency assistance to struggling families to prevent them from becoming homeless.

In case you missed any of our Mission Moments, you can watch them anytime on our website at CatholicCharities.org/12days.

Program Feature

Covid Activity

Thanks to Your Support, Catholic Charities Continues Serving During the Pandemic



Many of the most poor and vulnerable people in our community had their lives upended by the pandemic. But thanks to you, Catholic Charities was able to provide food and emergency relief to those families most in need.

In March, things were looking up for Becky, a single mother with a 7-year-old son. She was only two weeks away from achieving permanent status in her job as a clinical coordinator at an area hospital – then, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Becky's position was eliminated. Even after finding employment as a delivery driver for retail outlets, the bills piled up and soon Becky and her son were in danger of losing their home.

But thanks to your support, Becky was able to turn to Catholic Charities for rental and food assistance, something she never dreamed she would need to do. "There's nothing wrong in asking for help," said Becky. "It's not about me and my pride. It's making sure my son has three square meals and a roof over his head."

Because you give, Catholic Charities can help families like Becky's who struggle with hardship brought on by the pandemic. Since March, more than 2,400 households received \$1.8 million in financial assistance, many of them rescued from the threat of becoming homeless or having their utilities shut off.

The long lines at food distributions provide the most visible reminder of the staggering need caused by COVID-19. Since March, nearly 69,000 desperate families have visited Catholic Charities' network of food pantries to receive a total of 3.6 million pounds of food. That's a 40% increase over all of the previous year, made possible by generous gifts from donors like you.

Many of the most poor and vulnerable people in our community, such as low-income seniors, are unable to come to Catholic Charities locations to get assistance. For those who must remain in their homes, volunteers and staff have made 6,500 deliveries of food, hygiene items and other essentials.

Through it all, your steadfast support means that people in need receive vital assistance – food, shelter, clothing, counseling and more – during this time of unimaginable challenges.

Mission Moment

Share Your Blessings



You Provided Thousands of Children and Families with Toys and Gifts this Christmas!

During a Christmas that was harder than most for so many struggling families, you helped provide thousands of toys and gifts to children and families in need.

Catholic Charities' Share Your Blessings Christmas gift campaign has provided toys and gifts to families in our community for the past 27 years. With your support, we were able to continue our program to help meet the needs of the families we serve.

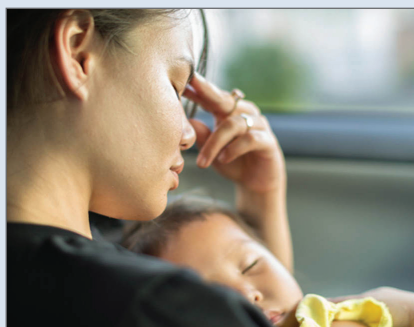
Thank you for sharing the joy of Christmas with so many children and families in need!

Donor Spotlight

Feeding Families Thanks to the Fort Bend Junior Service League

Last year, many struggling families received food through food distributions at Catholic Charities' Mamie George Community Center. To help feed even more families in the New Year, the Fort Bend Junior Service League helped raised funds during their virtual Sugar Plum Market to support Catholic Charities.

The organization donated \$10,840, which will be used to purchase a new freezer in our Trini's Market to help continuing serving Fort Bend families. Thank you, Fort Bend Junior Service League!



Thank you for helping Catholic Charities serve more than 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.

Save the New Date for the Spirit of Charity Luncheon!

Please help us honor the Strake Foundation on May 6, 2021.

After a year-long wait, it will finally be time to shine your boots and pull out your finest Texas tuxedo this Spring. Please join us for the 2021 Catholic Charities Spirit of Charity Luncheon – Deep in the Heart of Texas. You're invited to join us for a Texas-sized celebration on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at LIFE HTX.

Help us honor the Strake Foundation for their generous support of Catholic Charities and contributions to the Greater Houston community.

Co-Chaired by Laurel and Jeb Bashaw, this luncheon will celebrate all things Texas and include hometown food, wine and friends.

Proceeds from this event will provide life-changing programs and services to the more than 100,000 people Catholic Charities serves every year.

To purchase your tables or tickets, or to make a gift toward the event, please visit CatholicCharities.org/soc2021.

For more information, please contact Mary Ellen Butler at 713-874-6698 or MEButler@CatholicCharities.



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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Each year the students at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Cizik School of Nursing make time to volunteer at our Guadalupe Center Food Pantry.

Their commitment to serve and their positive energy makes a huge impact during our distribution days. We look forward to them every semester!

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

