



After suffering a crisis and an injury, Veronica was overwhelmed and was about to have her utilities shut off. Thanks to your support, she was able to get back on her feet.

You Helped A Widowed Mom Overcome Hardship

Veronica and her little family were living a happy life. Her husband ran a successful business, and her young son was doing well in school.

Then her husband was tragically murdered. Although they were devastated, they did the best they could to move on. Veronica used her husband's life insurance for a loan to his business partner to keep income coming in. However, the business closed and their financial investment was lost.

Wanting a fresh start, Veronica and her son moved to Houston for a new job. They were doing well until Veronica suffered an injury, leaving her hospitalized and unable to work. She fell behind on her utility payments, and felt overwhelmed and desperate.

Because of you, Veronica found help through Catholic Charities' Family Assistance Program. Not only did she receive funds to catch up on her electricity bill, she and her son were connected to Catholic Charities' Counseling Services program to cope with their grief.

Now back at work, Veronica says she is appreciative of the assistance she received and feels hopeful about the future.

Thank you for helping people like Veronica overcome a tragic loss and hardship!

What Do You Know About Poverty?



Families in poverty experience a multitude of problems such as food insecurity, joblessness, under-employment, lack of suitable housing and inadequate child care.

Here are some stats about poverty in the Greater Houston area:

1 in 7 people and **1 in 5 children** live in poverty

4 in 10 families are headed by single women

\$25,750 is the annual poverty income for a family of 4

Thanks to your generous support last year, Catholic Charities was able to make a difference in our community:

97,239* individual lives impacted

72% of people increased their self-sufficiency after 90 days of service

82% of people maintained stable housing after six months

With your help, Catholic Charities will continue to meet these needs in our community through our comprehensive network of life-changing programs that work together to alleviate poverty.

Thank You for Heeding the Call to Help People in Poverty

Your generosity shines through the work of Catholic Charities.



For he rescues the poor when they cry out, the oppressed who have no one to help. He shows pity to the needy and the poor and saves the lives of the poor. Psalm 72:12-13

Our loving Father hears the cries of all his children, especially those who live in poverty. We are grateful that you respond to their cries as well. With your support, Catholic Charities

is able to provide a network of programs for thousands of people in need. Many are at the lowest point in their lives, facing desperate circumstances. We reach out a hand to lift them up, treating them with dignity and respect as they move to self-sufficiency.

With your help, Catholic Charities programs feed hungry children and the elderly, keep families secure in their homes, comfort low-income seniors, shelter disheartened homeless women veterans, shepherd frightened new parents, and so much more.

Thank you for opening your heart and extending your hand to the impoverished children of God through your gifts to Catholic Charities.

In the peace of Christ,

Cynthia N. Colbert

Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW
President and CEO



Serve With Friends – Volunteer With Your Group!

Are you looking for your company to become more involved in the community? Volunteer with us! Provide your team with a tangible experience to make an impact on our neighbors in our community. Catholic Charities has many opportunities for your organization or company to serve the Greater Houston area. Learn more at CatholicCharities.org/corporategroups.

Program Feature

With your help, we offer a network of programs for people in poverty

Your gifts help weave a safety net for people in need.



Thanks to your support, Catholic Charities can address multiple needs for the families we serve. Our programs work together to provide services that offer food, emergency financial assistance, counseling, employment help and much more

Most people who come to Catholic Charities for help are among the poorest of the poor, earning less than \$10,000 in annual income. People who live in poverty say it's like a war zone, where each day brings the fight for survival – getting enough to eat, keeping a roof overhead and meeting other day-to-day needs. Because of your support, Catholic Charities programs provide essential help to the most vulnerable in our community.

Our Family Assistance Program feeds families who can't afford groceries through five food pantries in Fort Bend, Galveston and Harris counties. Family Assistance also provides financial assistance that allows a family to remain in their home, by offering emergency rent funds to families who received an eviction notice.

The Women Veterans Program provides shelter and housing assistance for women who served in the military and fell into homelessness after returning to civilian life. Our Senior Program offers compassionate help to seniors on meager fixed incomes through home visits and at the Mamie George Community Center in Fort Bend County, ensuring they get their medicine or a nourishing hot meal.

Low income parents bring healthy babies into the world thanks to the Blessed Beginnings Life Center, which offers pregnancy and parenting education, as well as items like diapers and toddler clothes.

Your support for our mission resonates with the words of Pope Francis: "Poverty calls us to sow hope...Poverty is the flesh of the poor Jesus, in that child who is hungry, in the one who is sick, in those unjust social structures." With your help, Catholic Charities will continue to counter the injustice of poverty.

Mission Moment

Share Your Blessings



Thanks to Your Generosity, Thousands Received Christmas Gifts!

Thanks to you, the annual Share Your Blessings campaign hosted by Catholic Charities provided gifts to more than 5,000 local children and families in need, no matter what faith tradition.

Your compassion to share the spirit of the season was such a blessing to the children and families who otherwise could not afford gifts. Thank you for your generosity during this holy season!

Faith-based experts share innovative approaches to poverty

Catholic Charities partnered with area nonprofits to host the 2020 kNOW Poverty Summit in January at the University of St. Thomas. Nearly 200 people gathered to hear from local and national experts from all faiths to discuss innovative strategies to help families move from poverty to economic sustainability.

“We believe we can accomplish more to alleviate poverty when we work together,” said Cynthia N. Colbert, president and CEO of Catholic Charities.

With your help, Catholic Charities will continue to strengthen our position as an innovative leader in addressing poverty.



Dr. Donna M. Beegle (far left) was the keynote speaker at the 2020 kNOW Poverty Summit. She shared her personal experience growing up in poverty and led an interactive session to help break poverty-related stereotypes.



Thank you for helping Catholic Charities serve almost 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! \$ _____

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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.

Time for Boots and Bow Ties at the 2020 Spirit of Charity Gala

Please join us at The Revaire on Saturday, May 2!

Shine your boots and pull out your finest Texas tuxedo to join us for the 2020 Catholic Charities Spirit of Charity Celebration – Deep in the Heart of Texas. You're invited to join us for a Texas-sized celebration on **Saturday, May 2, 2020 at The Revaire**.

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 event promises a big bash with deep Texas roots that includes hometown food, wine, friends and live entertainment. Proceeds from this event will provide life-changing programs and services to the nearly 100,000 people Catholic Charities serves every year.

For more information, or to purchase a table or tickets, please visit **CatholicCharities.org/SOC2020**, or contact Naibi Rivera at 713-874-6629 or NRivera@CatholicCharities.org.



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