Catholic Charities

# **GOOD NEWS NOW**

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





You helped Saahir and his son, Ali, escaped the Taliban and find safety and opportunity in Houston.

### You Helped an Afghan Family Start a New Life in Houston

### Thanks to you, Saahir and his young son are thriving

Saahir worked for a United States-based company in Afghanistan. Because of his work, he was a target of the Taliban as it quickly took over the country. He and his family arrived in Houston with little more than they could carry after a tumultuous escape to start a new life. Now they are well on their way to a successful new life.

Families like Saahir's were not alone when they arrived in the United States last summer. Because of your generosity, Saahir and his family got the help they needed to get settled and adjusted to life in their new country.

### "Because of your generosity, Saahir and his family got the help they needed to get settled and adjusted to life in their new country."

Your gifts provided the family a fully furnished apartment, culturally appropriate food, and everything they needed to make ends meet while Saahir eagerly awaited approval of his work authorization application.

Your support also enabled Saahir's 8-year-old son, Ali, to attend English classes provided while they were still in the hotel. Ali is excited about being in American and was very eager to start school.

After about a month in a hotel, the family was moved into an apartment and Ali was enrolled in school. Surrounded by new American peers, he quickly picked up more English and is getting more help alongside other Afghan students through Catholic Charities' Refugee Youth Program.

Because of you, Ali's English-speaking skill and confidence are growing daily, and Saahir is getting help to find a job so he can take care of his family. Thank you for supporting our new neighbors as they adjust to life in the United States!

## You Helped a Struggling Mother When She Needed It Most

With your help, she received the help she needed to provide a stable home for her family



When Candice's hours were cut and she struggled to pay her bills you helped her provide for her children.

Candice works as a home health care provider, but the pandemic has dramatically reduced her hours. Working only 16 hours a week made it difficult for her to provide for her three young children.

You got the family the help they needed to stabilize, and helped Candice find a better job so she will be able to make ends meet.

Your generous support during their troubling time provided Candice and her family with food, emergency financial assistance for rent, and much more.

Because of you, Candice received nutritious food at our food pantry, so her family could enjoy healthy meals together. Candice also received financial assistance so the family would not be evicted from their home. Most importantly, she got help to find a new job that provided more hours and better pay.

### "Your generous support during their troubling time provided Candice and her family food, emergency financial assistance for rent and utilities, and much more."

Thanks to you, Candice and her children have made it through the worst of it and are now in a much better place. Money is still tight, but the assistance you provided helped them become more stable and now they no longer have to worry about having to choose between paying their rent or buying food.

Thank you for helping mothers like Candice when they need it most.

## **GOOD NEWS NOW**

## You Open Doors for People in Need



"Even if all human doors were barred, God's door is open." – Pope Francis

### Dear Friend,

Living in poverty can be traumatic. People who strain to provide the most basic resources required for life are often stressed and exhausted. Just finding enough food to eat every day can be draining.

As we enter another year into the COVID-19 pandemic, our

most vulnerable neighbors continue to struggle. Those with the least have been impacted the most. Many families still face hunger and homelessness. People who lost their jobs remain uncertain about their futures.

But, with your help, Catholic Charities continues to meet the unprecedented need in our community. Your generosity has opened doors to those desperate to survive by providing food to the hungry at our regional food pantries, emergency financial assistance to families facing eviction, a warm visit to a lonely homebound senior, and so much more.

Despite the challenges of this ongoing crisis, you have continued to bring help and hope to people in desperate need. I'm humbled by your generosity and support of our mission.

As Catholics, we are taught to see Christ in the faces of our brothers and sisters, especially the poor and vulnerable. Many of our neighbors fight to survive every day and can feel the door to a better life is closed. Your compassion and giving heart shows us that God's doors are always open.

God bless you for your compassion to open doors to those in need!

In the peace of Christ,

Cyperdix N. Colbert

Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW President and CEO

## Your Donations @ Work



You provided Debra and her autistic grandson food and a caring community of support.

## When Debra Needed Help, You Were There

You Put Food On Her Table When She Desperately Needed it

Debra lost her husband, an Army veteran, six years ago. She was lonely and depressed, and she had the added burden of trying to make ends meet without his monthly pension. Now, because of you, her family no longer has to worry about having enough to eat.

Debra also takes care of her 27-year-old grandson, Brian, who is autistic, all by herself. Debra and Brian live on her social security. Money is tight. Debra often struggles to put enough food on the table.

But your generous support is a safety-net for families like Debra's when they have no place else to turn.

### "Catholic Charities is a wonderful place to come. The staff is good, they treat us good. Wherever they can help us, they will."

Debra is grateful for the food assistance she receives at the Mamie George Community Center through the monthly Food Fairs. She also visits Trini's Market at Mamie George where she can shop for food as if she were in a real grocery store. Here, because of you, she receives fresh produce, meat, dairy and nonperishable food all for free.

"It's a blessing that we're able to go to Trini's Market, or the food fair once a month. They're always thinking about us seniors."

Thanks to your generous support, she has found not only help, but also a community. It was just what Debra needed as she mourned the loss of her husband.

"Catholic Charities is a wonderful place to come. The staff is good, they treat us good. Wherever they can help us, they will."

Thank you for your compassion to help seniors like Debra tackle life's challenges!

## You Helped an Elderly Grandmother Who's Raising Her Grandkids

Gretchen No Longer Worries About Feeding Her Family Thanks to You.

Gretchen is a senior living on a fixed income. Every month, money is tight. With rent, utilities, and other bills, she sometimes didn't have enough left to pay for groceries. At times, Gretchen would wash clothes with whatever soap she had around the house. She needed to save the money to buy food.

When Gretchen became the primary caregiver for her two young grandchildren. Money got even tighter.

Thanks to you, Gretchen was able to find help at Catholic Charities Beacon of Hope Center in Galveston. She received enough groceries to feed her grandchildren, and the emergency financial assistance helped her catch up on her bills and keep the family under one roof.

With extra mouths to feed, Gretchen had a hard time affording the basics that many of us take for granted. Your generosity provided her with essentials

 such as diapers, detergent and household cleaning supplies – things that her SNAP benefits (food stamps) didn't cover.

## "When Gretchen became the primary caregiver for her two young grandchildren, money got even tighter."

Now Gretchen doesn't have to worry about where her grandchildren's next meal will come from, or how she will make the rent every month, thanks to you.

Thank you for helping grandmothers like Gretchen provide for their families!

# 100 years from now you can still be giving to Catholic Charities.

money to feed her grandchildren anymore.

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



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## **Mission Moment**

## Will You Help a Homeless Senior Like Mary?

### You can provide food and shelter people like her need

There is an incredible need right now – and you have the opportunity to help. By making a gift to Catholic Charities today, you'll help someone like Mary.

At 71, Mary is homeless. She is bouncing between shelters and occasionally staying with friends or family members. In addition to being alone, frail and weak, Mary was recently robbed of what little she had while living on the streets.

Here's why your gift is so important.

By making a gift right now, you can help someone like Mary get off the streets, and give her a warm, safe place to stay and nutritious food to help her regain her strength.

## "You can help one of your neighbors who's been blindsided by crisis and all seems lost."

Sadly, anyone can become homeless. Eviction, domestic violence, mental health issues can all lead to someone being homeless. And there are many more people like Mary who are living on the streets.



Alone, frail and weak Mary is homeless. You can help her get off the streets.

By making a gift to Catholic Charities today, you'll help one of your neighbors

who have been blindsided by crisis when all seems lost. And, when you give, it's as if you're right there beside us, helping those who have fallen on hard times with the immediate, practical help – food, clothing, housing – that will get them back on their feet as soon as possible.

You can make a real difference in the lives of suffering people. Please help homeless seniors and families by making a gift to Catholic Charities today. Thank you!

### YES, I WANT MY NEXT GIFT TO HELP SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A SAFE PLACE TO SLEEP

I know that there are people who are homeless right now and need my help. I'm ready to give them the food, shelter, and guidance they need to get off the streets. Please use my gift help the homeless and support all the work Catholic Charities does to help struggling families.

Please accept my tax-deductible gift in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100

Mail this form to Catholic Charities, 2900 Louisiana St., Houston, Texas 77006

Want to put your gift to work immediately? Donate online at www.CatholicCharities.org/donate

# Your gift could go even further.

Consider a monthly gift and become a Hero of Hope.

For as little as \$10 a month, you can make a difference to neighbors in need.

## Thank you!

Make your monthly gift online today at **CatholicCharities.org/givemonthly** 

