

GOOD NEWS NOW

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

Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Fall 2017



Because of you, Sonia was able to receive support and assistance from Catholic for several months before the storm. After Harvey, Sonia's apartment flooded and she once again had to start over, but she knew where to turn for help with her new son, Diego.

Long Before Her Dramatic Boat Rescue, Catholic Charities Saved Sonia's Life, Thanks to You

When Hurricane Harvey hit, Sonia was 39 weeks pregnant. As floodwaters rose around her tiny apartment, she went into labor. She was terrified and alone.

She asked a neighbor to take her to the hospital, but his car was flooded. Then she tried to walk, but the floodwaters were too high. Finally she struggled back to her apartment and called 9-1-1. But rescuers were overwhelmed that day. Sonia had no idea if help would make it in time.

Finally, a boat rescued her, and Sonia delivered a beautiful baby boy that night. Her child was a miracle, not only because of when he was born, but because he might have been lost if Sonia had not received a timely referral to Catholic Charities.

During one of her pre-natal check-ups, the doctor noticed that Sonia seemed depressed, and lacked a connection to her unborn baby. She was referred to a counselor, but the cost was impossible on her limited income. Fortunately, as she left the clinic, Sonia was handed a flier about Catholic Charities' free counseling for pregnant mothers.

"My friend encouraged me to attend, but it was hard, because I didn't know anybody and I didn't want to share my feelings," Sonia said. "I'm glad I did, because it helped me so much with the recovery process and with parenting – from diapers, a car seat, and baby items to putting food on my table when I had nothing to eat."

Because of the generosity of our donors, Sonia received the support she needed to become a successful mother from Catholic Charities. Then, after Harvey, when Sonia's apartment flooded, Catholic Charities was there once to help her and her newborn baby start over.

"Catholic Charities provided a gift card, cleaning supplies and baby items," Sonia said. "But the most important thing I received from Catholic Charities was help in finding the meaning of life and the desire to keep fighting for me and my baby every day. Thanks for all you have done for me. God bless you always."

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Hope Rising: Together We Can Help Rebuild Lives After Harvey



Hurricane Harvey's devastation caused thousands of people to lose virtually everything. Where do you turn? Where do you find hope and help to start again?

At Catholic Charities, we serve people with low - to moderate - incomes, who now struggle to recover from a storm's devastation. They need help - immediately, but also over weeks and months as they rebuild their lives.

We have been blessed by donations collected at Catholic schools and parishes in cities across the country - and particularly by our sister Catholic Charities in San Antonio. Individuals, companies, partner nonprofits, the United Way, and CCUSA all came together to help us serve those with immediate needs after Harvey hit.

So where are we now, and where do we go from here?

Our case managers will be working heavy caseloads for several months to ensure people in need across several counties find safe housing, access medical care and counseling, find lost documents, apply for benefits and get assistance cleaning out and repairing their houses. They will provide financial assistance if needed, ensure families have enough food, and let survivors know someone is here for them.

The needs did not end when the waters receded. We need your help! Cash donations are the most beneficial so we can help people rebuild their lives.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered - hundreds! - in the weeks immediately after Harvey. You made a world of difference. Thank you to everyone who donated, who posted stories about our work online, and who told others about our services.

Every day - and in times of crisis and disaster - we're people of faith helping people in need become self-sufficient and live with dignity. A hurricane can wreak havoc, but it will never weaken our resolve to care for those in need in our region. May God bless every man, woman and child impacted by these storms, and may we rise together to meet their needs.

In the peace of Christ,

Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW
President and CEO

Your Support Helps Thousands Impacted by Hurricane Harvey's Destruction

Soon after Harvey hit, Catholic Charities' staff and volunteers began providing disaster relief. Our downtown location opened at 8 a.m. on Aug. 31, providing thousands of families with water, cleaning supplies, clothes, medicines and emergency financial assistance. But none of this would have been possible without the generosity of people like you.



Thousands of volunteers answered the call to help individuals and families access basic needs and household items after devastating flooding.

During the first three weeks of September, when immediate needs were highest, your support allowed us to assist nearly 6,000 households that included a total of 14,386 individuals throughout the Greater Houston region. Because of your generous donations, we were able to distribute more than \$176,165 in assistance including gift cards, groceries, clothing, hotel stays and household items. Many of those we helped were children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

We have now moved to intermediate case management, which includes going door-to-door in badly damaged areas, helping people assess their needs, and providing financial assistance. We are helping hundreds of families find a place to live after leaving unsafe, flooded homes and apartments, and getting them help to clean up their homes so they can return.

"The outpouring of love from across the state and nation has been overwhelming," said Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW, President and CEO. "The important goal now is to stick with people until they are OK again, until they find their 'new normal' and get their lives back on track. We're people of faith helping people in need. That's what we're called to do."

To learn more about our Hurricane Harvey
Disaster Relief efforts, visit us at
www.CatholicCharities.org.

Here's How Your Generosity Enabled Catholic Charities to Serve Our Community

On Aug. 31, Catholic Charities opened its doors to serve the Greater Houston area after Hurricane Harvey caused widespread flooding and devastation. Thanks to you, we were able to provide relief services to more than 14,000 individuals across the region.



The lobby at the central office was used to offer intake services in both English and Spanish, allow clients to get needed household and hygiene products, and distribute gift cards to help families get access to basic needs.



The parking lot at our central office was used to sort and distribute in-kind donations to help families get access to basic needs after the storm.



Catholic Charities staff and volunteers kept disaster relief operations running smoothly during the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.



The Blessed Beginnings program provided intake services for clients who were pregnant or had small children to register them for free classes, offer referrals for resources and access to needed baby items, and a cool place for their children from the September heat.



Mamie George hosted a donation distribution drive on Sept. 9 with many volunteers present to lend a helping hand to our neighbors.



About 285 volunteers donated more than 850 hours on Sept. 23 to help unload 50 vehicles worth of supplies from San Antonio.



A volunteer provides intake services to help an individual apply for disaster relief assistance.



✓ Yes, I support Catholic Charities!

Enclosed is my donation for Catholic Charities in the amount of:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ 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.



The Giotto Family



His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo shares a special story about the true meaning of Christmas.

Join Us for the 9th Annual A Cardinal's Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 16

Save the date! Please join us for an afternoon of fun at the ninth annual, A Cardinal's Christmas luncheon with His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Sat., Dec. 16, 2017 at noon – 2 p.m. at River Oaks Country Club. This year's chairs are Jenny and David Harvey, Lauren and Chris Harvey, Kristie and Kyle Kafka and Libby and Matt Kafka.

A Cardinal's Christmas offers families a unique opportunity to strengthen their faith during the Christmas season while also helping children and families who are in need. All children will enjoy festive entertainment and a special story shared by His Eminence about the true meaning of Christmas. In addition, each child will receive a Christmas activity bag and enjoy a delicious child-friendly meal.

Table underwriters at the \$5,000 level or above will be invited to an

exclusive reception where they will take a keepsake family photo with His Eminence and indulge in delicious treats.

Christmas is just around the corner, and it's not too early to make a gift that will impact the lives of children and families in our community. Please reserve your space today for this unique Christmas event!

Proceeds from this luncheon help families and children from the Greater Houston community, including Fort Bend and Galveston, many of which were severely affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Visit www.CatholicCharities.org/acc or contact Naibi Rivera at NRivera@CatholicCharities.org or 713.874.6629 for more information.

Our Volunteers Made it Possible to Serve the Community After Harvey



When Hurricane Harvey hit, Catholic Charities was able to immediately provide disaster relief services to our hurting community because of the hundreds of volunteers that showed up to help. Across the region, more than 2,000 volunteers donated over 7,000 hours to date, helping us serve as the hands and feet of Christ. THANK YOU to our many volunteers who generously gave their time to provide much-needed relief and supplies to families impacted by Harvey.

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SAVE THE DATE

MISSION OF LOVE

Benefiting Catholic Charities in Fort Bend County

MISSION OF LOVE

February 1, 2018

Safari Texas Ranch, Richmond, Texas
281-202-6200

www.CatholicCharities.org