



After losing his car and his job, Eduardo became homeless. But thanks to your support, he found the services he needed to find a new home where his family can visit.

Safe at Home Again

You helped Eduardo escape from living on the streets to the security of a home

Eduardo lost his car, and the bad news kept on coming. Soon after, he lost his job and then his home. Eduardo did what he could to survive, sometimes bathing in the bayou to stay clean. It was a hard and lonely life. One of the most difficult things was that he no longer had a place where his family, especially his granddaughter, could come to visit.

Then, Eduardo found the food pantry and caring staff at Catholic Charities' Guadalupe Center. Because of you, a case manager in the Family Assistance Program was there to talk to Eduardo. When she learned he was homeless she was able to help him get the assistance he needed to get an apartment.

Because he now has a kitchen, Eduardo is able to make use of nutritious items from the food pantry that he couldn't previously take such as cold dairy, meat and produce. Your support enabled the Center to set him up with clothes, bedding, dishes and hygiene items. All donated by people like you! One of his greatest joys: taking home a donated Easter basket to give to his granddaughter.

The Guadalupe Center is seeing more people who were driven to the streets after suffering losses related to Hurricane Harvey. With your generous assistance, Catholic Charities' HomeSafe initiative can restore hope – and a home – to more people like Eduardo.

Share Your Blessings

Now collecting gifts for children and families in need!



Because of your support, many children and families receive Christmas gifts who would otherwise not be able to afford them.

The annual Share Your Blessings campaign hosted by Catholic Charities provides gifts to children and families in need in the Greater Houston community, no matter what faith tradition.

Even one year after Hurricane Harvey, families continue to struggle to afford basic needs such as housing and food. For some families, affording Christmas gifts is nearly impossible.

But with your support, we can share the spirit of the season with even more children and families this year. Your gift helps to provide the joy of Christmas to families who otherwise would not be able to afford gifts for their children and loved ones.

For more information about participating in our Share Your Blessings campaign, please contact Karina Hernandez at 713.874.6645 or KHernandez@CatholicCharities.org.

A Cardinal's
Christmas

with
His Eminence Daniel Cardinal Di Nardo
Benefiting Catholic Charities' Children & Family Services

See back for details!

Faith in Action

The Gospel calls us to love our neighbors through selfless deeds



Dear Friends,

Actions speak louder than words. As Scripture says: "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:17-18)

At Catholic Charities, we are blessed to witness on a daily basis how practical, compassionate action can restore or create hope for individuals in need: A bag of food promises a full stomach. A paid bill ensures a secure home.

Our highest calling at Catholic Charities is to put faith into action. As the social services arm of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, we believe that we have a responsibility to care for the poor, the frail, the hungry and those who desperately need our help. Our action can be reactive, in response to present and painful need. Or, our action can be proactive, providing resources to prevent the worst from happening.

For example, our HomeSafe initiative is proactive, aimed at preventing families and individuals from becoming homeless. Catholic Charities' network of basic needs services functions as a safety net, while our expert case managers identify opportunities and resources to help propel our clients into a brighter future.

Because you support Catholic Charities, we can help people like Eduardo, who was once homeless but now has a home and is safe, and on the path to self-sufficiency with help from the Guadalupe Center.

Thank you for opening your hearts to our brothers and sisters in need through your action in partnership with Catholic Charities.

In the peace of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia N. Colbert".

Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW
President and CEO

Program Feature

HomeSafe, Not Homeless

Your compassion for our neighbors in need helps us prevent homelessness



By supporting the HomeSafe initiative, you provide compassionate care to those in need, helping them remain in their homes.

At the end of a long work day, most of us look forward to returning to the security and comfort of a home where we have food to eat and a warm bed for the night's sleep. Sadly, thousands in the greater Houston area lack that security because they are homeless. Many more are just one emergency away from joining them.

Homelessness is a preventable problem. Because of you, Catholic Charities' HomeSafe initiative offers caring, compassionate help to families, seniors and children through programs that address poverty from a variety of perspectives.

Many families in crisis only need a one-time intervention to stay in their homes and prevent the costly and traumatic experience of eviction, which may mean losing their belongings and incurring bad credit. Because of your support, Catholic Charities can provide short-term financial assistance when it's most needed to cover basic necessities - like rent, utilities or medicine - to help stabilize a family. Then, case managers work with them on strategies to avoid future budget disasters.

Your gifts also enable Catholic Charities to provide additional assistance through food pantries for families who must skimp on groceries to pay other nonflexible bills, like rent.

By supporting the HomeSafe initiative, you provide compassionate care to those in need, helping them remain in their homes, apply for and access public benefits, and connect to service programs.

Pope Francis said, "To live charitably means not looking out for our own interests, but carrying the burdens of the weakest and poorest among us."

With your help, together, we will continue to lift up those in danger of homelessness so they can be carried to safety by the HomeSafe Initiative.

Mission Moments

Order of Malta Feeds Hungry Families in Fort Bend



Nearly 50 volunteers from the Order of Malta donate their time to make sure families in need in Fort Bend County receive nutritious food through the monthly food fairs at Mamie George Community Center.

On Saturday at the Mamie George Community Center, dozens of energetic volunteers sort through boxes of nutritious food to prepare for families in need. They are members of the Order of Malta, a 900-year-old Catholic lay-religious order that focuses on defending the faith and serving the sick and poor.

Each month, MGCC holds a food fair for low income families from Fort Bend County. The Order of Malta, about 60 Knights and Dames, first partnered with MGCC to support food fairs in 2011, and quickly discovered that they needed reinforcements as the population of clients grew. Catholic Charities recruited 40 to 50 additional volunteers, many of them enthusiastic high school students seeking opportunity to serve the community.

MGCC receives produce from the Houston Food Bank – nearly 20,000 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables for families who come to the center for food assistance. Because the Order of Malta focuses on providing a balanced diet, they prefer to send families home with protein as well. The Food Bank supplies protein on a more sporadic basis, so the Order began providing funds to make it a more consistent part of the food fair. Just in 2017, the Order donated \$20,000 to MGCC for this purpose, in addition to donating funds for two construction projects.

Catholic Charities is grateful for the support of the Order of Malta and other volunteers who do God's work for the poor and the sick!

Your Support Raised Over \$150,000 for Mamie George through Mission of Love

The fifth annual Mission of Love gala on Sept. 13 surpassed its goal and raised more than \$150,000 to support Catholic Charities' programs and services in Fort Bend County, thanks to you! The Mamie George Community Center honored Mayor Evalyn W. Moore for her service to the city of Richmond.

Thank you to chairs Steve Ewbank and Dee Koch for organizing a wonderful event!



From left: Catholic Charities President & CEO Cynthia N. Colbert; Co-Chair Dee Koch; Mayor Evalyn W. Moore; Co-Chair Steve Ewbank; and Catholic Charities Fort Bend Director Gladys Brumfield James.



Thank you for helping Catholic Charities serve more than 85,000 people in need every year!

✓ 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: _____

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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.

Celebrate the Spirit of Christmas with His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Join Us for Our Annual A Cardinal's Christmas Family Luncheon

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, December 8, 2018, and join us at River Oaks Country Club for A Cardinal's Christmas with His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, benefiting the Children and Family Services of Catholic Charities.

A Cardinal's Christmas is a cherished tradition for many families and it is a special day that we hope your family will enjoy as much as ours. Now in its tenth year, this luncheon offers a unique opportunity for you and your loved ones to gather in festive celebration as Cardinal DiNardo shares a very special story devoted to the true meaning of Christmas. In addition, each child will receive a Christmas activity bag and enjoy a delicious child-friendly meal.

Co-Chairs for this year's event are Megan and Luke Hotze, and Semmes and Will Burns.

To purchase tables and tickets or for more information, contact Naibi Rivera at 713.874.6629 or NRivera@CatholicCharities.org, or visit <https://CatholicCharities.org/acc>.



Now in its tenth year, A Cardinal's Christmas is a cherished family tradition that celebrates the true meaning and spirit of Christmas.

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US!

A Women Veteran's Affair – Open House

November 8, 2018 • Catholic Charities Guadalupe Center

A Cardinal's Christmas

December 8, 2018 • River Oaks Country Club

Share the Mission Mass & Reception

March 24, 2019 • Villa de Matel Chapel

For more information please contact Naibi Rivera at 713.874.6629 or NRivera@CatholicCharities.org.

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