

# GOOD NEWS NOW

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

Summer 2017



After being married for 12 years, Nadia and Oseas finally welcomed their son, Oseas Benjamin, into the world.



During one of the Blessed Beginnings prenatal classes, Nadia practiced newborn care.

## You Helped a Family Learn to Parent Their “Very Special Gift from God” Through Blessed Beginnings

Oseas and Nadia have been married 12 years. After their first two years together, they started planning for a baby. Unfortunately, infertility issues made it difficult to make their dream come true. Nadia tried many solutions – medical specialists, midwives, special massages, unique teas and a variety of natural remedies – to no avail. Despite the setbacks, she and Oseas never lost hope.

After 10 years, at age 37, God blessed Nadia and Oseas. She discovered she was expecting! Now she and her husband have welcomed their son, Oseas Benjamin.

Nadia and Oseas consider the baby a gift from God. “Sometimes God’s timing is not ours, but He never forgets,” she said.

Because of your support, the Catholic Charities Blessed Beginnings Life Center was able to assist the family with prenatal and parenting classes, which Nadia describes as “interesting, educational and instructive.” She and her husband have learned about pregnancy, newborn care and child development.

“The teachers are professional and motivating, the classes are interactive and we can share our experiences and histories,” she said. “I wish more parents would participate; I think that would help prevent a lot of child neglect and abuse.”

**The family is grateful for Blessed Beginnings and the program’s supporters like you. “We hope this program continues providing services and helping the community,” Nadia said. “It makes a real difference for families and children.”**

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Catholic Charities Works to Give Families in the Region a Hope-filled Future



At Catholic Charities, we recognize the positive influence of a strong, stable family on the development of a child – and we offer many life-affirming professional support services to build strong families.

Our Blessed Beginnings Life Center offers free interactive classes, mentoring, urgent supplies such as car seats, diapers and formula, and encouraging

support for the moms, dads and grandparents of children from conception through age 5.

We love and honor mothers, and with your support, we help them with their emotional, psychological, nutritional and spiritual needs from the moment they know they are carrying a new life.

In Fort Bend County, we also offer 24:7 Dad, an educational coaching program that empowers dads to bond with their children. Thanks to you, we offer family and marriage counseling for low-income families, school counseling at some parish schools, and basic needs support to ensure that children have nutritious food and a safe place to sleep.

We believe the family is the essential heart of society. We believe in the sanctity of human life, and we work to ensure healthy births, to avoid the sin of abortion, and to help children and families flourish.

We are particularly focused on early childhood, because by age 3, 80 percent of a child’s brain is developed. Unfortunately, by age 4, children in low-income households can fall as much as 18 months behind in development without intentional intervention. **That’s not acceptable, and Catholic Charities is here to stand in the gap – to nurture and support every precious new life – with your help.**

We pray that you’ll join us in our mission to strengthen the families in our region and to give every child a blessed beginning – and a brighter future. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Cynthia N. Colbert

Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW  
President and CEO



His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, honorees Salli Youtt and Michael Youtt, Board Chairman John Kafka and President/CEO Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW at the Wine & Dine Dinner on May 6.

You Helped Us Raise Over \$650,000 at the First Ever Wine & Dine Dinner

More than 320 guests enjoyed delicious food and fine wine in the lobby of the stunning 48-story 609 Main building in the heart of Downtown Houston at the sold out Wine & Dine dinner on May 6. This event benefitted Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Thanks to your support, the event raised more than \$650,000 to support all programs of the organization, which impact the lives of more than 88,000 people annually.

Guests enjoyed an exquisite four-course meal selected by Tony Vallone, owner of Tony’s Catering, with wine pairings by Guy Stout, the first Master Sommelier in Texas and one of only 160 in the world. His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo opened the dinner with a blessing, and KHOU’s Darby Douglas served as the emcee for the evening.

The event honored Salli and Michael Youtt for their legacy of leadership, philanthropy and support in the Houston community. Salli – owner of Salli Youtt Design, Inc. – has assisted with many Catholic Charities events and serves on the Development Committee. Michael, a retired partner of King & Spalding and a former chairman of the Catholic Charities board, continues to serve as a board member, and is an active volunteer with the St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigration Legal Assistance.

Visit our website for the full recap and more photos: [www.CatholicCharities.org/wineanddine](http://www.CatholicCharities.org/wineanddine).



More than 100 volunteers donated over 1,000 service hours on May 6 during Texans Care Day at the Villa de Guadalupe feeding families and cleaning up the facilities.



Over 100 Volunteers Help Catholic Charities on Texans Care Day

More than 100 volunteers helped feed more than 200 families and beautified Catholic Charities’ Villa de Guadalupe Center on Sat., May 6, in partnership with the Houston Texans and United Way of Greater Houston for Texans Care Day.

Texans Care Volunteer Day encourages volunteerism across the city of Houston. Texans players Brian Peters and Robert Nelson along with Texans Cheerleaders and volunteers with the Battle Red Ladies group were present to lend a hand to Catholic Charities staff and volunteers at the Villa Guadalupe and the Lewis and Joan Lowenstein Pan De Vida Food Pantry. Volunteers sorted, bagged and carried boxes of food for Catholic Charities’ clients.

Additionally, volunteers did landscaping — laying down mulch and fresh soil, pulling weeds, and planting fresh herbs in the vegetable garden — around the Villa and repainted rooms and apartments used for our women veterans.

Watch the video recap on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesGalvestonHouston](https://facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesGalvestonHouston).

Thank you! You Helped Families Prepare For the Arrival of Their Babies By Providing Supplies

Because of our generous supporters like you, our Blessed Beginnings and Refugee Resettlement programs were able to team up to host a baby shower in April for our clients who are expecting. The moms and dads-to-be enjoyed snacks and refreshments, mingled with other expectant parents, and were able to shop for baby clothes, shoes, diapers and car seats.

A special thank you to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, St. Laurence Catholic Church, and other private donors for their generous donations. Your support helps families in need be able to provide and care for their children.



Many of our mothers brought their little ones to enjoy the festivities.



Several clients were able to mingle with other expectant parents.



Blessed Beginnings Program Director Christy Jimenez speaks to one of the mothers at the baby shower.



You can help our moms and dads in need!

When you host a baby drive or make a donation, you help expectant parents in need receive necessary supplies to care for their newborns.

A few items we are currently in need of include:

- Bottles
- Receiving blankets
- Disposable diapers
- Onesies
- Bibs
- Baby shampoo, baby wash
- Pacifiers
- Infant safe toys
- Strollers
- New Car Seats

To make a donation, contact us at 713.874.6632 or visit [www.CatholicCharities.org/donate](http://www.CatholicCharities.org/donate) for more information.



Thank you for helping Catholic Charities serve more than 80,000 people in need!

✓ 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.





Fathers show their certificate after completing the 24:7 Dad program, which is free for all fathers in Fort Bend County.



Michael Ramon facilitates a 24:7 Dad class at the Mamie George Community Center.

## Dads Matter: You Help Men Be Better Dads through New Program in Fort Bend

Making sure children grow up to be strong and confident requires the commitment and involvement of both parents. While many parenting programs focus on the role of the mother, a new program in Fort Bend County aims to help fathers be better parents, thanks to your support.

The 24:7 Dad program is implemented by Catholic Charities at the Mamie George Community Center in Richmond. It is an educational coaching program that empowers fathers to develop bonds with their children that are critical to the children's emotional, social and physical development. Fathers and father figures greatly benefit from this prevention and intervention program that equips them with positive and lasting change.

The program is a free, six-week course that meets weekly and also provides dinner and childcare for the dads. Although the attendees are mostly first-time fathers and divorced dads, the program is open to anyone from expectant fathers to grandfathers.

Many of the fathers in the program grew up without a father figure

in their lives. Because of you, the program is able to help reduce the absenteeism rate of fathers in the lives of their children.

**"I haven't seen my daughter for two years, and this class is helping me become a better parent for her. Thank you for the tools I will use when we are reunited. The opportunity to meet, learn and share with other dads is so very helpful."**

— I.D., one of the fathers enrolled in the program.

The 24:7 Dad program also provides classes at the Carol S. Vance Unit prison to dads who will be returning home in the next six months. More than 50 dads show up every week to learn parenting skills and share the challenges of arriving home after prison life.

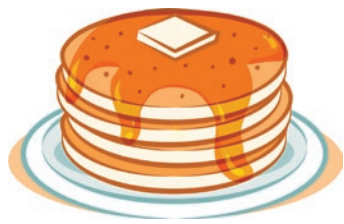
**Learn more about this program and how you can help men be better dads at [www.CatholicCharities.org/247dad](http://www.CatholicCharities.org/247dad).**

## S is For Summer Safety: Families Learn Important Tips Because of Your Support



A big thank you to Carmen Rogina, Principal at Ninfa Laurenzo Early Childhood Education Center, for allowing Blessed Beginnings to use the school for our Parenting Summer Camp! Our parents learned about summer safety while their children played activities, and did arts and crafts with our amazing volunteers. Your support of Blessed Beginnings provides programs like the summer camp to give families a safe, fun place to take their children.

## SAVE THE DATE



### PANCAKE FESTIVAL

June 24th 7 am - 7pm

Mamie George Community Center  
1111 Collins Road, Richmond, TX 77469

281-202-6200  
[www.CatholicCharities.org](http://www.CatholicCharities.org)

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