

GOOD NEWS NOW

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

Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Summer 2018



With your help, Adnan and his family were able to escape civil war and the devastation of Hurricane Harvey to start a new life in Houston.

You Gave a Family the Chance to Find a New Normal in Houston

Adnan, his wife Huda and their eight children arrived in Houston in August 2017 – escaping civil war in Syria and years in a refugee camp. They had no idea that the rains pouring into their new hometown would create a different kind of chaos in their lives.

Thanks to you, Catholic Charities case managers picked them up at the airport and took them to their new apartment supplied with furnishings, food and necessities to orient them to their new life.

During the storm, the apartment complex began flooding. The family of 10 was evacuated to the United Methodist Church, where Catholic Charities volunteers had set up a temporary shelter. After five days, the family returned to their apartment very thankful to have a place to call home.

With your help, Adnan, a cab driver in Syria, received assistance finding a job from the Catholic Charities employment team at the Schultz Company. He is delighted to be busy and productive once again. The team also found Huda a job at a local restaurant.

Because of you, the children love Houston and are enjoying school and activities. Mohammad, the oldest at 11, enjoys American football, and their daughters love to dance and sing in school.

The family also received Christmas presents through Catholic Charities' Share Your Blessings program, thanks to you.

"We are so grateful to Catholic Charities for all their help," Adnan said. "We have a normal life again – something we haven't had since the civil war in Syria came to our hometown in 2012. Thank you to everyone who made it possible for us to be happy, safe and working."

Relief, Recovery and Rebuilding: Catholic Charities' Response in the Aftermath of Hurricane Harvey



18,982
Individuals Served



5,980
Households Served



6,575
Children Assisted



2,840
Elderly Assisted



2,000
Volunteers Supported



246
Zip Codes Supported

Figures reflect first nine months after Hurricane Harvey.

Because of your support, Catholic Charities was able to serve thousands of individuals and families with disaster relief assistance in the first nine months after Hurricane Harvey. We were able to provide financial assistance, basic needs, counseling, food assistance, and more to those devastated by the storm. And with your help, we will continue to support those still in need find a path to a new normal.

"For thou hast been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat...."

- Isaiah 24:4

Faith Full

A SPIRITUAL AND CULINARY EXPERIENCE
WITH FR. LEO PATALINGHUG

Thursday,
October 18, 2018

THE ASTORIAN

www.CatholicCharities.org

Nearly a Year After Harvey, Our Work Continues on Many Fronts



Dear Friends,

Almost a year ago, Hurricane Harvey came ashore and changed the Greater Houston region forever. The storm was the most disastrous to ever hit our nation, flooding more than 300,000 structures and 500,000 vehicles – destroying homes and lives.

Most of us can name multiple families impacted by the storm, even if we personally escaped

the devastation. Catholic Charities has worked diligently to help the thousands who have come to us to rebuild and recover, but our work is not done.

As the leader in long-term disaster case management, Catholic Charities serves as an example in providing help and creating hope, and as a guide and connector for those who are struggling to find a new normal, post-Harvey. We have extended our services to more than 246 ZIP codes surrounding Houston and helped 18,980-plus individuals in the Harvey relief efforts by providing free and temporary housing, individualized case management and personalized disaster recovery plans, thanks to your support.

By the grace of our Lord, Catholic Charities remains a shelter from the storm and a stronghold to the needy in distress. Our disaster recovery work is just one of many services we provide, and we continue to meet many needs – including services to women veterans and seniors, counseling for families, assistance for young mothers and many more.

We appreciate your generous support as we continue our important ministry. Please join us in praying for those who suffer – both those recovering from the effects of the storm and those who struggle just to meet their daily needs.

We know the reward of our important work is eternal. May we work heartily together to help our great city, one person in need at a time. May God bless you.

With heartfelt gratefulness,

Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW
President and CEO

Program Feature

With Your Help, Catholic Charities Was There to Respond After Hurricane Harvey



Your continued generosity enables Catholic Charities to help families who are still struggling recover from Harvey.

Hurricane Harvey will be remembered as one of the most devastating storms in U.S. history, costing more than \$190 billion. More than 204,000 homes and apartment building in Harris County alone were damaged. Hundreds of thousands of people were impacted, losing jobs, homes and lives.

But thanks to your immediate support, Catholic Charities disaster case managers stepped in just after the storm hit to provide relief to those impacted. We continue that work almost a year later, helping individuals and families rebuild their lives and recover from devastation.

“Catholic Charities visited me at the shelter, helped me develop a plan, then helped me access community resources so I could move into my new apartment. I am not back to where I was before the storm, but I am grateful to be alive and to have a safe place to live. Thanks to Catholic Charities, I have a new apartment, my furnishings have been replaced and I am on the road to recovery.” - Harvey survivor

Disaster case managers work one-on-one with families to develop a recovery plan and to ensure the family receives comprehensive services and community resources on their path to rebuilding their lives. The recovery process is a long one, often painful, slow, expensive and requiring a mountain of paperwork.

To ensure Catholic Charities is ready for the next major storm or community disaster, the organization has created an entire program dedicated year-round to disaster recovery.

With your help, Catholic Charities will be here for the long haul, helping families rebuild and recover. Although much progress has been made in this past year, the road to recovery continues.

Mission Moments

Meet Some of the People Whose Lives You Changed After Harvey

Hurricane Harvey devastated many individuals and families throughout the Greater Houston region, but your critical support made an impact in the thousands of lives of those we served. Meet some of the people you helped:



In April 2016 during the Tax Day Flood, a massive tree fell on Elaine's mobile home and caused significant damage to her property and belongings.

While waiting for the repairs on her home to be completed, Hurricane Harvey hit and flooded her apartment. The few belongings she was able to salvage from her damaged mobile home were now wiped away by Harvey.

"After everything that was going on in my life, receiving help from Catholic Charities was such a blessing."



Shortly before Harvey struck, Deborah's husband was diagnosed with cancer. Then the storm forced her to miss work, and her husband was too sick to remain employed, placing a financial strain on the couple. Already ill, the financial stress added to Deborah's husband's deteriorating health. She then lost her beloved husband in March.

But because of you, Catholic Charities was there for Deborah. She received financial assistance to pay for her mortgage and utilities to help her catch up on her bills. Deborah is now working full-time as a teacher's aide and is slowly getting back on her feet, thanks to you.



Like so many others, Monica's car flooded during Harvey. Without reliable transportation, she often missed work and eventually lost her job. Although Monica was able to secure a new job, she had already fallen behind on her rent and struggled to catch up.

Thanks to you, Catholic Charities was able to help Monica get back on her feet. She received two months of rental assistance to help her while she waited to begin her new job. Now, because of you, Monica doesn't have to worry about how she will pay her rent or get to work.

"I'm so grateful for the help I received from Catholic Charities during this difficult time in my life. Thank you!"

From Near and Far, You Were There When Disaster Struck – Thank You!



Many people just like you were there when Hurricane Harvey devastated the Greater Houston region. From all over the country to right here in our community, you volunteered your time and your treasure to help those in need. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ!



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:

☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ 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.

A Feast to Be Faith Full For

Join Us for a Spiritual and Culinary Experience with Fr. Leo Patalinghug

Save the Date for a one-of-a-kind experience with Fr. Leo Patalinghug — Break dancer, Black Belt, Chef, TV and radio personality, and Priest — right here in Houston.

Join us on Thursday, October 18, 2018 for Faith Full: A Spiritual and Culinary Experience with Fr. Leo Patalinghug at The Astorian.

Fr. Leo travels the world to promote the importance of not what appears on the table, but who gathers around it. His dynamic personality and inspiring presentation will remind you of the joys of sharing faith, family and food. Fr. Leo is a best-selling author, and the host of Savoring Our Faith on EWTN, which was developed following his incredible win on the cooking competition, "Throw Down! with Bobby Flay."

The evening will include drinks, hors d'oeuvres, grab bags, and a cooking demonstration and presentation by Fr. Leo.

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



Fr. Leo Patalinghug

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US!

Mission of Love

September 13, 2018 • Safari Texas Ranch

Faith Full with Fr. Leo Patalinghug

October 18, 2018 • The Astorian

Beacon of Hope Appreciation Reception

October 25, 2018 • Sea Star Base Galveston

A Cardinal's Christmas

December 8, 2018 • River Oaks Country Club

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

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