



Winter 2019



A medical emergency put Aaron's family in a tough financial situation. But because of you, Aaron and his family received the support they needed for him to stay in school and manage their debt.

If You Had to Choose Between Paying Your Bills and Staying in School, What Would You Do?

You helped Aaron and his family when medical bills forced them to make this choice

Aaron is a smart, motivated teenager. But a medical emergency put his family in a tough financial situation and nearly forced him to drop out of high school.

When Aaron became seriously ill, his family took him to a local clinic. Although he recovered quickly, his family was left with more than \$10,000 in medical bills they could not pay. Anxious and stressed about his family's financial situation, Aaron made plans to drop out to help support his family.

Not wanting a bright student like Aaron to leave school, his high school counselor contacted Catholic Charities' Guadalupe Family Assistance Program for help.

Thanks to you, Catholic Charities was there for Aaron and his family. The staff at the Guadalupe Center helped them apply for emergency financial assistance. Because of your support, Catholic Charities paid the initial installment of a payment plan that worked with the family's limited budget.

Because of you, now Aaron doesn't have to choose between finishing high school and helping support his family.

Dozens Answer Call to Help Children and Families Separated at Border



Thanks to the service of dozens of volunteers, Catholic Charities' Cabrini Center was able to provide legal assistance to this vulnerable group of immigrant children.

With the help of 72 volunteer attorneys from local law firms and other practices, the St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance provided access to legal help to 87 unaccompanied children in Catholic Charities' care.

More than a dozen of the cases that qualified for pro bono direct representation were placed with attorneys. A few cases remain on a waiting list and Cabrini continues to steadily place these cases with pro bono attorneys.

Thank you to the Houston legal community who stepped up to the plate to offer your time, your talents and your skills to help this particularly vulnerable group of immigrant children. We are grateful for your compassion and service to launch these legal workshops which serve the children and families in need.

If you are interested in volunteering with Catholic Charities, please visit us at <https://CatholicCharities.org/volunteer> to complete the online application and learn more.



Wine & Dine

Benefiting Catholic Charities

Save the date: May 4, 2019

See back for details!

Messenger of Hope

The Holy Mother reminds us to see our neighbors as beloved children of God



Dear Friends,

In his homily on New Year's Day, Pope Francis invited the faithful to entrust their hearts to Mary, Holy Mother of God. He spoke on how she "strengthens us in faith, in our vocation and in our mission" and to look to her as a messenger of hope in challenging times.

Last year brought many challenges to our community, but your support allowed us to continue our mission of helping our neighbors who need us the most.

Thanks to your generosity last year, we helped more than 100,000 people: families still recovering from Hurricane Harvey, people who lost their jobs, immigrants who were escaping violence and threats, women veterans who slept in cars with their children, and so many more.

Like Mary, who sees everyone as beloved children of God, you offer a message of hope with your support that helps us continue to serve as the hands and feet of Christ to those still suffering.

Thank you for your generosity and compassion, which allows us to continue this important work. God bless you, and Happy New Year!

In the peace of Christ,



Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW
President and CEO

Please join us at our Guadalupe Center Open House!

You're invited to join us on Tuesday, April 9, 2019
for our Guadalupe Family Assistance Center Open House!
Tour the center and learn more about the services your
support provides to families in need.

Complimentary wine and refreshments will be served.

For more information and to RSVP, please
contact Naibi Rivera at 713.874.6629 or
NRivera@CatholicCharities.org.

Program Feature

Your Support Keeps Families Fed and Secure at Home



With your help, Catholic Charities' Guadalupe Center feeds thousands of families each year through our food pantry and fairs. The center is also home to the Villa Guadalupe, which provides short-term housing and services for women veterans and their children.

Elena and her family live on the financial edge. A single mom, Elena has a low-paying part-time job, and she's able to leave her pre-school age children with a neighbor. But an unexpected car repair would create a financial crisis that could put Elena's family on the street.

Because you support Catholic Charities, families like Elena's can get the help they need. The Guadalupe Family Assistance program provides resources that keep a roof overhead and food on the table during the hardest of times.

Your support also enables the Lewis and Joan Lowenstein Foundation Pan De Vida Food Pantry to offer nutritious groceries to promote good health, including a variety of perishable and nonperishable food items. In addition, hundreds of families visit our food fairs each month, taking home bags of fresh vegetables and fruit, bread and meat. Guadalupe Center is one of the few food pantries that welcomes anyone, regardless of their zip code.

So that families like Elena's stay in their homes and keep the lights burning, your support allows the program to provide funds for rent, utilities and other emergency expenses.

Clients can meet with a case manager who can discuss what else the family needs and help them find resources that sustain low income families when money is running low, such as SNAP (formerly food stamps).

With your help, Guadalupe Family Assistance restores hope to thousands of others like Elena through food, clothing and financial assistance for vulnerable low-income families until they return to self-sufficiency.

Mission Moments

With Your Help, Thousands Share the Joy of Christmas Through Share Your Blessings Program



For the past 25 years, you opened your hearts to spread the joy of Christmas to those in need through our annual Share Your Blessings Christmas gift program. Because of your generosity, thousands of vulnerable families received Christmas gifts.

The Christmas spirit glows brighter in thousands of homes each year thanks to your support of the Share Your Blessings Christmas gift campaign.

Because of you, nearly 6,400 individuals received toys, groceries, clothing and household items through the annual outpouring of holiday generosity. Faithful parishes, corporations and organizations donated items and volunteered to sort and prepare gifts, then host distribution events.

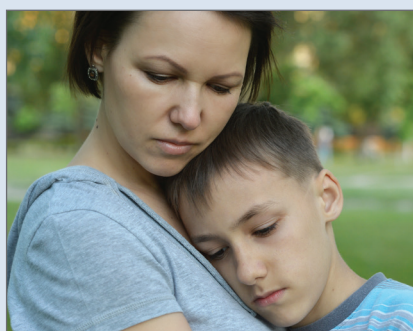
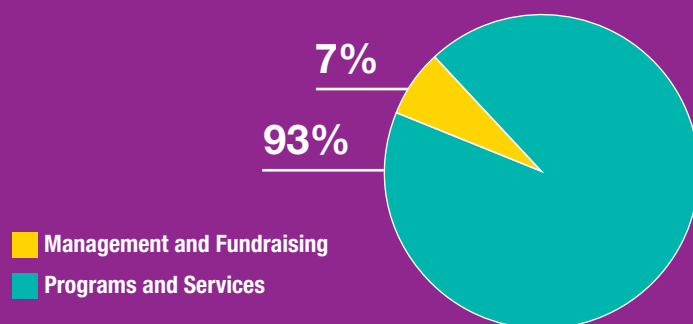
Most of the gifts are given to families who are clients of Catholic Charities' programs that provide comprehensive services including food pantries, parenting classes, support for women veterans, legal assistance for immigrants and more.

"We're so grateful to parishes and other friends who enable Catholic Charities to spread Christmas cheer to families who struggle with poverty," said Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW, Catholic Charities President and CEO. "We are blessed by the generous support of people of faith all year long, and especially during the Advent season when we celebrate the mystery of God with us."

Families enroll in advance to receive toys for their children. Gift bags are prepared for each family with age-appropriate toys inside to ensure children have a merry – and blessed – experience on Christmas morning.

How Your Gifts Are Used

At Catholic Charities, we are grateful for your support and put your gifts to work immediately helping the most vulnerable in our community. Each year more than 90% of the gifts received are used to help those who have the least. Your gift has a tremendous impact on those we serve, helping to lift people out of poverty and setting them on a path to self-sufficiency. Thank you!



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: _____

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.

Save the Date for the Wine & Dine Wine-Pairing Dinner

Join Us in Honoring Carol and John Kafka for Their Service

We hope you will join us in honoring Carol and John Kafka for their unwavering dedication to the mission of Catholic Charities.

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, May 4, 2019, and join us at The Revaire for our second ever Wine & Dine wine pairing dinner, benefiting Catholic Charities programs and services.

Co-Chairs for this year's event are Mikki Hebl and David Harvey, and Reinnette and Stan Marek.

This year's Wine and Dine will feature Sommelier Jerome Smojver, who will meticulously pair wines from around the world with an exquisite four course dinner. The evening will also include a welcome reception, wine-pull, and a live auction of several one-of-a-kind luxury items.

Our first dinner in 2017 quickly sold out, so please hurry to purchase your tables and tickets for an evening of fun, food, friendship and wine!

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



JOIN US!

Share the Mission Mass & Reception

March 24, 2019 • Villa de Matel Chapel

Guadalupe Center Open House

April 9, 2019 • Guadalupe Family Assistance Center
326 S. Jenson Drive

Wine & Dine

May 4, 2019 • The Revaire

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

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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

