

Rebuilding Lives



Harvey Recovery
YEAR TWO



DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

Community Report 2017-2019



People of Faith.
Helping People in Need.

For you have been a refuge for the weak, a refuge for the needy in distress, a shelter from the storm... Isaiah 25:4

As time passes following Hurricane Harvey, it's easy to assume that everything is back to normal. But look closer in some neighborhoods and you'll find many homes still are not in pre-Harvey condition, evidence that recovery from disaster is measured in years, not months.


That's why Catholic Charities put an infrastructure in place to provide ongoing disaster assistance. Thanks to an outpouring of private donations and public support, our Disaster Recovery Program will continue to serve Harvey survivors for up to five years after Harvey.

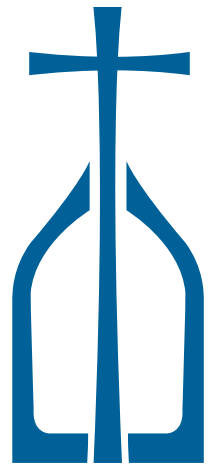
In the first year after the flooding, we helped 19,658 people – responding to the most urgent calls for help with food, clothing, gas cards, housing and other critical needs. During Year Two, our Disaster Recovery Program shifted into long-term recovery mode, providing more intensive consultation to 3,285 people who may have been more vulnerable before Harvey: retirees, low-income families and others who didn't have the resources to bounce back.

We do this in response to Catholic Social Teaching. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, caring for the most vulnerable to uphold human dignity. We are able to do this through God's grace, with the support of our partners and friends who walk beside us in our mission. With God's help, and yours, we will continue to assist Harvey survivors for years to come.

In the peace of Christ,


Kevin K. Rech
Board Chair


Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW
President and CEO



St. Martha volunteer Marty Curtis (L), smiles beside Lillene Luker and PSM director Olga Najjar

Connections through Parishes

Retirement was already a financial challenge for Lillene Luker, and it got harder after Hurricane Harvey literally washed the former teacher's home off its foundation near the banks of the San Jacinto River. Endless red tape prevented Lillene from rebuilding her home, so she lives on her property in a prefab structure that came without a kitchen or bathroom.

Through Catholic Charities' partnership with St. Martha Catholic Church in Kingwood, Lillene made the temporary building into a home with new kitchen appliances. "St. Martha came out, looked, prayed, assessed and paid," said Lillene.

St. Martha partnered with the Disaster Recovery Program, with responsibility for identifying and helping people who suffered loss from Harvey. Olga Nájjar, director of social services at St. Martha, said, "I'm so happy to be a bridge to connect people with assistance."

The partnership allows each parish to provide up to \$2500 in assistance to an individual or family. Olga reports that a recipient often refuses the full amount if they don't need it all: "They ask us to use the rest of the money to help others who need it more."

Participating Parishes

In the two years following Harvey, Catholic Charities' Disaster Recovery Program directed \$600,000 to partnerships with parishes to help people in their communities.

- Holy Rosary Catholic Church (Houston)
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church (Houston)
- Mary Queen Catholic Church (Friendswood)
- Prince of Peace Catholic Community (Houston)
- St. John the Baptist Catholic Church (Alvin)
- St. John Vianney Catholic Church (Houston)
- St. Francis Assisi Catholic Church (Houston)
- St. Martha Catholic Church (Kingwood)
- St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church (Houston)



Two Years of Compassionate Help after Harvey

Hurricane Harvey hit in late August 2017, submerging entire neighborhoods in southeast Texas with up to 60 inches of rain over a four-day period. Thanks to a flood of support from generous donors, Catholic Charities was in action before the water had all drained: distributing food, clothing, supplies and financial assistance. Not long after, Catholic Charities solidified its Disaster Recovery Program to move forward and into the future.

Two years later, many southeast Texas families still live in homes with unrepaired damage not covered by flood insurance or FEMA funds. While on the surface two years may seem like sufficient time to bring neighborhoods back to their pre-Harvey condition, recovery is not a simple, or in many cases, affordable process. Low-income households are especially vulnerable and have the most challenges in recovering.

Catholic Charities is committed to continue service through its Disaster Recovery Program for up to five years. If — or more aptly, when — disaster strikes again, Catholic Charities has the capacity and expertise to scale the program to provide compassionate, vital disaster recovery assistance.



DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM 2017-2019

With your support,
Catholic Charities
provided help and hope
to those affected by
Hurricane Harvey.



\$24,907,262
in total financial assistance
to the community

*Intensive consultation, material assistance:
home repair, furniture, appliances,
temporary housing and more*



22,221 people served

8,680 children

3,244 seniors



1,069
households



\$2,796,313

to support our partners
in case management,
BakerRipley and The Alliance



Disaster Recovery Timeline

Catholic Charities' disaster assistance efforts are proportionate to need: more clients are served in the early days following a natural disaster, while long-term recovery for a reduced number of families occurs over years.

YEAR ONE

IMMEDIATE/URGENT RESPONSE

\$14,793,998 financial assistance*
19,658 clients served

YEAR TWO

LONG-TERM RECOVERY UNDERWAY

In 2018-2019:

\$10,113,264 financial assistance*

**Includes intensive consultation and material assistance: home repair, furniture, appliances, temporary housing and more*

3,285 clients served

Long-term recovery clients often need more intensive attention, requiring additional help in regaining their footing from disaster. Many were vulnerable before Harvey, either low income or on the brink of need, with fewer resources for recovery, such as adequate insurance or savings.

YEAR FIVE

Catholic Charities expects to serve Harvey clients for at least five years beyond the storm. Our Disaster Recovery Program is positioned to respond to any future disasters.

Harvey Survivors: Persevere and Recover

Following Harvey, Catholic Charities's Disaster Recovery Program created a team of compassionate, committed case managers – dedicated staff who meet with families recovering from flood-related loss. The case managers are navigators and guides, first helping families create a plan for recovery, then identifying available resources in the public and private sector, including funds from Catholic Charities.



The Payne Family
Dickinson



Ruth and Clint Payne retired early and settled into life in their house tucked away in a bend of Dickinson Bayou. When Harvey struck, the Paynes and their son Nicholas ended up in their attic to escape from five feet of floodwater in their home, along with their Australian Shepherds: seven dogs including five puppies.



Somehow, Clint was able to swim through the water to find a ladder they used to climb onto their neighbor's roof, where they waited for a boat to rescue them. Later, family members rescued the dogs by boat.

Everything in their home was destroyed. The Paynes had homeowner's insurance, but it didn't cover the damage and the FEMA money only went so far. "We went through all of our savings," said Clint. Then, the Paynes heard about Catholic Charities' Disaster Recovery Program. Catholic Charities provided funding for final restoration work to be done in partnership with Fuller Disaster Rebuilders, which sends teams of volunteers around the country to help communities following disasters like Harvey. In addition, Catholic Charities is providing furniture so the Paynes can get their household back to normal.

Sandra Tousant
Galveston



In August 2017, Sandra Tousant had just lived a mother's worst nightmare: the death of her adult son, who lost a long battle to numerous health issues. Then, only days later, Hurricane Harvey made things even worse.

Sandra's small brick house is tucked away on a street just a few blocks from the Port of Galveston cruise terminal, within sight of the massive docked cruise ships that tower behind the Strand Historic District. Harvey floodwaters washed throughout her home, while heavy rains damaged her roof.

Sandra's home was in shambles – furniture ruined, walls soaked. FEMA money handled basic repairs, but Sandra's fixed income couldn't cover the rest.

Then, "God gave me Catholic Charities," said Sandra. Disaster Recovery Program staff literally came knocking, while canvassing the area to offer help.

Catholic Charities fixed Sandra's roof and supplied new appliances and furniture. "I would not have been able to pay for this myself," Sandra said. "I can't appreciate Catholic Charities too much. You're just awesome."





COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

PROJECT COMEBACK: TEXAS

DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Catholic Charities is honored to serve as one of the central partners of Project Comeback: TEXAS, a federally-funded initiative of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD). NVOAD works with a consortium of five partners to provide case management to Harvey survivors.

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Catholic Charities' Disaster Recovery Hotline 713.874.6664



People of Faith. Helping People in Need.

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