



Lucinda was out of work for weeks when Winter Storm Uri damaged her place of work. She was behind on rent and bills, and worried about providing for her children. Thanks to you, Catholic Charities was there to help.

You Helped a Single Mother and her Kids Get Back on Their Feet

Lucinda is no stranger to hardship. As a single mother, she worked long hours at a washateria to support her two small children. The pay wasn't much, but it was enough to get by and take care of her family.

She was already living paycheck to paycheck when Winter Storm Uri hit. The harsh winter weather busted the pipes at the washateria and forced the business to close for weeks – and put Lucinda out of work. She was worried about paying her bills and how she would take care of her kids without an income.

Because of your quick and generous support, Catholic Charities was able to help Lucinda. Your gifts enabled us to provide her emergency financial assistance so she could catch up on her rent and her utilities, and make sure she had plenty of nutritious food for her family.

Now that the washateria has reopened, Lucinda is back at work and is once again able to provide for her children. She was grateful that Catholic Charities was able to help her family when they had nowhere else to turn.

Thank you for helping single mothers like Lucinda when they needed it most!

Myths and Facts About Families Living in Poverty



Many families were forced into poverty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but there are still many misconceptions about poverty.

Millions of Americans have struggled over the past year with the economic blow from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many families already struggling lost their jobs and are now straining to pay for basic needs such as rent and food. However, there are still many misconceptions about poverty.

MYTH: Low-income families do not work.

FACT: More than 10 million of those Americans living in poverty are “working poor;” they either have jobs or have been looking for work for at least half a year. In Texas, 80% of families who received SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits had at least one working adult, and two-thirds of people living in poverty work more than one job.

MYTH: If you're not officially poor, you aren't poor.

FACT: Even if a family earns above the federal poverty threshold, living on the edge of poverty can be just as stressful as living in poverty. A recent survey showed that 40% of Americans would struggle to afford a \$400 unexpected bill. Families who live paycheck to paycheck find it difficult to afford unexpected expenses, pay off debt or save money.

MYTH: Only homeless people live in poverty.

FACT: While families who live in poverty do sometimes struggle to maintain housing, they are not all homeless. However, they are more at risk of becoming homeless by experiencing a financial crisis – job loss, a pandemic, an unexpected medical emergency, etc. – due to low-income. Last year, the federal poverty line for a family of four was \$26,500.

Providing a Path to Home



Dear Friends,

One of the many lessons I've learned throughout the ongoing pandemic is what it means to have a home. Our homes are our sanctuaries – a safe haven, a place of comfort, and a space to build memories with our families.

For so many vulnerable families in our community, they are constantly faced with the threat of losing their place of shelter and

refuge. Many people were already one emergency away from crisis, and then the pandemic followed by Winter Storm Uri caused them to lose their jobs, and face hunger and homelessness.

Thanks to your generosity, Catholic Charities has helped keep families in their homes. Since July, we have provided more than \$1.2 million in emergency financial assistance to help with rent and utilities; over 4.7 million pounds of food distributed from our regional food pantries; and more than \$230,000 in direct assistance for people impacted by Winter Storm Uri.

And to help even more families impacted by the pandemic, Catholic Charities has collaborated with the City of Houston, Harris County, the Houston Housing Authority, the Coalition for the Homeless, and other organizations to help struggling families avoid evictions and stay in their homes.

While there seems to be hope on the horizon for an end to the pandemic, the economic hardships for those already on the edge of poverty will continue for a long time. With your faithful support, Catholic Charities will be here to meet whatever needs arise from this crisis to help our most vulnerable neighbors on the path to self-sufficiency.

God bless you for your compassion and generosity to provide help and create hope to those who need it most.

In the peace of Christ,

Cynthia N. Colbert

Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW
President and CEO



From left: Catholic Charities President and CEO Cynthia N. Colbert, George W. Strake, Jr., Annette Strake, and Board Chair Ellen Ginty.

You Made a Texas-Sized Impact for Families In Need!

Thanks to you and your hearts as big as the Lone Star state, the Deep in the Heart of Texas Spirit of Charity Luncheon was a huge success! With many family and friends attending in person at LIFE HTX, and also tuning in virtually, the event raised nearly \$600,000 to support the mission of Catholic Charities.

Thank you to Co-Chairs Laurel and Jeb Bashaw; Honorary Chair, His Eminence Cardinal Daniel DiNardo; our honorees, the Strake Foundation; and our generous underwriters for helping sponsor this special celebration.

Program Feature

You Gave People Like Joe a Home

Rapid Re-Housing Program helps people who face homelessness



Many people faced homelessness due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to your support, vulnerable people are able to find a home.

"I don't know if you have wings...but you came and grabbed me away from the streets."

Because you gave to Catholic Charities, families who would otherwise be living on the street are able to get a good night's rest in the security of their own home. Your gifts allow Catholic Charities to provide help through programs like Stable Homes, which promotes housing stability through rental assistance, education and resources that build a path to self-sufficiency.

During the pandemic, Catholic Charities recognized that many more vulnerable families needed help to maintain a home. More needed to be done, so with the support of donors like you, the Rapid Re-Housing Program was launched in the fall of 2020, when thousands of area residents were becoming homeless after losing jobs or wages due to COVID-19.

In collaboration with the Houston Housing Authority and the Coalition for the Homeless, the program rescues people who have recently fallen into homelessness, providing them with an apartment and connection to a full range of Catholic Charities programs to help them reclaim their self-sufficiency.

Because of you, we were able to help Joe, a single man in his 30s, who found himself living on the streets during the pandemic. Even though he was disabled he wanted to work, but he was unable to find a job that would accommodate his mobility. Because of you, Joe was able to get employment assistance from Catholic Charities, help with bus cards to get to work, and groceries from the Guadalupe Center Food Pantry.

Thank you for your gifts and support for the mission of Catholic Charities. Joe expresses his gratitude: "I would like to graciously thank you and Catholic Charities for this blessing. You both saved a life. Everything is just good in my heart right now."

Mission Moment 2021 Diaper Drive



Thank You For Keeping Babies and Very Young Children Clean, Healthy and Dry!

For the third consecutive year, you helped provide thousands of diapers and wipes to parents in need during the Houston Catholic Radio Month of Mary Drive for Diapers for Catholic Charities!

Thanks to your support, we can continue to provide diapers, wipes and essential supplies to struggling mothers to help them give their very young children the best possible start in life.

"The diaper bundle with baby wash and lotion came right when I really needed it. I don't know what I would have done without Catholic Charities and Blessed Beginnings!" – Michaela, mother of twins

Special thank you to KSHJ 1430 AM for sponsoring the campaign again this year.

For more information on how you can continue to help mothers in need, visit CatholicCharities.org/diaperdrive.

Volunteer Spotlight

Knights of Columbus Serves Those Who Serve

Feeding thousands of Fort Bend families who visit the Catholic Charities' Mamie George Community Center's food distributions each week takes many hands. Our volunteers have worked tirelessly to make sure people in need receive nutritious food.

The Knights of Columbus from St. Laurence made sure to take care of our hardworking volunteers by providing them with a delicious BBQ lunch. Thank you for serving those who serve!



Thank you for helping Catholic Charities serve more than 100,000 people in need every year!

✓ Yes, I support Catholic Charities!

Enclosed is my donation for Catholic Charities in the amount of:

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

Join Us! Save the Dates for Our Upcoming Events!



Mission of Love

Thursday, September 9, 2021 · 6:30 p.m.
Safari Texas Ranch, Richmond, TX

Celebrate 10 years of Catholic Charities' Mamie George Community Center and its impact on Fort Bend County. Join Chair Lisa Emiliani and Co-Chair Eleanor Loosbeck to help honor Dr. Thomas Randle, retiring superintendent of Lamar Consolidated ISD, and support Catholic Charities' life-changing programs and services in Fort Bend County.

For more information, please contact Matt Johns at 713-874-6659 or MJohns@CatholicCharities.org.

Share the Mission Mass and Reception

Sunday, October 24, 2021
Villa de Matel, Houston, TX

Join us in recognizing your incredible impact and tremendous support of Catholic Charities over the past year. Mass will be celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop George A. Sheltz, followed by a reception with complimentary refreshments and fellowship.

For more information, please contact Naibi Rivera at 713-874-6629 or NRivera@CatholicCharities.org.

*Share the Mission
Mass and Reception*



Wine & Dine Dinner

Saturday, November 13, 2021 · 6:00 p.m.
The Revaire, Houston, TX

Our third Wine & Dine dinner is set for an evening of fun, food and friendship. Chaired by Kelly and John Mooz, this sophisticated dinner will feature meticulously paired wines with an exquisite meal, a wine-pull, and more. Please help us honor the Scanlan Foundation for their dedication to Catholic Charities' mission and their unwavering support of the Greater Houston community. Proceeds benefit Catholic Charities' programs and services.

For more information, please contact Naibi Rivera at 713-874-6629 or NRivera@CatholicCharities.org.

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100 years from now you can still be giving to Catholic Charities.

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

