

GOOD NEWS NOW

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

Fall 2021



Samira escaped from Afghanistan after working for the U.S. defense industry. She literally feared for her life, but thanks to your gifts, she received services through the Refugee Resettlement Program, and now works as a Catholic Charities employee.

Thanks to You, Samira Has a New Life in America

Samira* was just a child when the Taliban first came to her village. It was a dangerous time and her family even had to flee to Pakistan for a time. When Samira grew up, she worked for a U.S. defense contractor. It was a good job, but it made her a target of the Taliban. In fear for her life, she got a special visa to come to America.

Because of you, thousands of refugees like Samira, start a new life in Houston free from danger. They arrive with little more than the clothes on their backs and must start over from scratch. They need everything – a home, furniture, clothes, dishes -- and because of you and your generosity they get the help they need to begin their journey to a new life in their new country.

Today, Samira is a Refugee Resettlement case manager with Catholic Charities resettling families from all over the world. She always remembers that just a few short years ago she was just like them -- alone, scared but excited to start her new life.

Samira constantly worries about her family back in Afghanistan and wishes she could have gotten them out of the country before the Taliban took over. She is especially concerned for her teenage brother, who faces the threat of forced conscription into the Taliban army, and her sisters, who face suppression as women.

Catholic Charities will be resettling hundreds of Afghan families in Houston over the next few months. With your help, a chaotic, troubling time for these families will turn into a success story like Samira's.

*Not her real name to keep her safe and protect her family still in Afghanistan.

Myths and Facts about Refugees



This little girl is sad to leave her Afghan homeland behind. Thanks to your support, she can adjust to her new life in a safe new home.

The U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan left tens of thousands of our Afghan allies in grave danger, fearing retaliation from the Taliban. Afghans worked as interpreters and in other roles to help our soldiers and government employees. They served at our side. Now, it's our turn to help them.

MYTH: The government covers all costs for all refugees.

FACT: While the U.S. government provides some funding for Afghan families who are coming to Houston, federal funds don't cover all costs that these families will need to set up a new home. It takes many months for a family to stabilize. Private donations like yours are critical to help our new neighbors get settled and build a new life.

MYTH: Refugees are a drain on the system.

FACT: Afghan refugees who have resettled in Houston over the years have been incredibly successful here, becoming community leaders, working in critical industries, and becoming small business owners. With your continued support, we can continue to help newly-arrived families achieve the same levels of success.

MYTH: Refugees are on their own after they arrive in a new country.

FACT: Thanks to your support, Catholic Charities helps Afghan families with furnished apartments, school enrollment, English instruction, job placement, and much more. Your gifts provide refugees with the help they need to make Houston their new home.

You Turn Hurt into Hope



Dear Friends,

We are in unprecedented times. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to throw challenges our way with new, highly contagious variants keeping the future uncertain. The U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan is bringing many new refugees and evacuees to our community. And tropical weather battered the Gulf Coast, destroying property and displacing people across Texas and Louisiana.

But, because of you, and the help you have provided to those in need, you turn the hurt in the world around us into hope.

Despite a brief reprieve earlier this summer, the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact our daily lives. But your generosity helped meet the all-time high levels of need in our community. In this past year, your gifts provided 5.2 million pounds of food and \$3.2 million in financial assistance to more than 340,000 individuals impacted by the pandemic.

When Afghan evacuees began arriving in Houston, you immediately made them feel welcomed and supported in their new home. I feel truly blessed to live in a community that lives out the Church's teaching of welcoming the stranger.

Living on the Gulf Coast tropical weather is just a fact of life. Thanks to you, when our neighbors in Louisiana arrived in Houston to get out of the path of Hurricane Ida, those stranded here were able to get the hotel stays, food and other emergency assistance to get back home to start rebuilding their lives.

Without you, we could never meet this incredible need.

God bless you for your generous hearts, and for the hope and help you provide.

In the peace of Christ,

Cynthia N. Colbert

Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW
President and CEO



Because of you, more than 500 people from Louisiana who fled Hurricane Ida received emergency financial assistance.

Thanks to You, When Storms Hit Help Was There

Because of your generosity, Catholic Charities is here to help in times of disaster. When Category 4 Hurricane Ida barreled toward our Louisiana neighbors' homes, your donations provided fuel for vehicles, meals and temporary housing to 586 of those who had evacuated to Houston.

And, because of you, we were also able to help only a few weeks later when Tropical Storm Nicholas passed through Houston. Thank you for helping when disaster strikes!

Your Donations @ Work

You Helped a Father Find Safety for His Family



Thanks to you, hundreds of Afghan evacuees like A.J. are starting a new life here in Houston.

Just before the United States withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Taliban takeover, A.J., his wife and three children fled the country.

Because of you and your support, Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement program is making A.J.'s transition to a new country go smoothly. Over the next few months, the program expects to help more than 800 Afghan evacuees, like A.J., who escaped from danger - many with only what little they could carry.

Getting accustomed to a new country is difficult for refugees like A.J. who have just arrived in the U.S. Because of you, A.J. and his family are receiving the cultural acclimation they need to succeed. This includes cultural, economic, social and language orientation that will help the family succeed in their new home.

"I am glad there is someone answering all my questions and concerns," A.J. said. "They're getting me through the legal and social process while I adjust to life here."

Your generous support of Catholic Charities also enabled A.J., a plumber in Afghanistan, to get the authorization he'll need to work in this country with the help of the St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance. Once his authorization is approved, your support continues to help newcomers like A.J. find meaningful and fulfilling employment so they can become self-sufficient.

A.J. is grateful for the help he's received because of your support and hopes to get a job soon to support his family. As you can see, YOU make a difference! Thank you for your support!

Mission Moment

Women Veterans History Project



Your Support Allows Women Veterans to Tell Their Stories

Participants in the Women's Veterans Program will have a chance to share their story – good, bad or otherwise – in The Library of Congress Veterans History Project in the coming months. The project, sponsored by U.S. Congressman Troy E. Nehls, is a collaboration that will document women's contributions in the military.

Because of your generous support to Catholic Charities, these brave women will not only receive help in crisis – via financial assistance for rent, mortgage, food, employment and education guidance – but also have a chance to let their voices be heard in history through video interviews. Thank you for helping our women veterans share their stories of sacrifice in service to our country.

Spotlight

A Decade of Service to Seniors, Families and More!

In September, the Mission of Love Gala celebrated 10 years of service at the Mamie George Community Center in Fort Bend County.

Thanks to your generous support, Catholic Charities can provide vital services at the Mamie George Community Center, including the Trini's Market client-choice food pantry, free meals for seniors at Patty's Café, financial assistance, parenting education for young families and much more!



Many thanks to event chair Lisa Emiliani (from left), Mamie George executive director Gladys Brumfield-James, honoree Dr. Thomas E. Randle, Most Reverend Italo Dell'Oro, C.R.S., Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, and event co-chair Eleanor Loosbrock



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: _____

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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.

Join Us! Save the Dates for Our Upcoming Events!



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.

Save
the
Date



Spirit of Charity Luncheon

May 12, 2022

Watch this space for exciting details, then make plans to join us at our annual lunchtime gathering of friends and partners in mission!

Coming soon!

Celebrate the season with the Angels of Advent Campaign

All through the month of December, we will share program highlights and warm your heart with inspiring stories that show how your gifts help people in need throughout the greater Houston-Galveston area



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

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* ex officio

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