



GOOD
NEWS NOW

Summer 2016



Gala Raises More Than \$1.2 Million to Support Programs

The Spirit of Charity Gala on May 6 was a huge success. Through our donors and guests, Catholic Charities raised more than \$1.2 million at the Grand Bazaar-themed gala.

Attended by more than 660 guests, the night was filled with the unforgettable music of The Midtown Men, '60s classics performed by four original cast members from Broadway's Jersey Boys; a live auction; and exquisite cuisine by Caswell & Company Catering. His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo opened the evening with a blessing.

The festive event honored the Harvey family with the 2016 Monsignor John J. Roach Award for their longtime friendship and legacy of leadership, philanthropy and strong Catholic family values. David E. Harvey Jr., chairman and CEO of D.E. Harvey Builders, is an Advisory Board member and past chair of Catholic Charities' board of directors. He and his mother, Patricia, received the award on behalf of their entire family, including 10 siblings, 23 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

"The Harveys have committed their careers to this community as builders, engineers, nurses, accountants, marketing directors, art directors, teachers, business managers and computer experts," said Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW, Catholic Charities president and CEO.



The Harvey Family



Carol Beck, Cardinal DiNardo,
Alicia Freysinger and Jo Brueggeman

A big thank you is in order to event chairs Carol and Paul Beck, Jo and George Brueggeman Jr., and Alicia and Dave Freysinger, as well as auction chairs Jennifer and Bryan Caswell. "The chairs and the planning committee did a spectacular job with this year's gala," said Diane Cervenka, Catholic Charities vice president for development and marketing.

The Spirit of Charity Gala is the largest fundraising event for Catholic Charities. It raises funds to support all of the agency's programs, which impact the lives of more than 78,000 people annually.

To view more photos from the gala please visit www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesGalvestonHouston

Cynthia Colbert Named Finalist in First HBJ Women Who Mean Business Awards

Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW, president and CEO, was recognized May 11 as one of 10 nonprofit finalists in the inaugural Women Who Mean Business Awards sponsored by the *Houston Business Journal*. The awards dinner, attended by more than 400 leaders from across the

region, celebrated 40 finalists from an array of industries.

According to the *Houston Business Journal*, "Finalists were honored for career achievement, contribution to company and city success, community involvement and leadership."



Dear Friends,

In this past year, our city has been hit by major flooding three times and counting, and several impoverished neighborhoods have been hit more than once.

Most of us can survive the challenge of a flooded home, a sudden job loss or a serious illness because we have back-up resources – savings, insurance, a second income or family who can help. But for the most vulnerable individuals and families in our city, one crisis can be devastating.

Since the most recent floods, our staff members have worked tirelessly, often at night and on weekends, to help meet the needs of families displaced from local apartments. Their goal is to help people get back to normal,

sustainable life as soon as possible, but it's an uphill climb when they're starting with nothing. I am consistently impressed by how caring our Catholic Charities team members are, how well they listen and how persistently they help people connect to resources so they can get their lives moving forward again.

In just the first two weeks after the flood, a small Catholic Charities team put in an extra 1,200 hours to personally check on and assist displaced families. I am grateful to them, and I am especially grateful to those of you who provided funds to allow us to give them grocery and gas cards, to help pay rent and utilities, and to pay for desperately needed hotel rooms.

Together, we are the back-up resources for people who aren't

fortunate enough to have any. Whether they're hit by a flood or some other life-altering challenge, they count on us to be there.

Thank you for your help toward *providing help and creating hope* when families need us most.

In the Peace of Christ



Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW

President/CEO
Catholic
Charities of the
Archdiocese
of Galveston-
Houston



Flip Out With Us June 25 at the Third Annual Pancake Festival



The Mamie George Community Center will host its third annual Pancake Festival June 25 to benefit health and wellness services for seniors. Featuring all-you-can-eat pancakes for \$5, children's activities, musicians, dance groups and other fun activities, the festival is scheduled from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 1111 Collins Road.

Thanks to sponsors including The Greater Exchange Club of Sugar Land, Friends of Mamie, Katy Contemporary Arts Museum, Whole Foods and Trader Joe's, we anticipate the Pancake Festival will raise \$50,000 this year for MGCC programs. Volunteers from numerous organizations are serving throughout the day.

Veterans' Graduation Day

Seven military veterans graduated in mid-April from Catholic Charities' Women Veteran Services 12-week employment skill-building program. LaTore Sanders, veteran of the USAF, was the class's top graduate. Other speakers included Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW, president and CEO; Lotus Project program director Olivia Bush; board secretary Ellen Ginty; and keynote Teri Poulton, director of veteran outreach at BP America.



Catholic Charities Teams Respond When Floods Hit City Once Again

When Houston was hit with major flooding in April, it marked the third such event this year, and Catholic Charities responded to meet the needs of the most vulnerable individuals and families across the region. Thousands of people lost everything.



Minthia Terry and Case Manager Valerie Zanders

Catholic Charities deployed disaster recovery efforts within days of the initial flooding. The staff has since assisted many in the Greenspoint area of Houston with basic needs assistance, clothing and furniture vouchers for the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store, food pantry assistance and counseling.

The Catholic Charities staff is providing case management and advocacy for displaced people, helping them connect to resources and figure out how to get their lives back to normal.

"We are thankful to everyone who has contributed funds, as well as time and prayers," said Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW, president and CEO. "Unfortunately, our work is not over yet. Our neighbors



are still reeling from the multiple floods and can use our continued service and support."

Please consider giving online at CatholicCharities.org. Also, volunteers are greatly appreciated. The needs are great and the workers are few. If you'd like to volunteer, please visit VolunteerHouston.org.

Meet our Board

Stan Marek Serves for More Than Three Decades



Stan Marek is CEO of Marek Companies, a construction company that combines thoughtful pre-construction planning with interior construction expertise. He has served on

either the Catholic Charities of Galveston-Houston's board of directors or advisory board non-stop for the past 33 years.

Stan's long-term association with Catholic Charities has provided continuity for our organization through seven CEOs. He also chaired our agency's first-ever capital campaign, *Building on our Cornerstone*, securing more than \$11 million to build the home of Catholic Charities at 2900 Louisiana.

"Catholic Charities is the moral compass for social justice in our Archdiocese," Stan said.

He also serves on various boards around Houston including the University of St. Thomas, the Center for Houston's Future and the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Jamie Vazquez Mentors Next Generation of Leaders



Jamie Vazquez – president of W&T Offshore, Inc., an exploration, production and acquisition company – joined the Catholic Charities advisory board two years ago and has already made a positive impact.

"Jamie is faithful to attend board meetings, provide input and advice on operations and organizational issues, advocate for the poor and volunteer at our Lewis and Joan Lowenstein Foundation Pan de Vida Food Pantry," said Cynthia N. Colbert, MSW, president and CEO. Jamie also serves on Catholic Charities' Facility Master Plan Committee. Despite her busy schedule running a company, Jamie serves as a volunteer for St. Vincent de Paul and is active with the Girl Scouts. She has also mentored three young adults, helping them get launched into their careers. Her drive to give her all to causes is demonstrated clearly by her three-time participation in a three-day, 60-mile walk to raise funds for breast cancer research.

Jamie has helped foster increased collaboration between Catholic Charities and St. Vincent de Paul. Colbert said, "She is a wonderful supporter of Catholic Charities!"



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