



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS

ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION IMPACT

8,715 total unduplicated individuals were served by the agency during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022.

653 volunteers contributed a combined total of **16,620** hours of their time to support our services to the poor and vulnerable. Their time has an estimated value of **\$467,687**.



ASSET BUILDING CASE (ABC) MANAGEMENT

Asset Building Case Management combines financial education with long-term case management, helping families develop spending plans, repair their credit, increase their savings, and make progress toward home ownership or continued education. Additionally, foreclosure prevention services are available to those who have encountered problems maintaining their mortgage. Free income tax preparation for eligible clients is also available. **503** tax returns were filed for clients obtaining total combined refunds of **\$686,365**.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Counseling Services provides support to individuals and families experiencing emotional and mental distress. This program restarted in July 2021 with one part-time counselor. **50** individuals were served with **109** counseling sessions.



ELIJAH'S PLACE

Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas makes its services available to all without regard to race, gender, religion, age, or national origin. These services emphasize assistance to low-to-moderate income families in our nine-county region of Chambers, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Newton, Orange, Polk, and Tyler Counties.

DISASTER RESPONSE

Disaster Response

Disaster Response provides financial assistance and long-term case management to help families rebuild their lives after major disasters. **242** families comprised of **709** individuals received case management and financial assistance related to Hurricane Harvey. Additionally, disaster financial assistance for Hurricane Ida, 2021 tornadoes and 2016 floods in Orange County was provided to **139** families comprised of **388** individuals. Emergency assistance, which helps families facing a temporary financial crisis, is an additional service under this program. **624** individuals or **240** families received emergency financial assistance with paying their rent, utilities, or to purchase food.



IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Catholic Charities is the only nonprofit in our region with an **Immigration Services** program that is recognized as a qualified provider by the Department of Justice. The work of this program has a family-based focus offering legal services such as family visa petitions, naturalization applications, and self-petitions for battered immigrants. **349** individuals benefited from professional legal assistance with their immigration needs.



Market to HOPE was the recipient of a grant from the CHRISTUS Community Impact Fund. The Fund supports initiatives led by local non-profits that address concerns affecting overall health and work to improve the quality of life in the communities served by CHRISTUS Health.

Elijah's Place provides ongoing child grief support to children ages 5-18 who have experienced the death of a parent or sibling. The program is now offering childhood bereavement education for adults working with children in schools, churches, and community organizations. **53** children and **47** adults benefited from Elijah's Place grief support groups and **71** adults participated in childhood bereavement education workshops.

HOSPITALITY CENTER



The Hospitality Center is our soup kitchen that provides a clean, safe, and dignified environment where those with limited resources have

access to a hearty, midday meal every day of the year. It is located at 3959 Gulfway Drive in Port Arthur. During the past fiscal year, **42,917** meals were served to **1,790** unduplicated individuals.



Immigration Services launched ¡Es Mi Día/It's My Day, a series of four workshops that build self-esteem and self-compassion for women. The first round of workshops started October 2021 and provided opportunities for participants to bond through shared experiences and supported emotional healing. Participants also learned more about their rights and resources in the immigration system.

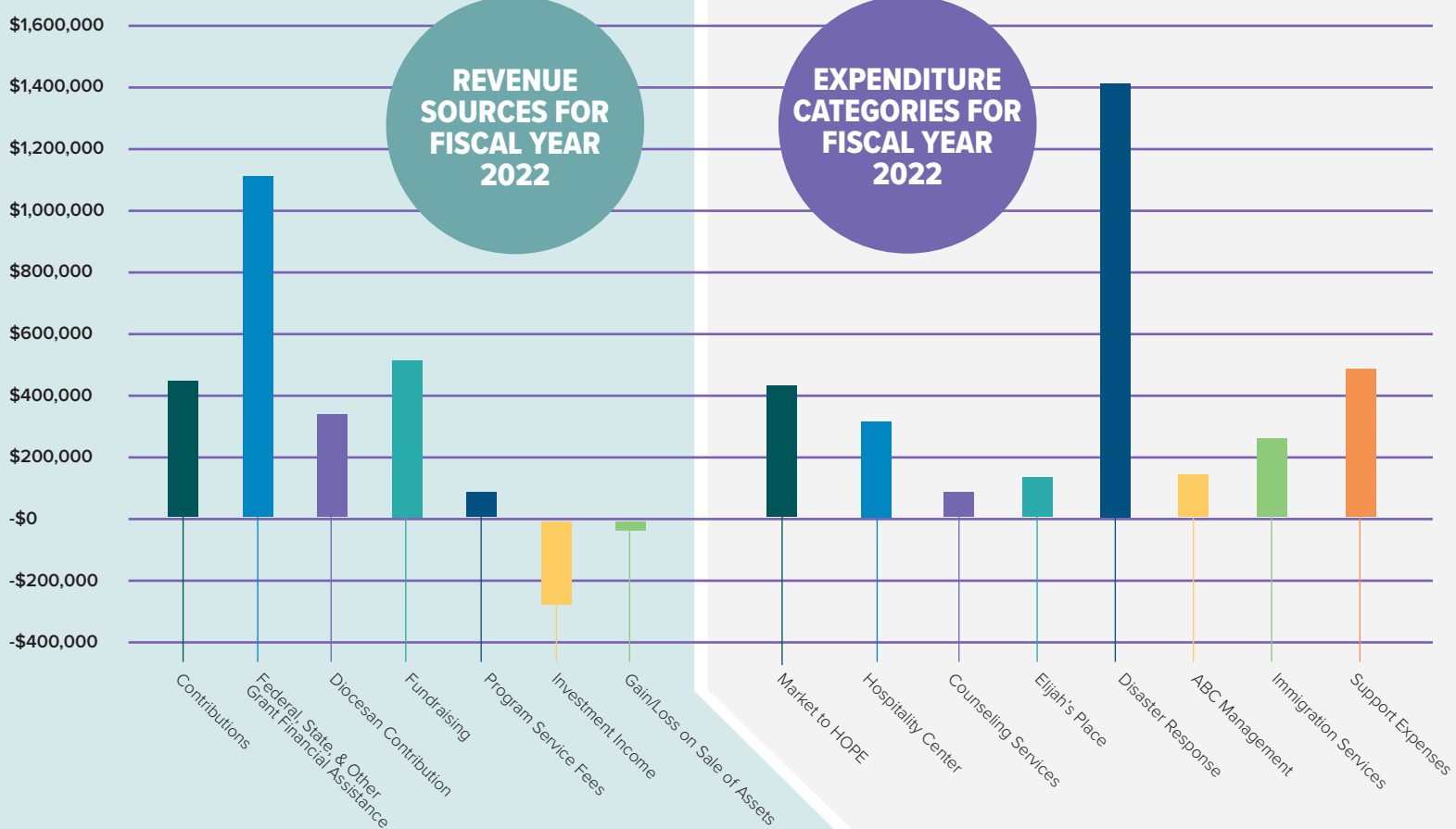
MARKET TO HOPE (HELP OTHER PEOPLE EAT)

Market to HOPE (Help Other People Eat) is a client choice food pantry which allows individuals and families who are seeking food assistance to shop and select food items most appropriate for their cultural preferences and dietary restrictions, thereby honoring each person's dignity. In response to the increased demand for food assistance, the program also provides curbside grocery services. The Market is located at 3370 Sarah Street, behind Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in Beaumont. An estimated **657,849** pounds of food was supplied to **2,082** households comprised of **4,505** individuals.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Years Ended June 30, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
Contributions	\$430,421	\$1,619,977
Federal/State and Other Grant Financial Assistance	1,090,042	3,001,414
Diocesan Contribution	320,000	320,000
Fundraising	494,519	506,078
Program Service Fees	74,207	69,108
Investment Income	(225,815)	159,119
Gain (loss) on sale of assets	(4,288)	42,040
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$2,179,086	\$5,717,736
Market to HOPE	\$424,170	\$356,216
Parish Social Ministry	0	78,894
Hospitality Center	319,093	299,886
Counseling Services	74,164	0
Elijah's Place	120,831	122,919
Disaster Response	1,440,444	1,741,763
Asset Building Case Management (ABC)	130,272	127,731
Immigration Services	284,534	279,403
Support Expenses	476,015	334,098
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$3,269,523	\$3,340,910
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS:	(\$1,090,437)	\$2,376,826
NET ASSETS at beginning of year	\$8,572,578	\$6,195,752
NET ASSETS at end of year	\$7,482,141	\$8,572,578



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I could not be more grateful or proud of the work our Catholic Charities accomplishes in Southeast Texas. It is due to people of goodwill, like you, and our dedicated staff who make it possible. Thank you for allowing us to feed, comfort, and counsel our friends in need. You help us to fulfill the mandate of Christ in Matthew chapter 25 that "whatever you do to the least of my brothers or sisters, you do unto me." Your generosity, and awareness of the less fortunate, allow us to do great things for the least of our brothers and sisters. May this good work that the Lord has begun in all of us, allow us to continue the many ministries offered by Catholic Charities.

Thank you and God bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend David L. Toups
Bishop of the Diocese of Beaumont



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September 2021 marked the 30th anniversary of service to Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas for **Alma Garza-Cruz**. Alma currently serves as the Director of the Immigration Services Program and is fully accredited by the Executive Office for Immigration Review of the U.S. Department of Justice. During her time with the agency, Alma has been promoted to several positions spanning five different programs. In December of 1999, she moved to the Immigration Services Program and was promoted to Program Director in 2001.

Under Alma's leadership, the staff of the Immigration Services Program consists of an attorney and two caseworkers. The program provides legal assistance to low-to-moderate income families and individuals such as consultations, family visa petitions, adjustments of status, citizenship applications, waivers of unlawful presence, affidavits of support, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewals, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitions, U-visas, and green card renewals. Clients served over the history of the program represent 58 different countries.

On April 13, 2022, in an e-mail to President/CEO Carolyn Fernandez, Alma wrote, "I just wanted to share with you that yesterday morning I handed over four Lawful Permanent Resident cards (green cards) to one of my clients. The green cards are for her

and her three adolescent children. She was a victim of domestic violence. It was a bell-ringing moment! As I gave her the cards, she began crying. I held back my tears, or tried to, put my arm on her shoulder to acknowledge her joy and thankfulness. No words needed to be said. Her journey with our office started in 2018 and now it has come to a joyful end."

Alma's commitment to helping others goes beyond the walls of Catholic Charities and extends across the local community in her service with other local organizations such as Beaumont Housing Authority, Rape and Suicide Crisis Center of Southeast Texas, Saint Katherine Drexel Humanitarians, Pioneering Women, and others. We are extremely grateful for Alma's many years of service with Catholic Charities and to the people of Southeast Texas. Thank you, Alma!

**30 YEARS
OF SERVICE**

**Alma
Garza-
Cruz**

