



CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



## OUR MISSION

PEOPLE OF FAITH RESPONDING TO NEEDS BY SERVING, TEACHING,  
BUILDING COMMUNITY, AND PRESERVING THE DIGNITY OF INDIVIDUALS  
AND FAMILIES IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS.



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

The work of Catholic Charities in Southeast Texas has amazed me during my first year and a half as our new bishop. Carol Fernandez and her staff truly are the hands and feet of Christ to the poor and needy in our area, as are you as you support the many ministries of Catholic Charities. We have built and dedicated the new Hospitality Center in Port Arthur this past year and it is a real treasure for our community. I thank God for our Catholic Charities and all of you who support this essential work of the Lord who reminds us: "Whatever you did to the least of these, you did unto me." Thank you for partnering with us to build up the Body of Christ, and to assist His most vulnerable members in the Body.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

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

## 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Bill Darling, Chair  
Gay Scott, Vice Chair  
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Melaney Whiting  
Cynthia Wolf

Sabrina Vrooman  
*Ex-Officio*

Carolyn R. Fernandez  
*President/CEO*

*Cover Photo: Ground Turning for the Hospitality Center held May 24, 2021. Pictured (left to right): Alan Bihm, Director of Construction, Diocese of Beaumont; Carol Fernandez, President/CEO, Catholic Charities of SETX, Lori and Jimmy Duplissey, Benefactors; Bishop Emeritus Curtis J. Guillory, Bishop David L. Toups, Thurman Bartie, Mayor, City of Port Arthur; Jeff Branick, Judge Jefferson County; and Christina Green, Director, Hospitality Center.*





## DISASTER RECOVERY

The client is a single grandmother raising her two grandchildren ages 7 and 8 whose mobile home received substantial damage caused by Hurricane Harvey. The home's electrical and HVAC systems were damaged, and mold was visible throughout the home.

Without having anywhere else to go, the family continued living in the damaged home despite safety and health hazards. Before the damage could be repaired that was caused by Hurricane Harvey, her home received further damage during Hurricane Laura.

On January 28, 2021, the client's case was presented to Orange County Disaster Rebuild for mobile home replacement. The Orange County Disaster Rebuild Unmet Needs Committee approved the client for a new 3-bedroom 2-bath mobile home.

Partners providing funding to purchase the new mobile home included The Texas District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Islamic Disaster Relief, Orange County Disaster Rebuild Harvey Fund, and Orange County Disaster Rebuild Laura Fund.

After the mobile home was installed, Catholic Charities assisted the client by purchasing furniture for three bedrooms, living room furniture, and provided a \$500.00 gift card to replace needed household items. A church which the client is affiliated with, built them a small porch and donated a washer and dryer. The client and her grandchildren are now fully recovered and live in a safe, secure, and sanitary environment.

*Heather Clark, Disaster Case Manager  
Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas*





# FEED MY SHEEP



## THE HOSPITALITY CENTER GETS A NEW BUILDING

Through a generous donation, our agency was able to start construction for a brand-new building for the Hospitality Center, our soup kitchen in Port Arthur.

The site located at 3959 Gulfway Drive was affectionately remembered by local residents as a McDonald's restaurant. That structure was demolished, and the new facility erected at the same location. Construction for the new building began with a special "Ground Turning" event on May 24, 2021. Volunteers, donors, local officials, religious leaders, and staff were able to witness the special occasion. Bishop David Toups led the ceremony and was able to hop on the Komatsu excavator to start the demolition process.





Following the Ground Turning, *“Framed in Faith”* was a special event on July 17, 2021, which allowed Bishop Toups and other religious leaders, volunteers, donors, and community members to write their favorite bible verse, prayer, or other special message on the building frame of the Center. Now, the building and all who enter it are surrounded by the prayers of many who support the Hospitality Center and its service of feeding the hungry.

Throughout the construction process, Christina Green, Director of the Hospitality Center, and her group of volunteers were able to continue providing the daily meal service to clients from Kirwin Hall at St. James Catholic Church in Port Arthur. We owe a debt of gratitude to Father David Edwards and the parishioners of St. James for allowing us to use their hall while the new building was under construction.



Construction of the stunning cruciform building was completed in this current 2021-2022 fiscal year. The building dedication and blessing took place on October 23, 2021 and meal service in the new space began the very next day.



The new building features an expanded dining area and kitchen, a clothing room, office area for other community partners who need space to meet with clients, all new appliances, extra storage space, and many more features. Inside and outside the building are very special touches added by the Duplissey family that create a welcoming, loving, and spiritual environment. There are mosaics of Saint Michael, Jesus the Good Shepherd, and Mary with the Infant Jesus; hand painted murals of a memorial tree to deceased volunteers and of Jesus feeding the multitudes; and other artwork through the serving line, hallways, and dining room that are gentle reminders to those who visit the Center they are loved by God and by the members of this community.

The Hospitality Center has been providing meals to those in need since Christmas Day 1987. During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Hospitality Center served 46,808 meals and 16,347 sack lunches to 1,907 unduplicated individuals. By the grace of God, the Center has remained a beacon of light and hope in the community. Meals are served daily from 10:30AM to 12:30PM. Please contact Christina Green for more information at 409-924-4406 or [cvara@catholiccharitiesbmt.org](mailto:cvara@catholiccharitiesbmt.org).



## MISSION IMPACT

**13,120** total unduplicated individuals served by the agency and **12,720** hours served by **422** volunteers during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021

### Asset Building Case Management

**331** tax returns were e-filed with refunds totaling **\$439,348** for clients

### Disaster Response

**414** families or **1,111** individuals received Hurricane Harvey relief and recovery assistance

**1,327** families or **4,525** individuals received Hurricane Laura relief assistance

**169** families or **445** individuals received emergency financial hardship assistance

### Elijah's Place

**24** children helped with grief support

### Hospitality Center

**46,808** meals served to **1,907** unduplicated individuals

### Immigration Services

**489** immigrants received legal assistance

### Market to HOPE

**4,392** individuals received supplemental food

The services of Catholic Charities of Southeast Texas 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.

Services are available to all without regard to race, gender, religion, age, or national origin.

**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. Free income tax preparation for eligible clients is also available.

**Disaster Response** provides financial assistance and long-term case management to help families rebuild their lives after major disasters. Emergency assistance is also provided for families facing a temporary financial crisis.

**Elijah's Place** gives peer and adult support to children ages 5 – 18 who are grieving the death of a parent or sibling.

**Hospitality Center** provides a clean, safe, and dignified environment where those with limited resources have access to a hearty, midday meal every day of the year.

**Immigration Services** is the only nonprofit in our region that is recognized by the Department of Justice as a qualified provider of immigration legal services such as family visa petitions, naturalization applications, and self-petitions for battered immigrants.

**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.



*providing help.  
creating hope.*

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**For the Years Ended June 30, 2021 and 2020**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Contributions	\$1,619,977	\$846,968
Federal/State and Other Grant Financial Assistance	3,001,414	2,964,790
Diocesan Contribution	320,000	320,000
Fundraising	506,078	389,601
Program Service Fees	69,108	78,558
Investment Income	159,119	69,164
Gain (loss) on sale of assets	42,040	3,586
<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	<b><u>\$5,717,736</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,672,667</u></b>

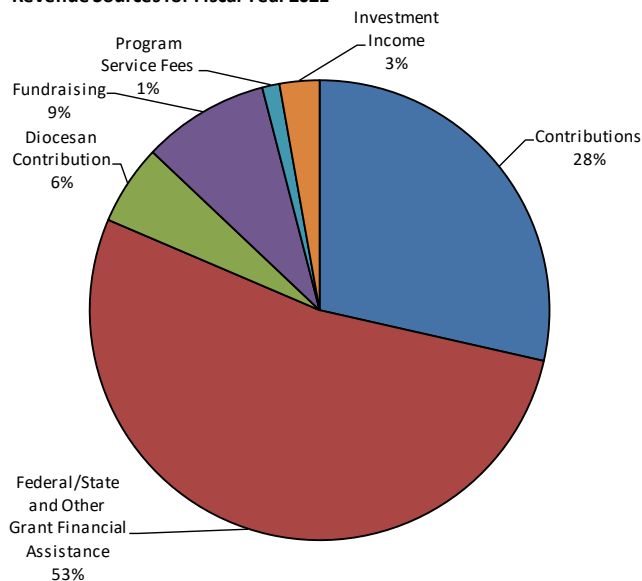
Market to HOPE	\$356,216	\$233,592
Parish Social Ministry	78,894	76,759
Hospitality Center	299,886	264,019
Counseling	\$0	\$8,279
Elijah's Place	122,919	30,358
Disaster Response	1,741,763	3,488,244
Asset Building Case Management (ABC)	127,731	139,403
Immigration Services	279,403	274,976
Support Expenses	334,098	415,763
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b><u>\$3,340,910</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,931,393</u></b>

<b>INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS:</b>	<b><u>\$2,376,826</u></b>	<b><u>(\$258,726)</u></b>
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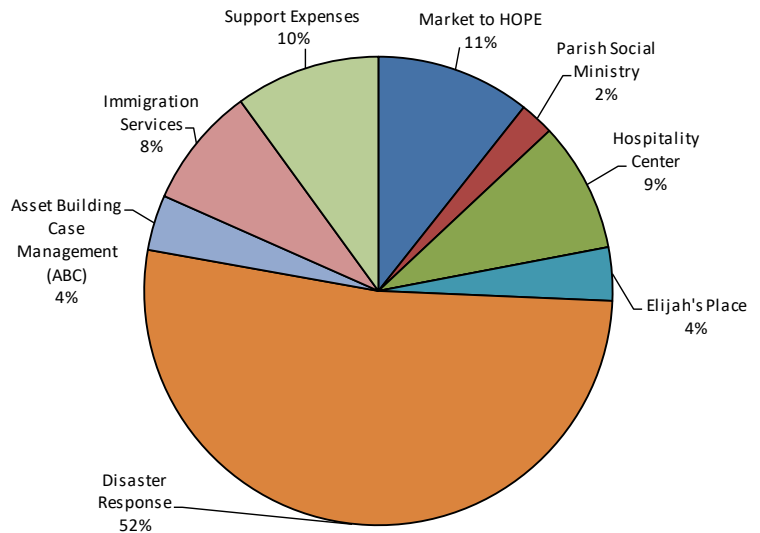
<b>NET ASSETS at beginning of year</b>	<b>\$6,195,752</b>	<b>\$6,454,478</b>
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<b>NET ASSETS at end of year</b>	<b><u>\$8,572,578</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,195,752</u></b>
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**Revenue Sources for Fiscal Year 2021**



**Expenditure Categories for Fiscal Year 2021**







One of the many challenges of the 2020-2021 fiscal year was how to maintain much-needed fundraising activity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest of Hope honorees Janey & Michael Phelan and Kathryn & Patrick Phelan and the delightfully amazing “Phelan Ladies” took a huge leap of faith and

transformed the traditional ballroom event into a charming evening of outdoor fun and fellowship.

With Bishop Toups and The Phelans on hand to greet guests as they were arriving, everyone enjoyed dinner from the comfort of their vehicles while watching video messages on

the side of the Montagne Center from our honorees, agency clients, and family and friends of Bishop Toups.

Our sincere **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest of Hope!



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[www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesbmt.org)

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