Dear Friends,

Last year, all of us were forced to face an uncomfortable truth—that none of us are immune to a crisis. Through our work at Catholic Charities, we know all too well that many families are just one missed paycheck away from facing homelessness. But we also learned that even during the darkest times, our community—people like you—will step up to take care of our neighbors in need. Your support, combined with the passion of the Catholic Charities staff, allowed our organization to be at the forefront of the COVID-19 response in Central Texas.

The challenges we faced in 2020 make me proud of the incredible things we’ve been able to accomplish at Catholic Charities. In this newsletter, you will read about how we found new ways to distribute essential materials to our community, drastically increased our service delivery by leaning into our community partnerships, and connected with more Central Texans than ever before through virtual platforms.

What we have been able to achieve together gives me much hope for 2021. While we still face continued uncertainty in the year to come, I know we will get through any challenges we face together, as one community. Thank you for walking this journey with us, and for helping us be part of the solution for so many Central Texans. I wish you hope, strength and good health in the year ahead. Please keep Catholic Charities in your prayers.

In His peace,

Sara Ramirez
Executive Director
CCCTX DRIVE-THROUGH EVENTS PROVIDE ESSENTIAL ITEMS DURING COVID-19

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, Catholic Charities recognized an increased need for material items like diapers and personal hygiene kits. Beginning in March, we organized multiple drive-through events to ensure no family had to go without these essential items. Our drive-through events were open to the public to provide safe, contact-free pickup for anyone in need. At our three 2020 drive-through events, Catholic Charities distributed more than 28,000 material items to nearly 900 Central Texas families.

We plan to schedule more material drive-throughs in 2021 and will continue to collect items through our Amazon wish list to support these events. We will also host a Lenten Diaper Drive in February to gather material items. If you would like to donate materials from our wish list, please contact Claire Bordelon at 512.651.6159 or claire-bordelon@ccctx.org.

AUSTIN DIAPER DRIVE
400 families served
500 hygiene kits distributed
16,000 diapers distributed

2 BRAZOS VALLEY DIAPER DRIVES
471 families served
304 hygiene kits distributed
256 COVID supply packs distributed
11,200 diapers distributed

CCCTX VIRTUAL EVENTS REACH MORE CENTRAL TEXANS THAN EVER BEFORE

To protect the health of our community, Catholic Charities made several adjustments to our normal operations this year. This included the difficult decision to cancel all our planned in-person events.

Although we were unable to gather in person, we still felt it was important to find ways to come together during these uncertain times. This year, Catholic Charities hosted two of our first-ever virtual events. While this format was new and different, our virtual events allowed us to spread the word of our mission to more people than ever before! We are thrilled to welcome so many new friends and connect with people all across Central Texas.

VIRTUAL ANNUAL EVENT

This year’s Virtual Annual Event was hosted on Facebook Live on September 10. More than 1,000 people tuned in to hear our key accomplishments and celebrate another year of service at Catholic Charities. You can watch our Virtual Annual Event program at www.ccctx.org/annualevent.

CREATING HOPE IN CENTRAL TEXAS VIRTUAL EVENT

This year’s 14th Annual Creating Hope in Central Texas Virtual Event was livestreamed on November 12. Our program featured a testimony from a veteran family about how they found hope at Catholic Charities. Bishop Joe Vásquez, Sara Ramirez (CCCTX Executive Director), and Bill Carson (CCCTX Donor & Volunteer) also gave live remarks about the importance of our efforts to fight poverty in our community during these difficult times.

More than 230 households joined our live event, and 2,300 more viewed our program online. These generous viewers supported our biggest fundraising event of the year by donating $662,249 to support our operations through 2021.

You can watch our Creating Hope in Central Texas Virtual Event program at www.ccctx.org/creatinghope and join hundreds of others in making a donation at www.ccctx.org/donate.

Bishop Joe Vásquez and Sara Ramirez speak to our virtual guests.
INTRODUCING THE NEW ST. GABRIEL’S PREGNANCY AND PARENTING PROGRAM

Catholic Charities has launched a new and improved program designed to support new and expectant parents—the St. Gabriel’s Pregnancy and Parenting Program.

This program serves expectant mothers and fathers, as well as parents with a child 0-36 months of age. Individualized mentorship and advocacy are key to the health and future of the next generation. Not only will clients of the St. Gabriel’s Pregnancy and Parenting Program receive education material assistance, but they will also work with a Parent Advocate to develop a family guidance plan to give children a healthy start and set families up for success.

“The St. Gabriel’s Pregnancy and Parenting Program is important to our community because we are able to walk side by side with our families as they journey through parenthood,” said Angelica Reyes, director of the St. Gabriel’s Pregnancy and Parenting Program. “I am grateful and inspired by the ray of hope, the light of relief and the feeling of gratitude we bring to the families we serve.”

Since November 2020, the program has served 170 clients with 6,456 material items and has conducted 31 education classes to 167 parents.

You can learn more about the St. Gabriel’s Pregnancy and Parenting Program at www.ccctx.org/st-gabriels-pregnancy-and-parenting.

CCCTX INCREASES SERVICES DURING COVID-19 THANKS TO COMMUNITY PARTNER SUPPORT

As an organization focused on serving those in poverty, Catholic Charities experienced a sharp increase in demand for our services during COVID-19. From March to September 2020, we were able to provide $2,413,432 in financial assistance to 6,378 clients and distributed 233,510 material items to people in need.

This work would not have been possible without the support of our neighbors. As a community-focused organization, Catholic Charities works closely with many community partners to amplify the impact of our efforts. The community partners listed to the right have been especially generous in supporting CCCTX services during the COVID-19 crisis. Thanks to them, Catholic Charities has been able to answer the call for increased material assistance, mental health support, financial support, and more in the midst of this crisis.

We are grateful to our community partners and grantors for investing in our mission and community when it is needed most. Central Texas is stronger together.

Thank you!

All Together ATX
Ascension Seton
AT&T
Austin Diaper Bank
Austin Public Health
Baylor Scott & White Health - Central Texas Division
Brazos Valley COVID-19 Community Relief Fund
Catholic Charities USA
City of Bryan
City of College Station
Donald and Marilyn Keough Foundation
Donald D. Hammill Foundation
Emergency Food & Shelter Program
Gallogly Family Foundation
Georgetown Health Foundation
Giving the Basics
HEB
Hispanic Impact Fund at the Austin Community Foundation
Merced Foundation
The Moody Foundation
Nyle Maxwell
PRLJ Family Fund at the Austin Community Foundation
Scanlan Foundation
St. David’s Foundation
Texas Bar Foundation
Texas Gas Service
Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans’ Assistance
Wells Fargo
Westerman Foundation
Whole Foods
CCCTX PARTNERS WITH ST. JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL TO HONOR OUR VETERANS

On Veteran’s Day, Catholic Charities of Central Texas dropped off handmade cards and gift baskets to veterans at Indian Oaks Living Center in Harker Heights. The cards were made by Kindergarten and 1st grade students at St. Joseph’s Catholic School.

“Catholic Charities of Central Texas and St. Joseph’s Catholic School wanted to show appreciation to veterans in our community,” said Pia Villalon, St. Michael’s Veterans Services program manager. “We hope these cards brought these heroes reassurance that their sacrifices are never forgotten.”

CCCTX FINANCIAL STABILITY DIRECTOR PROMOTED, WILL NOW LEAD BRAZOS VALLEY OPERATIONS

Join us in congratulating John Paci in his new role as Director of the Catholic Charities Brazos Valley office! John has served as the director of our Financial Stability program since 2017. In his new role, John will oversee our Brazos Valley operations and work to strengthen our community partnerships in the area. John is a proven leader and will continue to advance our mission in the Bryan/College Station community. Further updates on our Brazos Valley operations will be provided in our next newsletter.

Join Us!

FEbruary 2021
Lenten Diaper Drive supporting our material distribution events. Learn more at www.ccctx.org

APRIL 2021
Creating Hope in the Brazos Valley event. Learn more at www.ccctx.org

VIRTUAL EVENTS
Annual Event: www.ccctx.org/annualevent
Creating Hope in Central Texas: www.ccctx.org/creatinghope

GET INVOLVED

Become a Sustaining Donor
Support our six innovative programs at ccctx.org/donate

Volunteer or host a donation drive
Contact Claire Bordelon at Claire-Bordelon@ccctx.org or 512-651-6159

Become an Online Warrior
Help us get the word out through social media!
Facebook: @ccctx
Twitter: @CCcentraltx
Instagram: @catholiccharitiesCTX

PROUD PARTNERS

ASSOCIATIONS