



Sowing HOPE



Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of New Orleans

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

“Poverty calls us to sow hope. . . . P in that child who is hungry, in the one who

OUR LEADERSHIP

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

Board of Directors

Tommie A. Vassel
Chairman

Michael O. Read
Vice Chairman

Lloyd A. Tate
Treasurer

Michael F. Hulefeld
Secretary

Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.
President/CEO

Byron A. Adams, Jr.
Very Rev. Rodney P. Bourg, V. F.
Terrel J. Broussard
Anh “Joseph” Cao
Charles P. Carriere IV
Dr. Pierre Detiege
John L. Eckholdt
Timothy J. Falcon
Dr. Elizabeth H. Fontham
Janice Martin Foster
Alejandro P. Gershanik
Hon. Piper D. Griffin
John Hummel
Demetric M. Mercadel
Leon J. Raymond, Jr.
Brian J. Rotolo
Mark J. Spansel
Joseph F. Toomy
Roy Zuppardo

Sr. Anthony Barczykowski, DC
Board Member Emeritus

November 16, 2015

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

As we moved through the archdiocesan synod last year, two things particularly struck me regarding the work of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans. The first was the overwhelmingly positive feedback and appreciation of Catholic Charities ministry to those in need throughout the area. There was not one public meeting I attended during which this was not brought up as something we were doing well as the local Catholic Church. Your prayers and support are a major part of that success and for that I am most grateful.

The second was two words that came up over and over as we reviewed the synod feedback: encounter and witness. The Holy Spirit spoke to us so resolutely that the synod vision became *Encountering Jesus Witnessing with Joy*. “Encounter” and “witness” this is what we are called to every day and this is what Catholic Charities accomplishes in its ministry to the poor and vulnerable. Each day the staff and volunteers of Catholic Charities “encounter” face-to-face as Pope Francis has consistently called us, the poor and vulnerable among us, and then they “witness” God’s love and Gospel as they care for those in need.

As we reflect on our Gospel call, on the example of our Holy Father Pope Francis and on our own local synod, I give thanks for the ministry of Catholic Charities. I look forward to being a part of their ongoing ministry, and I give thanks for you, our supporters, as we, with the help of God’s grace, continue to “sow seeds of hope”.

Please know of my grateful prayers for you and all those who enable us to reach out in the name of Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans



*poverty is the flesh of the poor Jesus,
and is sick, in those unjust social structures.”*

(Pope Francis, 6/7/13)

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans,



This year, Pope Francis repeatedly invited us to answer Jesus' calling for us to care for our brothers and sisters in our communities. He has reiterated that "poverty calls us to sow hope" and that "poverty is the flesh of the poor Jesus, in that child who is hungry, in the one who is sick, in those unjust social structures."

We are reminded that by serving those in need we are encountering Jesus as we bring the Gospel to life through our work. By providing our services with love and respect, we give hope to those we touch through our work. In the baby enrolled in Early Head Start, in the foster child learning skills to live independently, in the senior receiving a box of food, and the many more who benefit from our programs, we offer the gift of hope. Last year, we sowed the seeds of hope in the hearts of 76,305 individuals through our life-giving services.

I invite you to learn more about the work we have accomplished together over the past year. In this report, we share the numbers of those we have helped and the generous contributions of the many who give, but the heart of Catholic Charities goes beyond what statistics can show.

The fruit of our labor is seen in the people we touch and the hope we give to the poor, the hungry, the sick, and the marginalized in our community. You will discover five stories of lives that have grown through Catholic Charities programs, and there are many more of these stories of hope living in our community and will continue to be with your prayerful support.

Catholic Charities serves as the hands and feet of Jesus in our archdiocese. By touching lives of those in need, we encounter Jesus ourselves. At the same time, we share the hope He has imparted in our hearts with others.

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans sows the seeds of hope in the hearts of our neighbors in need. Pope Francis, in his message at Mass in Washington, D.C., urged and challenged us to "go forward." My hope for us as a community is that we may "go forward with love and compassion to bring hope to more people in our community." We thank you for your continued prayers and support.

God bless you,

Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.
President/CEO

*1,144 new and expectant moms received support and care through
ACCESS Pregnancy and Referral and St. Vincent Maternity Clinic*

ISAIAH 43 MENTORING PROGRAM

The Arnards gather close for another family photo in front of their mantle decorated with pictures of memories made throughout the years. They may look like a typical family: Jay, Idell and their three children, Irie (15), Marley (13), and Lester (10), living in an Algiers home and active in their church parish. What is extraordinary about the Arnards is their transformational faith through the Isaiah 43 Mentoring program.

“There’s always a need for a presence that encourages your faith,” Idell reflects. When a fellow parishioner at St. Peter Clavier Church told Idell of the Isaiah 43 mentoring program, she immediately recognized it as an opportunity for

her family to grow in faith and as a way to expose her children “to people that encourage them to be good Catholics.”

Isaiah 43’s mentoring program pairs youth ages 10-18 with a Catholic mentor for a one-year term to foster emotional and spiritual growth. The pairs spend at least four hours each month together, going on outings such as dinner or a volunteer project. In addition, all pairs attend monthly meetings for participants of the mentoring program, doing activities to learn more about one another and to build trust.

Isaiah 43’s other main initiative is the parenting program which provides caregivers with the opportunity to improve their parenting skills. Topics include peaceful conflict resolution, communication, constructive discipline, forgiveness, and leadership. Together, the parenting and the mentoring programs bring to life our archdiocesan campaign against violence, murder, and racism in our community and work to create a culture of respect that treats others with dignity.

Marley and Irie joined the program last November as mentees while Jay participates as a mentor. All enjoy the opportunities to meet new people and build community. “It’s been a blessing,” Jay and Idell reflect. “While we often feel fellowship with other families, Isaiah 43 personalizes the experience through one-on-one interaction.”

Idell and Jay believe it is important for their children “to spend time with someone who sees Christ in them.” Marley and Irie echo their parents’ sentiments; both girls enjoy seeing life from the perspective of their mentors. “My mentor trusts me, and I can depend on her,” Marley reflects on fellowship with her mentor. “My mentor makes me believe in more opportunities and teaches faith in God,” Irie says.

Isaiah 43 enables faith to penetrate into everyday living. Idell sums it up well, “Isaiah 43 is, at best, our faith in action; it has truly been a blessing.”



1,204 immigrants and refugees received guidance, counseling and assistance through Immigration and Refugee Services

IMMIGRATION SERVICES PROGRAM

José Espinal, a client of the Immigration Services program, carries himself with a surprising degree of assuredness for being only 17 years old. However, once learning how he came to the United States by himself as a child, the source of his confidence becomes clearer.

Living in Honduras without the support of his family, José, then ten years old, decided to move to the United States. After an arduous journey traveling through Central America, while being chased by men in Mexico, he finally made it to Laredo, where a man helped him across the border.

“Thank God that he did help me and brought me here to New Orleans,” José reflects on the turning point in his life.

José spent the next several years working on construction sites to provide for himself, occasionally receiving help from others who would offer him food, teach him job skills, or give him work.

José found living by himself at such a young age, without family support, difficult. “I was very depressed knowing that I didn’t have anything around me because I wanted a family and didn’t have it... I had to work and try harder so I could have what I needed, because, otherwise how was I going to have a roof over my head or food?”

José heard about an organization called ‘Catholic Charities’ and their monthly community legal orientation. These information sessions equip children and their sponsors with knowledge of their rights and responsibilities in court as well as potential forms of relief from deportation.

“Honestly, I was a little skeptical,” said José. He thought the opportunity must be too good to be true. “I learned that the people [at Catholic Charities] I came to trust in were speaking to me honestly and responding by helping me, and I believe in the program because I have seen the results. That’s what I’m grateful for: the people that are here who make one believe.”

Now after seven years of living in the United States, José has reached a milestone in achieving his dream of living and working in America. “I have been able to receive something that I can’t believe at times, which is my legal status... I am very appreciative of this program, and I don’t have the words to express my gratitude.”

José has received not only legal assistance but, with our help, is attending school for the first time and recently received his permit to work. José’s dream is to study engineering. “I am really surprised by the services. At the start of last year, when I started studying, they told me they were



going to help with supplies, and school uniforms, and that has really been a huge support for me.”

Furthermore, José appreciates the help not only from the attorney and staff working directly with him, but also from our community who supports our Immigration Services program. He reflects “that the help one gets here is because there are people who are willing to help and have the heart to give that support to someone.” He, too, plans to start his own family, something he has never had, and to follow in the footsteps of those who cared for him.

242 children and teens received support through Catholic Charities School-Based Counseling

BARONNE STREET HOUSING PROGRAM

When Rebecca and her four children Eric (7), Angelique (6), Yulius (5), and Isaac (2), were suddenly put out of their home, they had nowhere to go. Rebecca had lost her job. Fortunately she and her children found the stability at Baronne Street Housing, a facility of our Homeless Services program. Through Catholic Charities she found the support and resources she needed to get her and her family back on their feet again.

"They gave me some tough love, which I needed since I wasn't close to my family. They call me their adoptive daughter," Rebecca reflects on the staff and their support during her stay there.

Baronne Street Housing is a transitional shelter for women and their children. While having a safe place to temporarily reside, residents are required to attend life skill and parenting classes. Case managers work with residents to develop life plans, find employment, get healthcare needs met, and find permanent housing solutions.

Homelessness perpetuates the cycle of poverty by preventing families from being able to stabilize themselves and rebound from a difficult economic setback. When the basic need of shelter is met through transitional housing, a family can plan and work towards longer-term solutions for their situation. Apart from Baronne Street, Catholic Charities offers a 6-9 month shelter,

rapid rehousing for families, permanent housing for women suffering from substance abuse and shelter for the mentally ill.

Causes of homelessness often share one common trait. "We all fell on hard times. No one really had a support system," Rebecca reflects. During Rebecca's time at the shelter, she became more independent and got her affairs in order with the help of Baronne Street Housing staff.

"To see that they really cared about me made me actually listen," Rebecca credits the staff's support as a strong motivator in getting her life in order.

Now, Rebecca and her children have moved into their



own house in Gentilly, even though her middle boy, Yulius, says he misses living at "the brown house" that is Baronne Street Housing.

In the last fiscal year, Catholic Charities Homeless Services provided a safe space and gave hope to 387 men, women, and children in need.

*138 men and women that received a total of 13,847 nights
of transitional housing with Homeless Services*

INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS PROGRAM

Sonya Brown walks through the Hope Chest at the Catholic Charities Independent Living Skills office, pointing out good outfits for her client to wear to an upcoming interview. Sonya remembers not too long ago when she was piecing together work attire at the Hope Chest for herself. Now a social worker, Sonya is a graduate of the Catholic Charities Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) which teaches youth who are or were in foster care to become independent adults.

“At 18, I was terrified,” Sonya reflects on her experience of aging out of the state’s foster care program and being challenged to live on her own. Today, she is appreciative of the care the ILSP staff provided during the difficult times of learning to be independent.

“They taught me how to find housing, set up a bank account and create a budget,” Sonya says about the essential life skills counseling she received through the program. “They were always there for support, even if I just needed someone to talk to.”

The ILSP curriculum also teaches job search, interview preparation, health care navigation, housekeeping and emergency and safety skills through group and one-on-one sessions. The Hope Chest, a space where youth can come find clothing and household items, and a food pantry are also available to supplement ILSP clients’ needs.

Through the program, Sonya also received assistance in paying for college and went on to complete her Masters in Social Work. Her first job in the field was a Life Skills counselor at the place that enabled her to succeed, ILSP. This time, she was the one working with youth, offering hope and inspiration, knowing

all too well what her clients were experiencing.

“ILSP is very important to foster children’s development,” Sonya testifies to the program’s strength. “My clients say it’s the best program.”

Her experience gives her an advantage in working with foster care children: “I can have a great impact on my clients because I can relate very well to what they’re going through.”

Helping children in the same circumstances in which she had been, Sonya continues to do the work she loves, making sure foster children’s needs are met and giving them hope they can succeed on their own.



422 youth and young adults in foster care received life skills counseling through the Independent Living Skills program

HEAD START

For Tommie Vassel, spending the morning at Head Start isn't just about teaching kids their letters and numbers; it is about nurturing their holistic development, equipping them with the skills they need for success and giving them hope for a bright future. As a twelve-year veteran and current chairman of the Catholic Charities Board of Directors, Tommie knows firsthand the importance of our many diverse programs and services that care for the most vulnerable.

"Impacting kids at an early age is critical for their success," Tommie believes. "That's why the Catholic Charities Head Start program is so important in developing the future leaders of our community."

Giving back is a priority for Tommie, especially through

mentoring. "One time, a woman came up to me and said, 'I know you!'" Tommie shares of an experience with a person he did not initially recognize. "Then she said 'you taught me to read!' She was a child I worked with, while volunteering in a school, who will soon graduate from college."

The rewarding experience resonated with Tommie: "we never fully know the impact we have on others."

Tommie goes on to discuss another Catholic Charities program, "Padua House, for example, makes such an impression on you. It's touching to see how critical the services we provide are for these children and leads you to wonder where they would be if not for Catholic Charities."

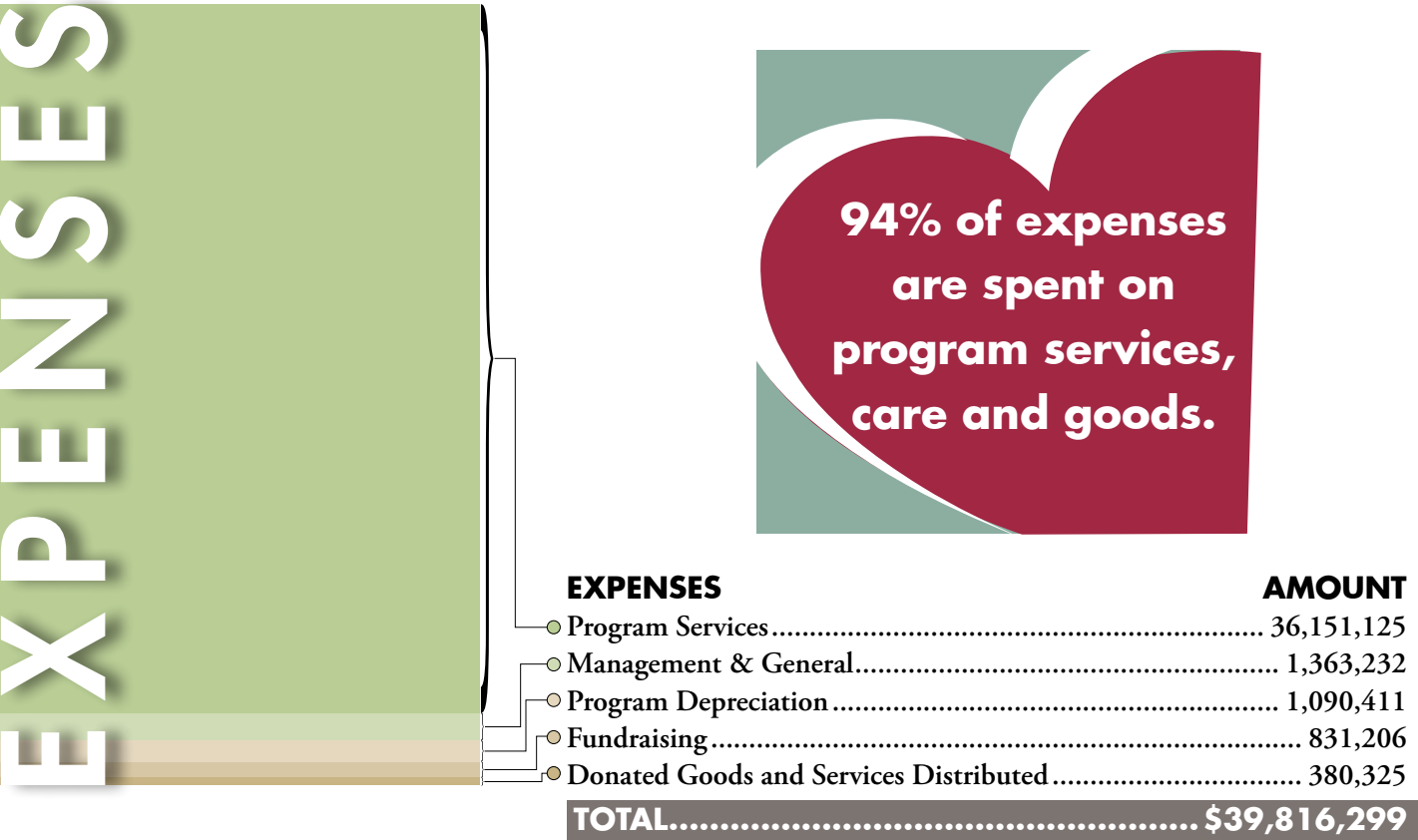
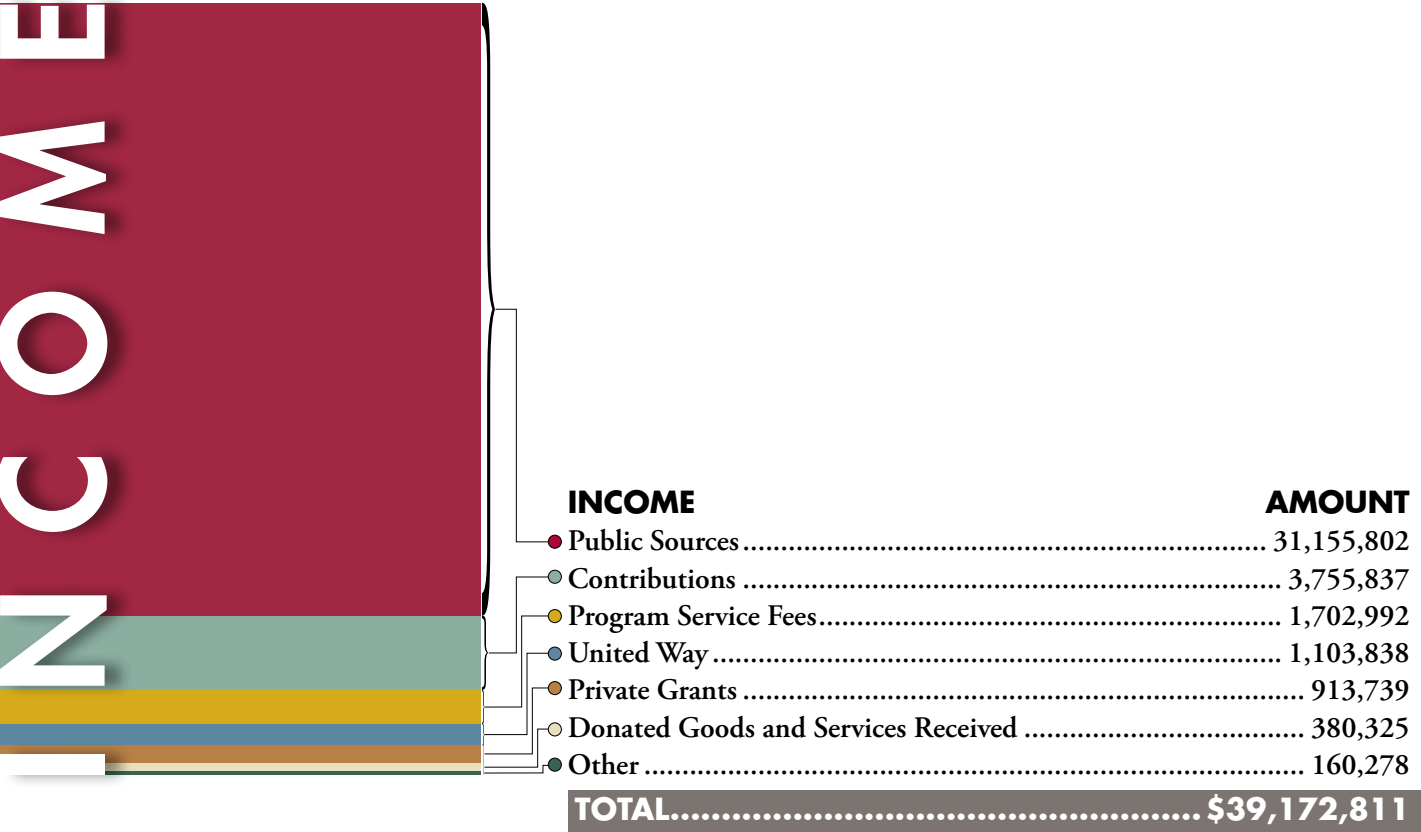
Catholic Charities is a first responder during disasters and a forever responder through our ongoing work. "Where

there's a need, we're there," Tommie praises the all-inclusive organization structure. "Following the footsteps of Jesus on a daily basis, Catholic Charities nurtures the downtrodden, people who have fallen upon hard times."

Whether providing for poor, helping those who have fallen or giving kids a head start for success, Catholic Charities is a community partner, impelled by Christ's call, to support life and give hope.



430 children had access to quality early childhood education through our Head Start centers



(a) Unaudited fiscal year ended June 30, 2015
(b) Program services amount does not include 725,856 commodity food boxes distributed by Food for Families/Food for Seniors with a retail value of approximately \$36,292,800
(c) A portion of current year expenses were covered by grants from prior years.

62,228 seniors and new moms across our state received food and nutrition through Food for Families/Food for Seniors



274 deaf people received 5,852 hours of sign-language interpreting through the Deaf Action Center

387 homeless men and women received case management and rental assistance including 29 formerly incarcerated men and women obtained employment and hope for a new life with Cornerstone Builders



218 seniors received medical and social services through PACE



27 youth, 48 mentors and 258 parents participated in the Isaiah 43 parenting and mentoring program



***Thank you to our generous donors and
sponsors who make our work possible!***

In an effort to print this report as economically as possible,
you can view a list of our 2014-2015 donors online at
www.ccano.org/donors2015

If you or someone you know is in need of our services, please call us at **1-866-891-2210**.

For more information on our programs and services, to volunteer or to donate visit
www.ccano.org



Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of New Orleans

1000 Howard Avenue, Ste. 200 • New Orleans, LA 70113

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
New Orleans, LA
Permit No. 1146



*You can be the **HOPE** for our mission!*

Get involved and stay connected with Catholic Charities!

Your involvement enables us to offer impactful programs and services that meet the ever-changing challenges of today.

DONATE: Use the remittance envelope provided in this report, make a secure donation online at www.ccano.org/ways-you-can-give or call Erin Bolles at (504) 592-5688.

FOLLOW US: on Facebook www.facebook.com/cathcharitiesNO, and on Twitter and Instagram @cathcharitiesNO



VOLUNTEER: Visit us online at www.ccano.org/volunteers/registration-requirements or call Volunteer Services at (504) 310-6962.

STAY CONNECTED: Sign up to receive our bi-monthly newsletters and e-newsletters at www.ccano.org/subscribe

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

1000 Howard Avenue, Suite 200 • New Orleans, LA 70113

(504) 523-3755 • Toll Free 1-866-891-2210

www.ccano.org

Finally, and most importantly,
we ask that you remember us in **PRAYER**.



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

*Archdiocese of New Orleans assisted 76,305 men, women, children and families
(see inside for detailed stats)*