

Dear Friends,

“What’s your Katrina story?” For those of us who called South Louisiana home in the late summer of 2005, we all have one – each unique, sometimes heartbreaking, always a turning point in each of our individual lives. As Catholic Charities marks the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina this August 29th, 2015, we recall our own Katrina stories – we remember where we evacuated; where we were when we learned the levees broke; how it felt the first time we returned to the city after the storm; but most importantly, we recall who was there to offer us a shoulder to cry on, a helping hand, or a voice of encouragement as we faced the daunting task of recovery.

In the aftermath of Katrina, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans became early responders. We became a point of collaboration and deployment for services, counseling and support. In the immediate years after the storm and in the subsequent years following, our Katrina stories have prepared us by experience to offer hope, help and care to those facing disaster and for those ministering in the aftermath of an event.

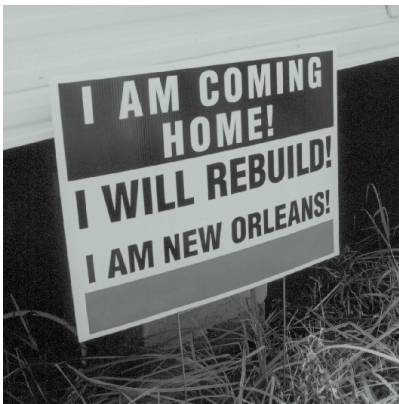
As our staff, volunteers and friends look back on these ten years since Katrina, we look back with gratitude, thankful that we have been able to offer a light of hope when times seemed to be their darkest. We are thankful to serve the vulnerable in a way that had never before been done in the history of our agency. We are thankful that we continue to offer impactful services and programs that address the needs of the people of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. And, we are grateful to bring together the wider community to serve not only through times of disaster, but each and every day. We are thankful ever, New Orleans, that our story continues with YOU.

Ten years since Hurricane Katrina, with a grateful and prayerful heart, we look with hope to the future as Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans continues our mission of service and compassionate care for the Greater New Orleans Area and our region. Thank you for being a part of our story!



God Bless you!

*Dr. Marjorie Hebert, msc*



## A closer look at .... Volunteers

*Volunteers bring the heart of service:*

Catholic Charities became a meeting point for people from across the U.S. who wanted to help NOLA rebuild, **engaging 29,730 volunteers** from 2006 through 2012. Each year, we continue to connect upwards of **12,000 volunteers** of all ages from all walks of life, with opportunities to make New Orleans a better place, providing over **200,000 hours of service** annually.



1000 Howard Avenue, Suite 200  
New Orleans, LA 70113  
(504) 523-3755  
Toll Free 1-866-891-2210  
www.ccano.org

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***Our story continues with YOU! Give hope and help.*** Through the generous support of people like you, Catholic Charities is able to provide help and create hope for thousands of individuals in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. We count on your help to serve the most vulnerable of our city and region in times of disaster, recovery and each day. Visit [www.ccano.org/give](http://www.ccano.org/give) or call Laverne Pitts, Director of Development, at 504-310-6969 for more information.

***Volunteer!*** Volunteers are the life-force of our agency and the heart of our service. Contact volunteer services at 504-310-6960 or visit [www.ccano.org/volunteer](http://www.ccano.org/volunteer)

***Our Mission:*** Respecting the dignity and potential of each human person, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans collaborates with the wider community to serve those in need. Impelled by the love and teaching of Jesus Christ, we offer life-giving programs, advocate for the voiceless, and empower the poor and vulnerable to foster a more just society.

### ***Our Values:***

- Dignity through Respect
- Service through Love
- Justice through Advocacy and Empowerment
- Unity through Prayer



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*TEN years  
after Hurricane  
Katrina*

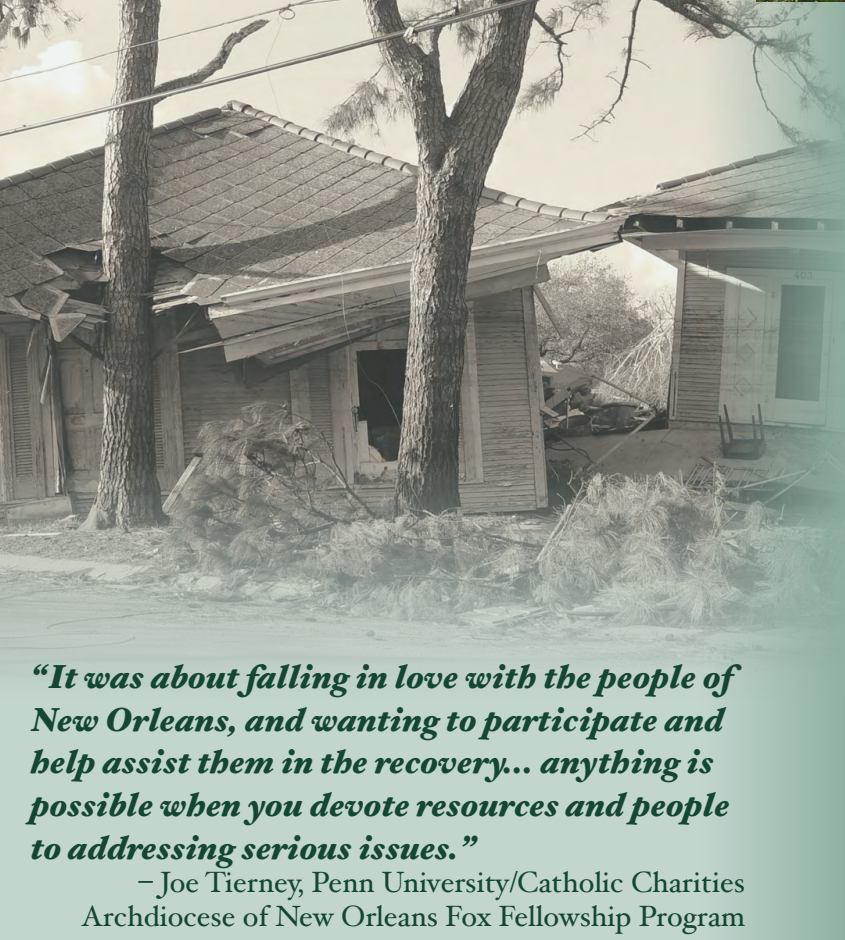
## Snapshot of Recovery & Rebuilding (2005-2010): Catholic Charities....

- Provided **\$55 million** dollars in direct assistance
- Distributed **250 million pounds of food** in conjunction with Second Harvest Food Bank
- Provided **335,000 nights of shelter** through our residential programs for the homeless and medically fragile
- Repaired, gutted, painted or rebuilt over **2,500 homes** through Catholic Charities Operation Helping Hands
- Welcomed **25,000+ volunteers** to help rebuild and revitalize our community
- Provided counseling for **900,000 people**



## A closer look at... Operation Helping Hands

Catholic Charities established Operation Helping Hands to help gut and rebuild the houses of the poor, disabled and the elderly. This program would ultimately help repair, gut, paint and rebuild over **2,500 homes** from 2006 through 2012. The program model is reactivated in times of devastation like in the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac, when Operation Helping Hands assisted with **78 relief projects** to help get families back into their homes.



***“It was about falling in love with the people of New Orleans, and wanting to participate and help assist them in the recovery... anything is possible when you devote resources and people to addressing serious issues.”***  
– Joe Tierney, Penn University/Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans Fox Fellowship Program





***"[In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina], what people needed to hear most was that God was present and cared. So that they could have hope. The Church helps deepen that hope"***

– Archbishop Emeritus Alfred Hughes,  
Archbishop in 2005

Catholic Charities journeys with the suffering in times of uncertainty and disaster, bringing hope to the hopeless in times of uncertainty and distress.



***"Catholic Charities was quickly recognized as the right agency to deal with disasters... the whole disaster division really changed the identity of the agency"***

– Elmore Rigamer, Medical Director,  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

Katrina changed the course and focus of our local agency, establishing us as "Early Responders" and "Forever Responders." In addition to immediate boots on the ground after the storm, Catholic Charities built a **model for long-term disaster response** that helped inform the national model of disaster aid used by Catholic Charities USA and other regional Catholic Charities around the country. Because of our track record with disaster response, we led the long-term disaster case management efforts in the wake of other regional disasters like the Oil Spill of 2010 and Hurricane Isaac.



# 10 MOMENTS OF GRACE & GRATEFUL SERVICE WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

***"The strangest thing I found out is that people can love you regardless. Disaster can bring you so close together."***

– Kathey Anderson,  
Operation Helping Hands client and employee

***"We were all victims of the storm, but we were called to help others get their lives back together. The road of recovery has also been a road of opportunity to build New Orleans up better than it ever was before."***

– Martin Gutierrez, Division Director

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Catholic Charities jumped back into action, becoming one of the most active employers working in hurricane affected areas and providing immediate employment opportunities after the storm.

***"As volunteers, the city and its people changed us forever - many of us ended up staying in New Orleans and building lives for ourselves here. But even those that came and left took these experiences and built upon them in whatever community they called home."***

– Sara Johansen, past volunteer,  
current Catholic Charities employee

***"After Katrina, our employees wanted to help. The ministries of Archdiocese of New Orleans rose to the top given their significant presence and the good work that was already being done. We sent several groups of volunteers to work with Catholic Charities. Many continued to return to New Orleans to volunteer in the subsequent years. This was a testament to how quickly Catholic Charities mobilized and how they were able to effectively identify families in need and connect them to services."***

– Eric Eckholdt, Executive Director of  
Credit Suisse Americas Foundation, New York



Catholic Charities became a funnel of national support in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Relationships and friendships that sustain our work continue today like the Fox Fellowship program between Penn University and Catholic Charities. National supporters like Catholic Charities USA, Credit Suisse Americas Foundation and countless others sent hope and help to our city through Catholic Charities.

***"After Katrina, an influx of immigrants, many undocumented, came to New Orleans to gut homes and help in the rebuilding... It has meant so much to me to see the Church work to welcome these immigrants, advocate for them, and help open hearts and foster compassion"***

– Sal Longoria, past Catholic Charities Board Member  
and Hispanic Apostolate Board Member

In the immediate year after the storm, Catholic Charities was able to serve 7,311 people of the immigrant/refugee community in New Orleans. Our Immigration and Refugee Services continue to welcome and empower immigrants and refugees offering counsel, ESL, support and assistance to hundreds of children, individuals and families from across the globe who now call NOLA their home.



***"Catholic Charities has a vast breadth of programs that can help people with any challenge they're encountering... It changed my life and changed my perspective about how the world works even to this day."***

– Bethany Billman, volunteer,  
University of Wisconsin

In the years following Hurricane Katrina, Catholic Charities has acted as a **catalyst** and **community organizer** to address needs uncovered by the storm including mental health, housing, and crime. We continue to build upon numerous community partnerships to develop new programming that addresses the current needs of the community.

***"We took away much more than we gave. The people we met, Catholic Charities' staff, fellow volunteers, those whose homes we worked on and the people of New Orleans are a continuing source of blessing to us."***

– John and Anne Coddaira, volunteers and donors

**By the numbers:** in the year following Hurricane Katrina, Catholic Charities served more than **432,937 families and individuals** affected by the storm. In the ten years since, Catholic Charities has continued to provide compassionate care and assistance for close to 100,000 vulnerable people each year.

- A. Archbishop Emeritus Alfred Hughes prays with evacuees at the Superdome in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
- B. Case managers and volunteers help assess the needs of displaced families after the storm.
- C. & D. Volunteers with Operation Helping Hands help paint and remove debris from storm damaged homes.
- E. Credit Suisse Americas Foundation Employee Volunteers from the Big Apple lend a helping hand in the Big Easy.
- F. & G. Thousands of volunteers from across the country join Catholic Charities Operation Helping Hands to repair and restore storm damaged homes of the elderly, the disabled, and the vulnerable.
- H. Isaiah 43 Parenting and Mentoring Program.
- I. Food for Families/Food for Seniors Program.
- J. Catholic Charities' Maternity and Adoption Services Program.
- K. Hope Haven Adult Day Health Care Center.
- L. Archbishop Gregory Aymond visits St. Mary of the Angels Head Start Center.



Our story continues with YOU. As we look forward with grateful hearts, we know our work today has been shaped by the many hands and hearts that have led, comforted, carried, and cared for the many that we serve - ten years since Hurricane Katrina and into the future.



***"One thing that Katrina did not take and cannot take is our faith, as well as the desire to rebuild with the help of God. It seems very evident, ten years later that the people of New Orleans and beyond our archdiocese have rebuilt their lives and their homes in the spirit of perseverance and trust in God that he always provides for us in difficult times. ...One day at a time, one person reaching out at a time, we make a difference. Each and every person can make a difference and certainly Catholic Charities does touch the lives and hearts of thousands of people, one day at a time, one person at a time, reaching out to those in need."***

– Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond

