



The **journey**
forward

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

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Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As Catholics we are a people of hope. In turn, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans is a beacon of hope for those most in need bringing God's love and compassion in the challenges of life. For many, the help of Catholic Charities is the beginning of "the journey forward."

The prophet Micah gives us these words,

And what does the LORD REQUIRE OF YOU?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.

— Micah 6:8

I am grateful for the way in which Catholic Charities puts these words into action each day as we journey with our sisters and brothers in need. I am grateful to Sr. Marjorie Hebert, MSC for her tireless dedication to the mission of Catholic Charities, and I am proud to recognize our staff and thank them for their sacrifices over the past year in their service to our most vulnerable sisters and brothers among us.

May we all pray for the grace to allow God to work in our lives that we may act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly, with God as we journey with those in need.

Wishing you God's blessings, and with gratitude for your participation in the work of Catholic Charities, I am,

Gratefully in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

...journey
WITH

THOSE IN

NEED



Dear Friends of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans,

This year marks Catholic Charities’ 99th year of service! In 1924, Associated Catholic Charities was established to join the programs of Catholic children’s institutions of the Archdiocese of New Orleans with emphasis placed on adoptions and court cases. Since the incorporation, our programs have grown and been refined. Today, Catholic Charities serves all of God’s children regardless of age or religion through our 23 programs spanning maternity care, adoption services, early childhood education, domestic violence survivor support, housing, case management, adult day care, food distribution, comprehensive health care, foster grandparenting and more.

The following Annual Report details our pivotal 99th year. We are concluding a century of service and embarking on **The Journey Forward**, ever mindful of our tradition of charity and eager to continue our mission of service. I would like to express my gratitude for Catholic Charities staff, volunteers and donors, without whom our programs could not continue to exist.

Over the past 99 years, Catholic Charities has served countless individuals with dignity and grace, and we will strive to continue this great legacy throughout our 100th year and beyond. Through the years, the faces of those seeking our services have changed and will continue to change, and Catholic Charities will continue to adapt to meet the needs of our community. **The Journey Forward is one of hope.**

On behalf of Catholic Charities’ board and staff, I thank you for your prayers and support.

God bless you,

Sr. Marjorie Hebert, M.S.C.

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

...our
tradition

OF CHARITY

AND EAGER

TO CONTINUE

our mission

OF SERVICE

Sr. Marjorie at the Food for Seniors warehouse in New Orleans East.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Lacombe is a very special place for Thelma Batiste. It has been home to many of the most memorable milestones of her life, including her Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, and Marriage.

We are a faith community striving to change the world one heart at a time.

Akin to this mission of Sacred Heart, Thelma has aspired to live up to this adage by personally delivering boxes of much-needed food to people for the Food for Seniors program at Catholic Charities. Sacred Heart serves as one of the pickup locations for the program on the Northshore.

Food for Seniors provides monthly nutritional food boxes to seniors who are 60 years old or older and meet Federal Income Guidelines. Food for Seniors currently has food box distribution sites throughout all 64 Louisiana parishes. The boxes include cereals, canned food, rice, spaghetti, macaroni, a block of cheese, and other items. Last year, Food for Seniors distributed nearly a half million boxes of food throughout Louisiana.

Thelma had been familiar with the Food for Seniors program for a while before she began delivering the boxes. She and her husband, Clarence, had, at one point or another, been on the receiving end of the program. Following Clarence's passing 17 years ago, Thelma was looking for ways to keep busy and help her neighbors at the same time.

"I brought the boxes to anybody who needed them. Whether they were handicapped, sick, didn't have a car, or simply just couldn't pick one up, I made sure a box got to them each month," Thelma says.

In addition to keeping her busy, delivering the boxes also helps Thelma remain close to friends, family, and neighbors. The number of boxes that Thelma delivers each month has fluctuated over the years, but even at age 82, her dedication to helping others has remained unwavering. This commitment is only matched by her Catholic faith, which has led her down the path to become the person she is today.

"I was raised that way, plus I enjoy doing it. Anything I can do to help someone else lifts me up. I do it out of love for people, and I believe the Lord is always looking down on you," Thelma says.

Impelled by the love and teaching of Jesus Christ, while respecting the dignity and potential of all people, we collaborate to offer life-giving programs, advocate for the voiceless and empower the vulnerable to foster a just society.

This mission from Catholic Charities, which draws parallels to Sacred Heart's mission, bolsters the belief that if you have a fire within yourself to help others in need, it can change the world. And Thelma Batiste is one person *striving to change the world one heart at a time*.



Thelma Batiste at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Lacombe.



Tucked away in a quiet residential neighborhood in Belle Chasse, La., there is an unassuming two-story building that houses 27 of the most joyful and energetic men and women found on the Westbank. Whether it is a new face or a veteran employee, people often hear a chorus of warm welcomes from the residents of Padua House, which provides essential comprehensive and specialized care for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

One such Padua resident named Jeremiah, or ‘Miah as staff affectionately call him, is a 21-year-old who has been living at Padua since he was four years old. When Jeremiah was three, he nearly drowned in a swimming pool accident. Although he survived, he suffered a life-changing brain injury which required specialized life-long assistance at Padua House.

Serving ages from birth to 99, Padua programs provide housing and care, ensuring that all residents have quality individualized care based on their specific needs. Services include weekly doctor visits, physical, occupational, and speech therapy as well as psychological services.

Jeremiah loves to be the center of attention anywhere he goes. But, according to his service coordinator, Zina Drummond, this has not always been the case. She says initially, when Jeremiah arrived, he would not talk or make eye contact with anyone. This about-face for Jeremiah over the years serves as a testament to the care, compassion, and patience that emanates from the entire team at Padua.

Zina, who has been at Padua House for 28 years says, “I have always loved working here. We get to see the progress over the years and see residents like Jeremiah become more independent. It feels good and lets us know our work is not in vain.”

Although Jeremiah loves “SpongeBob SquarePants,” “Barney” and more recently, “Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood,” he is not limited to only spending his days in the family room at Padua House watching kid’s TV programs. He, like many other residents, goes to a special education program during the day at Belle Chasse High School, where he just entered his senior year. Next year, he’ll graduate and start attending a day program at Clover House in New Orleans.

Jeremiah gets 24-hour care at Padua, the attention he seeks and needs, and also has opportunities to go out into the community. Earlier this summer, Jeremiah went bowling with other residents and took a trip to Biloxi for his birthday. But it is the shopping trips to Lakeside Mall that are his favorite and that is for one reason only: the Food Court! While Jeremiah does some shopping at the mall, he is always intently focused on making sure he gets to eat one of his favorite foods, Raising Cane’s Chicken Fingers. (*Popeyes is a close second!*)

The circumstances surrounding the residents of Padua can often be heartbreaking, but Jeremiah’s story shows that there are moments of joy, humor, and triumph that will forever live in the memories of all that walk through the doors of Padua House.

For many women, learning that they are pregnant can be an immensely joyful occasion. But doubt and uncertainty about bringing a child into this world can be a reality for many others. Circumstances surrounding age, family dynamics or financial situations can add a lot of stress for many moms-to-be.

Cristina Danove and her three-year-old son, Giovanni, are proof that, despite their ups and downs, there are shining *moments of hope in the face of adversity*.

When Cristina was 40 years old, she had a feeling she may be pregnant. With the possibility looming that she may be expecting her second child more than 20 years after her first son was born, anxiety and concern set in. In the midst of talking with family and debating her options, Cristina happened to find the website for Pregnancy Services at Catholic Charities. It turned out to be the place of comfort that she desperately needed.

Pregnancy Services provides hope, help, and loving care for women facing an unplanned or troubled pregnancy. They provide a wide variety of free, confidential, and caring pregnancy assistance services. They also distribute more than 12,000 diapers (and other baby essentials) each month to mothers in need.

When Cristina came into Pregnancy Services, she was nervous, not really sure what to expect. Abortion was an option in the back of her head, but everything changed after she saw her baby on the ultrasound at the clinic and had a heart-to-heart with staff members.

“Everyone was very nice and made me feel so comfortable. The staff talked me through it and said having the baby was the right thing to do,” Cristina said.

After finding her peace, Cristina got married and gave birth to a healthy 8 lb., 7oz Giovanni, (or her “fat chunk-a-chunk,” as she playfully calls him). Not long after, those *moments of hope in the face of adversity* for Cristina were literally put to the test. Last November, Cristina’s husband was killed during a violent attack at his workplace in New Orleans. Despite the insurmountable loss of her husband, Cristina is happy that she will always have a part of him in Giovanni.

Cristina still stops in regularly to Pregnancy Services to pick up her allotment of diapers and baby supplies. Each time she visits, she recalls the support and genuine kindness she received at Pregnancy Services that has made this whole experience worthwhile.

Cristina added, “When you are facing a tough decision in life, you often don’t have a lot of support. A place like Pregnancy Services can make or break a person. It can determine what they will do and whether they will keep their baby or not. I think a service like this is what many people need in their lives.”



Michelle Black (left), Director of Pregnancy Services, helps Cristina Danove pick out some baby supplies.



Laverne Broussard, Leenoy Jones, and Ashley Leufroy help with the delivery of food from the Maineses.

The heat dome that covered the Gulf South for much of this summer was undeniably overwhelming for most in the Crescent City. On August 23rd, the second hottest day ever in New Orleans, the anticipation of the arrival of a refrigerated 18-wheeler was helping the Food for Seniors staff keep the record high temperatures off their minds. The special delivery of food arrived at the New Orleans East warehouse around mid-morning, courtesy of Jenny and Ronnie Mains.

The Maineses locally operate CRC We Care! We Share!, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that grew out of their main company, CRC Global Solutions in Kenner, La. The CRC Global family of companies encompasses a group of rapidly expanding business units with over 60 locations worldwide across five continents, including construction, realty, logistics and branding.

Although Jenny and Ronnie have a full plate operating their company, they have always kept the community close to their heart. Giving back to those most in need has always been at the forefront and when Fr. Sergio Serrano, O.P., Director of the Hispanic Apostolate in New Orleans, told them about Food for Seniors, they knew they could help.

“Recognizing the profound needs within our community, especially among our elderly, we felt compelled to act and contribute,” said Jenny.

Food for Seniors provides monthly nutritional food boxes to seniors who are 60 years old or older and meet Federal Income Guidelines. Food box distribution sites are located throughout all 64 Louisiana parishes, with more than 40 sites in Orleans and Jefferson parishes. Volunteers help pack and load boxes at senior living facilities, churches and community centers.

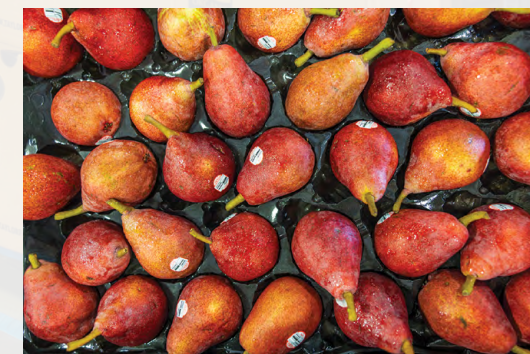
In addition to their business acumen, the Maineses’ faith also plays a large part in the kind of people they aspire to be each day.

“Our faith is at the very core of who we are. Every act of generosity and support we offer is grounded in the guidance and teachings of God. Through our giving, we aim to spread His love and make a meaningful impact on the lives of others,” said Ronnie.

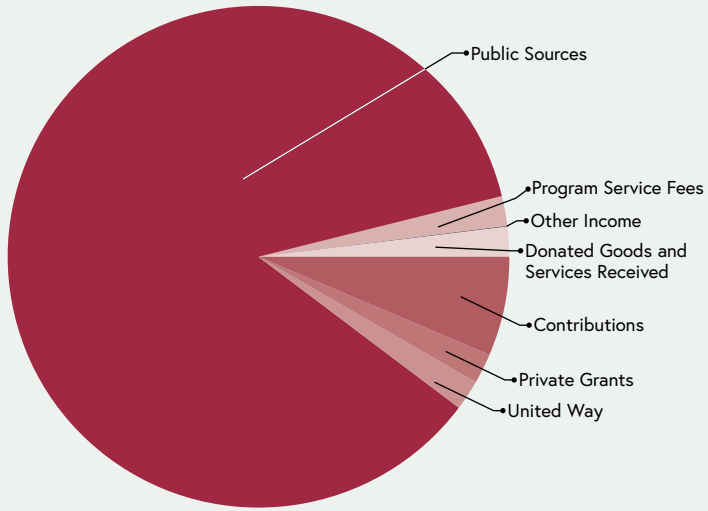
Echoing her husband’s sentiments, Jenny says, “Generosity is a reflection of our values. For us, giving back is a way of doing God’s work. It’s not just about providing material support; it’s about embodying love, kindness, and humanity.”

The 18-wheeler delivery in August, one of many planned by the Maineses, included fresh apples, pears, potatoes, spinach, and broccoli. They are confident that they can continue to help Food for Seniors expand and enhance its offerings to those in need. They also hope it will inspire others in the business community to find their own ways to support the many programs of Catholic Charities.

Jenny concluded, “Our hope is that our actions will serve as a catalyst, inspiring others to recognize the power of giving and the change they too can make in the world.”



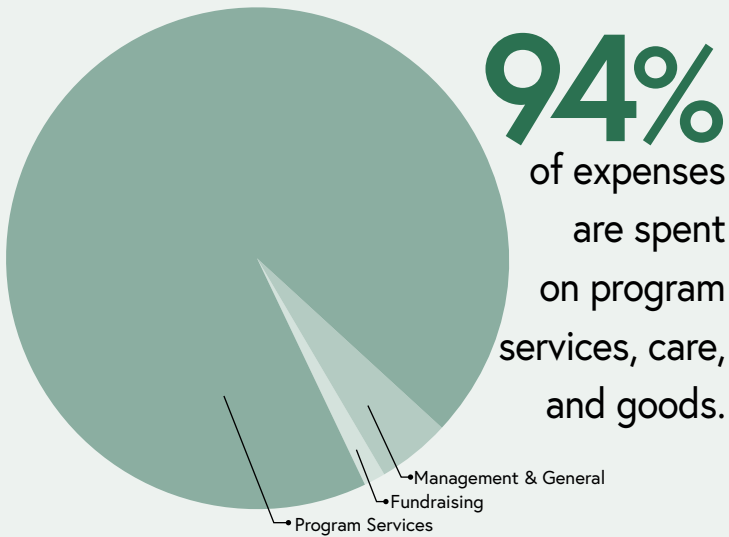
INCOME



OPERATING INCOME

Contributions	\$2,745,532
Private Grants	\$852,885
United Way	\$835,215
Public Sources	\$36,944,891
Program Service Fees	\$904,270
Other Income	\$64,859
Donated Goods and Services Received ..	\$718,523
TOTAL.....	\$43,066,175

EXPENSES



EXPENSES

Program Services	\$43,057,581
Management & General	\$2,136,609
Fundraising	\$579,439
TOTAL.....	\$45,773,629

(a) Unaudited fiscal year ended June 30, 2023

(b) Program services amount does not include 438,920 commodity food boxes distributed by Food for Families/Food for Seniors with a retail value of approximately \$21,946,000.

(c) A portion of current year expenses were covered by grants from prior years.

94% of expenses are spent on program services, care, and goods.

OUR LEADERSHIP

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

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YOUR FAITH IN ACTION

5,340 households were engaged in CCANO case management services during FY23.

More than 73,000 clients who received assistance from CCANO were over the age of 65.

72.3% of clients engaged in CCANO case management completed their individual service plan.

15,151 ESL classroom hours were provided to 925 students.

Spirit of Hope provided disaster response services to 3,263 households.

Volunteers in the Foster Grandparents program gave 35,700 hours of their time to mentoring 50 children.

Head Start & Early Head Start provided 26,514 classroom days to 392 clients.

Pro Life Services distributed 145,688 diapers.

Cornerstone worked with 254 previously incarcerated men and women to lead successful lives.

School-based Counseling provided individual therapy to 246 students.

Food for Seniors distributed 490,612 food boxes that supplemented 63,089 households statewide.

Hurricane Ida Case Management helped secure \$14.5 Million in recovery monies for St. John, St. Charles, Orleans, and St. Tammany Parish households (contracted to serve those 4 parishes).



PHOTOS: Chris Granger