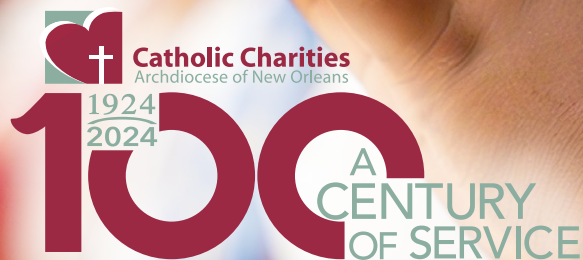


CARING

INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF NEW ORLEANS

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord:

For a century, Catholic Charities has witnessed Faith in Action.

St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “Faith in Action is Love – And Love in Action is Service.” For 100 years, that service born of love has been seen every day through the programs of Catholic Charities. Whether it is the newly pregnant mother desperate for guidance or an elderly person in search of companionship and care, Catholic Charities is prepared to offer an open door, a warm welcome, a defending voice, and a helping hand for generations of Archdiocese of New Orleans residents. All whom we assist are also remembered in prayer. We see Christ in them!

As supporters of Catholic Charities, you are our partners in Faith, Action, and Love. Your contributions of time and financial support for our ministry mean that we are better able to act in service to those most vulnerable among us.

As you read on, please keep in prayer those we have been humbled to serve in the past year and for the past 100 years. Your generosity and that of others have made this ministry possible.

We create a just society by reaching out to the most vulnerable among us, walking beside them and working to meet their needs. By working together to make our community more vibrant and safe we live the mission of Jesus Christ. I am proud to recognize our staff and thank them for their sacrifices over the past year to fulfill Catholic Charities’ mission. Special thanks to Sr. Marjorie Hebert, MSC for her servant leadership. She has been a true gift to Catholic Charities and we will miss her as she prepares for retirement.

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

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans,

Allison Murphy, George Jacobs, Diane Staes. These names probably hold little significance to many of you. Maybe you walked by them at the grocery store, sat near them at church or waved to them at the park. Just ordinary people you may have encountered during your daily routine.

But their stories are anything but routine.

Abuse survivor Allison took back control of her life with the help of Project SAVE; George, who saw his own children flourish in Head Start, serves as a parent advocate with the program; and Diane Staes found comfort and companionship at PACE in the Bywater.

Over the last century, Catholic Charities has chronicled the lives of people just like those in this issue who are categorically reshaping their own narrative or the community they call home. And it’s not just individuals. The legacy of Alden and Margaret Laborde is flourishing under the Almar Foundation as it seeks to share generously with the community in a way that echoes the couple’s selflessness.

Catholic Charities has strived to be there every step of the way and its impact is a poignant testament to its storied history that can not be overstated. To paraphrase part of our mission, everyone deserves to have their voice heard. With Catholic Charities’ help, I believe the stories of people and organizations like Allison, George, Diane and the Almar Foundation will never fade away.

As I conclude my 12 years leading Catholic Charities, I’m fortunate to have others take this journey alongside me. Thank you to staff and volunteers who have made Catholic Charities a part of their lives. To all of the men and women who generously served alongside me on the Board of Directors, I commend your dedication. Your guidance throughout the years can not be emphasized enough.

I will also cherish the friendship, counsel, and leadership of Archbishop Aymond, who has been pivotal in leading our organization into the next Century of Service.

Although my story with Catholic Charities is coming to a close, it will forever remain dear to my heart.

Thank you and God Bless,

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



A CENTURY OF SERVICE

"What becomes apparent as time passes and especially in today's social climate is the willingness and resolve the people of New Orleans have to help one another in a time of unfortunate circumstances."

- Excerpt from a handwritten letter from John Coddaira to Catholic Charities earlier this year.

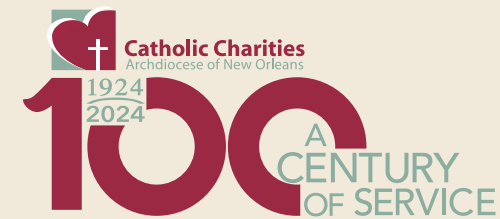
If there ever were a few words written that could encapsulate the spirit of Catholic Charities and the people it has worked with over the last century, Mr. Coddaira has succeeded. The ability to remain resolute in the darkest hour is a powerful drive that is ingrained in the very fabric of South Louisiana residents.

Through heartache and joy, Catholic Charities has been there to help. From mothers in search of direction through Pregnancy Services, to a compassionate ear from a therapist in Counsel-

ing Solutions, to volunteers with Operation Helping Hands helping rebuild homes after Hurricane Katrina, Catholic Charities has strived to give people at the lowest points in their lives a fighting chance to lift themselves up.

As difficult a task as it is to summarize a Century of Service, we think the photos on this page provide the essence of the triumphant stories we've been sharing for the last 100 years. The expression, "a picture is worth a thousand words" definitely holds true.

Everyone in the history of Catholic Charities has a story to tell and there are no small roles. Thank you for doing your part.



OPPORTUNITY

When I look into your eyes; What do I see?
Inspiration, Aspiration, you made it to your Destination.

George Jacobs was asked to prepare some remarks for his daughter's Head Start graduation a day before she walked across the stage last May. A moment of panic set in. But when he put pen to paper and reflected on both of his kids' Head Start journey over the years, the words poured out of him. The end result was a poem titled "The Future."

Considering Ja'Kaia has been part of Head Start since she was eight weeks old, George has witnessed a significant amount of progress in his daughter over the last five years, leading up to her transition ceremony from Head Start to kindergarten this fall. George's older son Clifford is also a graduate of the Head Start program.

Head Start is a child and family development program for families with children from birth to 3 years (Early Head Start) and preschoolers 3 to 5 years of age (Head Start), including children with disabilities. These programs promote the social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth and development of each child.

Around the time Ja'Kaia began in the program, George joined the board of Head Start and also began serving as a Parent Advocate, which provides parents with opportunities to recommend and implement changes that will benefit the program.

"You're able to see behind the scenes from a teacher's perspective. I'm involved in the process of making future decisions for the next generation of children. I get to see the staff and administration and how it all comes together," George says.

As Catholic Charities prepares for its next Century of Service, George is optimistic about the future

and the great possibilities while watching his kids grow and become role models themselves.

During a visit to Head Start after his son Clifford graduated, George was reminded how much Head Start plays a part in the lives of children.

"It all came back to him immediately. That foundation remains. They miss it and their faces light up," George added.

When thinking about the next 100 years of Catholic Charities, the final lines of George's poem seem appropriate:

*So when the sun rises, I see that great big smile.
I'm looking forward to the future, with those Shining Bright Eyes.*



THE FUTURE

By George Jacobs

*When I look into your eyes;
What do I see?*

*Inspiration, Aspiration, you made it
to your Destination.*

*When I hold you in my arms;
What do I feel?
Joy, Pain, Sorrow, but for some
magical reasons it ends with a kiss.*

*When I carry you on my shoulder;
What do I see?
Smiles, laughter, a whole
new world to see.*

*As the day moves on, I see you rise.
I look back and thank GOD;
For the gift before my eyes.*

*When I lay you down to sleep, Only
the LORD knows what I think.*

*So when the sun rises, I see
that great big smile.
I'm looking forward to the future,
with those Shining Bright Eyes.*

PHOTO: Chris Granger



RESILIENCE

Lighting the torch for others to see the way

In the long-running reality show, "Survivor," torches are objects that hold the fire that symbolizes a castaway's life in the game. For Allison Murphy, they symbolize strength, resilience, and the fight for a better life following years of physical and emotional abuse. Just like in the game, she's had to fight to keep her own torch burning bright.

Born and raised in Uptown New Orleans, Allison first met the man that would upend her life when she was just 19. The abuse started almost immediately. She sought help over the years, which included filing restraining orders, attending therapy and participating in marriage counseling. Although her situation improved at times, the cycle of abuse would inevitably restart. On average, it takes victims seven times to leave an abusive cycle according to the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

It wasn't until her husband started abusing their young son and threatened to take him away that Allison had a moment of clarity and finally gathered the courage to leave. But she couldn't do it alone.

That's when Catholic Charities' Project SAVE came into the picture and started to turn things around for her. Led by Allyson Tuttle, the program provides legal representation to survivors of domestic violence residing in Orleans Parish.

"Allyson took every threat seriously and knew action had to be taken. The empowerment she uses with the methods that she does to get you through trial, extract evidence, and prepare for trial did wonders. I am not sure where I would be without her," Allison Murphy said.

The legal process can still be long and take a heavy emotional toll.

"Going through that trial, there were a lot of tears. You are disclosing very personal things about your abuse to strangers. Both sides of the family were there. I thought if I can make it through that, then I can make it through anything," Allison added.

After two years, Allison and her son have come out of all of this intact on the other side. Both are doing remarkably well considering what they went through.

Allison is even giving back to others in similar situations. After her time with Project SAVE concluded, she created an online domestic violence advocacy group and has helped over 20 women in abusive relationships. She often refers victims to Project SAVE.

As Allison works to rebuild not only her life, but the lives of others, one can't help but be reminded of the "Survivor" show, and what she has been through. She hopes her story serves as an inspiration to others struggling during dark times and as Allison says, "light the torch for others to see the way."



COMPASSION

Caring for Those... Who Cared For Us

Passionate Saints football fans for many years, Diane Staes and her family could often be found at games near the endzone at the Superdome. This Sunday tradition in the Dome was their home away from home. As Diane got older, health and mobility issues started to curtail outings, making Saints games and other activities she enjoyed just not possible anymore.

Diane's children and close friends continue to be by her side to help her stay busy and keep the momentum going. But there's also comfort knowing that the staff at PACE have also been there to make sure she doesn't miss a beat.

PACE's mission is to empower older adults to live in their homes and community for as long as possible. Their holistic care plan offers in-home support, rehab programs, nutritional counseling, nursing care, free transportation and more.

Not long after her husband Ronald passed away in 2010, Diane, now 78, learned about PACE from someone in the community room at her apartment complex. A quick Google search later that day led her to fill out the application online. A PACE representative soon reached out to her to get her set up.

On average, PACE participants attend the day center three times a week, giving them the chance to socialize and get any healthcare needs met.

Diane says there are so many additional activities and programs to keep everyone engaged, including arts & crafts, bingo, therapy and workout classes. Diane also commends the PACE staff for mixing things up with regular group field trips to get beignets, attend the French Quarter Fest, go bowling, eat picnics in City Park, and outings to Dollar Tree, Diane's favorite.

"I am friends with all of the staff. They are unbelievable. I love PACE. They love their jobs and I love everyone there. Even the drivers, they are all just unbelievable," exclaimed Diane.

The energy and enthusiasm of PACE staff are only matched by the contagious spirit of Diane.

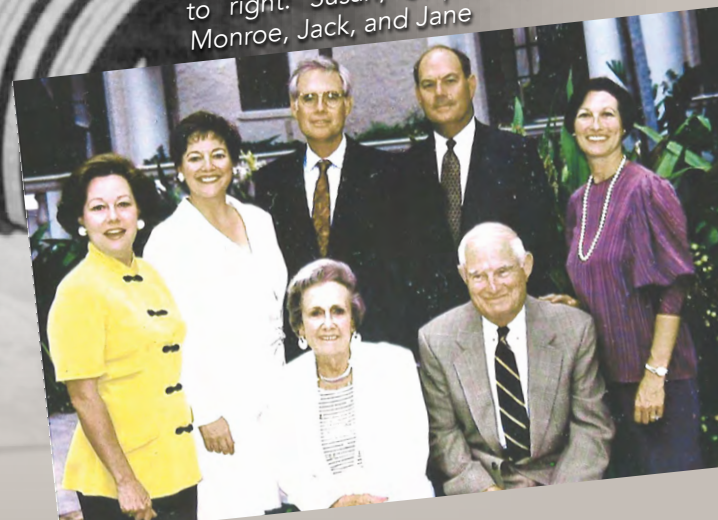
PACE employee, Shavanna Collins knows this all too well, saying, "Ms. Staes is truly one of the most beautiful people I know, both inside and out. She has such a warm and caring spirit. Her light shines everywhere she goes. She's one of those people that is loved by everyone!"

COMMITMENT

Faith, family, philanthropy



Margaret and Alden with their five children from left to right: Susan, Stephanie, Monroe, Jack, and Jane



Fried fish, steamed artichokes, and an iceberg lettuce salad. Growing up, Sarah Ehrensing would look forward to this favorite meal each time she had Sunday lunch at her grandparents' home. On weekends, Alden and Margaret Laborde would invite Sarah or one of their other 17 grandchildren over for their favorite lunch, meals which would often turn into an afternoon of thoughtful discussion, listening, advice, and laughter.

The spirit of those Sunday afternoons still endures in the **Almar Foundation**, founded in 1997 by the late Alden and Margaret. The foundation provides essential assistance for education and services to the economically disadvantaged, primarily through Catholic organizations such as Catholic Charities. The foundation is still operated by family members with three generations now working for the good of the community.

Hailing from Marksville, La., Alden J. "Doc" Laborde, a titan of the oil industry, was the founder of Ocean Drilling and Exploration Company (ODECO), Gulf Island Fabrication Inc., and Tidewater Marine, which he co-founded with his brother John. His success and business fortitude never took precedence over the couple's commitment to faith, family, and philanthropy.

Grandson and foundation board member Justin Laborde said, "We felt like they wanted to have a unique relationship with each one of us. They wanted to know what was going on in our lives.

"My grandparents always seemed to be laughing and smiling when we were there. They were examples of what it meant to be generous and faithful. We learned a lot by watching them, how they treated friends, family, strangers, and each other."

To know the Almar Foundation is to know a family deeply rooted in integrity and principles by which the founders lived their lives.

It's probably no surprise that Alden was good friends with the late Archbishop Philip Hannan, a champion of Catholic Charities and meeting the needs of the poor in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. As contemporaries, Alden and Hannan were close in age, children of the Depression, veterans of WWII, and diehard Saints football fans. Their strongest legacy is their service to the community.

"They loved New Orleans and wanted to see it grow and flourish. I think they regularly sought each other's advice and counsel. I'm sure they had great philosophical discussions," Justin remarked.

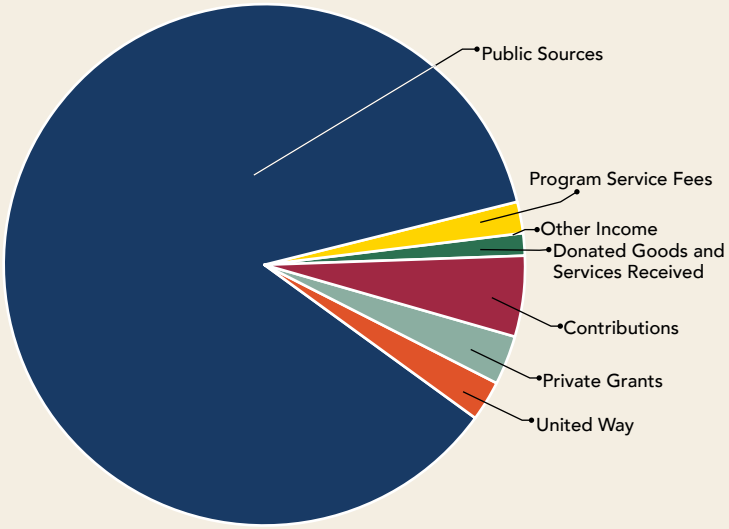
The Catholic faith that served as a bedrock for the Labordes has remained steadily intact through generations of family members, who continue to be part of the Almar Foundation.

Sarah said, "There's a wide range of experience in the family, and I also think there's a lot of humility and generosity. I think my grandparents would have hoped to see that and been happy about that. That's what they encouraged us to do - to think of others. To appreciate that your work is part of something bigger, and your responsibility is to play a role in the larger world and help the less fortunate."

Family reunion at Greystone Inn, Lake Toxaway, NC



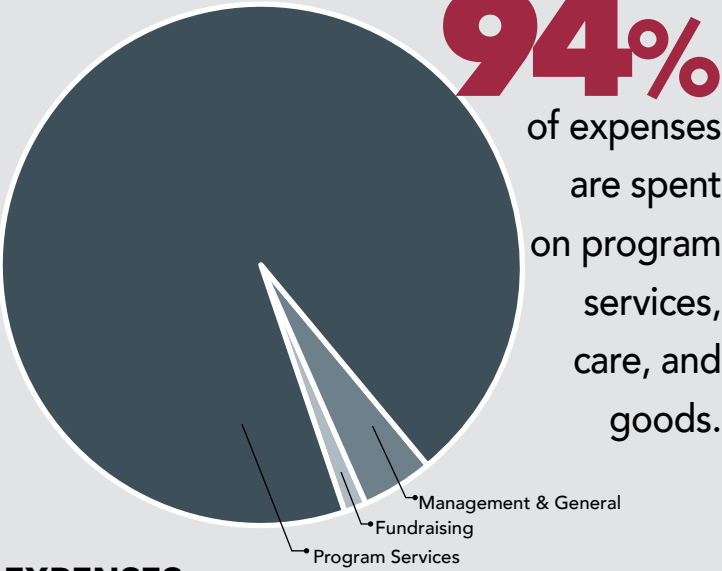
INCOME



OPERATING INCOME

Public Sources	\$39,641,204
Program Service Fees	\$856,176
Other Income	\$61,670
Donated Goods and Services Received	\$689,674
Contributions.....	\$2,382,289
Private Grants	\$1,323,654
United Way	\$119,852
TOTAL	\$45,074,519

EXPENSES



EXPENSES

Program Services	\$45,170,387
Management & General	\$2,126,440
Fundraising	\$600,967
TOTAL	\$47,897,794

(a) Unaudited fiscal year ended June 30, 2024
(b) Program services amount does not include commodity food boxes distributed by Food for Families/Food for Seniors.
(c) A portion of current year expenses were covered by grants from prior years.

YOUR SUPPORT IN NUMBERS


Cornerstone Builders offered services to **448** previously incarcerated men and women, **76%** more than the previous year.


Pregnancy Services distributed **186,412** diapers to women. They also provided **400** ultrasounds and **602** pregnancy tests for abortion minded women.


Project SAVE helped **152** victims of abuse in Orleans Parish obtain free emergency legal representation.


1,668 volunteers provided **61,686** hours of service, an economic value of **\$1,506,857**.

Therapeutic Family Services, which unites foster families with children in need of temporary care, provided **1,413** days of care and completed **147** home visits.


Padua House provided **10,086** specialized days of care for **30** children and adults with intellectual disabilities.


47 volunteers in the Foster Grandparents program provided **27,632** service hours to children and youth in their communities.


293 children attended **27,067** days of school through Head Start and Early Head Start.


ESL served **745** students with **19,650** hours of classroom instruction.

OUR LEADERSHIP

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

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FAITH IN THE FUTURE
Continuing our mission for
the next Century of Service