Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of New Orleans

2026 impact REPORT



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is always a joy to be amongst the people of God in our archdiocese! It is one of my great joys to visit and meet the people I have been called to shepherd. It is through our encounters that we can most clearly and most boldly make Jesus' name more known, loved and served.

When I arrived in New Orleans and began meeting our dear people, I was introduced to many new customs and learned many things about my new home – I am still learning! One thing that became very clear was that the people in this local Church are dedicated to faith and family, and they love the Church. Included in this love is their appreciation for the ministry of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

As I travel around our archdiocese, I often hear stories about the good works of the local Church carried out by the ministry of Catholic Charities. When I had the opportunity myself to visit these ministries, I was excited to witness our Church in action.

What I experienced in these visits was very moving and humbling. To meet the people who work daily to see that the very basic needs of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters are met and to meet those who they minister to was nothing short of inspiring.

Every day Catholic Charities is putting the Gospel into action. I am proud of their good ministry, serving others in the name of Jesus Christ, and revealing His heart to those they serve. I'm grateful for it!

So, my dear brothers and sisters, please join me in thanking them and celebrating their good work. Please join me in praying for their continued fruitfulness and for our commitment to remain focused on doing all that we can to bring others to Jesus. I also thank you – I am grateful to each and every one of you for giving generously of your gifts to help Catholic Charities continue their mission.

Know of my love, prayers and gratitude for you and please pray for me.

With renewed best wishes, I remain

Yours in Christ,

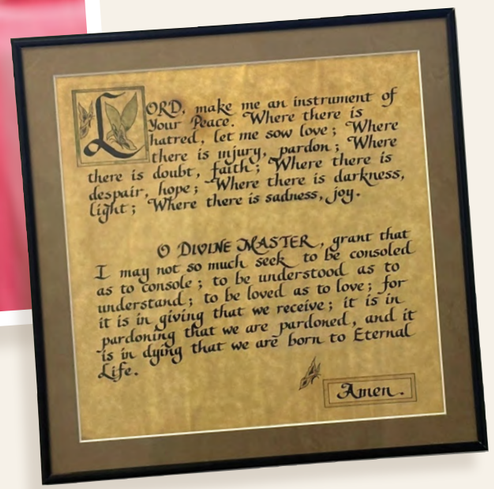
+ James F. Checchio

Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Archbishop of New Orleans

"May we continue to be people who build understanding..."







"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans,

This framed affirmation adorns my office wall. These words from the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis have become a quiet reminder of why we do the charitable work of Catholic Charities.

I strive to answer this calling daily and inspire others. I do this primarily by ensuring the footprint of the nearly two dozen programs that make up our agency leaves an indelible impression. This impact should be felt by all who seek out our services and by the wider community, fostering a lasting culture of empathy, resilience, and shared progress.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon.

The work we do extends far beyond providing essential services. It restores self-esteem for mothers during times of uncertainty who visit our Pregnancy Services program, it offers comfort for women seeking refuge from domestic violence with the help of Project SAVE, and it dignifies our Padua House residents who depend on vital care and a supportive environment where they can thrive.

This past summer during a bus tour of several of our programs, our group of young adults visiting Padua House learned about how we live out the legacy of the late Archbishop Philip Hannan. He envisioned Padua as a refuge for the intellectually and developmentally disabled. My hope is that as these young men and women on the tour were inspired, may their actions be guided by love, their decisions formed by wisdom, and their hearts opened by a genuine desire to serve others. Every act of generosity, every word of encouragement, and every moment of compassion have the power to change the life of someone who has sought our help.

Where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

The work we do extends far beyond providing essential services; it restores dignity, offers comfort, and reminds every person we encounter that they are seen, valued, and never alone.

Project SAVE provided Donneisha safety as she and her child faced domestic abuse. Following decades of addiction, Cassandra sought to start her life over with the assistance of **Cornerstone**. At age 91, Ledwenia continues to resolutely serve as a **Foster Grandparent** in a Head Start classroom.

May we continue to be people who build understanding instead of division, extend forgiveness instead of resentment, and choose kindness even when the work is difficult. May we seek to encourage others before ourselves, listen before speaking, and lift up those who are carrying heavy burdens.

O Divine master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.

Each day, we have the opportunity to replace fear with reassurance and begin anew. We listen with empathy, serve with humility, and provide care without expecting recognition, reflecting the very best of our shared mission. Together, we can continue creating a community where hope grows, healing begins, and every person is treated with the dignity they deserve.

With gratitude and blessings,

Cynthia T. Hayes

Cynthia T. Hayes
President & CEO
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans

THE IMPACT OF kindness

When three generations of women spanning more than 75 years gathered in Ledwenia Baudy's classroom at St. Mary's Academy, an otherwise normal school day became unforgettable.

Students, ranging from second graders to seniors, quietly filed into the classroom to reconnect and reminisce with Ledwenia, affectionately known as **Grandma Baudy**. Their initial reservation to speak amongst the group and share memories soon gave way to laughter as Grandma Baudy pulled stickers out of her pocket, a fond and familiar memory for the students.

Grandma Baudy is a volunteer in the **AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program** at Catholic Charities, where older adults provide one-on-one mentoring, tutoring, and encouragement to children in school settings. Foster Grandparents help children build confidence, strengthen learning, and receive the caring attention they need to succeed.

At age 91, Baudy has been a tireless presence as a Foster Grandparent at St. Mary's, her alma mater, for the past 20 years. Before retiring, Baudy spent decades as an elementary school teacher in New Orleans.

"Grandma Baudy has been a loving light in our lives. I'm pretty sure all your past students that you have taught have loved you and will forever remember you," one student shared with the group.

Another recalled, "I talked so much in the second grade. Grandma Baudy did not mind me talking and that let me know she loved me a lot."

It is clear that serving as a Foster Grandparent is not just a job for Grandma Baudy, but a calling to encourage children to grow in confidence and believe in themselves.

"You all have brought a lot of joy to my heart. That's why I've been here so long," Grandma Baudy said.

The ripple effect of Grandma Baudy's life also resonates with Darlene Hutchison, Elementary School Coordinator at St. Mary's. Once Grandma Baudy's third-grade student, Hutchison later became her colleague when they both taught at Corpus Christi School in 1995. Following Hurricane Katrina, they reunited at St. Mary's.

After 48 years in education, Hutchison still remembers Baudy's encouragement at the end of third grade when she said she wanted to be a teacher herself. She still sees how much that kindness resonates with the younger generations today.



"I look at how much you have touched people's lives, and you are a little breath of fresh air when you walk in a room," Darlene said.

Darlene sees herself following Baudy's footsteps and serving as a Foster Grandparent one day as well.

"If you are a born educator, you just can't stop. It is definitely a beneficial program that has made a difference in the lives of our students here at St. Mary's Academy," Darlene said.

Darlene's accomplishments and the progress she sees in the children at St. Mary's are all the motivation she needs to wake up each weekday.

"I enjoyed every moment with you, and you were a great inspiration to me. Helping you was the gift God gave to me. It's a loving, helpful, and successful program because you are all a success. Grandma loves you," Baudy says.

"We love you too," the students chime back together.



Grandma Baudy and Darlene Hutchison outside St. Mary's Academy

THE IMPACT OF structure

A transitional house on Houma Boulevard saved Cassandra Henneman's life.

Following her release from prison in June 2025, Cassandra found herself at a crossroads. At age 57, decades of trouble, addiction and incarceration had been her cross to bear. She was exhausted, ready to make amends with her family, and, most importantly, ready for real change. That change began with transitional housing at an apartment on Houma Boulevard in Metairie, provided through the Cornerstone Reentry Program at Catholic Charities.

Housing provided Cassandra with an opportunity to start over, far from the shadows of the demons that had haunted her for years.

In the world of addiction, Cassandra considers herself a late bloomer. Raised in a good family and enjoying a relatively normal childhood, she didn't struggle with drug and alcohol addiction until her mid-20s, when it took her life hostage. Working in the restaurant and service industry in the French Quarter, Cassandra experienced many late nights where she succumbed to her vices.

"Realizing that environment was my trigger, I refused to go back. The place on Houma Boulevard was a blessing and a lifesaver," Cassandra says.

Catholic Charities provided Cassandra with the structure and accountability she needed to stay focused on her goals. This entailed finding permanent housing in Metairie, a job, and transportation to counseling sessions for both group therapy and addiction treatment. The in-house groups address conflict resolution, workforce development, and financial literacy.

Although her current job at Goodwill is unlike the bartending or waitressing jobs she held in the past, she relishes the peace and comfort of living a simple life. When not working, she studies for her GED and spends time relaxing with the resident apartment cats and tending to her plants. She has also been working on reuniting with her two adult children.

"I reconnected with my son after five years. It has been awesome, but my daughter hasn't reached back out to me. It's ok, I did that damage. She's a hard one to crack," Cassandra says.



Kristen Becnel, director of the Cornerstone program, has seen how much Cassandra has flourished and wishes this type of program was mandatory for all people being released from prison. She also hopes to see Cassandra serve in a peer support specialist role one day.

"She would be a wonderful mentor to the other women and also that would help keep her on the path to success and staying sober," Kristen says.

Cassandra says that none of this would be possible without the saving grace of Catholic Charities. She is excited to be a part of the new Cornerstone Reentry Women's Group which is helping to keep her connected to peers and share her experiences with others.

Reflecting on her bright future, Cassandra adds: "Life is good right now and I'm getting better every day. I hope I make Kristen and everyone feel good when they see me," Cassandra says.

THE IMPACT OF strength

Every day as a hospice nurse, Donneisha Keelen pours her heart into bringing peace and comfort to people nearing the final chapter of their lives. She is accustomed to being the steady rock for others, but a recent terrifying turn of events at home turned her world upside down.

This past year, a shooting involving her ex-boyfriend, the father of Donneisha's nine-year-old daughter, devastated their family. He had confronted Donneisha's then partner in a fit of jealousy that escalated. Both she and her daughter witnessed the harrowing event, leaving them completely shaken and terrified. Fortunately, everyone emerged relatively unscathed, with Donneisha's former partner sustaining only non-life-threatening injuries.

Grateful to have survived, Donneisha set out to ensure her daughter never went through something like that again.

Donneisha reached out to Catholic Charities' **Project SAVE**, which provides legal representation to survivors of domestic violence residing in Orleans Parish. Project SAVE attorney Joan Miller worked with Donneisha to issue a permanent protective order against her abuser.

"Seeking the aid of our services enabled Donneisha and her child to avoid taking matters into their own hands and instead let the relief they sought play out through the system," Joan said.

Yet, staying the course meant confronting Donneisha's fears head-on.

"I felt nauseous every time I had to walk into the courtroom, but Joan was adamant about getting things done as quickly as possible. I do appreciate her being on top of everything because it made my experience even better than I could have imagined," Donneisha said.



For now, Donneisha and her daughter are doing their best to resume a normal life. Donneisha plans to return to school, and the two are attending therapy together and looking forward to traveling soon. Guided by the adage, "This too shall pass," Donneisha reminds herself that the difficult moments they are facing are temporary.

Joan dedicates her career to making certain that all her clients are able to walk away with some level of peace.

"I hope that the empowerment they might gain will enable them to not waver in their effort to hold the perpetrator accountable for his or her actions," Joan said.

As a nurse, Donneisha is steadfast in preserving dignity for families during their final goodbyes, doing everything she can during their lowest moments. She draws on that same strength as she builds a future with her daughter.

THE IMPACT OF service

After retiring from a successful career as a CPA and earning a master's degree in theology from Notre Dame Seminary, Lloyd Tate was encouraged to be trained as a spiritual director, someone who aids another person of faith in discerning God's movement in his or her life and growing in spiritual intimacy. While Lloyd has a long history of service in the community, and particularly in the Church, his most significant ministry for the past 12 years has been serving as a spiritual director on the staff of the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center.

In that role, people often begin spiritual direction by asking Lloyd to help them understand what God's will is for them. Lloyd always tells them that it is not a complicated, hidden secret and the answer is simply that God wants an intimate relationship with them and that relationship begins with openness and prayer.

This relationship forms the core belief guiding Lloyd's actions — that respecting the dignity of every person is the foundation of meaningful service. It is a principle he has lived out for decades. Alongside his late wife, Jan, he helped prepare couples for marriage, and he has lent his leadership and financial skills to serve the Archdiocesan Finance Council and the boards of Catholic Community Foundation and Catholic Charities, among others.



"I see Catholic Charities as one concrete expression of the Church living out the corporal works of mercy, guidelines in the teachings of Jesus that respond to the basic needs of humanity," Lloyd says. By building bridges and meeting essential physical and social needs, Catholic Charities creates practical pathways for vulnerable families to find support.

While Lloyd has spent much of his life putting faith into action, he has learned along the way what it really means to serve others.

"You get more out of it than you give yourself. We are made in the image and likeness of God who is the fullness of love itself, so we too were made to give of ourselves in love. Service to our families and others is the primary way we live out that challenge," Lloyd says.

A life of faith for Lloyd has never been about having every step mapped out. It has been about remaining open to where God is calling him—and being willing to serve when the opportunity arises. Lloyd embraces a familiar saying among those in Church ministry that God doesn't always call those who are qualified, but He qualifies those who are called.

The idea of legacy echoes through the stories of people intertwined with the century-plus history of Catholic Charities. Lloyd says his understanding of legacy has changed as he has grown older.



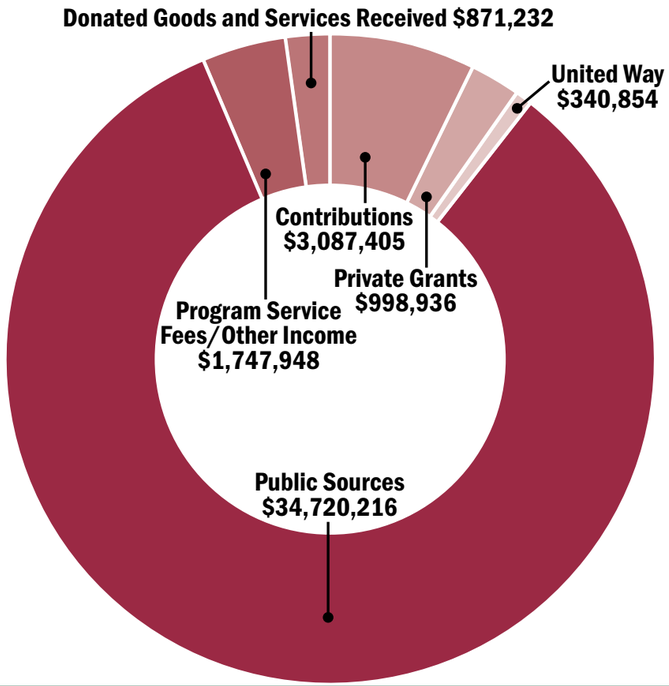
"I think the legacy of our lives consists of the relationships we have formed with the people who knew us best, either family or colleagues we have mentored. I hope I was always viewed by them as a person of integrity who lived his faith authentically," Lloyd says.

After losing his beloved wife just one year ago, Lloyd is unsure exactly what is waiting for him but is certain his journey to be available to God is the right path for him.

"God is always faithful and His fingerprints are all over me," Lloyd says.

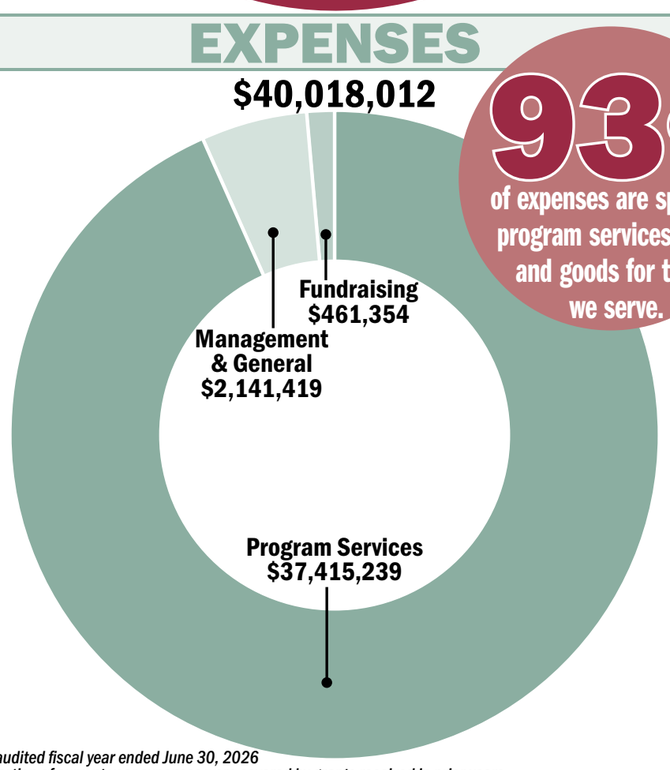
OPERATING INCOME

$41,766,591



EXPENSES

$40,018,012



93% of expenses are spent on program services, care, and goods for those we serve.

(a) Unaudited fiscal year ended June 30, 2026
(b) A portion of current year expenses were covered by grants received in prior years.

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Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Archbishop of New Orleans

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Your SUPPORT making an IMPACT

Catholic Charities delivered **367,406** services to **4,967** individuals, providing essential support and building stability and hope.

213 seniors supported by **101,151** occasions of all-inclusive care

Provided **31,833** hours of ESL instruction to **703** students

39 Foster Grandparents dedicated **24,690** hours to mentoring **78** children.

140 individuals received **2,421** hours of care to help them transition away from homelessness.

Padua House provided **24/7** care for **34** vulnerable residents, totaling **9,751** staff support hours.

Provided **131,299** diapers to **707** families

180 men and women received reentry support, spending **4,470** service hours with staff to rebuild their lives after incarceration.

309 students received weekly counseling, with **7,065** sessions addressing their needs.

125 domestic violence survivors received **802** forms of legal assistance.

Built brighter futures for **312** Head Start students through **30,432** hours of early education

Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of New Orleans
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PHOTOS: Chris Granger

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