



Bringing
HOPE



Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of New Orleans

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans. Your generosity makes our ongoing ministry to serve the most vulnerable in our archdiocese possible every day.

As I reflect on this year of Catholic Charities' ministry, it brings to mind so many memories of the ways Catholic Charities impacts the lives of individuals, families, and the entire community through so many years.

As Archbishop, I have been a witness to both the public and the very quiet ways Catholic Charities brings the Gospel to daily life. It has been humbling to be a part of this ministry and to meet the people that benefit from Catholic Charities' services. These times have not been without their challenges, yet Catholic Charities has been a constant, always ready to minister on behalf of the local Catholic Church. I am proud of this ministry and of the people who carry it out every day. I am grateful to God for those who serve in the name of Catholic Charities.

As you read the stories on the following pages, please remember to hold each one of these people featured and the thousands more served by Catholic Charities in your prayers. Know that I am joining you in prayer for them and am praying for you as well.

Wishing you God's blessings, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans



Dear Friends of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans,

More than ever, as I approach my one-year anniversary at Catholic Charities, I've seen how vital the notion of *home* has been to people in need throughout our community. As the following stories make abundantly clear, home is so much more than four walls built of lumber, brick, or stone. These accounts of resilience and hope remind us that home is a sentiment we help create together.

The work of the Operation Helping Hands program left an inefaceable mark as a force of recovery on the landscape of south Louisiana starting in 2005. OHH organized volunteers to help rebuild 2,500 homes following Hurricane Katrina. Twenty years later, memories of the storm still endure, but not only for its heartache, but also for the stories of program volunteers who made a concerted effort to call this region home again.

You can't talk about OHH without mentioning **Adam Laudun**, facilities manager with Catholic Charities. He was an instrumental part of implementing the program and its success. The story of his friendship and reunion with OHH volunteer **Kathy Anderson** is a reminder of why this agency's shared stories and strong roots have contributed to our diverse community standing tall together.

I also invite you to read about three other programs at Catholic Charities that have helped reshape the word *home*. **Fred Washington** found stability and a roof over his head with the help of Bridges to Self Sufficiency. ESL student **Anastasiia Hural**, far from her birthplace in war-torn Ukraine, found a sense of home surrounded by others also learning English and adapting to a new

country. And for almost 30 years, **Sharon Avist** has been selflessly providing loving homes to foster children in need through our Therapeutic Family Services program.

I would be remiss if I also didn't recognize our disaster case management program, **Spirit of Hope**, which recently closed out its final Hurricane Ida cases. Since 2022, the program has helped secure \$44 million in resources for 2,504 people seeking to get back in their homes following the storm. The work of Spirit of Hope director **Stephanie Dupepe** and her team of case managers was nothing short of herculean.

Finally, a personal goal of mine that I fulfilled this year was to complete my administrative staff's move to its new home at the former St. Rita Catholic School on Fontainebleau Drive. For the past few years, around 30 employees have worked out of the former St. Lawrence Elementary School near Kenner. I'm invigorated by our new neighborhood and the proximity to other Archdiocesan offices in our building. The ringing of the bells throughout the day from St. Rita Catholic Church across the street is a welcome reminder that this move was the ideal choice. I'm proud that I was able to see this move come to fruition.

Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me into my role as President and CEO this year. The sense of belonging I have felt within my new home at Catholic Charities speaks volumes about this agency's legacy and impact. Your hospitality and support fuel our mission.

With our deep-rooted history and an amazing, dedicated team, I am ready to embrace our second century of compassionate service!

With gratitude and blessings,



Cynthia T. Hayes
President and CEO

Life brings you many places, but love brings you home.

Gentilly resident Kathey Anderson read the sign in her living room out loud as she thought about her journey of resilience so far. Memories of Hurricane Katrina are on her mind today as she eagerly waits to reunite with a pivotal figure in her life following the storm - Adam Laudun, facilities manager with Catholic Charities.

When Adam stepped through her front door, it was as if no time had passed whatsoever. Their reunion, 17 years in the making, came as a welcome respite for Kathey, who has been battling triple negative breast cancer, which included 16 rounds of chemotherapy and 21 rounds of radiation.

Despite losing her own home during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Kathey made a promise to her late mother to help rebuild the city. She started volunteering with Operation Helping Hands at Catholic Charities. The program helped gut, mold-remediate and rebuild over 2,500 storm-damaged houses of the poor, disabled, and elderly between 2006-2012. Adam, who helped start the program, was the crew leader for the team. The two formed a close friendship that continued to blossom in the wake of Katrina.

“Kathey worked with a shining light that spread to everyone around her. Her love for her family, her community, and her Saints will always be evident,” Adam said.

About two years into volunteering, Kathey and her husband decided to cook for the volunteers which led to her becoming the full-time chef, feeding thousands of volunteers and employees.

Soon, she would join Adam and the other volunteers to begin rebuilding her own home.

“I nearly passed out when I found out they were going to rebuild my home. I didn’t volunteer to have them do this. I did it out of the goodness of my own heart,” said Kathey, who still lives in the same house.

“Without the other volunteers, I would not have a roof over my head.”

Kathey was also one of two people chosen to receive the Green Dream House, a hurricane-resistant home built by the Louisiana State University AgCenter’s Louisiana House Project (LaHouse) and the Building Science Corporation (BSC) in conjunction with the Department of Energy’s Building America Program. The home rests on pilings that rise and fall to prevent cracking. It also includes specially treated, termite-resistant Hardie Board siding and moisture-resistant bamboo floors.

“Katrina was a very tough time, and Kathey was the definition of what will happen when the going gets tough. She earned a spot as a Catholic Charities employee,” Adam said.

Kathey “rang the bell” three weeks prior to her reunion with Adam, signaling her recovery from cancer. Kathey’s optimism is an inspiration now just as much as it was 20 years ago. Despite losing everything during Katrina, Kathey says the recovery period was the highlight of her life. She was able to meet people from all over the world who helped with storm recovery, plus it served as kind of a therapy, helping to take her mind off the difficult times.

“You may suffer, but in the end something beautiful is going to come out of it,” Kathey remarked.





On his 41st birthday this past July, Fred Washington was looking forward to spending time with family and livestreaming some video games. He was feeling fairly content, a stark contrast from where he and his family were just a few short years ago.

Struggling to provide for his children, Fred found himself bouncing around from one living situation to another, essentially living a nomadic life in places that most people wouldn't even look at twice.

Desperate for a roof over his head, Fred learned about a vacancy through a friend. Despite the condition of the abandoned and vandalized home, Fred tried to maintain a positive outlook. Over time, he made the place livable and kept everything in working order, but each day would bring a new challenge, including the theft of air conditioners and the water heater, undependable utilities, and broken appliances. Hurricanes and other poor weather conditions eventually made leaving the house necessary.

After Fred connected with a local nonprofit to find another place to live, his situation was starting to improve. Around the same time, the pandemic was peaking and Fred was laid off from his job as a landscaper. He and his family were eventually evicted.

A heads up about Catholic Charities led to a call from Johnell Williams, director of the Bridges to Self-Sufficiency Program — a rapid re-housing program that provides rental assistance and case management services to homeless families.

“Johnell asked me to stop by her office. I poured my heart out. From that point on, Ms. Williams did everything in her power to help me and my family. I’m getting goosebumps just talking about it,” Fred said.

“She saw something in me and my kids and knew that I am a really good person. I just had a messed-up life.”

In the three years since, Johnell not only helped him find a place to live, but she also brought Christmas presents to the family and worked with Fred to improve his credit score. He has dreams of one day purchasing his own home on 10 acres of land in Mississippi where he can grow his own fruit and vegetables, collect rainwater, and build a pond.

But for now, Fred is simply happy to have a place for him and his children to lay their heads at night.

Part of the mission of Catholic Charities is to create a community where everyone is able to live with dignity and hope, one where the agency provides an open door and warm welcome. Never have these words resonated more than they have for Anastasiia Hural.

Following more than 18 months of destruction and upheaval following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Anastasiia made a difficult decision. She would leave her home of Mariupol behind, emigrating to New Orleans.

After arriving, Anastasiia and her 10-year-old daughter lived with sponsors who helped get them acclimated to the challenges of being a foreigner in a foreign land.

When she first arrived, communicating during the normal course of the day was an uphill battle for Anastasiia. She would often use Google Translate as well as pictures on her phone to help connect with others.

Thankfully, her sponsors helped connect Anastasiia with Catholic Charities' English as a Second Language (ESL) program, designed to help adults who speak languages other than English improve their communication skills in everyday life.

ESL classes offered her a comfortable environment to develop her language skills with others in similar situations. Often, students from other countries are enrolled in ESL classes. The mix of nationalities provided good practice and conversation for Anastasiia.

"When we have people in the ESL classes who are from different countries, we enjoy talking about our jobs, food, traditions, and celebrations. Although we are different people, we still have much to talk about. It's very nice," Anastasiia said.

She has even periodically served as a teacher's assistant with the ESL program.

With her hometown in Ukraine destroyed, Anastasiia finds some solace knowing that her parents are relatively safe for now near the Ukraine-Poland border. As her daughter thrives academically and socially, Anastasiia hopes the chaos of Ukraine will one day be replaced by the fond memories of her new home in Louisiana.





For nearly 30 years, Sharon Avist has welcomed, by her best estimates, 50-70 foster children into her home. Sharon's favorite part of being a foster parent is watching many of the children in her home graduate from high school. The many graduation parties she has thrown aren't just parties. They are testaments to resilience, hope and the incredible journey of watching the kids become responsible and successful adults.

Sharon fosters children as part of the Therapeutic Family Services (TFS) program at Catholic Charities, which provides therapeutic foster homes for children in foster care. Each child in the program is different, with some requiring specialized care for physical and emotional needs.

Sharon got her first glimpse of fostering when she served as support to her mother, who used to do similar work. When one of the patient's case managers came to visit, she asked Sharon if she ever thought about fostering children.

Sharon, who also raised a son and a daughter of her own, is far from being an empty nester. She is currently fostering three girls under the age of 10, two of whom are sisters. Another foster child, now 18, will be leaving home soon.

Her first foster child, Keimyra, came to her as a 10-year-old. Even in her late 30s, the bond between the two has never diminished.

"I'm still mom to her. My kids always come back. They're still part of the family," exclaimed Sharon.

Keimyra reiterates Sharon's comments. During the four years that she lived with Sharon, she felt like her child. Her influence is still felt to this day.

"She taught me to be the person I am today. She showed me how to keep structure and the difference between right and wrong," Keimyra says.

Sharon says she loves what she does and is always happy to see others dedicating their lives to helping these children. The need for foster parents far exceeds the number of foster children throughout Louisiana.

When possible, reuniting foster children with their birth parents is the goal. Although Sharon does not like to see her "babies" leave, she takes pride knowing that she is often asked to stay involved in the children's lives.

Thoughts of retirement from the TFS program are quickly extinguished when she gets a call from the director.

Knowing that she can play a part in helping children create fond memories in a stable and loving home, she reminds herself that "everybody is entitled to have a chance," and that is a true reflection of the heart of Catholic Charities.



Helen and Tim Young's spirit of gratitude and generosity has touched Catholic Charities in countless ways. They have long answered the call to serve, sharing their time, talents, and resources whenever the community was in need. Their faithful commitment reflects the mission of Catholic Charities and embodies the true spirit of giving.

In the days that followed Hurricane Katrina's landfall 20 years ago, millions of people throughout South Louisiana were experiencing a shared level of desperation and turmoil that still feels like yesterday to most. Nonprofits and faith-based organizations were essential to people's livelihood during this chaotic and uncertain period.

At the time, Helen Read Young was working in development for the Academy of the Sacred Heart. Mentor and friend Gordon Wadge, who was co-leader of Catholic Charities with Jim Kelly, reached out to Helen for help navigating this tumultuous time for the city. Gordon asked Helen to lead their development department. Despite her rewarding role at Sacred Heart, the opportunity to join Catholic Charities in the wake of Katrina's aftermath was too compelling for Helen to pass up.

"The city was in such a place that it would not have been possible for me to say no. It was a great move. I enjoyed it a lot and the work was incredible," Helen said.

Helen's work with the agency over the next nine years has played a pivotal role in the 100+ year legacy of Catholic Charities, paving the way for how the organization still meets the needs of its community during any given day, including major disasters.

Helen credits the success to her two bosses.

"Gordon and Jim were masterful in making sure the energy and attention was focused on the work and the critical aspects of rebuilding. They were insightful in identifying key areas and programs to focus on, including healthcare, education, and rebuilding," Helen said.

*Gratitude is the mother of all virtues; ingratitude is the sin most offensive to Heaven.
— St. Ignatius of Loyola*

A fan of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Helen's husband Tim quickly saw parallels between the saint's writings and the importance of the agency following the disaster. It still resonates strongly today.

"St. Ignatius' greatest sin is ingratitude or ungratefulness. We try to live a life where we are grateful for what we are given," Tim said.

Simply living a life well-lived is not just about personal gain for Tim. His generosity reminds us that true fulfillment lies in how we impact those around us.

"None of these are really our gifts. The giver is greater. That whole spiritual side of Catholic Charities and its mission of what it tries to do means a lot to us," Tim added.

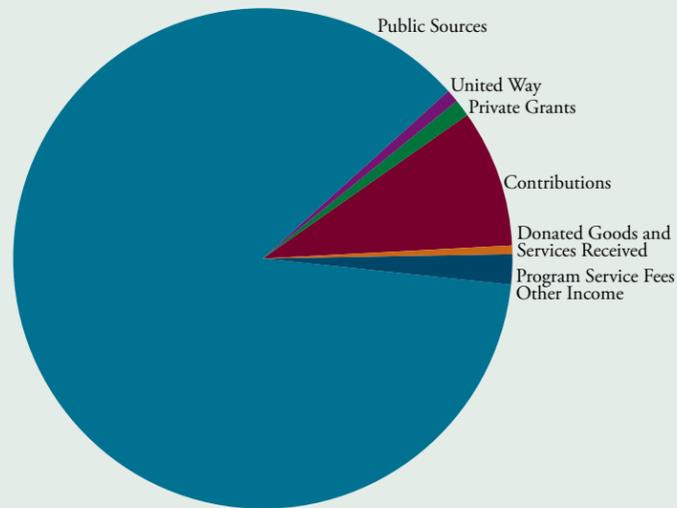
The couple's commitment to Catholic Charities is unwavering. Tim sits on the Board of Directors at Catholic Charities and has also co-chaired the AHCA campaign with Helen, who currently serves on the Development Committee at Catholic Charities.

Join us as we celebrate the dedication and foresight of individuals like Helen and Tim. We hope their story ignites a spark in all of us to share kindness, foster empathy, and uplift one another.

*Helen and Tim
with Jackson*

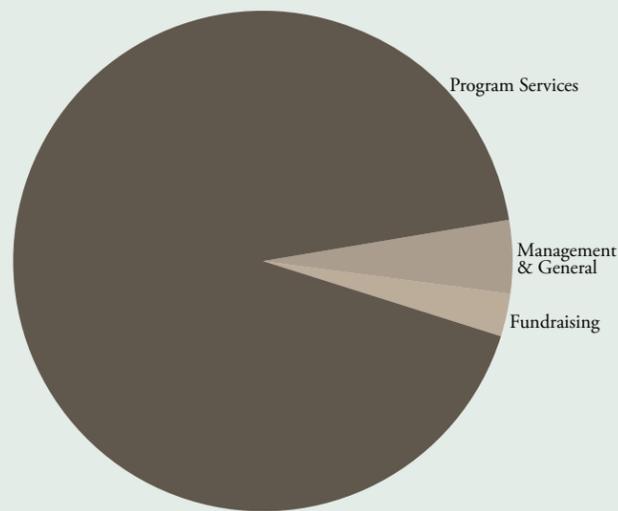
OPERATING INCOME

Contributions	\$4,012,845
Private Grants	\$448,292
United Way.....	\$421,746
Public Sources.....	\$39,076,459
Program Service Fees/Other Income	\$902,638
Donated Goods and Services Received	\$351,443
TOTAL.....	\$45,213,423



EXPENSES

Program Services	\$42,584,383
Management & General	\$2,153,635
Fundraising.....	\$1,168,875
TOTAL.....	\$45,906,893



93% of expenses are spent on program services, care, and goods.

(a) Unaudited fiscal year ended June 30, 2025
 (b) A portion of current year expenses were covered by grants received in prior years

OUR LEADERSHIP

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond
 Archbishop of New Orleans

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Catholic Charities provided **408,800** services to support **5,458** men, women, and children including case management, housing assistance, obtaining employment, life skills, referrals, and more.

Your Support in Numbers

Head Start & Early Head Start provided more than **55,000** breakfasts & lunches to **282** students enrolled in four different schools.

ESL staff dedicated **34,963** classroom hours to empower **941** individuals to master the English language.

Project SAVE assisted **125** domestic violence survivors to escape abusive relationships providing **2,722** vital services—including crucial legal support.

Cornerstone provided year-long case management for **313** men and women, setting them up for success by helping them thrive post-incarceration and reducing recidivism.

225 seniors in the community enrolled in the PACE program were recipients of nearly **100,000** in-home care visits, CNA visits, pastoral care visits, nursing care provisions, rehab programs, nutritional counseling sessions, and free transportation and meals.

Annual stats above reflect July 2024 through June 2025.

Spirit of Hope

From April 2022 through July 2025, the Spirit of Hope program helped transform the lives of thousands of residents in parishes impacted by Hurricane Ida. Highlights included:



■ **\$43.7** million in resources secured for affected Hurricane Ida individuals

■ Provided assistance for **2,504** cases for residents in Orleans, St. John, St. Charles, and St. Tammany Parishes



Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of New Orleans

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Please remember Catholic Charities in your will.

PHOTOS: Chris Granger



We are blessed to settle into our new home in the former St. Rita Catholic School. Thank you to this amazing community for your warm welcome and support. We are excited to share this journey with you.

