



Providing help. Creating hope.

Impact Report

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

DIOCESE OF BATON ROUGE



Message from Executive Director

STEPHANIE K. STERLING, LCSW

It was with honor and humility that I stepped into the role of executive director at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge (CCDBR) in July 2024. Mother Teresa's powerful call to "do something beautiful for God" fuels our work at CCDBR. It is in serving those facing the most dire circumstances – the homeless pregnant mother, the family fleeing persecution – that we fulfill this call, embodying our faith through action.

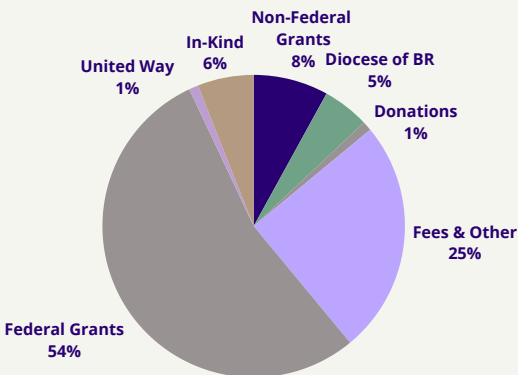
Our mission is rooted in the unwavering belief in the inherent dignity of every human being. This core principle of Catholic Social Teaching has been the guiding light of my career in social work, and it will continue to shape our work at Catholic Charities.

We know that the challenges we face are significant, but the impact of our work is undeniable. We are committed to providing life-changing services to our community and our clients, offering not just aid, but hope. I am immensely grateful for the visionary leadership of the Diocese of Baton Rouge Chancery, the dedication of our Advisory Board members, and the unwavering commitment of our mission-driven team. Together, we will usher in a new era of service, providing help, and creating hope for those who need it most.

We continue to build on the foundation of the work previously done to address food insecurity in our diocese. Our expansion into reclaimed food has allowed Catholic Charities to serve as a hub to other agencies distributing cold food. With food insecurity at an all-time high, our expansion in this area will allow us to reach more individuals and families in need, ensuring they have access to the nourishment they deserve.

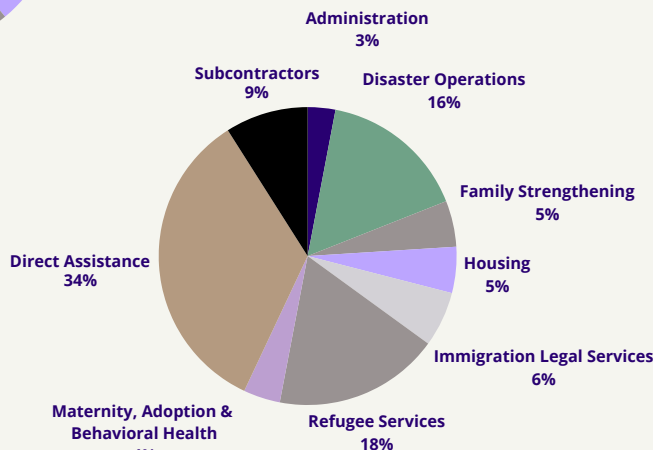
Thank you for your continued support and partnership. I look forward to working alongside you to build a more just and compassionate community.

2024 FINANCIAL REPORT*



INCOME

EXPENSES



2024 ADVISORY BOARD

- Dr. Lisa Namikas, PhD – Chair
- Ms. Monique Edwards – Vice Chair
- Ms. Ana Forbes – Treasurer
- Dr. Coletta Barrett, DNP – Secretary
- Sr. Martha Ann Abshire
- Deacon Alfred Adams, Sr.
- Ms. Lisa Batiste
- Ms. Sylvia Bush
- Ms. Angele Davis
- Rev. Tat-Thang Hoang
- Dr. Kelli Joseph, Ed.D
- Dr. Youn Kyoung (Lily) Kim, PhD, LMSW
- Rev. Michael Miceli
- Rev. Jason Palermo
- Mr. Cesar Rico
- Ms. Kyla Romanach
- Dr. Brian Sleeth, DMin

OUR MISSION

We proclaim the gospel vision of Jesus Christ as our mission by serving the needs of individuals and families, especially the poorest, and working with Church and community for justice, peace, and compassion in society.

*Total revenues for the year 2024 were \$15,176,265; total expenditures were \$15,614,060. Income and expense variation based on difference in funding years. Annual audit conducted by EisnerAmper LLP.

Spreading Christ's Love Through Christmas



466

families and seniors
experienced the
joy of Christmas
because of
generous donors
and volunteers

\$42,761

collected and
distributed to clients
in need through
Community
Christmas via
monetary donations



\$120,656

of in-kind donations collected from gracious sponsors
and distributed to families in need through the
Community Christmas program

Meeting Individuals' and Families' Basic Needs

199

families in danger of homelessness received financial assistance for housing, utilities and other basics

10

families moved into the agency's Families First Housing program

1,410

tax returns prepared by staff members and volunteers for low-income families



\$559,036

amount of USDA food distributed

291,165

pounds of USDA food distributed to food insecure families

35

formerly incarcerated individuals found a new start at Joseph Homes



Feeding the Hungry

On one Saturday every month, students from around the community, including St. Joseph's Academy (SJA) in Baton Rouge gather to give back to their community in a meaningful way. They break down pallets of food and pack 30-pound boxes to help those in need. It's a program designed to assist the food insecure in the area, and its impact has been profound.

Claire Bergeron, a senior at SJA, has made it a point to volunteer almost every Saturday since the program first began. For her, it's more than just an event—it's a calling. With each Saturday spent working side by side with fellow students, Claire finds herself not only physically helping but emotionally moved by the experience.

When asked why she keeps coming back, her answer was simple yet powerful: **"I feel inspired to help people. It's rewarding to see all the work you've done at the end. It's a lot of work, but it's definitely worth it."** Every box packed and every pallet broken down reminds Claire of the bigger picture: the difference one Saturday at a time can make in the lives of so many.

Restoring Lives After Disaster Strikes



991

households received disaster
case management

\$379,268

distributed to help Hurricane
Ida survivors rebuild their
homes and lives

Repaired House, Repaired Hope

"I'm wondering if you could pass on my thanks to the foundations that helped me with my roof. They stepped in and literally awakened hope in me. I was at a very low point. It was raining in my house, and I couldn't do anything about it. I had about given up on getting my house repaired. I'm so grateful to them for seeing my need and doing something about it. Thank you for being my advocate. Words cannot adequately express my gratitude."

-Disaster Case
Management Client



Protecting Life and Strengthening Families

13

women faced with crisis pregnancies were provided counseling in order to make life-affirming decisions for their unborn children

14

babies were born to mothers living at Sanctuary for Life—our housing ministry for homeless, pregnant women

\$24,497

worth of infant care items were distributed to families in need



17

families were provided with critical pre-adoption training, home study, placement, and/or post adoption services

91

children, ages 0-5, enrolled in PACT—Parents and Children Together—our family-strengthening and early childhood development program

3,003

home visits conducted with 65 families



Celebrating 60 Years of Adoption Services

A birth mother facing an uncertain future for her baby came to Catholic Charities to create an adoption plan. When her baby was born prematurely, the medical team, unsure of what the future would hold, presented hospice and end-of-life care as options. Amidst this heart-wrenching moment, Catholic Charities offered support, helping the birth mother navigate these tough decisions and explore all available options.

After thoughtful consideration, the birth mother chose to continue with the adoption plan. Against all odds, the baby defied expectations and is now improving. The infant is surrounded by the love of both the birth parents and the adoptive parents, a reflection of the strong bond and hope that guided everyone through the journey.

This story is part of a larger legacy that Catholic Charities has built over 60 years of adoption services. The organization is committed to openness in adoption, ensuring that every person involved—the birth parents, the adopted child, and the adoptive family—feels supported and valued. Catholic Charities' philosophy is ensuring that a loving family is found for every child in need.

Welcoming the Stranger

396

refugees, asylees, and other populations with humanitarian status fled violence and persecution and resettled in the Baton Rouge area



546

participants
attended 1,230
ESL classes

150

immigrants sought legal advice,
counsel, and orientation from the area's
only nonprofit immigration attorneys

333

sponsors were
counseled as to
their rights and
responsibilities to
care for children
fleeing violence in
other countries

613

clients received employment services

Seeking Refuge with Resiliency

As a refugee from Guatemala and single mother of three, Carmen has faced unimaginable challenges. Her incredible strength and resilience, the love for her children, and her unwavering integrity shines through.

From the moment she arrived here, it was clear she was determined to build a better life. Carmen worked with her case manager at Catholic Charities to ensure her success and that of her family in their new country. She works tirelessly, often extra hours and weekends, all to give her children, Jose, Jorge, and Sandra, the educational opportunities she never had. Seeing them thrive in school proves that every sacrifice is worth it.

Carmen's journey is a testament to the power of hard work and dedication. After a year of relentless effort, she's now applying for U.S. residency, and she's already dreaming of becoming a citizen. It's a privilege to support someone with such a powerful drive and spirit.

Carmen is a living example that no matter the obstacles, dreams are attainable. Her story reminds us that with resilience and heart, anything is possible.



Services + Programs

REFUGEE & IMMIGRATION SERVICES

ASPIRE & Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP) help trafficking survivors with basic needs such as food, clothing, health services, and transportation.

Employment Services provides job training, locating employment opportunities, and follow-up services.

Immigration Legal Services assists refugees, immigrants, and victims of human trafficking to rebuild their lives by providing legal services, fingerprinting, case management, and translation services to access services, gain employment, and become productive members of our community.

LOUISIANA OFFICE FOR REFUGEES

Louisiana Office for Refugees is designated by the Federal government to coordinate refugee resettlement and promote refugee self-sufficiency and community integration in Louisiana through grants management, policy guidance, and program development.

Refugee Services resettles refugee families fleeing violence and persecution in their homeland. Services provided include language training, social and medical services, counseling, job placement, family reunification, and citizenship preparation for immigrants and refugees.

FAMILY SERVICES

Foster Grandparents stationed at schools in East Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee parishes help at-risk children learn to read, provide one-on-one tutoring, and guide children at a critical time in their lives.

Adoption Services places children with their forever families. The program is Hague accredited and licensed for domestic and international adoptions. Search and reunion and counseling services for those whose lives have been touched by adoption.

Maternity Services offers free, confidential counseling for parents experiencing an unplanned pregnancy regardless of their decision to parent or make an adoption plan.

Parents and Children Together (PACT) home visitors work with parents of children 0–5 to improve education and family well-being.

DISASTER OPERATIONS

Disaster Operations helps churches and the community prepare for disaster. The program provides relief supplies and other assistance in the immediate aftermath of a disaster and long-term case management services to help families recover, including counseling, repairs, and referrals for services.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Families First Housing program offers 2- & 3-bedroom apartments at below-market fees for families with children along with case management.

Faith-Full Mobile Food Pantry provides food to low-income individuals throughout the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Homelessness Prevention assists families in crisis to develop a recovery plan and offers community referrals and limited financial assistance for rent and utilities.

Joseph Homes provides transitional housing to formerly incarcerated males with access to job-finding and medical case management.

Sanctuary for Life (SFL) houses pregnant women over 18 in need of medical care, job services, nutritious meals, and case management. St. Patrick's House provides transitional housing for successful SFL graduates and their newborns.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

HOW YOU CAN HELP



PRAY



DONATE



OFFER EMPLOYMENT
OR MENTOR WORK



VOLUNTEER



BEQUEST OR
MEMORIAL INTENTION



SPONSOR OR
MENTOR A FAMILY

SCAN TO DONATE



Call 225-336-8700 or visit www.CatholicCharitiesBR.org to find out how you can become involved.