

# Message of Hope

WINTER • 2022

 **CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES**  
CENTRAL TEXAS  
ENGAGE. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.

Dear Friends,

At Catholic Charities of Central Texas, we believe our community is at its best when we each do our part in working toward a common goal. Guided by our faith, we continue to find new ways to build up our community through small acts of love and service to one another. Because we know that, when combined, these individual actions can lead to incredible things.

To you, donating a pack of diapers may seem like a small thing. But that one pack of diapers is a monumental relief for a family struggling to make ends meet. As we begin the Lenten season, I want to remind you no matter how you choose to get involved, your actions—big and small—can change a life.

In this newsletter, you will read about the impact of your contributions to our mission. Hundreds of you gave generously to make our Creating Hope Campaign a success. Organizations across our Diocese came together to give back in a big way during the Christmas season. All these individual gifts help us do big things, like allowing us to expand our much-needed services in Waco, provide added education for families, and so much more.

Thank you for doing your part and for driving our mission forward across Central Texas.

In His Peace,



Sara Ramirez  
Executive Director



Sara Ramirez, Executive Director

## MISSION STATEMENT

People of faith serving anyone in need by strengthening families and promoting respect for human dignity and life.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# ANSWERING THE “WHY” AT CREATING HOPE

In November 2021, Catholic Charities hosted our 15th Annual Creating Hope in Central Texas event in person. This year's event featured an exciting new evening cocktail format and was the kickoff to our Creating Hope Campaign. Thanks to the generosity of our 200 event guests and supporters across Central Texas, we surpassed our campaign fundraising goal! **Together, we raised \$739,818 to fight poverty and prevent homelessness in our community.**

Creating Hope was about more than just fundraising. Our program was designed to be inspirational and remind our community that when we work together, our small acts of love lead to a big impact.

Throughout our program, our goal was to answer the “why”—why should you choose to support Catholic Charities? Grace Mulenga, a former client, shared her “why” by describing the impact Catholic Charities had on her life as well as her reason for becoming a donor. Guests also enjoyed remarks from Bishop Joe Vásquez, Sara Ramirez (Executive Director), Rev. Chris Downey (Board Member and Pastor, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Killeen), and Eric Boyce (Board President).

For many, our event was one of the first social gatherings in a long time. We are grateful for all who chose to celebrate this milestone with us, and for those who made our Creating Hope Campaign a success.



Scan the QR code to watch our Creating Hope video and find your “why.”



Guests enjoyed cocktails, appetizers, and community at our Creating Hope in Central Texas event



Grace Mulenga speaks to Creating Hope event guests



Bishop Joe Vásquez and Sara Ramirez at our Creating Hope in Central Texas event

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## PROUDLY SERVING THE WACO AREA

Catholic Charities is proud to announce our new location in Waco! Our St. Gabriel's Pregnancy and Parenting Program is now offering local support to parents and their children from St. Mary's Catholic Church Annex. We are excited to increase our service offerings in this important community.

In August 2021, the St. Gabriel's Pregnancy and Parenting Program hired Mary-Catherine Scarlett, their first Parent Advocate in Waco. Since then, Mary-Catherine has been learning about the unique needs of Waco families and providing resources to help her clients thrive. Mary-Catherine and her team offer free education, material assistance, and advocacy to expectant parents and parents with a child up to 36 months of age.

In addition to the St. Gabriel's Pregnancy and Parenting Program, Waco families have access to all Catholic Charities programs virtually and by phone. If you know anyone in need in the Waco area, please direct them to [visit \*\*ccctx.org\*\*](https://www.ccctx.org) or [\*\*call us at 512-651-6100\*\*](tel:5126516100) to see how Catholic Charities can help.

Special thanks to St. Mary's Catholic Church for their generosity and hospitality.



Mary-Catherine Scarlett, Waco Parent Advocate for the St. Gabriel's Pregnancy and Parenting Program

# CENTRAL TEXAS COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER THIS GIVING SEASON

This giving season, our Central Texas community blessed our client families by hosting donation drives for gift cards and basic needs items. Together, local parishes, schools, and organizations **donated items valuing more than \$200,000** to Catholic Charities! These donations are a lifeline for client families and are proof that combined, our small acts of kindness can make a big impact.

Join us in thanking the following groups for their incredible generosity this giving season.

## Thank you!

Austin Diaper Bank  
Catholic Diocese of Austin Pastoral Center Staff  
Christ Child Society of Texas, Capital Area, Inc.  
Emmaus Catholic Parish, Lakeway  
Giving the Basics  
Kappa Theta Beta Catholic Sorority, College Station  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Taylor  
Pajama Program  
Secular Franciscan Order, Arms of St. Francis

St. Gabriel's Catholic School, Austin  
St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Austin  
St. John Vianney Catholic Church, Round Rock  
St. Louis Catholic Church, Austin  
St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, Cedar Park  
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Hearne  
St. Michael's Catholic Academy, Austin  
St. Theresa Catholic Church, Austin  
St. William Catholic Church, Round Rock  
Threads of Hope



*Donations collected by the St. Theresa Catholic Church community in Austin*



*CCCTX staff and volunteers help pick up items from St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Cedar Park*

## WORKING TOGETHER TO EDUCATE CENTRAL TEXAS FAMILIES



The St. Gabriel's Pregnancy and Parenting Program (SGPPP) has partnered with Austin Can Academy to educate young mothers on healthy pregnancies, parenting, and life skills. Catholic Charities is proud to collaborate with Austin Can Academy, which offers a second chance for young expectant mothers who can no longer be a part of a traditional high school setting.

Each week, SGPPP staff visits Austin Can Academy to provide holistic, evidence-based parenting education for young mothers. During class, SGPPP also ensures basic needs are met by supplying mothers with basic needs items like diapers, hygiene products, sippy cups, and more. Most importantly, these young mothers are given a sense of hope, community, and guidance to provide a healthy start for their babies.

Parenting education is a cornerstone of SGPPP and is especially important for low-income mothers of color who do not have access to healthcare, affordable housing, and transportation.

Rachel Clayton, a social worker for Austin Can Academy, said she recognized the need for pregnancy and parenting education when her students began asking questions in workshops and requesting basic need items. Together, Catholic Charities and Austin Can Academy are working to build stronger Central Texas families through education.



## WELCOME NEW AC MEMBERS

Catholic Charities is welcoming nine new families to our Ambassador Circle program. Thank you to our new and existing Ambassador Circle members for their commitment to introduce and promote our mission throughout the greater Austin community.

If you are interested in joining our Ambassador Circle program, you can learn more by contacting Cathy Olson Muth, Associate Director of Advancement, at [512-651-6158](tel:512-651-6158) or [cathy-muth@ccctx.org](mailto:cathy-muth@ccctx.org).



## Welcome!

Sarah Antenora  
Johanna & Matthew Brown  
Kristin & Carl Condon  
Teri Avery & Charles Dean  
Emily & Kyle Dufour  
Kirsten & Scott Luke  
Christine & Michael Moya  
Keili & Ted Smith  
Carmen & Ray Vargas

## Join Us!



### April 29, 2022

Creating Hope Luncheon in the Brazos Valley  
at Hilton College-Station

Learn more at [ccctx.org/CreatingHopeBrazosValley](http://ccctx.org/CreatingHopeBrazosValley)

Reconnect. Complimentary lunch.  
Learn about our impact. Get involved in our mission.

## GET INVOLVED



### Become a Sustaining Donor

Support our six innovative programs at [ccctx.org/donate](http://ccctx.org/donate)



### Volunteer or host a donation drive

Contact Claire Bordelon at [Claire-Bordelon@ccctx.org](mailto:Claire-Bordelon@ccctx.org)



### Become an Online Warrior

Help us get the word out through social media!

[f](#) @ccctx  
[t](#) @CCcentraltexas  
[i](#) @catholiccharitiesCTX

## PROUD PARTNERS

