

Message of Hope

WINTER • 2023



Dear Friends,

At Catholic Charities, we have a big job. We are charged with providing services across all 25 counties in our Diocese—that's more than 21,000 square miles! Despite the challenges posed by such a large region, we served families in almost every single county in our service area last year. How do we do it? We take a multi-pronged approach to meet people where they are. We offer virtual services when possible, mobilize our staff when needed, and continue to grow our physical presence in key areas like Killeen and Waco.

In this newsletter, you will read about our latest efforts to serve families across our entire 25-county region. Thank you for joining us in our work to give every single Central Texan the tools not just to survive—but to thrive!

Blessings,

Sara Ramirez
Executive Director

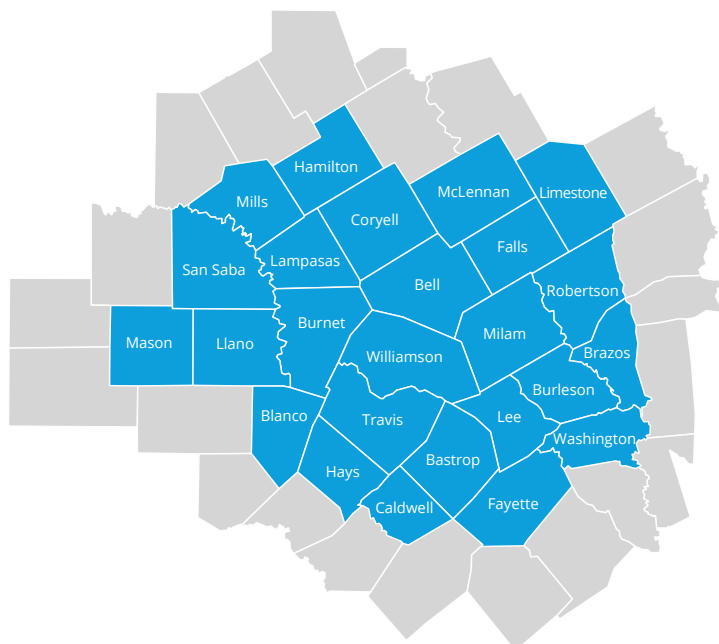


Sara Ramirez, Executive Director

MISSION STATEMENT

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

THE 25 COUNTIES WE SERVE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Changing Lives Together

CREATING HOPE IN CENTRAL TEXAS EVENT

Catholic Charities hosted our 16th Creating Hope in Central Texas event in November. This event brought our Austin-area supporters together for an evening of fellowship to benefit our mission.

Our cocktail event featured a mission-driven program, including a live testimonial from a former St. Michael's Veteran Services client, Savannah Bridges. Savannah was so moved by the life-changing services her family received at Catholic Charities that she decided to join the mission as a staff member.

"Now, every day, I get to help veterans and their families have peace of mind, in the same way Catholic Charities helped me and my family," said Savannah. "I'm able to relate to the families I'm helping because I've been there myself."

Catholic Charities is grateful to our event guests and all those who helped make our event a success, especially our speakers—Bishop Joe Vásquez, Robert Hadlock (founding CCCTX board member), Very Rev. James Misko, and Scott Brutocao (CCCTX board member).



Cathedral Young Adults volunteered their time and talent to support our event.



CCCTX staff and supporters enjoyed cocktails, appetizers, and community at our event. From left: Kanobia Blackmon, DeKarlos Blackmon, Fr. Bruce Nieli, Sara Ramirez, Luisa de Poo, and Alberto de Poo.

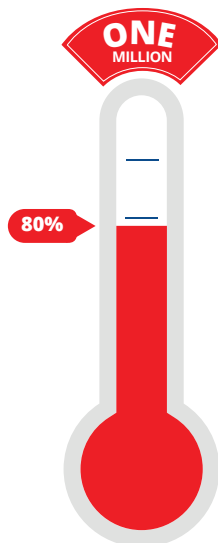


During his speech, Robert Hadlock (a founding CCCTX board member) shared why he has supported our mission for over 20 years.

BE BOLD CAMPAIGN

This fall, Catholic Charities launched our "Be Bold Campaign" — a \$1 million fundraising campaign to support our newest initiatives to end poverty in Central Texas. **Together, our Creating Hope Austin event guests and supporters across Central Texas helped us reach more than 80 percent of our fundraising goal!**

We can't wait to be bold with our Brazos Valley community at our April Creating Hope event. Stay tuned for campaign progress and updates through the spring!



LENTEN MATCH CHALLENGE

Are you looking for service opportunities during the Lenten season? We're teaming up with St. Theresa Catholic School (Austin) to host a Lenten Match Challenge!

St. Theresa is collecting diapers to support Catholic Charities and is challenging the Central Texas community to match their gift! St. Theresa donated more than 14,000 diapers after last year's collection, and they expect even more this year.

To participate, order diapers in any size from the retailer of your choice and send them to your closest Catholic Charities location.

Austin Office
1625 Rutherford Lane
Austin TX 78754

Brazos Valley Office
1410 Cavitt Ave.
Bryan, Texas 77801

Waco Office
5034 Franklin Ave
Waco, TX 76710



St. Theresa's students, parents, and staff working to collect and package diapers for Catholic Charities at a previous diaper drive event.

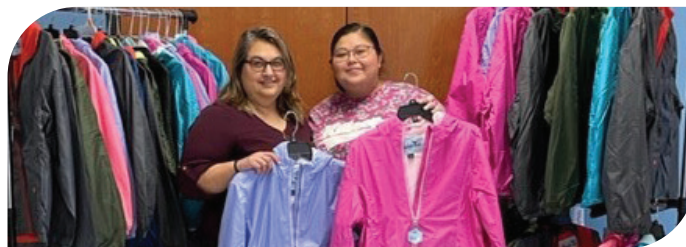
SERVING CENTRAL TEXAS: THE LATEST NEWS ACROSS OUR 25-COUNTY SERVICE REGION

Killeen: Construction Progresses at New Killeen Office. Construction for Catholic Charities' new Killeen office is nearing completion. We can't wait to welcome Killeen families into our new building, located on the St. Joseph Catholic Church campus. Stay tuned for more announcements coming soon!



Our new Killeen office has plenty of space to help families in need, host classes, store donations, and more!

Brazos Valley: Keeping Kids Warm this Winter. Catholic Charities partnered with Knights of Columbus Council 3205 to help children in need stay warm over the winter. In November, our Brazos Valley office staff distributed 145 free coats at our annual Coats for Kids event.



Nancy Fuentes (CCCTX Case Manager, on left) helps a CCCTX client (on right) choose coats for her children.

Austin: Catholic Charities Awarded \$1.9 Million for Project Connect. Catholic Charities was one of 14 area nonprofits chosen by the City of Austin to spearhead Project Connect anti-displacement efforts. With the \$1.9 million awarded to our organization, Catholic Charities will help people who are vulnerable to displacement through financial aid, long-term case management, financial literacy education, and wraparound services.

Waco: Healthy Starts Happen Here. In 2022, our St. Gabriel's Pregnancy & Parenting Program distributed nearly 8,000 diapers to Waco-area families. This free material support is a lifeline for families struggling to make ends meet, and ensures a healthy and happy start to life for Waco children.

AMBASSADOR CIRCLE CORNER

Our Ambassador Circle members were a key part of our end-of-year fundraising success! By making phone calls, sharing online communications, and more, our Ambassadors continue to advance the Catholic Charities mission in our community.



Ambassador Circle members gathered to learn more about the mission and how to support our end-of-year fundraising in October 2022. Thank you to Teri Avery & Charles Dean for hosting.

TRENDING WAY TO GIVE: DONATE THROUGH IRA WITHDRAWALS

If you are 70½ years or older, you can support our mission and lower the income and taxes from your IRA withdrawals at the same time! To learn more, contact your IRA plan administrator or reach out to Erin Rivers, Associate Director of Advancement, at 512-651-6132 or erin-rivers@ccctx.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IS HIRING!

We're hiring for some exciting roles across Central Texas. Scan the code to see our job openings and apply today!



Save the Dates



AMPLIFY AUSTIN

March 1-2, 2023

Please support Catholic Charities by donating and encouraging others to do the same!

CREATING HOPE IN THE BRAZOS VALLEY EVENT

Now with a new evening cocktail format!

April 27, 2023, 5:30-8:00 pm
at the Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center
Please join us! RSVP to John Paci at 979-321-6516
or john-paci@ccctx.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEEKEND

August 26 & 27, 2023
at your parish

ANNUAL MEETING

September 7, 2023
5:30-7:00 pm
Location to be announced

CREATING HOPE IN CENTRAL TEXAS EVENT

November 8, 2023
5:30-8:00 pm
Location to be announced

GET INVOLVED



**Become a
Sustaining Donor**
Support our six
innovative programs
at ccctx.org/donate



**Volunteer or host
a donation drive**
Contact Brooke Swate
at Brooke-Swate@ccctx.org



Become an Online Warrior
Help us get the word out
through social media!
f @ccctx
t @CCcentraltexas
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James Avery
JEWELRY

