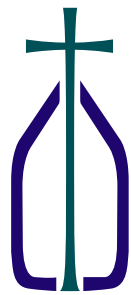


OVER
136,000 individuals
SERVED LAST YEAR



Catholic Charities
of the Diocese of Raleigh

Providing Help—Creating Hope—Serving All



DEAR FRIENDS,

As we started this past year, we saw the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to worsen. We were frequently adapting our programming to meet the changing needs of the community while keeping staff, volunteers, and those we serve safe. The future was uncertain, but we were confident in our ability to provide help and create hope for the community during this challenging time.

Over the course of the year, we adapted to a new normal and our quickly implemented safety changes became routine activities. I am incredibly proud of our staff and volunteers for their dedication to the safety procedures which were implemented and prevented any COVID-19 outbreaks from occurring within our offices. Their diligence allowed us to assist over 136,000 individuals.

Also during this time, we saw an increased focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion across the country. Within our agency, we took time to evaluate how we could be a leader in this area. We started the year by conducting a demographics survey to evaluate the diversity of our staff, leadership, and board. We also established the monthly Engage IDEAs (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Awareness) Discussion Series for staff and volunteers. Additionally, we identified specific actions to be more inclusive with how we operated, including shifting vendor relationships to minority-owned businesses and placing financial investments in minority-owned banks. More information related to the demographics survey and Engage IDEAs Discussion Series can be found later in this document.

I am incredibly grateful to our individual donors and the foundations who have continued to support our work as we faced unprecedented levels of need throughout central and eastern North Carolina. Through this generosity, and the support of over 1,248 volunteers who contributed 30,273 volunteer hours, we were a light for the community during some very dark days. As we move forward, I ask for your prayers and support as we continue to assist those most in need throughout the Diocese of Raleigh.

Gratefully,

Lisa Perkins
CEO



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Most Reverend
Luis Rafael Zarama
Bishop of Raleigh
President

Rev. Msgr. Girard Sherba
Secretary

Dr. Russell Elmayan
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(Vic) Gournas

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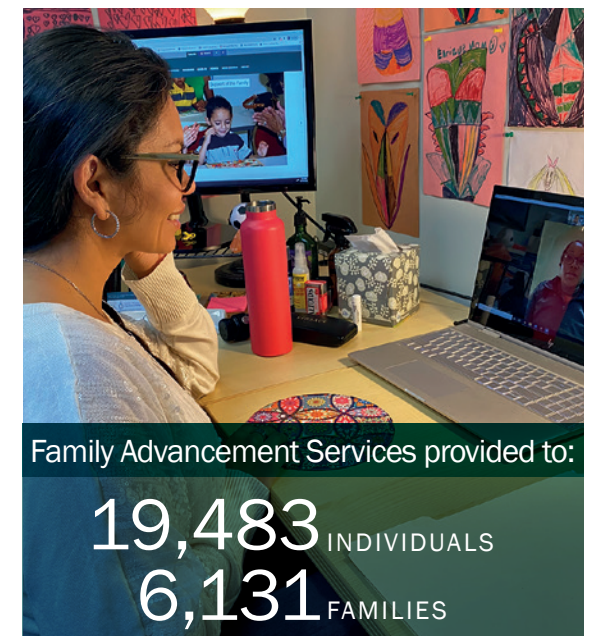
Mr. Ken Smith

Mr. Johnny Wilson

Board Term:

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

What We Accomplished



Agency Totals | 36,512 families | 136,090 individuals

Mission Statement

Providing help to our brothers and sisters in need by alleviating the effects of poverty and creating hope by developing solutions to transform lives.

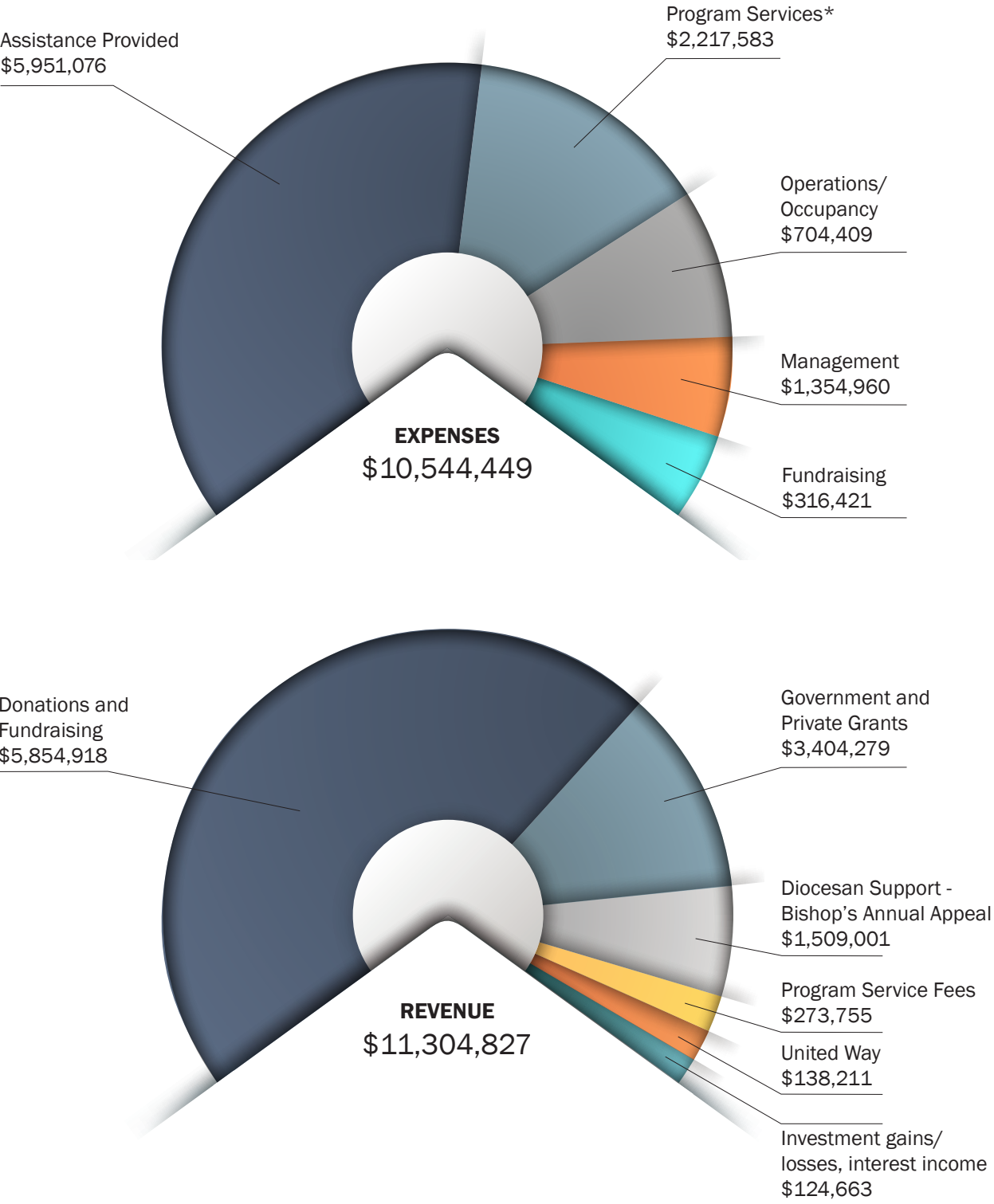
Vision Statement

Inspired by God's love and compassion, Catholic Charities envisions a more just society transformed by respecting the dignity of all individuals and collaborating to provide help and create hope for the most vulnerable in our community.

OUR SUPPORTERS

FINANCIAL REPORT | Year Ended June 30, 2021

Catholic Charities would not be able to serve the community without the support of the Diocese of Raleigh and Catholic parishes, over 5,700 faithful individual donors, federal and state combined campaigns, and the following private and public foundations and organizations:



*Includes expenses to provide services to clients such as Disaster Assistance, Family Advancement Services, Food Pantry Services, and Immigration Legal Services

ENGAGE IDEAS SERIES KICKS OFF FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES

In January 2021, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh hosted their first Engage IDEAs Series Discussion. Engage IDEAs, an abbreviation for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Awareness, was the culmination of months of planning by the Catholic Charities Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, which had been formed during the summer of 2020.

“We serve vulnerable and diverse communities who are heavily impacted by broken and unjust systems. It is our responsibility to ensure that we, as an organization, provide services with awareness, compassion, and that we are a part of change that we all long to see.” shared Lisa Perkins, CEO. “Catholic Charities is passionate about creating an inclusive space for staff, volunteers, the families we serve, and our stakeholders. We formed the DEI Committee to identify creative solutions and to hold our agency accountable for growing in this area.”

The monthly Engage IDEAs Series was incorporated into the normal workday and provided a forum for staff and volunteers to discuss DEI related topics in an open, safe, and supportive environment. Each session begins with the group viewing a piece of media related to the day’s topic. The large group is then divided into smaller breakout rooms to encourage in-depth conversation and provide space for everyone’s voice to be heard.

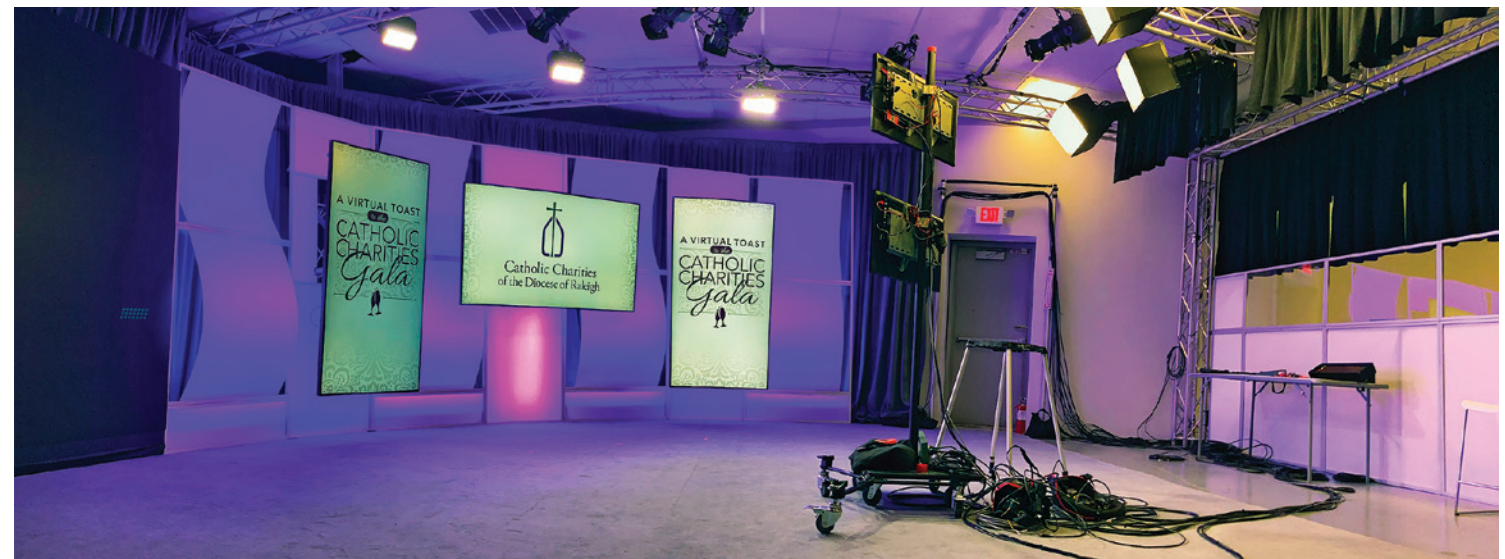
“Our hope is that, through this discussion series, our staff and volunteers can engage in thought provoking conversation, leading to personal growth or heightened awareness and changes that positively impact the families and communities that we serve.” shared Perkins.

Topics from the first year of this discussion series included “I Didn’t Mean It That Way,” which focused on identifying microaggressions and how to avoid them, and “Racism and Poverty,” which focused on how these two topics are intertwined and lead to systemic racism.

The Catholic Charities DEI Committee responsible for hosting the Engage IDEAs series included: Daniel Altenau, Director of Communications and Disaster Services; Katey Fithian, Director of Development; Jarrett McClellan, Information Systems and Technology Manager; Abram Flores, Fayetteville Regional Director; Emilie Hart, Cape Fear Regional Director; Sara McCormick, DOJ Accredited Representative; Liz McDowell, Tar River Program Director; Lisa Perkins, Executive Director; and Barkley Sample, Raleigh Regional Director.

“WE FORMED THE DEI COMMITTEE TO IDENTIFY CREATIVE SOLUTIONS AND TO HOLD OUR AGENCY ACCOUNTABLE FOR GROWING IN THIS AREA.”

~ Lisa Perkins



EVENT RECAP | Virtual Gala

2021 VIRTUAL TOAST TO THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES GALA A BIG SUCCESS

The format was different, but the impact remained the same for the 2021 Catholic Charities “Virtual Toast to the Gala.” While COVID-19 safety restrictions prevented the 2021 Gala from being held in person, that didn’t stop the celebration. On Friday, April 23rd, the “Virtual Toast to the Catholic Charities Gala” was live streamed for participants from across the Diocese of Raleigh to enjoy.

“COVID-19 presented us with new challenges this year.” shared Katey Fithian, Director of Development. “But, we turned this into an opportunity to make the gala more accessible for everyone in the diocese by utilizing a virtual platform.”

Since its inception in 2011, the Annual Gala has raised over \$1.6 million to allow Catholic Charities to serve our neighbors in need. This year’s event celebrated the level of success and awareness the gala has brought to the agency over the past 10 years and raised an additional \$160,000.

These funds, along with other agency wide fundraisers held throughout the year, help to support all Catholic Charities locations. This makes the success of these fundraisers essential for supporting our more remote offices with limited local fundraising opportunities.

“The annual gala is one of our key fundraisers throughout the year.” shared Lisa Perkins, CEO. “We rely on this consistent support from the community to provide help and create hope for the community.”

As has been the tradition for the past few years, the Cardinal Gibbons High School

String Quartet performed as participants joined the live stream. Ken Smith, Catholic Charities Board Member, Ellen Crowley, Gala Committee Chair, and Katey Fithian, Director of Development, shared hosting responsibilities during the one-hour event.

During the evening, the hosts discussed the importance of Catholic Charities to the community and the impact of the funds raised through the gala. The program also included videos highlighting Catholic Charities services and performances by the band PushPlay.

“COVID-19 PRESENTED US WITH NEW CHALLENGES THIS YEAR... BUT, WE TURNED THIS INTO AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE GALA MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE...”

~ Katey Fithian



Over the past year, the Catholic Charities Disaster Services program has provided help to over 500 families in a continued response to Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Florence. In Wilmington, Cape Fear Regional Director Emilie Hart, and Disaster Case Manager Becca Ward, are involved every step of the way as they go through the cycle of preparation, response, and later recovery with many of these families.

Hart and Ward begin preparing as soon as they see storms are forecasted to move through the area, raising awareness in the community and distributing disaster kits.

Recounting this past summer, Ward says, “We had disaster kits with flashlights and essential items...but the main point of it was to get out the information about knowing what your plan is if a disaster comes. If a hurricane comes, are you staying? Are you leaving?” All of this is important she notes because, “...even though we didn’t have a storm this year, we will have another one, we just don’t know when it will be.”

Over the years, Hart has found that affected individuals struggle through the

“WE ARE CONDUCTING NEEDS ASSESSMENTS, RUNNING POINTS OF DISTRIBUTION, AND MAKING SURE THAT PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO LIFE SUSTAINING SUPPLIES LIKE WATER, TARPS, AND FOOD.”

~ Emilie Hart

FEMA process due to a lack of necessary paperwork. After suffering a natural disaster, she says, “They don’t have their birth certificates, they don’t have their insurance paperwork...or their proof that they own the property.” As a result of these needs, Catholic Charities added document protectors to their disaster kits to help families prepare.

Following a disaster impact, Catholic Charities staff and volunteers begin the response phase. At this point, they can be found distributing food and supplies and helping those affected with their FEMA applications.

“We’re really active with providing disaster case work, making sure that people know where the resources are

and connecting them to those resources.”

Hart explains. “We are conducting needs assessments, running points of distribution, and making sure that people have access to life sustaining supplies like water, tarps, and food.”

Once the immediate needs of the response phase have been met, Catholic Charities begins to accompany families through the recovery phase.

“That’s what I call our disaster hip attachment services,” Hart says, “because that’s when we really work alongside survivors until they fully recover.”

This final process is the longest, with Catholic Charities still working with many clients who were affected by Hurricane Florence over three years ago.

Hart explained that this delay is due to the massive number of applications, “The county we’re sitting in right now had over 40,000 households register for FEMA. Unfortunately, somebody is going to be served first and somebody is going to wait years to be served.”

Ward shared, “I think the hardest part is seeing families wait.”

In an effort to reduce wait times, Catholic Charities developed the NC Catholics Volunteer program which has been assisting disaster survivors repair their homes since responding to Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Following Hurricane Florence in 2018, the program expanded to the Cape Fear region and has provided an opportunity for individuals to give of their time and help their neighbors still struggling to rebuild. These dedicated volunteers have had a major impact on the lives of the families they have assisted.

Hart and Ward remain upbeat about their work and what the Catholic Charities Disaster Services program means to the community. As resources for other organizations dry up, Catholic Charities remains in the community, continuing to provide help.

Hart says, “I think what keeps me here long term to keep doing the work that we’re doing is that we’re the only ones left standing. If we weren’t here, no one would be, and these families would be on their own.”

Ward is equally aware of the importance of the work they do, “What sticks with me is that you know you’re doing something that is going to affect the rest of their lives.”

Through the preparation, response, and recovery phase, Catholic Charities has helped families get back on their feet and look forward to a better tomorrow.

SUCCESS STORY HIGHLIGHTS

Immigration Legal Services



Murillo relates that initially the process was challenging and she was losing hope. “Because of COVID-19, we had to do the process over the phone and it caused me a lot of stress.” However, she kept trying and with the help of a Catholic Charities DOJ accredited representative, Sara McCormick, she was able to submit her papers to the U.S Citizenship and Immigrations Services (USCIS).

“I had a lot of problems before I met Sara. She was great. She told me what to do and my papers came out good and she made sure I knew all the questions. She

For many, achieving the American Dream can seem impossible. Navigating a new country and learning the language can be difficult. Additionally, the naturalization process is a long affair that can be challenging to understand and more difficult to undertake. These reasons make the Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services program so important to the community. Each year, the program assists over 1,000 individuals from 59 countries.

Yolanda Etmaris-Murillo was one client recently assisted by the program. She has been in the United States for 38 years after moving from her home in Panama. For much of that time, she had intended to go back to Panama and saw no need for citizenship. But recently, she reconsidered.

“Well, I need to be a citizen because I want to vote, I want to retire a citizen.” For Murillo, the final consideration was her children. “My kids always wanted me to be a citizen.” After hearing about Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, she knew where to start.

“...I NEED TO BE A CITIZEN BECAUSE I WANT TO VOTE, I WANT TO RETIRE A CITIZEN...”

~ Yolanda Etmaris-Murillo

even asked me if I wanted her to come with me to the USCIS Office.”

With the support of Catholic Charities staff, Murillo was able to complete her application and pass the citizenship exam. Explaining her feelings during the citizenship process, Murillo says, “I was so fearful of the test, even though I had studied. When I got my certificate, I could not believe it!”

Grateful for the help she received, Murillo has spent time telling others of her experiences. “A lot of people have been asking me about naturalization, so I’ve been recommending Catholic Charities. I tell them just bring your papers and be honest.”



SUCCESS STORY HIGHLIGHTS | Food Pantries

Despite the tireless efforts of Catholic Charities food pantries throughout the Diocese of Raleigh, food deserts pervade much of central and eastern North Carolina. Starting in 2019, Emilie Hart, Cape Fear Regional Director, began running a Mobile Food Pantry, to combat hunger in areas without adequate access to grocery stores. By loading up a truck with food and other items, staff and volunteers were able to meet the needs of the community locally.

After seeing initial success, the program has been expanded to other Catholic Charities offices. David Juarez, Program Director of the Durham Community Food Pantry (DCFP), and Abram Flores, Regional Director of the Fayetteville Office, have recently started their own mobile food pantries to better serve their communities.

“The mobile food pantry in the Cape Fear region was really started in response to Hurricane Florence,” Hart explains. “Many people couldn’t get out from where they were, so we decided to bring supplies out to them. Then we realized that a lack of transportation access and

food deserts are very real in disaster times, but also on blue sky days, so we decided to keep going.”

The Wilmington office runs their Mobile Food Pantry operation two to four times a month. By studying food desert and social vulnerability maps, Hart was able to find areas that would benefit the most from a mobile distribution model. Working with local parishes and community leaders, they set up a location and time for distribution, as well as raise awareness for the event.

“WHEN WE FIRST STARTED, I THINK WE HAD UNDER 40 PEOPLE SHOW UP. NOW WE’RE SERVING CLOSE TO 100.”

~ David Juarez

Using similar methods, the DCFP identified Hillsborough as an area in need in the Piedmont Region. Starting in June of last year, they have been running on a once-a-month basis, and have found success and a receptive community.

“The reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. We are the biggest mobile distribution going on,” Juarez says. “When we first started, I think we had under 40 people show up. Now we’re serving close to 100.”

Due to this rapid increase, Juarez and DCFP volunteers and staff have to work hard to maintain the level and scope of services provided.

In Fayetteville, Flores has started successful test mobile food distributions.

These distributions have given him optimism for future operations.

“I distributed a little over 7,000 pounds of food in Johnston County in just two months, I’m adding an average of

between 300 to 500 families a month, and that’s only one location.”

Flores notes that these efforts are a direct response to the needs of the community. “Everything is here in Cumberland County, which is why I want to expand our reach. Conducting a mobile outreach service is the only way to do that.”

Catholic Charities Food Pantries are brainstorming creative solutions to challenges related to the distribution of food in critically underserved areas of central and eastern North Carolina. Catholic Charities leadership is aware of the growing need for access to healthy food. The agency and its dedicated supports will rise to address the challenges posed to many by food insecurity.



SUCCESS STORY HIGHLIGHTS Family Advancement Services

The Catholic Charities Family Advancement Services (FAS) Program assists families with Housing Assistance, Economic Sustainability, and Health and Wellness Services. The goal of the FAS Program is to help families achieve, or move closer to, self-sufficiency and more

raises approximately \$40,000 each year. With financial support from the Love Fund, Cox was able to pay her rent.

“I am so grateful for the assistance, it has been like a ‘help-up’ instead of a ‘help-out’ and has allowed me to assist my son more so that he can focus on school and

“I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR THE ASSISTANCE, IT HAS BEEN LIKE A ‘HELP-UP’ INSTEAD OF A ‘HELP-OUT’...”

~ Jennifer Cox

stable lives. For Jennifer Cox and her son Jason, who were facing eviction in January 2021, this was exactly what they needed.

Cox was struggling to meet her financial needs after a recent family tragedy. Her sister, who had been living with Cox, had passed away the month before after contracting COVID-19. Cox used all of her funds to cover the ensuing medical and funeral expenses.

To say it was a time of extreme circumstance and stress would be an understatement. Compounding the loss of a loved one, the pandemic made it difficult for Cox to work, and hampered Jason’s promising academic and athletic pursuits.

In their time of need, they turned to Catholic Charities. Working in collaboration with Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Durham, Catholic Charities submitted the Cox family to the “Love Fund.” The Love Fund is a weekly parish collection that provides funds for families, who, apart from a temporary emergency, are otherwise economically self-sufficient. This partnership, going on forty years,

not worry about being evicted,” Cox says.

With Catholic Charities helping Cox to maintain stable housing, she now has the opportunity to pursue her own goals. She recounts, “I was also able to go back to school myself, and now I’m pursuing an on-line degree in Medical Billing & Coding.”

The Cox family have found their feet and are eager to move forward.

Cox adds, “We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Catholic Charities Durham for their financial assistance and support!”

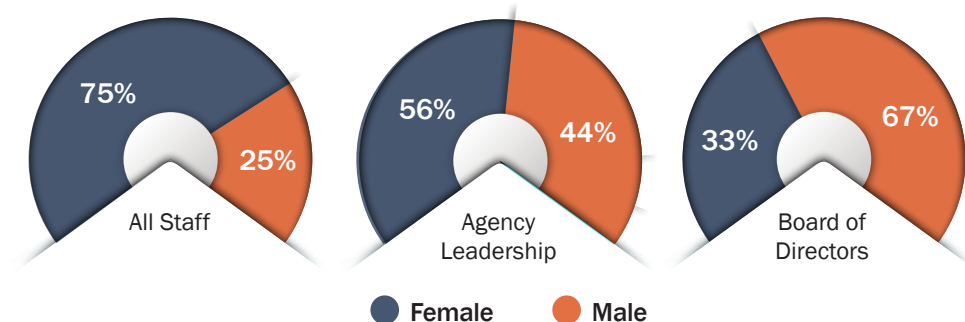


Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh recognizes the importance of, and prioritizes, integrating core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion into agency operations and services to our multiracial and multicultural communities.

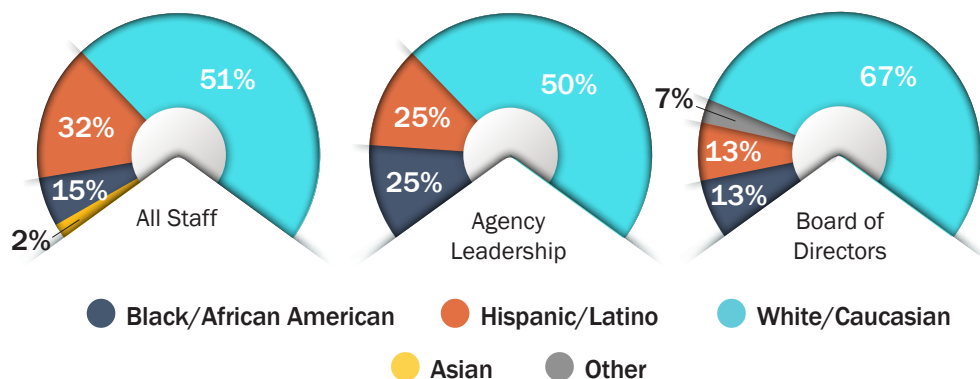
We are committed to a non-discriminatory approach, providing equal opportunity for staff and volunteers to excel in their roles and advance within the organization. For more information, please reference the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy on the Catholic Charities website. www.CatholicCharitiesRaleigh.org/About

Below is a summary breakdown by gender and race for Catholic Charities staff, leadership staff, and board of directors.

GENDER DIVERSITY



RACIAL DIVERSITY



Elizabeth City Office
(252) 426-7717
Holy Family Catholic Church
1453 North Road St.
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Greenville Regional Office
(252) 355-5111
2780 B Dickinson Ave.
Greenville, NC 27834

Wilmington Regional Office
(910) 251-8130
Harrelson Center
20 N. 4th St., Suite 300
Wilmington, NC 28401

New Bern Regional Office
(252) 638-2188
502 Middle St.
New Bern, NC 28563

Fayetteville Regional Office
(910) 424-2020
726 Ramsey St., Suites 10 & 11
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Clayton Counseling Office
St. Ann Catholic Church
4057 US-70 BUS
Clayton, NC 27520

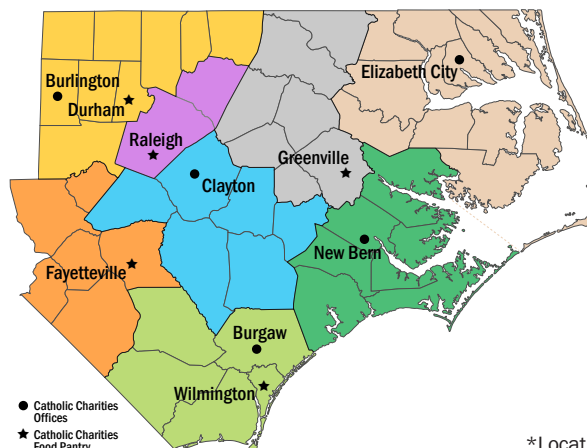
Durham Community Food Pantry & Reverend Joseph G. Vetter Family Enrichment Center
(919) 286-1964
2020 Chapel Hill Rd., Suite 30
Durham, NC 27707

Raleigh Regional Office
(919) 790-8533
3000 Highwoods Blvd., Suite 128
Raleigh, NC 27604



Catholic Charities
of the Diocese of Raleigh

Providing Help—Creating Hope—Serving All



*Locations as of 6/30/2021.