



Catholic Charities  
of the Diocese of Raleigh

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



OVER  
**245,000** individuals  
SERVED LAST YEAR



Providing Help.  
Creating Hope.  
Serving All.



# Dear Friends,

This past year has seen Catholic Charities continue to expand to meet the needs of our community. We increased staff and recruited new volunteers to match the growth of our programs. In particular, our Food Pantry Services have been at the heart of this growth, sharing fresh, healthy groceries with thousands of individuals facing food insecurity.

Our staff have led efforts to serve their community in a way that best addresses their local needs. In Durham and Raleigh, we continue to meet increasing demand, assisting hundreds of families each day. In Wilmington, our Choice Food Pantry empowers families by providing them with an experience where they select their own groceries with dignity. In our Cape Fear and Tar River Regions, our mobile food pantries bring groceries directly to those facing transportation barriers, ensuring greater access to healthy groceries.

Additionally, we have seen tremendous growth in our Cape Fear and Tar River regions through our participation in the Healthy Opportunities Pilot (HOP). This first-of-its-kind pilot program, which provides funding to deliver healthy groceries directly to the homes of Medicaid recipients, is helping improve health outcomes and reducing healthcare costs.

As we look to the future, I am confident that Catholic Charities will continue to meet the growing needs of our community. With the steadfast support of foundations and our unwavering donors, the tireless efforts of our 850 volunteers, and the dedication of Catholic Charities staff, we will continue innovating to provide help and create hope for our neighbors in need.

Gratefully,



Lisa Perkins  
Chief Executive Officer



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Most Reverend  
Luis Rafael Zarama  
Bishop of Raleigh  
*President*

Mr. Luis Capacetti  
*Secretary*

Dr. Russell Elmayan  
*Treasurer*

### BOARD LEADERSHIP

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Mr. Rudolph "Rudy" Kellerman

Mr. Lionel Randolph, Jr.

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Dr. Henry Zaytoun, Jr.

Board Term:

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

## 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.

# What We Accomplished



## Food Pantry Services

PROVIDED HELP FOR

**235,000** individuals

**58,300** families

## Disaster Services

PROVIDED HELP FOR

**1,200** individuals

**500** families



## Immigration Legal Services

PROVIDED HELP FOR

**900** families



Catholic Charities  
of the Diocese of Raleigh

# Our Supporters



Bishop's Annual Appeal



*Working to Reduce Poverty in America*



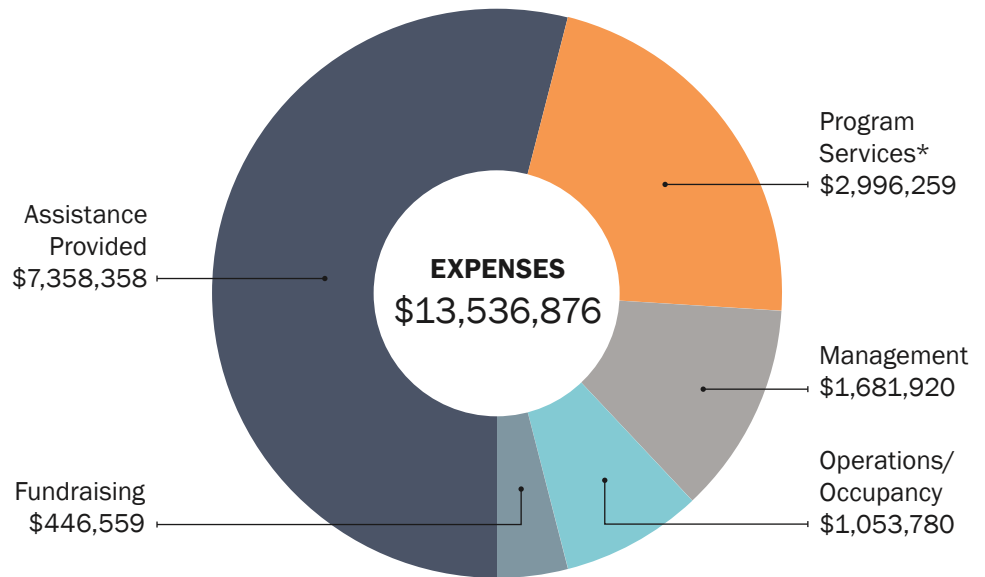
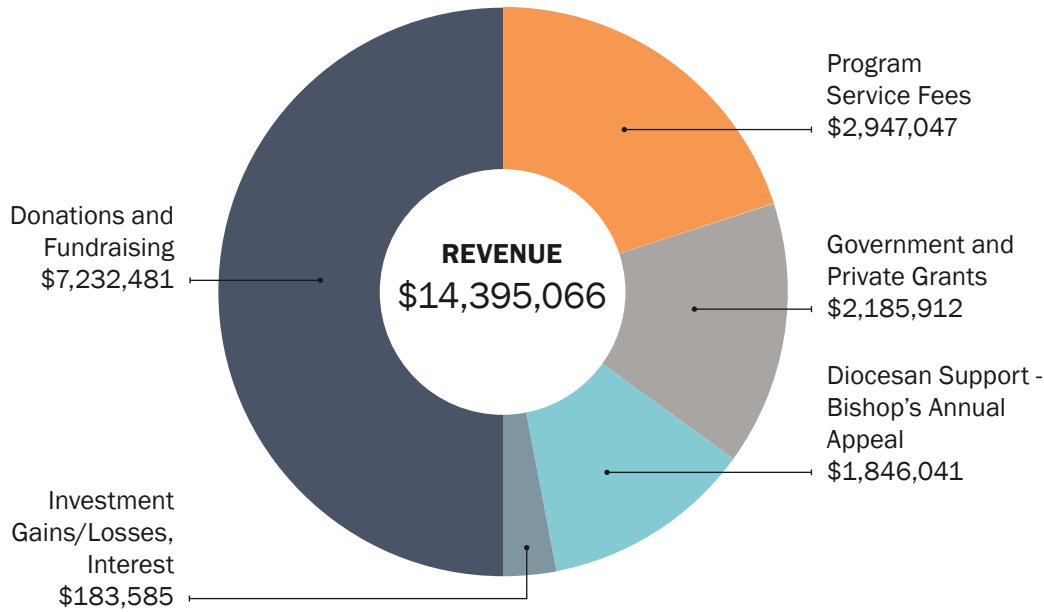
The RASKOB FOUNDATION  
for Catholic Activities



Catholic Charities would not be able to serve the community without the support of the Diocese of Raleigh and Catholic parishes, over 4,300 faithful individual donors, federal and state combined campaigns, and these private and public foundations and organizations.

# Financial Report

Year Ended June 30, 2024



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



Catholic Charities  
of the Diocese of Raleigh



# A Home Restored

CATHOLIC CHARITIES WALKS WITH FAMILIES  
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

In August 2021, the Catholic Charities Cape Fear office received an urgent referral: a woman's roof had collapsed, rendering her bedroom and bathroom unusable. Ms. Tew, the homeowner, was already experiencing the harmful effects of mold exposure but had no means to repair the damage on her own.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Regional Director Emilie Hart immediately traveled to the home, clearing debris and sealing off the affected areas to contain the mold. Within days, she coordinated with Habitat for Humanity to install a tarp over the roof, a temporary fix, but a necessary step while she and Disaster Case Manager Vickie Sasser worked alongside Ms. Tew to complete the complex RebuildNC application needed to secure a permanent solution.

By the following month, Ms. Tew had made significant progress, reaching step three of RebuildNC's eight-step process. However, she faced obstacles in completing the required documentation to receive her award.

"We helped her navigate the bureaucracies of the program," Emilie explained. "We even worked with

her landlord to secure permission for RebuildNC to begin the necessary repairs, getting the paperwork notarized to ensure the process could move forward."

With that in place, Emilie and Vickie turned their attention to other cases, believing the wheels were in motion.

"We are here, no matter what, through each step of the process."

Six months later, however, there was no progress. Concerned, Vickie followed up with Ms. Tew, only to discover that the paperwork they had worked so hard to complete was no longer valid. Disappointed but undeterred, Emilie and Vickie walked Ms. Tew through the process once again. By July 2023, she had advanced to step five.

Finally, her persistence paid off, she was approved for a full home replacement. RebuildNC would demolish her damaged home and rebuild a new one,

covering the cost of temporary housing during construction.

Knowing how unsafe her living conditions were, Emilie and Vickie immediately requested an emergency move-out. After her initial application was denied, Emilie and Vickie gathered photos, videos, and testimony to appeal. Two weeks later, the decision was reversed.

Over the next ten months, Ms. Tew moved between three motels as her home was torn down and rebuilt from the ground up. Then, on May 27, 2024, she finally walked through the door of her brand-new home, a moment years in the making.

Since then, Vickie has seen a profound change in her. "She's been through so much, but now she and her two dogs are finally settled and happy," she shared.

Reflecting on the work of Catholic Charities Disaster Services, Emilie summed up the heart of their mission:

"I'm so proud of our disaster program because we are the tent that doesn't pack up. We are here, no matter what, through each step of the process. And Ms. Tew's journey is proof of that."



“I look forward to coming here and experiencing the joy that they have, the love that they have. I can feel it when I come in here.”

CATHOLIC CHARITIES FAYETTEVILLE OFFICE:

# More than Just a Food Pantry

For many struggling with their monthly expenses, food pantries provide a critical lifeline. But too often, individuals seeking assistance encounter judgment or indifference, making an already difficult situation even harder. At the Catholic Charities Fayetteville office, the experience is different. More than just a place to pick up food, it is a welcoming community where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

For the past two years, Betty Gaines has relied on Catholic Charities to help support her family. A longtime Fayetteville resident, she is raising her four grandchildren on a fixed income. With a stagnant financial situation, she struggles to provide for her loved ones, “Even though I get food stamps, when it comes to canned goods and meat products, the pantry helps me reach the end of the month. Especially in the summer, when they’re home from school,

and I don’t have the money,” shared Ms. Gaines.

But Catholic Charities offers more than just groceries. Ms. Gaines continued, “They have helped me greatly in the food area. But there have also been times I have received clothes, diapers, wipes, and other items.” In addition, she discussed how the office helped her during the holiday season, “For Christmas, they asked me to fill out some paperwork, and then they gave us practically everything my grandkids asked for. And I was just so pleased and excited that my grandchildren were able to get what they wanted.”

Beyond material assistance, Betty cherishes the kindness and encouragement she receives from the staff. She shared, “I look forward to coming here and experiencing the joy that they have, the love that they have. I

can feel it when I come in here.”

Vicky Jiménez, Program Director at the Fayetteville office, has worked closely with Ms. Gaines and understands the challenges she faces.

“Fortunately, we are able to provide that assistance on a monthly basis because, unfortunately, the cost of food and the cost of other services such as utilities, water, electric, all of those costs are going up. In the case of Ms. Gaines, she’s not a quitter, she’s going to keep going, persevering, but the truth is that she does need help.”

For Ms. Gaines, Catholic Charities is more than just a helping hand, it’s a source of hope. “I can depend on it, I know I’m going to get that love and help when I come here. There is hope. Even though your situation may look bad. But there is hope, and you have to keep holding on to it.”

Through our Immigration Legal Services, we remain steadfast in ensuring that those seeking a new beginning in the United States are supported every step of the way.



# Opening Doors to Opportunity

## IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Immigrants have always been an integral part of the American story, bringing strength, resilience, and diversity to our communities. At Catholic Charities, we are committed to walking alongside families on their journey to citizenship, providing the legal guidance and support they need to build stable, fulfilling lives in the United States.

At the heart of our Immigration Legal Services program is a team of Department of Justice accredited representatives, dedicated volunteer attorneys, and student interns from local law schools. Each year, these professionals assist nearly 1,000 individuals, ensuring they understand their rights and have access to affordable legal counsel. From family-based petitions and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) applications to legal permanent residency and citizenship services, this team works

tirelessly to break down barriers and provide clear pathways for immigrants seeking a better future.

“The immigration work of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh began in the mid-1990s to provide high-quality, low-cost legal services to newcomers,” shared Consuelo Kwee, Director of Immigration Legal Services. “Today, we continue to expand our reach, staying up-to-date with evolving immigration laws and bringing much-needed resources to underserved communities across Central and Eastern North Carolina.”

A key part of this work is our Naturalization Workshops, which help lawful permanent residents navigate the complex process of becoming U.S. citizens. These workshops offer hands-on support, ensuring individuals have the assistance they need to complete applications, apply for fee waivers, and

prepare for their citizenship journey with confidence.

The success of these workshops is made possible through the generosity of volunteer attorneys, pro-bono legal professionals, and law students who dedicate their time and expertise. Their contributions create an environment where those seeking citizenship are met with encouragement, dignity, and practical legal assistance.

At Catholic Charities, our mission is to provide help and create hope for all immigrants, regardless of their place of origin, culture, religion, or economic status. Through our Immigration Legal Services, we remain steadfast in ensuring that those seeking a new beginning in the United States are supported every step of the way.



This summer, Catholic Charities teamed up with two North Carolina minor league baseball teams for Pitch in for Charity, a special fundraising series that brings communities together through America's favorite pastime. With the Durham Bulls and the Fayetteville Woodpeckers stepping up to the plate, these events raised funds to support Catholic Charities' hunger relief efforts, while also strengthening the bonds between supporters, volunteers, and the communities we serve.



## PITCH IN FOR CHARITY

# A Home Run for Catholic Charities

### **DURHAM BULLS STEP UP TO THE PLATE**

The first Pitch in for Charity event of the year took place on Tuesday, June 25th, when the Durham Bulls faced off against the Lehigh Valley IronPigs. Despite the sweltering summer heat, Catholic Charities supporters took their seats in the stands, eager to cheer on the Bulls and support the Durham Community Food Pantry, which distributes more than 1.8 million pounds of food annually to families in need.

The game was a thrilling contest of resilience. The IronPigs struck first with a solo homer in the opening inning and extended their lead to 3-0 by the sixth. But the Bulls, never ones to back down, battled back to cut the deficit to 3-2 in the bottom of the seventh. Just as the home crowd's excitement reached a fever pitch, the IronPigs responded with a crushing six-run eighth inning, securing a tough victory.

Despite the final score, the night was a victory for Catholic Charities. Jeremy Ireland, Piedmont Regional Director, reflected on the impact of the event: "This is our sixth year partnering with the Durham Bulls, and once again, it was a great success. The funds raised tonight will help feed families across our community, but just as importantly, this event allows us to connect with the people who make our work possible."

### **FAYETTEVILLE WOODPECKERS KNOCK IT OUT OF THE PARK**

A month later, on Tuesday, July 30th, the excitement shifted to Segra Stadium, where the Fayetteville Woodpeckers took on the Columbia Fireflies in another thrilling Pitch in for Charity matchup. With proceeds benefiting Catholic Charities' food distribution efforts in the region, the night was about more than just baseball, it was about neighbors stepping up to support one another.

The Fireflies took an early lead, scoring in the third and fourth innings to go up 2-0. The Woodpeckers rallied back by the seventh inning to even the game at 2-2, but the Fireflies responded with three runs in the final two innings to secure the win.

Despite the loss, the event was a success for Catholic Charities, as it provided an opportunity to raise funds and connect with the community.

For Vicky Jiménez, Program Director for the Fayetteville Region, the event was about much more than baseball: "These events are such a great opportunity for our office. They not only provide much-needed resources to help distribute food to our neighbors, but they also serve as a 'friend-raiser', a way to connect with our community and strengthen our shared mission of providing help and creating hope."

### **MORE THAN A GAME**

The Pitch in for Charity series is a reminder that small moments—like cheering for a home run or sharing a summer evening at the ballpark—can have a big impact. Through these events, Catholic Charities was able to raise funds, spread awareness, and bring communities together in the spirit of service. Whether in Durham or Fayetteville, these games proved that when people come together with a common goal, everyone wins.



## GOLF TOURNAMENT

# Over \$95,000 Raised to “Drive Out Hunger”

Cheers on and off the golf course at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary as golfers and volunteers gathered for the 6th Annual Drive Out Hunger Golf Outing. The golf tournament continues to grow each year with some great prizes for participants. But it's not the top prize that's drawing more and more golfers to the tournament yearly.

“It doesn't matter who wins. Everyone who came out is a winner, everyone is helping to support our cause,” said Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh CEO Lisa Perkins.

She added, the biggest winners are our communities benefiting from the record \$96,000 raised from the Drive Out Hunger Golf Outing this year. Catholic Charities operates five food pantries in Durham, Raleigh, Greenville, Fayetteville, and Wilmington to help eliminate food insecurity, with increased emphasis on extending services to those rural, hard to reach areas in the region.

Lisa Perkins said she's beyond thankful for the new golfers this year and those who have faithfully played or volunteered year after year. “We have new golfers, and

a lot of returning golfers who are always excited to attend this event and have a day away from work for the benefit of a great cause. They're happy to be here and ready to support Catholic Charities and all that we do.”

That support comes from all walks of life. 200 golfers on teams of four signed up for the competition on Monday, August 7 on the Fairways and Highlands golf courses at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary. Prestonwood Country Club touts the widest array of golf amenities and services in the Triangle with 54 holes of championship golf offering ideal playing conditions year-round. Rated by NC Golf Panel, all three of their 18-hole courses are featured in the top 100 courses in North Carolina.

Sue Ann Glower is the leadership chair for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh Board of Directors. She's watched the golf outing take form and grow into a vital fundraising source that's filling the need to deliver much needed food to our neighbors. Glower said, “While volunteering at the Durham Community Food Pantry, I have seen,



firsthand, the great impact our staff and volunteers have on the community. This golf outing will allow Catholic Charities to aid even more people moving forward and I am grateful for your support in making that happen.”

With a break from the usual 95-100° August summer's heat in North Carolina, golf teams came out ready to play. Players started the Captain's Choice tournament at 10 a.m. and represented a great community mix of professions including sports referees, church priests, volunteers, members of the Knights of Columbus, parishioners, doctors and lawyers, business executives, and so many other community



supporters. Swing after swing, avid golfers played some serious golf.

Some participants also joined for some “not so serious” golf. According to sports referee and golfer Charles “Chuck” Guinn, his game was “comical,” but he took it in stride and was more than willing to join in for a fun photo opportunity with fellow referee Chris Losack and their Knights of Columbus team. Losack said they came out to have fun on the course and to support their neighbors who depend on Catholic Charities regional food pantries.

“Hey, we’re having a lot of fun. This

is always a great event for Catholic Charities, so we enjoy being out here every year.” Losack and his team truly all scored big with this year’s outing by helping contribute to the record fundraising amount to date for the annual golf outing, almost \$100,000 raised. Fellow Knights of Columbus member Chris Mahoney said, “With Knights of Columbus, we do a lot of charitable work, so that’s always a part of our lives so getting an opportunity to do something you like for something good is just a double reward.”

CEO Lisa Perkins closed out the event with a huge heartfelt thank you to

everyone for their efforts to drive out hunger.

Perkins said, “I just want to say thank you to everyone who participated in the event. It’s always a great time and it’s great to see people, but to come out here and do this for the 6th year in a row... we’re grateful to have this much support.”

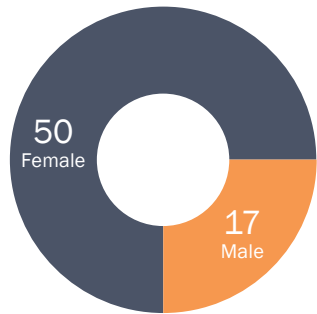
The golf tournament didn’t end with a “goodbye” but instead, a “see you next year” as Catholic Charities increases its efforts to combat food insecurity in the region with the 7th annual Drive Out Hunger Golf Outing, already scheduled for August 2024.



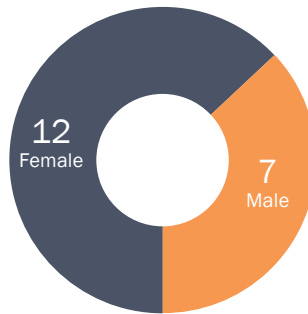
# 2024 Diversity Statistics

## Gender Diversity

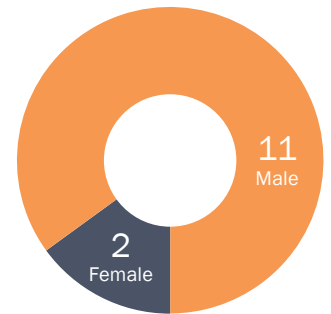
ALL STAFF



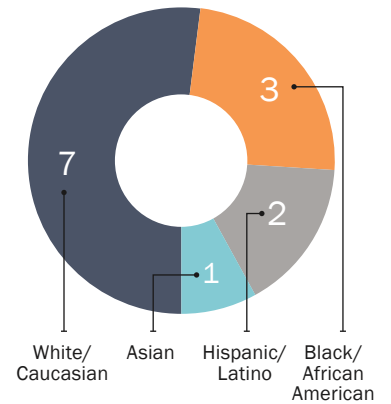
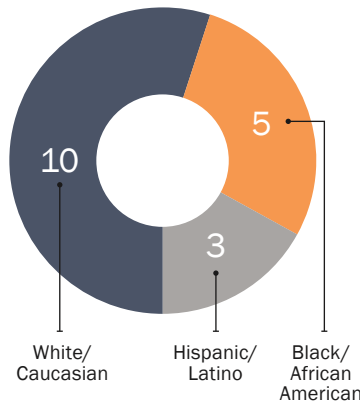
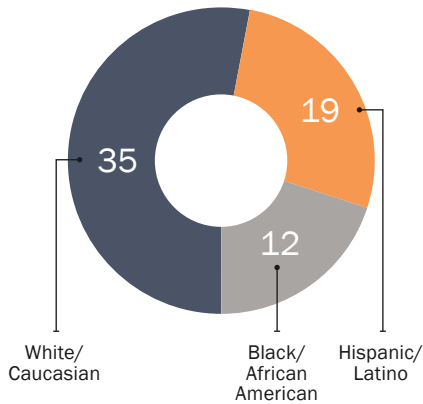
AGENCY LEADERSHIP



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## Racial Diversity



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

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

**Cape Fear Regional Office**  
 (910) 251-8130  
 4280 US Highway 421 N.  
 Suite 1100  
 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

**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

\*Locations as of 6/30/2024.

