

# September 2025 Newsletter



Catholic Parish Outreach  
Food Pantry  
A Program of Catholic Charities

Providing Help – Creating Hope – Serving All

## CATHOLIC PARISH OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

### Note From the Director

Kelly



Hunger Action Month has started off well at CPO! We have already raised almost half the funds we need to meet the \$50,000 matching gift for this year's H2O for Hunger Fundraising campaign. This is critically important since CPO is still seeing very high demand for services. There is still time to give to meet the match!

We added Saturday distributions back, so that neighbors who work Monday –Friday would still have a chance to receive groceries when they are in need. Before we suspended Saturday distributions due to the pandemic, we saw an average of 50 families/Saturday regularly with numbers near doubling during holidays — Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Fast forward to today and we are seeing the holiday numbers EVERY SATURDAY now (average 100+ families). In fact since we were closed on the Saturday of September for Labor day weekend, close to 50 families that were not served that day came the next week on Saturday September 6th swelling the numbers to a RECORD SETTING Saturday total of 140 Families!

This is a huge concern since it means that there are very few choices for working families to get groceries on weekends to meet demand. Also concerning was that of the 140 families, 27 of them were new to CPO. As always, we will continue to strive to serve all who come through our doors when we are open. This is becoming challenging, and we cannot do it without your time/talent/treasure. **Please prayerfully consider donating today or volunteering a Saturday/month of your time to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors!** Take care, stay hydrated and God bless!

Kelly

### HOW TO DONATE

#### Online:



CatholicCharitiesRaleigh.org/CPO

Click on the H2O for Hunger Logo  
on our homepage

**Call:** 919-873-0245 X 2300

#### Checks:

CPO  
2013 Raleigh Blvd  
Raleigh NC 27604

Please reference H2O for Hunger Challenge  
in the notes section



Every dollar donated  
**up to \$50,000**  
will be matched by  
CPO Friends  
to fight hunger for  
National Hunger  
Action Month!

Kelly Rappl

**Program Director**

E-mail: Kelly.Rappl@ccharitiesdor.org  
919-873-0245 x2300

Deanna McCulloch

**Assistant Program Director**

E-mail: Deanna.McCulloch@ccharitiesdor.org  
919-873-0245 x2310

Susan Hicks

**Health Education Specialist**

E-mail: Susan.Hicks@ccharitiesdor.org  
919-873-0245 X2350

Myra Bradley

**Family Care Coordinator**

E-mail: Myra.Bradley@ccharitiesdor.org  
919-873-0245 x2320

Darcy Hull

**Volunteer Coordinator**

E-mail: CPOvol.Coordinator@ccharitiesdor.org  
Phone: 919-873-0245 x2370  
Text: 919-847-1466

2013 Raleigh Blvd, Raleigh NC 27604

919-873-0245

cporaleigh.org

#### Hours of Operation:

Mon/Wed/Thurs/Friday & Saturday  
9 am—12pm

### VOLUNTEERING AT CPO

**We are in great need of volunteer to do monthly/quarterly/yearly maintenance projects at CPO.**

#### Looking to volunteer:

We are now using Point software for people to volunteer at CPO.  
Contact our Volunteer Coordinator Darcy Hull (call or text) 919-847-1466 or email CPOvol.Coordinator@ccharitiesdor.org and she will work with you to sign up to serve

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## CATHOLIC PARISH OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION

	Aug-24	Aug-25	% Inc
Families	2634	2,857	9%
People	10438	11,419	10%



### MOBILE FOOD PANTRY—WAKE CO.

MFP1 = Kingsborough Estate Raleigh NC Distribution

	Aug-25	
	MFP 1	Feb 25-Aug 25
Families	85	639
People	428	2,918

*CPO is working with CASA (Many of CASA's tenants have experienced homelessness) to determine our second mobile food pantry site to begin in October 2025*

*CPO is a benefitting agency again for this year's walk!*



Donate or sign up  
for your walk today!

### NEW WALK DATE!

Greater Triangle Area CROP Hunger Walk  
Saturday, November 8, 2025

First Baptist Church  
99 N. Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Registration: 10:00am/Step off at 11:00am



# CHICKENS, BEANS AND BIG *Dreams*

[www.crophungerwalk.org/trianglenc](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/trianglenc)



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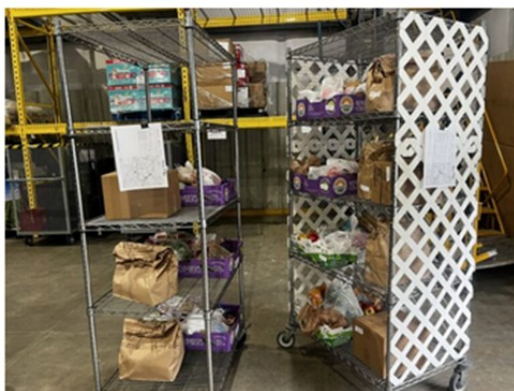
## CATHOLIC PARISH OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY CPO Home Delivery Program Brings Groceries and Compassion Straight to Families' Doors

"This isn't something we advertise," Hicks explained. "It's a grassroots effort built through trust and relationships. The clients we serve truly can't make it to us, so we bring food to them."



In an effort to reach homebound neighbors facing transportation barriers, Catholic Parish Outreach Food Pantry (CPO), a program of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh, has expanded its services through a home delivery program, bringing food and fellowship directly to clients who are unable to visit the pantry in person.

Now entering its fourth year, the CPO Home Delivery Program began as a small pilot with just a handful of families. Initially supported by a national partnership with DoorDash, the program took a turn when the grant funding for delivery services ended. That's when longtime volunteer Carl Gerdes stepped in with a simple solution: "Why not let volunteers do it?" he asked. And so "CarlDash" was born.



"We started with just Carl making deliveries twice a week," said Susan Hicks, Health Education Specialist at CPO. "Now, we have seven drivers, some individuals and some husband-and-wife teams, making over 115 deliveries each month."

The program serves a growing network of homebound clients, many of whom are referred by agencies such as the Durham VA, Wake County Women's Health, and Carolina Outreach. Several deliveries also go to residents at a low-income senior apartment complex in Raleigh, where neighbors quickly spread the word about the much-needed service.



## CATHOLIC PARISH OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

### CPO Home Delivery Program Brings Groceries and Compassion Straight to Families' Doors

"This isn't something we advertise," Hicks explained. "It's a grassroots effort built through trust and relationships. The clients we serve truly can't make it to us, so we bring food to them."

Clients receive a curated grocery package that includes fresh produce, bread, meat, and dry goods all packed in manageable boxes to make delivery safer and more efficient for volunteers.

Volunteerism has been at the heart of this initiative since the beginning. Jane and Rick Bourbina, a couple dedicated to serving together, began delivering groceries each Wednesday after years of volunteering in CPO's warehouse. "It's an easy way to help and it matters," said Jane. "We deliver to folks who truly need it."



Mickey and Bob Massini

"We know we can't reach everyone," Hicks said. "But each month, we reach a few more. This is about dignity, relationships, and meeting people where they are—literally."



Rick and Janie Borbina

Through the CPO Home Delivery Program, Catholic Charities continues to fulfill its mission: providing help, creating hope, and feeding the hungry with compassion and care.

***If you want to become part of this special ministry please contact Susan Hicks at 919-873-0245 ex 2350 or [Susan.Hicks@ccharitiesdor.org](mailto:Susan.Hicks@ccharitiesdor.org) to be added to the schedule.***



***Susan has done an amazing job of running this new "grass roots" program to try to reach as many homebound clients as we are able! Her dedication, along with the volunteers involved, truly makes this a special program born of need and kind caring hearts!***





# In Memory...

## CATHOLIC PARISH OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

### OBITUARY

## Eduardo Piqueras

MARCH 7, 1940 – SEPTEMBER 5, 2025



***Our CPO Family has lost another member. Eduardo was an interviewer at CPO and volunteered with his lovely wife, Ana, who was a clothing volunteer. They retired from volunteering at the beginning of the pandemic after many years at CPO. Eduardo had a beaming smile that lit up a room and he will be missed!***

Eduardo Piqueras passed away peacefully on September 5, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Madrid, Spain, on March 7, 1940, he was the son of Dr. Enrique Piqueras and Maria del Carmen Noriega. He had two brothers, Enrique and Javier.

As a young man, Eduardo was a highly skilled soccer player. His childhood dream came true in 1957 when he was drafted for several seasons with the now world-famous Atlético de Madrid soccer team.

After his professional soccer career ended, Eduardo turned his focus to education. He earned a degree in physics and later received his master's in electrical engineering. He went on to have a profoundly successful career in research and design, working for over 20 years at Nortel and playing a key role in shaping the future of telecommunications.

Beyond his professional achievements, Eduardo's legacy is most deeply felt by his family. He was a selfless, devoted husband and father who dedicated his life to the well-being of his loved ones and those less fortunate.

Like something out of a fairy tale, Eduardo met Ana Maria Gonzalez at the age of 17. This feisty, beautiful young woman soon became the love of his life. For 58 years, they shared a love that was truly unconditional and unwavering. Together, they raised three children—Ana, Sylvia, and Eduardo. In 1978, with their children in tow, they made the courageous decision to leave behind their homeland, family, and all they held dear to build a better life in the United States.

In retirement, Eduardo embraced his passions. He loved classical music and spent countless hours digitally restoring rare and forgotten pieces from historical archives. He developed a deep interest in birding and wildlife photography and was fortunate to travel extensively, including several safaris in Kenya. His love for soccer endured—he remained devoted to Atlético, the Spanish national team, and the sport itself, which kept him connected to his roots. But most of all, he cherished time with his wife Ana. For 58 years they were inseparable. They held hands wherever they went, and continued to do so until his final breath—a love story few are lucky enough to live.

Eduardo was also a generous soul, volunteering for many years at Catholic Parish Outreach and offering translation services to those in need. From a young age, he showed deep compassion for the poor and those facing hardship. He supported family members and strangers alike, never seeking recognition. His quiet acts of kindness changed lives in profound ways. As a devout Catholic, his faith in Jesus guided every aspect of his life and was a cornerstone of his family's values.

Eduardo was loved and cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His character, morals, courage, and devotion to family will live on through generations. He will be celebrated, remembered, and deeply missed.

He is survived by his loving wife, Ana Maria Piqueras; his brother, Javier Piqueras, and wife Renate; his daughter Ana Davis and spouse John Davis; daughter Dr. Sylvia Shoffner and spouse Dr. Dan Shoffner; son Dr. Ed Piqueras and spouse Beth Piqueras; and his grandchildren—Carmen Davis, Sydney Shoffner, Jack Davis, Daniel Shoffner, Isabel Davis, Dylan Piqueras, and Stuart Piqueras.