



Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

OVER
290,000 individuals
SERVED LAST YEAR



Dear Friends,

This year marked a special milestone for the Diocese of Raleigh as we celebrated 100 years since its founding. Over the past century, the Catholic community has remained steadfast in its commitment to serving our neighbors in need. While our services have evolved, our dedication to compassion, human dignity, and care for all remains unchanged.

That commitment is reflected in both our growth and impact. Today, we serve over 290,000 individuals each year, expanding our capacity to meet increasing needs across central and eastern North Carolina. Through every program, we strive to uplift communities, provide help where it is needed most, and create hope.

This year, we witnessed the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina. We responded quickly, mobilizing to provide immediate aid. Our team also supported long-term recovery through training and virtual deployments, sharing our experience with communities facing overwhelming loss.

We also expanded mobile food pantries, an innovation born from our own disaster response to Hurricane Florence. Today, these mobile pantries bring healthy food directly into underserved communities. Across all food programs, we distributed over five million pounds of food last year, reflecting both the growing need and our commitment to meet it.

Finally, immigration remains a complex issue, yet our faith calls us to uphold the dignity of our neighbors and answer the Gospel's call to welcome the stranger. The individuals and families we serve demonstrate extraordinary resilience and it is a privilege to walk alongside them as they navigate legal processes and celebrate their citizenship.

As we honor the past 100 years, we also look ahead with purpose. The support of foundations, generous donors, and more than 850 volunteers strengthens our ability to respond to community needs. I am inspired by our commitment to innovation as we provide help, create hope, and serve as a catalyst for lasting change.

Gratefully,



Lisa Perkins
Chief Executive Officer

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Board Term: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



What We Accomplished:



Food Pantry Services

PROVIDED HOPE FOR
290,000 individuals
73,000 families



Disaster Services

PROVIDED HELP FOR
221 individuals
121 families



Immigration Legal Services

PROVIDED HELP FOR
880 families

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

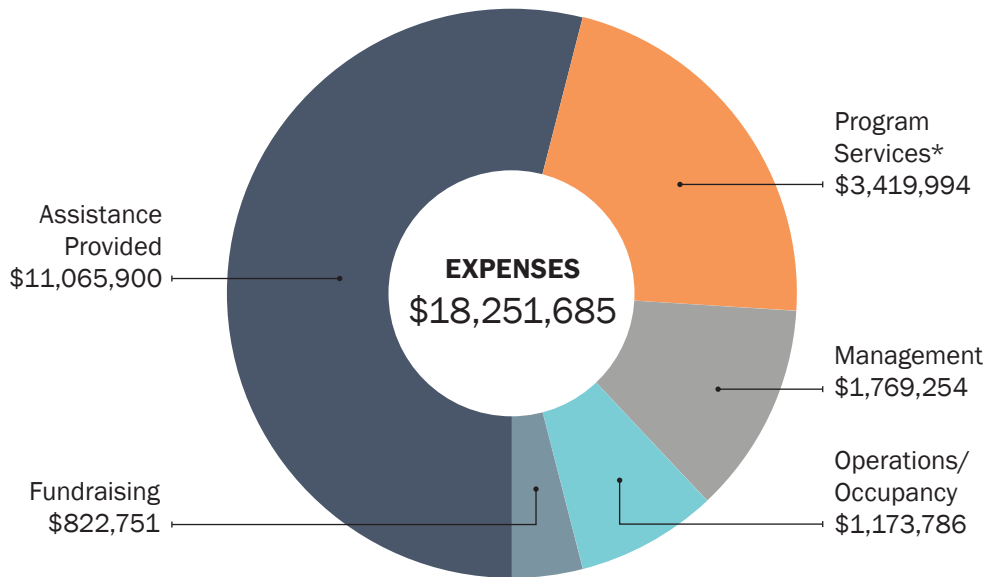
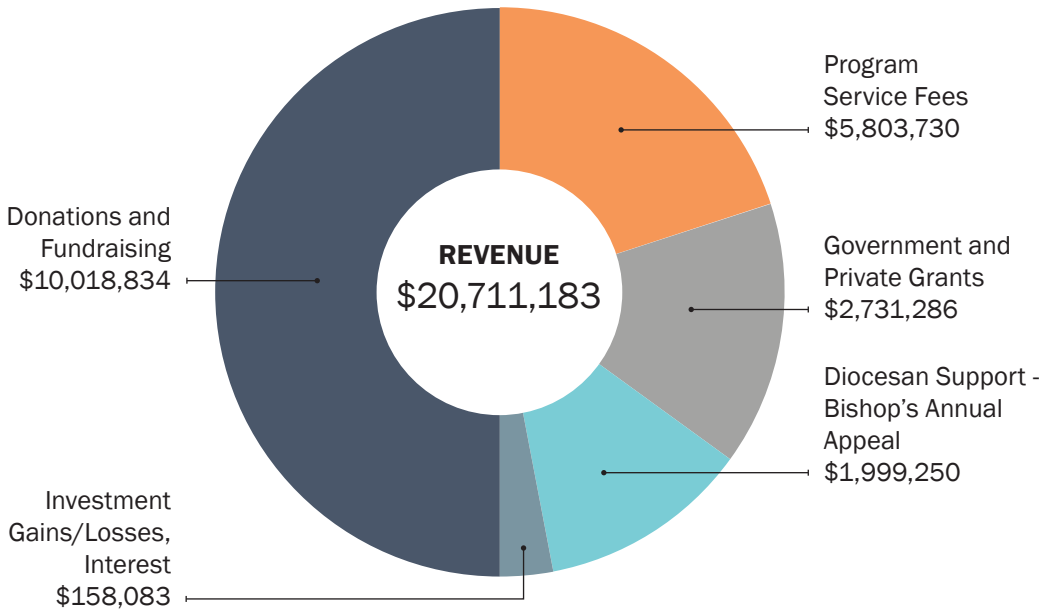
Inspired by God's love and compassion, Catholic Charities envisions a more just society transformed by respecting the dignity of all individuals and collaborating to provide help and create hope for the most vulnerable in our community.

Our Supporters



Financial Report

Year Ended June 30, 2025



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

Catholic Charities would not be able to serve the community without the support of the Diocese of Raleigh and Catholic parishes, over 4,350 faithful individual donors, federal and state combined campaigns, and these private and public foundations and organizations.



Blessed to be Home

DISASTER SERVICES HELP FAMILIES FIND SECURITY

In the years following Hurricane Florence, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh continued the long and often difficult work of helping families return home. Through partnerships with volunteers, churches, recovery organizations, and local agencies, disaster recovery efforts stretched far beyond the immediate aftermath of the storm, providing survivors with not only housing, but renewed stability and hope.

One of those survivors was Charles Bennett of Ocean Isle Beach. After Hurricane Florence tore siding from his mobile home and allowed rainwater to seep inside, mold spread rapidly throughout the structure, worsening existing pulmonary health concerns. Complicated heir property issues prevented him from qualifying for traditional rebuilding assistance, leaving him without a clear path forward. Catholic Charities worked alongside Legal Aid and several community partners to find a solution. A donated mobile home was repaired by volunteers, transported to Bennett's property, and outfitted with a new roof, porch, furnishings, and appliances. After years of uncertainty, Bennett was finally able to return to a safe and stable home surrounded by supporters who had helped make the project possible.

Recovery continued for many other families still struggling years after the hurricane. Jennifer and Koty Ward celebrated the blessing of their rebuilt home in Clarendon, North Carolina, after enduring years of unsafe, mold-damaged living conditions with their two children while waiting for assistance. Catholic Charities committed to rebuilding the home in 2024, launching a months-long effort supported by volunteer groups from North Carolina and beyond. Teams worked through difficult conditions, including winter weather, to construct the house from the ground up. During the blessing ceremony, staff, volunteers, clergy, and neighbors gathered to celebrate the family's return home. For the Wards, the project represented the end of years of instability and the beginning of greater security for their children.

These stories reflect the reality of long-term disaster recovery across eastern North Carolina. Even years after Hurricane Florence made landfall, many families were still working to rebuild their lives. Recovery required persistence from survivors, sustained commitment from community partners, and the support of donors and volunteers willing to remain engaged long after national attention had faded. Through each home dedication and blessing, Catholic Charities witnessed how stable housing can restore dignity, strengthen families, and help communities move forward together.



GUIDING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

Toward Hope and Opportunity

For many immigrant families, the path toward stability and citizenship can feel overwhelming. A legal system that often seems inaccessible can erode confidence and hope. The Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services department serves as a vital anchor for the community during these moments, providing guidance, support, and renewing hope when it is needed most.

“The work of the Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services program is very important because we provide affordable legal assistance for low-income clients who qualify,” shared Consuelo Kwée, Director of Immigration Legal Services. “One way we do this is by conducting workshops at least twice a year which brings awareness that we can provide these services at a lower cost. Through our work, immigrants can obtain their citizenship, improve their job opportunities and provide a sense of personal safety.”

Our team of Department of Justice–accredited representatives, volunteer attorneys, and dedicated student interns work closely with clients to ensure they understand their rights and have a clear path forward. This year, the department served 880 individuals, offering assistance to navigate some of the most complex legal processes in the country.

A cornerstone of this work remains our Naturalization Workshops, or N-400 workshops referring to the title of the naturalization application, where lawful permanent residents receive hands on support completing applications, requesting fee waivers, and preparing for the citizenship interview. These workshops are powered by partnerships with Campbell University Law Students as well as pro-bono lawyers, and reflect the heart of our mission: empowering immigrants to fully participate in American civic life and contribute their gifts to the communities they call home.

In January of this year, 19 members of our community moved one step closer to obtaining their citizenship by participating in a Naturalization workshop hosted by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh. This workshop is the fourth workshop in a series of events which began in 2019.

Catholic Charities continues to walk alongside newcomers with dignity, clarity, and compassion, ensuring that every individual seeking a lawful new beginning has the support they need to thrive.



MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES

Expanding Access

Over the past year, our mobile food pantry program has continued to grow as a vital extension of our commitment to serve neighbors who face barriers to accessing traditional food assistance. For individuals and families living in food deserts, or for those navigating transportation and mobility challenges, reaching a fixed pantry location is often not feasible. By bringing food directly into communities, we can close that gap in a way that is both practical and responsive to the realities faced by many of our neighbors.

Across central and eastern North Carolina, our regional offices have adapted the mobile pantry model to meet local needs. In Robbins, the Fayetteville regional office conducts a distribution at St. Juan Diego parish that serves a largely immigrant population in an area marked by rural poverty and limited access to support services. The consistency of this distribution has helped establish a reliable source of nutrition in a community where few alternatives exist.

In Raleigh and Wilmington, we have incorporated mobile distributions into communities where access to fresh food is shaped by transportation challenges and proximity to traditional pantry locations. While many of our offices frequently encounter rural isolation, these regions illustrate that barriers to access are not limited to rural areas. In certain neighborhoods, even relatively short distances to a food pantry can become difficult to manage without reliable transportation, particularly when food must be carried home. Catholic Parish Outreach and the Cape Fear regional office help address these challenges by bringing food directly into the communities they serve.

By meeting people where they are, these programs help ensure that access to food is not determined by distance, mobility, or circumstance. This work has strengthened connections within communities, supported the health and stability of vulnerable populations, and reinforced our commitment to providing help and creating hope for our neighbors.

Our New Bern regional office has prioritized outreach to seniors through distributions held at a local senior day center. This approach recognizes additional barriers that often accompany aging, including reduced mobility and reliance on others for transportation. By coordinating food distribution with an existing support network, the program ensures that seniors receive consistent access to nutritious food without adding complexity to their routines or those of their caregivers.

Our partnership with the Albemarle Food Bank supports a mobile distribution in Martin County as part of the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Martin County is among the most economically challenged areas in North Carolina, and many older residents face challenges which limit access to grocery stores. As Lisa Higgins, Food Distribution Specialist, notes, “Many of our seniors are on a fixed income so when a neighbor receives a CSFP box, it can help put extra money into their budget to purchase medicines or pay a utility bill.”



7TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Community Unites to “Drive Out Hunger”

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh celebrated the community and the success of the 7th Annual Drive Out Hunger golf outing, held at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary. The event raised over \$80,000 and supports the organization’s five food pantries across central and eastern North Carolina in Durham, Raleigh, Greenville, Fayetteville, and Wilmington.

Lisa Perkins, CEO of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh, expressed her gratitude for the overwhelming support from participants. “Knowing that nearly 200 golfers came together to raise awareness and funds for the five food pantries throughout the Diocese of Raleigh is truly inspirational. I’m extremely grateful to each of you for sharing your time, enthusiasm, and resources as we further the mission of Catholic Charities here today,” said Perkins.

One golfer, new to the tournament this year, said it was the first time he’d stepped on a golf course this year. Mark Prokop said, “I figured now’s the perfect time and these are the things that God leads me to go do.”

The Drive Out Hunger golf outing has become a signature event for Catholic Charities, featuring a Captain’s Choice Tournament format that encourages camaraderie and friendly competition.

Golfers enjoyed a light breakfast at check-in, boxed lunches on the course, and a cocktail reception following the tournament, making the day enjoyable and impactful.

The event fosters a sense of community and shared purpose said Catholic Diocese of Raleigh Bishop Luis Zarama. “It’s a good event to be together, and have fun together, but at the same time, it’s service with people giving very generously to feed people who are hungry. The beautiful lesson of all of this is service is fun.”

As Catholic Charities continues to serve over 73,000 families each year through its traditional, choice, and mobile food pantries, the funds raised at this year’s golf outing will help the most vulnerable members of our communities receive the support they need.

The success of the 7th Annual Drive Out Hunger golf outing is a testament to the power of community and the shared commitment to the fight against hunger.



FAYETTEVILLE MARKSMEN AND CATHOLIC CHARITIES

A Season to Remember

The Fayetteville Marksmen and Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh joined forces during the 2024–2025 hockey season to support families and individuals facing food insecurity across the Fayetteville region. Through a season-long partnership, the Marksmen helped raise awareness and critical funding for Catholic Charities programs serving vulnerable neighbors throughout the community.

As part of the collaboration, Catholic Charities was selected as the beneficiary of the Marksmen’s “Community Assist Program,” an initiative designed to highlight local nonprofit organizations and connect fans with meaningful causes. Throughout the season, the partnership included special recognition events, promotional opportunities, and community engagement efforts aimed at encouraging support for hunger relief and family services.

One of the highlights of the partnership was the team’s “Hockey Fights Hunger” game night, where fans were invited to bring nonperishable food donations to support local pantry efforts. The event created an opportunity for families, hockey fans, and community supporters to come together around a shared mission of caring for neighbors in need.

Staff from Catholic Charities were present during games and events to share information about available services and the growing demand for assistance in the Fayetteville area. The partnership also gave Catholic Charities an opportunity to reach new audiences and strengthen community awareness of its mission and programs.

Leaders from both organizations expressed appreciation for the collaboration and the positive response from the community. The partnership reflected a shared commitment to service and demonstrated how local organizations can work together to create meaningful impact for families facing hardship.

As demand for food assistance and support services continues to grow, partnerships like this one play an important role in expanding outreach and building stronger community connections. Through the support of organizations such as the Fayetteville Marksmen, Catholic Charities remains able to provide compassionate assistance to individuals and families across central and eastern North Carolina.



13TH ANNUAL CPO PIG PICKIN' & OPEN HOUSE

Bringing Community Together with BBQ

On Friday, April 26, 2025, Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) Food Pantry in Raleigh hosted its 13th Annual Pig Pickin' & Open House, welcoming hundreds of guests for an afternoon of food, fellowship, and fundraising. Guests enjoyed a festive atmosphere filled with barbecue, live bluegrass music, a bake sale, and a raffle all in support of CPO's mission to feed and serve neighbors in need.

What began as a simple open house to introduce the community to CPO's services has grown into a beloved annual tradition. The event originated 13 years ago with the goal of creating awareness and connection. After a successful first year, it became clear that this gathering was not only a chance to build community, but also a valuable fundraising opportunity. Today, it continues to bring people together to "pig out to feed people."

This year's event drew strong attendance, with 384 tickets sold and 354 meals served onsite. Guests enjoyed pork BBQ, beef hot dogs, side dishes, cold drinks, and a large assortment of homemade baked goods. Attendees praised both the food and the atmosphere, with several guests

specifically highlighting the live music and bake sale presentations. In keeping with CPO's mission of service, all leftover food was donated to the Wilmington Street Men's Shelter to support individuals experiencing homelessness.

The event was made possible through the collaboration of CPO staff, the Cathedral Knights of Columbus, members of the CPO Resource Committee, and numerous volunteers. Special recognition was given to Chef Chris Weir for preparing the barbecue and to Christa Ritchie for coordinating the event décor and atmosphere. Months of planning and volunteer support helped create a welcoming, family-friendly environment for attendees.

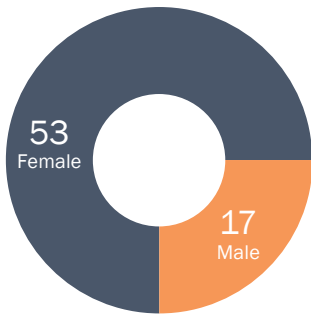
In total, the Pig Pickin' raised approximately \$30,000 to support CPO's food pantry operations as demand for food assistance continues to grow. In March 2025 alone, CPO served more than 13,000 individuals. Organizers expressed hope that the event will continue to grow in the years ahead while strengthening community support for neighbors facing food insecurity.



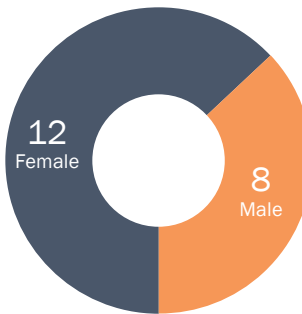
Our Diversity

Gender Diversity

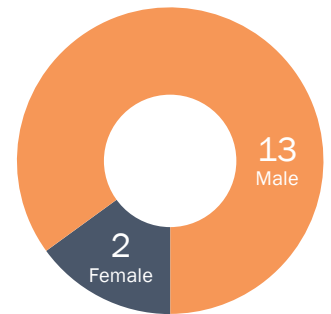
ALL STAFF



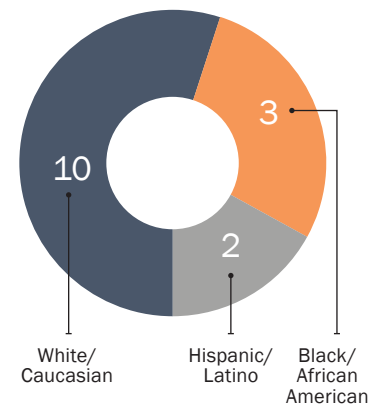
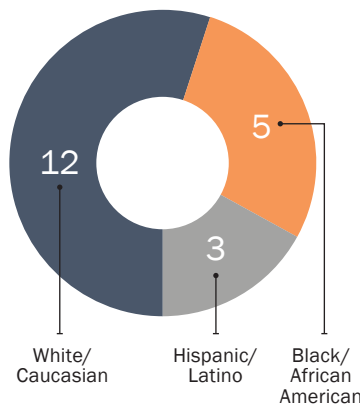
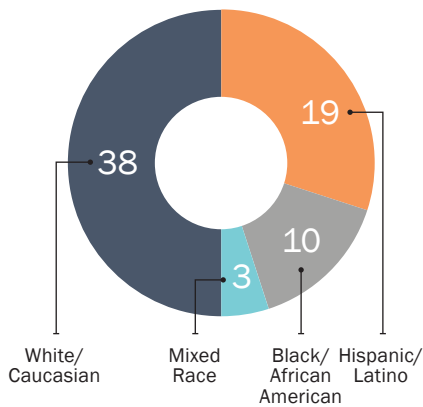
AGENCY LEADERSHIP



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Racial Diversity



Office Locations

Albemarle Regional Office

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

Cape Fear Regional Office

(910) 251-8130
4280 US Highway 421 N., Suite 1100
Wilmington, NC 28401

The Harrelson Center
20 N 4th St.
Wilmington, NC 28401

Durham Community Food Pantry & Reverend Joseph G. Vetter Family Enrichment Center

(919) 286-1964
2020 Chapel Hill Rd., Suite 30
Durham, NC 27707

Fayetteville Regional Office

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

New Bern Regional Office

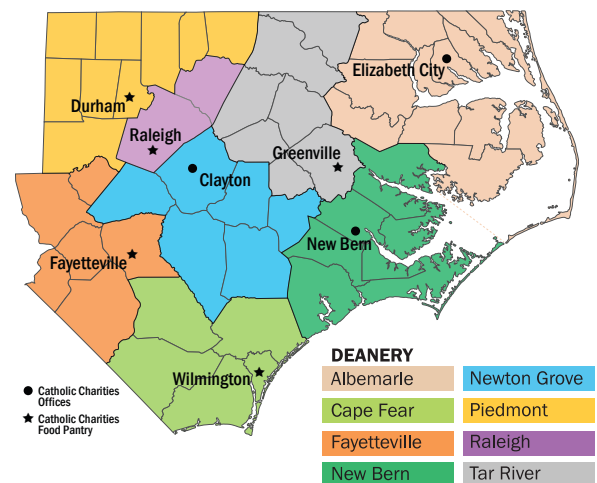
(252) 638-2188
502 Middle St.
New Bern, NC 28563

Raleigh Regional Office

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

Tar River Regional Office

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



Catholic Charities
of the Diocese of Raleigh

*Locations as of 6/30/2025.