

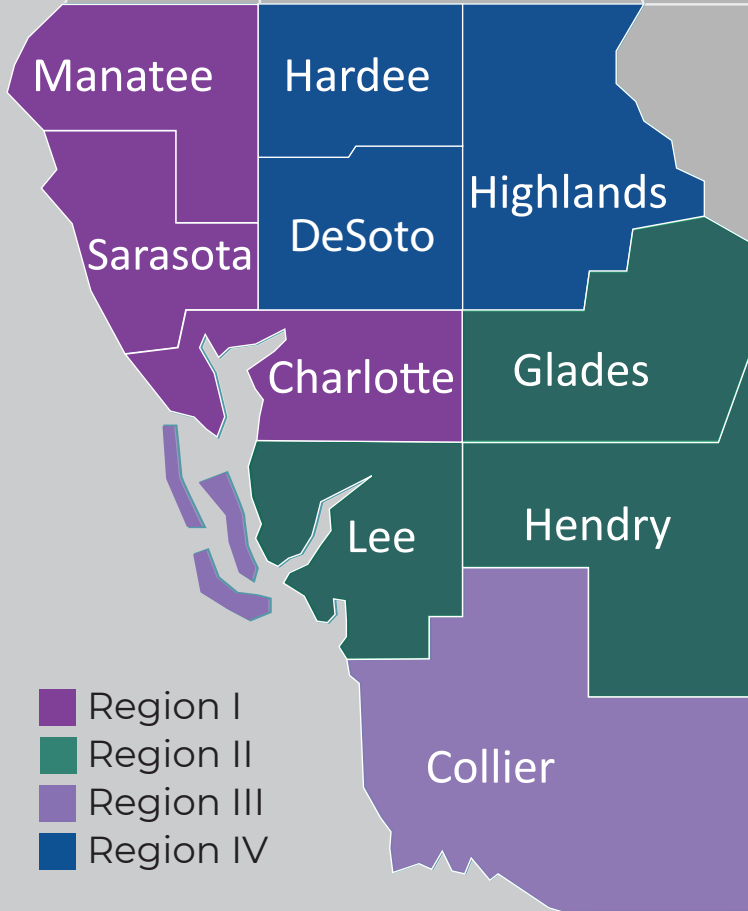


**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**Fiscal Year 2024**



Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.

## STATS AND DEMOGRAPHICS



- Region I
- Region II
- Region III
- Region IV

**101**

Staff Members

**224**

Volunteers

**99,908**

Services Provided

**34**

Programs

**10**

Counties

**10,000**

Square Miles

**21**

Sites

## MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with deep gratitude and admiration for the collective efforts that have advanced our mission at Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice. This past year has been a testament to our unwavering commitment to “Providing Help, Creating Hope, and Serving All.” The challenges and opportunities we encountered this year during the hurricane season only strengthened our resolve to share God’s love through service to those in need.

Across Southwest Florida, we focused on six key priorities that reflect the needs of our community and our mission to carry out the corporal works of mercy. By leveraging partnerships and a robust food distribution network, we addressed food insecurity and provided sustainable solutions to those experiencing hunger. Our housing programs, among the most impactful for low-income families in the region, opened doors to safe, affordable homes for countless families. For 28 years, Our Mother’s House has faithfully upheld its mission to support homeless mothers and their children in need. Additionally, in response to the pervasive issue of human trafficking, we established a comprehensive system of care, offering survivors housing, trauma-informed counseling, and essential support.

Our work also encompasses behavioral health services, offering mental health counseling that empowers individuals to achieve stability and self-sufficiency. Through our immigration support services, we guide individuals as they navigate legal pathways to residency and citizenship. Additionally, our youth development programs offer young people opportunities to grow, learn, and thrive, preparing them to lead us into the future.

None of this would be possible without the pillars of our organization: our donors, whose generosity forms the foundation of all we accomplish; our dedicated staff and volunteers, who amplify our mission with their skills and compassion; and most importantly, those we serve, who remain at the heart of our purpose, inspiring us daily to respond to their unique needs.

As you read this Annual Report, know that every number and every story reflects Christ’s call to serve and the inherent role each of us plays in God’s plan. On behalf of Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice, thank you. Your faith, prayers, and generosity uplift and guide our mission. “I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel ...”

– Philippians 1:3-5

With gratitude and prayers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris M. Root". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Christopher M. Root  
Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane,  
**Bishop**

Rev. Msgr. Stephen  
McNamara,  
**Vicar General**

Dr. Volodymyr Smeryk,  
**Chancellor**

Christopher M. Root,  
**Chief Executive Officer**

### **2023-2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Rita Cavuoto, Chair  
Robert Farnham, Vice-Chair  
Brenda Dolan, Treasurer

### **BOARD**

Domenico Cricchio  
Paul Gulbrandsen  
Sarah Landman  
Joseph Mallof

“

At Our Mother's House, I've learned skills I never had the chance to develop like how to manage my time, set goals, and provide for my children. With their support, I finally feel capable of creating a bright future for us.

— Marta

”



# HOUSING SITES

461

Parents & Children at Casa San Juan Bosco

89

Seniors at St. John Paul II

85

Mothers & Children at Our Mother's House

70

People Housed at Family Haven

56

Low-Income Individuals & Families at Marion Manor

27

Low-Income Parents & Children at St. Dominic

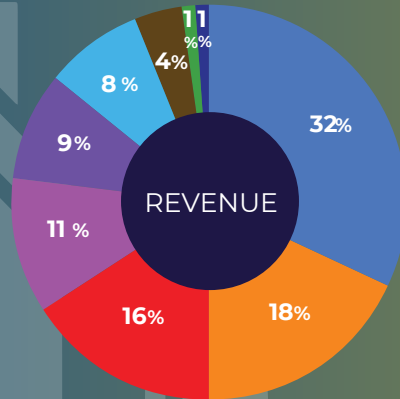
30

Parents & Children at St. Monica

8

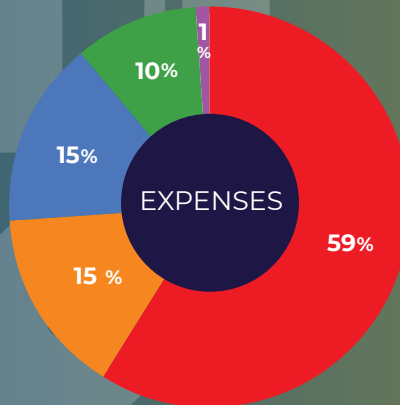
Vulnerable Residents at Casa San Jose

# FISCAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024



- REVENUE**
- 32% Government Grants - \$ 4,578,272
  - 18% Catholic & Other Organizations - \$2,598,553
  - 16% Contributions - \$2,319,480
  - 11% Diocese of Venice - \$1,486,140
  - 9% Foundations - \$1,089,035
  - 8% Special Events - \$1,130,159
  - 4% Program Service Fees - \$581,375
  - 1% United Way & Other Grants - \$192,876
  - 1% All Other - \$179,475

**Total Revenue - \$14,155,365**



- EXPENSES**
- 59% Direct Assistance & Social Services - \$9,635,606\*
  - 15% Behavioral Health & Education - \$2,512,073
  - 15% Family Reunification Services - \$2,385,154
  - 10% Management & General - \$1,725,939
  - 1% Fundraising - \$146,686

**Total Expenses - \$16,405,458**

**\* INCLUDES FUNDS EXPENSED FROM PRIOR FISCAL YEAR**

Hurricane Ian relief restricted funds from FY 2023 - \$2,250,093

# FISCAL YEAR 2024 SUPPORT SERVICES



**39,424**

Pantry and Food Services  
Provided to Individuals



**4,180,667**

Dollars of Direct  
Assistance Provided



**4,597**

Behavioral Health  
Services Provided



**5,267**

Services for Victims  
of Human Trafficking



**1,268**

Families, Children,  
and Individuals Housed



**26,471**

Calls for Help



**10,546**

Education Services for  
Children and Adults



**891**

Families Accessed  
Supplemental  
Nutrition Benefits



**1,182**

Immigration  
Services Provided



**10,262**

Services to Seniors

# SUCCESS STORY

In December 2020, after her third heart attack, Sara Gonzalez was referred by United Way to Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice (CCDOV) for assistance through their Senior Support Program. Her case manager, Celeste Medina, responded immediately, providing food, hygiene supplies, and coordinating with Lee County Housing Authority to secure a safer living arrangement. Within a month, Mrs. Gonzalez was moved from her substandard trailer home to a senior apartment.

Through the challenges of COVID-19 and Hurricane Ian, CCDOV continued supporting her with essential resources—wellness calls, home visits, and even a medical bed. When Mrs. Gonzalez suffered a serious fall, her new case manager, Maria Vargas, quickly addressed her needs with non-slip mats, a shower chair, and referrals to help secure a new bed for her recovery. As she awaits surgery, Mrs. Gonzalez rests assured, knowing CCDOV will stand by her with compassionate support, just as they do for so many seniors in need.



# SIX PRIORITIES

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Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice, Inc. is committed to serving our communities. To fulfill this, we've structured our organization around six priorities to focus on our goals and the people we serve.

## 1. Food Security

Through strategic partnerships across Southwest Florida, we extend the reach of our food distribution network to deliver sustainable, impactful solutions for individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.

## 2. Housing

As a leading provider of low-income housing in Southwest Florida, we develop safe, sustainable, and affordable housing solutions to support families in need. We achieve this through Catholic Charities-owned properties and collaborations with local partners.

## 3. Anti-Human Trafficking

Southwest Florida ranks among the highest regions in the nation for incidents of human trafficking. In response, we have built an innovative and comprehensive system of care that includes direct assistance, trauma-informed counseling, and safe housing for victims. Our approach supports both intervention and recovery to protect and empower survivors.

## 4. Behavioral Health

Our behavioral health services offer culturally sensitive, outpatient mental health therapy. By partnering with schools and licensed mental health professionals, we provide accessible care that supports individuals on their path to mental stability and self-sufficiency.

## 5. Immigration

With our community's growth, we are equipped to support individuals seeking a legal path to residency or citizenship. Our Department of Justice Certified staff offer services in family reunification, work authorization, residency adjustments, consular processing, and U.S. citizenship to promote successful integration into the community.

## 6. Youth Development

At Catholic Charities, we believe children carry the promise of the future. Our programs engage youth intentionally and constructively, emphasizing their strengths and potential. We offer after-school and summer reading programs for students in kindergarten through grade 12, providing positive experiences and valuable learning opportunities.





# THE FOUR PILLARS OF OUR ORGANIZATION

Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice, Inc. is dedicated to offering comprehensive support to individuals throughout Southwest Florida. Our mission is to help people overcome challenges, fostering self-sufficiency and well-being, regardless of race, nationality, or faith. With over 21 sites—including offices, housing developments, and outreach services—we are committed to addressing the increasing needs of vulnerable populations in our region.

## 1. Donors

Our donors are the foundation of our organization, enabling us to realize our mission of “Providing Help, Creating Hope, and Serving All.” Their generosity powers the programs and services that make a difference in individuals’ lives.

## 2. Staff

Our committed staff members bring a wealth of diverse skills and a shared dedication to serving and uplifting others. Their expertise and teamwork allow us to pursue our mission with a unified and compassionate approach.

## 3. Those We Serve

We prioritize understanding the unique needs of those we serve, ensuring that our support addresses challenges such as homelessness, food insecurity, mental health issues, human trafficking, and disaster recovery.

## 4. Volunteers

Volunteers are essential advocates for our mission, offering their time and skills to broaden our impact. We rely on their dedication to strengthen our services and extend our reach to help even more individuals and families.



## MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

**“They are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.” – Luke 8:15**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the year 2024 draws to a close, I take this opportunity to reflect, with both gratitude and humility, on the many challenges and blessings we have shared together. In the wake of successive hurricanes, our community has faced great adversity, testing our resilience. Yet through these trials, a profound strength has emerged—rooted in faith and a deep commitment to the Gospel to serve those in need.

Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice has responded to these recent catastrophic storms with unwavering dedication and compassion, providing not only immediate emergency aid but also essential services that reflect the heart of its mission. Catholic Charities' efforts embody Christ's love in every act of service. Sincere appreciation is extended to the donors, volunteers, and staff whose generous support has enabled these efforts, even as they faced their own challenges.

Scripture teaches that perseverance yields great rewards, even amidst the most difficult circumstances. With steadfast faith and resilience, communities continue to rebuild and find healing. As we look ahead, may all be filled with peace and assurance, knowing that God's presence remains in every moment and in every circumstance.

This year's Annual Report not only presents the numbers but also highlights the stories behind them—stories of hope restored and lives transformed. These human stories represent the fruits of your generosity and the unwavering commitment of Catholic Charities.

Moving forward, may all remain united in the Catholic call to charity and compassion. May God's abundant blessings be upon you and your family for your continued support, and together may we remain steadfast in our mission to serve. Please be assured of my continued prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



+ Frank J. Dewane,  
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida



## SERVICE LOCATIONS

Arcadia

Boca Grande

Bonita Springs

Bradenton

Clewiston

Fort Myers

Immokalee

Naples

North Port

Port Charlotte

Sarasota

Venice

Wauchula

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Adult Education

Affordable Housing

After-School Programs

Anti-Human Trafficking Assistance

Career Development & Empowerment

Case Management

Clothing Distribution

Counseling Services

Disaster Response & Recovery

Early Learning Centers

Emergency Shelter

English Classes

Farm Worker Housing

Financial Assistance

Homeless Prevention

Housing for Homeless Families

Immigration Services

Infant/Toddler Supplies

Pantry & Food Assistance

Rapid-Rehousing

Residential Program for  
Mothers & Children

Senior Housing

Senior Services

Soup Kitchen

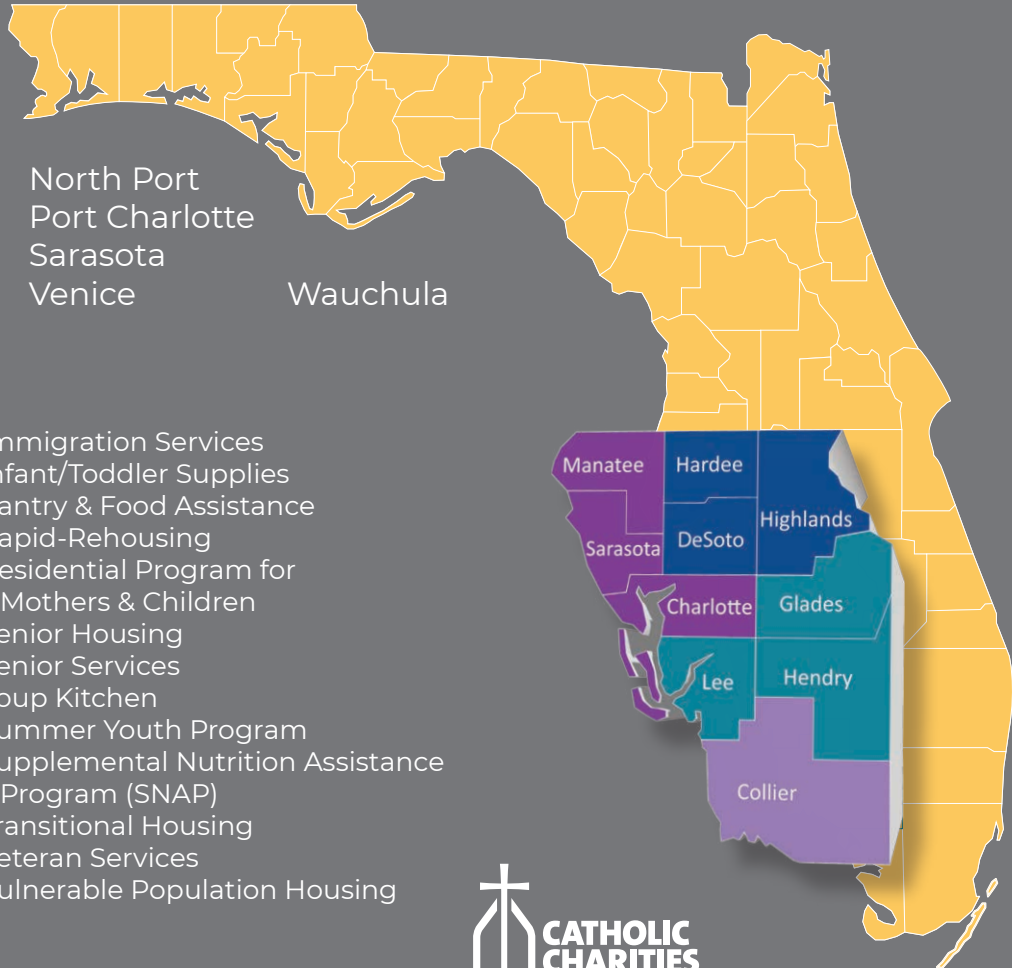
Summer Youth Program

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
Program (SNAP)

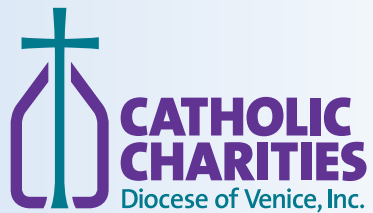
Transitional Housing

Veteran Services

Vulnerable Population Housing



1000 Pinebrook Road  
Venice, FL 34285  
941-486-4700



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Venice, FL 34285

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