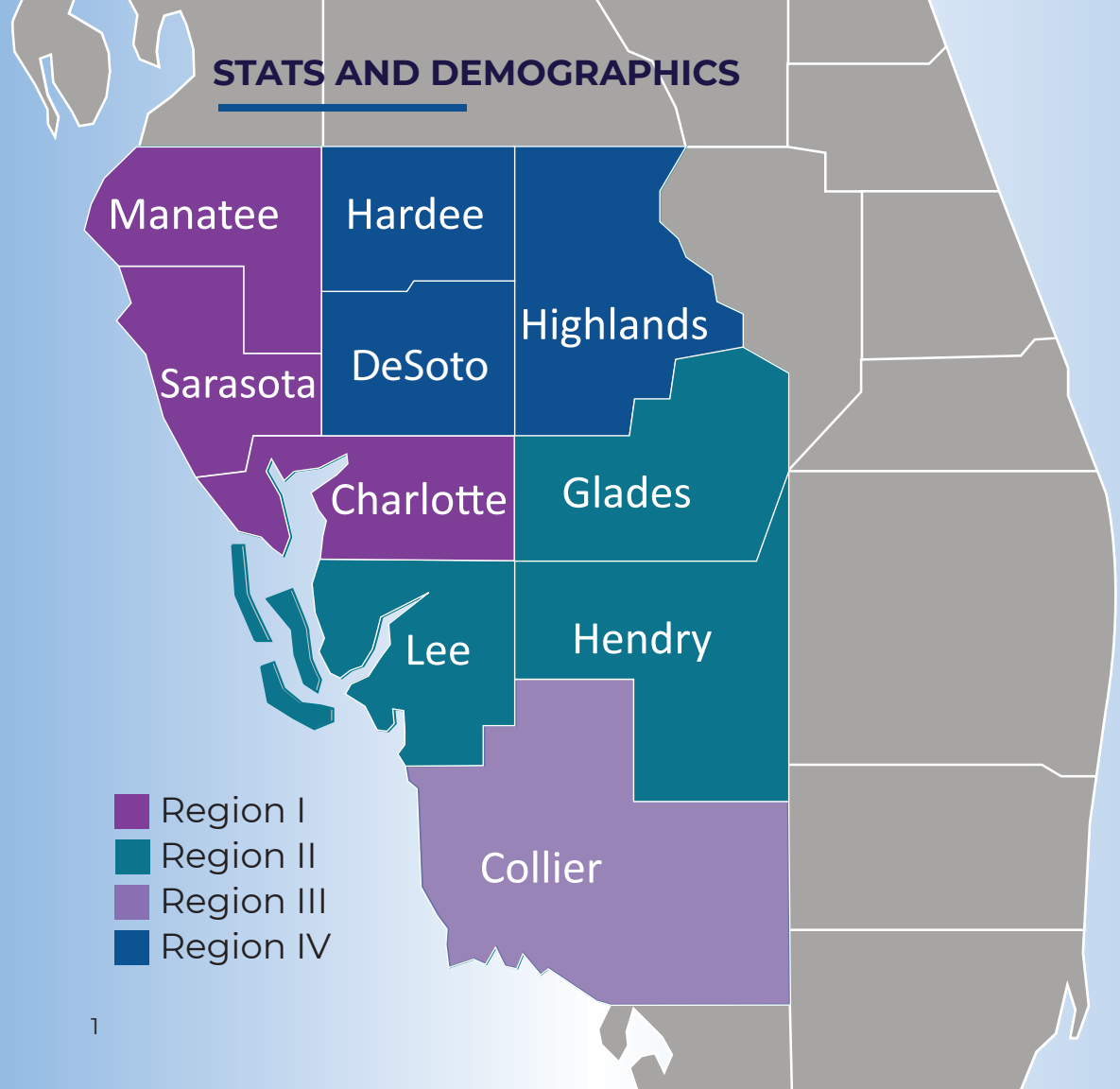


ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2026

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.

STATS AND DEMOGRAPHICS



78
Staff Members

239
Volunteers

239,351
Services Provided

31
Programs

10
Counties

10,000
Square Miles

21
Sites

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



Dear Friend in Christ,

As I reflect on the past year I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside so many dedicated individuals who share a commitment to bringing Christ's love to those most in need. Through the collective efforts of our donors, volunteers, parish partners, community supporters, Board of Directors, and staff, Catholic Charities continued to provide help and create hope for thousands of individuals and families throughout our communities.

This year brought both challenges and opportunities. Across our region, many families struggled with rising housing costs, food insecurity, financial instability, mental health concerns, and the ongoing effects of natural disasters. The needs around us remain significant, touching every county, every neighborhood, and every demographic. Yet amid these challenges, we witnessed the extraordinary power of compassion in action.

Thanks to your generosity and support, Catholic Charities responded to over 230,000 requests for help across a broad range of programs and services. Individuals and families received meals at our soup kitchen, food from our pantries, safe housing, financial assistance, counseling and behavioral health services, and critical support following disasters. Behind every number is a person, a family, and a story of hope renewed.

One of our greatest strengths continues to be our ability to respond wherever needs emerge. Throughout the year, we made meaningful progress toward our long-term strategic priorities. We strengthened partnerships with parishes and community organizations, expanded opportunities for volunteers to engage in service, and enhanced programs designed to address the root causes of poverty and instability. We remain committed not only to meeting immediate needs but also to helping individuals and families build pathways toward greater self-sufficiency and lasting stability.

The impact reflected in this report belongs to all of us. It is made possible by the faithful donor, the volunteer who offers time and talent, the parish that embraces a ministry of service, the foundation that invests in our mission, and the staff member who approaches each day with compassion and dedication. Together, we are living the Gospel call to serve our neighbors and accompany those who are most vulnerable.

Thank you for your trust, generosity, and commitment to our mission. Your support changes lives every day. Together, we are building stronger communities and sharing the love of Christ with all those we serve.

May God continue to bless you and your families.

In Christ's Peace,

Chris M. Root

Christopher M. Root
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice, Inc.

Leadership

Most Reverend Emilio E. Biosca, O.F.M.Cap, **Bishop**

Very Reverend David M. Vidal, V.G., Ph.D., **Vicar General**

Msgr. Robert R. Cannon, **Chancellor**

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

2025-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Farnham, Chair
Sarah Landman, Vice-Chair
Brenda Dolan, Treasurer
Michele Tromble, Secretary

BOARD

Domenico Cricchio
Heather Groening
Paul Gulbrandsen
Rita Cavuoto, Emeritus Chair



“I cannot exaggerate how important the homeless program here at Catholic Charities has been. I did not intend to become homeless, but it happens. Judy Sullivan Family Resource Center was a lifesaver. Everything I am wearing, from my haircut to my shoes is because of these people. Catholic Charities is an anchor in this community for so many people.”
-James, recipient of services at Judy Sullivan Family Resource Center”

HOUSING SERVICES

FISCAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026

204
Individuals assisted through Rapid-Rehousing

398
Parents & Children at Casa San Juan Bosco

79
Seniors at St. John Paul II

77
Mothers & Children at Our Mother's House

66
People Housed at Family Haven

46
Low-Income Individuals & Families at Marion Manor

37
Youths served through Youth Homeless Demonstration Project

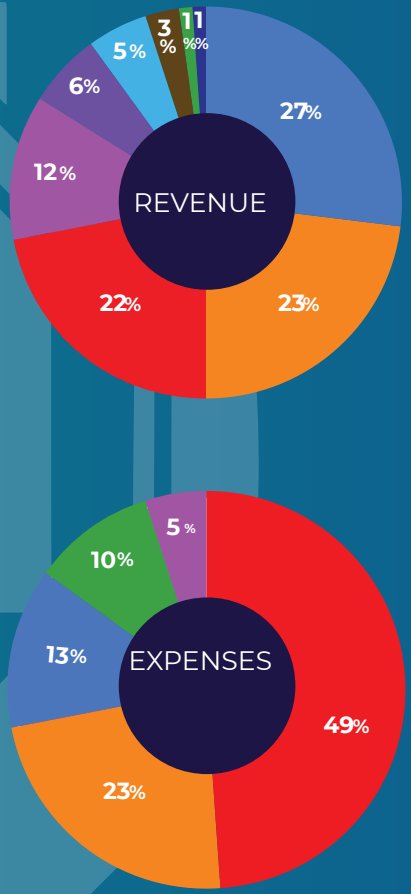
25
Individuals assisted through Emergency Solutions Grant Manatee

18
Low-Income Parents & Children at St. Dominic

18
Parents & Children at St. Monica

17
People Housed at New Paradigm

12
Vulnerable Residents at Casa San Jose



REVENUE

27%	Government Grants - $3,627,347
23%	Contributions - $2,954,207
22%	Foundations - $2,952,341
12%	Diocese of Venice - $1,609,079
6%	Special Events - $838,710
5%	Catholic & Other Organizations - $630,702
3%	Program Service Fees - $348,581
1%	United Way & Other Grants - $186,059
1%	All Other - $175,283

Total Revenue - $13,322,309

EXPENSES

49%	Direct Assistance & Social Services - $7,053,658
23%	Family Reunification Services - $3,344,554
13%	Behavioral Health & Education - $1,900,489
10%	Administrative - $1,464,970
5%	Fundraising - $621,280

Total Expenses - $14,384,951

FISCAL YEAR 2026 SUPPORT SERVICES



87,987
Pantry and Food Services Provided to Individuals

$3,390,591
Dollars of Direct Assistance Provided

4,255
Behavioral Health Services Provided

15,255
Services for Victims of Human Trafficking

997
Families, Children, and Individuals Housed

2,303
Disaster Response Clients Served

20,891
Calls for Help

50,612
Education Services for Children and Adults

1,028
Families Accessed Supplemental Nutrition Benefits

1,675
Immigration Services Provided

15,149
Services to Seniors

SUCCESS STORY

BRINGING RELIEF WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

When Amanda, a single mother of two young children, ages 8 and 4, lost her job, the financial strain quickly became overwhelming. Without a steady income or child support, she fell behind on her electric bill and received a disconnection notice, putting her family's home and stability at risk. That's when she turned to Catholic Charities for help. Through emergency financial assistance, we helped Amanda address her past-due electric bill and keep the lights on for her family. We also provided food assistance through our pantry services, helping ensure her children had meals on the table during an especially difficult time. By addressing both immediate needs, we helped ease the family's burden and provide a little breathing room as Amanda works toward a more stable future.



HURRICANE IAN LONG-TERM RECOVERY PROGRAM IN LEE COUNTY, CONCLUDES PROVIDING MORE THAN $3.74 MILLION IN AID TO OVER 6,000 INDIVIDUALS

RECOVERY IN ACTION

6,223
Disaster Recovery Individuals Assisted

$3.7 million
In Aid Provided

205
Storm Damaged Houses Repaired

149
Houses Replaced

9
Accessibility Upgrades Completed

Catholic Charities served as the lead agency and co-funder of the LTRG, working in partnership with the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the CDBG-DR program, and numerous nonprofit, faith-based and community organizations.

SUCCESS STORY

REBUILDING MORE THAN A HOME: RESTORING HOPE AFTER THE STORMS

After the storms passed, the damage didn't.

An elderly Sarasota woman and her disabled son were left in a severely damaged home after Hurricane Ian—then hit again by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Contractor fraud made things worse, leaving them without basic necessities for months.

Then they found help. Through Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice Disaster Program, their home was rebuilt piece by piece—new roof, safe plumbing, restored structure, and even a donated washer and dryer.

Today, their home is safer. One final need remains—a working HVAC system—but hope is being restored.

Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice Disaster Response Team is dedicated to providing immediate assistance and long-term support to individuals and communities affected by natural disasters. Our program encompasses a wide range of services, including emergency relief, food and water distribution, emotional support, and helping individuals navigate the complex process of recovery and rebuilding.



SIX PRIORITIES

Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice, Inc. is committed to serving communities across Southwest Florida. To fulfill this mission, the organization is structured around six key priorities that guide its goals and service to those in need.

1. Food Security

By building strategic partnerships across Southwest Florida, Catholic Charities strengthens its food distribution network to deliver sustainable, impactful support to 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, Catholic Charities has established 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

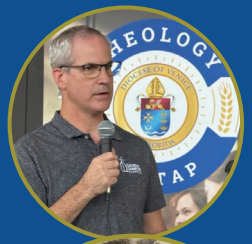
Catholic Charities behavioral health services offer culturally sensitive, outpatient mental health therapy. By partnering with schools and Catholic Charities licensed mental health professionals, we provide accessible care that supports children and adults on their path to mental stability and self-sufficiency.

5. Immigration

As Southwest Florida continues to grow, Catholic Charities supports individuals pursuing legal residency or citizenship through the expertise of Department of Justice–certified staff, offering assistance with family reunification, work authorization, residency adjustments, consular processing, and U.S. citizenship applications to foster successful community integration.

6. Youth Development

Catholic Charities believes that children carry the promise of the future. Its youth programs engage young people intentionally and constructively, emphasizing their strengths and potential. After-school and summer reading programs serve students from 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. The 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—the organization addresses the growing needs of vulnerable populations across the region.

1. Donors

Donors are the foundation of our organization, enabling us to realize the mission of "Providing Help, Creating Hope, and Serving All." Your generosity powers the programs and services that make a difference in individuals' lives.

2. Staff

Staff members at Catholic Charities bring a wealth of diverse skills and a shared dedication to serving and uplifting others. Their expertise and collaborative approach enable the organization to fulfill its mission with unity and compassion.

3. Those We Serve

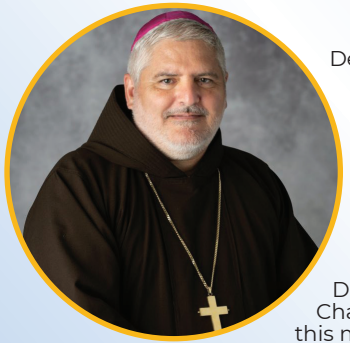
Catholic Charities prioritizes understanding the unique needs of the individuals it serves, ensuring that support addresses challenges such as homelessness, food insecurity, mental health issues, human trafficking, and disaster recovery.

4. Volunteers

Volunteers are essential advocates for the Catholic Charities mission, offering their time and skills to broaden our impact. Their dedication strengthens the services we provide and extends its reach to help even more individuals and families.



MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace and goodness!

In the relatively short time that I have been blessed to serve as your bishop, I have been inspired by the impact of the charitable ministry of the Diocese of Venice through Catholic Charities. Our Catholic faith calls us to recognize the God-given dignity of every human person and to respond with compassion to those in need. It is a blessing to witness this mission being lived so generously and faithfully throughout our diocese.

During my pastoral visits to all the parishes and schools, I have seen first-hand the many ways Catholic Charities brings the love and mercy of Christ to life. Through acts of kindness, generosity, and selfless service, this ministry reaches many people in moments of great need, offering comfort, encouragement, and renewed hope. The work of Catholic Charities reflects a profound truth at the heart of our Catholic faith, naturally uniting doctrine, and service. The great St. John Chrysostom wrote:

"Of what use is it to weigh down Christ's altar with golden chalices, when he himself is dying of hunger? First, fill him when he is hungry; then use the means you have left to adorn his altar... What is the use of providing the altar with cloths woven of gold thread, and not providing Christ himself with the clothes he needs? What profit is there in that?"
(Homilies on the Gospel of Matthew, Homily 50, 4).

He further teaches that the poor are the true treasure of the Church, entrusted to us as an opportunity to encounter Christ. What a beautiful reminder that our ministry to those in need is an essential element of our creed.

The mission of Catholic Charities is possible with the remarkable generosity and dedication of our employees, volunteers, donors, parish communities, and community partners. I offer my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. Your willingness to share your time, resources, and love makes this ministry possible.

May you find joy in recognizing Christ in those whom you serve and may those you encounter experience His loving presence through you. Be assured of my prayers and gratitude as we continue this mission that begins at the Sacred Altar, through catechetical instruction, bearing the fruit of charity, mercy, compassion, and hope throughout the Diocese of Venice.

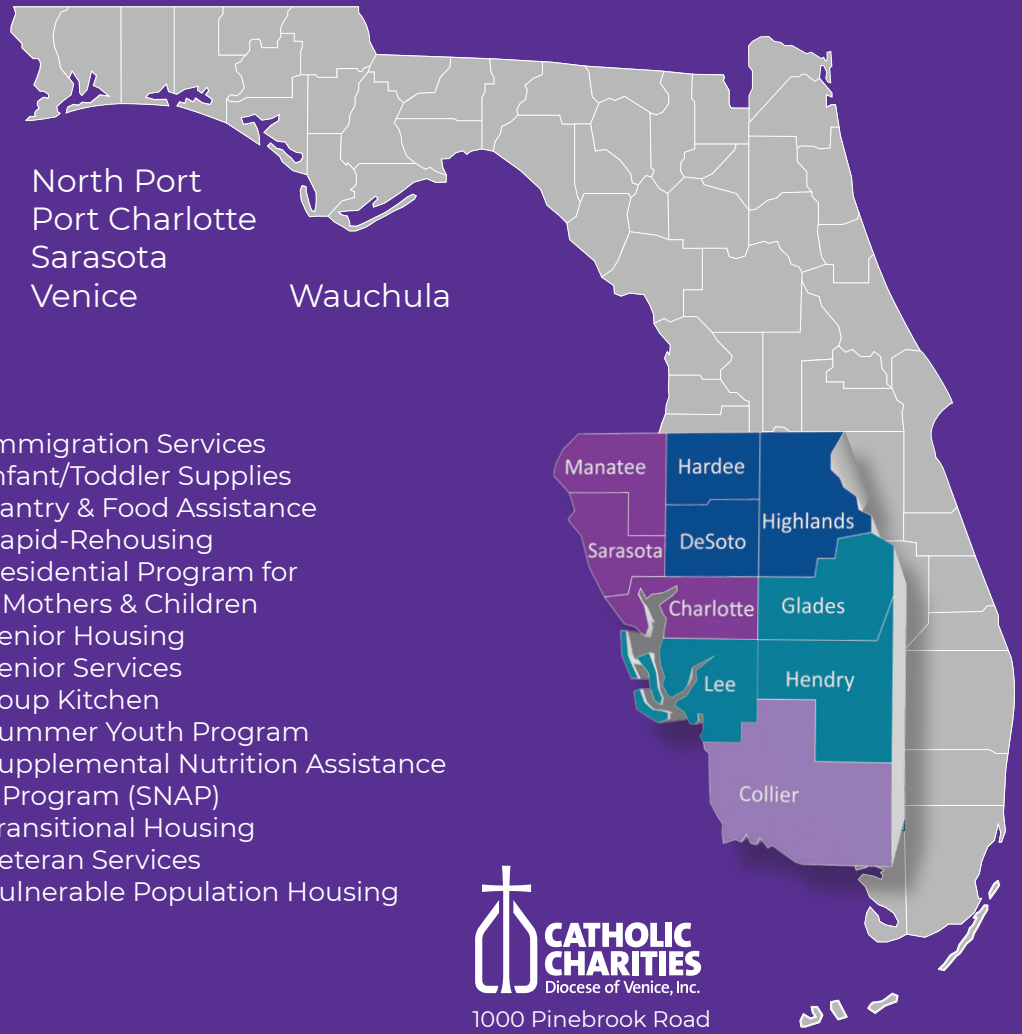
May the Lord bless you and your families abundantly.

Faithfully in Christ,

+ Emilio Biosca, O.F.M.Cap.
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

CHARITY NAVIGATOR
★★★★
Four Star Charity

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Diocese of Venice, Inc.

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

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