

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

"Now this is the message that we have heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all." - John 1:5

December 5, 2025

Dear Friend in Christ,

As preparations are made to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we are reminded that Christmas is a season of light, hope, and love. Yet for many of our neighbors, this holy season is filled with worry — about keeping food on the table, paying rent, or finding warmth and safety for their families.

This year, the need in our community has grown more than ever. Rising costs of food, housing, and utilities are forcing many families — some for the first time — to seek help. Every day, Catholic Charities is answering their calls, offering meals to the hungry, shelter to the homeless, and comfort to those who feel forgotten.

But we cannot do this sacred work without you. Together this year, we have been able to provide critical services to those in the most need, which included:

- **3.7 million in financial assistance** to help families stabilize and pay **past-due bills**, including **rent, utilities, and other essential expenses**;
- **155,000 individuals assisted** across 10 counties;
- **Housing for over 1,200** individuals and families, including children;
- **95,019 pantry services and over 25,000 meals through our soup kitchen**, ensuring families remain fed and no child goes to bed hungry;
- **Answered nearly 19,000 calls for help**;

Your generosity makes Christ's love visible. With your gift this Christmas:

- A struggling parent will have groceries to feed their children.
- A senior living alone will receive a warm meal and companionship.
- A family facing eviction will find shelter and hope for a new beginning.

Your compassion reminds our neighbors that they are not alone — that God is with them through the care of people like you.

Looking ahead to the coming year, **we know the calls for help will continue to grow**. Your generosity makes it possible for us to say "yes" when a family has nowhere else to turn. Please help us meet this rising need — so that no one is left without hope, comfort, or care this Christmas and beyond.

Together, we can ensure that the light of Christ shines ever brighter in the darkest places. With your Christmas gift, you help us answer His call to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and comfort the weary. Thank you for standing with us to bring light and hope where it is most needed.

May the Lord bless you abundantly this Christmas and throughout the New Year, filling your heart with His peace, joy, and everlasting light.

With gratitude and blessings,

Chris M. Root

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

Rita Cavuoto

Rita Cavuoto, Chair
Board of Directors



From Darkness to Light: The Work of Catholic Charities

Last Christmas, Maria* and her two children were sleeping wherever they could, carrying the heavy wounds of escaping sex trafficking. They were scared, alone, and fighting just to survive.

Through the support of our **Behavioral Health Program** and **Human Trafficking Program**, everything began to change. With safe housing, trauma-informed care, medical support, and help for her children's education, Maria finally felt the weight begin to lift. Light slowly returned to their lives.

This Christmas, Maria is standing stronger. She's rebuilding her life, finding independence, and creating the safe, stable future her children deserve. And her children—once fearful and exhausted—are now thriving.

Your support makes stories like Maria's possible.

**Name changed for safety.*



Save a stamp, scan the code to donate.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIOCESE OF VENICE, INC.

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www.catholiccharitiesdov.org



SERVICE LOCATIONS

Arcadia

Boca Grande

Bonita Springs

Bradenton

Clewiston

Fort Myers

Immokalee

Naples

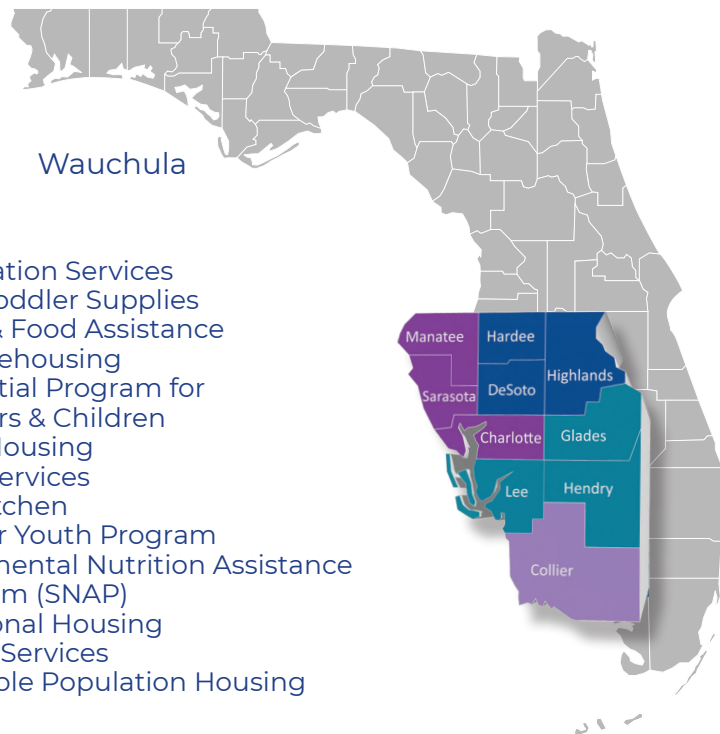
North Port

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

No matter the amount of your gift, it will make a significant difference for those who turn to us for help.
It's Easy! Here are four ways to donate:

1. Fill out the enclosed remittance envelope with your payment information, add a stamp and return via U.S. Mail to:
1000 Pinebrook Rd., Venice, FL 34285.
2. Visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org and donate online.
3. Call 941-486-4700.
4. Or, scan the QR code with the camera on your phone to donate via smart phone.



PROVIDING HELP • CREATING HOPE • SERVING ALL

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