A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

A wise man once said, make friends with change, it’s the only thing we can count on.

Early in the year, Catholic Charities started to focus on improving program designs, enhancing opportunities with grants, shifting to improved efficiencies, utilizing technology, building relationships, and refining service delivery. As COVID-19 came barreling in with a vengeance, Catholic Charities was prepared to take on the challenge of the impact of the Pandemic by prioritizing the needs in our community. We mobilized to provide food, created mental health counseling using technology and paid rent/mortgage/utility bills to keep people, who lost jobs, in their homes. Life as we knew it was altered for many who came to us for help. Catholic Charities answered the plea!

At Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice, we created a “culture of caring.” We provided the team with laptops so they could work remotely, supplied tents so staff and volunteers had shade while distributing bags of food on sizzling summer days, provided protective gear to keep everyone safe from the virus and encouraged self-care. My unwavering staff continue to provide compassionate care to all the individuals we serve.

Without a doubt, we could not serve those in need alone. We relied on our donors and volunteers to dig deep to help the tens of thousands whom we served and continue to serve. I pray you find hope and take solace in the impact you have made. Thank you for joining us in this work.

Together we are changing lives… and your support makes all the difference.

Gratefully,

Philomena Pereira, Chief Executive Officer
208,469 SERVICES PROVIDED TO INDIVIDUALS IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA IN FISCAL YEAR 2020.

Demographics

65% WOMEN

55% HISPANIC/LATINO

36% UNDER THE AGE OF 18
FISCAL YEAR 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

157,229
Pantry and Food Services Provided to Individuals

$714,532
Dollars of Direct Assistance Provided

4,478
Behavioral Health Services Provided

3,208
Services for Victims of Human Trafficking

707
Families, Children, and Individuals Housed

57,573
COVID Related Pantry and Food Services Provided to Individuals (COVID details on page 7-8)

3,981
Education Services for Children and Adults

1,514
Families Accessed Supplemental Nutrition Benefits

7,448
Services to Seniors

21
Families Resettled

61
Individuals Resettled
The Diocese of Venice and its parishes provide additional support through in-kind donations, including volunteer hours, physical space, food drives, fundraising events, and promotion of programs and services. The boards of the Catholic Charities Foundation and Catholic Charities Housing Entities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. are related entities and have separate financial reports from the one presented above.
"Our family was on the verge of homelessness until Catholic Charities stepped in and saved us. Their housing support has given my family a second chance in life and a home to call our own."

– Charline, Transitional Housing

"Our daughter was nervous about going to school, tears and all. Our experience at St. Martha’s Early Learning Center changed our life tremendously. Now she loves school, was well prepared for kindergarten and has above average test scores."

– Kenneyetta, St. Martha’s Early Learning Center

"Catholic Charities Counseling was Godsent! They helped my family open up, see things differently and gave us hope. We are so thankful for the support provided. We would not have made it without you."

– Suzanne, Family Counseling

"The Catholic Charities Empowerment Program helped me with my bills and taught me fiscal responsibility. I am now saving money and can pay my own bills. It was a true blessing for my daughter and me."

– Natalie, Empowerment Program

"The Anti-Human Trafficking Program saved my life. For the first time I feel like people believe in me. I was given a safe place to live and through counseling, learned how to love and value myself again. Thanks Catholic Charities for changing my life forever."

– Madeline, Anti-Human Trafficking Program

"The after-school and summer camp programs have helped my daughter succeed in school, be more confident in class and have new experiences. I am truly grateful for this program, which has made both our lives better."

– Yadira, Positive Youth Development Program
As we look towards the future, Catholic Charities continues to strengthen efforts, build partnerships, expand current services, and develop new programs to better serve our neighbors. Moving into 2021, we have identified programs and services vital to our community and are expanding our reach in those areas.

**Behavioral Health and Tele-Mental Health** has expanded into 13 Collier County Schools, providing behavioral health services to children. Additionally, we are looking to establish the same partnership with Lee County Schools and Catholic Schools. Behavioral Health has become a ten-county program providing care in our entire service area.

**Anti-Human Trafficking** has also become a ten-county program, currently assisting victims of sex or labor trafficking. This year we were awarded a new $500,000 grant, allowing us to expand housing options to trafficking victims to help them recover and rebuild their lives in a safe location.

**Rapid Re-Housing and Homeless Prevention** is our new arena. Catholic Charities was recently awarded $890,000 by Lee County Human and Veteran Services to provide homeless intervention services for families or persons at risk in all of Lee County. We look forward to this new chapter and are replicating this effort across all ten of our counties.

Catholic Charities has embraced change since the beginning of COVID-19 (details on page 7-8) and we are excited about the future. We look forward to growing our services and programs to fight poverty, strengthen families and build communities.
Like the Good Samaritan, Catholic Charities provides care to anyone in need.
We care for others not because they are Catholic, but because we are!

COVID-19 RESPONSE

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WAS HIT HARD BY COVID-19. To address emerging needs, Catholic Charities focused operations on increased food distribution at our food pantries, mobilized mental health staff to provide tele-mental health across all ten-counties and increased financial assistance to ensure families did not fall into homelessness.

The next page details Catholic Charities’ COVID related efforts from the onset in March through the end of June (end of Fiscal Year 2020). However, the Pandemic is not over. The effects and impact continue to cast tremendous uncertainty over our community. Catholic Charities remains resolved and committed to being here, thanks to the generous support received from county partners, foundations, donors, and volunteers who not only maintained their support during this time, but also increased their assistance to ensure lives are saved.
Here is a snapshot of how we served our communities during the Pandemic. March 24 - June 30, 2020

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION**
- 1,357,349 Pounds of food distributed
- 57,573 Related Pantry Services Provided to Individuals

**CALLS FOR HELP**
- 3,820 Total hotline calls
- 2,538 Rent, food and utilities calls

**TELE-MENTAL HEALTH**
- Supporting children and adults with counseling via phone and video conference
  - 386 Telephone therapy
  - 376 Video therapy

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**
- Rent, utilities and other essential needs for families and individuals
  - 486 Households
  - 1,509 Individuals

“We volunteer to give back to and support the community we love so much.”
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is my prayer that you and your loved ones are safe and in good health. This Annual Report of Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice, Inc. presents a story of challenges with a response of love and faith. The Report illustrates works of compassion and service carried out by Catholic Charities in Southwest Florida in the face of the Pandemic.

The vast accomplishments over the past year are inspiring. Focused aid and support were provided to seniors when they needed it most in facing COVID-19. Families whose members lost jobs were provided financial assistance to retain housing and to feed loved ones. Those in isolation, fear and despair were offered hope and guidance through tele-mental health efforts. Human beings exploited, and even sold, were rescued from traffickers, housed and fed.

Yes, many reasons exist to be proud of the accomplishments of Catholic Charities this past year. But I also know that there is much to be done for those still in need. The Gospel calls us all to go out and make a difference. Please continue to be a part of the difference that Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Venice makes for so many.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

"We all have the duty to do good."

- Pope Francis
Service Locations
Arcadia  Bradenton  Immokalee  Palmetto  Venice
Boca Grande  Clewiston  Naples  Port Charlotte  Wauchula
Bonita Springs  Fort Myers  North Port  Sarasota

Programs and Services
Adult Education  Home Buyer Education Class
Affordable Housing  Homeless Prevention
After-School Programs  Housing Counseling & Foreclosure Prevention
Anti-Human Trafficking  Housing for Homeless Families
Assistance & Housing  Immigration Services
Case Management Services  Infant/Toddler Supplies
Clothing Distribution  Rapid-Relocation
Counseling Services  Residential Program for Mothers & Children
Disaster Response & Recovery  Refugee Resettlement Services
Early Learning Centers  Senior Housing
Career Development & Empowerment  Senior Services
English Classes  Shower Program & Clothing Exchange
Farm Worker Housing  Soup Kitchen
Financial Assistance  Summer Youth Program
Food Assistance and Pantry  Transitional Housing
Supplemental Assistance Program (SNAP)  Veterans Housing
HIV/AIDS Housing  Youth Mentoring Program
HIV/AIDS Support Services  

Catholic Charities Affiliated Agencies
Catholic Charities Foundation
Mary Pat McNally, Chair
Bob Klosterman, Vice-Chair
Philomena Pereira, President
Robert Weaver, Treasurer
JoAnne Kuehner, Secretary
Louis Baumer, Foundation Director

Board
Jonathan Anderson  Bob Oxnard
Connie Blum*  Kathleen Rey
James D. Cyr  Lew Schmidt*
John Fitzgerald*  Hal Smith
Ric Gregoria*  Mary Varnum
Jeff McManus  *Honorary

Catholic Charities Housing, Diocese of Venice, Inc.
Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop
Dr. Volodymyr Smeryk, Chancellor
Eduardo Gloria, President
Philomena Pereira, Vice President
Richard Maier, Secretary
Joe Rego

*Catholic Charities Housing, Diocese of Venice, Inc.
*Catholic Charities Housing Sarasota, Inc.
*Casa San Juan Bosco, I & II Inc.
*Marian Manor, Inc.
*St. John Paul II Housing, Inc.