



**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**  
DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH, INC.  
*providing help • creating hope*

*Continue your legacy ...  
Remember us in your will*

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2023  
2024



PROVIDING  
**HELP**  
CREATING  
**HOPE**

# ABOUT US

## MISSION

Serving people in need and creating hope through all stages of life.

## VISION

A community of self-sufficient individuals, healthy in mind, body, and spirit.

## VALUES

Everything we do reflects God's love with faith, respect, service, and compassion.

## HELP. HOPE.

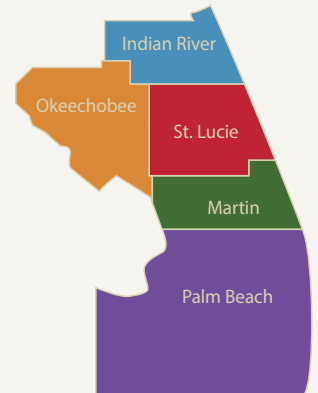
The 2023-2024 Annual Report provides a reflection of the many ways in which our organization **provided HELP** and **created HOPE** for those individuals and families we assisted throughout the Diocese of Palm Beach.

Amid the challenges posed by factors such as the persistent affordable housing crisis, escalating costs of basic needs, and the complex trauma facing victims of human trafficking, elder abuse or hunger/homelessness, our steadfast commitment to serving the most poor and vulnerable has remained unwavering since 1984.

This report is but a glimpse into the many ways we respond to those in need. It reflects the compassion and respect we hold for those who count on us, and is a testament to the generosity of the many benefactors who have entrusted us with the resources and support necessary to carry out our important mission.

As we look back on the achievements realized, we also look ahead and understand the changing needs of our communities and the challenges we face to sustain this life-changing work.

*We welcome your continued partnership and support to help and continue our mission.*



Serving over 100,000 local people in need since 1984.

### Family in Crisis

“They have helped my family in more ways than any shelter I’ve ever been in. They cared for my babies and myself and made sure that we received all the resources needed to take care of my family and provide for them. Thank You, Samaritan Center for EVERYTHING.”

**Samaritan Center**  
**Providing Help & Creating Hope**



# LEADERSHIP REFLECTION

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the past program year, I can't help but be filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment for the impact we have made. Through the efforts of our talented and dedicated team of employees, the trust of those who turned to us for assistance, and the generosity of our many donors and benefactors, Catholic Charities entered its 40th year with a renewed sense of dedication and commitment to our mission. The achievements we realized throughout the year, both large and small, were evidence of our commitment to **Provide Help and Create Hope** for those in need.

The year provided both opportunities and challenges. Requests for services continued to rise, and frequently outpaced the resources available to respond. Through it all we remained steadfast in our desire to respond in a manner that respected the dignity of those we serve and maintained a sense of optimism that was rooted in the knowledge that we were working efficiently and effectively to meet each challenge that we faced.

As you read this report, I hope you come to realize opportunities to continue to partner with us in meeting our mission of serving people in need and creating hope through all stages of life. With your support, we look forward to building on the successes realized this year, and moving ever closer to our shared vision of building a community of self-sufficient individuals, healthy in mind, body and spirit.



*Ellen T. Wayne*

Ellen T. Wayne, Ed. D.  
CEO-Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It is my great honor to present this Annual Report of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach for 2024. While the Report can only give you a quick glimpse into the multi-faceted efforts of our agency, be assured that behind every short ministry summary is a year of dedication and compassion.

We serve so many every year who are in such desperate need. From the victim of human trafficking to the hungry and homeless on our local streets; from the forgotten or abused elderly to the baby nestled below it's mother's heart; from the refugee from wars and violence to the legally entitled immigrant lost in the complexities of the legal process; we try every day to make a real difference in their lives. This is our passion and our privilege.

God has been kind to us here at Catholic Charities, and one of His most precious gifts is your interest in our charitable outreach. Your assistance is humbly received and immediately placed in service to our clients. It is our hope that when you review this Annual Report some ministry or outreach might provide a suggestion of where you can make a further difference in the lives of others.

Profoundly, on behalf of the Board of Directors and all of our agency, I thank you. You are such wonderful people and a true blessing to Catholic Charities. Please know that you are often in our prayers for your continued health, happiness, and success. Truly we know that but for the grace of God, and the faithfulness of people like you, we could not do what we do each day to - **Provide Help and Create Hope.**



*William Shannon*

William Shannon  
Board President

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025

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### CEO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ellen T. Wayne, Ed. D

### DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Debra M. Tornaben

“We were honored to host Catholic Charities Volunteer luncheon. We know how important it is to have the communities support behind this life-changing agency and proud to be able to help make a difference in the lives of local people in need.”

-Amy and Joseph Acierno  
Joseph's Classic Market



# LIFE-CHANGING OUTREACH

## BAKHITA EMPOWERMENT (ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING)

Assists children, women and men who are victims of human trafficking to rebuild their lives with help and hope. This assistance includes: wraparound services, long-term case management, emotional support, safety planning, housing, transportation, legal services, education, employment, and advocacy.

- **113** local victims of human trafficking were aided toward achieving self-sufficiency and safety, which included **63** new clients

## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Assists newly arrived refugees, asylum seekers and families with social economic integration into their new community. Services includes: Case Management, financial aid, and employment services. The goal is self-sufficiency.

- **215** local refugees received assistance to overcome barriers and become economically self-sufficient through employment

## BIRTHLINE /LIFELINE

Assists unplanned pregnant women with access to free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, education about pregnancy, parenting, and healthy lifestyle choices in 3 local centers. Assists with parenting classes, fatherhood support, and material assistance that includes clothing, diapers, and other baby essentials. Referrals for pre-natal care and other community resources are offered based on individual needs.

- **2,654** women and their families provided with pregnancy support services at our **3** centers

## ELDER AFFAIRS/GUARDIANSHIP

Supports vulnerable incapacitated elders who are victims of exploitation, abuse, and neglect through court appointed guardianship.

- **40** local elderly residents received guardianship services protecting them from exploitation and abuse

## HUNGER/HOMELESS PREVENTION

Provides emergency assistance for individuals and families to attain financial stability by providing food, SNAP application (food stamps), and rent/mortgage or utility assistance for those who are facing short-term crises.

- **362** disbursements were made to assist **190** unduplicated families with rent/mortgage/utilities/ emergency housing to prevent homelessness, resulting in **\$378,098** in assistance

## IMMIGRATION

Provides legal assistance with family reunification, re-entry permits, naturalization, labor permits, employment visas, as well as asylum applications.

- **15** families were reunified through successful I-130 petitions to immigrate to the US
- **81** clients obtained Employment Work Authorizations



# PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES

## INTERFAITH HEALTH & WELLNESS (REGISTERED NURSES)

Collaborate with local churches, senior residences, and different faith communities to promote whole person care of the mind, body, and spirit through volunteer faith community nurses.

- **50** attendees learned about “Powerful Tools for Caregivers”
- **30** attendees benefited from health education/ health screenings
- **425** attendees benefitted from whole person care across our Diocese

## PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Seeks to empower Catholics in the Diocese to celebrate and realize the Gospel call for life, human dignity, and care for God’s creation through Catholic Social Teaching.

- **52** Parishes, Parish Schools, and other organizations participated in Rice Bowl campaigns for Lent
- **27** CRS Rice Bowl Grants provided totaling \$9,750

## PRISON MINISTRY

Delivers the Word of God and the Sacraments of the Catholic Church with compassion and provides essential material assistance to further the signs of unconditional love to the men, women and juveniles in the local prisons, jails, and detention centers.

- **86** Volunteers provided 8,112 hours of ministry • **12,640** inmates served across 16 institutions
- **25** new and renewing Volunteers

## RESPECT LIFE

Promotes the culture of life from conception to natural death through prayer and pastoral programs that educate about abortion, physician assisted suicide/euthanasia, death penalty, end of life and bioethics.

- **13** parishes and schools collected/ donated 2,200 baby bottles and 50 cases of diapers
- **54** attendees ( 17 students)/ 22 parishes attended Catholic Days At the Capitol

## THE SAMARITAN CENTER

Provides transitional housing for homeless families in Indian River County 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. The center is a safe-haven that provides, shelter, food, and clothing assistance to families in need. Case Managers work to keep families together offering emotional support, educational tutoring and job training with community partners who help to ensure a pathway to a sustainable future.

- **17** families provided with transitional, safe housing and the necessary tools and training to achieve self-sufficiency. (6-9 months on average). **Severl** families enrolled in the Center’s After-Care Program to continue receiving support after transitioning from the Samaritan Center

## WOMEN’S PREGNANCY SOLUTIONS

Two mobile units travel throughout the Diocese reaching out to abortion minded woman. These units provide free pregnancy testing, sonograms and counseling services with the hope of changing hearts to save lives.

- **317** abortion-minded women received pregnancy tests, sonograms and counseling sessions resulting in **67** (21%) changing hearts resulting in choosing life





# A STORY OF HOPE - ADRIANA'S STORY

## BIRTHLINE LIFELINE

When I first walked into the Birthline Center I had already made my mind up towards abortion as I already had three children. I was looking at all the negative things that were already transpiring in my life. I had just separated from my husband, been evicted from my home, and moved back in with my parents.

After speaking with the compassionate Birthline staff member and having an ultrasound done it helped me realize that my unborn child already had a heartbeat and that my quick decision would have ultimately resulted in be taking a life.

*“ Everything happens for a reason and even though we don't know that reason, at the time, we have to have faith because faith is the confidence in what we hope for but cannot see. I choose to have faith and trust in God that everything going on in my life will be okay. I hope my story will help someone else in the same situation as me. Thank you Birthline/Lifeline!”*

Adriana

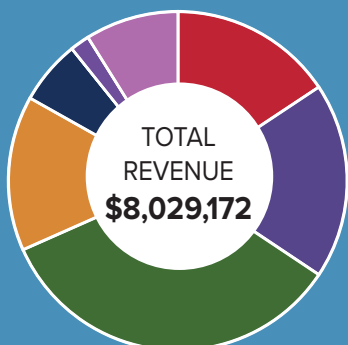


**Changing one heart continues the beat of another**

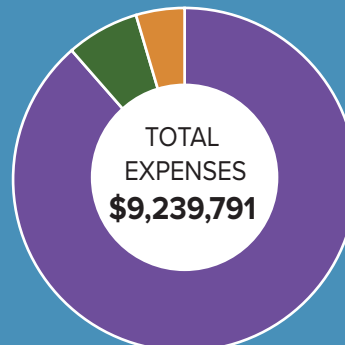
Through collaborative efforts with donors, volunteers, and community partners, we have made available many essential services that have **provided HELP** and **created HOPE** for women and families in need.



## FINANCIALS 2023-2024



- In-Kind 9%
- Contributions 15%
- Diocesan Support 19%
- Grants 34%
- Fundraising Events 15%
- Program Fees 6%
- Other 2%



- Fundraising 2%
- Administrative 9%
- Program Services 89%

# A CLEAR VISION OF HELP AND HOPE

## NANCY'S STORY

### ELDER AFFAIRS/GUARDIANSHIP

In 2024, Catholic Charities Diocese of Palm Beach was selected from the Court's Professional Guardian Wheel and appointed as the professional Guardian for Nancy from a petition filed by Florida Department of Children and Families. Nancy is a 83 year old woman who has been widowed for the past 10 years and now resides happily and safely in an assisted living facility.

### A CLEAR VISION OF HELP AND HOPE

#### HER STORY

Nancy had been a victim of financial exploitation and medical neglect at the hands of a "friend" who Nancy had designated as her Durable Power of Attorney and Health Care Surrogate in 2018. The individual befriended Nancy and they quickly became "friends", a friend that Nancy thought she could trust.

As time went on, Nancy became isolated from her two out of state children and over time lost communication with them. As years past, the "friend" would repeatedly ask Nancy for money and attempted to sell Nancy's home from under her which would further threaten her financial stability. In addition, Nancy suffers from a degeneration eye condition that had not been treated and her "friend", who served as her Health Care Surrogate took no action to see that Nancy received the appropriate medical care and help needed.

Hearing about Nancy's neglect, The Florida Department of Children & Families became involved and moved Nancy from her home to an assisted living facility due to her lack of funds and inability to care for herself. Catholic Charities Diocese of Palm Beach was appointed as Guardian and was able to stop the misuse of Nancy's funds. A Case Manager scheduled monthly visits with Nancy at the assisted living facility and played an active role in creating a dignified plan of care and support to help meet her on-going needs.

#### TODAY

The appointed Case Manager continues to communicate with Nancy's physicians to arrange medical care, and she is now scheduled for corrective eye surgery to regain her eyesight. Since Nancy is unable to live alone, her home will be sold, and the proceeds from the sale will be allocated directly to her guardianship account, which will be used solely for her long-term care and support.

Nancy sees the benefits of Catholic Charities Elder Affairs Guardianship Program and is living a life with clarity and peace.



*(This photo and story is based on a recent client but name and some details have been changed to protect her identity.)*

*Since 1984, Catholic Charities has been serving the Palm Beaches and Treasure Coast with life-changing outreach programs and services for people in need irrespective of race or religion.*

**PROVIDING  
HELP  
CREATING  
HOPE**

***WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!***

“Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders.”

*-Pope Francis*

**DONATE TODAY**



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100 West 20th Street | Riviera Beach, FL 33404  
561-345-2000 | [www.ccdpb.org](http://www.ccdpb.org)

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For more information regarding giving opportunities including bequests and legacy gifts or events contact the Development Offices at 561-360-3334 or visit [www.ccdpb.org](http://www.ccdpb.org)