



2016 Annual Report Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux



Catholic Charities (CCHT) Board members and staff participated as members of the diocesan strategic plan Parish Social Ministry Outreach Commission, setting the goals for parish outreach to people in need throughout our diocese. At the same time, the CCHT Strategic Planning Committee set goals for Catholic Charities to assist parishes implementing their own social ministry outreach programs.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES ENDOWMENT

The Catholic Charities Endowment balance as of December 31, 2016 was \$2,025,271. The Endowment provides funding, in perpetuity, for the charitable works of the Diocese of Houma –Thibodaux through Catholic Charities. Donations may be designated to a specific Catholic Charities program or for the support of all CCHT programs. Named funds to honor an individual, family, or community may be established.

We would like to recognize the following Catholic Charities Endowment Funds:

- Breaux-Delaune Fund
- Bringaze Family Fund
- Byron E. Talbot Contractor Fund
- Callais Family Fund
- Dr. Werner J. and Virginia S. Hagen Family Fund
- Giardina Family Fund
- Harold & Gloria Callais Family Fund
- Jack and Loretta Guidry Fund
- Jock and Tee Cenac Fund
- Lafourche Charities Fund
- Lanny Ledet Memorial Fund
- Marvin and Loretta Marmande Family Fund
- Mary Danos Fund
- Morris and Sandra Hebert Family Fund
- Pennison Family Fund
- Sr. Stanislaus Langlais Fund

ASSISI BRIDGE HOUSE (ABH) and INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (ILP)

A residential halfway house and transitional program for chemically dependent men.

Associate Director: Monique Albarado, LPC
Counselor: Billy Degeyter, LAC
Case Manager: Deacon Lee Crochet
Secretary: Pat Keese
Night Manager: Jacob Vedros
Phone 872-5529

2016 Report

The Assisi Bridge House (ABH) provided alcohol and drug abuse recovery services to 51 residents during the year; the Independent Living Program (ILP) provided community housing and recovery services to 7 ABH graduates. 64% of residents who remained at ABH for over 90 days, and with whom contact could be made, remained sober for one year. 35% of all 51 residents had one continuous year of sobriety (if contact could not be made, the resident is not counted as sober).

The ILP is a program for men who have graduated from ABH and are ready to live and work independently with continued support from the ABH counselors and others within the recovery community. 50% of residents who remained at ILP for over 90 days remained sober for one year. 33% of all 7 residents had one continuous year of sobriety (if contact could not be made, the resident is not counted as sober).

The Assisi Bridge House and Independent Living Program receive financial support from the United Way for South Louisiana, Medicaid, South Central Louisiana Human Services Authority (Louisiana state general revenues and a Federal block grant), and the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. Additional financial support is provided through fees, grants and donations.

During the year the Assisi Bridge House benefited from the Medicaid Expansion which, for the first time, pays for addiction recovery services. During the year ABH also made many long overdue repairs to Francis Hall and Claire Hall. Additionally, successful Spring Fling and Harvest Happening celebrations were held to thank the community and residents' families for their support.

Mission Statement

*Providing compassionate service and empowering people in need
through faithfulness to the Gospel.*

CATHOLIC HOUSING SERVICES (CHS)

A program providing assistance for middle and low income people who wish to become first-time home owners; pre-purchase counseling and credit counseling for home buyers.

Associate Director: Paula Dawson-Ringo
Phone 876-0490

2016 Report

Seventeen graduates became first-time homeowners in 2016 (628 since 1995). One hundred and sixty-five households attended a workshop, a home buyer education course, or an individual counseling session. Grants of \$5,500 were provided by CHS to help with closing costs. In 2016, the first-time homeowners generated \$1,671,000 in mortgage loans from local lenders. There were 18 individual consultations to review the family's credit history, to determine the family's mortgage qualification and to assist families with an action plan to reach their homeownership goal.

In 2016, four hundred eleven volunteers contributed more than 36,367 hours of service to 19,164 people.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CENTER SOUTH LAFOURCHE

A food and clothing center in South Lafourche; some outreach and counseling services and response in times of disaster.

Center Manager: Susan Terrebonne
Phone 632-6859

2016 Report

In 2016, seven hundred and fifty-seven (757) families were assisted with food, clothing and household supplies—a total of 2,113 individuals. Additionally, ten (10) individuals were assisted with medicine in the amount of \$621 and, in partnership with the Catholic churches, nine (9) families received utility assistance totaling \$829 to prevent disconnection. Volunteers contributed 8,876 service hours. The Center provided assistance with linens, dishes and clothes to four (4) families who experienced loss from fires. The Center also provided blankets, pillows, sheets, clothing, nonperishable food and personal hygiene items in backpacks to nine (9) homeless individuals.

In 2016, Catholic Community Center was blessed and rededicated by Bishop Fabre, after undergoing a major renovation project to provide more spacious, well-lit and pleasant shopping experience for customers and to improve the working conditions for volunteers.

COASTAL ENTREPRENEURS' NET TO SUCCESS (C.E.N.T.S.)

A self employment, entrepreneurs' program that provides training and one-on-one counseling to support the development and growth of legitimate small or micro businesses.

Associate Director: Paula Dawson-Ringo
Phone 876-0490

2016 Report

In 2016, the C.E.N.T.S. program provided forty-one (41) one-on-one orientations. Thirty-three (33) individual consulting sessions were conducted. Three C.E.N.T.S. Training Sessions were held during the year (nine classes each) with thirty-six (36) participants and twenty-seven (27) graduates.

DIOCESAN DISASTER SERVICES MATTHEW 25

CCHT coordinates the diocesan assistance to victims of disasters. In time of natural disasters CCHT responds in partnership with local parishes, Matthew 25 volunteers, the Knights of Columbus and St. Vincent de Paul societies throughout the diocese.

Associate Director: Margie Duplantis
Director: Robert D. Gorman
Phone 876-0490

2016 Report



In 2016, eight (8) families were assisted through our Matthew 25 disaster response ministry. Four medically needy families with a handicapped member received grants through Catholic Charities USA to install elevators/lifts outside their homes to allow them to get in and out of their homes. Four additional families were assisted with

flood insurance premium matching grants. In total, \$30,000 in grants were distributed during the year. Matthew 25 Economics workshops, developed in 2015 to assist families due to the economic crisis, were held in all three deaneries and additionally at Sacred Heart in Morgan City, St. Eloi and St. Lucy.



Volunteers from our Diocese worked to clean out and gut Houses and collect and distribute cleaning supplies and nonperishable food to assist those affected by the August floods. CCHT collected \$51,126 in donations, from around the country, to support the work of Catholic Charities agencies in flooded dioceses in Louisiana. Additionally, funds from a diocesan second collection were presented by Bishop Fabre to each of the dioceses in the affected areas.

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

The FGP Program provides opportunities for low income persons, age 55+, to give supportive services to children in schools, Head Start programs, shelters, day cares and hospitals.

Associate Director: Van Johnson
Phone 876-0490

2016 Report



Sixty-one (61) Foster Grandparents provided 71,100 service hours to the community. They mentored, tutored and served as role models for over 365 children. Over \$229,800 in meals, stipends, and travel

reimbursements were provided to the participants.

At the annual recognition banquet, twelve (12) Foster Grandparents received special recognition from Senator Bill Cassidy for providing over 10,000 volunteer service hours. Since the program's inception, thirty-eight (38) Foster Grandparents have each provided over 10,000 volunteer service hours and six (6) have provided over 15,000 hours of service.

GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD BANKS

Three Ecumenical (Interchurch) food banks in Thibodaux (TSCC-Thibodaux Social Concerns Committee), Raceland (CLIO- Central Lafourche Interfaith Outreach) and Houma (TCU- Terrebonne Churches United) and the outreach food bank in Dulac, provide food, personal hygiene and household items to families in crisis.

Manager: Kristin LaFleur (TSCC),
Leslie Robichaux (CLIO), Henry Stegall (TCU)
Houma 851-5523, Dulac 563-7483
Thibodaux 447-9776, Raceland 537-7706

2016 Report

The Houma food bank served 3,491 families during the year, comprised of 8,178 individuals. The food bank in Dulac provided food to 253 families reaching 584 individuals. The Thibodaux food bank helped 1,815 families (3,920 individuals) and the Raceland food bank assisted 1,062 families (1,834 individuals).

Volunteers at all food banks contributed more than 26,223 hours of service. The United Way for South Louisiana, local churches, clubs and individual donors provided support to the food banks. Additionally, the Thibodaux Food Bank was supported by the Lenten Gumbo groups at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral and the St. John Episcopal Church. The Raceland Thrift Store supported the Raceland Food Bank.

In 2016, the Thibodaux Food Bank celebrated 30 years of fighting hunger.

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance for people experiencing a temporary financial crisis due to a job loss, accident or family illness.

Associate Director: Jennifer Gaudet
Phone 876-0490

2016 Report

Thirty Catholic parishes interviewed clients and sent referrals to CCHT for assistance. Utility assistance of \$18,759 was provided to 114 families to prevent disconnection. Forty-two families were assisted with \$10,762 of rental assistance to prevent eviction and 21 families received help with medicine in the amount of \$898. Three families were provided assistance with shelter expenses of \$645 and ten families were assisted with \$596 for transportation expenses. Seven families received \$700 for help with funeral costs. Forty-four people who were homeless were assisted with birth certificates or state identification cards, at a cost of \$901, in order to get shelter. CCHT contributed \$1,200 to the St. Vincent dePaul Tri-Parish Pharmacy for the purchase of medicine.

Adopt a Family Christmas Program assisted 48 children with toys. A total of 8 individuals and businesses "adopted" families to provide the toys.

Assistance with completing **Social Security Disability** applications is provided to individuals who become disabled and unable to work. Three people were assisted in 2016 through this program. Thirty-six people have successfully received social security disability benefits since the program began.

VITA volunteers, organized by CCHT, provided free income tax preparation in Houma to 345 families. Twelve volunteers contributed 824 hours of service.

Project Self Help assisted 46 individuals with \$5,057 in grants for vo-tech tuition, uniforms, boots, licenses, IDs, TWIC cards, supplies, shelter, car insurance, gas, child care assistance, birth certificates, tools, eyeglasses, permits and equipment to further education or enable them to begin or sustain employment.

St. Christopher Safe Auto Program is a program that assists families with the costs of car repair so that they can get to work and not lose their jobs. Local mechanics and car dealerships partner with Catholic Charities by volunteering their labor.



In 2016, the Thibodaux Food Bank sponsored a new John Deere funded backpack program at Thibodaux Elementary School. Every Friday 323 low-income children were provided snacks and meals for the weekend. The food is purchased by the food bank, packed by food bank and John Deere volunteers and distributed by the school.

MATERNITY AND ADOPTIONS

Counseling for people dealing with an unplanned pregnancy. Adoptive placements with couples within the Diocese. Pre-placement and post placement home studies for agency adoptions.

Director: Robert D. Gorman
Phone 876-0490

2016 Report

During the year there were no adoptions within our diocese through Catholic Charities, though one birth mother from our diocese made the choice to place her baby in an adoptive home through Catholic Charities in New Orleans. CCHT responded to three requests from adults looking for information about their birth families and one adoption inquiry.

CCHT maintains an active adoption license and has a cooperative adoption agreement with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. All adoptions are open, meaning that birth mothers meet the family adopting their child. Adoption remains a loving alternative to abortion, neglect or other choices that are fatal or harmful to our children.

ST. LUCY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

A licensed Class A facility that offers preschool nursery and child development services for children ages 12 months to five years.

Center Director: Danielle Davis, A.A. Early Childhood Teachers: Courtney Virgin, CDA, Sherrel Butler, CDA, Roselyn Richard and Reeshma Tucker
Cook: Marguerite Chatman; Janitor: Joseph Harris
Phone 876-1246

2016 Report

In 2016 seventy-six (76) children were enrolled in St. Lucy Child Development Center (CDC); 56% of the children were from low-income working families. During the year St. Lucy conducted an anonymous parent satisfaction survey, and based on twelve responses, 100% of the parents were satisfied with how St. Lucy is run, 100% reported that St. Lucy provides a positive environment for their child to grow and 90% were satisfied with their child's teacher. 100% of parents would recommend St. Lucy to other parents. Seven of the parents reported that their children had been at St. Lucy between 2-4 years.

Our annual survey of St. Lucy graduates showed that 100% of our students were prepared for Pre-K or Kindergarten; 100% were behaving as well as, or better than, the other Pre-K or Kindergarten children in their class; 100% had no problems at all with social skills like sharing, playing together, or making friends; and 100% of parents were satisfied with their child's early childhood education at St. Lucy Child Development Center and 87% would recommend St. Lucy to other families.

St. Lucy maintained a 4 Star Rating through the

Louisiana Quality Start Child Care Rating System - the only child center in Terrebonne Parish to earn this rating and the only non-federally funded program in the Diocese to do so. St. Lucy also earned a Proficient rating with scores exceeding the Terrebonne Parish and Louisiana averages in the new Louisiana Early Childhood Class III rating system.

St. Lucy was again awarded a Prime-Time Preschool Reading Program grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. During the year St. Lucy further earned grants from the United Way for South Louisiana, the Mary and Al Danos Family Foundation, the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities, the Child Care Assistance Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

CCHT thanks all Donors, Volunteers and Supporters for providing the hope to make our services possible!

PARISH BASED PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS): CRS RICE BOWL (CRSRB) CRS ETHICAL TRADE

Margie Duplantis
Associate Director for Parish Social Ministry
Phone 876-0490

CRS Rice Bowl (RB) is a Lenten program that combines prayer, fasting, education, and almsgiving. CRSRB gives the Catholic community in the United States the opportunity to learn about, and assist, people living in poverty in other parts of the world. Food Fasts and Hunger Banquets teach about the conditions and causes of global hunger. Contributions support programs to end the causes of hunger through farming techniques, water projects, maternal and child health, education, and microfinancing. Of the funds collected, 75% support overseas development efforts and 25% support local projects.

CRS Ethical Trade is a craft sales program that directly benefits third world entrepreneurs. CRS supports ethical trade and small family businesses by purchasing crafts at a value based on U.S. market sale value. By doing so, craftspeople can earn a living wage and send their children to school instead of work. Parishes purchase goods on consignment for sale at their churches throughout the year.

2016 Report

Twenty-four parishes participated in CRS Rice Bowl, the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, raising \$23,753. CRS Ethical Trade craft sales were held at St. Bernadette Parish and Catholic Charities.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (CCHD)

Diocesan Director: Robert D. Gorman

Education – One aspect of CCHD’s mission is to educate parishioners about poverty and Catholic Social Teaching, based on Scripture and the documents of the Church.

Funding for Self-Help Groups – The other aspect of CCHD’s mission is to provide funding for self-help programs that encourage organized groups of low-income people to work together to solve common problems.

Annual Collection – Each year, a national collection is held in American Catholic parishes to support CCHD. Seventy-five percent of the collection funds self-help projects throughout the country; twenty-five percent remains in the diocese to support local CCHD efforts.

2016 Report

The CCHD collection was \$32,373. BISCO (Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing) was “term limited” and not eligible for another CCHD national grant until 2017. BISCO, however, remains active and continued their organizing around coastal restoration.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

Margie Duplantis

Associate Director for Parish Social Ministry

Phone 876-0490

The responsibility of the CCHT staff is to assist parishes to integrate the social mission of the Church into all aspects of parish life.

Leadership Training and Education — Help parishioners come to a better understanding of the social mission of the parish through: 1) Familiarity with the 7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST), the Bishops' Pastorals, Papal Encyclicals and other statements. 2) Social justice presentations to confirmation classes, RCIA groups, religious education teachers, pastoral councils, liturgy committees, and other ministries. 3) Technical assistance to parishes to develop Parish Social Ministry Committees and provide needed training for those committees.

Service — “One Church, One Family” is a parish effort to intensely assist a parish family to help them get through a crisis.

Advocacy — Under the umbrella *A Catholic Voice for Justice*, parish-based legislative advocacy networks contact local, state and national legislators regarding four issues addressing a social justice concern of the Church. Issues are selected by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops and the CCHT Board of Directors under the Bishop’s leadership.

Community Organizing — Provides assistance to parishioners to organize in response to local social concerns by linking parishes with the *Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing* group (BISCO) and other community organizations.

2016 Report

Leadership Training and Education

In 2016, CCHT staff continued visits to every parish in the diocese.

Catholic Social Teaching workshops were held for St. Lucy’s RCIA Program and Christian Leadership Institute (CLI) participants. Catholic Social Teaching instruction was provided for 9th-12th grade students at Vandebilt Catholic High and 10th grade students at E. D. White Catholic High School. Presentations were also held for confirmation students at Holy Family, Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Elio Parishes.

Weekly reading reflections for Sunday readings on social justice were sent to all parishes.

Service

In 2016, Catholic Charities and the Office of Worship sponsored the Blue Mass for police, firemen, military and emergency responders.

Advocacy

A Catholic Voice for Justice (ACVJ) legislative advocacy continued its recruiting efforts in 2016. At the end of 2016, there were 630 active members. Eight alerts during the year centered around the CCHT legislative agenda.

CCHT sponsored a booth and helped organize the 2016 LA Life March.

Community Organizing

Catholic Charities continues providing leadership in the Bread or Stones Campaign (www.breadorstones.com) for child well-being. In 2016, listening posts have been organized throughout the state, beginning in Houma. The goal of the Bread or Stones Listening Posts is to hear the concerns of local churches, Catholic and Protestant, regarding the well-being of their children and to sign churches up to be Bread or Stones Covenant Congregations. St. Francis Cathedral, St. Luke, St. Lucy, St. Hilary, St. Charles (PAC) and Catholic Charities are members to date with several other diocesan parishes considering becoming active. The Bread or Stones Campaign focuses on 4 areas of child well-being: maternal and child health, school readiness and dropout prevention, marriage and family support, and child poverty. Our goal is to bring the prophetic voice and organizing ability of the Christian church to the issue of child well-being in Louisiana in order to improve the lives of our children. Louisiana has, for 25 years, been in the bottom 10% of every national survey on child well-being. It is our moral obligation, as Church, to do better for our children.

Catholic Charities continues to work with St. Charles Borromeo Parish in St. Charles to monitor the commitments made in 2015 for improved safety and drainage in the St. Charles By-Pass community. Sheriff Craig Webre and Dwayne Bourgeois of the North Lafourche Levee District met with church parish representatives in 2016 to report on progress.

Board of Directors

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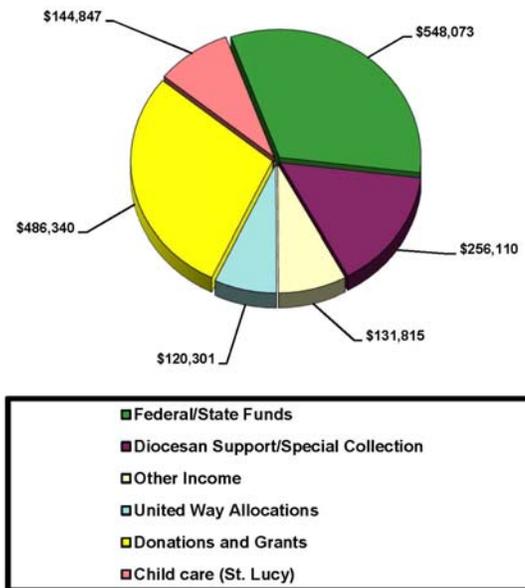
Executive Director: Robert D. Gorman, LCSW, ACSW
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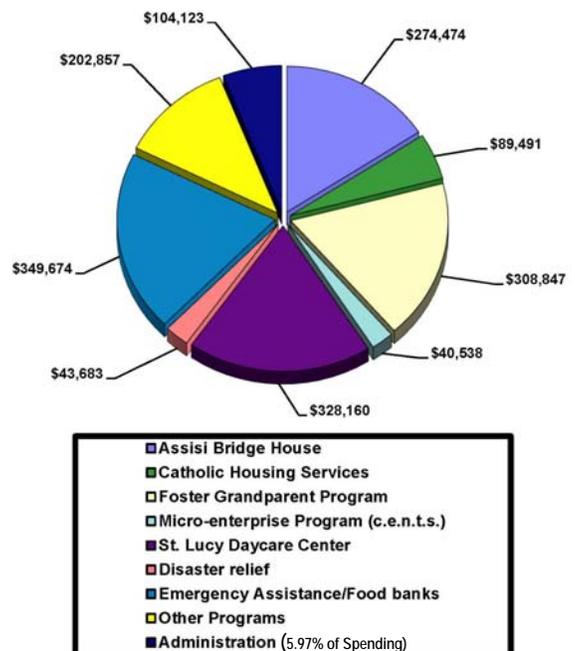


Financial Review

Charities Revenues - 2015/2016
(Total Revenues = \$1,687,486)



Charities Expenses - 2015/2016
(Total Expenses = \$1,741,847)



The Statement of Financial Position for Catholic Charities as a part of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux audit may be found in the March 2017 issue of The Bayou Catholic on pages 48-52 and at www.htdiocese.org/bayou-catholic.