Winter 2025
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Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Chicago

SPIRIT

Witnessing Hope

2025 Impact Report

Our Inspiration

"To share that message of hope with one another — in outreach, in service, in looking for ways to make our world a better place — gives true life to all of us and is a sign of hope for the whole world."

— Pope Leo, XIV
Message of the Holy Father to the Archdiocese of Chicago, the City of Chicago, and the Whole World (June 15, 2025)

To partner with mission-driven people and organizations across Cook and Lake counties. To witness a message of mercy and hope to a world in need.

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Archdiocese of Chicago

***Spirit* Magazine — Winter 2025**
Spirit magazine is a triennial publication of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago that is designed to inspire our readers and offer a message of mercy and hope to a world in need.

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2025 Annual Impact Report

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100% for Our Mission
Your donations go directly to support our programs and mission

Fresh to you: New Curbside Pantry meets more need across the south suburbs

When Catholic Charities' new Curbside Pantry pulled up to Victory Christian International Ministries in south suburban Park Forest, it was met by volunteers who set up tables, set out food, and mapped how they would accompany visitors through the different stations, including going onto the truck for refrigerated and frozen foods.

"The Curbside Pantry is an expansion of our traditional food pantry services and embodies our 'Fresh to You' commitment, bringing our mission directly to those we serve," said Marie Jochum, Vice President of Community Programs for Catholic Charities. As a fully mobile operation, the pantry will be able to serve multiple communities.

More than 90 families visited the pantry that day. Some had frequented the former Catholic Charities food pantry at nearby St. Irenaeus parish, which closed earlier in the summer as part of its merger with Infant Jesus of Prague and Lawrence O'Toole (now St. Veronica). For others, like Eshanté, it was their first time accessing help from Catholic Charities.

Shopping with her three-year-old son, Eshanté was appreciative of the the Curbside Pantry's convenience. "Food [cost] is extremely high right now. I have SNAP, but that doesn't last long. And the store is very far, and I don't have a car," she said.

In addition to food, visitors can also meet with a case manager from the Charities Resource Hub who is embedded with the mobile pantry team. "Everyone is in need of more than just food," says Resource Hub Case Manager Hilda Diaz Nieto. "That's why we're here."

Friends,

I write to **thank you for your generosity over the past year and for your partnership in witnessing hope**. As our purpose statement proclaims, we are called to partner and to witness — "to witness a message of mercy and hope."

It is such a beautiful calling. Yet, often in daily life, the call to hope can get crowded out by an ambient, inward anxiety. I think it is fair to say that **witnessing hope requires intention and focus**. It takes what the Jesuits call "spiritual exercise," especially when God calls us to witness a hope that is not based on material reality, but on that which is not seen (Romans 8).

Not surprisingly, social science research finds that hope and fear form two ends of an emotional spectrum, and each tends to be contagious in social settings. As humans, our unconscious "biases" tend toward fear and short-termism. Under fear, our thinking is more constrained, less generative, and focused on minimizing losses. Yet, **when we choose hope**, our minds stay more flexible and expansive; **we are better able to take in new information and finds ways to reframe and re-imagine how we might approach difficult situations**.

Arguably, choosing hope over fear is among the most valuable gifts we can bring into any conversation, relationship, team, or community we join.

Lately, when I have found myself drifting toward anxiety or fear, I have created my own version of the Jesus prayer to set me back on track, "Lord Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner, help me choose hope." Or sometimes simply, "Jesus, I choose hope."

In the pages ahead, we are delighted to share so many stories of hope. **We thank each of you for choosing hope.** We can't answer the call to witness without you.

Sally Blount with Father Andrew Wawrzyn and Bishop John Siemianowski at September's Partner Gathering at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Hyde Park.

Sally Blount
Chief Executive Officer

Agents of hope

At Catholic Charities, we proudly represent an international network of care organizations. In the US, this network forms the largest private human services provider in the country.

Together with our peers, we were honored when Pope Leo XIV bestowed an Apostolic Blessing on us earlier this year, commending the network for being **"agents of hope."** Through our service, he said, we show what Pope Francis referred to as God's "style" of closeness, compassion, and tenderness.

The Pope also urged us to recognize that **even though many we serve are materially poor, they posses an abundance of trust and resilience.** They, too, are witnesses to hope.

As we have refined and evolved our programs over the past year, seeing and honoring the dignity of all has served as a guiding principle. **To truly be agents of hope, we must ensure that all who come to our doors feel seen, heard, and loved**.

Listening better to help more

In FY25, the Charities Resource Hub's call line responded to over 53,000 requests for assistance. **Not only was every call answered by a real person, but wait times were reduced to just 10 seconds.**

> "I express my heartfelt gratitude for all that you and those who work with [you] do each day to put into practice the Lord's admonition to see and serve Him in the poor, hungry, homeless, and people in any kind of need."
>
> — **Pope Leo XIV**

When reflecting on where they had the greatest impact, the Hub's team members spoke about how they actively listen, with intention, to each caller to build trust. As Senior Case Manager Flora Anahí Gonzalez explains, "[Someone] might only call about a specific need they have, but once they open up, there's often a lot more we can assist them with."

Meeting people where they are

Catholic Charities looked beyond opening another traditional physical site to bring WIC nutrition programs to more moms and caregivers on Chicago's west side. **Instead, we launched the Mobile Market, a traveling food store that visits places where moms already frequent**, such as WIC clinics, childcare centers, and local food pantry partners.

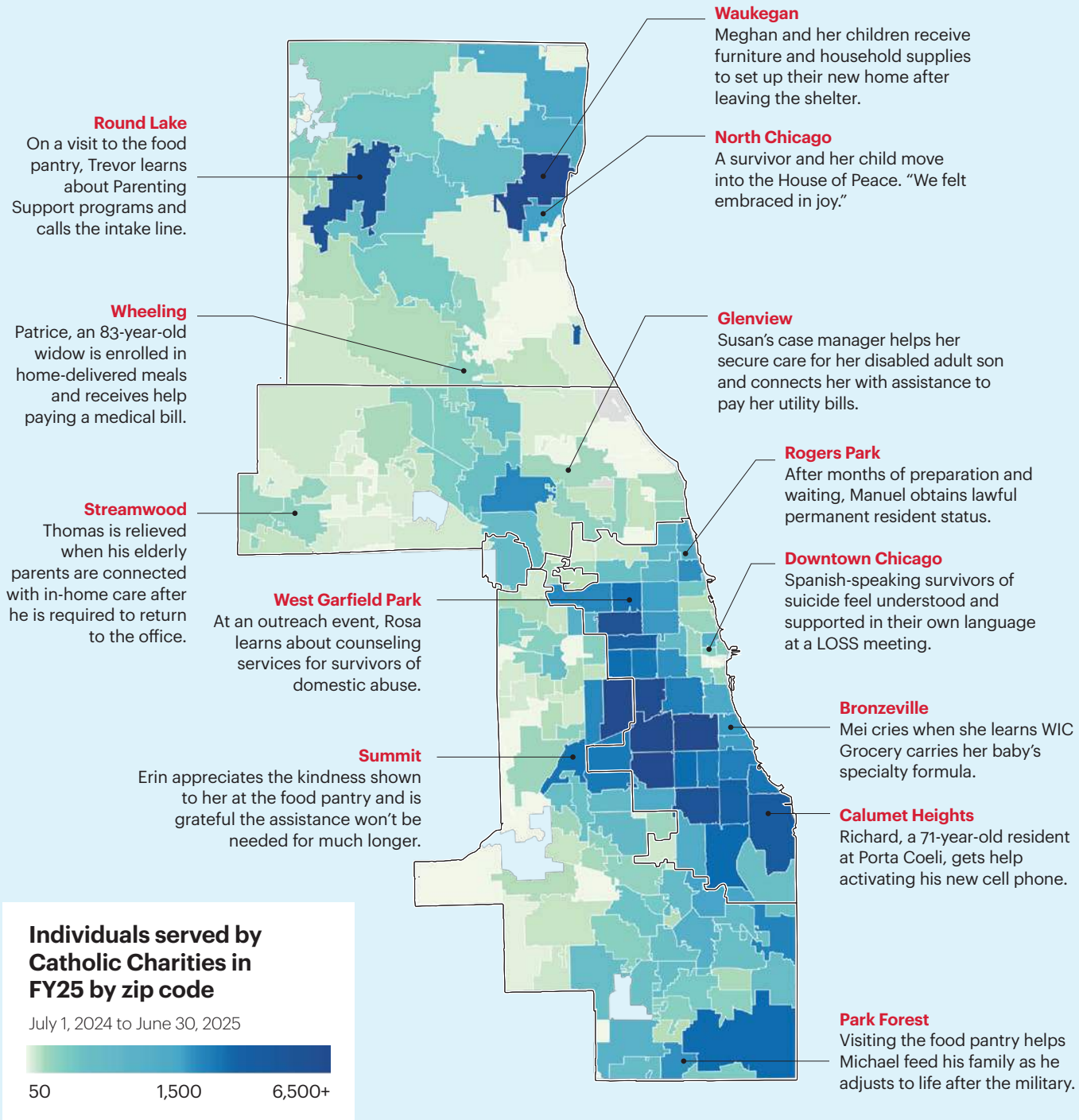
Building community so survivors can build new lives

Last year, Catholic Charities transitioned the House of the Good Shepherd domestic violence ministry to Mary's House, its new shelter for survivors and their children. **For the new location, program leaders sought a neighborhood with affordable housing options, diverse school choices, and other social service partners** where mothers could continue to live after they transitioned out of the shelter.

"Leaving an abusive relationship often means leaving your community," says Deborah Hammond, Program Director for Domestic Violence Supports. "When families find Mary's House, they can allow themselves to lay down real roots because they won't have to they leave."

What's in a number?

Last year, Catholic Charities served more than 270,000 adults and children. Behind this number, however, was the witness of millions of signs of hope shared with neighbors from nearly every town and city neighborhood across Lake and Cook counties.



Meeting immediate needs

A warm meal with people who care about you, diapers when money has run out, an emergency grant to keep the heat on, a trusted referral from a real person who listened to your worry... **Catholic Charities' Immediate Needs programs are designed to address problems quickly before they compound into something more serious.**

This was the case for Michael, a proud military veteran who came to Catholic Charities for help during his transition back to civilian life. Not only was he struggling with the adjustment, Michael was experiencing food insecurity for the first time in his life. Visiting the food pantry helped him feed his family as he worked to establish his next chapter.

> For roughly 60 percent of the people Catholic Charities serves, Immediate Needs programs are their first point of connection to the broader support the organization provides.

Because hardship is rarely experienced in a silo, Immediate Needs programs are a resource for everyone Catholic Charities serves.

For example, the Diaper Depot has established outposts in Catholic Charities' WIC stores and parenting programs. Similarly, a member of the Charities Resource Hub team is embedded with Catholic Charities' new Curbside Pantry to connect visitors to other resources, like housing assistance, behavioral health counseling, or access to government supports.

In FY 2025, nearly 169,000 people turned to Immediate Needs programs in moments of crisis

CHARITIES RESOURCE HUB

Served 53,000 people in crisis through case management and connections to internal programs and those of other trusted partners.

Provided more than $2 million in financial assistance to help 900 families stay housed, keep the lights on, bury a loved one, and more.

COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS

Offered resources to 21,000 adults and children such as diapers, hygiene kits, holiday gifts, and temporary shelter.

RAPID RESPONSE

Helped 5,200 recent arrivals through migrant care initiatives and reunification support.

FOOD AND ESSENTIALS

Provided food to 53,300 individuals at six food pantries and distributed 10,200 bagged lunches.

Served nutritious meals to 24,100 guests at Shared Table meals and through the senior home-delivered meals program.

Diaper Depot

A simple solution to a pervasive problem

With the cost of diapers exceeding $1,000 a year, it's estimated that nearly half of families with children under three struggle with diaper poverty. "This is a health crisis that nobody talks about," says Diaper Depot volunteer Don Rosanova. "People can't use their SNAP or WIC benefits to buy them."

The consequences of not having enough diapers to keep a baby clean and comfortable go beyond cases of chronic diaper rash and urinary tract infections. "Put yourself in the position of a parent whose job is to care for this child who they can't console," says fellow volunteer Tom Powers. "They're cutting back on food purchases. They have to take time off from work and school... The way it cascades down through a family is heartbreaking."

Thankfully, there's a simple, yet robust, solution that Tom, Don, and a team of volunteers are helping Catholic Charities meet: **provide 50 fresh diapers a month to families who need them**. "Diapers are not a luxury, they're a necessity," says Don. We're filling a real need for families."

Pictured: Don Rosanova and fellow volunteer prepare packages of diapers for monthly distribution to partners.

Program Snapshot

- Operates out of the Schreiber Center in Round Lake.
- Provided 225,000+ diapers in FY25; on track to double volume in FY26.
- Diapers are distributed at Catholic Charities WIC stores, parenting programs and 40+ partners.
- To host a diaper drive, email diaperdepot@catholiccharities.net.

Strengthening mothers and families

Catholic Charities programs support mothers and families at every stage of parenthood. They include doula and home visiting services to accompany mothers through pregnancy and their babies' critical first years; a network of WIC Grocery stores and the Mobile Market to provide fresh, healthy food and nutrition education; behavioral health services; and intensive case management to promote sustained housing and financial stability.

Lifting up mothers, particularly single mothers, leads to positive long-term change.

Regardless of where or how someone is first connected with Catholic Charities, its programs work in tandem to make sure mothers have the support they need.

This has been the case for Maria, who found respite at Catholic Charities' House of Peace for survivors of domestic violence. While there, she was connected to counseling for herself and her children, financial education, and career assistance.

With the space to focus on her goals, Maria found stable employment and built up her savings. Today, she and her children live in a home that is safe. Although the process of healing was painful at times, she considers the period she spent in the shelter a joyful one. "I felt that God was very present," she says, "providing me with the strength I needed to change our lives in the direction of love."

In FY25, more than 60,000 parents and children were served through programs that strengthen families and futures.

WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN (WIC)

Provided 54,800 moms, infants, and young children healthy food, formula, and nutrition education at WIC Grocery stores and Mobile Market.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Supported 1,460 children and adults on their path toward healing and wellness.

PREGNANCY & PARENTING

Supported 780 new parents and their babies with pre- and post-natal doula services and home visits, parent education, and case management.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Assisted 70 single parents with achieving their financial, parenting, and career goals.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Helped 250 survivors and their children find safety and hope through counseling, transitional housing, and aftercare programs.

IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE SUPPORT

Welcomed 2,450 individuals by providing legal support, refugee resettlement, and citizenship classes.

West Suburban Parenting Program

Helping parents be their children's first and best teachers

When 19-year-old Jazmín gave birth to her daughter Sofia, she was more than 2,400 miles away from her mother. Having moved to the Chicago area just a month prior, she didn't have a strong network of family and friends nearby to support her as she adjusted to motherhood.

Thankfully, however, she had Melina Jaime. For the past year, Melina, a Home Visitor with Catholic Charities' West Suburban Parenting Program, has been making regular visits to Jazmín's home, helping equip her with the knowledge and confidence to set Sofia up for success in school and beyond.

Beyond working with Jazmín to make sure Sofia meets her developmental milestones, Melina has connected her to resources and parent groups, empowered her to advocate for Sofia, and helped her navigate a system she might otherwise feel excluded from.

The first years of a child's life are stressful for every parent, but for those experiencing poverty, trauma, or other hardship, it is especially so. Melina says that when they first began meeting, Jazmín was very quiet. Through patience, consistency, and compassion, she has become Jazmín's trusted partner and advocate.

Pictured: Melina demonstrating how to teach Sofia new vocabulary through play.

Program Snapshot

- Serving pregnant moms and parents with children up to age three.
- One of four home visiting programs offered by Catholic Charities.
- Service area includes Broadview, Hillside, Maywood, Melrose Park, Northlake, and Westchester.

Senior Housing

Caring environments where people live with dignity

Beatrice moved from Florida to the St. Francis of Assisi Apartments in Palos Park after she lost everything during Hurricane Ian. Atlhough she rented her new apartment sight unseen, she knew it was a special place right away. "When I walked in, I felt like I was home," Beatrice says, about her first impression.

St. Francis is an affordable housing community operated by Catholic Charities.

Rent is never more than 30 percent of a resident's income. The stability this provides has been life-changing for Beatrice. When she was in Florida, finding and keeping housing was a struggle. "My income was low, so I just had to survive," she explains, adding that she moved seven times in two years.

In addition to fixed housing costs, Beatrice receives support from the community's onsite service coordinator, who has made sure she is receiving all the benefits she is entitled to. Security, maintenance, and management that are just a phone call away also contribute to her sense of security.

To Beatrice, finding St. Francis was a miracle. "For me to go from where I came to a place where I am not a second-class citizen anymore... I have a home, I have a place, I have friends. I'm not surviving, I'm living."

Pictured: Beatrice in the library at St. Francis.

Program Snapshot

- One of Catholic Charities' 21 residential communities.
- Open to seniors age 62+ with very low incomes; rent tied to resident's annual income.
- Full-time service coordinator on site.

Building community for seniors and veterans

More than one third of adults over age 50 experience loneliness or social isolation. For these individuals, particularly older women, people with medical conditions, and those living alone, the impact on their physical and mental health can be profound.

At Catholic Charities, the thread that runs through all its programs that serve seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities is connection. Housing and outreach teams work to ensure that seniors and veterans have safe and dignified places to live and the social connection they need to thrive.

Researchers agree that social connection can help people live longer and healthier lives.

This means surrounding them with friendship and community, healthy activities, and other supports. At the Bishop Goedert Residence in west suburban Hines, for example, intergenerational programs bring residents together with students from Fenwick High School, who visit several times a month to play games, converse, and help seniors with their personal technology.

For seniors that are living in their private residences, Catholic Charities' Care Coordination teams make home visits to assess their needs and connect them with the resources they need to continue living independently. This could be housekeeping, health aides, or repairs to make their home safer and more accessible.

Perhaps most important, Care Coordinators are seniors' advocates. They are committed to making sure they receive all eligible benefits and then follow up regularly to see if anything else is needed.

In FY25, Seniors and Housing programs served more than 42,000 older adults, veterans, and people with disabilities

LIVING COMMUNITIES

Provided safe and affordable housing to 1,600 people at 21 apartment communities for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities.

CARE COORDINATION

Connected 21,500 seniors with needed supports that help them live independently, and with dignity.

U.S. MILITARY VETERANS

Offered 165 veterans housing and support including case management, behavioral health, and other social services.

HOUSING STABILITY

Helped 4,500 people find and stay housed with programs for individuals at risk of or transitioning out of homelessness.

Witnessing hope, together

"We've supported Catholic Charities for many years, but now we feel even closer to the mission."

– **Debbie and Quinn Stepan**
Chairs, 36th Annual Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball
Pictured, right, with Cardinal Blase Cupich and Tim and Sue Sullivan, 2024 Ball Chaircouple

Last fiscal year, Catholic Charities raised $4.2 million through its six signature fundraising events. This incredible achievement was due in large part to the support of the individuals and committees who share their time, networks, and expertise to make these events so successful.

Event chairs and committees are critical to helping create experiences that people are excited to attend. Planning begins months in advance — more than a year in advance in the case of the Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball — to envision the event, understand the scope, and garner support.

For **Debbie and Quinn Stepan, Chairs of the 2025 Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball**, this has involved everything from guiding the event's design to serving as ambassadors for Catholic Charities programs and services. Beginning as the Ball's vice chair couple last year, they have immersed themselves in the organization's programs.

"Knowing how the money we help raise at the Ball enhances the services our neighbors receive has made this experience especially rewarding," say Debbie and Quinn.

Singular experiences and beloved traditions

Catholic Charities' events are known for bringing together a great community of people who care about their neighbors and like having fun.

For example, for more than a decade, members of the **Glunz family, proprietors of Louis Glunz Wines**, have leveraged their network of vintners to curate a unrivaled tasting experience for attendees at the d'Vine Affair.

While Catholic Charities has launched new events in recent years, some, like the Glow of Hope Brunch, have been around for generations. Hosted by the **Women's Board of the House of the Good Shepherd**, the brunch is one of many ways the Board supports domestic violence programs.

Pictured, the Glunz Family (top) and the Women's Board of the House of the Good Shepherd.

DECEMBER	FEBRUARY	APRIL	JULY	SEPTEMBER	NOVEMBER
Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball	D'VINE AFFAIR	blossoms of hope	Charities Golf Classic	Art of CARING	GLOW OF hope
Celebrating the true spirit of Christmas	Unbelievable wines and great company	Bringing the LOSS community together	18 holes on two premier courses	Supporting Lake County programs	Helping survivors of domestic violence

With your partnership

In FY 2025, the Catholic Charities community came together to raise more than $30 million in critical funding and to witness hope with their neighbors through prayer, service, and encounter.

Answering the call

9,636 Partners in Giving made nearly 20,000 gifts to support Catholic Charities' mission

135 are new members of the Saint Katharine Drexel Society, bringing the society's membership to **354**

1,706 are new supporters who gave to Catholic Charities for the first time

386 have given to Catholic Charities for 30 or more years

Gathering to support and celebrate

1,785 guests dined, sipped, golfed, danced, and raised their paddles at six fundraising events that garnered **over $4.2 million**

Supporting year round

$290,000 was raised through monthly donations

Giving at every level

11,991 gifts of $100 or less added up to $605,060

Sharing time, talent, and hope

2,057 volunteers shared **30,075 hours** of service with Catholic Charities programs

Investing in the future

86 planned gifts or bequests totaled **$5.5 million**

Working with the Archdiocese of Chicago

192 parishes from across the Archdiocese made financial gifts to Catholic Charities

Revenue and expenses for fiscal years ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

	2024 Actuals	2025 Actuals *unaudited*
Program Revenues		
Government Fees and Grants	$155,201,378	$147,632,785
Program Service Fees	11,091,209	9,989,183
Total Program Revenues	**$166,292,587**	**$157,621,968**
Program Expenses		
Mothers and Families	61,514,046	56,247,185
Immediate Needs	68,548,566	68,984,756
Seniors and Housing	47,675,141	41,321,379
Rapid Response	11,685,963	6,370,149
Mission Engagement	845,349	954,897
Total Program Expenses	**$190,269,065**	**$173,878,366**
Support Services		
Management and General	18,511,388	18,258,544
Fundraising	3,851,277	4,550,885
Total Support Services	**$22,362,665**	**$22,809,429**
Total Operating Expenses	**$212,631,730**	**$196,687,795**
Net Operating Investment	**($46,339,143)**	**($39,065,827)**
Contributions and Bequests	**$42,713,744**	**$31,955,587***

Source: Catholic Charities audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024 and unaudited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2025.

*Roughly $3.5MM in Contributions and Bequests were restricted and not available to fund current year operations, as reflected in the table Contributions and Bequests Raised in FY25 on the facing page.

Assets, liabilities, and net assets for fiscal years ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

	2024 Actuals	2025 Actuals *unaudited*
Assets		
Current Assets	$48,518,264	$42,744,547
Investments	119,666,051	122,132,981
Other Assets	9,894,076	9,951,951
Limited Use/Right of Use Assets	33,596,570	28,945,293
Land, Buildings, and Equipment	150,165,901	148,784,175
Total Assets	**$361,840,862**	**$352,558,947**
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities	27,336,528	19,616,862
Other Liabilities	4,236,521	3,049,407
Refundable Grant Advances	148,166,778	147,266,778
Unfunded Pension Liability	17,037,246	8,675,449
Post Retirement Benefits Liability	5,838,738	5,434,542
Lease-Related Liabilities	6,664,121	5,168,204
Net Long-Term Debt	21,512,567	20,867,793
Total Liabilities	**$230,792,499**	**$210,079,035**
Net Assets	**$131,048,363**	**$142,479,912**
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$361,840,862**	**$352,558,947**

Contributions and bequests raised in FY25

	2025 Actuals *unaudited*
Total Raised in Current Year	$31,955,587
Raised toward Future Years	(3,490,367)
Net Raised in Current Year toward Current Year	**$28,465,220**
Support Raised in Prior Years toward Current Year	4,145,698
Net Allocated Contributions and Bequests toward Current Year	**$32,610,918**
Net Operating Investment	(39,065,827)
Net Operating Deficit after Allocated Contributions and Bequests	**($6,454,909)**

Join us to improve lives and nourish spirits across Cook and Lake counties

Ways to give

Donate online, or by phone or mail. Secure donations can be made by visiting catholiccharities.net/give or calling (312) 655-7525. Checks made out to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago can be sent to P.O. Box 7154; Carol Stream, IL 60197-7154.

Make a planned gift. The Legacy of Hope Society honors people who include Catholic Charities in a will or trust to help ensure our programs flourish for years to come. Contact Andrea Wynne, Planned Giving, for more information at anwynne@catholiccharities.net.

Saint Katharine Drexel Society. The Drexel Society recognizes individuals and families who have contributed $10,000 or more during the past fiscal year. The society convenes our most generous and loyal donors through exclusive events and communications.

Make a corporate gift or sponsor an event. Catholic Charities offers sponsorship opportunities for fundraising events throughout the year. Visit catholiccharities.net/attend-an-event for more information.

Questions? Contact our Donor Relations team at (312) 948-6864 or donor.relations@catholiccharities.net, or visit catholiccharities.net/give.

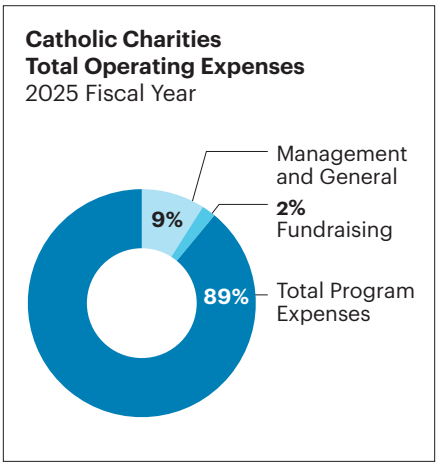
100% to our mission

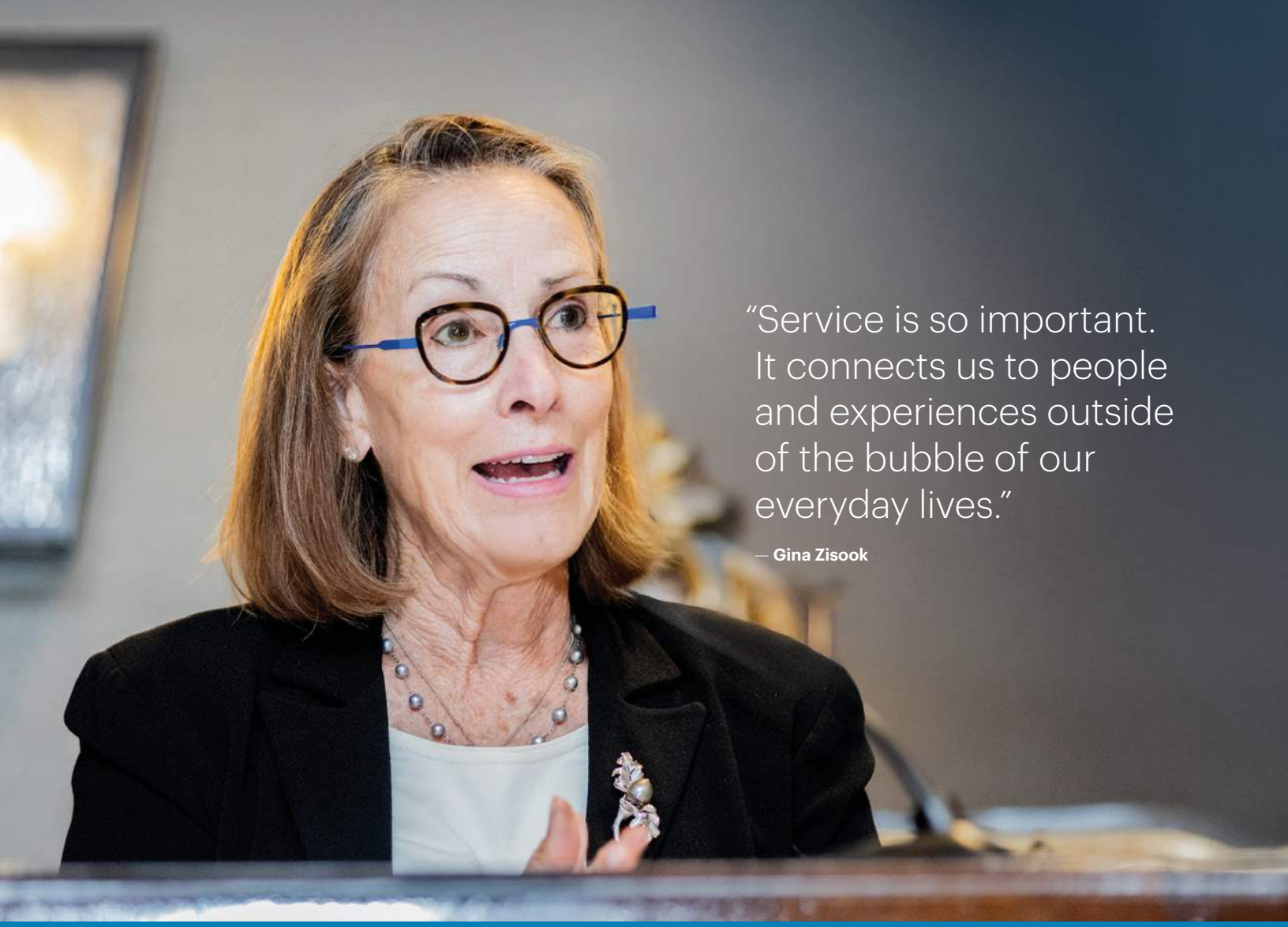
All donations to Catholic Charities go directly to our mission and charitable works. We are financially independent from the Archdiocese of Chicago. We do not donate to them, nor do we regularly accept funds from them, except when their donors designate gifts to support our work. Our donors and those we serve represent a range of faith backgrounds and robust diversity. **We are proud of our Platinum GuideStar rating as an independent nonprofit.**

We are fully responsible for securing our own funding. We rely on mission-driven individuals like you to join us in caring for our neighbors, many of whom are newly struggling and in need. With your help, we provide coordinated services to those who seek more stable and peaceful lives.

We receive government funding, but your support allows us to expand our footprint, innovate programs, and give witness to our mission. We are a go-to partner for government and civic leaders, particularly in times of need, but local, state, and federal budgets for human services are on the decline. Government funds received by Catholic Charities have fallen by more than 40 percent in real terms over the last decade while demand for our services grows exponentially.

We are efficient. We spend only 2 percent of our operating budget on fundraising and only 9 percent on administration.





Gina Zisook | Member, Catholic Charities Women's Board of Lake County

Gina Zisook credits her aunt, Nancy Pasquesi, for introducing her to Catholic Charities' Lake County Women's Board. "She was one of the original founders and, at 92, was as involved as ever. She asked me to drive her to a meeting, so I did, and then I kept coming back. It is such a welcoming community of ladies."

Since that first meeting, Gina has gone on to become a valued and active member of the Board, helping Lake County families through the Board's Welcome Home program.

Welcome Home provides a starter kit of household goods to families transitioning out of homelessness, including linens, kitchenware, and bathroom essentials. "There's not really room for my car," admits Gina sheepishly, referencing the considerable inventory of housewares that occupies her garage.

When a family moves into a new home, Catholic Charities caseworkers reach out to Gina with information about the household. Gina reviews what she has in store and if anything more is needed, like twin bedding for a teen girl, she activates her network. "This program is only successful because of the Board and the network of wonderful friends I have made," she says. "I'll send out a call and donations show up on my doorstep, oftentimes that same day."

Since 2018, Welcome Home has helped more than 500 families. While most are led by single-parents, there are exceptions. "Recently, we helped a family of 10. The mother was pregnant, the dad was unable to work, and they had six kids and one grandchild," she recalls.

Gina is grateful for the opportunity to serve, especially because before she retired from her career as an operating room nurse, she didn't have as much time to volunteer. It's not something she plans on giving up. "Even though I wish there wasn't such a need for Welcome Home," she says, "I intend on meeting it for as long as there is. Giving back nourishes the soul."

This fall, Gina Zisook (pictured above) was recognized with the Irene Leahy McMahon award for her dedication and service to supporting families in need in Lake County. As fellow member Sonda Adam wrote in her nomination, "There are many 'givers' in our community and then there is my friend, Gina Zisook.... Being of service to others is simply in the air she breathes."

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