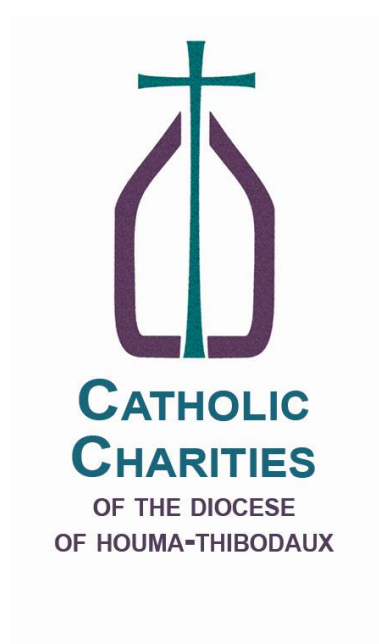


# Individual and Family Assistance



# Organization Background

- Emergency assistance has been a part of Catholic Charities since its inception in 1963 (then Catholic Social Services)
- Individual and Family Assistance partners with the Catholic Church parishes throughout the diocese to receive and process applications for assistance. We also partner with several other local non-profits through community efforts to address ongoing issues throughout the community.
- Individual and Family Assistance provides a hand-up and not just a hand-out to the people in the physical boundaries of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux.
- This program offers utility assistance, rent assistance, hygiene supplies for the homeless, assistance with vehicle repairs, and assistance with supplies to start a new job.
- Individual and Family Assistance serves people in Terrebonne, Lafourche, Grand Ilse, and the eastern part of St. Mary Parish
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux has been serving the vulnerable in our diocese through emergency assistance programs such as rent and utility assistance. In 2018, Twenty-three Catholic parishes interviewed families in need and sent referrals to CCHT for assistance. Utility assistance of \$22,411 was provided to 97 families to prevent disconnection. Fifty families were assisted with \$14,170 of rental assistance to prevent eviction and 20 families received help with medicine in the amount of \$1,717. Six families were provided assistance with shelter expenses of \$850 and ten families were assisted with \$535 for transportation expenses. Ten families received \$1,000 for help with funeral costs. Four families were assisted with \$696 in deposits to assist in moving after a fire. Fifty-six people were assisted with birth certificates or state identification cards at a cost of \$1,474.

# Mission of Nonprofit

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

# Fundraising Objectives

Individual and Family Assistance has been trying to prevent homelessness by helping people stay in their homes when unexpected events interfere with their ability to pay their rent and utility bills. In the pandemic, we have expanded our services to include assistance with mortgage payments.

Individual and Family Assistance has recently received funding to help with utility and housing expenses for those impacted by the pandemic from Catholic Charities USA, the Bayou Community Foundation, and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Louisiana.

We are seeking additional funding for motel rooms for the homeless during extreme weather events. We want to provide shelter for those who have no where else to go when we have events, such as freezes or major storms.



# Request for Funds from Women's Giving Circle

- Our greatest need at this time is funding for helping the homeless find shelter during extreme weather events or as they are working to get into a rental property.
  - Our community has very few options for the homeless in general, but particularly for women with children and single women.
  - When severe weather events happen, such as freezes or storms, shelter is often difficult to find unless the civil parishes host public shelters.
- We are asking for \$10,000 to help support this fund.
- Currently, our grant writing has been focused on the response to the current pandemic. We are planning to use some of our Individual and Family Assistance annual budget to support this program.

# Organization Future Growth Goals

As we continue to assess the needs in our area, we are hoping to develop programs in response to those needs. One area that we are currently looking at is sheltering opportunities for women and families, and to increase the opportunities for men. Our area currently only provides shelters for men in any situation or women who have experienced domestic violence. We have very limited space for women with children and no formal sheltering for single women.

# Testimonial of a family/individual impacted by your organization

“I would like to Thank You for the help with my rent. My kidney infection has gotten worse and the infection got in my blood stream causing me to run a very high fever. If they wouldn't have an organization like ya'll they would have many people homeless. God blessed us with people like ya'll and ya'll are recognized often enough for ya'll work. But I'm glad to have people like ya'll to help me out. It's organizations like ya'll that helps people like me not to give up on life and to really believe in miracles. I can't say it enough and show my appreciation enough. But I was blessed to have the help and I am very grateful.” Margaret