

**Winter 2023**  
Vol 23 | No 3

**Catholic Charities**  
of the Archdiocese of Chicago



# SPIRIT



**2023 Annual Impact Report**



“We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other... We know Him in the breaking of bread, and we know each other in the breaking of bread, and we are not alone any more.”

**Dorothy Day** (1897–1980)

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**Spirit Magazine—November 2023**  
*Spirit*, a triennial publication of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, features examples of our witness, designed to inspire our readers and offer a message of mercy and hope to a world in need.

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*On the cover*  
Family Self-Sufficiency participants gather at the program’s annual achievement celebration

**Get In Touch**  
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Winter 2023

# 2023 Annual Impact Report

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“The joys of sharing Christ with others in this world are very rewarding, and a hundred-fold more rewarding in the life to come.”

Sister Joyce Dura, O.S.F. (1942–2014)

Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 5:43 pm | St. Vincent Hall | 721 North LaSalle Street, Chicago

Every Tuesday evening, the Sister Joyce Dura, O.S.F. Supper Program opens its doors to more than 200 guests to break bread together.

The suppers always follow the same comforting sequence: Mass is offered beforehand for those who want to attend; friends find and sit with each other at

their preferred tables; a prayer of gratitude is offered; and then our volunteers span out across the room delivering plates to each guest with a smile.

For those experiencing uncertainty, the tradition of these communal meals is a salve. Thanks to a transformative \$5 million gift from Jim Irsay, Owner

and CEO of the Indianapolis Colts, in honor of his cousin Sister Joyce Dura, Catholic Charities is doubling down on its commitment to provide compassionate and sustained support in ways both profound and gracefully simple... like a shared meal with people who recognize the dignity of all.



# We are one body

Dear Friends,

**At this moment in history, when so many forces are pulling us apart, I am ever more grateful for the gift of faith—particularly the Catholic faith.** A faith grounded in the Eucharist; **each time we celebrate Mass we are reminded that we are one body.**

Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Workers Movement, understood this. **“We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other.”** With these words, she emboldened thousands of foot soldiers of mercy to welcome all with open arms and greet Christ in every cold body, hungry mouth, and weary spirit they encountered. And this is what we, too, do at Catholic Charities each day.

I am very proud to share the witness that is chronicled in our *2023 Annual Impact Report*. Not only is it a testament to the commitment of our 1,200 staff members who live our mission each day, but the labors of our staff are a testament to YOU—our partners and champions—who have united with us to care for anyone in need, regardless of their faith, gender, race, ethnicity, and—especially today—citizenship.

You are standing with us, investing in us, walking, and praying alongside us. Even now, more than three years after joining this incredible organization, my heart continues to be overtaken by the beauty I encounter each day. I witness beauty in the stories of hope I see coming to life and in the generosity I encounter among our amazing volunteers and donors.

In a letter to her supporters, Day wrote, **“I beg you not to abandon each other... we are each one responsible, one for another.”** While the total impact of your contributions will never fully be counted here on earth, please know that your partnership has made so much possible in the bodies and hearts of those we are called to serve.

In awe and gratitude,

Sally Blount  
President and CEO



“Our mission calls us to care for *anyone* in need, regardless of their faith, gender, race, ethnicity, and—especially today—citizenship.”

Pictured above: Sally Blount with Jamie Hall and Cristin Clifford, members of the Institutional Advancement team, greeting guests at the After Supper Visions photo exhibition this past September.



# Living our faith in the public square

**In FY2023, Catholic Charities served 375,000 adults and children—helping many of them 10, 20, 30, or more times over the year.**

**We serve thousands of people each day—adding up to millions of helping connections and conversations annually.** That’s how we’ve grown to be among the 50 largest human services providers in our country and the largest in our region.

**We have wide arms**

**With our mission and scale comes great responsibility.** Not only must we prepare to serve those we know will come to our doors each day, but when crises arise, we must be ready to step up and do even more.

**In fiscal year 2023, we delivered.**

First, we served the thousands who came to us for our core programs. Second, we stepped up when confronted with the new challenges of the migrant influx, as we became a critical part of the solution for the thousands of migrants who have arrived in our city seeking better lives for themselves and their families (*see the facing page for more on this response*).

In this report, we share many stories of how our purpose—to witness a message of mercy and hope to a world in need—is absolutely vital in these times.

As our President and CEO writes, at this moment in history, when so many forces are pulling us apart, our faith—particularly the Catholic faith—reminds us that we are, at our essence, one body.

Catholic Charities meets the needs of thousands of our neighbors every day, walking alongside each person in solidarity, with courageous compassion and faith-filled hope and joy.

**Making life easier for moms—meeting them where they are**

Catholic Charities’ WIC grocery stores have provided healthy and fresh food and parenting support for vulnerable moms and young children for 30+ years. This year, we partnered with the Illinois Department of Human Services to design an innovative WIC mobile grocery program to reach more families, particularly in food deserts.

Our team will bring food, formula, and nutrition education to moms as they pick up their children from preschool, leave Mass on a Sunday, and visit their local health clinic. **Piloting next year**

**on Chicago’s West Side, it will be the first of its kind in the country.**

**Safety starts with hello**

Last year, our domestic violence support team launched a centralized intake hotline. On every call, the first question we ask is, “Are you safe?” and before anything else is discussed, we establish a safety plan. **Together with new outreach and education, in FY2023, we were able to help 33 percent more survivors of domestic violence.**

**How deep an impact?**

Perhaps nowhere does the trauma of financial hardship play out more than when a low-income family confronts the loss of a loved one and must find the resources to afford a funeral and burial, which can exceed \$10,000. Our Burial and Funeral Assistance program has provided more than 1,000 low-income families with one-time grants to honor those they lost.

To understand the full impact of this support, **we are collaborating with Notre Dame’s Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities to study the long-term effects of providing this support.** It is our hypothesis that this single intervention can have lasting positive outcomes on a family’s financial future.

Welcoming the Stranger



“It is something of a miracle to see all we have accomplished together.”

—**Marie Jochum**, Catholic Charities Director, Associate Vice President of Community Impact

**Update from the field | Rapid Response**

When migrants started being bussed from Texas to Chicago late summer 2022 (now upwards of 20,000 and growing), **city and state authorities turned to Catholic Charities to help alleviate the strain of new arrivals on an over-extended shelter system.** We studied the situation and decided that, with our experience in homelessness prevention and refugee resettlement, we were prepared to assist with the emerging housing crisis.

**Today, with funding from the State of Illinois, over 60 people have joined Catholic Charities just to do this work.** Most are bilingual and are themselves either immigrants to Chicago or have close family and friends who are. They are persistent, focused, and committed.

**As of the print date, we’ve connected approximately 7,400 individuals—representing more than 2,900 households—to safe and stable housing.** Our goal is to sustain resettling 500 migrant households per month throughout this crisis while we continue to provide safe and supportive housing to thousands of seniors, veterans, families, mothers, youth, and children throughout our region.

**We do nothing alone.** Our continued success depends on a robust network: community-based organizations that help migrants move into new homes and coordinate furniture donations; city and state agencies that provide emergency funding; and landlords, who are opening their doors to migrants.

*Pictured: A mother and her two children recently arrived from Venezuela celebrate Mass at the St. Louise de Marillac Chapel in Catholic Charities’ Chicago headquarters.*



# Immediate Access and Basic Needs

Cornerstone programs that welcome all with open arms

By their very nature, our Immediate Access and Basic Needs teams are on the front-lines of economic disruption. This year, they saw first-hand the double impact of inflation and the ending of pandemic-era benefits on financially stretched households, leading many of our neighbors to come to us for help for the first time. **Take the number of visits to our 10 food pantries, which rose by 25 percent to 215,000.**

This was the case for Loretta, who is in her 70s. Until recently, she and her husband lived a modest yet comfortable life, but after a seizure-induced fall, her husband had to move to an assisted living facility. Now, most of their Social Security income goes directly to the facility, leaving Loretta with only a small monthly allowance.

Loretta felt she was completely out of options. Unable to take care of her husband at home by herself, she certainly couldn't afford the in-home 24/7 care he requires. And her own declining health made it difficult to go back to work.

When a person is in crisis, our teams on the ground help stabilize their situation and connect them to longer-term services.

But Loretta wasn't out of options. She turned to Catholic Charities. When she visited our St. Blase food pantry, not only did she receive healthy and fresh food, but our staff served as a critical point of entry to other Catholic Charities

supports. We helped her enroll in senior food benefits and connected her to a care coordinator who could assess her for—and connect her to—a wide range of senior services.

**This past year, seniors comprised 30 percent of those seeking help from our Immediate Access and Basic Needs programs.** For those struggling to make ends meet, our food pantries often became a crucial point of entry, both for immediate assistance and for connection to the other services Catholic Charities provides to help them achieve longer-term stability.



*Pictured, this page:* Deborah, a guest at our Sister Joye Dura, O.S.F. Community Supper Program. *Facing page:* Carol Petersen, Project Manager, South/Southwest Region, helps a visitor select foods that align with her dietary needs at our St. Blase Food Pantry in Summit, Illinois.



## Last fiscal year, 207,500 people turned to our Immediate Access and Basic Needs programs for help.

### Charities Hub

**Served 82,000 people in crisis**

with access to emergency financial assistance and connections to programs and additional resources.

### Food and Essentials

**Provided 64,000 people with fresh, nutritious food**

which includes 4,100 seniors who received home-delivered and congregate meals.

### Regional Operations

**Provided community-based supports to 57,000 adults and kids**

such as our Diaper Depots, clothing rooms, Christmas gifts, and hot meals.

### Homelessness Prevention

**Helped 4,500 experiencing housing insecurity**

find and maintain stable living situations.



# Children, Youth, and Families

Programs that promote meaningful positive change, person by person, heart by heart

For some, visiting one of our food pantries or Diaper Depots is all they need to move past a difficult period. But for others, the problems they face aren't so easily ameliorated.

**We know the factors that contribute to poverty are complex, interconnected, and deeply rooted.** Our Children, Youth, and Families programs address multiple needs, intentionally and with patience, to disrupt the cycle of poverty.

**While we serve all families, Catholic Charities offers specialized supports for single moms,** who experience poverty at *significantly* higher rates than married parents: four and a half times higher in Cook County (6.8 vs. 31.1 percent); and nearly eight times higher in Lake County (3.6 vs. 27.9 percent).\*

Our teams provide integrated services that promote physical and psychological safety, well-being, and empowerment.

Imagine then, the challenges facing Megan, a single mother in our Roseland Adolescent Parenting Program. Young but determined, Megan had goals: a place of her own to raise her daughter and returning to school to pursue a career in healthcare.

But Megan also didn't know where to start—finding an apartment she could afford in a safe neighborhood was proving difficult. Even if she found a place, there was securing and furnishing it... and how would she finish her education while working full time?

Knowing obstacles can add up and overwhelm young parents, Linda, Megan's family support worker, broke up Megan's big goals into achievable steps.

First, Linda helped her secure a new job in the healthcare field. Then they tackled finding a safe place to live, working together to complete the application and secure a donation of gently used furniture. When Megan needed help to move in, Linda encouraged her to reach out to her new circle of support within the program.

Today, Megan and her daughter are living on their own and she's working towards her Certified Nursing Certificate. With a community standing behind her, she feels hopeful about her young family's future.



\*U.S. Census, American Community Survey 1-year Estimates (2022).

*Pictured, this page:* Participants in a Catholic Charities parenting support group at the Roseland Adolescent Parenting Program in Chicago's Roseland neighborhood. *Opposite:* An offering of gratitude is made during the Phoenix domestic violence support group held by the House of Peace in Waukegan.



## Last fiscal year, 70,200 children and adults were served by our Children, Youth, and Families programs.

### Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

**Provided 59,200 moms, infants, and young children**

with healthy food, formula, and nutrition education at our 15 food centers.

### Family Support

**Supported 3,750 parents building strong families**

with pregnancy, parenting, child welfare, and childcare support programs.

### Behavioral Health

**Accompanied 2,400 adults and children**

on their journey toward healing and wellness.

### Domestic Violence Services

**Helped 480 women and their children find safety and hope**

through transitional housing and counseling programs.

### Youth Engagement

**Helped 540 youth work toward their bright future**

through mentoring, aftercare, case management, and summer employment.

### Refugee and Immigration Services

**Welcomed 3,800 people to their new country**

with legal assistance, resettlement, referrals, and citizenship classes.



# Seniors and Housing

Residential, in-home, and community-based supports that help people live with dignity

Nearly 114,000 seniors in our communities are living below the poverty line,\* and this number is only growing. Moreover, older adults’ ability to “age in place,” or continue to live independently or with family, **hinges on access to services that support their nutrition, health, connection to others, and well-being.**

This is why Catholic Charities’ senior care programs are such a critical linchpin for the welfare, protection, and dignity of our region’s senior population. We deliver life-enhancing assistance to seniors who would otherwise be vulnerable to loneliness, malnutrition, and poorer health outcomes.

**In addition to operating drop-in centers, providing affordable residences, and delivering warm meals, Catholic Charities’ Care**

**Coordination teams make thousands of home visits a year.**

Our Seniors and Housing programs prioritize surrounding those we serve with supportive relationships.

For 66-year old Sandra, who suffers from a variety of health concerns, including a breathing problem that requires 24-hour oxygen, Catholic Charities’ Care Coordination teams are the support she needs to continue living in her own home with dignity. With our help, Sandra has qualified for 10 hours a week of in-home care and home-delivered meals.

**Our teams not only serve seniors, but provide hope to their families, who can struggle to provide**

the resources—physical, emotional, financial—to give their parents and other senior family members the intensive support they need.

This was the case for Lisa, the principal caregiver of her 93-year-old mother who lives with her. A mother herself of two school-aged children and working full time, Lisa was overwhelmed when she reached out to Catholic Charities.

“Nothing got better until I spoke with the specialist at Catholic Charities,” says Lisa. “She treats me with compassion and respect. Not only does she provide the professional guidance and special equipment I need to take care of my mother, but she also listens quietly and allows me to share, too... Every time I speak to her, I feel her warm heart and love.”



*\*U.S. Census, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2022)*

*Pictured, this page: Dennis Perkins, resident at St. Leo Residence for Veterans in Chicago’s Auburn Gresham neighborhood, and Ana Sanchez, a regular visitor to our drop-in senior center in Chicago’s North Center neighborhood. Opposite: Residents at Ozanam Village, an affordable senior living community in Chicago’s East Garfield Park, participate in a health screening event.*



## Our Seniors and Housing teams supported 100,000 seniors to live independently while getting the vital care they need.

**Senior Care**

**Helped 82,200 seniors remain in their homes**

with care coordination, adult protective services oversight, and supportive assistance.

**Affordable Residences**

**Provided safe housing to 1,860 low-income individuals**

living in their own apartments in our 22 affordable housing buildings.

**Community Care**

**4,500 seniors found connection and welcoming environments**

at our nine senior centers and adult day care programs.

**Service Coordination**

**Connected 10,400 Chicago residents**

to resources and caring communities in Chicago Housing Authority buildings and our residences.



# Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball



“It is a true honor to be associated with Catholic Charities’ work as chairs of the Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball.”

**Tom and Cece Ricketts**, Chairs, 34th Annual Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball

Since 1990, the Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball has served as the unofficial kick-off to the holiday season. A powerful force for good, the Ball has raised more than \$25 million for Catholic Charities programs since its inception.

Tom and Cece Ricketts generously served as the 2023 Ball chairs, helping to raise philanthropic support for Catholic Charities and hosting the Ball on December 1. In the months leading up to the event, the Ricketts visited Catholic Charities sites across Lake and Cook counties to see our work firsthand.

Their visits included the West Regional Food Pantry and Clothing Room, addressing food insecurity in Cicero and surrounding areas; the House of Peace residence for survivors of domestic violence, providing a safe haven and support for women

and children; St. Mary of Celle and The Peace Corner Youth Center, giving education and care in Berwyn and Chicago’s West Side; and The Community Center, delivering courses to English language-learners and immigration and citizenship application support in Waukegan.

“It’s not just the number of people Catholic Charities helps, it’s the ways they help them.”

**–Tom Ricketts**

Speaking on a recent Voice of Charities podcast, Tom reflected, “What hit me the most was the breadth and the scale of Catholic Charities. It is one of the largest community service organizations in the country with close to 50

programs across 100 locations, plus all the parish and community support. Hundreds of thousands of people helped every year and it’s not just the number of people Catholic Charities helps, it’s the ways they help them.”

We offer deep gratitude to Tom and Cece for their continued support and for being strong champions of Catholic Charities’ work. And we are grateful to all of the generous sponsors, guests, and supporters of the 2023 Ball. Please save the date for next year’s event, which will be held on Friday, December 6, 2024 and chaired by Tim and Sue Sullivan.



Scan to hear more of Tom Ricketts’ conversation on the Voice of Charities.

# Your incredible partnership

As Jesus calls us, we are all, each one of us, responsible for one another. Last year, Catholic Charities’ Partners in Mission and Giving put this in action by sharing their time, expertise, prayers, and financial resources.



## Answering the call to charity

In the 2023 fiscal year, **10,157** of our Partners in Giving made **180,676** gifts\*

- **176 are members of the Saint Katharine Drexel Society** which includes supporters who make gifts of \$10,000 or more
- **2,256 are new donors** who gave to Catholic Charities for the first time in 2023
- **312 have supported Catholic Charities for 30+ years** with donations since 1993 or prior
- **305 donated through their workplace**, collectively contributing \$137,400

*\*Gift numbers do not include in-kind donations or pledges.*

## Investing in the future

**51 donors** made planned gifts or bequests totaling **\$10.1 million**

## Gathering to support and celebrate

**2,479 guests** attended seven fundraising events, raising over **\$4 million**

## Welcoming the Stranger

**\$2 million** was donated to the coordinated Catholic response to assist asylum seekers

## Giving at every level

**9,460 gifts of \$100 or less** added up to \$416,200

## Responding to our appeals

**8,430 donors** gave **\$3.9 million** in our year-end and Mother’s Day campaigns

## Working with the Archdiocese of Chicago

**209 parishes**, representing 97 percent of the Archdiocese, made financial gifts to Catholic Charities

## Sharing time, talent, and compassion

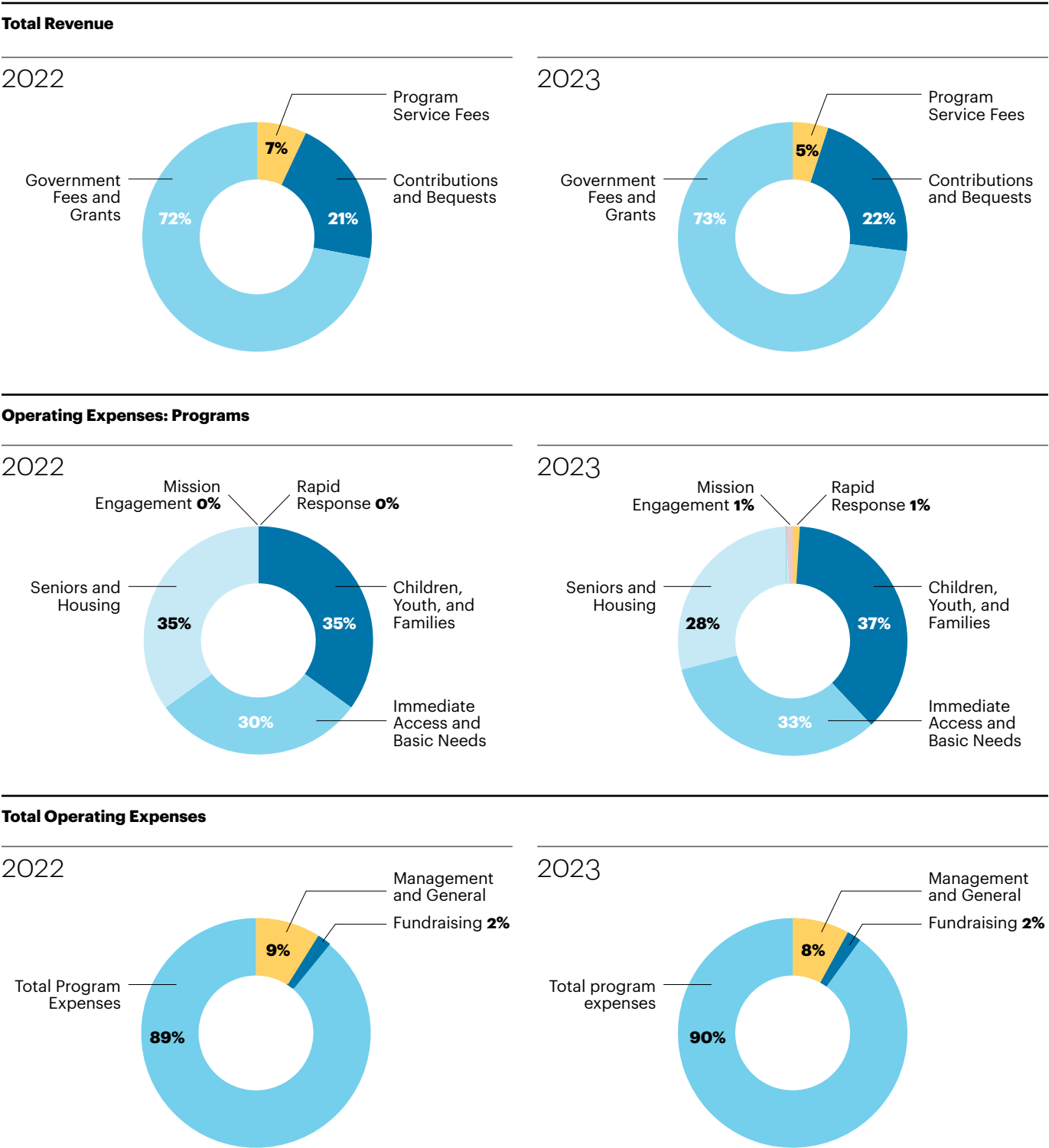
**2,197 volunteers** provided **49,000 hours of service** to support their neighbors in need



Revenue and expenses for fiscal years ended  
June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023

	2022 Actuals	2023 Actuals
<b>Program Revenues</b>		
Government Fees and Grants	\$132,251,826	\$142,445,726
Program Service Fees	12,957,080	10,114,101
<b>Total Program Revenues</b>	<b>145,208,906</b>	<b>152,559,827</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
<b>Program Expenses</b>		
Children, Youth and Families	58,256,244	66,540,383
Immediate Access and Basic Needs	50,355,237	59,060,129
Seniors and Housing	60,177,107	49,933,041
Rapid Response*	-	2,362,298
Mission Engagement	448,671	735,962
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>169,237,259</b>	<b>178,631,813</b>
<b>Support Services</b>		
Management and General	17,838,687	16,347,048
Fundraising	2,920,500	3,276,340
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>20,759,187</b>	<b>19,623,388</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>189,996,446</b>	<b>198,255,201</b>
<b>Net Operating Loss</b>	<b>(44,787,540)</b>	<b>(45,695,374)</b>
<b>Contributions and Bequests</b>	<b>39,448,941</b>	<b>41,795,868</b>

\*2023, Rapid Response activities focused on migrant support.





# Ways to give

**Donate online, phone, or by mail.** Make a secure donation by visiting our website at [catholiccharities.net/give](https://catholiccharities.net/give) or by 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 of the Archdiocese of Chicago in a will or trust or make another type of planned gift to help ensure our programs flourish for years to come.

Contact **Nancy Haws**, Director of Major Gifts at [nhaws@catholiccharities.net](mailto:nhaws@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 special events and communications.

Contact **Melissa Mares Stambor**, Vice President, Institutional Advancement at [mmares@catholiccharities.net](mailto:mmares@catholiccharities.net).

**Make a corporate gift or sponsor an event.** Catholic Charities offers sponsorship opportunities for fundraising events throughout the year.

Contact **Donor Relations** at (312) 948 6864 or [donor.relations@catholiccharities.net](mailto:donor.relations@catholiccharities.net).

# Ways to serve

**Local Regional Mission Boards.** Our Regional Mission Boards are local networks of individuals passionate about charitable works and meeting the needs of their communities. They work in partnership with our staff across the Archdiocese of Chicago, connecting and vitalizing Catholics within and across parishes.

Email [partners@catholiccharities.net](mailto:partners@catholiccharities.net) to be connected with your local Regional Board leader.

**Faith in Action Team.** Catholic Charities offers volunteer opportunities of varying levels of commitment and duration for individuals or groups. These include serving

at a community supper, stocking shelves at a food pantry, teaching English to refugees, mentoring young adults, or delivering meals to our homebound seniors.

Visit [ccofchicagovolunteer.com](https://ccofchicagovolunteer.com) to see all opportunities; these are updated weekly.

**Junior Board.** Join other young professionals in service within a faith-based setting, connect to the broader Catholic community, and renew interest in personal and spiritual growth.

Email [juniorboard@catholiccharities.net](mailto:juniorboard@catholiccharities.net) to learn more.



## Answering the Call to Serve

“From the time I was a child, whenever I was asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, I always said, ‘I want to help people.’”

**David Dempsey, LCSW** | Director of Social Services, St. Leo Residence for Veterans

Serving others has always been a calling for David Dempsey. “Social work allows me to use the gifts God blessed me with to bring help and hope to those among us who are lonely, forgotten, and marginalized.”

Over the last three decades, David’s calling has taken him to numerous “mission posts,” each one building on the other. These have included serving as a social worker at a pediatric oncology unit (one of the most profound and humbling experiences of his life), to

running a program for homeless HIV-positive adults in recovery for substance abuse. Since 2014, David has shared his commitment to service and courageous compassion with residents of St. Leo, Catholic Charities’ affordable housing program for veterans.

“Most people don’t fully understand the challenges unhoused veterans face,” he says. “It is common to assume PTSD from military service was the driving factor of their instability. The reality is that many experienced trauma from

generational poverty, family violence, substance abuse, and mental illness before their service.”

At St. Leo, David leads a team of four master’s-level case managers charged with meeting each veteran resident where they are. “I always tell my team that the greatest thing we can do is listen. Everyone wants to be loved, shown kindness, and validated. They want to know they are not alone.”





721 North LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60654

Every year, thousands of individuals bring the mission of Catholic Charities to life through their prayers, service, and financial support.

**Join us in our witness  
of hope and mercy!**



Donate securely at  
[catholiccharities.net](https://catholiccharities.net)

*Pictured, Lizette Olvera, Site Director of Catholic Charities' House of the Good Shepherd at the Mass and Mission Fall 2023 gathering.*