

“Faith in action is love and love in action is service.” - *Mother Teresa*



CATHOLIC CHARITIES, INC.
DIOCESE of JACKSON

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

Thirty years ago, I left Catholic Charities after serving fifteen years as Executive Director. I used to have a card in my bible. It read, “The surest sign of God’s action in our life is that we are led where we did not plan to go.” I never thought I would be Interim Director of Charities again. The Lord has a sense of humor. Thankfully, we will begin the search for a permanent Executive Director before long.

Catholic Charities has changed and grown over 30 years. Services to victims of domestic violence have grown as well as services for trouble youth. In recent years, Charities opened a residential treatment facility for women addicted to drugs and alcohol. It is called *Born Free & New Beginnings*. Pregnant women are helped who want to overcome their addiction so that their unborn child can be *Born Free* of addiction. It is unique in that mothers can bring their young children with them while in treatment. The mothers are helped to have a *New Beginning* in their life. It is a special way of being Pro-Life.

What has not changed over the years is the Mission of Catholic Charities. The Mission is still “to be a visible sign of Christ’s love by helping the vulnerable and those in need, especially children, women, and families.” Every year hundreds of women, children, and families are helped. This Annual Report gives a brief overview of how the services of Catholic Charities have made a difference to so many people in so many ways. Your support has made it possible.

Your support has also made YOU a visible sign of Christ’s love. On behalf all those you have helped, I thank you. May the Lord especially bless you and your loved ones this Christmas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Monsignor Elvins Sunds
Interim Executive Director

Annual Report 2024



Hands that give help.



Adoption

Provides services for pregnant women thinking about adoption, as well as families seeking to open their homes and hearts to adoptable children

11

Therapeutic Foster Care

Provides intensive in-home intervention, individual and family therapy, and support to emotionally disturbed youth, their biological, and foster families

10

Born Free/New Beginnings

Offers substance use treatment for pregnant mothers and mothers with children ages 0-4

39

Hope Haven Home-Based

Offers home-based wraparound services to families with children ages 3-21 who are experiencing mental health crises in the tri-county area

28

Healing Hearts Family Counseling

Provides bilingual in-person and telehealth therapeutic services to the Jackson area, specializing in individual, families, marriage counseling, and medication management

97

Supportive Services for Veteran Families

Provided housing assistance to veterans and their families at risk of homelessness

87



Success Stories

Over the course of the year, 16 women completed the *Born Free/New Beginnings* treatment program, transitioning to a safe and sober lifestyle for the benefits of their children and themselves. The program is designed to keep mothers together with their children, and because of their hard work and dedication to create a better life for their families, that is exactly what happened. Two of the women have been welcomed back to *Born Free/New Beginnings* to share their stories and encouragement with other women who are now going through the program.

Hands that give hope.



Unaccompanied Refugee Minors

Ensures that eligible unaccompanied minors receive the full range of assistance, care, and services available to foster children

35

Migrant Support Center

Provides direct legal representation, community education, and advocacy for immigrants living within the Diocese of Jackson

10

Vardaman Family Life Center

Provides a welcoming presence showing dignity for all, regardless of race, religion, or political affiliation by supporting vulnerable populations

298

Jackson Shelter for Battered Families

Assists Jackson area victims with recovery and developing healthy relationships, and offers services for adults willing to unlearn abusive behavior

74

Kinship Navigator Program

Provides financial assistance and concrete support to family members by enhancing the stability, safety, and well-being of youth at risk of foster care placement with a non-relative

331

Youth Adolescent Drug Prevention Program

Provides psychoeducation to students in grades 6-11 on the dangers of drugs and alcohol across the Mississippi Delta

119

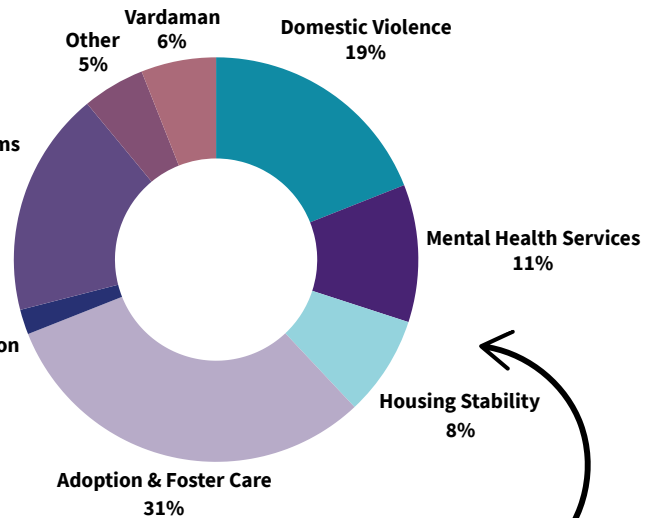
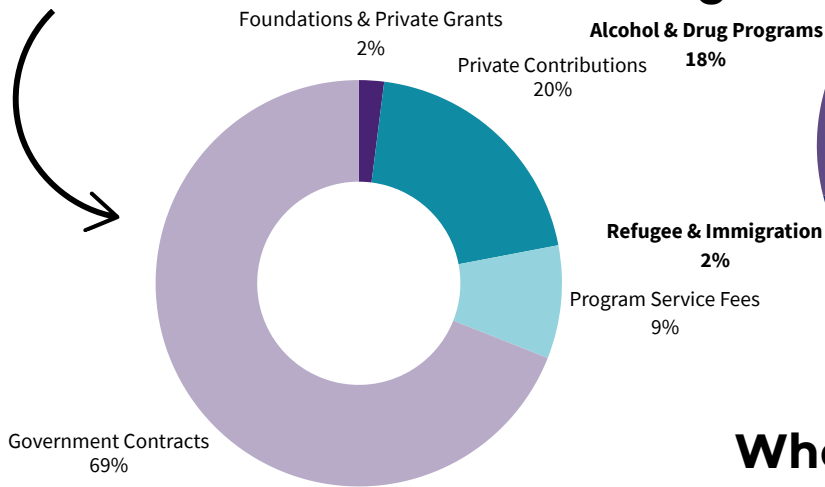


Success Stories

Thomas entered the Youth Adolescent Drug Program (YADP) as a shy youth in the sixth grade with a dream to play football in the NFL, and he was discharged from the 12-week program as a confident seventh grader who has pledged to live a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle. Through the program, Thomas learned the importance of having a clear mind and the courage to say “No.” Thomas knows what signs to look for to avoid interactions with drugs, but that is not all the YADP teaches. Thomas has learned the value of hard work through the program and been encouraged to get active in his community, and he spent the summer doing lawncare for the locals and volunteering to make sure people were registered to vote.

**name changed*

How does Catholic Charities receive funding?



Where do my Catholic Charities contributions go?

Your donations can earn state income tax credit. Here's how.

CHILDREN'S PROMISE TAX CREDIT

The **Children's Promise Act** provides a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for donations to Catholic Charities. Application for tax credit are available Jan. 2, 2025. Google "Children's Promise Act 2024." A limited number of credits are available, so apply early.

Individual donations receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit up to \$400 (\$800 for married filing jointly). Corporate donations receive a much higher tax credit.

TO RECEIVE CREDIT:

- Step 1:** Complete the MS Department of Revenue application. Available Jan. 2, 2025
- Step 2:** Make a donation to Catholic Charities to provide help and create hope for all God's children
- Step 3:** Send the verification of the donation to the MSDOR
- Step 4:** Receive a DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR tax credit!



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