



**CATHOLIC
SOCIAL SERVICES**
Neighbors Serving Neighbors
Since 1945

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

GROWING WITH PURPOSE



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

At Catholic Social Services, growth has never been measured simply by the number served or the communities we reach. We measure growth by the lives strengthened, the dignity restored, and the hope renewed through encounters with our neighbors. We believe in the power of neighbors serving neighbors to ultimately heal communities.

That understanding is at the heart of our strategic plan, ***Growing with Purpose***, grounded in the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke's Gospel. At your Catholic Social Services, we strive to be the Innkeeper in the story, ready to receive those who come through our doors.

Over the past year, your Catholic Social Services has continued to expand its reach, serving nearly 12,000 people across the 23 counties we know as the Catholic Diocese of Columbus. We remain firmly rooted in our Catholic identity and our mission to help our neighbors reach their fullest potential. Through a planned effort we call ***Growing with Purpose***, we continued to welcome new ministries, strengthen existing programs, develop deeper partnerships with parishes and community organizations, and increase access to food, emergency assistance, professional social services, transportation, education, and companionship.

We also never do this work alone, as over 1,000 new volunteers lived their faith in service through one of our 18 locations in Central and Southern Ohio. It reflects our commitment to listen carefully to the needs of our neighbors and respond as neighbors with compassion, professionalism, and faith.



Yet **Growing with Purpose** is about more than serving more people. It is about serving people with excellence. It calls us to invest in our professional staff, grow volunteerism, strengthen our long-term vision, support our parish and community partners, communicate our impact more clearly, and steward every resource entrusted to us with care.

None of this progress would be possible without you!

Your generosity allows Catholic Social Services to meet people where they are and walk alongside them toward independence and hope. Because of your partnership, a senior can remain safely in her home, a family can receive food and emergency assistance, a veteran can reach a critical medical appointment, and an immigrant family can find guidance, opportunity, and belonging.

In every encounter, we are reminded that our work is not simply about providing services. It is about recognizing Christ in one another and becoming neighbors to those who need us. Thank you for believing in this mission and for growing with us.

Peace,



S. Kelley Henderson
President and CEO
Catholic Social Services



Growing with Purpose – Phase 1

The Our Lady of Guadalupe Center

On January 9, 2025, Catholic Social Services celebrated an important milestone with the dedication and blessing of the expanded Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, our Latino outreach center serving individuals and families throughout the central Ohio community.

Located at 3631 Soldano Boulevard, just one mile from the Center's previous site and conveniently accessible by a new COTA bus route, the larger facility was designed to meet the growing and diverse needs of our Hispanic neighbors.

The new 12,000-square-foot Center opened in spring 2025 and includes spacious classrooms, a teaching kitchen, an expanded client-choice food pantry marketplace, dedicated space for community partners, a free health clinic, and a mini-warehouse. Located within the community it serves, the OLGC provides a welcoming, accessible place where families can receive coordinated support in one location.

Through food and emergency assistance, education, workforce development, health services, and other pathways toward stability, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center helps individuals and families move beyond crisis and build stronger futures. Our long-term goal is to help clients secure meaningful employment, achieve greater financial stability, and create lasting opportunities for their families.

This expansion was made possible through the generosity of donors and partners who believe that every person deserves to be treated with dignity and given the opportunity to thrive. When our Hispanic brothers and sisters have the resources and support they need, our entire community becomes stronger.



Growing with Purpose – Phase 2

Building on the community center model of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, Catholic Social Services is exploring opportunities to **expand our reach into additional areas, including the east side of Columbus and in Licking County where we have served since 1949.**

These future community centers, each named in honor of Our Lady, will bring essential services closer to the individuals and families who need them most.



Growing with Purpose – The Future

As the needs of our community continue to change, your Catholic Social Services is responding to the signs of our time: food insecurity, literacy, loneliness, and financial distress. Through the recent acquisition of two historic ministries, we are rebuilding for the future.

- JOIN, which provided emergency financial assistance in Franklin County;
- St. Francis Center, which provided food and clothing assistance in Vinton and Jackson Counties.



Now part of the Catholic Social Services family of ministries, they are retooling to serve multiple counties in Central and Southern Ohio beginning in 2027, in partnership with parish churches of the Catholic Diocese of Columbus.

Donor Story: Legacy of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center

Dr. Bertha Bouroncle's journey began in 1919 in Trujillo, a vibrant coastal city in northern Peru. Inspired by her father, Luis, a Harvard-trained physician, she discovered her calling in medicine at an early age. Determined and fearless, she became the only woman in her medical school class in Lima, graduating as valedictorian and setting the stage for a lifetime of groundbreaking achievements.

Her pursuit of knowledge brought her to the United States, where she chose The Ohio State University College of Medicine to specialize in hematology, the study of blood disorders and cancers like leukemia. At Ohio State, she shattered barriers, becoming the university's first female chief resident and the first female full professor at any Ohio medical school.



In 1958, Dr. Bouroncle made a discovery that would change countless lives: she identified hairy cell leukemia, a rare white blood cell cancer. She later helped develop pentostatin, a treatment that transformed the disease from often fatal to highly treatable. Ohio State calls her work “one of the most important scientific discoveries in the history of the University.”

http://cancer.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=cc_sept_2013_bouroncle

<https://www.hairy-cell-leukemia.org/2024-seminar-columbus>



Her brilliance in the lab was matched by her compassion in the clinic and classroom. Known for her warmth with patients and high expectations for her students, Dr. Bouroncle earned numerous teaching awards and helped establish The James Cancer Hospital at The Ohio State.

Her generosity extended far beyond medicine. In Central Ohio, she gave selflessly to causes that lifted others up, including Catholic Social Services. Her support was instrumental in starting the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, a food pantry serving on the west side of Columbus.

Today the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center offers a food pantry and a multi-service community center serving everything from emergency assistance to workforce classes.

In recognition of her lifelong dedication to human dignity, Pope John Paul II awarded Dr. Bouroncle the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice in 2000, the Vatican's highest honor for a layperson.

Dr. Bouroncle's legacy is twofold: a pioneer in medical science whose discoveries saved lives, and a compassionate philanthropist whose generosity continues to nourish and empower her community. Thanks to her vision and giving spirit, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center stands as a testament to what one life committed to both science and service can achieve.



By including Catholic Social Services in your estate plans, you can leave a lasting legacy of faith, compassion, and hope that will serve neighbors in need for generations to come.

Together We Served:



11,616
PEOPLE

Each with their own story.
Each coming to us for
help, hope, and expectations.

Some with children, some with
disabilities, and others are
just seeking the basics of food
or somewhere safe to sleep.



3,197
SENIORS



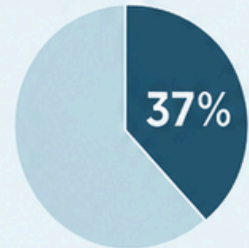
6,501
FAMILIES



1,918
**PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES**



Out of those served in 2025,
37% were new clients
compared to last year.



EMERGENCY SERVICES



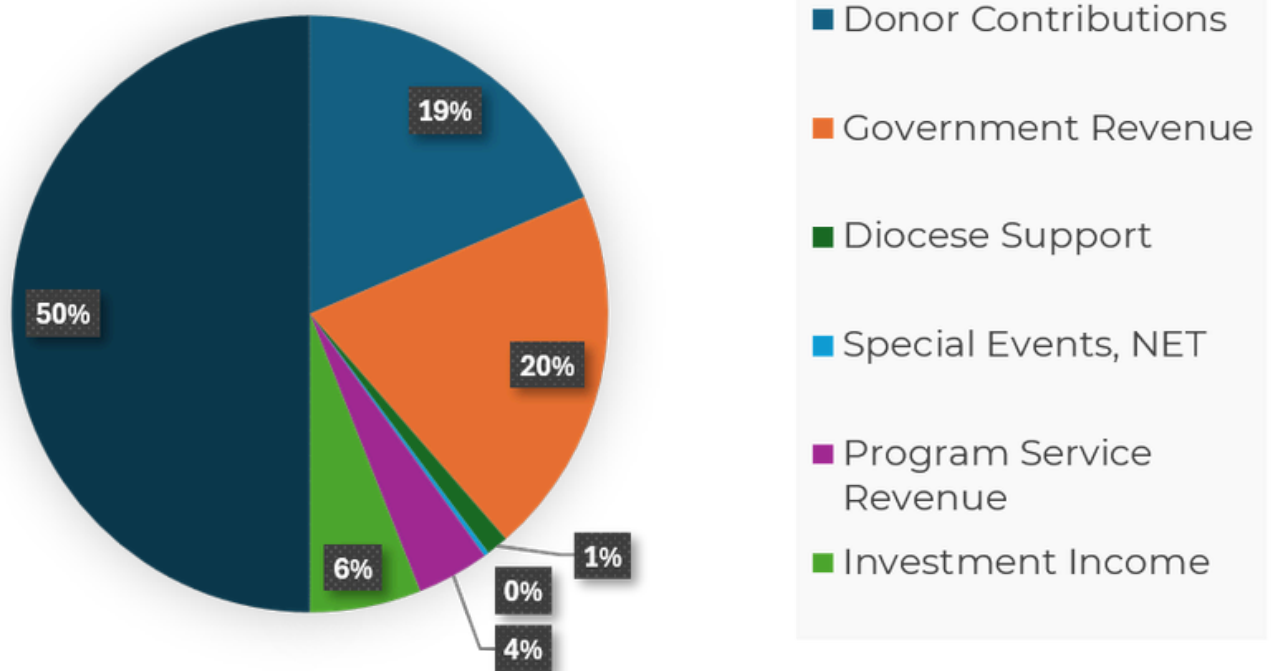
180
SENIORS
needed emergency
financial support of
food, rent, utilities,
or medical.



1,004
FAMILIES
needed emergency
support of food,
rent, or utilities.

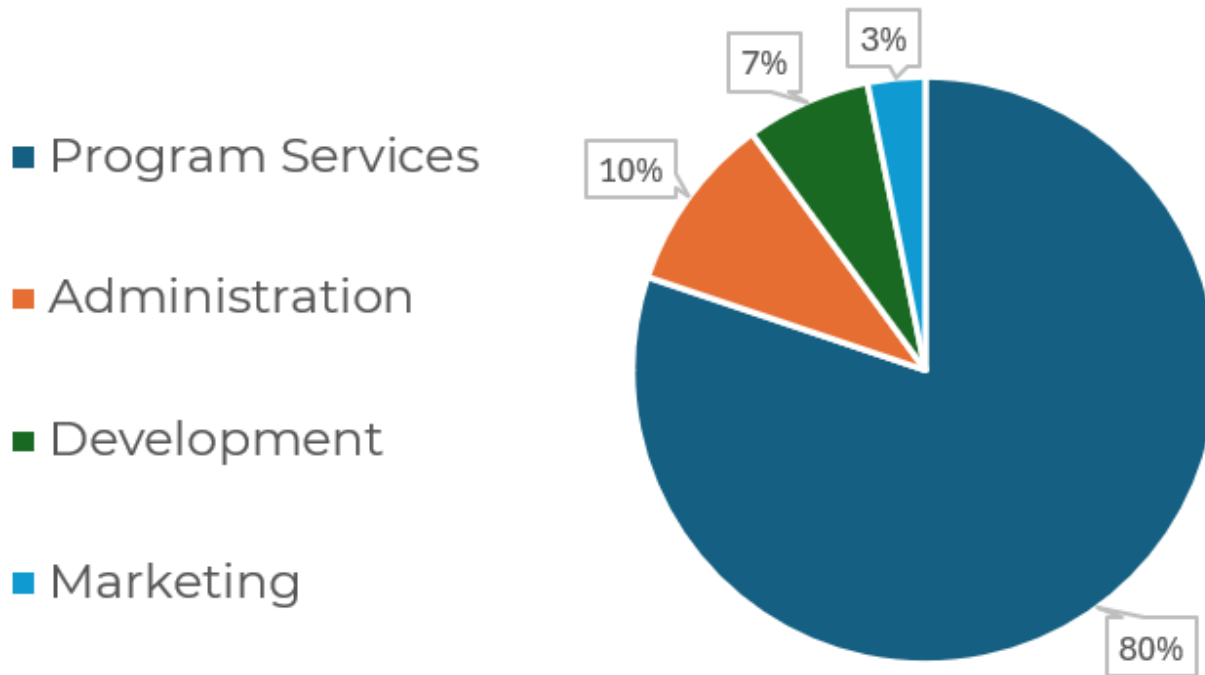
These financial results are from the most recent audited financial statements for FY2025.

Revenue Percent



Donor Contributions \$3,057,137
Government Revenue \$3,286,330
Diocese Support \$197,785
Special Events, NET \$41,442
Program Service Revenue \$645,944
Investment Income \$991,167
TOTAL \$8,219,805

Expenses



Program Services \$5,950,441

Administration \$725,656

Development \$512,504

Marketing \$235,865

TOTAL \$7,424,466

Living Paycheck to Paycheck. Meet Melissa.

Melissa is a devoted single mother who works full time while making sure her children are safely cared for through school and daycare. Like many hardworking families, she carefully manages each paycheck to cover rent, utilities, childcare, groceries, and other essential expenses.

Then, a simple but unexpected crisis disrupted everything.

One by one, Melissa's children became sick. After caring for them and missing work, Melissa became ill herself. She quickly exhausted her paid sick leave and was forced to take additional days off without pay. Although she had always met her financial obligations, the sudden loss of income left no room in her already tight budget.

Sometimes, just \$175 stands between a hardworking family and a crisis that could change everything.



For families living paycheck to paycheck, it does not take a major catastrophe to fall into poverty or face financial crisis. A sick child, a missed week of work, an unexpected car repair, or a medical expense can be enough to cause rent or utility payments to fall behind.

Our assistance kept the lights on, protected the health and well-being of Melissa's children, and allowed her to remain current on her rent. As she returned to work, Melissa was able to regain her financial footing without the crisis escalating into housing instability or deeper poverty.

Homeless as a Senior.

For him, the apartment was more than a place to live. It was safety after fear, stability after homelessness, and hope after years of uncertainty.

After his mother died and the family home was sold, he suddenly had nowhere to go. Living on a limited fixed income and carrying the consequences of a difficult past, he faced significant barriers to finding safe, affordable housing.

While homeless, he moved between unsafe living situations where substance use was common. He experienced violence, theft, and constant uncertainty. Each day became a struggle to stay safe while trying not to be pulled back into the circumstances he was working to escape.

Recovery required courage. He made the difficult decision to enter a sober living program and begin rebuilding his life. He understood that recovery would take time, commitment, and a stable environment but without permanent housing, his future remained uncertain.

Catholic Social Services' Supportive Services team stayed beside him throughout the process. Staff continued reaching out, helped him complete housing applications, coordinated care, and supported his commitment to sobriety.

When an apartment became available the team helped him navigate the interview and application process. He was able to secure a permanent home while continuing his recovery program.

Today, he has more than an apartment waiting for him. He has a foundation for a new life.



Thank you!

Our ministry doesn't stop when a family receives the food they need or help with an overdue bill. Your generosity provides breathing room in moments of crisis and helps prevent a temporary hardship from becoming homelessness.

Because of you, a parent does not have to choose between feeding their children and paying the rent. A senior can keep the heat on. A family facing an unexpected medical expense can remain safely housed. And through financial literacy, individuals gain the tools to budget, manage debt, prepare for emergencies, and move toward lasting stability.

Together, these services do more than meet immediate needs. They restore hope, protect dignity, and give families the support they need to recover, remain in their homes, and **build a more secure future.**

Consider becoming a volunteer with us!
Visit: ServeAsNeighbors.org



 **CATHOLIC
SOCIAL SERVICES**
Neighbors Serving Neighbors
Since 1945

www.colscss.org

614-221-5891

