

IMPACT REPORT

2023



A Message from Our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

I am filled with gratitude for the fantastic support and compassion you have shown in this past year. It is my honor to present the **2023 Impact Report for Catholic Charities of Fairfield County**, reflecting on our agency's impact throughout Fairfield County and the new initiatives we have enacted to improve accessibility to services and to give a "hand up" to our most vulnerable neighbors.

This year's key milestone was the opening of the **NEW Thomas Merton Family Center**, where together with community partners we offer a multitude of wrap-around services to our guests under one roof. This effort is the first of four full-service family centers in Fairfield County. Our achievements result from the collective efforts of our dedicated staff and volunteers, and **YOUR** invaluable support! Your ongoing commitment is a vital part of our mission to serve, advocate, and unite to promote justice and support. I hope you enjoy overview of how **YOUR** support has impacted and improved the lives of our neighbors in need. We hope this reminds you of the power of our collective efforts.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mike Donoghue
Executive Director

Individuals Fed

across all programs

20,000

The seating capacity of
Madison Square Garden



Mission

Our mission is to help the needy and most vulnerable of all faiths to permanently improve their lives. We provide supportive services that enable families to rise up out of poverty, overcome barriers, and **achieve self-sufficiency and independence.**

Vision

We envision a Fairfield County where all individuals have the basic necessities - **food, shelter, and support** - in order to reach their full potential as healthy, educated, and self-sufficient individuals.



How We Help



FOOD AND NUTRITION

- Morning Glory Breakfast Program
- New Covenant Center
- Room to Grow Food Pantry
- Senior Nutrition
- SNAP Outreach
- Thomas Merton Center

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- Community Advocacy Program (CAP)
- Family Loan Program
- Furniture Ministry
- Loan and Financial Education Program
- Self-Sufficiency Program

ADOPTION

- Pregnancy Counseling
- Child Placement Services

HOUSING RESOURCES

- Bethlehem House
- Homeless Services
- Housing Programs

PARENTING EDUCATION PROGRAM

“The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.”

- ALBERT SCHWEITZER

MENTAL HEALTH

- Community Support Program
- New Outlook Counseling
- New Heights
- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

EDUCATION

- Room to Grow Preschool

2023

Impact



Projects

Transitioning to Four Regional Family Centers

Outcome

- The NEW Thomas Merton Family Center in Bridgeport is open!
- Increases the capacity of people served.
- Providing multifaceted services under one roof to move our clients towards self-sufficiency.
- Moving to replicate this model in Danbury, Norwalk, and Stamford.

Expanding Mental Health Services

- Enhancing and rebranding our counseling program as New Outlook Counseling.
- Making a commitment to breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health.
- Expanding our reach to assist more individuals and families.

Enhancing Programs

- Commitment to improving current programs.
- Focused on the emerging needs of the communities we serve.
- Delivering services that are relevant and impactful.
- Launching new initiatives to meet evolving needs.

SUCCESS STORY

In 2023, we had the privilege of getting to know Erica G., a remarkable single mother who faced a significant turning point in her life. After dedicating twenty years of her life to Macy's, economic changes left her without a job. With the responsibility of supporting her family and an uncertain future, Erica approached New Covenant Center for assistance.

The priority at New Covenant Center was ensuring that Erica and her child had access to nutritious meals. Our well-stocked food pantry and welcoming dining hall provide a wide range of healthy food options. This support eased some of Erica's immediate concerns, allowing her to concentrate on her future steps.

This assistance offered to Erica went beyond just providing food. Recognizing Erica's desire for a fresh start, our case management team worked diligently to help her develop crucial professional skills to obtain a job. She received support to develop a strong resume, practice interview techniques, and improve other essential job-seeking skills. These efforts were not only aimed at increasing her chances in the job market while also revitalizing her confidence and hope.

Providing HELP · Creating HOPE · Serving ALL



Through collaborative efforts with Catholic Charities, Erica connected with a compassionate orthodontist in New Canaan who was searching for a dedicated employee. This connection led to Erica getting a full-time job offer, signifying more than just employment. **It marked the beginning of a new chapter in her life, providing the means to support her family and significantly boost to her self-esteem.**

Erica's journey is a testament to human resilience and the transformative power of community support. It highlights the impact of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County's individual-focused approach and underscores the significance of programs like New Covenant Center. Today, Erica continues her journey as a vital team member, giving back to the community that once assisted her. Stories like Erica's are a powerful reminder of the profound difference we can make, one individual at a time.



3,000

TOYS DISTRIBUTED
AND OVER 2,300
CLOTHING ITEMS TO
1,000+ PEOPLE

15%

INCREASE IN
FUNDRAISING REVENUE

150

VACCINES PROVIDED
TO COMMUNITY
MEMBERS THROUGH
OUR COVID-19
VACCINE CLINICS

389

INDIVIDUALS GAINED
ACCESS TO VITAL
HEALTH INFORMATION
AT WELLNESS FAIRS

6,200+

PAIRS OF SOCKS
DISTRIBUTED TO CLIENTS
ALONG WITH 4,500
PIECES OF
UNDERGARMENTS AND
3,500 TOILETRY BAGS

90%

STAFF
RETENTION RATE

2,000+

WINTER COATS
DISTRIBUTED

5,200+

HOURS (ABOUT 7
MONTHS) OF SELFLESS
SERVICE CONTRIBUTED
BY VOLUNTEERS

98%

SATISFACTION RATE
FOR DMHAS-FUNDED
PROGRAMS

2023 IMPACT



Thomas Merton Family Center Ribbon Cutting Event
November 30, 2023

1 MILLION+

MEALS PROVIDED BY OUR FOOD SERVICE PROGRAMS COMBINED, ENSURING NO FAMILY UNDER OUR CARE WENT HUNGRY

134

LOW-INCOME CHILDREN EDUCATED BY ROOM TO GROW PRESCHOOL

10%

INCREASE IN MEMBERS AT NEW HEIGHTS WELLNESS AND RECOVERY CENTER

8,000

HOUSEHOLDS EDUCATED ABOUT SNAP BENEFITS BY SNAP OUTREACH AND OVER 200 ASSISTED WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS

86

IMMIGRATION CLIENTS BECAME PROUD U.S. CITIZENS

\$110,000+

IN EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO OVER 500 FAMILIES THROUGH COMMUNITY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

5,786

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING SESSIONS

500+

INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED IN INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP THERAPY

HIGHLIGHTS



Financial Summary Fiscal Year 2023

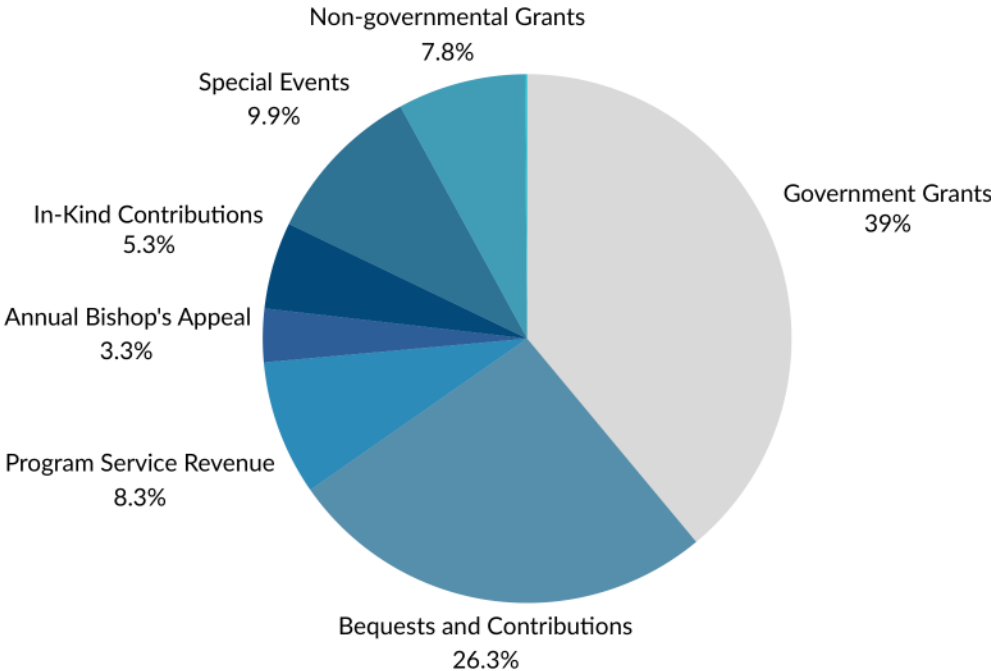
Operating Revenue

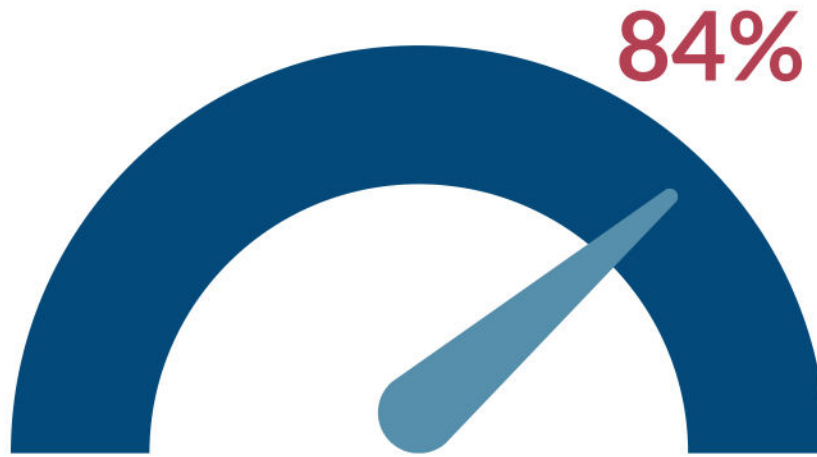
\$12,616,777

* EXCLUDES \$2,722,000 OF CONTRIBUTIONS RESTRICTED TO THOMAS MERTON FAMILY CENTER CAPITAL PROJECT



BREAKDOWN OF REVENUE





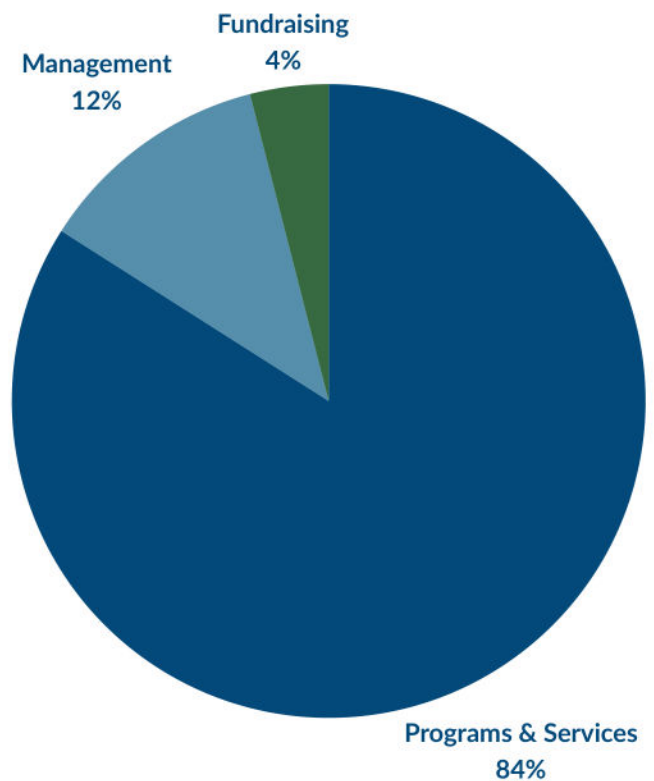
OF EVERY DOLLAR GOES DIRECTLY TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Operating Expenses

\$13,397,334

* EXCLUDES THOMAS MERTON FAMILY CENTER CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION EXPENSES

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES





BISHOP FRANK CAGGIANO

“AT THE HEART OF WHO WE ARE IS A STRONG AND UNWAVERING BELIEF IN THE SOLIDARITY OF ALL GOD’S CHILDREN, THAT THERE IS A BASIC HUMAN DIGNITY WE ALL SHARE. WHETHER WE ARE RICH OR POOR, LIVE IN A LUXURIOUS HOME OR ARE HOMELESS. WHETHER WE HAVE A BOUNTIFUL AMOUNT OF FOOD TO EAT OR WE FACE FOOD INSECURITY. WHETHER WE HAVE THE GIFT OF MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH OR WHETHER WE ARE STRUGGLING, ALL OF US STAND TOGETHER AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS.”



“J” - NEW COVENANT CENTER GUEST

“I’VE BEEN TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP AND I’VE BEEN TO THE VALLEY. TRYING TO MAKE MY WAY BACK UP TO SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE. I ONLY STUMBLED ACROSS NEW COVENANT CENTER AS I WAS WALKING PAST THE BUILDING... PERHAPS GOD SENT ME THIS WAY ON THAT PARTICULAR DAY. THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF AN INSTITUTION LIKE NEW COVENANT CENTER IS THAT IT GIVES PEOPLE A SENSE OF HOPE TO MOVE FORWARD TO THE NEXT DAY.”



TAMARA ESPINAL, DIRECTOR MORNING GLORY BREAKFAST PROGRAM

“I LOVE WHAT I DO, AND MY TEAM IS GREAT; THEY’RE COMMITTED AND HERE WITH ME EVERY DAY. THAT’S WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT.”



CHARLOTTE, LOAN & FINANCIAL
EDUCATION CLIENT

“AT THIS TIME IN MY LIFE IT SEEMS THAT A RAIN STORM STARTED AND KEPT GOING. ONE DAY I DECIDED TO REACH OUT FOR HELP WHICH IS A HARD THING TO DO, AND WHERE DO YOU START? I WAS REFERRED TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND THEN I MET DIANE BARSTON. ANOTHER BLESSING!! AS SOON AS I SPOKE WITH HER, I FELT SAFE AND I WAS IN GOOD HANDS. THIS LOAN HELPED ME TO BE ABLE TO GET ON MY FEET TO MEET MORE THAN ONE GOAL. FINANCIAL STABILITY, SAFETY FOR MY FAMILY AND OVERALL BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE.”



CARL DICKS, VOLUNTEER

“WHAT HAS IMPRESSED ME THE MOST WAS HOW THOMAS MERTON FAMILY CENTER STAFF TOOK A LIKING AND CARING TO EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY. THEY DIDN'T DISCRIMINATE AND EVERY DAY I CAME THERE THEY TREATED ME THE SAME WAY THEY TREATED THEIR OWN STAFF AND THAT MADE ME FEEL LOVED.”



PAULINE, CLIENT

“TO EVERYONE HERE WHO SUPPORTS CATHOLIC CHARITIES, KNOW THAT YOUR HELP MEANS SO MUCH. IT'S MORE THAN JUST MONEY. IT'S HOPE, IT'S LOVE, AND IT'S A CHANCE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW. EVERY BIT YOU GIVE HELPS FAMILIES LIKE MINE. I KNOW GOD SENDS ANGELS. THEY DO NOT COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN WITH WINGS BUT HE WORKS THROUGH PEOPLE LIKE YOU. I MAKE SURE THAT, EVERY CHANCE I GET, I PASS ALONG THAT SAME HOPE AND LOVE TO OTHERS.”



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We rely on the generosity of our community to help us fulfill our mission of serving those in need.



VOLUNTEER

Volunteering at Catholic Charities is essential for supporting our mission-driven work. It provides crucial assistance in areas such as service delivery, community outreach, and fundraising, enabling us to amplify impact and reach more people in need. It fosters a deeper connection to the cause, cultivates valuable skills, and offers a sense of fulfillment by directly contributing to positive social change.

ATTEND EVENTS

Attending fundraising events is pivotal in providing essential financial support to Catholic Charities. By participating, you not only contribute to the financial sustainability of our programs but also show your commitment and solidarity with the mission at hand. These events serve as platforms for raising awareness, fostering community engagement, and inspiring action towards addressing pressing issues.

DONATE

Donating to Catholic Charities is vital for sustaining our impactful work and enabling us to address critical societal needs. Every donation, regardless of size, directly contributes to programs, services, and initiatives that improve lives, support communities, and drive positive change. By giving, you become an essential partner in advancing important causes, fostering innovation, and creating lasting solutions to complex problems. Donating allows you to make a meaningful difference, and leave a positive impact on the world.

LEAVE A LEGACY GIFT

Consider partnering with Catholic Charities to leave a legacy gift that will assist the most vulnerable members of our community now and in the future. Planned Gifts offer opportunities to save on taxes and provide for yourself and/or your family while supporting the mission and programs of Catholic Charities. Consider a gift that embodies your values and allows you to make a difference in your community.



PLANNED GIVING

MAKE A LASTING IMPACT – NOW AND BEYOND YOUR LIFETIME

Planned giving is a simple yet significant way for you to make a lasting impact and secure a legacy for you and your family. Your gift will help ensure that Catholic Charities of Fairfield County can continue to serve those in need for generations to come.

- Remember us in your will
- Name Catholic Charities as a beneficiary
- IRS Charitable Rollover
- Arrange a charitable trust
- Donate stocks
- Donor advised fund
- Use life insurance to make a gift
- Make a Gift and Receive Fixed Payments for Life with a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)
- Plan For Retirement With a Deferred Gift Annuity

To learn more about making a planned gift, please contact Shaye Anne McCormick, Senior Development Officer at smccormick@ccfc-ct.org or 475-225-6371

We'd like to thank everyone for their generous *support*!



“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. **What YOU do makes a difference**, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” - Jane Goodall

Acknowledgements

Our donors

Our volunteers

Our collaborative partners

Our Board and Council Members

The communities we serve

Our amazing team



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cathy Frierson, Vice Chair
Daniel Casal, Treasurer
Anne O. McCrory, Secretary

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Mike Hanlon	Sean O'Connell
Thomas Heckel	Bill Tommins

LEADERSHIP TEAM

SENIOR STAFF

Michael Donoghue | Executive Director
Angela Piscitello | Chief Program Officer
Mary-Beth Petersen | VP, Human Resources
Debra Bodner-Beurer | VP, Finance
Sandy Cole | VP, Compliance and Regulatory Reporting
Shaye Anne McCormick | SR Development Officer
Amy Zajac | SR Director, Marketing and Events

Contact Us:



(203) 416-1503



stayinformed@ccfc-ct.org



www.ccfairfield.org



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DONATE

"Giving is not just about making a donation, it's about making a difference."

- Kathy Calvin



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