



IMPACT



CatholicCharities

Providing **HELP** • Creating **HOPE** • Serving **ALL**



2024



A Message from Our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

In 2024, your generosity brought hope across Fairfield County by supporting soup kitchens, food pantries, counseling, and housing programs. Thanks to you, Catholic Charities of Fairfield County (CCFC) grew both in the number of people we serve and the depth of our care.

This was also the first full year of the NEW Thomas Merton Family Center in Bridgeport, where co-located services—from meals and food pantries to health screenings and immigration support—made holistic care more accessible.

Looking ahead, we're working to replicate this model in Stamford, Danbury, and Norwalk, bringing comprehensive support to even more communities.

Community events like the Norwalk Celebrity Breakfast with Ron Darling, the New Covenant Center Summer Soirée with Larry Kudlow, and St. Joseph High School's "Still Hungry" food drive highlighted the power of collective action—raising vital funds for those battling hunger, homelessness, and mental health challenges.

None of the work described on the following pages would be possible without the extraordinary generosity of **YOU**—our volunteers, donors, and Advisory Board members—who give so selflessly. We are deeply grateful for your unwavering support. **YOU** are the reason for this life-changing impact.

THANK YOU!

With gratitude,
Mike Donoghue
Executive Director



20,000+
Lives Transformed

SUCCESS STORY

"Catholic Charities is more than an organization; it's a family that believes in you. Thank you for making people like me feel valued and never alone."

Providing **HELP**
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NEMIA'S TRIUMPH: REBUILDING AFTER INJURY

Originally from the Philippines, Nemia worked as a nurse for two years before moving to the U.S. in 1997. For over two decades, she balanced multiple jobs to support her two daughters—until a workplace injury in 2018 forced her to stop working. After two spine surgeries, the physical toll made it impossible to return to nursing.

"I loved my work and the sense of purpose it gave me. Having to stop was devastating," Nemia shared.

Struggling with pain, anxiety, and a maze of disability paperwork, Nemia turned to Catholic Charities' Norwalk office in early 2023. There, she met a clinician who helped her manage anxiety and rebuild her confidence.

"Her support was like someone pulling me out of quicksand," she said.

The Community Advocacy Program guided her through complex disability and Medicare forms, while Immigration Services helped her start the journey toward affordable U.S. citizenship—something she'd long dreamed of but couldn't afford.

"They saw me as a whole person—not just a case. They gave me hope."

Today, Nemia is regaining control of her life, supported by a team that believes in her long-term success.



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
- New Covenant Center
- Room to Grow Food Pantry
- Senior Nutrition
- SNAP Outreach
- Thomas Merton Family Center

"Among our tasks as witnesses to the love of Christ is that of giving a voice to the poor."

- POPE FRANCIS

MENTAL HEALTH

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

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- Community Advocacy Program (CAP)
- Family Loan Program
- Fresh Start Furniture
- Loan and Financial Education Program
- Self-Sufficiency Program
- Parenting Education Program

HOUSING RESOURCES

- Bethlehem House
- Homeless Outreach
- Housing Case Management

EDUCATION

- Room to Grow Preschool

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

ADOPTION

- Pregnancy Counseling
- Child Placement Services



Initiatives



Projects

Outcome

Transitioning to Four Regional Family Centers

- The NEW Thomas Merton Family Center in Bridgeport is open, celebrating 1 year of service! We are now able to effectively serve more people.
- We are in the early stages of replicating this model of one-stop services in Stamford, Danbury, and Norwalk with a new Stamford Family Center up first.

Expanding Mental Health Services

- Upgraded facilities and added staff to serve more clients at New Heights Wellness and Recovery Center.
- New Outlook Counseling expanded group workshops and telehealth services to reach more families countywide.

Enhancing Programs

- Expanding the loan/education programs to address emerging challenges.
- Fostering long-term independence across key domains such as employment, financial stability, housing, and nutrition.
- Measuring success through self-sufficiency metrics.

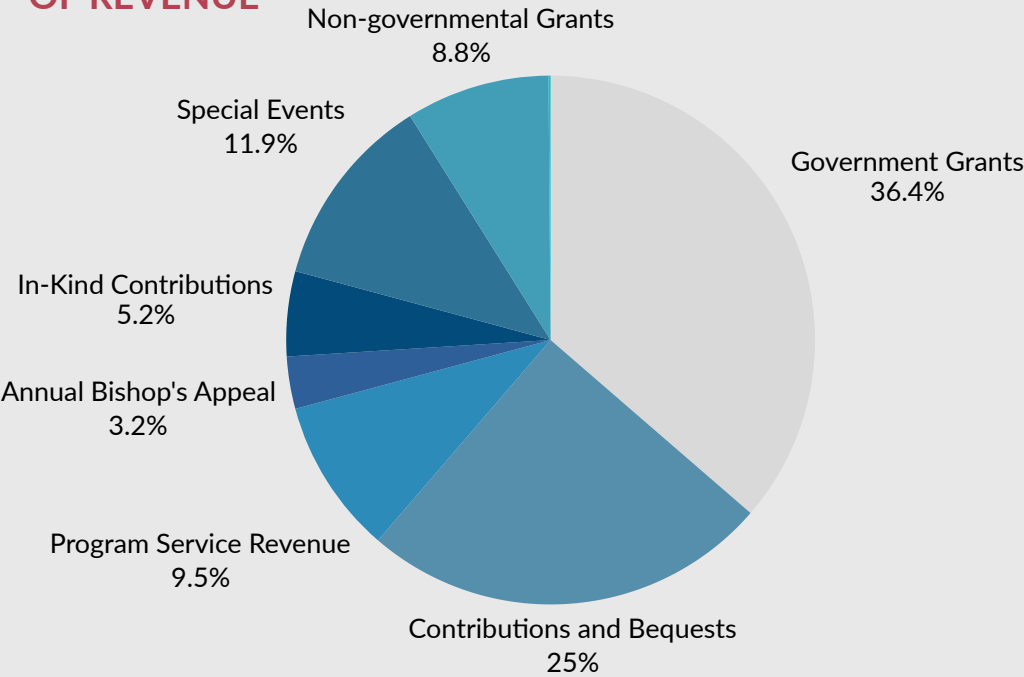
Financial Summary Fiscal Year 2024

Total Operating
Revenue and Support

**\$15.54
MILLION**



BREAKDOWN OF REVENUE





2024 IMPACT

"I never realized how many people CCFC lifts up until I saw these numbers. It's amazing what generosity can achieve."
- Sofia, Volunteer

REACH & LONGEVITY

100+ YEARS

impacting the community

- Services provided to all **23 TOWNS** across Fairfield County.
- **20,000+ INDIVIDUALS** served.

FOOD & NUTRITION

- **1.5+ MILLION MEALS** served by CCFC food service programs.
- **800+ TURKEYS** and side dishes provided to families for holiday dinners.
- **8,000 HOUSEHOLDS** informed about SNAP benefits, **200+ INDIVIDUALS** supported during the application process.

IMMIGRATION

- **505** immigration consultations conducted.
- **86** individuals obtaining U.S. citizenship.

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

- **370** people empowered with financial loans and critical monetary education.

TEAM

- **90%** staff retention rate.
- **2,500+ VOLUNTEERS** contributed **50,000+ HOURS** of service.



BY THE NUMBERS

From food security and mental health counseling to financial stability and case management, CCFC meets both immediate needs and fosters long-term independence.



MENTAL HEALTH & COUNSELING

5,800

Counseling sessions provided

- **70%** increase in attendance at New Heights.
- **95%** client satisfaction rate for DHMAS-funded programs.
- **500** individuals accessed health information at wellness fairs.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- **840** families receive non-food pantry items each month.
- **3,750** toys and **6,000+** clothing items distributed.

EDUCATION

- **132** low-income children enrolled at Room to Grow Preschool.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

- **\$100,000+** in rental assistance provided.
- **70+** homeless individuals moved into safe housing.
- **220** individuals and children received case management services.
- **45** permanent housing units secured for formerly incarcerated individuals.
- **5,000+** showers and related essential items offered.
- **400+** apartments furnished by Fresh Start Furniture.
- **89%** of homeless clients retained or discharged to permanent housing.





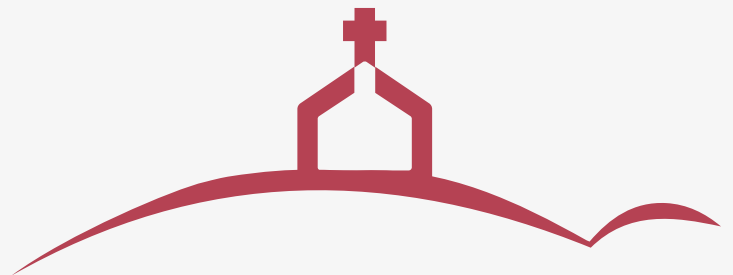
BISHOP FRANK CAGGIANO

“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.”



NEW COVENANT CENTER GUEST

“I HAD A HOUSE A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. BUT NOW I HAVE NO MONEY. I HAVE TO FIND A JOB. I STAY AT THE TRAIN STATION. AND I EAT HERE.”



WALESKA ROSA, CLINICIAN
NEW OUTLOOK COUNSELING

“BUILDING A POSITIVE THERAPEUTIC RELATIONSHIP, HAS BEEN THE MOST POWERFUL TOOL TO HELP CLIENT’S FLOURISH, CHANGE AND BE THE BEST VERSIONS OF THEMSELVES.”

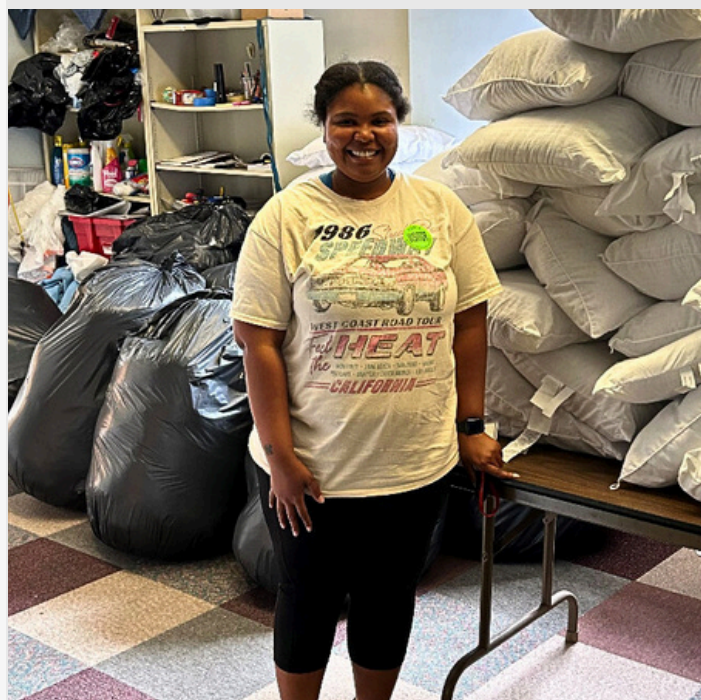
HEATHER ELY, DIRECTOR
NORWALK & DANBURY
FAMILY CENTERS

"I LOVE WATCHING MY TEAM GROW. IT'S REALLY INSPIRING TO SEE AND WATCHING HOW INVESTED THEY ARE IN SEEING THEIR CLIENTS GROW."



JOHNNY, VOLUNTEER

"THE LOOK OF RELIEF IN THEIR EYES NEVER GETS OLD. IT'S LIFE-CHANGING FOR THEM - AND FOR ME."



MARIA PALACIOS, ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR/IMMIGRATION
SERVICES COUNSELOR

"WE GIVE PEOPLE A HAND UP, NOT A HAND OUT. WE ASK, 'WHAT DO YOU NEED AND HOW CAN WE GET YOU THERE? WHAT ARE THE THINGS WE CAN WORK ON TOGETHER TO HELP YOU REACH SELF-SUFFICIENCY?' I LIKE THAT APPROACH."



INSPIRING HOPE

Your compassion provides Fairfield County families with food, shelter, and hope.

Join us in 2025!



VOLUNTEER

Volunteering at Catholic Charities enhances service, outreach, and fundraising, while fostering skills and fulfillment.

- Prepare a meal
- Deliver furniture
- Mentor our youth
- Assist in job coaching
- Coordinate a food drive

ATTEND EVENTS

Attending fundraising events supports Catholic Charities, boosts awareness, and fosters community engagement.

- Spread the word
- Donate auction items
- Purchase a table and invite friends
- Host an event

DONATE

Donating to Catholic Charities sustains programs, supports communities, and drives lasting change.

- Every donation matters
- Monthly gifts fund long-term initiatives
- See if your company will match

LEAVE A LEGACY GIFT

Leave a lasting legacy with a planned gift to Catholic Charities' Bell Tower Circle, reflecting your values and aiding those in need.

- Plan a gift for the future
- Leave your mark on the future
- Create lasting impact

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Planned Giving - A Win for Everyone

Why a Planned Gift?

- Make a lasting impact on your Fairfield County neighbors beyond your lifetime.
- Align your giving with your legacy for generations.

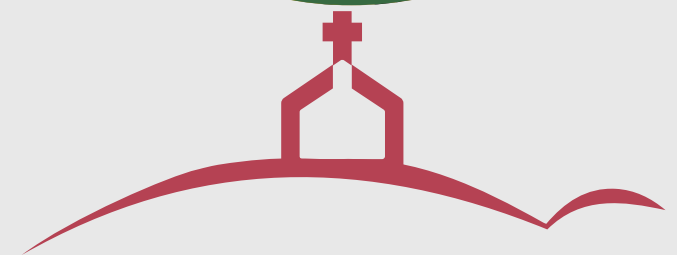
Benefits

- Potential tax advantages.
- Flexibility to choose the best giving option for you.
- Options for recognition and multi-generational involvement.

Get started!

Shaye Anne McCormick,
Senior Development Officer
smccormick@ccfc-ct.org
475-225-6371

www.ccfairfield.org/planned-giving



Did you know?

Funding for the new Thomas Merton Family Center was seeded by a bequest from a woman in Bridgeport?

Her thoughtful generosity made it possible for us to move to a newly renovated building in the heart of Bridgeport, giving more clients a hand up.

Thank you



for your generous support !

Your generosity drives every meal served, every apartment furnished, and every counseling session.

Acknowledgements

- Donors & monthly givers
- Volunteers
- Corporate & foundation partners
- Collaborators
- Diocesan parishes
- Local schools & universities
- Board and Council Members
- The communities we serve
- Our amazing team





BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Carol Calandra, Treasurer
Anne O. McCrory, Secretary

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Thomas Heckel	

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Mary-Beth Petersen | VP, Human Resources
Debra Bodner-Beurer | VP, Finance
Chrissa Ventrelle | Director of Philanthropy
Shaye Anne McCormick | SR Development Officer
Amy Zajac | SR Director, Marketing and Events



www.ccfairfield.org/donate

Ask your employer
about matching gifts.

Want to learn more?

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203-913-8365
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Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Inc.