Here’s What’s Happening at Catholic Charities of Corpus Christi and Mother Teresa Shelter...

We hope that you and your loved ones remain healthy and safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please be aware that Catholic Charities of Corpus Christi and the Mother Teresa Shelter are monitoring the current Coronavirus situation closely and are taking precautionary measures to prepare for and prevent the spread of this virus. **We are here... We are open...**

**COVID-19**

With the COVID-19 stay-at-home order for Nueces County, the needs in our community are greater than ever. Our Catholic Charities and Mother Teresa Shelter services are critical and essential. Like never before, we need your support. Please give today to help ensure we can meet the needs of our community. We hope that you and your loved ones remain healthy and safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Emergency Aid by Appointment Only:** Our Food Pantry and Financial Assistance programs are open by appointment only. For the Food Pantry, we have implemented a drive-thru system. Clients call to get an appointment date and then come at any time during that day. They never have to get out of their car. This allows the clients to receive their food, but also keeps our staff at a safe distance. We are seeing a weekly increase in the need for food.
For Financial Assistance, we have implemented an appointment only system. We have set up an area in the lobby complete with a sneeze guard to keep both the clients and staff safe and healthy. Between March 2 – March 25, 2020, we have given financial assistance to 51 households with 99 members. Assistance totaling $6,579.54.

**Emergency Aid Financial Assistance**

**Home Deliveries:** Home deliveries were made from our food pantry on March 24th and 25th to some of our senior and disabled clients who are not able to get out at this time. Each bag contained fresh produce, canned goods, rice, beans, and chicken fajitas. In order to keep everyone safe, we scheduled a time with them and then did a door drop-off only.

**Home Delivery Food Pantry Bags**
Masks for Staff and Volunteers: Sister Antonietta "Letizia" Le Re from the Ministry & Life Enrichment for Persons with Disabilities Program has been busy sewing face masks for our Catholic Charities and Mother Teresa Shelter staff and volunteers. So far, she has sewn 45 masks. Thank you Sister Letizia.

![Sister Letizia sewing face masks](image)

Immigration Services by Appointment Only: All consultations for new clients will be by appointment only. Walk-ins for new clients will not occur until further notice. Please call (361) 884-0651 Ext. 233 to schedule an appointment for new clients to consult.

Parents as Teachers: Our Parents as Teachers staff are now doing virtual home visits with clients. They also prepared learning packets for our clients, while they stay at home. Each packet contains 3 activities, coloring book, crayons, and a reading book.
Parents as Teachers staff assembling learning packets

**Mother Teresa Shelter:** Until further notice, the main day room, showers and laundry facilities are temporarily closed due to COVID-19. We are offering breakfast at 8:00 am and lunch at 11:00 am in the form of take-out meals. We are averaging 120 clients for breakfast and 100 clients for lunch each day. Our staff is working very hard to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Mother Teresa Shelter staff serving lunch, complete with a special message for each client.

**Thank You CC Produce Co. and Fajitaville Grill North Beach:**
On March 24th, Fajitaville Grill North Beach bought by a very generous donation for the Mother Teresa Shelter. They donated fresh tomatoes, mixed bell peppers, coleslaw mix, shredded lettuce, romaine lettuce, lemons, oranges, asparagus, jalapenos, green onions, avocados, and guacamole along with charro beans,
refried beans, calypso rice, salsa, tortillas, and spanish rice. They also donated 70 lbs. of fajita chicken breast and 90 lbs. of fajita beef skirt. We thank you and our clients thank you!

On March 25th, CC Produce Co. dropped off some fresh produce including lemons, several lettuce varieties, coleslaw mix, spinach, strawberries, bell peppers, and green onions. Our Catholic Charities and Mother Teresa Shelter clients thank you!

Volunteers: On March 24th we had some volunteers stop by to help fill food bags. Thank you Marco Medina and Leonard Thurmond from Young Catholic Adults and Jim Craig a Diocesan Seminarian.
**Notices:** The Ministry & Life Enrichment for Persons with Disabilities have suspended all programs for the month of March. Please call (361) 884-0651 Ext. 249 for more information.

The Ministry & Life Enrichment for Persons with Disabilities Program has announced The 2020 Father Walsh Summer Camp, which was scheduled for June 12 & 13, 2020, has been postponed until further notice. Please stay safe and healthy. Remember - Jesus’ power will pull us through!

The Parents as Teachers March Parent Cafe has been cancelled.

Catholic Charities-Flour Bluff is temporarily closed.

**Stay-At-Home Order:** Due to the stay-at-home order for Nueces County, we have developed a Continuity of Operations plan for our staff. In order to keep our services available, all non-essential employees will be working remotely from home, where we will be able to maintain our case management functions remotely, and all essential employees will report to the office. Our dedicated employees continue to care for our community in accordance with all the safety measures to keep them and those we serve safe. We will continue to be open with limited services.

**New Executive Director**
A Press Conference was held on March 11th in our Memorial Rose Garden to introduce Warren E. Phipps, Jr. as the new Executive Director of Catholic Charities of Corpus Christi and Mother Teresa Shelter. Warren’s first day was March 2nd. Welcome Warren – we are so happy to have you onboard!

*Bishop Mulvey, Jean Claire Turcotte, and Warren E. Phipps, Jr.*
**Catholic Charities-Flour Bluff Lunch Backpack Program**

Catholic Charities-Flour Bluff with the help of private donors, Knights of Columbus (St. Paul and St. Andrew), Catholic Daughters (ST. Paul), and other ministries in our Flour Bluff communities helps provide weekend meals for FBISD students. In 2019, we completed 45 weekend meal bags for students each week and this year we are doing 40 bags each week. The students who receive these bags are beyond grateful. Each year we receive the best heart felt “thank you” letters from students who receive the weekend bags, but we also receive “thank you” letters from students who want to show us how grateful they are for us helping their friends in need.

**New Choice Pantry**

A Blessing by Bishop Mulvey and the Choice Pantry Grand Opening was held on March 2, 2020.
We have reenergizing our current food pantry by turning it into a Choice Pantry. A Choice Pantry allows clients seeking food assistance to choose for themselves what products they receive rather than receiving pre-packaged bags. The choice system helps families “shop” for foods they like and need while leaving behind items they will not use. Nothing goes to waste. The Choice Pantry will offer clients access to healthy and nutritious foods. While the specific food selection will vary from month to month, items from each nutritional food group (dairy, protein, grains, fruits, vegetables) will always be represented. A staff member or volunteer will be on-hand to assist when shopping. Clients will also meet with Budget & Money Management staff and the SNAP/Outreach Coordinator.

Grow Local-South Texas will bring in their weekly harvest every Tuesday to put into the Choice Pantry.

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Choice Pantry is temporarily closed. Clients in need of the food pantry will receive a pre-packaged bag via the new drive-thru system. Call (361) 884-0651 for more information.

Thank You to Our Choice Pantry Partners
Catholic Charities USA and Walmart Foundation; United Way of the Coastal Bend; Coastal Bend Food Bank; H-E-B; Grow Local - South Texas; Local Parishes; Nueces County Judge Barbara Canales; and Nueces County Commissioner Joe A. Gonzalez

IWA Student Volunteers
IWA Juniors spent the day volunteering at Catholic Charities on Friday, February 21st as part of a day of service called Angel Outreach. Students painted signs for the upcoming Fr. Walsh’s Summer Camp, worked in the
Memorial Rose Garden, packed Emergency Aid food bags and sorted donated clothing. Thank you students and chaperones for thinking of us.

**Employee of the Month**

Congratulations to our two recent Employees of the Month.

**February Employee of the Month**

*Irma Martinez*

For 2 years Irma has helped clients with financial assistance and the food pantry through the Emergency Aid Program. Irma, who always maintains a positive attitude, is a hard-worker who jumps in when and where needed.

*Congratulations Irma!*

We are proud of you and appreciate all you do to support the missions of Catholic Charities and Mother Teresa Shelter.

**March Employee of the Month**

*Sister Antonietta "Letizia" Le Re*

Sister Letizia has been with the Ministry & Life Enrichment for Persons with Disabilities Program of Catholic Charities for almost 2 years! She is a hard worker - when a task needs to be done, Sister Letizia does not waste any time and gets right to it! She has used her beautiful sewing skills to raise much needed funding for the ministry.

*Congratulations Sister Letizia!*

We are proud of you and appreciate all you do to support the missions of Catholic Charities and Mother Teresa Shelter.

**Get Involved**

There are many ways to get involved with Catholic Charities of Corpus Christi and Mother Teresa Shelter... Give funds... Give your time... Give your talent... Get involved... We need you!
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Twitter https://twitter.com/ccharities_cctx
Catholic Charities of Corpus Christi www.catholiccharities-cc.org
615 Oliver Ct., Corpus Christi, Texas 78408 (361) 884-0651
Mother Teresa Shelter www.motherteresashelter.org
513 Sam Rankin Ave., Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-2621, (361) 883-7372

Thank You for your continuous support of our programs and agencies!

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