

Photo credit: Barbara Gauntt, The Clarion-Ledger

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

2008 marks the 45th year of Catholic Charities service to the people of Mississippi. Catholic Charities has been blessed with servant-leaders like Msgr. Elvin Sunds and Mrs. Linda Raff who positioned the agency as the premier provider of compassionate services to the people of the diocese.

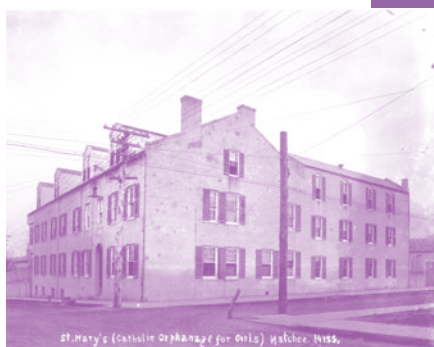
What follows are highlights of Catholic Charities history since its roots in two Natchez orphanages in the 1850's, through its incorporation in 1963 and its recent growth. The history of the agency offers a unique perspective on the blessing the agency has been to the people of Mississippi.

My pledge to you is that Catholic Charities will continue to provide help and create hope through high quality services, meaningful volunteer opportunities and wise stewardship of the resources entrusted to us on behalf of the Church in the Diocese of Jackson.

In thanksgiving for God's grace
and your caring friendship,

Gregory B. Patin, Executive Director

History of Catholic Charities



- 1837** Catholic Diocese of Natchez is created, encompassing the entire state of Mississippi.
- 1850's** Two orphanages for homeless children of all faiths are established in Natchez: St. Mary's Orphanage for girls and D'Evereax Hall for boys.
- 1962** Bishops Gerow and Brunini appoint Msgr. Michelin to organize a Catholic social service agency and to arrange for the transfer of the children from the orphanages into foster care.
- 1963** The State of Mississippi issued a Charter of Incorporation to Catholic Charities establishing it as the Social Service Agency of the Catholic Diocese.
- 1963-64** The agency expands its services to include maternity care for unwed mothers, marriage and family counseling, and emergency assistance.
- 1968** Catholic Charities becomes the first organization to sponsor federally subsidized housing in Mississippi. Over 1000 units were built to house low income and elderly persons.
- 1975** Father Elvin Sunds joins Charities as Associate Director and in 1979 was appointed Executive Director, a position he served until 1994.
- 1979** Linda Raff joins Catholic Charities as Associate Director and becomes Executive Director in 1994.
- 1980** The agency opens a shelter for battered women in Jackson.
- 1982** By this date Charities had ongoing programs in adoption, foster care, maternity issues, family life, emergency assistance, domestic violence, respect for life, housing and refugee resettlement.
- 1980's** Commenced legislative advocacy to promote the social justice concerns of the Catholic Church. Fr. Sunds and Mrs. Raff became licensed lobbyists.
- 1982** Opens the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program which rescues children from refugee camps in war torn countries who are separated from their parents. These children are placed in foster homes until they become adults. Children from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Haiti, Sudan, The Congo and Liberia have been served.



Catholic Charities, Inc. Founded 1963

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Msgr. Elvin Sunds, Vicar General
William Dunning

Executive Director

Gregory Patin

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* Committee Chair

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- 1983 Establishes Our House Runaway Shelter for homeless teens which is now celebrating 25 years of service. Our House helps almost 200 teens each year.
- 1983 Catholic Charities awarded national accreditation from the Council on Accreditation of Agencies Serving Families and Children. Today we are the only social service agency in Mississippi to meet these demanding standards.
- 1985 The Board of Directors initiates an Advisory Board, later called the Governance Council, to oversee the operations of the agency.
- 1987 Sister Clare Hogan D.C. opens the Catholic Charities regional office in Natchez providing emergency assistance as well as marriage and family counseling. Today, under the guidance of Martha Mitternacht, services have expanded to include a shelter for battered families, a sexual assault center, community food pantry, thrift shop, mental health services plus pre-school and adolescent day treatment.
- 1995 Born Free program opens which offers primary treatment in a 24 hour setting for pregnant women with substance abuse problems. New Beginnings provides transitional care that helps women readjust to living back in the community following their treatment at Born Free.
- 1997 Ministry programs were expanded under the guidance of Sister Donna Gunn for advocacy on state and national legislation that gives clients of Catholic Charities hope for a better future. Other initiatives were the Elder Justice Center and Health Care Advocacy.
- 2000's Having long provided therapeutic foster care for children who were victims of abuse and neglect, the agency wanted to provide therapy that addressed the traumatic events these children had experienced. At the same time there was a nationwide emphasis on "evidence based practices" to demonstrate that the therapy for these children was actually helping them. With a federal grant, we began training Charities clinicians in evidence based practices as well as clinicians throughout the state. The program is named Trauma Recovery for Youth (TRY). We also established the Solomon Counseling Center.
- 2001 As services expanded from a budget of \$753,000 in 1982 and a staff of 38 to a staff of over 200 and a 2008 budget of \$11 million, we needed to strengthen our organization structure and install professional leadership. A Finance department was established and all accounting moved from the Chancery to Charities. We also opened a Human Resource Department and an Office of Development.
- 2003 Communities and parishes throughout the state saw an influx of Hispanic individuals and families in the late 1990's. Responding to the special needs of this population, Catholic Charities opened the Legal Immigration Clinic, which provides staff to help with legal issues related to work status and family reunification.
- 2005 A regional office was established in Vardaman to start supplying services to the northeast portion of the diocese. The current emphasis is on serving the needs of the large Hispanic population but the vision is to provide a broad range of services to the area.
- 2008 This year marks the 45th anniversary of Catholic Charities as well as the retirement of Executive Director, Linda Raff after 29 years of service to the agency. The year also marks the appointment of Greg Patin as the new Executive Director. He brings 15 years experience working with Catholic Charities agencies in Galveston, Houston and Baton Rouge, as well as great enthusiasm, energy, ability and love of God and the church.

As we look back over the past 45 years and look forward to the future, we give thanks and celebrate the many gifts and graces Catholic Charities has received. Please pray for the future of the agency and its faith filled staff. Pray also for the thousands of lives Charities has touched through the years as well those many people we hope to serve as a visible sign of Christ's love.

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

As many of you know, I retired on September 30th after working for Catholic Charities since 1979. I am so grateful to have had the privilege of serving this remarkable organization for so many years and this last year was no exception.

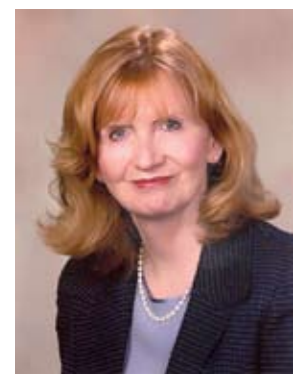
Last year Catholic Charities served over 25,000 individuals in following our mission to be a visible sign of Christ's love for all people. There were joyous times when we celebrated children being adopted, families in crisis stabilized, couples prepared for marriage, abused children healed, homeless youth moved into permanent care, battered women established in safe homes, rape victims counseled, refugees and immigrants assisted, and pregnant, addicted women nursed back to emotional and physical health.

Then there were the discouraging times when we saw families suffer because of a lack of resources — resources we did not have available to fulfill basic needs. These are resources that we feel will be scarce for years to come. Because of these circumstances, the services offered by Catholic Charities are more crucial than ever. The responsibility to hear God's call is without question and the invitation for you to be part of the response is without question. Together, we have the ability to help people in difficult circumstances live a better life — and thus we serve the common good.

I pray you will continue to bless this organization with your gifts and prayers. Please give our new Executive Director, Greg Patin, the same loving support that inspired and sustained me for so many years.

May God bless you and your families,

Linda Raff



Providing Help. Creating Hope ...for all God's children.



Adoption / Maternity Care

- **Adoption Services** are provided for those seeking to open their homes and hearts to children. Our services include domestic and international home studies, pre and post placement services for adoptive families, services to birth parents, and counseling, which is available throughout the life of an adopted child.
- **Maternity Care Services** are provided to those women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy. We can assist with prenatal counseling, exploring parenting options, adoption planning, and referrals.
- **Infant Foster Care Services** are provided on a short term basis for infants pending adoptive placement or reunification with birth families.

Persons Served:

280



Children's Services

- **Day Treatment** emphasizes training children in skills that will help them be successful in school.
- **The Trauma Recovery for Youth Project (TRY)** strives to raise the standard of care and increase access to services for traumatized children, their families, and communities throughout the state.
- **Crisis Response and Outreach** offers crisis intervention services including 24 hour telephone and mobile crisis response with on-site intervention at the convenience of the family in crisis.
- **Hope Haven Home-Based** provides counseling and service coordination to families whose children have a mental health diagnosis.
- **Hope Haven Residential** provides residential services in a therapeutic crisis center. Services involve short-term respite with individual and group therapy.
- **Our House Homeless and Runaway Teen Shelter** provides emergency shelter, counseling services and an array of comprehensive prevention/intervention services to runaway, homeless, neglected and abused youth ages 12 – 17.
- **Therapeutic Foster Care** offers intensive in-home services designed to help children with serious emotional disorders develop the skills needed to function in the home and community settings.

36



N/A



67

146



435

636

126



Women and Violence

- **Domestic Violence Centers** in Jackson and Natchez provide safe refuge for victims of family violence. We provide emergency shelter, daycare, therapeutic day treatment and counseling. The Jackson Domestic Violence Center offers a Legal Assistance Clinic that provides support and legal representation to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- **Rape Crisis Centers** in Jackson and Natchez assists victims of sexual assault with medical intervention and support at the hospital. Victims and their families can receive counseling and support through the legal system.

5,584



7,730



Alcohol and Drug Services

- **Born Free and New Beginnings** are residential treatment programs for pregnant and/or parenting women needing assistance to recover from chemical addictions.
- **Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention** focuses on the dangers of using and abusing alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. In partnership with the Region IX Prevention Coalition, the program employs the strategy of a community based process.

1692



Refugee Services

- **Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program** is a long-term therapeutic foster care program for refugee children from war torn countries and individuals seeking political asylum.

22



Parish Based Ministries

- **Parish Social Ministry** is rooted in social justice education and advocacy. This office offers educational workshops and assistance to parishes.
- **Office of Parish Health Ministry** assists individual parishes to establish their own health ministries through the efforts of parish nurses and other volunteers, and helps individuals find resources to medical or social needs that are not easily addressed.
- **The Office of Family Ministry** works with parishes to provide a variety of services that support and minister to families. The following programs are offered:

1,125

75



When Families Marry – Redeeming State – REFOCCUS – Rebuilding – Parenting Classes – Marriage and Family Counseling

348



The Solomon Counseling Center provides comprehensive, professional and affordable counseling services for individuals, couples and families. The Center is a Department of Mental Health certified community out-patient counseling center for children and adults.

- **Immigration Clinic** specializes in family and employment based immigration services, including permanent residence, citizenship, work authorizations, VAWA cases, and visa renewal. It also provides community education, advocacy and outreach for immigrant communities. 1,108
- **Long Term Disaster Relief** offers long term services to promote self sufficiency and empowerment to those who have been affected by hurricanes. With offices in both Jackson and Natchez, these services provide crisis counseling; long-term case management; guidance through the process of finding community and government resources. 2,539



Natchez Office

- The Catholic Charities Natchez office offers an array of services including the Guardian Sexual Assault Center, Guardian Battered Families Shelter, Counseling, Emergency Assistance, Supportive Housing, Day Treatment, Housing Counseling, Long Term Recovery, the Guardian Thrift Store, and the Natchez Food Pantry. 5,736



Northeast Office

- The Catholic Charities office located in Vardaman, MS, offers general social services that strive to reach out to underserved populations. It assists them with referrals, advocacy, general information, and translations. The VITA Program offers free assistance to low-income working poor with their tax returns, and literacy programs. 450



Every 9 seconds a woman is beaten in the United States

Interview with Barbara Pigott, Director of Social Services at Catholic Charities, and Dr. Gwen Bouie Haynes, Director of the Domestic Violence Services Center.

Barbara, tell us of your involvement with the Shelter for Battered Families.

I was hired in August 1980 as the Director of the Shelter for Battered Families. Catholic Charities applied for and received Title XX funds from the Department of Human Services which allowed us to move into a 6000 square foot building and hire staff. The first year the program served 400 women and children.

At the time, there was one other shelter in the State, the Biloxi Women's Center. Within the next few years, we successfully advocated for legislation that placed a fee on marriage licenses to fund domestic violence shelters within each Mississippi Highway Patrol district. These funds are channeled through the Department of Health and now provide for 12 shelters statewide.

Gwen, how long have you directed the Domestic Violence Program at Catholic Charities?

I have worked in the area of domestic violence for 20 years at Catholic Charities. I served as program director for six years at the Shelter for Battered Families and have been director of the Domestic Violence Services Center for 14 years.

What drew you to this work?

It is God's call and purpose for me. My Bachelor of Arts degree is in psychology with special training in the mental health well-being of children and families. While studying for my Master of Social Work degree, I worked as an intern with child sexual abuse victims and their parents. I interviewed with Barbara Pigott, then director of Catholic Charities Domestic Violence Services Center, for the director's position at the shelter. Having received this position, I began working with the victims, managing the program, and writing grants.

I did not know that domestic violence would become a specialized area for me. I have some extended family members who are survivors of domestic violence, and in part, their struggle to live violence free drives me to continually critique and evaluate our services. I have observed how domestic violence affects women, children, teens, people with disabilities, immigrant victims, men, and the elderly.

While working on my Doctor of Philosophy degree in social work, I researched African American child witnesses to domestic violence and the findings further solidified my drive for this work as a public health issue.

What are the major obstacles you face in leading this service for women and children?

One of my major problems is securing stable funding to meet the growing demands for services. I have been blessed to lead this program with a very devoted staff but we labor under limited financial resources to implement all of the services. I believe that if God did not have His hands on me, I could not do this work. It is always a challenge to increase community awareness about domestic violence – especially getting the public to understand that domestic violence is a crime. Among our biggest obstacles at the present time is securing a new day care facility, expanding the shelter, and obtaining a new van. I believe that we can overcome any of these challenges through faith, determination, and support.

How do you measure success or achievement in the area of domestic violence?

The measure of our success begins with "YOU". This implies that it takes each individual, organization, judicial system, school, church, medical facility, law enforcement agency, and civic groups to achieve success in combating domestic violence. Our approach to success is to always exceed what we did the day before through improved collaboration, best practice service delivery, training and research. We strive to employ a team approach "Together Each Achieves More" because it takes everyone and every system to touch the lives of individuals experiencing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.



Barbara Pigott



Dr. Gwen Bouie Haynes

1 out of every 4 women will experience violence in a relationship during a lifetime

Mississippi ranks 5th in the nation for domestic violence homicides

**Statement of
Financial Position**
June 30, 2008 & 2007

Statement of Financial Position
June 30, 2008 & 2007

	2008	2007
ASSETS		
Cash & Equivalents	28,779	28,133
Prepaid Expenses	49,398	45,047
Restricted Funds	287,143	246,094
Grants and Pledges Receivable	1,067,587	823,248
Total Current Assets	1,432,907	1,142,522
Non-Current Assets	237,199	268,822
Total Assets	1,670,106	1,411,344
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	330,433	208,546
Accrued Salaries	117,912	57,416
Excess of Outstanding Checks over Bank Balance	79,378	103,432
Total Current Liabilities	527,723	369,394
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	245,568	191,678
Temporarily Restricted	829,929	788,701
Permanently Restricted	66,886	61,571
Total Net Assets	1,142,383	1,041,950
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	1,670,106	1,411,344

**Statement of
Financial Activities**
June 30, 2008 & 2007

Statement of Financial Activities
June 30, 2008 & 2007

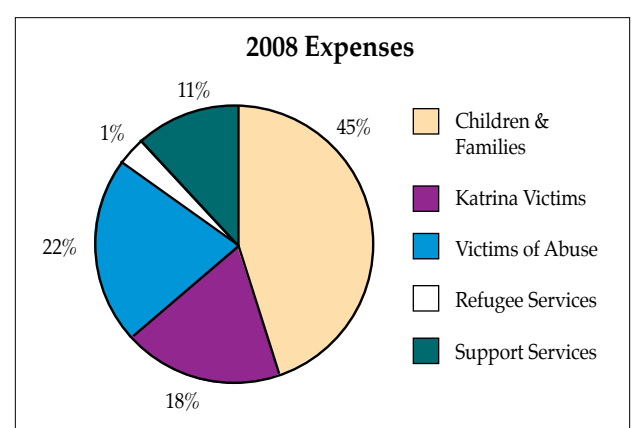
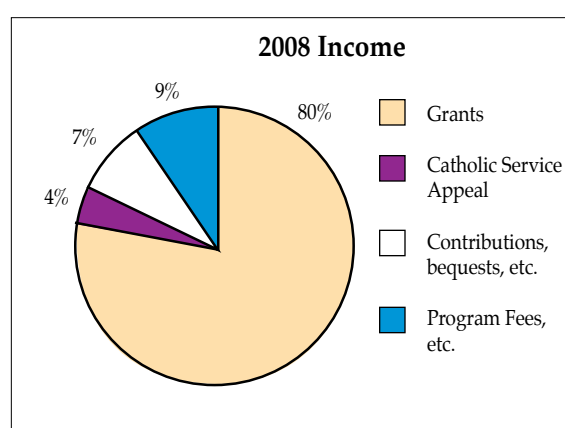
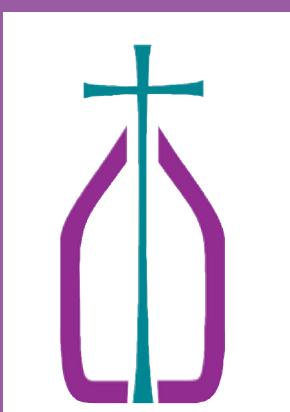
	2008	2007
INCOME		
Catholic Service Appeal	461,633	474,151
Contributions, Bequests & donated goods	787,288	723,309
Grants from Governmental & private agencies	8,509,589	7,487,258
Program Service Fees & other Income	996,368	961,132
Total Income	10,754,878	9,645,850
EXPENSES		
Adoptions	125,422	146,667
Ministries Programs / Counseling Center	569,868	447,306
Refugee Programs	448,422	493,805
Rape and Domestic Violence Programs	1,472,926	1,313,396
Natchez Programs*	1,480,726	1,322,218
Runaway Youth Services	499,431	525,724
Children's Mental Health Services	2,265,096	2,092,529
Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs	668,594	630,024
Northeast Office	40,776	43,222
Katrina Long Term Recovery	1,900,148	2,497,782
Support Services & Fundraising	1,183,036	973,629
Total Expenses	10,654,445	10,486,302
Excess of Income over / (under) Expenses	100,433	(840,452)

*Natchez Programs include Domestic Violence Shelter, Rape Crisis, Emergency Assistance, Counseling, Katrina Relief, Children's Mental Health Services

From the Independent Auditor's Report

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as of June 30, 2008, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Horne LLP



DONORS

Gifts to Catholic Charities have an immense impact on the lives of those seeking help throughout the year. On behalf of the Executive Board, Governance Council, clients, volunteers and staff, we recognize those individuals, corporations and foundations that have made commitments to Catholic Charities and those we serve for the period of July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008. We extend our deepest gratitude to all those who give throughout the year. Please know that your support is critical to our mission of Providing Help and Creating Hope for all of God's children.

> 50,000

Catholic Charities USA
Catholic Diocese of Jackson
City of Jackson
City of Natchez
Mission and Ministries
St. Dominic Hospital
State of Mississippi
United Way

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Catholic Legal Immigration Network
Foundation For The Mid South, Inc
Hinds County Board of Supervisors
McGowan Partners St. Mary McGowan Working Partners
Mr. and Mrs. Earle Jones
MS Coalition Against Domestic Violence
The Mississippi Bar
United Way of MS-Lou
W. O'Neil Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

American Red Cross
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Sisters of St. Francis
St. James Catholic Church
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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Catholic Charities of Pittsburgh
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John N. Palmer Foundation Inc.
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\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Rotary Club of North Jackson
Santa Claus Committee
United Way of Lincoln County
United Way of Metropolitan Nashville
United Way of SW MS
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Mr. and Mrs. Mark Webb
Mrs. Margaret O. Williams
Mrs. Catherine Wohnner

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moorehead
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Ms. Erin Propst
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Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Tynes
Mr. Ward William Van Skiver
Vidalia Women's Club
Mr. and Mrs. Dolphus Weary
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Welborn

<\$499

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Mr. and Mrs. Carl Adams
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Mr. and Mrs. Mac Addison
Mr. Murphy Adkins
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	In Memory of: Nan Fakier Mrs. Andrew Landry	In Memory of: Robert Lambdin Mrs. Andrew Landry	In Memory of: Edwin Shaffer Ms. Maureen Burke	In Memory of: Carolynn West Mr. James Guercio	In Honor of: Sr William Loretta Mr. and Mrs. William McEnerney, Jr.
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	In Memory of: Sonny Finn , Jr. Ms. Patsy Eames	In Memory of: Robert Lambdin Mrs. Andrew Landry	In Memory of: Rameel Sharpe Ms. Maureen Burke	In Memory of: Carolynn West Mr. James Guercio	In Honor of: Karla McQuilla- Goines Ms. Patricia McFadden
	In Memory of: Sonny Fountain Mr. and Mrs. Jack T. Catherwood	In Memory of: Robert Lambdin Mrs. Andrew Landry	In Memory of: Rameel Sharpe Ms. Maureen Burke	In Memory of: Carolynn West Mr. James Guercio	In Honor of: Susan J. Panepinto Ms. Patricia McFadden
	In Memory of: Msgr. Michael Glynn Dr. and Mrs. Alton Cobb	In Memory of: Robert Lambdin Mrs. Andrew Landry	In Memory of: Rameel Sharpe Ms. Maureen Burke	In Memory of: Carolynn West Mr. James Guercio	In Honor of: Ben Piazza, Jr. Mr. Harold J. Powers
		In Memory of: Robert Lambdin Mrs. Andrew Landry	In Memory of: Rameel Sharpe Ms. Maureen Burke	In Memory of: Carolynn West Mr. James Guercio	In Honor of: Linda Raff Mr. William Heller Bishop William Houck
		In Memory of: Robert Lambdin Mrs. Andrew Landry	In Memory of: Rameel Sharpe Ms. Maureen Burke	In Memory of: Carolynn West Mr. James Guercio	In Honor of: Jack and Bettie Rooks Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Develle
		In Memory of: Robert Lambdin Mrs. Andrew Landry	In Memory of: Rameel Sharpe Ms. Maureen Burke	In Memory of: Carolynn West Mr. James Guercio	In Honor of: Leo Smith, Jr. Ms. Patricia McFadden
		In Memory of: Robert Lambdin Mrs. Andrew Landry	In Memory of: Rameel Sharpe Ms. Maureen Burke	In Memory of: Carolynn West Mr. James Guercio	In Honor of: Ref. Elvin Sunds Mr. Patrick Larkin
		In Memory of: Robert Lambdin Mrs. Andrew Landry	In Memory of: Rameel Sharpe Ms. Maureen Burke	In Memory of: Carolynn West Mr. James Guercio	In Honor of: Mary Grace Yarborough Mr. and Mrs. James Booker
		In Memory of: Robert Lambdin Mrs. Andrew Landry	In Memory of: Rameel Sharpe Ms. Maureen Burke	In Memory of: Carolynn West Mr. James Guercio	In Honor of: Sister Clarice Carroll Christopher Carey

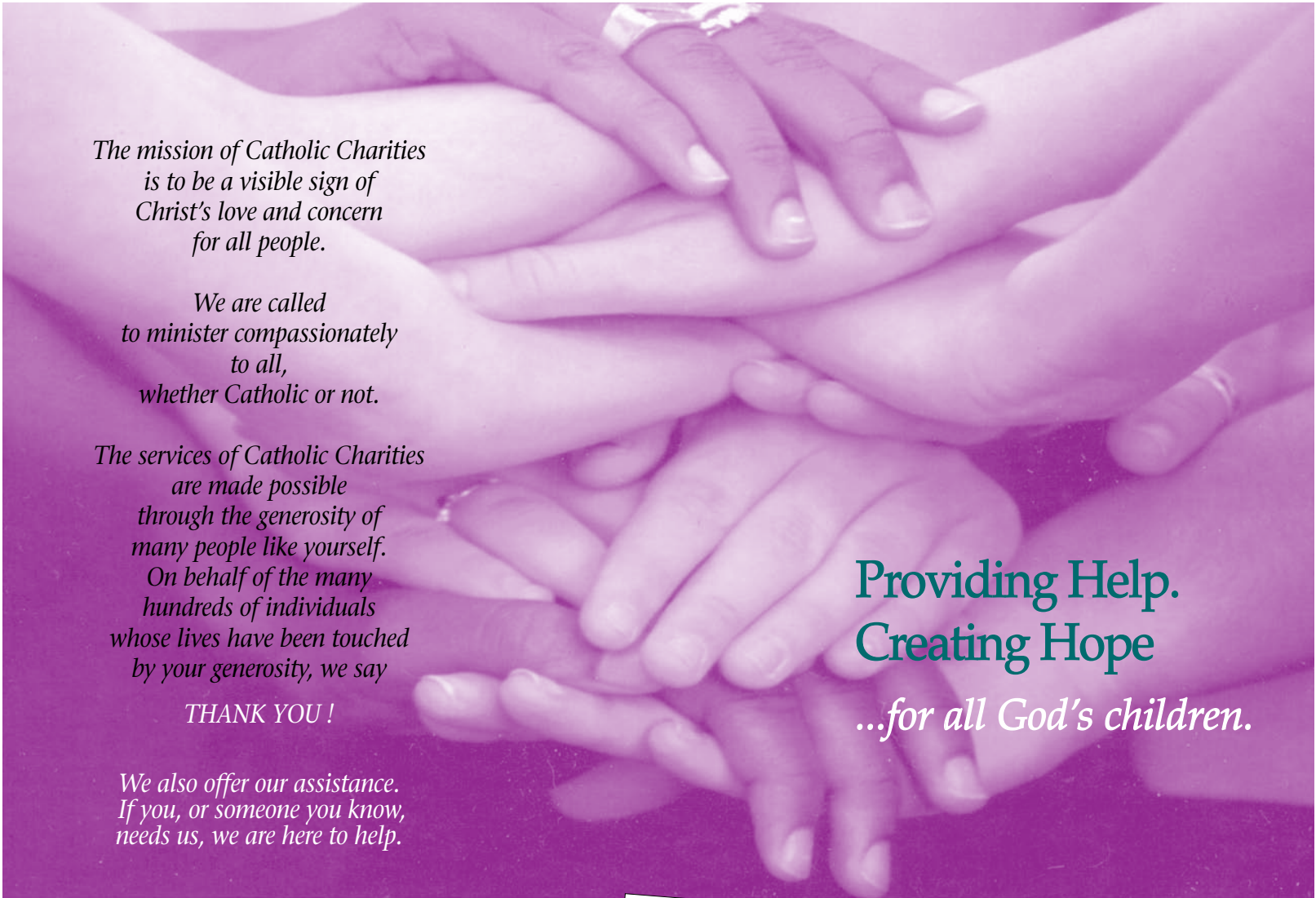


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Annual Report
 Year Ending 6/30/08

45th Anniversary

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*The mission of Catholic Charities
 is to be a visible sign of
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 for all people.*

*We are called
 to minister compassionately
 to all,
 whether Catholic or not.*

*The services of Catholic Charities
 are made possible
 through the generosity of
 many people like yourself.
 On behalf of the many
 hundreds of individuals
 whose lives have been touched
 by your generosity, we say*

THANK YOU !

*We also offer our assistance.
 If you, or someone you know,
 needs us, we are here to help.*

**Providing Help.
 Creating Hope**

...for all God's children.

Dear Staff,

My wife and I want to thank you. With the help of your Day Treatment Program, our son is a well-behaved youngster. You helped him and our whole family.

Before your program, we had tried everything we knew to help our troubled child. With your help, within a few days, we could see a change; within a few weeks, it was unbelievable! We had a happy child and we were better parents.

This year, he won a Good Citizenship award and is at the top of his class--and we are proud parents. He still talks about the things he learned with you.

We have recommended your program to other parents and will continue to.

Thank you all!!!

Dear Catholic Charities/Adoption Services,

All my life I knew I had 2 mothers. I knew I grew in one mama, and was cared for by another mama. I knew I was lucky, but until I had my own child, I had no idea how lucky.

On the day my son was born, I was flooded with emotions. Then it hit me as I was holding my new baby: my birthmother never knew this joy! At the time she delivered me, all she knew was pain, sorrow...and love. Love so overpowering, I don't know how she could bear it--love for me, love enough to give me to a woman she would never know. She knew she could never raise me the way she would have wanted to, as a single teenage mother in a society that would forever shame her.

Adopted children are not different from children born into ready-made families, they are simply blessed with 2 mothers that love them so deeply they would do anything to give them the best life they could possibly provide.

Thank you for helping both my mamas--and me.