



RELENTLESSLY Ending Poverty

NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHARITIES FALL 2024 EDITION

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DID YOU KNOW

Top Workplaces 2024



The results are in! National employee recognition organization, Top Workplaces, has listed CCFW as one of the Top Places to Work in

Dallas-Fort Worth. We're thrilled to foster a workplace where passion and purpose unite, valuing our employees just as much as our clients. Together, we empower our team to make a lasting difference in the communities we serve.

Expanding Vital Services in Denton, Texas

CCFW is expanding its poverty-ending services to reach even more clients in Denton, TX. As one of the fastest-growing areas in our diocese, Denton has a rising need for transformational support, and CCFW is prepared to meet it. Building on the success of our education programs, we're preparing to launch additional impactful services, including long-term case management, by Q2 2025 to further empower individuals and families on their journey to self-sufficiency.

CCFW Disaster Response to North Texas Storm

In May 2024, tornadoes devastated Montague, Cooke, Eastland, and Denton counties. CCFW responded swiftly, collaborating with local priests, equipping our Community Care team with knowledge of available resources, and assessing unmet needs in Valley View, TX. On June 7-8, we completed 16 Disaster Response intakes, prioritizing safety, basic needs, and medical care. Through a \$25,000 CCUSA Emergency Response grant, we also provided strategic financial assistance, emotional support, and crucial referrals to community and disaster-specific resources. Most importantly, eight individuals were referred into our long-term case management programs to foster lasting change beyond today's needs.



ENDING POVERTY THROUGH CHILDCARE SOLUTIONS

The rising costs of childcare are pushing many families to the brink, forcing difficult choices between work and caring for their children. In Fort Worth, the average cost of childcare is \$15.40 per hour. Full-time childcare expenses can consume up to 16% of a family's household income in Texas, which is well above the recommended threshold of 7% set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The average cost of full-time infant care in Texas is more than \$750 per month, while the average cost for a 4-year-old is more than \$580 per month. These skyrocketing costs strain family finances, making it difficult for parents to remain in the workforce and make ends meet.

At Catholic Charities Fort Worth (CCFW), we are committed to relentlessly ending poverty, and a key part of that vision is helping families find safe and affordable childcare. In 2024, we've seen a significant rise in clients needing assistance with childcare. To make matters worse, the costs of daycare and after-school programs have risen sharply, making affordable options even harder to find. CCFW's Childcare Specialists provide personalized assistance, connecting families with quality childcare providers that fit their needs and budget. Through partnerships with local providers, including highly rated Texas Rising Star centers, we strive to alleviate the childcare burden.

Camri, a single mother, relied on family for childcare assistance for her 2-year-old son while balancing school and work. After applying for Child Care Management Services (CCMS) but finding no funding available, she sought financial assistance from CCFW. Our Childcare Specialist referred her to a daycare partner offering discounts, including an extra discount for CCMS waitlist clients.

That was just the beginning for Camri and her son. In addition to ensuring Camri had safe and reliable childcare, CCFW was also able to help her secure a better-paying job and create a manageable budget for all of her future financial needs.

Beyond childcare connections, our Childcare Specialists also distribute essential resources like diapers, with more than 6,500 diapers given out monthly. Our hands-on approach empowers parents through workshops, financial assistance, and resources, helping them maintain stability so they can build bigger, brighter futures not just for themselves but for their families.

FROM CRISIS TO STABILITY:

Finding Safe and Affordable Housing



The housing crisis in Fort Worth has left many families struggling to find safe, affordable homes. With rents rising by more than 20% and a shortage of over 20,000 affordable units, housing is the largest obstacle our clients face. 40% of households in Fort Worth now spend more than 30% of their income on rent, making stability difficult, especially for those facing financial hardships. CCFW case managers notice the stresses caused by housing stability are record setting this year.

CCFW is dedicated to ending poverty through strong partnerships and streamlined housing solutions, working closely with vendors and apartment complexes to find long-term, sustainable housing for those in need.

Our Housing Specialists provide tailored solutions to meet each client's unique needs. Factors such as low credit scores, high security costs, or prior evictions can create significant barriers to stable housing.

One of our clients, an elderly woman, was facing challenges finding safe and affordable housing due to her poor rental history and bad credit. She avoided shelters

because of negative past experiences.

After helping her search for more than two months, she and CCFW finally found an apartment, despite her having a \$5,000 rental debt, which CCFW was able to assist with. This stable housing allowed her not only to regain her independence, but also focus on securing stable employment, providing her with the opportunity for a brighter future.

CCFW's research, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame's Lab for Economic Opportunities, proves that clients who are unstably housed when they enter our services experience a 64% increase in housing stability during their time in CCFW programs. Our approach goes beyond simply finding housing—we ensure long-term stability. To help clients stay housed, we provide holistic support, including budgeting assistance, childcare, transportation, and emergency strategic financial aid.

Serving individuals from ages 19 to 60+, CCFW empowers our clients to build secure, stable futures, breaking the cycle of poverty - for good.



Lisa's Journey to Stability

“My journey with Catholic Charities began after a challenging divorce and a move from Florida to Texas with my three children. Catholic Charities became my lifeline, helping me to secure stable housing and employment.

With a safe place to call home, I began to rebuild my confidence and rediscover my passion for event planning. Encouraged by my newfound stability and the financial behaviors my Case Manager taught me, I pursued culinary training and eventually started my own business. Today, I'm working towards a degree in Hospitality Management and have even planned my first wedding.

Catholic Charities Fort Worth offered more than just a roof over our heads; it empowered me to rebuild my confidence and my dreams for the future.

Thanks to Catholic Charities, I've built a stable life for my family and am excited for what's next.”

SOCIAL ENTERPRISES: Latest Updates

Dental



Transportation



Immigration



Our social enterprises are at the forefront of providing community support with low-cost, high-quality services that tackle critical, unmet needs and break down barriers in the system of poverty. Our Transportation Services, Immigration Services and Dental Clinic are designed to provide essential support where it's needed most, and the revenue generated from these enterprises are invested back into our programs and services, amplifying our impact in the community.

In 2024, our Transportation Department is on track to provide more than 65,000 rides, underscoring the vital role of access to affordable, reliable transportation in determining employment stability, personal well-being, and long-term success. CCFW Transportation operates the third-largest transportation fleet in Tarrant County, offering rides for employment, medical appointments, education, public benefits offices, and quality-of-life trips.

Our Immigration Services supports individuals in navigating the complex immigration process. With one in six Texans being an immigrant, our expert caseworkers and Department of Justice Accredited Representatives provide legal assistance to those eligible to apply for immigration benefits. With more than 40 years of experience serving the North Texas community, we remain committed to delivering the highest level of support.

In 2024, to date, our Dental Clinic has provided essential care to 3,354 patients, highlighting the importance of oral healthcare to one's overall health. With more than 100 years of combined experience, our staff delivers high-quality dental care, offering a fee structure for low and moderate-income families. Our adult and pediatric services include preventive, general, and specialty care, ensuring everyone has access to the care they need.

Over the past year, we've achieved remarkable progress in streamlining operations across all our social enterprises, enhancing both efficiency and effectiveness. This means we're now delivering even more transportation, immigration and dental services to our clients, transforming lives on an even greater scale.

These strides are a testament to our unwavering commitment to expanding and improving the range of services we offer at the lowest possible price. Your support is vital as we continue to grow and make a lasting difference in our community!

WHAT'S NEXT:

BE A CHRISTMAS ANGEL

Sponsor a child and help bring holiday joy to the children of our clients. Fulfill their wish lists and make this Christmas unforgettable for families in need! To learn more, contact christmasangels@ccdofw.org



Mark your calendars for #iGiveCatholic and Giving Tuesday on December 3! This special day is our chance to unite and make a difference through generosity and faith. Your support will drive impactful change and further our mission.



Advanced Giving begins Nov. 18!

MAKE A LASTING IMPACT THIS CHRISTMAS

Join us this holiday season in making a lasting impact. Your year-end donation supports our clients in need, expands our reach, and helps create holistic, evidence-based solutions to break the cycle of poverty. Get ahead on your holiday giving and donate today.



Scan the QR code to Donate Today!