



Catholic Charities
Diocese of St. Petersburg, Inc.

2016 Annual Report



Top Left: Bishop Lynch and Knights of Columbus bless cottage. **Bottom Left:** Bishop Lynch shows off a cottage. **Bottom Right:** M. Dufva, residents Millie and Joyce, and L. Benedict, Pinellas County official. **Top Right:** Millie Perry, resident, speaks at blessing ceremony

Hope Cottages™

"Pope Francis calls us...as good shepherds...as ministers of God's mercy, taking the initiative to seek out the lost, recapture and reclaim the disenchanted and disenfranchised...giving special attention to the poor; to the lonely, to the forgotten..."

- The Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg

Thank You to Our Supporters*

Because of your generosity, thousands in need have had their lives improved as they are lifted up in dignity. We cannot list all of you, but we thank you all equally.

\$100,000 +

The Helen C. Lawley Estate • The Andrew Kosko Estate • The Emma Bowen Estate • Anonymous (1)

\$25,000 - \$99,000

Ladies Auxiliary of St. Jude Knights of Columbus Council #6383 • The Dorothy Miller Estate • Knights of Columbus – Florida State Council • The Lucille Weyer Estate • Greg & Liz Sembler • Mel & Betty Sembler

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Dr. Jerry Kluff • Chris & Lauren Schellman • Dan & Nicole Doyle, Jr. • Knights of Columbus St. Stephen Council #14084 • Tom & Vicki Nelson • The Pub Waterfront Restaurant • The Libertore Fund for Children, Inc. • Diocese of St. Petersburg • St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church • Michael & Denise McCracken • Dex Imaging, Inc. • Duke Energy • Dick & Ouida Gramlich • Lynne Hensley • Jason & Heather Lamoureux • John McLaughlin • Judith Richard • Tom Harrington

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Dawn Ramos • Bonifacio Tejedor • Knights of Columbus Ambassadors of St. Paul Council #11211 • Frank & Barbara Murphy • Msgr. Joseph McCahon • Michael & Anna Parsons • Copperhead Charities, Inc. • New Song Ministries, Inc. • Ronald & Teresa Thatcher • The Melva Flick Estate • Kevin & Carolyn Farrell • Brian & Jennifer Giglia • Home Port Marina, Inc. • JMJ Site Development, Inc. • Tampa Bay Rays Baseball Ltd. • Joseph & JoAnn White • Tom & Julie Walrond • Anonymous (1)

\$1,500 - \$4,999

Corpus Christi Catholic Church • Knights of Columbus Councils: Fr. Lopez #5737, Fr. Michael J. Finnegan #14456, St. Mary's of the Grove #11138 • Trent & Laura Robinson • Clarity Services, Inc. • Chris & Jeanne Lewis • The Joe & Rose Hermann Charitable Foundation • Mark & Michelle Wegner • St. Anne Catholic Church • Kenneth & Heather Sabatino • BayCare Health System • Pinellas County Sheriff's Office • Ann Joyce • Robert & Stacia Kines • Rose & Ron Llauguet • Sean Lynch • Justyn Lefebvre • Gregory & Rebecca Bottom • Harvard Jolly, Inc. • Dolores Iacino • Joanne Joyce • Paramedica Plus, LLC • SBJ Resch Family Foundation, Inc. • Tony & Tiffany Coleman • Jonathan & Mary Kennedy • Francisco Llamas • The Catholic Foundation • James & Dr. Patricia Jeansonne • Warren & Denise DeBord • Howard & Virginia Baum, III • Robert Ashley • Teresa Miller • Edgar & Joan Vallar • Gregory Andrews • St. Anthony Catholic Church • Richard & Cecilia Kemball-Cook • Rick & Joyce Baker • DaVita Renal Care, Inc. • Eugene Hengel • JC Audiology, Inc. • George & Leslie Jennings • Knights of Columbus Councils: Most Holy Redeemer #667, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini #13209 • Caroline Kubicki • Largo Medical Center • Paul Molinini • Raymond James Charitable • Alton & Ginnie Chapman • 49th Street Bail Bonds, LLC • St. Lawrence Catholic Church • Anthony & Kim Caruso • Daniel & Patricia Ryan • Elizabeth McCarthy • WBVM 90.5 FM, Inc. • Norman & Nancy Dusseault • DiVito, Higham & Vasti, P.A. • Ariadne Rodriguez • Gail Whiting • Mark & Louise Donohue • Jose & Olga Gonzalez • Air Force Chaplain Corps • John Couture • Moffitt Cancer Center • Msgr. Robert F. Morris • Marcelo Pesantez • Robert & Teresa Zaiens • Jorge Rodriguez • Anonymous (9)

Non-Cash Gifts

Catholic Churches: Blessed Sacrament, St. Jerome, Espiritu Santo, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Catherine of Siena, Sacred Heart (Tampa), St. Brendan, St. Timothy's Women's Club, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Light of Christ, St. Mark's Columbiettes, St. Paul (Tampa), St. Lawrence, Corpus Christi, St. Theresa, Prince of Peace Women's Guild, St. Stephen, Incarnation, Nativity, St. Patrick (Largo), St. Joan of Arc, Christ the King Catholic Schools: Jesuit H.S., Clearwater Catholic H.S., Holy Family Catholic School, Tampa Catholic H.S., Notre Dame Catholic, Christ the King, St. John Vianney

Knights of Columbus: St. Raphael #10157, Ambassadors of St. Paul #11211, St. Mary's of the Grove #11138

* We strive for an error-free list. If we made a mistake, omitted you entirely, or you don't wish to be listed in the future, please contact us.

About Us

Background

Catholic Charities was created in 1945 by Bishop Joseph P. Hurley as the Tampa Office for Charity. It was operated under the auspices of the Diocese of St. Augustine as one of three regional offices, collectively known as Diocesan Catholic Charities, under the charter of the Catholic Charities Bureau, Inc. It was created to relieve the burden on Catholic parishes which were struggling to meet the needs of the poor in their communities at the end of World War II.

The present Catholic Charities was created as a nonprofit corporation in June 1968 when the Diocese of St. Petersburg was established reporting to Bishop Charles B. McLaughlin. Since then Catholic Charities has evolved under seven Executive Directors and three more Bishops, including our present Bishop, the Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch.

Catholic Charities' mission is driven by the Gospel mandate to serve those most in need among us by making manifest Christ's corporal works of mercy. Catholic Charities continues to provide the highest quality social services designed to preserve families and promote self-sufficiency and social justice. Catholic Charities operates three ministries under the *Ministries of Mercy* umbrella: *Foundations of Life*, *Friends in Need*, and *Shelters of Hope*.

Mission Statement

Catholic Charities serves with charity and compassion to promote the sanctity and dignity of all people with God. As a member of Church, Catholic Charities offers hope by helping those in need and unites with others in service.

Value Statement

Catholic Charities makes a Commitment to Serve all people with Respect, Compassion and Cooperation in the spirit of a unifying God.

Our Board of Trustees

Dcn. John Alvarez

Mr. Mark Boyce

Mr. Robert Chiavacci

Mr. Tony Coleman

Mr. Joseph DiVito, Esq

Sr. Dorothy Dwyer, OSF

Mr. Jeffory Forbes

Mr. Gerald P. Giglia

Mr. Nicholas W. Griffin

Very Rev. Daniel R. Kayaan, CSJ

Mr. Gerald Klufft, DDS

Most Rev. Robert N. Lynch

Mrs. Cecelia Mahone

Ms. Stephanie Marie Martin, Esq

Mr. Christopher E. McDonnell

Sr. Mary McNally, OSF

Mrs. Joan Morgan

Rev. Msgr. Robert Morris, VG

Mr. Frank V. Murphy

Sr. Mary Clare Neuhofer, OSB

Ms. Candy Olson

Ms. Karen Reich

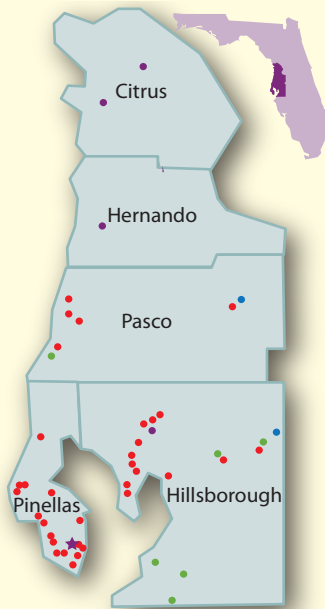
Mr. Eduardo Suarez

Mr. Dennis P. Waggoner, JD

Non-Cash Gifts (continued)

All Others: The Dennis O'Hanlan Family, Clarity Services, Inc., Feed America, St. Anthony's Hospital, Haven of Rest, Florida Pregnancy Care Network, Inc., Pasadena Community Church, St. Pete Vineyard, John Margaritano, Thomas M. Dieter, Rose Riccio, Goodwill Industries-Suncoast, Inc., Beacon Street Ministries, Rick Suozzi, Peter Alvarez, American Legion Aux Unit 158, Darrah Hawyer, Joseph Martins, Barbara Archibald, Margaret Rowe, Adam Rin, Melody Rosenberg, Stella M. Mazur, St. Leo University Faculty, Santiago Hoyos, Silviana Lopez, Joseph Covello, Rick Miller, Jean LeMoine, Joanne Littlejohn, Enie Dobbie, Dolores Hazard, Babycycle Diaper Bank, Our Lady of the Bay Parish, Kathleen Glassell, Michael Trumbull, Complete Plumbing, Inc., Steve Baler, Erma Rosone, Peggy Sheffield, Eye in the Sky Hand Up, Inc., Joe Suozzi, Ruby Sims, Clifton Laurent, Mary Tyson, Cheryl Rice, Lisa Clark, Patrick O. O'Brien, and many others too numerous to list.

Our Programs and Locations



LEGEND

★ - Headquarters

Blue - Foundations of Life

Green - Friends in Need

Red - Shelters of Hope

Purple - Multi-Ministry Site

		Pinellas	Hillsborough	Pasco	Hernando	Citrus	Clients Served / Results
Foundations of Life	Foundations of Life Pregnancy Center*	●	●	●	●		2,470
	Project Rachel (post-abortion counseling)	●	●	●	●	●	55
	Catholic Charities Adoption Services	●	●	●	●	●	231 / 11 adoptions
Shelters of Hope	Homeless Shelter & Services	●	●	●			2,238 / 49 vets
	Affordable Family Housing	●	●	●			1,622
	Special Needs Housing	●	●		●		270
	Elderly Housing	●	●	●			1,113
Friends in Need	Immigration & Refugee Services	●	●	●	●		2,517 / 312
	Medical & Respite Care	●	●	●	●	●	1,223 / 100
	Financial & Life Skills Counseling	●	●	●	●	●	1,176
	Outreach Center Assistance				●	●	1,710
	Disaster Relief Services			●			13 families

* includes Knights Women's Center

Unduplicated Clients: 14,304
 Client Services Provided: 290,935
 Meals Provided: 216,400

Hope Cottages™

Goal

Enhance residents' quality of life and self-esteem, hastening a return to stable, permanent housing for more of them and with fewer returning to homelessness.

Vision

Repurpose 50 shipping containers into sleeping quarters for 150 residents. The 20-foot long steel containers are re-configured into three separate living spaces called HOPE COTTAGES™. A multi-level improvement over tents, in addition to enhancing residents' sense of dignity and community, they provide:

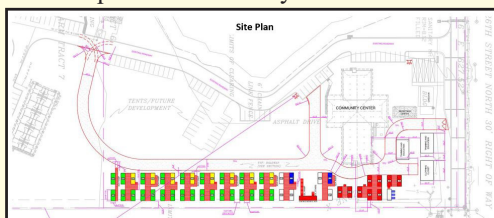
Safety: Built to withstand Category 4 Hurricane winds (Miami-Dade code)

Privacy: Individual room, lockable door with security peephole, exterior light

Comfort: Air-conditioned, bed (vs. mat on ground), LED (night) light, window

Progress Update

We presently have twelve cottages on-site. Four have residents (12) living in them as we work to complete the others (e.g., install decks). There are four completed units and eight under construction off-site at the production facility.



Goal (50 cottages to replace 150 tents)	\$1,500,000
Paid or Pledged	\$526,316
Self-Funding (Diocese)	\$250,000
Balance Required	\$723,684

We have achieved nearly 50% of our original Hope Cottages funding goal.

Site Costs	
Emergency Access Road	\$100,000
Drainage Install	\$500,000
Balance Required	\$600,000

Funding needed for addition of required emergency access road and drainage installation needed to significantly reduce flooding.

Workforce Development Program	
3 years at \$250,000 per	\$750,000

We are utilizing strategic partnerships to implement a workforce development program.

Next Steps: Help Build a Legacy of Hope

We have raised 50% of \$1.5 million needed to replace 150 tents with 50 *Hope Cottage*. We are actively seeking a combination of private and public funding for the infrastructure (i.e., site improvement) costs and the workforce development program. Naming rights are available for the cottages and road. Through your gift you will build a legacy of hope for our residents:

Guardian of Hope
(naming rights for one Room)

\$10,000

Defender of Hope
(naming rights for two cottages)

\$60,000

Protector of Hope
(naming rights for one 3-room cottage)

\$30,000

Champion of Hope
(naming rights for 4-cottage deck)

\$120,000

Our Stories



Millicent

Millicent, a mother and grandmother, was the rock of her family who worked her entire life. Then her world rapidly fell apart due to a series of sad events: her husband died; she hurt her back and couldn't work; she lost her home to foreclosure; she moved in with relatives only to be abused by a family member. Millicent, a proud woman of faith, had hit rock bottom. She prayed for an answer to her problems. That's when she learned about Pinellas Hope. She moved in. After several months of working with counselors and case managers, now receiving disability income, Millicent felt she was ready to venture out on her own again and decided to share an apartment with "friends" she had made at Pinellas Hope.

Soon after, Millicent realized these friendships were one-way as they demanded she use her disability checks to cover more and more of the rent, food, and utilities. Eventually, she was broke and prayed for a solution. Out of the blue, she received a call from Catholic Charities: Gina, her former case manager, was following up on her progress; Millicent believed it to be a sign she was meant to return to Pinellas Hope – the answer to her prayers. However, the prospect of returning to the tents, while a wonderful respite from exposure to the elements, scared her as Millicent had recently undergone hernia surgery and was still in recovery. However, upon visiting with Gina in person, she was shown her new living quarter – her HOPE COTTAGE. Millicent cried as she saw the locking door, the bed, the light, the window, and the air conditioning. She thought she was dreaming and she thanked God for being so good to her, wondering what she had done to be so blessed. Her spirit and sense of dignity lifted, Millicent credits Hope Cottages with motivating her to train to be a social worker and help others in need.

Residents of Bethany Family Apartments located in Dade City, Susan, accompanied by her 17 year old daughter Laurel, were the proud recipients of an automobile gifted to them through a Catholic Charities donor. Said Susan, a mother of four, "It's an unbelievable blessing." Susan arrived at homelessness after leaving a strained relationship with her husband in Las Vegas. With kids in tow, Susan returned to Florida in 2004 to live with her father and stepmother.

Her grandmother died then her father passed away four years ago and when her stepmother, who Susan called "my best friend", passed away last year, family in-fighting left her family without a roof over their heads. Unable to work due to debilitating arthritis that requires she use a cane or walker, and left with nothing, Susan said "I was frantic...I had my dog, my two cats, and my two daughters." Putting her pride aside, Susan and her two remaining minor children (Laurel and Isabella) entered Pasco Women's Shelter, a temporary living facility for women and their children also operated by Catholic Charities. Her children were angry, bewildered, and embarrassed by their situation. The week after Christmas, however, the family moved to Bethany Family Apartments, permanent living quarters for families with a member suffering with a disability. Ironically, Susan said her girls "were sad 'cause they missed the shelter." But, they soon came to love Bethany. "We were at peace there for the first time" and of Catholic Charities, Susan says "I love Catholic Charities." Through it all, Susan maintains a positive attitude, saying, "God has protected us and taken care of us all the way through everything."



Laurel & Susan



Miss Letha

Miss Letha was born 100 years ago on March 30, 1916. She's seen a lot in her 100 years. Born and raised in Lake City, Florida, Miss Letha moved south for better employment opportunities. She was aboard a Greyhound bus headed to St. Petersburg on the very day President Franklin Delano Roosevelt called "a date that will live in infamy." Much to their horror, Miss Letha and the rest of her fellow passengers learned that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor on that December 7, 1941 trip.

A resident of Trinity House Apartments since 2010, Miss Letha's positive attitude endears her to all and is an example of why Catholic Charities employees do what they do to support their elderly residents. To evidence why she is so beloved, when asked who her best friends are, Miss Letha replied, "Everyone is

my best friend." During her 100th birthday party, where she was serenaded with a rousing chorus of 'Happy Birthday' by staff and her fellow residents, when asked to what she owed her longevity, Miss Letha unhesitatingly intoned, "to the man upstairs." She further stated, "Every morning when I wake up, I say to God: 'You brought me to another day. A day I've never seen before and I will never see again. And I know you will lead me on. I am in your care.'" When questioned about how it felt to be one hundred years old, Miss Letha quickly replied: "I feel good. I don't feel like a hundred."

Miss Letha shared one special story that helps to define her: "I was living a life that wasn't pleasing to God. One night, I had a dream and He said 'I got to let you know what hell is like.' The next morning, I lit the oven and there was an explosion." Miss Letha was hospitalized and eventually recovered, but when she did she committed herself to living a life that would be pleasing to God. That commitment lives on to this day as a member of Bethel Community Church. We at Catholic Charities are proud to be in some way a small part of her wonderful story.

Walter M. Brauer II has been a Pinellas Hope volunteer since shortly after the camp for homeless adults opened in 2007. Walt, who owns a business, has dedicated himself to helping those in need by spending thousands of hours assisting and mentoring residents. Walt's reply to the question 'why' is simple: "I think that's what I'm supposed to be doing." In return, working at Pinellas Hope has made him aware of his blessings and "increased my faith in mankind." The staff call Walt, a humble man who wants no special recognition, their "Northern Angel", saying "he's so passionate... he's unbelievable...a godly man." In return, Walt says of the staff, "you can see their number one concern is the residents...they will only tolerate complete respect for the residents."

Walt and his high school sweetheart-turned-bride of 53 years, Joy, who reside in St. Louis part of the year, where their 4 children, 14 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren live, have been known to provide financial assistance to residents. To illustrate the depth of their generosity, one former Pinellas Hope resident has become almost like a daughter to Walt and Joy; so much so that even after leaving several years ago they continue to monitor her progress. In fact, they even paid for her first-ever airplane flight to join them in St. Louis for the holidays. She even returned to Florida with them as they drove down in their car. As for the future, Walt says he'll continue to work at Pinellas Hope "as long as they'll allow me to continue to gently spread the love of Jesus." Thank you, Walt. We hope that is a very long time indeed.



Walt

In Memoriam

Dr. Patricia Nugent Jeansonne: July 23, 1948 – May 9, 2016

Catholic Charities honors the memory of Dr. Patricia Jeansonne, who with her husband was one of our greatest benefactors. For nearly 20 years, the Jeansonne's donated monthly to Mercy House, a Catholic Charities housing facility for those who test positive for HIV/AIDs and their families. Sr. Pam Nolan, who was friends with her for years, said, "Pat had the biggest heart. She was a great and passionate supporter of women and children."



A longtime pediatrician, "Dr. Pat" or "Dr. J" as she was affectionately known, grew up in St. Petersburg and established a well-known practice in Brandon in 1980 after graduating from the University of South Florida College of Medicine in 1977. Shortly thereafter, she joined with her partner to create a free clinic to provide care to the medically underserved. It was said of Dr. Pat that she cared for her young patients as if they were her own children! After her family and medical practice, the beach and the water were her twin passions. She and her husband owned a boat and enjoyed many weekends and vacations on the water. She also enjoyed snorkeling and scuba diving. Pat's love for the beach was such that she and Jim were in the process of planning a move to live on the beach in Pass-a-Grille. Survivors include her mother (Addie Nugent), her husband of 46 years, Jim, her three children (Aimee, Marcella and Leo), and two grandchildren (Xander and Lexi). Dr. Pat touched many lives in her practice and in her home, but also in her love of and care for those most in need. She will be greatly missed.

Mr. George Guthrie: May 4, 1949 – August 15, 2016



George, a long-time employee of Pinellas Hope (shelter camp for homeless adults) passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. George, a former Marine, left behind his wife of 40 years, Mary Ann, sons Thomas and Alex, and sisters, Nancy and Heath. He volunteered from day one and so loved Pinellas Hope that he soon became a full-time employee. George was affectionately known as 'Sheep Dog' for his shepherd-like leadership of the residents. His ever-present smile endeared him to residents and staff alike. He mixed a gentle and understanding demeanor with the firm love of a parent. According to Deck, Sheep Dog simply "loved helping people." For this, Deck said, "all the residents loved him!"

His passion for the residents led him to continue working during 5-plus years of cancer treatment. Deck said George never let it show: "It never got him down or stopped him from smiling." Long-time front desk partner, Peggy Crain said of George, "I just loved him." While he loved Pinellas Hope, Crain stated, his wife, Mary Ann, "was the love of his life" even after forty years of marriage! George was an outdoorsman who loved fishing,

hunting, boating, water sports, and especially doing those activities with his two adult sons, one of whom moved to be closer to George after he became ill. Deck joined George on several occasions fishing and “hanging out.” George loved the water so much that his ashes were taken to his favorite fishing spot in the Gulf of Mexico. Crain said he loved Pinellas Hope so much that even while ill, “he stayed here with us until he just couldn’t do it anymore.” So great was his impact, the Welcome Center has been renamed the George Guthrie Welcome Center in his honor!

Mr. Dan ‘Fitz’ FitzSimons: October 10, 1940 – April 13, 2016

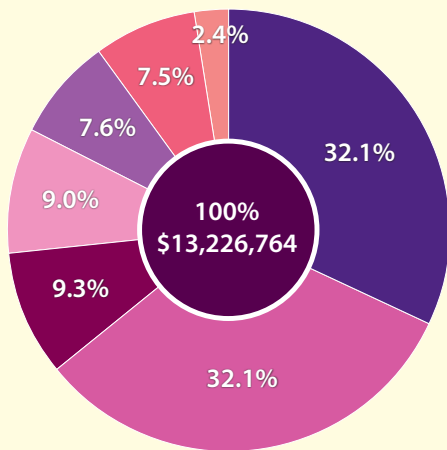
Fitz, as he was known to his friends, tragically passed away while on vacation in France with his beloved wife, Carol. Fitz is survived by Carol, 3 children (Daniel, Caitlin, and Molly), 4 grandchildren (Jack, Reggie, Arlo, and Ida) and 5 siblings. “The Ad man,” as Fitz was called, was born in Cleveland to an Irish father and Italian mother. He was an excellent athlete and was the quarterback of his high school football team. After school, Fitz had a long and varied career ranging from star newspaper ad salesman to Madison



Avenue account man with famed ad agency Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn (BBDO) where he serviced B. F. Goodrich among other clients. He subsequently built then sold his own ad agency, authored a book on his cross-country winter trip (inspired by the famous song *Route 66*) in his beloved '74 Chevrolet Caprice Classic convertible (the top remained down the whole trip), sang on stage under the name Tony Mancini, and was a visionary, introducing the Puppy Channel in 1995 (an online paean to dogs that Fitz tried unsuccessfully to sell to cable TV networks). Fitz loved his family and he loved skiing. He combined the two with annual family ski vacations where he cut quite a figure on the slopes wearing mirrored sunglasses, a flannel shirt and jeans, and black 10-gallon cowboy hat! What a sight that must have been!

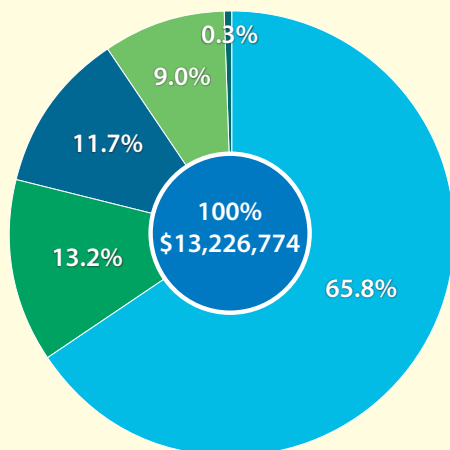
Fitz was introduced to Catholic Charities by a childhood friend whom he had reached out to upon moving to the Tampa Bay area and who it turned out is a benefactor of Catholic Charities. Fitz lent his considerable marketing and advertising acumen as the Agency rolled out Hope Cottages™, replacements for tents at Pinellas Hope that provide residents with protection from bad weather (withstand Cat 4 Hurricane winds), improved security (door locks), and air conditioning! In addition to spearheading the development effort of the communications pieces, including the introductory video which Fitz planned, produced and directed, he also assisted with the successful initial public relations and media effort. Sadly, he was not available for the Blessing Ceremony held in April and will not see the fruits of his labor. We will be forever grateful, however, for having had Fitz in our lives. Dennis O'Hanlan, a volunteer construction consultant who worked with Fitz, said, “He had the greatest sense of humor; and he was smart as a whip.” We will all miss that sense of humor. Rest in peace, Fitz!

Financial Information



Revenue

Grants	\$4,249,655
Rental Income	\$4,245,160
Program Service Fees	\$1,234,482
In-Kind Gifts	\$1,187,796
Diocese of St. Petersburg	\$1,000,000
Contributions/Fundraising	\$986,889
Other Income	\$322,782



Expenses

Program Services	\$8,702,885
Administration & Fundraising	\$1,740,408
Occupancy	\$1,551,488
In-Kind Costs	\$1,187,796
Net Increase from Operations	\$44,187

Grants:

Pinellas County Health & Human Services • Pinellas Continuum of Care
 Pinellas Community Development • Hillsborough County Housing Finance Authority
 Hillsborough Continuum of Care • City of St. Petersburg • City of Tampa
 United States Council of Catholic Bishops • Pasco County • United Way of Pasco County
 United Way of Hernando County • Department of Health & Human Services
 City of Pinellas Park • City of Largo • City of Clearwater • City of Seminole
 Mid Florida Homeless Coalition • Catholic Charities USA • Pinellas Community Foundation
 Publix Super Markets Charities • DeBartolo Family Foundation • Wells Fargo Bank

100% Financial Transparency Score from Charity Navigator

Over 87% of all Funds go directly to our clients through our services and programs



Message from our Leadership

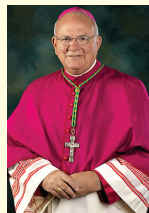
“Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sister who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to hear their cry for help!”

~ Pope Francis



Dear Friends of Catholic Charities,

As we end our Holy Father's "Jubilee Year of Mercy" and enter a new era of government leadership, we turn again to our Pope to guide us in building unity among all people. After our elections, he said, "I do not make judgments on people and political men, I only want to understand what suffering their behavior causes to the poor and the excluded." (Scafari, La Repubblica, 2016).



Catholic Charities embodies the Year of Mercy call to open our hearts to those living on society's fringes, which, as Holy Father reminds us, "modern society itself created." Catholic Charities responded to those who came crying for help as our budget increased to more than \$15M and we served over 14,300 people. We are the modern Church, visible and spiritual, following our Gospel mandate to serve "the least of these among us." We are in solidarity with each of the following communities seeking help:

The immigrant and refugee. As the year ended, we experienced a dramatic rise in the number of refugee's coming to the Tampa Bay area. We welcomed close to 100 refugees, many from Syria and the Middle East. I pray you share our faith and belief that we must love our brothers and sisters suffering and crying in turmoil across our world and welcome with love those who are seeking a better life in America.

The woman with an unplanned pregnancy and considering abortion. Our pregnancy and adoption centers assisted more than 2,400 women this year and we are certain we saved the lives of countless unborn babies. This affirms how the choice for life will end the crying and suffering of moms, dads and the unborn.

The homeless. We are leaders in housing the homeless. At Pinellas Hope, we now have 76 new units of permanent supportive housing for individuals or couples - raising the total number of efficiency apartments to 156 – so we can transition close to 200 people from homelessness to housing. This summer, Pinellas Hope experienced record numbers of people requiring emergency shelter. While the reason for the rise is unknown, we believe our reputation for dignity, compassion and professional staffing led more homeless to our facilities. We further heard the cry of the poor by embarking on a \$1.5 million Hope Cottages™ campaign that will replace 150 tents with 50 shipping containers that offer safe, secure, air-conditioned living spaces. Twelve are already on site. With four grants in our northern counties, we are the largest provider of Rapid Re-housing in the area, capable of rehousing 500 homeless people yearly.

The elderly. Operating safe, affordable housing for seniors is another key ministry, and Sr. Pam and her team earned high HUD ratings this year. We hit the top-level "Superior" rating MOR score, and our 16 REAC's earned a 93 average. Our CCCDC operations are the best in the business.

Of course, none of this would exist without the passion and professionalism of our staff, board and volunteers. They are the essence of our Jubilee Year of Mercy. In the midst of our nation's debate and turmoil, we rise above with compassion and service to those in need. In closing, we would like to thank Bishop Lynch for his 20 years of leadership. He has been instrumental in advancing all the Ministries of Mercy in our Diocese, most especially the Foundations of Life mission and as the founder of Pinellas Hope in leading the fight against homelessness.

Mark Dufva
Executive Director

Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch
Bishop of the Diocese of St. Petersburg



Catholic Charities
Diocese of St. Petersburg, Inc.

1213 16th St. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33705
www.ccdosp.org • 727-893-1314

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE

PAID

ST. PETERSBURG, FL
PERMIT NO. 2002