This year, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fresno marks 50 years of dedication towards helping families in crisis. The common criteria throughout all 50 years is: human need.

Today, nearly 45% of those we serve are under the age of 17 who are taught too early about life circumstances that can turn a normal family into a family in crisis. Many of the families we serve are two parent households, both working for minimum wage and just can’t make it to the end of the month.

As I walk through each of our Sites in Fresno, Merced and Bakersfield, I am often met with a variety of emotions. I see a young mother indulging her son’s imagination as he so innocently talks about Spider Man climbing the walls of our building while they wait for food. I see a young man stepping outside his comfort zone and walking into class to try and better himself for his family at home. I see an elderly man who waits to receive a check containing his own social security income, then get a box of food and wait in the cold at the bus stop.

As much human need as I see in my role as Executive Director of Catholic Charities, I am also blessed to see the gift of human kindness - through our employees, our volunteers, our clients, and all those who generously support our mission and give hope to those most vulnerable in their greatest times of need.

May God’s peace and blessings be with you and your families this Easter season,

Kelly Liller

Because of your generosity,

$0.89

of every dollar donated continues to go directly to programs and services.

We understand that each community we serve is special and that the people living within those communities are passionate about helping their neighbors in crisis.

We guarantee that all gifts stay within the community to which they are given.

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YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK
2017 At A Glimpse (Diocesan-wide)

139,530 received emergency food
92,396 received emergency clothing
728 received Payee services
100 matched with a Senior Companion
96 students took Career & Education Center classes

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Guidestar
Platinum
Charity Navigator
Four Star Charity
The Heart of a Volunteer
Meet Dorothy Stockton. Dorothy first came to Catholic Charities to take a class in our Career & Education Center in 2016. Today, she volunteers as a greeter in our Intake Department and welcomes every client who comes through our doors. When asking Dorothy why she volunteers at Catholic Charities, she simply says that she wants to help people.

"When people come here feeling sad, it makes me feel good to know I can change that by simply smiling, talking to them, and giving them what they need.

Because of volunteers like Dorothy, last year we were blessed with 53,459 hours of volunteer service from those throughout our community.

Make A Big Impact With A Future Gift
You want to leave money to a meaningful charity in your will. You also want the flexibility to change your will in the event that life circumstances change. You can do both.

This type of donation to Catholic Charities in your will or living trust helps us care for the poor and support struggling families while significantly strengthening the financial foundation of the agency and our community for future generations. Some gifts can also provide tax advantages to you.

Please contact Kelly Lilles at (559) 237-0851 or email killees@ccdif.org to discuss the different options that might work best for you and your family.

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER
Saint Agnes is proud to be a long-time supporter of Catholic Charities and the wonderful work it is doing on behalf of our community's less fortunate. More than meals or clean clothing, the generosity and compassion demonstrated by Catholic Charities brings hope and the promise of a better tomorrow to individuals and families who need it most. This organization is a true blessing to our community, and Saint Agnes is humbled to be named among its partners.

- Nancy Hollingsworth, President & CEO, Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno

I am grateful for Catholic Charities' vital service to our community. From distributing food to families who are facing tough economic times to offering educational opportunities that lead to future employment, Catholic Charities provides hope and assistance in moments of despair. As the Mayor of Bakersfield, I am proud to support this dedicated organization.

- Mayor Karen Goh, City of Bakersfield

Catholic Charities has always supported our participants by ensuring their basic needs are met through awareness, education, resources, and referrals. Our agencies' partnership demonstrations that together we can build healthy communities and reduce violence in a society that creates social change.

- Chee Yang, Program Director, Valley Crisis Center in Merced

News from our Career & Education Center
Earlier this year, Catholic Charities celebrated the Grand Opening of the Career and Education Center at its Merced Site. With the opening of the new Center in Merced, all three Catholic Charities Sites are now able to offer this incredible program that provides free courses to those wanting to learn new skills, build confidence and become self-sufficient.

One student in Bakersfield recently said she's now actually excited to get her GED and go to college. Another student in Fresno said she won't be returning to class... because she got a job!