



2023 IMPACT REPORT

BUILDING

ROADS
TO
HOPE



CATHOLIC
CHARITIES
FORT WAYNE + SOUTH BEND

A LETTER FROM THE CEO

REVEALING OUR NEW STRATEGIC PLAN: "BUILDING ROADS TO HOPE"

Dear Supporter,

This past year was marked by dramatic increases in demand across all four of our service areas: Stability, Migration, Pro-Life, and Counseling. Against this backdrop, our team rose to the challenge and provided **55,135 services** to **21,458 individuals** in need. We could not have done this without your prayers and your financial support.

Earlier this year, our Leadership Team and Board of Directors kicked off a 3-year strategic planning process to identify our priorities. Our approach was inspired by the words of Pope Benedict XVI in his encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*: **"The Church is alive with the love kindled by the Spirit of Christ. This love does not simply offer people material help, but refreshment and care for their souls....The heart of Jesus sees where love is needed and acts accordingly."**

Our new strategic plan "Building Roads to Hope," is focused on helping those we serve to reach sustainable self-sufficiency. The plan is summarized by these five strategic goals:

- **Live out our Catholic Identity**, using our gifts to be the hands, heart, and feet of Christ, while providing opportunities for others to join us to do the same.
- **Serve our most vulnerable neighbors**, including the homeless, the working poor, our seniors, refugees, and immigrants on their journey to self-sufficiency by providing faith-based life skills classes, effective case management, community integration through warm hand-offs to our partners, and affordable legal pathways to citizenship.
- **Protect life and support families**: Give every person, from conception through natural death, the best chance at a fulfilling life by equipping families with the support needed to flourish, while enhancing our adoption services.
- **Nourish and heal the heart, mind, and soul** by providing compassionate, affordable, accessible, faith-based counseling services.
- **Build organizational capacity** to serve more people through operational efficiencies and volunteer engagement, while diversifying and expanding our funding streams.

I am grateful for your partnership. With **88% of every gift going directly into services**, we will remain steadfast in being good stewards of your charity. I humbly ask for your continued prayers and financial support as we build new roads to hope for our most vulnerable neighbors.

Yours in Christ,



Dan Florin | CEO of Catholic Charities



THE HOPE OF A NEW HOME

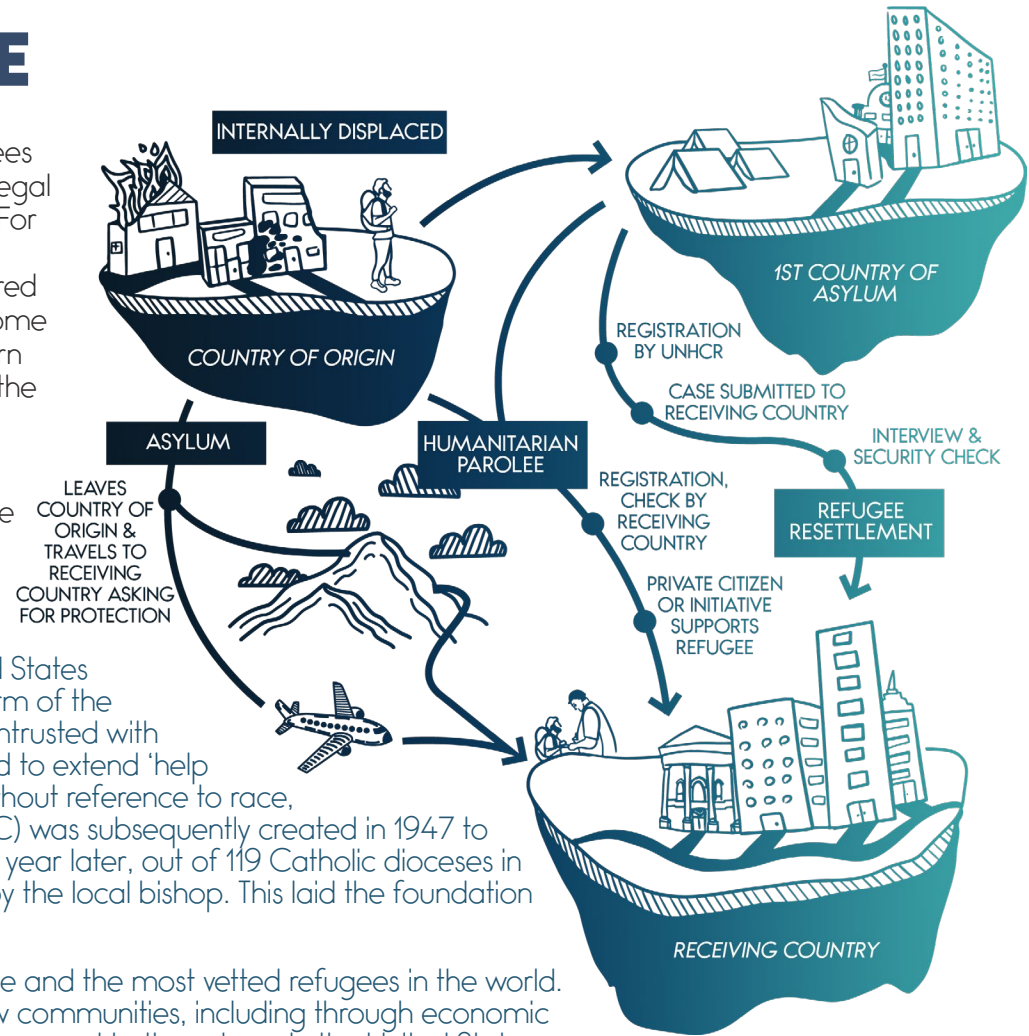
The Catholic Church has held a long-standing commitment to help refugees fleeing war, violence, and persecution, create a new life in our country as legal permanent residents under the country's Refugee Resettlement Program. For over 45 years, and through many presidential administrations, our agency has participated in refugee resettlement, providing refugees with a structured and proven humanitarian pathway to come to the United States and become productive members of society. Like the services we provide to our U.S. born vulnerable neighbors, our work in refugee resettlement flows directly from the Gospels, which calls us to serve the poor and to welcome the stranger.

On March 22, 2023, William Canny, Executive Director of Migration and Refugee Services at the USCCB, delivered a written testimony to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety. Below is an excerpt from his powerful testimony on the impact of this program.

“ In 1943, at the height of World War II, the Catholic bishops of the United States established War Relief Services (WRS) as the international humanitarian arm of the National Catholic Welfare Council, a precursor of the USCCB. WRS was entrusted with overseeing the U.S. Church's efforts to serve displaced persons abroad and to extend 'help to war-afflicted people, especially children, on the basis of need alone, without reference to race, creed, or other factors.' The National Catholic Resettlement Council (NCRC) was subsequently created in 1947 to coordinate the Church's domestic reception and integration efforts. Just a year later, out of 119 Catholic dioceses in the United States at the time, 105 had a resettlement director appointed by the local bishop. This laid the foundation for the USCCB's current resettlement network.

Those resettled through USRAP continue to be some of the most vulnerable and the most vetted refugees in the world. Once resettled, these refugees make meaningful contributions to their new communities, including through economic impact. On average, refugees work at the same or a higher rate when compared to those born in the United States. Male refugees overall have been shown to have a higher employment rate than their U.S.-born counterparts (67% versus 60%), and female refugees are just as likely as native-born women to be employed. ”

Read the full testimony: ccfwsb.org/news/williamcannytestimony



The illustration above shows the difference between three different legal statuses.

A **refugee** is someone who is not currently in the U.S. They have a well-founded fear of persecution, registered with the UNHCR, and passed security checks before entering the U.S.

An **asylee** is someone that has fled their country due to a well-founded fear of persecution and unable to return, currently in the U.S., and has requested asylee status from the U.S. government.

A **parolee** is someone who can temporarily enter the United States due to an emergency and urgent humanitarian reason (i.e. granted to some Afghans and Ukrainians).

THE BEST PRESENT: HOPE

A warm smile and strong shoulders that uplifted the family... This is how Katie remembers her grandma, Nanny. After Nanny passed away, Katie and her three girls hit a rough patch.

"She would introduce herself as Nanny everywhere she went, that's just the kind of person she was," mentioned Katie. "My girls were very close to her and it left a hole in our family when she passed away. Nanny was actually the one who first told me about Catholic Charities' Community Center of Caring Food Pantry in Auburn."

As a single mom, Katie had a hard few years and needed extra support for her family along the way. Knowing Christmas would not be possible, she signed up for Catholic Charities' Christmas Program in 2022.

"WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT THE YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM, I KNEW THIS WAS SOMETHING MY GIRLS NEEDED," KATIE SAID. "MY OLDEST WAS VERY CLOSE TO NANNY AND REALLY NEEDED SOMEONE TO STEP IN AS A ROLE MODEL FROM OUTSIDE OF OUR FAMILY."

"Just when I felt like I was losing hope, I heard about the Christmas Program in Auburn," Katie said. "At the time, I could not get anything for the girls, but I really wanted them to have presents to open on Christmas morning. It can be hard to accept a hand up, but I always remain focused on providing the best future for my family."

After enrolling in the Christmas Program, Katie filled out a survey expressing interest in the Youth Mentor Program and got connected to Catholic Charities' Youth Mentoring case manager, Heather Thiel.

A nervous 11-year-old Kealey and excited 10-year-old Dasiey attended the program's bowling night to learn more. There, they met Lana.

"At first, Kealey was hesitant at the event, but soon she met Ms. Lana and they clicked," says Heather. "Ms. Lana is a previous mentor and is really good with kids. Right now, she serves as a mentor to both Kealey and Dasiey because we don't have enough mentors for all the children who want to join the program. It has worked out because Ms. Lana gives both girls the attention needed to accomplish their individual ambitions."

The goal of the Youth Mentoring Program is to give students an adult positive role model they can turn to when they need extra support. The program puts a large emphasis on matching the right mentor to mentee based on their specific goals.

Students meet with their mentors monthly. Both the girls have enjoyed some of the large group outings, like a Tin Caps game and visiting Image of Hope Ranch, which provides equine therapy.

When asked words of advice for those thinking about mentoring, Katie said, "Go for it!"

BE A PART OF OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM!

Give the gift of hope this Christmas by sponsoring a family in need. Last year, over 500 children received a box of presents due to the kindness of our supporters.

Learn more at ccfwsb.org/christmas



IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE 2023:

Catholic Charities Immigration Program has been serving the immigrant population of our diocese since 2002. Our Director of Immigration Services, Luz Ostrognai, is fully accredited through the Department of Justice to act as an immigration attorney for those seeking legal immigration services.

Our agency recognizes we are a nation of immigrants and we work hard to uphold that tradition of supporting those on their journey to becoming American citizens - many struggling to access their legal rights or reunite with family members. It is our belief that all immigrants, regardless of their income or nation of birth, have access to legal pathways to become full members of our community.

That is why in June, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend hosted its 6th Immigration Conference. With federal immigration policies continuing to evolve, this year's conference brought together national speakers to educate attendees on these changes and the possible effects on the community.

Catholic Charities began the local conference in 2009 to teach service providers about immigration policies that affected the local population and enhance community services. This year, employers were welcomed to learn about the economic impact immigrants bring to our community.

Kicking off the event to a room packed with attendees from across the state, CEO of Catholic Charities, Dan Florin, shared the history of the immigration program, dating back to 2002 when the Fort Wayne office became recognized as an approved agency by the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Ostrognai painted a picture of the work Catholic Charities does in welcoming the stranger to our community.

"Our immigration department does not work for the pursuit of popularity, for glory, or fortune... There's nothing glamorous about this kind of work," said Ostrognai. "Representing clients who are going through difficult times in their lives and with people who feel scared or nervous about the prospect of being removed from the country, or frustrated with the long and complex immigration processes, puts increased pressure on us."

After years of research, economist and the Director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University, Michael Hicks debunked common myths surrounding the impact of immigration on our economy.

"There is no economic study that I have seen that has shown a fiscal drain due to immigration," said Hicks. "In the U.S., \$12 billion a year in social security and \$65 million a year in state and local taxes comes from immigrant taxes. When you look at the contributions they will make to social security, though they will not be eligible to withdrawal on later, and you look at their local taxes, they pretty much pay for themselves as soon as they arrive."

The all-day training event also included speakers from the National Immigrant Justice Center, Barnes & Thornburg LLP, and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC). The speakers shared an overview of the legal differences in status, work authorization, and border issues.

"It is really important to have a conversation about new neighbors we want



to welcome and the help they need in rebuilding their lives,” said Lisa Koop, the speaker the National Immigrant Justice Center. “We, as legal counselors, have to tell people, ‘You qualify for immigration protection – it will be a decade before we can get it to you, but we can start the process today.’ That is little comfort for people looking to put down roots and watch their children graduate from high school.”

“This is the largest Immigration Conference we have held,” said Ostrognai. “Education trainings like this is how we can get our community members on track to become legal, U.S. citizens. Our reward at Catholic Charities is when we see our client finally getting something as simple as work authorization – which allows them to obtain a better job, better pay, a driver’s license and then they feel like they finally matter and are able to contribute to our community. The ultimate glory is when we see a worthy client obtain citizenship so that they may then go on to accomplish their dreams.”

KEEPING THE FLAME OF HOPE ALIVE FOR 25 YEARS

“I grew up in south Guatemala, where it is very poor,” Mario shares. “I can remember at six years old, going door-to-door asking for food.”

In pursuit of the American Dream, Mario and his wife of 47 years, Maria, immigrated to the U.S. 35 years ago with their four children.

“When we first came to the U.S., I didn’t speak English, but was prepared for hard work,” Mario remembers. “I was looking for a job, so I went to the Catholic Church and started praying for a job. All of a sudden, a woman taps my shoulder and asks if I am looking for work. I said, ‘Yes!’ and she gave me a business card for a nursing home. When I went to the nursing home they gave me a job in housekeeping, but didn’t recognize the name of the woman who had sent me...”

Despite still learning English, Mario and Maria would soon become certified CNAs, continuing their career for 32 years. They quickly attributed all their success to God.

Devout Catholics, Mario and Maria are very involved at their parish, St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart. They spend much of their free time evangelizing about the love of Jesus to their community and family.

“When I was a boy, I took a bus all by myself, to find my family who lived hours away,” said Mario. “I can remember the bus dropped me off when it was dark. I was just a kid, so I didn’t have a flashlight. I started walking, not sure if I was going the right way. All of a sudden, an old man came out of nowhere and said, ‘You need a light!’ He gave me a torch and sent me on my way, but when I looked back, there was no one around. From that moment on, I have been carrying that light.”

After raising their family, paying off their mortgage, and building a successful career, there was just one more thing they needed to complete their American dream. Two years ago, they made an appointment with Catholic Charities to become U.S. citizens. After meeting with staff, they soon realized they checked all the boxes for naturalization. After completing their application and passing their interview, Mario and Maria become U.S. citizens in March.

“WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOR HELPING US ACHIEVE OUR DREAM,” MARIA EXCLAIMED.



BUILDING HOPE, ONE BED AT A TIME

It all started in February 2023. Kellie Porter, Vice President of the West Region Office, and Camilo Velásquez, Manager of Donor Relations, were visiting a community partner in South Bend when they learned about a single mother with eight kids trying to go through winter in their car due to the lack of beds in their apartment.

The Catholic Charities team soon started working on finding beds for this family, and together with 1Roof, were able to assist this immediate need. However, the concern remained, if this could happen to this family, it is probably happening to others. The team started researching the number of kids in the South Bend-area who go to sleep every night without a bed. The result was flabbergasting. Approximately 2% of the kids in the community sleep every night on a couch, a car, or the floor.

Soon, Catholic Charities got in touch with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a nationwide non-for-profit based out of Utah and with chapters in the state of Indiana. After a few meetings, the group set a date for the very first Build-A-Bed event on April 29, the University of Notre Dame Alumni Association's Global Day of Service.

Thanks to the support of the 1st Source Foundation, Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley, the South Bend Cubs, Sible Machinery, and others, the event hosted more than 170 volunteers. Together, they were able to build 117 beds for kids in Elkhart, LaGrange, and St. Joseph counties.

Since April, the team has been able to deliver beds to kids in all three counties and has witnessed the tremendous ongoing needs kids experience on a daily basis. This experience proves that hope can be offered even in the most complex situations.

"THIS PROGRAM IS GIVING A CHILD THE GIFT OF A SAFE PLACE TO SLEEP AND A SAFE PLACE TO STAY."

- KELLIE PORTER
VP OF WEST REGION





We are excited to launch the Caritas Society. This group is a devoted circle of our closest friends and supporters who partner with us in our mission to aid the most vulnerable in our community.

We honor Caritas Society members through exclusive benefits and insider access to Catholic Charities' leadership.

Please prayerfully consider joining this group of passionate supporters who are committed to aiding the poor with essential services in our community.

Learn more at ccfwsb.org/caritas-society.



ST. MOTHER TERESA LEGACY SOCIETY

Members of the St. Mother Teresa Legacy Society embody the charitable spirit of Mother Teresa. She was a devoted, empathetic, and humble woman who left the world a better place. Her rich history of helping those most in need carries through everything that Catholic Charities does. Your legacy can be permanently tied to hers and ours through a gift made from a will or estate. Such gifts allow us to achieve our vision for the community now and into the future.

Learn more at ccfwsb.org/plannedgiving.

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DRIVEN BY MISSION, FORTIFIED BY GRATITUDE

Thank you for taking the time to discover the impact that Catholic Charities makes throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend because of the support of our donors.

As you read about bed builds, mentoring, Christmas, and achieving the American dream in Migration Services, you see the profound effect Catholic Charities has on our communities because of generous benefactors. Whether it be through...

- Giving a “hand up” to homeless men, women, and families with case management in partnership with other nonprofits in Fort Wayne and South Bend
- Providing food and other necessities at our food pantries in Auburn and South Bend
- Resettling refugees from Burma, Republic of Congo, Ukraine, and other countries in Fort Wayne and South Bend
- Providing legal immigration services to those eligible
- Giving access to mental health services in 13 Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese
- Offering our priests a streamlined pathway to assist their parishioners through our clinical liaison service
- Working with pregnant moms and parents to ensure they graduate high school
- Providing opportunities for seniors through SCSEP (Senior Community Services Employment Program)
- Providing translation and interpretation services for individuals
- Distributing Christmas gifts and household products to over 500 children in 2022

Catholic Charities diligently lives out its mission to serve all those in need as Christ calls us to do.

In this report, you find only a few examples of the impact our donors have on lives throughout the Diocese – serving all who need a “hand up” and showing them a pathway to hope. However, our work cannot be done without your philanthropic support.

As our financial report indicates, we depend on the generosity, and more importantly, the trust our benefactors show us through each and every gift Catholic Charities receives.

As Dan Florin, our CEO, discussed in his opening letter, Catholic Charities’ Board of Directors has recently adopted “Building Roads to Hope,” our Strategic Plan that maps out the ways in which we will strengthen and amplify our work in all of our programs by Living Out Our



Catholic Identity, Serving Our Most Vulnerable Neighbors, Protecting Life and Strengthening Families, Nourishing and Healing the Heart, Mind, and Soul, and Building Organization Capacity.

However, **Catholic Charities can only accomplish these big goals with your support.** Each of the stories in this report represents just a small slice of the impact Catholic Charities has across the 14 counties of our diocese. Your support will allow us to grow our impact and serve more people in need.

I ask that you prayerfully discern a gift to Catholic Charities today. Whether it is your first gift or your twentieth, we promise to make it count in building a “road to hope” for those we serve.

Thank you for your consideration and may God bless you.

Sincerely,

Matt Smith PhD

Chief Development Officer

DONATE



VOLUNTEER



WILL YOU HELP US BUILD ROADS TO HOPE?

\$1000 ... KEEPS A FAMILY IN THEIR HOME WITH THE HEAT ON

\$500 PROVIDES COUNSELING FOR A MONTH

\$250 PROVIDES 40+ FOOD PANTRY MEALS

\$100GIVES A BABY DIAPERS AND WIPES FOR A MONTH

\$50GIVES TWO CHILDREN A WARM COAT

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

REFUGEE SERVICES

Fort Wayne/South Bend Opportunities

- Donation Pickup
- Apartment Setup
- Transportation
- Mentoring and ESL

FOOD PANTRY

South Bend

Wednesday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM AND
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Auburn

Monday 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Tuesday 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Wednesday 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

YOUTH MENTORING

DeKalb, Noble, and Steuben Opportunity

Fill out form at ccfwsb.org/youth-mentoring

CITIZENSHIP CLASS

Fort Wayne Opportunity

Fill out form at ccfwsb.org/volunteer

THANK YOU

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THANK YOU TO OUR CARITAS SOCIETY MEMBERS!
THESE ARE DONORS WHO HAVE GIVEN MORE THAN \$1,000.

\$50,000+

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James Davis Trust
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United Way Of Saint Joseph County

\$49,999-\$25,000

Community Foundation Of Greater Fort Wayne
Estate of Patricia Madden
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St. Joseph Community Health Foundation
Bernie & Pamela Veldman

\$24,999-\$10,000

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Raskob Foundation For Catholic Activities
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\$9,999-\$5,000

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Royal Trucking
Saint Aloysius Catholic Church
Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
Saint Mary Mother of God Catholic Church

Saint Michael the Archangel Church
Saint Therese Catholic Church
Saint Vincent De Paul Catholic Church
Tire Rack
Michael & Mary Violi
Walmart

\$4,999-\$1,000

Stanley Abramowski
AdapteK Systems
American Online Giving Foundation
Associated Church Food Bank
Auburn Church of the Nazarene
Auburn Noon Lions Club
William & Lois Berry
Bishop Dwenger CRS Club
Audwin and Sarah Cash
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Community State Bank
Credent Wealth Management
Crossroads United Way
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Holy Cross Catholic Church
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P&R Investments

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 Parkview Randallia Rehab
 Parkview Therapy Services and Woman's Health
 Josh & Cristina Parrish
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 Pleasant Chapel Church Of The Brethren
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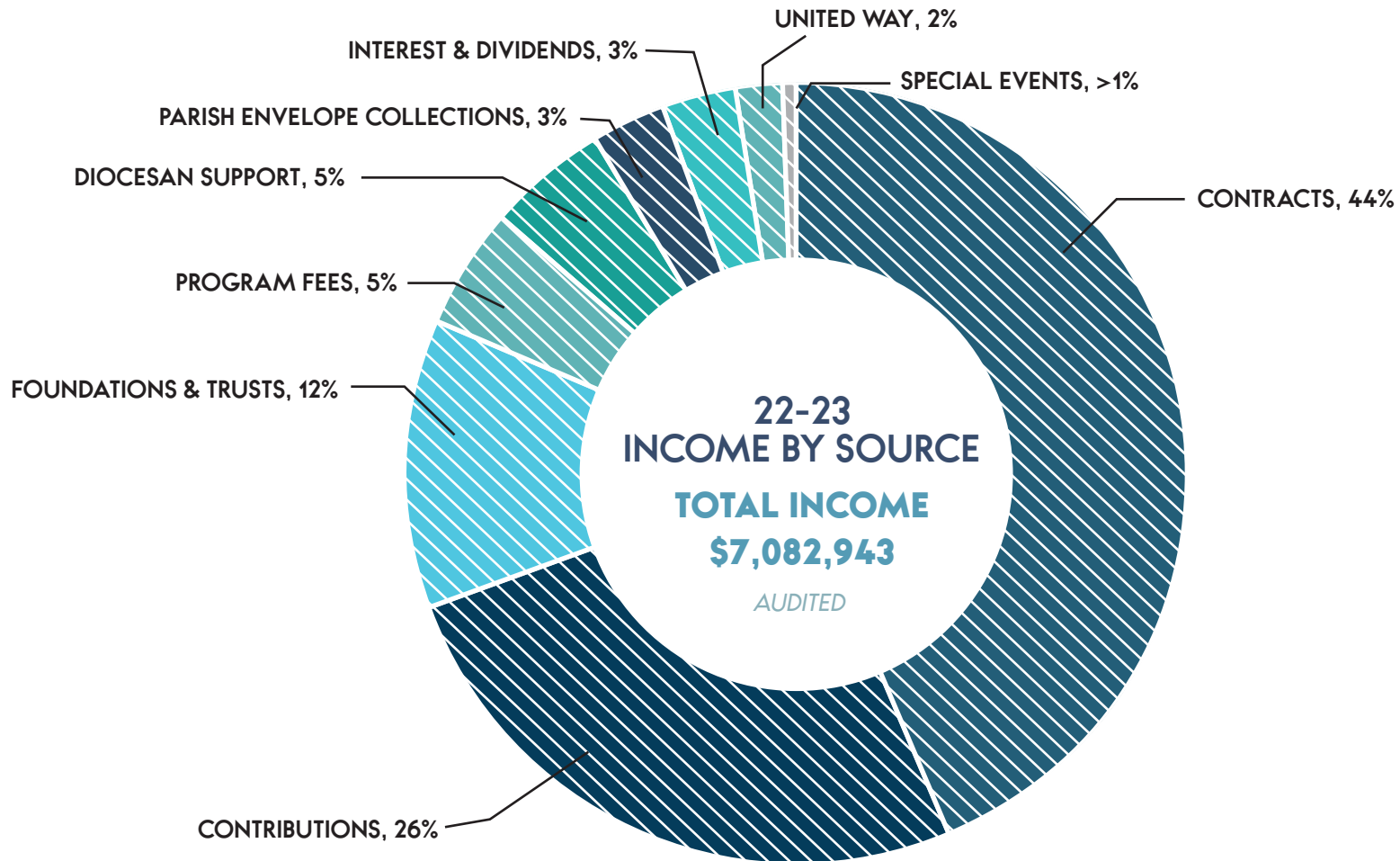
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 Jennifer Evans
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 Victoria Halley
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We've done our best to correctly recognize donors who gave \$500 or more this past year and were not anonymous. If you do not see your name, please let us know.

YOUR GIFT HELPS
hope begin.





STABILITY SERVICES

17,589
PEOPLE SERVED



COUNSELING SERVICES

818
PEOPLE SERVED



PRO-LIFE SERVICES

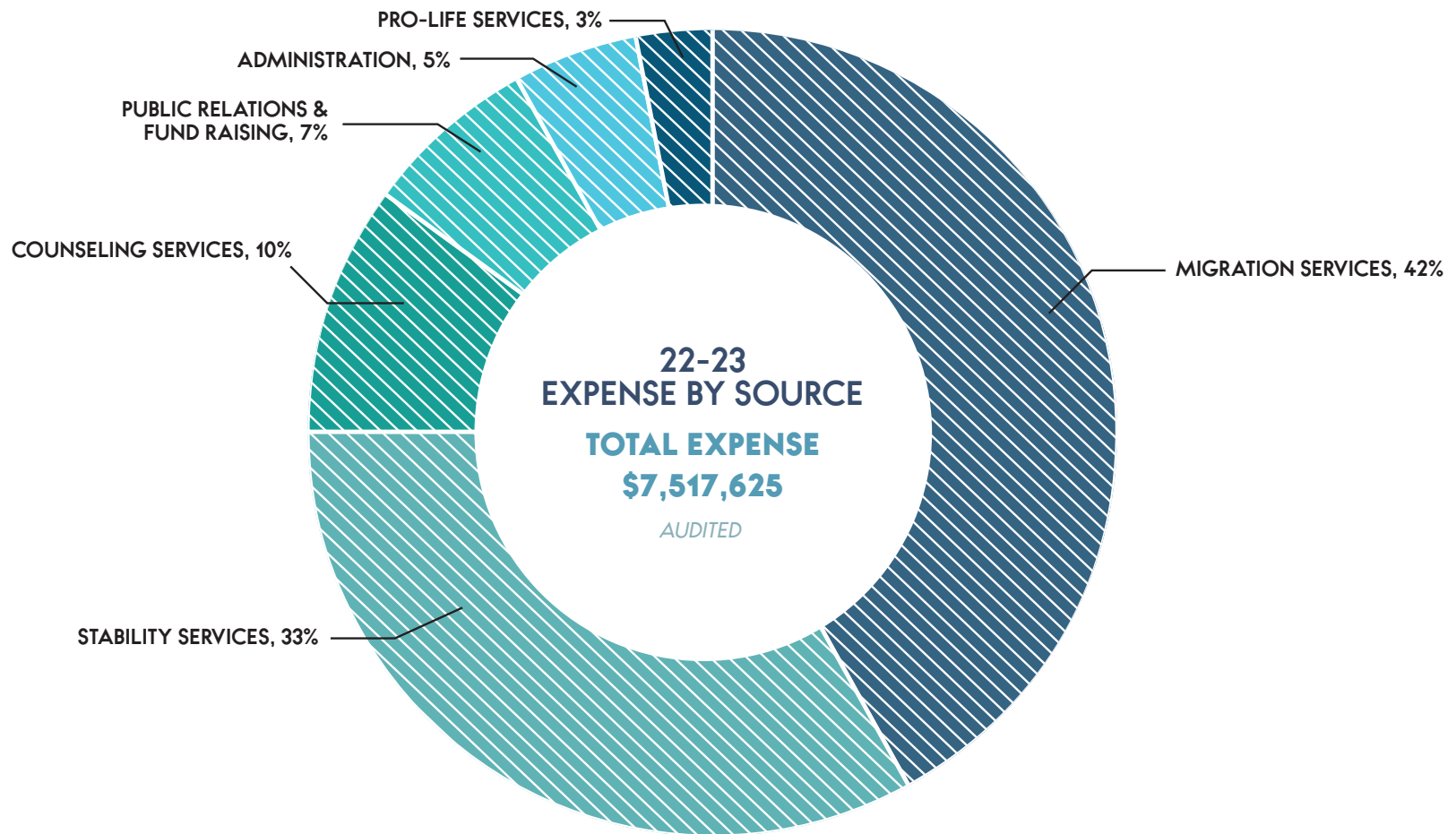
179
PEOPLE SERVED



MIGRATION SERVICES

2,872
PEOPLE SERVED

BECAUSE OF YOU OVER 55,135 SERVICES WERE PROVIDED TO 21,485 FAMILIES





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Fort Wayne, In 46802



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