

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark skin and hair, wearing a yellow knit beanie and a yellow cardigan over a dark top. She is gently kissing a baby on the cheek. The baby has dark skin and hair, is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt with a blue floral pattern, blue jeans, and a pink bib with white polka dots. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Catholic Charities

Vineyard of Hope

A Place to
Call Home

A Message from the Regional Director

Sandy Buck

Charlotte Region Director



Thanks to your support, the Charlotte Region office remains busy and ready to help each of our neighbors. While the COVID relief calls seem fewer, activity is ramping up in our Supportive Services (Uptown Encampment) and refugee programs. We continue to hire staff to assist with the many individuals we are already serving and those we anticipate serving in the coming months.

Our food pantry, burial assistance, and Transition Out of Poverty programs remain constant offerings, but we always stay nimble in our programming so we can pivot to meet unforeseen needs in our community. The Uptown Encampment program is an excellent example of that. We are partnering with the United Way, Social Serve, and the City of Charlotte for a one-year project to serve a group of our Charlotte neighbors moving from homelessness to stable housing. We will help several dozen Charlotte families who were former residents of the Uptown Encampment move into housing and provide support to them as they work towards their goals of financial self-sufficiency and stable, sustained housing.

Situations like this underscore my gratefulness for our Vineyard of Hope supporters. We never know what need may arise, but because of your support we know we can continue to help those most in need in our community

In gratitude,

Sandy



A Place to Call Home

Helping our neighbors with stable housing

We are proud to offer Supportive Services to individuals that will assist them in becoming, and remaining, stably housed. Case Coordinators work with individuals who have experienced homelessness to identify goals and create a Housing Stability Plan. Together, barriers to stable housing are identified and utilizing the strengths of each individual, steps are taken to overcome these. Supportive Services can focus on any issue identified as a challenge, particularly income, education, healthcare, access to food, childcare, substance abuse, and life skills, to name a few.

While our staff's time is funded by a grant from the city, there are many needs of the participants



that require private donations. For example, new homes for former residents of the Uptown Encampment will not be furnished. With the generosity of Catholic Charities supporters, such as you, we will be able to provide household items at no cost to the participants in the program. Providing things such as a new mattress with fresh linens on which to sleep after moving into their new home is something most people take for granted but a true dream for someone who has had to live in a tent.

Your support is felt by our staff and our participants. We remain grateful for and humbled by your continued generosity in making moments and stability like this possible.

"In these moments of upheaval, in which Afghans are seeking refuge, I pray... that many countries welcome them and protect those who are seeking a new life."

—Pope Francis



Welcoming Refugees

Catholic Charities is preparing to welcome refugees from Afghanistan in the next few months. Through our existing partnership with USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops), we have offered to welcome up to 200 Afghan refugees in the Charlotte area who are seeking asylum in the United States. For over 40 years, Catholic Charities has resettled an average of 375 refugees annually from countries around the globe. Refugees are assisted with acculturation and achieving economic self-sufficiency.

The evacuation of our Afghan brothers and sisters is somewhat different than our regular resettlement program. Depending on pending legislation, some

Afghan arrivals may have a status that limits their access to public benefits and in turn will require more support from the public-private partnership that typically supports the resettlement of refugees.

If you are interested in helping our newest neighbors through the Afghanistan Placement and Assistance (APA) Program, please reach out to our office. As we work to welcome Afghan evacuees over the next several months, their needs will be great and ever changing. With the many individuals' and organizations' outpouring of concern and offers to help already, we are confident that together, we will be able to provide a path to success for them here in the United States.



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Charlotte

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Charlotte, North Carolina 28203



Visit our website ccdoc.org

Upcoming Events

Vineyard of Hope

April 21, 2022
Sonesta Charlotte Executive Park
(formerly Crowne Plaza)

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Join the Charlotte Region Advisory Board!

The group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. For more information please reach out to Sandy Buck at skbuck@charlottediocese.org.

