

## **More than \$4 million of supplies loaded into volunteer vehicles and transported to Houston for hurricane relief**

More than 65 vehicles carrying 250,000 diapers, 40,000 pounds of food, 500,000 bottles of water, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items and other products were loaded by 500 volunteers and form a caravan to Catholic Charities Galveston-Houston on Sept. 23.

The supplies are donations from San Antonio to those impacted on the Gulf Coast. Since Hurricane Harvey struck, Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio, has been collecting donations (in-kind and monetary) to give to other Texas Catholic Charities organizations that have been impacted.

Using the former St. Stephen's Church as a base, Catholic Charities has had 50-plus volunteers each day receiving and sorting donations. The donations have come from archdiocesan parishes, Catholic schools, and the local community, as well as receiving items from all over the country, including a semi-truck of products from a community in Illinois. The drivers are all volunteers that have offered their vehicles to help get the items to Houston.

Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio, has previously delivered items to Victoria as well as the Corpus Christi area.

J. Antonio Fernandez, president/CEO of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese San Antonio, said "We pledge our support to our fellow Catholic Charities in Texas, we will continue to do all we can to help them recover from this tragedy for as long as it takes. Right after Harvey, we gathered and sent supplies to Houston to provide immediate disaster relief, collected locally and also funded in part by \$2 million from Catholic Charities USA. The critical supplies we're delivering on this trip have been donated by parishes, Catholic schools, individuals and businesses, and also purchased by generous cash gifts. We were able to bring just what was needed."