



Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud

2025 Volunteer Impact

2,337 Volunteers | 139,799 Hours

Countless Lives Touched

A Year Marked by Extraordinary Service

The work of Catholic Charities in 2025 was made possible by volunteers who embodied compassion, dignity, respect, and hope. Their presence sustained vital programs across Central Minnesota, supporting individuals, families, and communities when they needed it most.

Whether serving in highly visible roles or behind the scenes, volunteers shared a common purpose: to show up for others with care, respect, and hope.

Emergency Services

At the Food Shelf, volunteers stocked shelves, sorted donations, welcomed guests, and ensured families received food with dignity. 913 volunteers contributed 28,215 hours to create a warm, respectful experience for every visitor.

The Mobile Food Shelf brought healthy food directly into neighborhoods, supported through 112 hours of volunteer service.

Basic Everyday Essentials (BEE) volunteers gave 3,527 hours organizing clothing, hygiene items, and household essentials—helping families maintain dignity while meeting their basic needs.

One volunteer, John Schroeder, shared that what began as simply “helping” grew into a deeper understanding of human connection and compassion. The experience transformed his perspective on service and the people he met along the way.

Senior Nutrition

The Senior Dining Program thrived thanks to hundreds of volunteers who ensured older adults received nutritious meals paired with meaningful social connection. Volunteers contributed 22,519 hours throughout the 14-county service area at congregate dining sites, Meals-on-Wheels, and Frozen Meal Distribution, helping create welcoming, community focused spaces for older adults.

Service-learning nursing students from St. Cloud State University added another 250 hours of support. Their work included engaging diners in friendly conversation, assisting with trays, and helping bus tables. This intergenerational connection provided both practical help and uplifting social interaction for diners.

Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) remained one of the most impactful volunteer efforts at Catholic Charities. Foster Grandparents dedicated 73,403 hours in classrooms, childcare centers, and youth-focused programs, where they provided tutoring, encouragement, stability, and emotional support.

Empowering our neighbors. **Impacting** generations.

An additional group of volunteers supported the FGP office, contributing 64 hours of administrative assistance to help keep the program running smoothly.

Survey results highlighted the profound personal impact of the program:

100% of Foster Grandparents reported that participation improved their health and wellbeing, 98% felt the program kept them active and socially connected and over 75% described their satisfaction level as “very satisfied”

For many, being a Foster Grandparent is more than volunteering—it is a renewed sense of purpose, routine, and joy.

Behind-the-Scenes Across the Agency

The foundational work of Catholic Charities was strengthened by volunteers who served behind the scenes to keep programs running efficiently. A dedicated team of clerical and Human Resources volunteers invested 605 hours in office support, data management, and onboarding assistance—ensuring staff could stay focused on direct service. Our Board Members, contributing 508 hours, provided vital leadership and advocacy, guiding the mission forward. Meanwhile, Housing program volunteers offered 309 hours of support that helped stabilize programs and ensure clients received consistent care. Together, these volunteers formed a quiet but powerful force that helped power the agency’s ability to serve the community.

St. Cloud and Elk River Day Treatment interns contributed 2,342 hours helping to create safe, supportive environments where children, teens, and families could process difficult experiences, build skills, and strengthen communication. Their presence added compassion, stability, and partnership to teams committed to fostering healing and growth.

These roles ensure Catholic Charities runs efficiently and with care, even in the busiest seasons.

Community Support That Warms, Welcomes, and Celebrates

Across seasonal programs and community events, volunteers contributed a combined 7,945 hours of creativity, hospitality, and team spirit. Quilters devoted 6,408 hours to crafting blankets and items that bring warmth and comfort to individuals and families. Toys for Tots volunteers invested 1,100 hours creating a welcoming, streamlined “shopping” experience—guiding roughly 40 families an hour, assisting with gift selection, and helping load items with care. Another 437 hours were contributed by community events volunteers who supported Pack the Porches, the Benefit Breakfast, and Mardi Gras, helping with set-up, guest check-in, logistics, and the many details that bring large events to life. Together, these volunteers infused our community with generosity and joy throughout the year.

Using Minnesota’s 2025 volunteer-hour value of \$38.16, this equates to \$5,334,730 in service contributed to the community.

While this financial equivalent is substantial, the true impact lies in the human stories—every hour representing a moment of kindness, a restored sense of dignity, or hope extended from one person to another.

Empowering our neighbors. **Impacting** generations.

Empowering our neighbors. **Impacting** generations.