

CATHOLIC CHARITIES JACKSONVILLE

CHRONICLES

SUMMER 2024



Helping Hallett Find His Footing Again

We all experience setbacks sometimes, even when we have the best intentions. That's what happened to a Navy veteran named Hallett when he let his heart guide his actions instead of his head.

Hallett was living in North Carolina when he received an upsetting call from his daughter down in Florida. Her home had been badly damaged in a storm and needed immediate repairs. Without pause, he sent her as much money as he could to help. Unfortunately, it was more than he could afford, and when his rent was due, he didn't have what he needed.

Soon after, he was evicted and too ashamed to tell his daughter that he was homeless. Seeking a fresh start, Hallett made his way south and found temporary shelter in Jacksonville.

It was there that he connected with Catholic Charities Jacksonville. The team referred him for a job and helped him secure safe housing. Now, he not only enjoys his work and home, but has also purchased a car.

Catholic Charities Jacksonville Case Worker Skye Barber said that many people she encounters just need a little support transitioning to a better place in their lives, and that was certainly the case with Hallett.

Hallett had a big heart and a strong desire to stand on his own," said Barber. "Once we helped him get back on his feet, he was eager to move forward, and now he's actively contributing to the community."

"With the assistance and guidance of Catholic Charities, I was able to move from a community shelter into stable housing."

-Hallett



Our Emergency Financial Assistance program prevents homelessness by covering the cost of rent, mortgage, utilities, and food. Last year, we provided **2,329 individuals** with crucial financial support.

Giving Taylor Something Special

Taylor is a remarkable young man who has Intellectual and Developmental Differences. All year long he looks forward to his favorite week of the year – camp week at Catholic Charities Jacksonville's Camp I Am Special.



This was the tenth year he excitedly joined other campers at a place where he not only fits in, but thrives. Taylor and 175 of his friends were paired one-on-one with young volunteers from area high schools and colleges - called Buddies - and overseen by the Catholic Charities staff. They worked hard to ensure all the campers enjoyed pool time, fishing, biking around the campgrounds, and getting to know each other.

The camp experience benefits more than just the campers, it also provides relief to their families.

"My son is the joy of my life, but caring for him is 24/7," said Taylor's mom, Theresa. "Camp offers our family a much-needed respite from caregiving. We can relax knowing that he is in good hands and having fun."



Camp I Am Special provides virtual camp experiences to children, teens, and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Differences. We empowered **176 campers** this summer.

A Note from Our Regional Director

As I complete my second month with Catholic Charities Jacksonville, I want to express how honored I am to lead this remarkable organization. With a legacy spanning more than 75 years, our commitment to supporting the most vulnerable members of our community is a mission that deeply resonates with me.

Throughout my career in social services, I've been consistently impressed by the high caliber of this agency's work. Whether providing emergency assistance to families in crisis, supporting refugees escaping persecution, or nurturing the joyful spirit of Camp I Am Special, every aspect of Catholic Charities Jacksonville's service is driven by our mission to put faith into action. We champion justice, human dignity, and the enhancement of lives for those we serve. I witness this dedication each day.

Thank you for being an essential part of this mission. Your support makes our work possible, and for that, we are profoundly grateful.



Eileen Sueter
Regional Director
Catholic Charities
Jacksonville

Other Ways Catholic Charities Helps

Our Food Assistance program provides essential nourishment through our community food pantry. Last year, we distributed **583,119 pounds** of food to local hungry individuals.

Our Refugee Resettlement program ensures that refugee families that have been invited to the United States have access to transportation, health screenings, food, language classes, and a safe place to live when they arrive. We assisted more than **2,954 refugees** last year.

Catholic Charities reunites families, renews employment authorization, and assists with the citizenship process by providing affordable legal services to approved, legal immigrants. We helped **585 immigrants** last year.

