



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Catholic Charities Operating MRC Centro de Bienvenida

Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc. is welcoming and assisting migrants passing through San Antonio on their way to their sponsors located around the country. Migrants are being assisted at the facility operating at 7000 San Pedro since September 19, 2022.

This summer, the City of San Antonio opened the Migrant Resource Center as a respite site to offer safe shelter and basic needs to migrants passing through the area. The City has transitioned its role at the facility and will continue to support Catholic Charities in operating the center, now known as the MRC Centro de Bienvenida. There, migrants receive case management to assess need, humanitarian aid like food, clothing, hygiene kits, and shower facilities, and a safe resting space while awaiting transportation to their sponsors in other cities. Additional wraparound services include counseling, legal assistance, material support, and other services are available as needed.

Catholic Charities' President/CEO, J. Antonio Fernandez, says, "we are happy to welcome and assist neighbors passing through San Antonio with dignity. Leaving their home countries is not a choice but a necessity as they search of safety, basic needs, and opportunity to provide for their families. We appreciate the partnership with the City of San Antonio and Mayor Nirenberg for opening the Migrant Resource Center and assisting in the transition to the MRC Centro de Bienvenida."

Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS, of the Archdiocese of San Antonio said, "God is the creator of every human life. The dignity of the human person is given by God. We are called to help each other live out that dignity. There is so much suffering in the world and it is impacting many people. We are willing to help the refugees, to do it right, and to the best of our abilities."

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About Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc.: The mission of Catholic Charities is to provide for the needs of our community through selfless service under the sign of love. Catholic Charities serves all people, regardless of race, religion, or national origin, from birth to natural death, through a network of comprehensive programs that include basic needs, family and children's services, legal services, refugee resettlement, counseling, pregnant and parenting education, and senior services with the goal of providing basic needs, strengthening

the vulnerable, nurturing families, and promoting self-sufficiency. For more information, visit www.ccaosa.org or call (210) 222-1294.

MRC CENTRO DE BIENVENIDA

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the purpose of MRC Centro de Bienvenida?

A: The MRC Centro de Bienvenida is a temporary respite center that will provide case management, basic needs, and safe shelter while migrants await travel to their sponsor families or friends throughout the country. Consistent with the Catholic Charities' mission of providing for the needs of our community selflessly under the sign of love; staff, contractors, and volunteers will serve all people regardless of race, religion, or national origin.

Q: How will Catholic Charities provide assistance to migrants?

A: Catholic Charities has long served others in our community and to those in crisis whether responding to a humanitarian crisis, natural disaster, or even a pandemic. Dedicated and expert staff and volunteers stand ready 24/7 to respond with humanitarian aid by providing basic needs, safe shelter, faith-based and trauma-informed counseling, legal guidance, and other wraparound services to neighbors in need.

Q: How is the MRC Centro de Bienvenida funded?

A: Given the influx of migrants daily, Catholic Charities is working with local and federal agencies to fund assistance providing care to migrants as they travel to their sponsor families and friends.

Q: What resources are provided to migrants at the MRC Centro de Bienvenida?

A: Migrants arriving at the MRC Centro de Bienvenida will first be welcomed and met by a case manager. Case managers will assess need and arrange humanitarian aid in the form of food, clothing, hygiene kits, shower facilities, and a safe space to rest.

Q: Is Catholic Charities working with other entities to provide care to migrants?

A: Catholic Charities may solicit the assistance of government officials, community leaders, corporations, and other faith-based organizations to care for the needs of our community and of those passing through the city. Partners, staff, contractors, and volunteers are all being utilized to adequately operate the MRC Centro de Bienvenida 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Crisis response requires 24-hour care for large groups of people in multiple capacities ranging from immediate need like food to more comprehensive assistance like counseling or legal guidance.

Q: Is transportation being provided to migrants?

A: Catholic Charities is working in cooperation with the City of San Antonio to assist with transportation when needed. Case managers have the discretion to further arrange transportation for individuals, children, and families to their sponsor families or friends only.

Q: How can the community provide support to the MRC Centro de Bienvenida?

A: At this time, Catholic Charities is transitioning operations to the MRC Centro de Bienvenida. It is expected that the community will be asked to volunteer or donate specialty items like toys and backpacks to ease transportation for children and families. Calls to action will be made via social media at @CatholicCharitiesSA on Facebook and CatholicCharitiesSanAntonio on Instagram as well as the website at www.ccaosa.org/centro-de-bienvenida.