



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Caritas of Waco?

Caritas of Waco is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization that provides urgent support to people in need in our community through our emergency services and case management programs. Caritas of Waco was founded in 1967 by the Austin Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church and became an independent ecumenical agency in 1979. We have been serving the local community for 54 years and couldn't do so without the numerous volunteers, donors and organizations that support us.

How is "Caritas" pronounced?

Caritas is pronounced "kar-i-tas" or another example is "Care-it-oss." Video pronunciation example.

What does the word Caritas mean?

Caritas is a Latin term for charity, and implies an act of giving out of the goodness of the heart.

Who does Caritas of Waco provide services to?

Caritas serves individuals from all walks of life and backgrounds, from people who have experienced multi-generational poverty, to those who have been affected by the recent pandemic. Caritas provides urgent support to anyone in need and does not discriminate against race, creed, age, sex, color, national origin, marital status, religion, union or political affiliation, handicap, veteran status, or sexual orientation. The majority of clients are residents of Waco-McLennan County, although there are no geographical limits to receiving services from Caritas. Recipients are interviewed to determine their needs for emergency services and case management.

How do I make a donation to Caritas of Waco?

Caritas relies on contributions from the community to support our services and programs. To make an online gift, please visit our website and click on the Donate Now button. To send a gift by mail, please make a check or money order payable to Caritas of Waco and send to Caritas of Waco, 300 S.15th Street, Waco, Texas, 76701. For more information on donations, or to schedule a monetary or canned good fundraiser, please contact Director of Development Mary Beth Kauk at mkauk@caritas-waco.org or 254-753-4593 Ext. 205.

How can I volunteer at Caritas of Waco?

Caritas always needs volunteers in the food pantry, warehouse and thrift stores. To become a volunteer please fill out our volunteer application on our website. For more information on volunteering, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Andrew Bryngelson at abryngelson@caritas-waco.org or 254-753-4593, Ext. 203. Every year, more than 37,000 volunteer hours are logged at the site which is equal to \$1,006,400 in service and savings for Caritas.

How do I receive help from Caritas of Waco?

To receive services from Caritas, please bring a picture identification card and proof of current address to 300 South 15th Street. You will be given a number to see an interviewer who will then explain our services. In the interview you will be registered with the system and given a Caritas ID card. The interviewer will then determine what ways Caritas can be of help. All subsequent visits require your Caritas ID card and proof of address. For more information on resources, please visit our programs page on our website or call 254-753-4593.

Covid-19 Update

Only an ID is required for the drive-thru pantry service. You must bring an ID for each family receiving food.

How is Caritas of Waco funded?

Over 98 percent of every dollar given to Caritas of Waco comes from "public support" which includes individuals, businesses, various faith communities, civic and social clubs, service organizations, charitable foundations, and the United Way of Waco-McLennan County. Close to 86 percent of all contributions go toward providing direct assistance. Caritas receives limited funding from government grants.