



Reducing Poverty by Empowering Families

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PRESS RELEASE

DATE: March 20, 2019

TO: All media

FROM: Ben De La Garza
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RE: As the City of Laredo sees an increase in migrants, CCDOL Humanitarian Crisis Relief continues

We, Catholic Charities - Diocese of Laredo (CCDOL), continue to participate in active humanitarian service and assistance to a growing number of migrants passing through the City of Laredo. At this time, our community is faced with the great responsibility to provide constant humanitarian service and aid for an expected thousands of migrants during their temporary stay in our Gateway city.

Since February 4, 2019, we have assisted an influx of migrants who have been processed by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Border Patrol (BP). Processed migrants arrive to Laredo on buses from Eagle Pass, Del Rio, Brownsville and McAllen, and are largely from Honduras and other Central American countries. Upon their arrival in Laredo, we provide them with food, hygiene products, clothing, access to cell phones, and transportation support. The migrants, who have received court notices to attend immigration court at their individual destinations in the U.S., leave Laredo as soon as possible.

As of March, 20, 2019, the number of migrants being transported by bus to the City of Laredo is expected to increase dramatically. Throughout the increase, CCDOL is prepared to continue our service to aid migrants through our Humanitarian Crisis Relief program. The Diocese of Laredo and CCDOL will provide shelter at San Francisco Javier Catholic Church for an overnight stay.

As prepared as we are, there is still a dire need for our community to come together at this time by collaborating in our humanitarian efforts. Among our most pressing needs are volunteer support and financial assistance. Other donations needed include used phones, food, snacks, water, juice, travel and full size hygiene products, towels, blankets, and finally a

washing and drying machine. Donations can be dropped off at the CCDOL office located at the corner of Cedar Avenue and Fremont St., 1919 Cedar Ave., Laredo, TX 78040. If you are interested in joining our group of volunteers, please call our office at (956) 722-2443.

With the help of the Diocese of Laredo, Catholic Charities - USA, Catholic Charities - Archdiocese of San Antonio, the City of Laredo Health Department, The Holding Institute, Catholic Extension, Catholic Relief Services, and support from the residents of Laredo, we can continue to provide the necessary humanitarian support to migrants who are briefly passing through our border city.

On behalf of Catholic Charities - Diocese of Laredo we thank you in advance for your contribution in assisting our migrant brothers and sisters in need.