



# Help & Hope for the Hungry, the Homeless & the Hurting

**Loaves & Fishes  
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Newsletter  
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Edited by  
Ruben Garza &  
Donald Crouse**

## Inside this issue:

Board of Directors and LFRGV Staff 2

Overcoming Challenges, Together 2

Churches & Organizations Support  
Loaves & Fishes 3

Friends of Loaves & Fishes lend  
their support 3

Endowment Fund of Loaves &  
Fishes 3

From Victor 4

Insert: - Testimonial by  
Bob Tankersey



## Our Mission

*The Loaves and Fishes of the Rio Grande Valley Corporation shall be a cooperative corporation of those congregations and local denominational bodies (e.g. District, Association, Diocese, Region, Presbytery, Conference, Convention, etc.) which choose to participate. Loaves and Fishes' primary mission is to function as the "mission arm" of the member congregations in the Upper Cameron and Willacy County areas.*

## Happy Retirement, Hilda! You've earned it.

This month we bid a bitter-sweet farewell to our Community Health Nurse, Hilda Vallejo, L.V.N., who retired on Thursday, August 4th.

Hilda came to us five years ago as a volunteer and was soon hired on as our Community Health Nurse. She has since become a beloved figure at both our Harlingen and Raymondville facilities, providing direct patient care and case management for over 5,000 clients every year.

In addition to her 30-plus years of



experience in healthcare, Hilda brought a genuine sense of compassion and caring to her work, administering medications, caring for wounds, and providing counseling, education, and other health interventions to her patients. Hilda also ministered to her co-workers. Always ready to give a smile, a kind word, and a helping hand for anyone, she will be

sorely missed by everyone here at Loaves and Fishes. We wish her and her husband Henry a long and blessed retirement together, spending time with their grandchildren and doing all the things they love.



*"There's always hope, so don't lose your faith. The Lord does miracles; I have seen them."*

*Hilda Vallejo*

**Board of Directors, 2021**

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Betty Ortiz  
Victor Rivera  
Estella Ruiz*

## Overcoming Challenges, Together

It is impossible to turn on the news or open a newspaper these days and not see something about the influx of immigrants to our country, many of them coming across the Texas border.

As many of you know, Loaves and Fishes played an integral part in the care and resettlement of 726 asylum seekers from Central America in 2019. Now, after a year's reprieve due to Covid-19 and the restrictive immigration policies instituted under the Trump administration, we are once again seeing a steady flow of refugees released



into the Harlingen area. To date, we have assisted over 735 immigrants (418 adults and 308 children) in 2021.

Typically, the refugees are dropped off at Loaves and Fishes or at the Harlingen bus station. The Loaves and Fishes staff provide



them with food, clothing, hot showers, and basic hygiene and

healthcare, to include a rapid COVID test. In addition to addressing their immediate needs, our staff assist

them with arranging travel to their ultimate destination in the United States.



We wish to express our deep appreciation for the invaluable assistance extended by Fr. Robert (Bob) Charlton, SS.CC, and the Queen of Peace Catholic Church, which has played a vital role in this effort ever since we first began in 2019.

### HOMELESS PREVENTION

Low to moderate income renters in Upper Cameron or Willacy County may be eligible for rental or utility assistance through Loaves & Fishes' Homeless Prevention Program. Assistance may last for three months for eligible applicants facing eviction and utility cut off. COVID-19 Rental Assistance available. Call (956) 423-1014 for more information.



## Community Support

Troubadour International  
 Treasurer Hills Presbyterian Church  
 Calvary Baptist Church  
 St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
 Queen of Peace Catholic Church  
 First Christian Church of Harlingen  
 First United Methodist—Lyford  
 Assumption Church  
 Bethel Lutheran Church  
 Community Baptist Church-Port Mansfield  
 City of Raymondville



**Call 423-1014 to  
 remember the  
 Endowment Fund  
 in your will or life  
 insurance policy.**

## Friends of Loaves & Fishes



Faustino Villanueva	Helen V. Schmidt	Norwood L. Fedie
Albert J. Anderson	L & M Vigo	Mabel Ehimiko
Larry Galbreath	Laura Schell	Lora Balken
Victor D. Leal	A.M. Cavazos	Michael Murphy
Ned Cooley	Ricardo Leal	Jack V. Scott
William T. McNutt	Mario Munoz	Margaret A. Mitchell
Roel Delgado	Bill & Emma Burke	Deborah Anne Scarborough
Reynaldo & Roberta Rodriguez	Sylvia Hurtado	Keith Becker
Owen Flinn	Gail E. Peterson Tod	P. Wingert
Mickey Graham	Gary L. Wheelus	Edd Kerkow
Michael T. Fulk	Jo Ann Boggus	Zoraida L. Sanchez
G & O Shrimp Co.	Luz Arce	Bethany Knuudsen
	Diana Garcia	Paul Jornayvaz
	Frank M. Hale	Mary A. Betancourt
	Bessie W. Engler	Gordon White
	Taylor Blanton	Cheryl J.
	Manuel Vela	
	Magdaleno Juarez	

**The Ministries of  
 Loaves & Fishes  
 The Bread of Life  
 Dining Hall**

**The Open Arms  
 Homeless Shelter  
 The New Hope Job  
 Shop**

**Family Emergency  
 Assistance**

**Great Physician  
 Healthy Living**



**Mental Health  
 Program**





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for the  
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*A special thanks to Bobnpat Tankersley and his brothers of Valley Praise for preparing food bags during our weekly distribution.*

Harlingen:  
514 South E Street  
Harlingen, TX 78550

Raymondville:  
688 West Kimball Street  
Raymondville, TX 78580

Phone: 956-423-1014  
Fax: 956-423-3051  
Email: office@lfrgv.org

Phone: 956-699-2170  
Fax: 956-423-3051  
Email: office@lfrgv.org



Look for us on the web!

[www.lfrgv.org](http://www.lfrgv.org)

Dear Readers,  
Please mark your calendars for Friday, November 5 at 6 pm. The Board of Directors and Executive Staff invite you to join us in celebrating 30 years of dedicated service to our community at Loaves and Fishes of the Rio Grande Valley's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Gala. This year's event, "Celebrating 30 Years: A Night of Help, Hope and Laughs" will be held under the stars of the Oak Hill Event Center at 1780 W. Express-

way 83 and will feature the very funny, smart, clever, classy comedian, Steve Bruner—a favorite among the young and young-at-heart. Invitations to our celebration will appear in the October newsletter so stay tuned! There will be an opportunity for you to be a sponsor or simply purchase individual tickets to attend. The funds raised will help fund the organization's programs, such as the Bread of Life Dining Hall, the Open Arms Homeless Shelter, and

our New Hope Job Shop where clients gain skills allowing for greater access to job opportunities. I hope you will consider joining us. To learn more about the fundraiser, feel free to call me at 956-423-1014 or email me at victor@lfrgv.org. We will be taking necessary precautions to ensure a safe and joyous celebration.

*From  
Victor*

