



CATHOLIC
Diocese of Fresno
CHARITIES

November 19, 2021

Stephanie Dietz, City Manager
City of Merced
678 West 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Dear Stephanie,

As you are aware from our previous discussions, Catholic Charities is focused on helping families in need in the City of Merced. In the last year, our food distribution services through our site on Main Street have increased by 44%. Over the past two years going back prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, our food distribution services have increased by 179%. On average, we're serving 2,300 people per month through a building that is greatly challenged with the inability to store refrigerated and frozen food.

With this extreme growth in need for food assistance, food storage capacity has become a great challenge for our organization. The Catholic Charities warehouse currently consists of several home appliance refrigerator and freezer units. A walk-in refrigerator and freezer unit isn't just wanted – but now is greatly needed.

I am pleased to share that the Catholic Charities Board of Directors have recently approved a renovation project that is focused on the expansion of our warehouse and food storage capacity in order to meet food distribution needs and efficiencies. We are moving forward and plans are now at the City of Merced for approval.

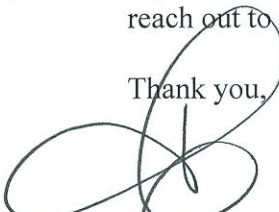
The complete cost of the project is \$248,600. We have currently raised \$71,000 toward this effort leaving a remaining \$177,600 needed to fund the project.

The urgent need for this project is based upon the great growth for food services we've seen in the City of Merced. I was encouraged by EJ Lorenzi to reach out to you to see if there was any opportunity for financial support from the City of Merced for this project.

These improvements will impact thousands of lives within the City of Merced for several years into the future. I appreciate any consideration or guidance on how we might be able to continue to work together for the betterment of those in need.

If you have any questions or would like to hear more about the project plans, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I appreciate your consideration.

Thank you,



Jeff Negrete
Executive Director
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fresno