

# **God's Comfort in Loss Miscarriage Ministry 2021 Annual Report**

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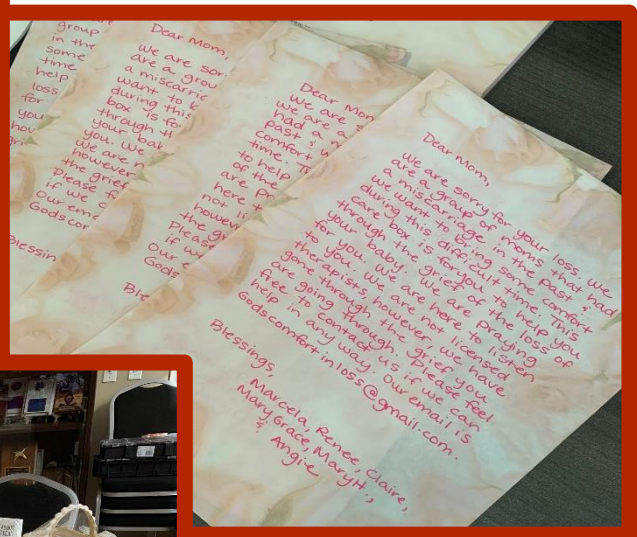
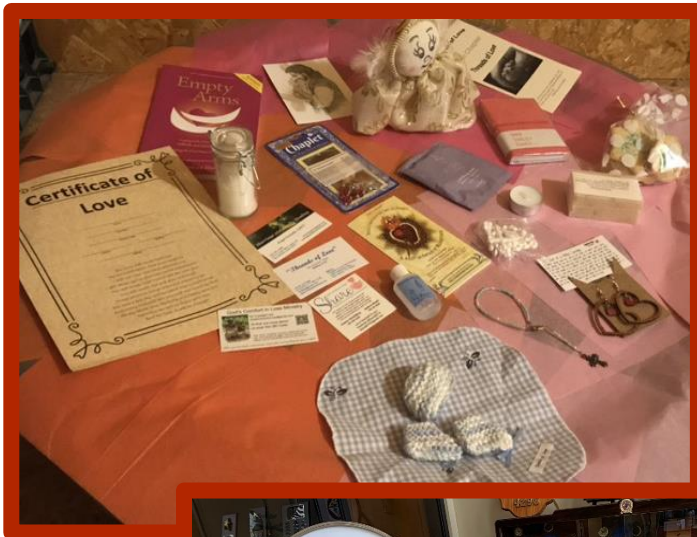
**OUR LADY OF THE ATONEMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH  
15415 RED ROBIN ROAD  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78255**



**OUR LADY OF THE  
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CATHOLIC CHURCH  
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# Who We Are

God's Comfort in Loss is a ministry dedicated for parents who have experienced the loss of a baby through miscarriage. The ministry was created in 2021 by several parishioners of Our Lady of The Atonement Catholic Church in San Antonio, Texas. The ministry leadership team is comprised of mothers who have experienced miscarriages with the hope to provide grieving parents comfort after the loss of their child. The ministry's patron saint is Saint Philomena.



Available resources include:

- ✚ Free Care Boxes for grieving parents
- ✚ Free Monthly Support Group at OLOA
- ✚ Free one-on-one conversations offered for grieving parents
- ✚ Referrals for professional therapy rooted in Catholicism
- ✚ Referrals for burial resources
- ✚ Want more info? Email [Godscomfortinloss@gmail.com](mailto:Godscomfortinloss@gmail.com)



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# Meet the Team

## Marcela – Ministry President



Marcela founded God's Comfort in Loss Miscarriage Ministry in June of 2021 and is currently in seat as the ministry's President. Marcela and her husband Jack have been parishioners at Our Lady of The Atonement since 2012. As a couple, they have experienced two miscarriages. Years later, in the summer of 2021, after three separate conversations on three consecutive days pointing to the needs of women who miscarry, Marcela believed the Holy Spirit was leading her to start a ministry for these women. "It amazes me how, out of a difficult situation, God creates the opportunity to help others in the same situation." Marcela earned a Bachelor's degree in Finance from UTSA. She is currently the Director of Business Development for Lodging Development Group, a business she owns with her husband.

## Kat – Secretary

Kat, her husband Gilbert, and their family have been parishioners at OLOA for many years. They have four children, Josemaria (25), Olivia (22), Juan Pedro (20), and Fifi (13). Kat has a Bachelor's of Science from Texas State University in Interdisciplinary Studies with a specialization in Early Childhood Education. She has professional education certifications in Special Education and ESL. Kat is a Special Education Teacher in a specialized unit classroom for NISD. Most of her students are Autistic with minimal communication skills or are Intellectually Disabled. She serves on the School Advisory Team and the Planning Committees for her campus. Her miscarriage and its effects on her marriage and family is why Kat felt called to support this ministry. ***Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. - JER 1:5***



## Claire – Communications Leader



Claire earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Centenary College and a Master of Arts in Public History from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She is a records manager and archivist and has the credentials of Certified Archivist, Certified Records Manager, and Information Governance Professional. Previous work experience includes the Clinton Presidential Library, Texas Christian University, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth. She currently works remotely for the Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta as a Project Manager; prior to having children, she had worked there as the Director of Archives and Records. She and her husband share a love of Christian ministry. They experienced a miscarriage in 2018, which prompted Claire to join this ministry. They also have two sons named Aaron and Thomas. ***I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. - JN 16:33***

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## Renee – Volunteer Coordinator

Renee and her husband, Michael, have been parishioners of OLOA since 2016. They have 5 children ages 14, 12, 8, 6, 4, and have experienced one miscarriage in 2018. Renee is currently a stay-at-home mom and has 17 years of experience in Corporate Finance and Management. In her free time, along with volunteering to help with God's Comfort in Loss, Renee is on the Board of Directors of Natural Womanhood, the Vice President of The Atonement Catholic Academy PTC, and on the Board of Directors for The Atonement Catholic Academy. ***The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. - LAM 3:22-23***



## Mary Grace – Event Coordinator



Mary Grace and her husband, Geno, came to The Atonement community just before Easter 2021. They have two children: a two-year-old named Gene and a newborn named Kateri. While Mary Grace has not experienced any miscarriages of her own, she has three miscarried siblings very much included in family life growing up. For Mary Grace, it was easy to feel as if she was one of nine instead of one of six. Mary Grace is a stay-at-home mom and the co-owner of Dona Lux Engraving leather craft run by her and her husband. She is also working on a Teachers Pay Teachers store. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Texas A&M University and then got her teaching certificate through an alternative certification program. She has taught in public and Catholic schools, as well as at Regina Caeli Academy, as a private tutor, and through Outschool. However, she has found her passion is in her small business and her love of homeschooling her children just as she was. ***Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. – 1 THES 5:16-18***

## Angie - Treasurer

Angie and her husband, Daniel, have been parishioners of OLOA since 2017. They have a 9-year-old son named Caden and have experienced three miscarriages - two in 2014 and one in 2018. Angie is currently a Regional Director for Walmart overseeing 177 stores across 5 states and has 18 years of experience in retail. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Texas Wesleyan University in 2007 and a Master's degree in Forensic Psychology from Argosy University in 2009. In her free time, along with supporting the ministry, Angie also volunteers as a Religious Education instructor and assists 2<sup>nd</sup> graders as they prepare to receive their sacraments. Her and her family are currently in the process of growing their family through adoption. ***Trust in The Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. - PROV 3:5***



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# Impacting the Lives of Many

## Testimonies

*"I want to write in and express my sincere gratitude in receiving the care package from Marcela, Renee, and Claire today. I was so touched by the gesture – it means the world to have others reach out and share the emotional load. Thank you so much, you're doing incredible, meaningful things for people!"*

**-Letter from mother who miscarried**

*"I am grateful to have the opportunity to help other women through the struggle of pain and sorrow that comes with a miscarriage. The comfort from everyone around me was what helped me get through the first terrible months of my sorrow and I wanted to be able to let other women know that they are not alone, and that their baby is loved and recognized by our community."*

**-Renee Keller, Volunteer Coordinator**



***"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." – Ps 34:18***

*"...Once again came that unforgettable night when my sister told me she was having a miscarriage of twin babies. I felt my heart break into pieces all over again, I could feel her pain as if it was happening to me. But instead of breaking down, a feeling of hope for strength and healing came to my thoughts as I remembered the ministry... Once the boxes arrived, my sister could not stop crying - not because she was being reminded of her loss, but for the strength each piece and words of comfort brought since it meant that the lives that once were growing inside her were now being recognized... Part of what the box provides is an opportunity for the whole family to share the pain and support the mother's healing process. Together they acknowledge the loss of family member and support each other... Understanding that they will forever be remembered as part of the family."*

**-Letter from family member of a care box recipient and ministry volunteer**

*"Thank you so much! I cannot tell you how much that care package meant...it arrived on the perfect day and it was an overwhelming healing experience to open it. Everything in there was so thoughtfully done and generously included. Thank you. I am most grateful for each of your help and prayers. It has been such a terrible loss. I have had some really sad days. But overall, I'm really consoled knowing that in God's will is our peace."*

**-Letter from mother who miscarried**



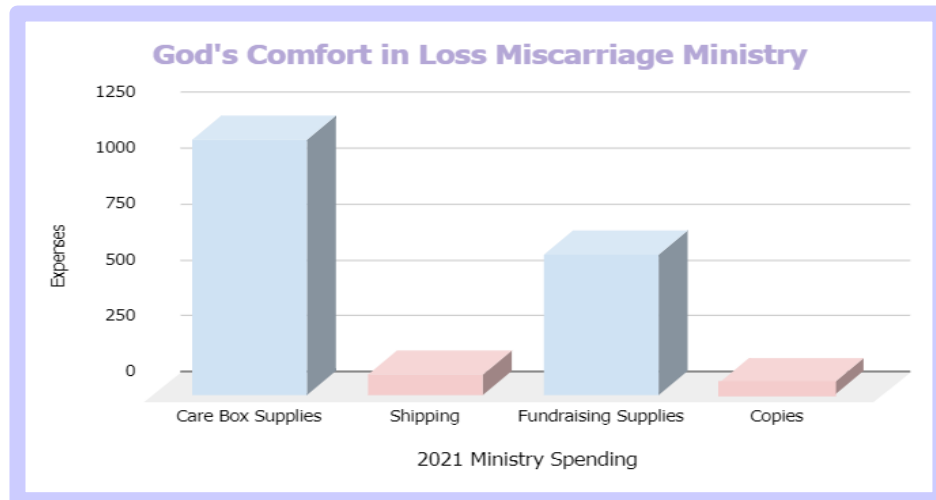
# Gracious Giving

## 2021 Collections



\*PSOG = ParishSoft Online Giving (Church Website)

## 2021 Expenses



Did you know..?

- ✚ God's Comfort In Loss averages 4 care box requests a week
- ✚ Each care box averages \$51.10 to assemble and ship
- ✚ GCL partners with an organization called Threads of Love each month and provides an average of 15 care boxes a month
- ✚ In total, GCL assembles and sends out approximately 30 boxes a month



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# A Year of Blessings



JESUS REPLIED,  
"YOU DO NOT REALIZE  
NOW WHAT I AM  
DOING, BUT LATER YOU  
WILL UNDERSTAND."

JOHN 13:7

JOHN 13:7

## Ministry Outreach, Partnerships, and Accomplishments

- ✚ Threads of Love – Monthly supply of care boxes given to organization
- ✚ OLOA Monthly Support Group – Partnership with professional grief and trauma counselor, Dr. Majel Braden, for expanded resource of monthly meetings at parish
- ✚ Fertility Science Institute – Listed as a Directory resource
- ✚ Couples to Couples League – Ministry contact info is provided to each teacher
- ✚ Mothering with Grace – Partnership with peer ministry and support with care boxes for couples at Holy Trinity Church
- ✚ Dignity Women's Center - Dr. Steven G. Pilkington, MD. allows ministry resources to be made available to patients in his office
- ✚ Catholic TV of San Antonio CTSA - Upcoming interview with Father Dr. Jim Schellenberg on Food for Thought segment

# Looking to Support? Here's How!

## Call to Action

- Seeking more volunteers to assist with staffing the ministry tables at various events, as well as handing out and collecting donation envelopes during monthly parish mass collections.
  - Bring the family along! The more, the merrier!
  - Looking to specifically grow our male volunteer base in the new year.
- Help us get the word out that we are here to help! Follow our Facebook page *God's Comfort In Loss Miscarriage Ministry – San Antonio, TX*.
  - Goal of 100 Facebook followers by end of 2022.
- Join or refer those in need to our GCL Support Group meetings held monthly at Our Lady of The Atonement Catholic Church.
  - Free of charge.
  - Co-facilitated by a GCL Leadership Team Member and a Professional Grief and Trauma Counselor.
  - Confidential environment focused on providing support and comforting care to grieving parents.
  - Dates listed in parish bulletin/emails. For more information, email [Godscomfortinloss@gmail.com](mailto:Godscomfortinloss@gmail.com).





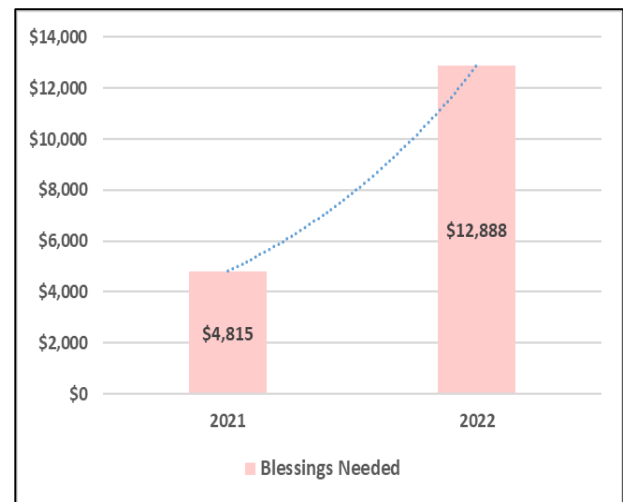
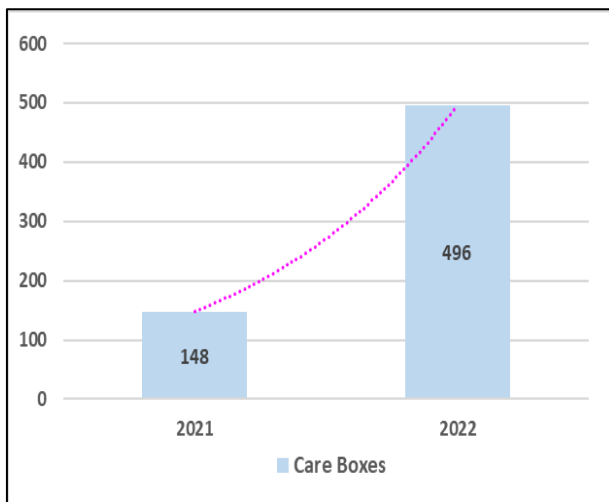
# On the Horizon



## Future Plans

1. Pamphlet Production for local OBGYN offices
2. Establish Male-Specific Care Boxes
3. Coordinate Monthly Care Box Assembly Meetings
4. GRN Catholic Radio 89.7 Partnership
5. Develop Independent Website
6. Expanding Outreach Outside of Texas
7. Memorial Garden at OLOA Church Grounds

## 2022 Projections



## More Info Needed?

Feel free to email us at

[Godscomfortinloss@gmail.com](mailto:Godscomfortinloss@gmail.com) or visit  
<https://www.ourladyoftheatonement.org/join/ministries-organizations> and click on “God’s Comfort in Loss”





We had an unborn baby who was not here very long,  
Who never got to hear her loving mama's song.  
Who never got to hold our hand or kiss our tender cheek,  
Who never got to stand on her own two precious feet.

Pray for us as we weep and yet still praise the Lord,  
For though our hearts are breaking, we rest in His Word.  
We know that He is always good and this promise we've been given;  
We'll see our baby one day soon in the sweet light of Heaven.

