On September 1st, the Family Day Center (FDC), a collaboration between Catholic Charities of Central Colorado (CC) and Family Promise of Colorado Springs, began offering services at the Hanifen Center at Marian House for families experiencing poverty or homelessness. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Friday, the FDC is the only day center in the Colorado Springs area exclusively addressing the needs of families experiencing homelessness and poverty. Ultimately, the vision of the FDC is to equip families to build resiliency and access life changing support. As a pilot program, the success of the FDC will determine the need for expansion beyond the Hanifen Center at Marian House.

According to the National Center on Family Homelessness, families comprise roughly one third of the national homeless population. This includes 1.6 million homeless children across the nation. Locally, the Colorado Department of Education estimated the number of homeless children attending public schools in 2013-14 was 1,783 in El Paso County and 970 in Douglas County.

Homeless families often seek shelter with friends and relatives, or in their cars. They may find temporary homes at homeless shelters or within the limited number of affordable housing units. During the day, the public library also serves as a temporary shelter for families with nowhere else to go. The FDC offers a safe daytime environment for families to access a number of services including case management, educational resources, diapers, formula, clothing, and school supplies as well as referrals to partner agencies for medical needs, affordable housing, and other services not offered on site.

The FDC is collaborating with Colorado College students who are organizing enrichment programs - primarily creative expression / art classes - on Tuesdays at the Marian House. Read more about this collaboration on page 7 of this newsletter.

Volunteers are vital to the success of the FDC, which will utilize 30 volunteers every week. Contact Erin McNabb at 719-866-8514 to get involved.

A Ribbon Cutting and Open House reception will be held on October 27 from 5 - 7 pm to celebrate this new addition to the Colorado Springs community.
I am excited to share important work that the staff and board at Catholic Charities (CC) have been doing. In June, we finalized a strategic plan that will help carry on and advance the impact we have on the poor and vulnerable across our diocese. This vision builds on this agency’s strong legacy and is possible because of the significant accomplishments CC has made over the past five years. The Marian House Soup Kitchen (MHSK) and the Hanifen Center for Self Sufficiency give us the facilities we need to enhance and broaden services in Colorado Springs. We have also dramatically expanded our reach across our 10-county service area. The work of staff in our Castle Rock office has allowed us to serve an average of 50 people a month from Douglas, Elbert & Park Counties, and our rural outreach efforts to the communities in the mountains and plains have helped build a platform for better serving the needs in those communities. Our highly regarded counseling staff have enhanced the support for pregnant mothers and families, ensuring life centered solutions for children that allow them to thrive. In these, and so many other ways, CC is ready for our next step.

With this strong foundation in place, we can fully embrace our call to address the “two feet” of Christian social service: charity and justice. While we continue to provide charity, which focuses on immediate relief, we are also focusing on the works of justice which eliminate the structural causes of poverty and suffering. With this in mind, our new vision is built upon these five tenets:

1. Foster access to essential human services and spiritual, physical and mental well-being.

MHSK serves an average of 600 meals every day; however the opportunity those meals present for those who are struggling are as important as the food. Whether it is a pair of shoes, mail service, or access to health care, the most important service CC provides is human relationship. We are increasing our case management capacity, enhancing our meal companion programs and building points of access in each of the 10 counties we serve. This will help us move from providing the “hand up” or “hand out” to being a “hand with” agency.

2. Provide tools and programs to empower the family unit.

Financial hardship is self-perpetuating, thus strengthening the family represents the greatest hope for ending the cycle of poverty. We will: 1.) Increase counseling services and education to families and individuals to help build thriving households. 2.) Expand our work with immigrant families to ensure they know their legal rights and make the naturalization process available; and 3.) Make sure children in poverty have available food, clothes and learning resources so educational opportunities are attainable.

3. Support those in need on their path to economic freedom.

For many, financial barriers are the most difficult to overcome. We are collaborating with partner organizations to increase work readiness and employment opportunities, work eligibility and pathways to naturalization and citizenship for immigrants, and access to training.

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Grateful to Our Grantors!

 Approximately 5% of Catholic Charities’ total budget comes from private foundations. We’d like to take this opportunity to thank all the foundations that generously support our mission to affirm the value and dignity of each human life and build solidarity within our community. The list below includes those foundations that awarded us grants since January 1 of this year, with the exception of those funders who have asked to remain anonymous:

- The TJX Foundation, Inc.
- H.A. & Mary K. Chapman Charitable Trust
- The Myron Stratton Home Grants Program
- Pikes Peak Community Foundation
- The Marson Foundation
- Douglas County’s Philip S. Miller Fund
- Virginia W. Hill Foundation
- SC Ministry Foundation
- Ford Motor Company
and asset building helping to establish credit, build savings and reduce debt. There is dignity in work and economic empowerment that not only offers a long term solution to problems like poverty and homelessness, but also serves the human being in a more caring and profound way.

4. Strengthen our human assets.

To serve our brothers and sisters most effectively, our internal relationships must be solid. Over the next three years, we want CC to be a world class environment for staff and volunteers. Our ability to change lives hinges upon the work of these groups – and it is hard work. We want to train our staff and volunteers to have the expertise they need to do their jobs, offer fair wages that demonstrate our commitment to the dignity of work; and perhaps most importantly, we want to honor this vocation, celebrating and building upon the faith that leads people to this mission work.

5. Assure the agency’s long-term organizational effectiveness and stability.

We must be responsible stewards of our resources because failure, neglect or abuse of the trust you place in us will ultimately hurt the men, women and families we serve. We will be transparent about both our future intent and our past performance. We recognize that our stakeholders make an investment in the work we do and we have an obligation to show positive returns. Maintaining a solid financial foundation is critical to our ability to achieve these goals. Part of this strategy is introducing the Caritas and 1968 Founders Societies, (at right). These two philanthropic options, in addition to our other initiatives, will help CC continue to provide critical services and give the agency the flexibility to meet the needs of those we serve in effective and innovative ways.

The work of CC could not go on without the support of people like you. Like the Good Samaritan, you have responded to those in need when others have passed by. Whether it is in time as a volunteer or treasure as a donor or in prayer, we are grateful and honored to work with you in this ministry. I hope you will continue to partner with us in this ambitious and important work in the months and years to come.

Catholic Charities’ Gift Societies are being rolled out this year for dedicated constituents who understand the need, value, and importance of Catholic Charities’ mission, and are financially ready, willing, and able to invest in our work at a leadership level.

1968 Founders Society

Named for the year Catholic Charities of Central Colorado was founded, the 1968 Founders Society requires a gift of $1,968 or more per household, per year. Gifts at this level demonstrate belief in and commitment to the work of Catholic Charities around human dignity concerns of the poor and vulnerable in our community.

Caritas Society

The Caritas Society is comprised of donors who are ready and able to invest $10,000 or more per year in the work of Catholic Charities. Donors at this level will be given special recognition and access to leadership for unique opportunities to help shape the future of Catholic Charities’ work.

How To Join

Make a gift payable to Catholic Charities of Central Colorado and mail to 228 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903 or visit www.ccharitiescc.org/donate. Gifts made to Catholic Charities through either gift society are fully tax-deductable and may qualify for additional tax benefits. For questions, please contact Janet Hutchinson, Chief Development Officer, at (719) 866-6440 or jhutchinson@ccharitiescc.org.

Inaugural member designation will be given to donors who join a society by submitting payment to Catholic Charities no later than December 31, 2015.

Thank you to our current 1968 Founders Society Inaugural Members: Timothy and Kalah Fuller, Matthew and Jenny Ramirez, and Jay and Nancy Barnwell; and to our Caritas Society Inaugural Members: The Clennan Family Foundation and several anonymous donors.
Catholic Charities News

KATHY THAYER WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Kathy Thayer, Vice President of Life Connections at Catholic Charities, has been awarded the 2015 Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan Award. This prestigious award recognizes Kathy’s extensive work in social service programming for the benefit of children.

For over 35 years, Kathy has dedicated her career to developing systems and programs that ensure the safety and welfare of children and families. Kathy spent 16 years in Illinois supporting and developing a multitude of child-centric programs and has spent the last 19 years with Catholic Charities, overseeing and developing programming to benefit families with children. The award will be presented at the Catholic Charities USA annual conference in September in Omaha, Nebraska.

"The personal impact that Kathy has had on the quality of life for thousands of children is amazing," said Andy Barton, CEO of Catholic Charities, "Kathy just brings such spirit, heart and caring to the work we do."

STAFF UPDATES

Catholic Charities welcomes new staff members throughout our programs as well as those who have been promoted or moved to a new position within the organization.

Ana Garza  Life Connections Counselor
Corey Almond  Moved from VP Family Immigration Services to VP Community & Parish Engagement
Denise Perre  Outreach Program Assistant in Castle Rock
Gregory Hartmann  Delivery Driver in Castle Rock
Hannah Smith  Communications Student Assistant
Mary Ann O’Shea  Life Connections Family & Child Early Literacy Advocate
Patrick Maestas  Marian House Delivery Driver
Paul Narduzzo  Regional Office Director in Castle Rock
Rob Stinson  Moved from Marian House Driver to Outreach Specialist

Donate  

Call 719-866-6440 or visit us at www.ccharitiescc.org
SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE SERVES 550+ CHILDREN

Having the right tools for school is vital to the success of childhood education. According to the National Retail Federation’s annual survey, the average family with children enrolled in kindergarten through high school will spend $669.28 on school supplies in 2015. For families living paycheck to paycheck, this additional expense can be overwhelming - especially because education can be a child’s ticket out of poverty. Thanks to the school supply drives sponsored by Bishop Michael J. Sheridan & the Knights of Columbus of the Diocese of Colorado Springs, Larry H. Miller Toyota of Colorado Springs and Liberty Toyota, and Charles Golding and the local McDonalds Restaurants, over 550 children received or will receive school supplies throughout 10 counties in Central Colorado.

Several extraordinary volunteers spent hours organizing thousands of school supplies collected during the drives. Backpacks and bags full of supplies were distributed through Marian House Life Support Services (LSS) and Marian House Community Outreach (MHCO) in August and September.

Hundreds of children are ready to have a fun and productive school year thanks to the combined efforts of caring community partners!

RILEY IS READY FOR KINDERGARTEN WITH A NEW BACKPACK FULL OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES.

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LARRY H. MILLER TOYOTA REPRESENTATIVES DROP OFF SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS AT MARIAN HOUSE
When Josh Bathon faced his first Wednesday morning volunteering at the Marian House (MH), it wasn’t without hesitation. “I was nervous about coming,” he said. “Often times ministry can be scary.” As a Novice in Holy Cross, a religious teaching order, Josh has spent the last year of living in the Colorado mountains in seclusion. Each day is spent in silence and in prayer, away from other people.

But on Wednesdays, he and the other students in his order serve at a hospital, an Alzheimer’s center, and at Catholic Charities. When it was time to rotate to another ministry, he asked to stay at the MH because, he says with a smile, “I started to feel like I was part of a family.”

For 20 weeks Josh has worked at MH unloading, inspecting, and organizing donated goods. “Every part of what goes on in this building is important,” he said. “It’s really made me feel as if I’m doing something meaningful.” Josh said the best part about working at the MH was becoming close with the other volunteers. “I’m really grateful for the opportunity to get to know the people here. I think one of the neatest things, which I didn’t expect, is that I found a group of people who all come from different areas and they meet here and become a family.”

Josh also participated in a few HEART walks. He recalled one conversation with a man who was going through a rough time. Josh was able to pray with him and empathize with him about the situation and he realized that even just a simple conversation can be meaningful to others: “Maybe for a couple minutes, I made a difference for him. That was really rewarding.”

Josh said, “I’ve come to trust Catholic Charities. Before it was just a number by the phone that we referred people if they needed something. Now having worked with them, I trust them and know that they’re doing good work, and they have the dignity of these people whom they serve at heart.”
Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

COLORADO COLLEGE

STUDENTS PLAN PROGRAMS AT MARIAN HOUSE

Last year, Colorado College made the tough decision to close the Community Kitchen, which served a meal on Sunday evenings to homeless and struggling individuals and families. To replace this valued service, the college held a competition. Winners were awarded grants to develop innovative projects to benefit the Colorado Springs community. As a result of the competition, two separate Colorado College student groups, who were awarded grants, chose to become involved in projects connected to the Family Day Center (FDC), housed in the Hanifen Center at Marian House.

One student group has already begun developing Grits, a publication which will be inserted into the Colorado Springs Independent. Grits will feature artwork, and other forms of creative expression, created by people receiving services at the Marian House. In addition to Grits, the artwork will be shown on KRCC, in galleries throughout the community, and housed in the Colorado College Library so students can have first-hand research available. Marian House clients are already engaging in this project and the initial results are quite exciting.

The second student project will be related to the development of family activities for guests at the FDC. The activities will be refined as the students return to school for the fall 2015 Semester, but the project is expected to be connected to the art/creative expression enrichment class which will be scheduled every Tuesday afternoon at the Marian House Soup Kitchen.

DOUGLAS COUNTY STRIVE TO THRIVE FAIR

The Strive to Thrive Resource and Service Fair was a huge success! This unique event gives Douglas County residents an opportunity to connect to agencies in the area for assistance with school supplies, food and nutrition assistance, a dental clinic, employment information, and much more. Dinner was also provided to all attendants. The fair was held at the Cherry Hills Community Church in Highlands Ranch where thirty-two agencies provided information and resources to the 250 residents who attended.

Catholic Charities’ Castle Rock office partnered with Douglas County School District and Douglas County Education Foundation to run a regional school supplies drive. Parishes - including St. Francis of Assisi, Pax Christi, and St. Mark - all participated in the drive. Supplies were handed out to families who signed up in advance at the fair, as well as at another location later in the week.


Mission Statement
In response to Jesus Christ’s call to affirm the value and dignity of each human life, to build solidarity within the community, and to advocate for justice for the poor and vulnerable, Catholic Charities of Central Colorado humbly engages in the ministry of charity for those in both economic and spiritual poverty so that all – staff, volunteers, and clients – may fully achieve their God-given potential.

2015 Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

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www.ccharitiescc.org
info@ccharitiescc.org

To Donate
Call (719) 866-6440
or visit www.ccharitiescc.org

STUFF THE BIRD!
Donate frozen turkeys to the Marian House for the Thanksgiving season
Monday, November 16
7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Marian House
14 West Bijou Street

Turkeys can also be dropped off during regular donation hours:
Mon - Sat, 8 am to 2 pm

It's time to