In 1968, Catholic Charities began serving the poor and vulnerable in Colorado Springs, giving a formal name to the work of charity that the Catholic Church had provided to this community since its founding in 1886. For 48 years, we have provided food and clothing, counseling and care for those in the most need. This time and work has been defined by a willingness to work within our communities to identify and meet critical needs. Maintaining our Catholic heritage and our commitment to Catholic Social Teaching, we have been blessed with partners from churches of all denominations, city leaders, volunteers and community leaders who are committed to the work of charity on their streets and in their neighborhoods.

Today, the poor and vulnerable of our city face a new level of crisis. Economic events, the breakdown of families, reduction in mental health care – just to name a few of the root causes – have changed the landscape of poverty and homelessness. As an agency and a community, we need to do better. We are working tirelessly within a dated and fragmented model of service delivery when a better model exists. Instead of defining ourselves by our historical services, we believe that a focus on the unique needs of the people we serve will dramatically improve the care we are able to provide our brothers and sisters.

For this reason, I am excited to announce that Catholic Charities has committed to refocusing our services over the next year to address the growing needs of families in crisis. To help make this shift possible, our agency was recently awarded a 5-year renewable state grant up to $350,000 ($70,000/year) to implement a Family Resource Center model around our programs. As the only agency in El Paso County to receive this statewide funding, Catholic Charities will be a lighthouse for families who are in crisis in Colorado Springs. We will continue many of our current services such as our daily meals at the Soup Kitchen, Day Center for families experiencing homelessness, and emergency assistance through our Life Support programs. The added resources will also allow expansion of counseling and case management, open more opportunities to access our partner health care providers, Medicaid and CHIP enrollment, and will extend our strategic partnerships with Partners in Housing, Community Partnership for Childhood Development (CPCD),
Family Promise, and the Salvation Army to ensure easy, coordinated, access to a menu of services.

Understanding the needs of our city’s adult homeless population is still one of the most critical issues we face, Catholic Charities is strengthening our partnership with Springs Rescue Mission (SRM) in support of their planned expansion. We believe the consolidation of services envisioned in this new campus is a dignified and effective response to our homeless adults who desperately need shelter both in the daytime and overnight. Once the SRM campus is fully operational, Catholic Charities will work closely with our adult homeless guests to transition them to services at SRM including meals, clothing distribution, and mail service. We will not stop serving meals at the Marian House Soup Kitchen, nor will we ever turn anyone away; however, the addition of a dining hall at SRM will allow us to reconfigure our daily meal, reduce wait times, and explore innovative models in food service.

Pope Francis writes in “Evangelii Gaudium” (“The Joy of the Gospel”): “The Church, guided by the Gospel of mercy and by love for mankind, hears the cry for justice and intends to respond to it with all her might…. working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor, as well as small daily acts of solidarity in meeting the real needs which we encounter.” Many of the defining achievements for Catholic Charities over our 48 years of service in Colorado Springs have evolved around the ever changing needs in the community. In the 1980’s, we responded to the needs of children and families by becoming a licensed child placement agency. In 1990, we started the city’s first and only affordable housing for families (Partners in Housing). In 1994, we took on the operation of the Marian House Soup Kitchen, which began in the basement of First Baptist Church. The time has come, once again, for Catholic Charities to respond with all our might to the real needs of our most vulnerable. We stand ready to answer the call.

Andy Barton, President & CEO

CATHOLIC CHARITIES FAMILY PROGRAMS

- Adoption Services
- Adoption Search & Reunion
- Adopt a Family program
- Child Care
  - Child Watch in Family Day Center
  - Enriched Childcare for ESL Classes
  - Foster Childcare
- Children’s & Maternity Clothing Closet
- Children’s Programs
  - Birthday & Christmas Gift Programs
  - Coats for Kids with Knights of Columbus
  - Layettes for New Moms
  - School Supply Drive
  - Special Event Parties for underprivileged kids
- Comprehensive Case Management
- Counseling Services
- Early Literacy Education
  - ESL Reading Circles
  - Jungle Story-Time (Success by 6)
  - Bright by Three
  - Age Appropriate Book Distribution
- Educational Offerings
  - Child Birth Education Classes
  - Financial Literacy Classes
  - Parenting Classes
  - Prenatal Nurturing Classes
- RealCare® Baby project
- Emergency Baby Needs
- Emergency Shelter
- Family Day Center for families who are homeless or in crisis
- Family Enrichment Activities
- Family Facilitator with Douglas County Cares
- Family Meals & Food Boxes
- General Needs (diapers, wipes, etc.)
- Life Skills & Job Readiness
- Naturalization & Immigration Services
- New Mothens’ Support Groups
- Project Rachel Abortion Healing Support Groups
- Relinquishment Counseling
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
After retiring from the military, Steve was ready for a new beginning with his wife, Jennifer, and their three children. Unable to find a job in Illinois, where his extended family lived, Steve found a position in Denver. To ease the transition, Steve and Jennifer traveled to Denver with their youngest child, Juliana, while their two boys stayed with their grandmother in Illinois.

Upon arrival in Denver, the job opportunity fell through so Steve directed his attention to Colorado Springs, where he had once been stationed in the military. As the weeks went by, the family’s funds dwindled, job opportunities did not come, and Steve, Jennifer, and Juliana found themselves sleeping in their car. “During that time, we were just lost,” Steve recalled. “The greatest struggle was trying to be strong for Juliana.” They found Catholic Charities’ (CC) Marian House Soup Kitchen where they were able to get a hot, nutritious meal, and learned of the Family Day Center, where families can receive a multitude of services.

“Coming to the Family Day Center became a part of our daily routine,” Steve said. “Every day the staff was excited to see us, asking for updates, and pointing us in the right direction. Juliana loved it – it was the best part of her day.” As Juliana stepped into a world of My Little Pony, Play Dough, and LEGO bricks, her parents took turns checking email and working with staff to find jobs leads and a place to live.

Over the next month, the family’s proactive attitude, help from local agencies, and the services they received at Marian House, including a daily meal, set in motion their journey to stability. CC referred the family to Rocky Mountain Human Services who helped with temporary housing. With housing and food taken care of, Steve was able to direct his attention to finding a job, which he did fairly quickly. Shortly after, the family settled in a more permanent home with housing vouchers from the Veterans Affairs Office, and the other children were able to come to Colorado and be reunited with their family.

To give the family help while waiting for the first paycheck, CC provided a Family Stabilization Pack, which is given to clients transitioning from temporary to permanent housing. It consists of furniture, food, household goods and a kitchen starter pack. Although the family is still accessing some assistance, they are well on their way. “Catholic Charities and Rocky Mountain Human Services helped us so much. We are so grateful,” said Steve.

Of special note, the furniture the family received was donated by the late Fr. Bill Carmody.
Each day, Catholic Charities relies on over 70 volunteers to ensure our programs and services run smoothly. In Fiscal Year 2014/15, volunteers donated 92,509 hours of their time, valued at $2,375,631.

Many volunteers have committed 5, 10, and even 20+ years of their lives serving those in-need at Catholic Charities. The majority serve at the Marian House and Hanifen Center; however, volunteers also donate their time to our English as a Second Language and Early Literacy programs, parenting and childbirth classes, St. Patrick’s Day Gala Committee, Board of Directors, and throughout the year in various roles and special events.

Catholic Charities could not serve the poor and vulnerable in our community without the dedication of our volunteers. Thank you for your service!

Pray with us
• E-mail prayers@CCharitiesCC.org

Get Involved
• Volunteer - 719-866-6286
• Participate in events
• Sponsor-a-Day at Marian House 719-866-6529

Contribute
• On-line at CCharitiesCC.org/donate
• Smile.Amazon.com - you shop, Amazon gives
• Mail envelope with check or credit card information
• In-kind Gifts & Vehicle Donations
• Text to Give at 50155 using the key word CHARITY to give any amount
• State Tax Credits
  • El Paso County Enterprise Zone (25% tax credit for Marian House)
  • Child Care Contribution (50% tax credit for Life Connections)

Stay Informed
• Sign up to receive updates via e-mail at CCharitiesCC.org and click on Helping Hands NEWSLETTERS

Donate

For more ways to give call 719-866-6440 or visit us at CCharitiesCC.org/donate
Each year, Catholic Charities USA chooses a Volunteer of the Year from Catholic Charities affiliated agencies submissions to recognize the more than 300,000 volunteers throughout the Catholic Charities network. This year, Catholic Charities of Central Colorado nominated three deserving volunteers to compete for this recognition: Evelyn & Dick Koprowski and Kirk Ellefson. All three volunteers work at the Marian House Complex and reflect the work and efforts of volunteers throughout our programs.

Evelyn & Dick Koprowski
Evelyn & Dick Koprowski have been steadfast contributors to the ministry of Catholic Charities (CC) for nearly 29 years, committing a minimum of 12-15 days each month working at the Marian House Soup Kitchen (MHSK) in various capacities. They are responsible for organizing the volunteers and meal preparation at MHSK on the last Thursday and fifth Saturday of each month. Dick serves on the Catholic Charities Board of Directors and the couple also drives the MHSK truck to pick up donations from stores all over town. These efforts are contagious and inspire guests, volunteers, and staff alike. Their mission is described in a phrase Evelyn constantly repeats: “God put us on this earth to do his work.” Dick & Evelyn were named a top six finalist. To learn more about their work with CC, go to CCharitiescc.org/

Kirk Ellefson
“Service” defines Kirk Ellefson’s life - first as a U.S. Army veteran, and for almost five years, as a volunteer for Catholic Charities’ (CC) Marian House Client Services and Community Outreach programs. He has implemented his military experience to provide a Standard Operating Procedure Manual for information desk volunteers (ensuring that every client receives the same high standard of service), and developed an active shooter policy to ensure safety and preparedness at the Marian House. Kirk has been invaluable to Catholic Charities. He has made it his mission to connect personally with individuals experiencing poverty, advocate for their needs, and improve systems and policies that promote better service.
FAMILY IMMIGRATION EXPANDS SERVICES

Recently Eric Pavri, an immigration attorney, became the Director of Family Immigration Services (FIS) at Catholic Charities (CC). With an immigration attorney on staff along with two staff members with Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) Accreditation, FIS is now able to accept legal residency cases, previously referred to other agencies. These include assisting immigrant crime victims, representing abandoned immigrant children to obtain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, and representing immigrants facing deportation. It also allows CC to work with families detained in detention centers.

Eric and Ivonne Bass, BIA Accredited Immigration Counselor, spent one week in Dilley, TX providing pro-bono services to jailed immigrant families - mostly single mothers with children. This effort was a part of the CARA Pro Bono Project - a collaboration between multiple groups across the nation to respond to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s expansion of family detention in Dilley. Eric and Ivonne helped prepare women for Credible Fear Interviews where women have the opportunity to seek asylum. “It’s like a battle ground triage where you just try and do the best you can,” Eric said. “When you mention ‘detention center,’ people assume they are criminals,” said Ivonne. “These women are not criminals. They are fleeing their countries because of violence.”

The FIS team continues to work with the CARA project by taking cases of women who have been released from the detention center and are preparing for their asylum hearing in Colorado. For more information about CARA, visit caraprobono.org.

SARAH TREMMEL NAMED CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Sarah Tremmel has been named the Chief Development Officer of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado. She brings over 25 years of development and fund-raising experience to the position. Most recently, Sarah was the Development Officer and Grants Director for Penrose-St. Francis Health Foundation. She is a board member of Friends of Monument Valley Park, a “Super Friends” representative with the City of Colorado Springs Parks & Recreation, a volunteer fundraising consultant for Greenway Fund - the Legacy Loop project, and has served on the Allocation Committee for Pikes Peak United Way.

Originally from Wisconsin, Sarahl received a B.A. in Education from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and is currently working towards a Masters in Business Administration at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

MARIAN HOUSE WINS BEST BOOTH AT THE PIKES PEAK FOOD & WINE EXPO

For the second year in a row, the Marian House Soup Kitchen has won $500 for Best Booth at the Pikes Peak Food & Wine Expo, sponsored by the Pikes Peak Colorado Restaurant Association (PPCRA). This is a testament to the experienced staff and volunteers and the quality of food served at the Marian House.

This annual event showcases the region’s best food, wine, beer and spirit vendors. This is the fourth year PPCRA has supported Marian House through this event not only with a donation of monetary funds but also with leftover food from the event.

2016 MARIAN HOUSE VITA NUMBERS

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers served 173 people with tax return preparation at Marian House over the past several months, getting $230,000 in combined federal and state refunds for low income families and individuals. This service is offered to anyone making $55,000 or under annually. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this service possible.
Guests bid on auction items, enjoyed a wonderful meal, and socialized with friends at the 15th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Gala, held this year at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort. It was a record year in almost every aspect of the event with guests generously giving over $270,000 to support the programs and services of Catholic Charities (CC).

This event could not occur without the support of our sponsors - many of whom have been with the gala since the very beginning, the committee, donors, volunteers, guests, our auctioneer - Kevin Patterson, MC - Dianne Derby, One More Shot, CC Board of Directors, and staff. Thank you to everyone involved and please support our sponsors and auction donors whenever possible. Save the date for next year’s exciting event on Saturday, March 11, 2017. Visit www.CCharitiesCC.org/StPatsGala to view more pictures of the event.

Sarah’s Story

After fleeing a domestic violence situation, Sarah found herself homeless and alone. She discovered the Marian House for the daily meal which not only nourished her body, but provided hope as well.

Sarah quickly became familiar with the Life Skills Center where Sherry Stulpin, Life Skills Instructor, helped Sarah "Plot Her Plan." Sarah had three goals: 1. Find a job; 2. Find a home; 3. Buy a car.

Sarah searched for work every day, and eventually found a seasonal job at the Warming Shelter. By living at the New Hope Shelter, she was able to save 90% of her paycheck, which allowed her to afford a deposit on an apartment very quickly. Living with more stability, Sarah was eager to give back to Catholic Charities and returned to the Hanifen Center and became the first Hanifen Center Associate - volunteering wherever help is needed.

At the St. Patrick’s Day Gala, Sarah’s Story was presented to the audience to celebrate her success. There, CEO Andy Barton surprised her with a car, which had been donated to Catholic Charities, so she could accomplish her third goal of mobility.

Sarah still actively participates in Financial Literacy Classes and continues to build her work skills as she applies for a more permanent, full-time job. Sherry says, "I know Sarah will be fine. She has the skills and drive to be successful. We are looking forward to happily saying goodbye because we know Sarah will not need us anymore."
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.

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“No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love.”
-Pope Francis

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

Providing Help. Creating Hope.