Simone’s childhood took place somewhere between living with her homeless mother and going in and out of foster care. Despite her unstable living conditions, she managed to graduate from high school, get married, and have three children. However, her marriage became a domestic violence situation and she felt trapped. In 2010, she found the courage to call the police and send her abuser to jail. As a single mother, she was unable to care for the children, so they went to live with her parent’s in-law in Arizona.

Simone says she remained in Colorado Springs because “it was the only place I knew how to survive being broke.” Although she had a string of food service jobs to support herself, it was not enough to keep her from being in and out of homelessness. At 28, she gave birth to a fourth child. By this time, she knew the life she was living would not support her family, but she couldn’t seem to break the cycle of poverty.

Eventually, Simone began visiting Catholic Charities’ Family Day Center where she and the baby found refuge during the day. “The services Catholic Charities offers basically saved me,” Simone insisted. While trained volunteers watch her child in the Child Watch room, Simone accesses the Life Skills and Career Development Center. Sherry Stulpin, Life Skills Instructor, helped Simone plot a plan that led to employment in a managerial position with one of Catholic Charities’ hiring partners. She also received help to find transitional housing.

Although Catholic Charities’ emergency services help Simone save money by providing diapers, formula, food and clothing, she still struggles to make ends meet. On the weekends, she can’t afford childcare and must rely on the homeless father to care for their child. She hopes to save enough money to move to an apartment downtown so her child can stay indoors and she won’t have to spend four hours a day on the bus commuting to work.

Despite the stress of her daily life, Simone is already setting goals for the future. She secured a loan for college and is taking online classes towards a degree in Business Administration with a minor in Entrepreneurship. In the evenings, she uses her phone as a hotspot for her laptop to take classes. With 8 years of experience in food service, she hopes to open her own restaurant someday.

For someone caught in the cycle of poverty, sometimes all it takes is a little personalized attention to begin taking the steps towards a better life. “I didn’t know how to be a functioning adult when I got out of foster care,” Simone admitted, “I’d grown up living like everybody else on the streets. Catholic Charities taught me how to be an adult.”

Catholic Charities would like to thank our employment partners for helping find jobs for more than 80 clients like Simone: Bingo Burger, Common Cause Catering, Discover Goodwill, ENT, Firestone, Graven-Austin-Drake, Luce Research LLC, Manitou Brewing Company, Seal Coat Solutions, Labor Ready - a TrueBlue company, and Xerox.

If you would like to become an employment partner and help put people to work, call us at 719-866-6290.
Our new Marian House facility opened its doors eight years ago this last June. The adjoining Hanifen Center for Self Sufficiency opened one year later. Together, the opening of this Marian House complex remains the most triumphant accomplishment in the 48 year history of Catholic Charities.

It represents a vision that was shared by staff, board and church leadership to replace an aging Victorian house with an innovative new facility that combined a soup kitchen with dedicated space for healthcare providers, a computer lab, emergency & essential services, and services for families all under one roof.

Walk through the Marian House complex today and you will see a remarkable realization of those years of planning, hard work and faith. The soup kitchen continues to serve between 600 and 700 meals most days of the year. It is an essential service for our community; however, what is even more exciting is the way in which a meal is serving as a portal to other services. Nowhere has this trend been more exciting than with jobs. In September of 2015, our computer lab blossomed into a workforce center, dramatically adding to our Life Skills and Career Development program. With volunteers working one on one to help with resume writing, online job searching, interviewing and job skills, the program helped our first client find work in October of last year. Since then, over 80 individuals have found and maintained employment. In many cases, this step has allowed clients to find permanent housing, moving out of the shelter or off the street into a stable lifestyle.

The clinical expertise of our trained case managers and social workers is the foundation for the success we have within the Marian House complex. However, we have also embraced the expertise of another stakeholder group in serving our poor and vulnerable: our clients themselves. Over the past year, we have begun placing clients who are looking for employment into volunteer positions in the Marian House. This initiative gives the individuals important job skills while bringing a unique and incredibly valuable skill set to our team. Because these “peer navigators” share the experience of having battled poverty or homelessness, they have a perspective and skill set that can be even more effective in serving those who are currently struggling.

Beginning this winter, we hope to expand the peer navigator program to one of our other important growth areas - health and wellness. Healthcare options are available at the Marian House through the work of SET Medical Clinic, the Penrose-St. Francis Faith Community Nurse, and AspenPointe. Social workers assist with everything from the flu to frostbite. Statistically, a health crisis is one of the most frequent causes for the financial meltdown leading to extreme poverty and homelessness. We are working closely with our healthcare partners to provide even more support, from offering healthcare needs assessments to connecting Medicaid patients with providers. Gradually, this team of community partners is working to reduce one of the most devastating root causes of poverty in our society by helping people get and stay healthy.

Ten years ago, the men and women who imagined the new Marian House complex started with an audacious idea: that a lighthouse for the poor and vulnerable could be built that would do more than provide a meal – it would change lives for the least among us. That message went out to congregations, foundations, businesses and individuals who ultimately invested in a $11 million capital campaign. To all of you who supported Catholic Charities with your faith, treasure, and talent, we want to say this: it is working! And it continues to work and evolve.

The Marian House will open this morning to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. What is more, under that roof today, we will avert a health crisis, get someone on the road to work, and continue the walk from crisis to stability with hundreds of our guests. With your help, the new Marian House has exceeded expectations and at eight years old, we are just getting started!
Family Mentor Alliance Joins Catholic Charities' Family Resource Campus

The Family Resource Campus (FRC) continues to expand with the addition of the Family Mentor Alliance (FMA). FMA is based on the One Congregation, One Family model which pairs families experiencing homelessness with mentor teams from local congregations and community partners. Through structured mentoring, families develop realistic budgets based on their income, find housing, and break the cycle of homelessness. In addition to offering friendship, encouragement, and mentoring, each congregation provides its mentor team with $1,500 to help with first month’s rent, deposits, or to remove other barriers that keep a family from becoming housed. To date, over 90% of families have maintained stable housing for at least one year.

Michelle Swanson, FMA Director, and Summer Tungseth, FMA Family Advocate, have both worked with the program and bring experience and strong relationships with the families and congregations already in the program. For information on developing a mentor team at your church, call 719-866-6555.

FMA adds another dimension to the Family Resource Campus which includes all the family programs at Catholic Charities: Emergency & Essential Services (Life Support Center), the Family Day Center, Family Counseling, Family Immigration Services, Life Skills and Career Development Center, and now the Family Mentor Alliance.

Family Day Center and Life Skills & Career Development Center Expanding Rapidly

The Family Day Center (FDC) has now been open for over 12 months. Expected to serve 40 - 60 families in crisis or who were homeless the first year, 130 unduplicated families were actually served. The FDC includes a family lounge for respite and a child watch area where trained volunteers watch children while their parents receive on-site services such as case management, financial literacy, life skills & job readiness mentoring, or access to emergency services.

In fourth quarter 2015, Catholic Charities began transforming the computer lab - which had been used for computer skills training - to a Life Skills and Career Development Center. In addition to providing financial literacy and computer skills classes, the center expanded to include one-on-one life skills mentoring and job readiness training to help clients become employment ready. Sherry Stulpin, an amazing volunteer who manages the program, is not only preparing clients to become employed, she is developing partnerships with organizations and businesses who will provide jobs for our clients. She also works with employers to bring job fairs and on-site interviews to the Marian House facility.

By September 1, seventy-five clients had been hired for employment. Once employed, Sherry stays in touch with the employer to ensure the employee is performing as expected. Otherwise, they come back to the Center for additional training. (See related story on page 1)

In Memoriam.

Tom Corsentino
Marian House Soup Kitchen Director 2003 - 2007

Tom Corsentino passed away on August 24, 2016. Tom served as the Director of the Marian House Soup Kitchen for 4 years and helped plan the design of the new soup kitchen. In addition to his heart for the mission, he served as a chef at the Broadmoor Resort for 8 years prior to coming to Marian House, so he had the culinary skills as well. Tom retired shortly after the groundbreaking ceremony.

"Tom loved being the director of the soup kitchen,” said Rochelle Schlott, a co-worker. “He was so proud of the work that took place in that old Victorian house and looked forward to all that could be accomplished in the new kitchen. His smiling face will be missed.”

The family has asked that memorials be made to the Marian House Soup Kitchen in his name.

Family Mentor Alliance Joins Catholic Charities' Family Resource Campus

Providing Help...Creating Hope...Providing Help...Creating Hope...Providing Help...Creating Hope...Providing Help...Creating Hope...

While Bill will not take full credit for “pioneering” the soup kitchen, he will admit to being “very involved.” In 1991, Bill responded to an ad in his church bulletin calling for volunteers at the Soup Kitchen. After volunteering for a few years, Bill became heavily involved in the ministry and was chosen as the first Operations Manager for Soup Kitchen. “Considering what we had, facility-wise, it was kind of primitive,” Bill remembers running the kitchen in the old Victorian-style home before the new facility was built in 2008, “It was a real challenge.”

As the Soup Kitchen evolved, changing locations and management, and eventually becoming a program of Catholic Charities, Bill continued to volunteer in both leadership roles and general volunteer positions. Over the years, he has become well acquainted with many guests. He recalls, “Two of my favorite people were two elegant little older ladies. They lived in Acacia Apartments and would come for their meal. They’d be all dressed up and all the guys would usher them up to the front of the line. You see that kind of stuff and it’s really heartwarming.” As a special way to remember guests who have passed, Bill makes Christmas ornaments with their names on them.

In addition to getting to know Soup Kitchen guests, Bill also enjoys building relationships with his fellow volunteers. He works his usual shift with St. Francis of Assisi Church, but has become familiar with other volunteer groups. “The people that work down here are awesome,” he says, “It’s just so wonderful to be a part of this community.”

Beyond the Soup Kitchen, Bill is a pioneer in many other ways. He served on the Board of Directors for Bike Clinic Too and helped secure a grant to help advance the operation. He also trekked 500 miles on the El Camino de Santiago in Europe in 2014 with four other men. Additionally, he works in various ministries including reintegration of prisoners into society.

Like any individual, Bill has questioned if he is following God’s plan. He has concluded “I just go where things evolve. All experiences build on each other. This has become a kind of ministry work for me. I like to call it an infectious, terrible calling. And I’m still doing it!”
The holiday’s are almost here and Catholic Charities has many ways to help you share your blessings and participate in the community.

COMMUNITY GIVING PROGRAMS

**Colorado Gives Day** - December 6, 2016
ColoradoGives.org

**Empty Stocking Fund**
FillAnEmptyStocking.org

**Combined Federal Campaign #30738**
RockyMountainCFC.org

**Pikes Peak United Way**
PPUnitedWay.org

RECENT & UPCOMING SPONSORS

Thank you for your support!

Sponsored by
Strasbaugh Financial Advisory, Inc. July 29

In Memory of Matthew Schell - Happy Birthday Aug 5

Sponsored by Dr. Michael & Lesly Blend Aug 9

Sponsored by the Diaconate Community Aug 20

In Memory of Wesley Maranville Aug 27

Sponsored by Rose & Oscar Valdez Sept 4

Thank You Anne Beer! 13 Years of Fighting to End Homelessness Sept 9

Ford Motor Company Sept 8, 15, 16

In Memory of Kerry Sept 23

Sponsored by St. Gabriel Catholic Church Sept 29

Sponsored by St. Joseph Catholic Church Oct 5

In Honor of Our Police & Firefighters Oct 10

Sponsored by O’Brien’s Carpet One - Since 1985 Oct 27

"God Bless Our Veterans" Nov 11

In Honor of Our Veterans Nov 12

Sponsored by Our Lady of the Woods Church Woodland Park Nov 21

Sponsored by Colorado Springs Insurance Nov 29

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Beer Dinners - October 28 & December 2**
Catholic Charities will begin bi-monthly Beer Dinners, hosted at Marian House in partnership with Local Relic Brewery. Tickets are $60 with the proceeds supporting CC’s job readiness programs. Attendees will experience 5 courses of fine quality food, expertly paired with craft beer and specialty spirits. For more information, visit us at CCharitiesCC.org or LocalRelic.com

**Stryker Christmas - Thursday, December 15**
Welcome the Stryker Brigade from Fort Carson to the Marian House for their annual march to provide holiday donations to community members in need.

**Las Posadas - Friday, December 16**
Commemorate the traditional journey of Mary and Joseph at this family-friendly cultural event. Call 719.866.6510 for reservations.

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

Can’t make the November 14th event? Don’t worry: Turkeys can be dropped off during regular donation hours: Mon - Sat, 8 am to 2 pm

A Turkey Team Collaboration Event
SC MINISTRY FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO FIS

Family Immigration Services (FIS) has received a generous grant from the SC Ministry Foundation. The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati founded the SC Ministry Foundation (SCMF) twenty years ago in 1996, and funds non-profits worldwide primarily in the area of social justice.

As a result of the support from SCMF, FIS has been able to improve and expand legal immigration services for low-income immigrant families, serving some of the most vulnerable among us, including abused immigrant children, immigrant victims of violent crimes, and individuals seeking the protection of the United States from persecution in their home countries.

Not only does the Foundation support the FIS program financially, SCMF staff trained Catholic Charities to become better at measuring and delivering long-term impact.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Catholic Charities (CC) Outreach program expanded services to include food boxes for seniors through a collaboration with Care & Share and funded by the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Low-income seniors, age 60 and older, can request food boxes from CC and pick them up from the Marian House or request a delivery.

CC also offers New Home Starter Kits for families transitioning from temporary to permanent housing. While this service is not new, it is now formalized in a complete "kit" which includes cookware, dishes, cleaning supplies, linens, small household appliances, and food. This allows clients to direct their limited income to rent, deposits, and other costs associated with moving into a new home.

CC continues to offer emergency and holiday food boxes, school supplies, and case management to rural communities, local pantries, and families who cannot access on-site services. In Fiscal year 2015-16, 1,673 food boxes were provided.

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE AND FREE FAMILY PORTRAITS

Thanks to the support of many caring community partners and the Knights of Columbus, hundreds of children are prepared for the new school year. 643 backpacks full of school supplies were given to children throughout our 10-county diocese. Additionally, 37 large boxes of supplies were delivered to local schools to help even more children.

During the distribution, Colorado Springs Portrait Day photographers provided free family portraits to clients utilizing our Family Resource Campus. Families were provided a 15 minute session with a professional photographer and each family received a disc with digital copies of their photos along with a coupon donated from Walgreens at Uintah Gardens for a free 5” x 7” print. Twenty-five families participated in this unique event.
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES EXPAND

Evening English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in Colorado Springs will now be held at Atlas Preparatory School to replace evening classes previously held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church (OLG). Daytime classes will continue to be held at OLG and St. Patrick’s Catholic Church. In Castle Rock, classes are held two nights a week at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

The ESL program, which serves nearly 300 adults in Colorado Springs and Castle Rock, provides five levels of instruction including referrals to GED classes for advanced students. Conducted using volunteers who train to become ESL teachers, the program is always in need of dedicated volunteers. If interested in becoming an ESL teacher, contact Gabriel at 719-866-6516. To register for classes in Colorado Springs, call 719-866-6516 or 720-215-4521 in Castle Rock.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CASTLE ROCK MOVES DOWNTOWN

Catholic Charities Castle Rock Office (CCCR) moved to 210 Fifth Street in downtown Castle Rock on September 6th. With the larger space, CCCR can adapt to the changing needs of the poor and vulnerable in the area and serve clients in a more compassionate and efficient way.

Paul Narduzzo, Regional Office Director said, "For the past three years, through the generosity of the St. Francis of Assisi parish and its pastor, Fr. Brad Noonan, we have been working out of an office at the church. However, with our year-over-year client services volume up 66%, our new space will provide a much better setting for us to serve our clients."

CCCR offers emergency help, case management, counseling, family facilitation with Douglas County Cares, seasonal assistance, ESL classes, and emergency food boxes.

Although Douglas County is one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, it struggles with poverty, which is why the demand for services continues to increase. More than 900 students were reported to be homeless this past school year. "To successfully address the needs in this community will require partnerships with various Douglas County departments, social services agencies and members of the faith-based community. But the effort to help must not stop with just these groups…we also need the support of the public in the form of prayers, volunteer efforts and financial resources to help lift the lives of our less fortunate brothers and sisters," said Narduzzo.

A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for Nov. 8 at 4 pm. All are invited to attend and tour the new offices.
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SUCCESS
to us is knowing Amy won’t go to sleep hungry.

At Catholic Charities, we are more than a soup kitchen - we are here to help people succeed. Success to some people is finding a warm, safe place to get a meal. Or getting help to transition out of homelessness. Or learning the skills needed to get a job and change the direction of their lives. Success to us is making a difference, one life at a time.

Invest in Success.
Donate today by calling
719-866-6422 or online at
CCharitiesCC.org