St. Patrick's Day Gala
March 15, 5:30 pm

Join us for the 13th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Gala on March 15th at the DoubleTree Hotel. As always, there will be lots of great auction items to bid on, the green beer will be flowing, and fun will be had by all! This year, due to multiple requests, the silent auction will begin at 5:30 pm and run until 7:00 pm. The welcome by CEO Mark Rohlena will begin at 7:15 pm followed by an Irish prayer by the Most Reverend Michael J. Sheridan. Guests will be entertained by the Colorado Springs Conservatory, Celtic Steps School of Irish dance, One More Shot, and a few more surprises! Guests will also receive an attendee gift, courtesy of Freedom Financial Services, our Presenting Sponsor.

Tickets are $100 per person which includes dinner, wine, beer, and the ability to bid on a plethora of auction items. This event would not be possible without all of our generous sponsors, donors, Gala Committee members, and all of you who attend this event every year. So RSVP to 719-866-6422 and bring your family and friends for a fun night of socializing, entertainment, food, and supporting Catholic Charities of Central Colorado!
New Moms Desire On-going Support

Big Changes in Me is a new mom support group facilitated through Catholic Charities’ Life Connections program. The group was created for new moms who were already participating in Catholic Charities’ Prenatal Nurturing class, and saw the value in continuing with peer support after the class concluded. The group meets once a week, for six weeks, and is facilitated by Cyndy Jones, a licensed counselor, and Faith Mehler, a Master Level Intern, both working in the Life Connections program.

Janes says, “The purpose of the group is for new moms to have a support network during this critical time of change. Often times a new mother can feel isolated and this group is a place for them to get out of the house and talk casually and candidly with a group of their peers.” Mehler adds, “New moms need contact with other women in the same situation. Cyndy and I are not just facilitators, but part of the group as well. We both remember our experiences with newborns and can have great empathy.”

The topics the group covers include emotions, relationships, responsibilities, and decision making. Women in the group are encouraged to bring their own topics, thoughts, feelings, and questions for discussion. “I like being able to share my week and get advice, because being a stay at home mom doesn’t allow many opportunities to get out of the house and talk to adults,” says Kristen, a participant in the group.

Rose, a new mom, originally found out about the nurturing class on a flyer at the pregnancy center. She told us, “It’s nice to talk to other mothers who are going through the same things. I liked the (nurturing) class a lot and wanted to join another group so I could keep going.” This seemed to be the consensus of the class, and thus, the new moms support group was born.

The group meets once a week, for six weeks, and is facilitated by Cyndy Jones, a licensed counselor, and Faith Mehler, a Master Level Intern, both working in the Life Connections program.

Big Changes in Me Class Schedule:
• Each Thursday, January 23rd - February 27th
• 2:30pm to 3:30pm
• Catholic Charities
• 228 N. Cascade Ave. Colorado Springs, CO.

To register for the class or to get more information, please call 719-866-6555.

As Catholic Charities, we respect everyone who comes to us for help. Many are working towards a fresh start in life. So while their stories are true, client names and images may have been changed to protect their privacy. Thank you for understanding.

How do we view suffering around us?
At Catholic Charities, we see suffering of every variety: painful physical conditions, mental illness and torment, physical and emotional abuse, the anguish of loneliness with individuals seemingly invisible to those around them, and so much more. The world is so full of suffering that it can bring us to tears to ponder it.

Yet, we know that God has a special place in his heart for those who endure suffering. Who suffered more than Christ to redeem us all? To be united in trials to Christ is a special place of honor, for we know something of God and Jesus’ earthly sacrifice that is not shared with every person.

St. Augustine wrote, “Let us understand that God is a physician, and that suffering is a medicine for salvation, not a punishment for damnation.” We know that God is good, and what is brought into our lives – be it pain or bliss for whatever season they may come – is an opportunity for us to unite ourselves more closely with the Lord.

At the same time, God asks us to love him with our entire being, and our neighbors as ourselves (Matt 22:34-40). We aren’t meant to see the pain and trials of others and walk by like the priest and Levite in the parable of the Good Samaritan. We are called to encounter that pain and difficulty, to be moved to genuine care and compassion, and to act in the moment.

We are honored and humbled to be a place where individuals and families can connect with and soothe the pain in others’ lives. In the many opportunities at Catholic Charities to volunteer in all of our programs – poverty-related, immigration, and language courses, birth parent support and education, and so much more – we are privileged to bring people together to be what God wishes them to be to one another.

We can’t overestimate the power of a smile to a lonely soul. It is impossible to measure the impact of a loving greeting to a person who has been ignored for so long. There is no way to gauge what God might do in a moment of teaching, mentoring, or cheerful assistance.

For those who already come to engage with their neighbors in need, I want to thank you, whether you do so through Catholic Charities or on your own block. For those looking for a chance to deepen their love of neighbor, and to help lighten the load of a person in need, I would love for you to visit us. We’d be delighted to show you charity in action.

Mark Rohlena, President & CEO
Life Support Services
Provides a Merry Christmas to All!

SANTA VISITS MARIAN HOUSE

‘Twas the week before Christmas, when all through Marian House, Volunteers were being scheduled by coordinator Doug Rouse!
Snowflake decorations were hung in Life Support care.

Christmas Carolers arrived to sing Jingle Bells and Silent Night,
In anticipation that Santa would arrive in spite of the weather!
Volunteers were being scheduled by coordinator Doug Rouse!

They lined up one by one and waited patiently for their turn,
Snowflake decorations were hung in Life Support with care,

He waved to the children, and went straight to his chair,
Of the good works they had done to better themselves
For the Christmas and future they longed to be a part.

And told each and every one of them he was so proud
We laughed when we saw him, in spite of ourselves!

and lots and lots of candy from the discount store!

The children were excited and clamoring together,
When outside the doors there arose such a clatter,

But we heard him exclaim as he rode out of sight,
Staff sprang to the ready with cookies on platters.

All the wishes and hopes they had in their hearts,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there!
Depositing his gifts while he adjusted his hair!

To sit on his lap while Santa Clause learned
And through the doors came a jolly old elf,
With apologies to Clement Clark Moore
Provides a Merry Christmas to All!

CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM

The Christmas Give-Away is a popular program put on by Marian House Life Support Services each year. The program is different from many gift give-aways because parents, not the children, come to the event to get gifts that they then give to their children. This helps strengthen the parent/child bond because it allows parents to give the gifts to their children on Christmas morning which is more meaningful to the entire family. It also enriches the parent who can feel the joy of giving their child a gift, which they might not be able to afford on their own.

Parents sign up in advance to receive an age and gender appropriate gift for each of their children. The brand new gifts are donated to the program by local businesses, many who have been involved for years. Thank you to all the volunteers and businesses who support this program every year!

JOIN THE ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PRAYER SOCIETY

NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE
E-MAIL
I PREFER TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS
☐ ELECTRONICALLY
☐ U.S. MAIL
PRAYER INTENTION (S):

Please clip and mail to Catholic Charities, 228 North Cascade Ave., Colo. Spgs, CO 80903

Travel With Us!
Charities to Benefit from Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes

A drive through the Pyrenees to Lourdes brings the tour to the Grotto of Massabielle, where the Virgin Mary appeared. The group will visit places associated with the life of St. Bernadette, the nearby Healing Baths, the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, and participate in the evening’s Candlelight Procession. The next morning after celebrating Mass at the Grotto, the tour will explore the countryside with a trip into the snowcapped Pyrenees Mountains.

Then it is on to Barcelona, Spain to embark on the Norwegian Epic for the Mediterranean cruise which will stop in Avignon, France, the capital of Christianity during the time of religious war and rebellion in Rome. Tour the Palace of Papes and the Cathedral Notre Dame Des Doms.

The next stop is in Palma De Mallorca, Spain, a focal point in Jewish history. Discover the “secret” synagogues, the Palma Cathedral, and the Almudaina Palace. The trip ends with a tour of Barcelona’s sites and surrounding area, such as the mountain-top sanctuary of Montserrat, ending with a farewell dinner.

These are just some of the highlights of the trip. For a complete itinerary and more information, contact the tour operator - Cruise Planners - ABC Travel and more information, contact the tour operator - Cruise Planners - ABC Travel.

Ways to Give

• Direct gifts: on line using a Credit or Debit card, one-time gift or recurring donation, set up bill pay with your financial institution, mail envelope with check or credit card information, call with credit card number
• Matching gifts through your employer
• Give through Tax Credits
• El Paso County Enterprise Zone (25% tax credit for Marian House)
• Child Care Contribution (30% tax credit for Life Connections)
• Donor designate to us through Pikes Peak United Way
• Donate through Combined Federal Campaign (Agency Code: 10738)
• Gifts in memory or in honor of a loved one
• Planned Giving - Leave a Legacy
• Sign up to receive Catholic Charities updates via e-mail at www.ccharitiescc.org and click on Helping Hands Newsletter.

MARIAN HOUSE SPONSOR A DAY

Thank you for participating in the Marian House Sponsor Program!

Mathew Schell - January 24

To Donate
Call 719-866-6440
or visit us at www.ccharitiescc.org
Thank you for your continued support!

Collected by the Raider Brigade, packed in backpacks and carried to the Marian House.

Weather items and food to the Marian House to support those in need. All the items are income populations in our city. Each year, hundreds of soldiers march to deliver cold down Tejon Street to the cheers of local businesses, people and community members.

On December 3rd, more than 850 soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, marched from Dorchester Park in downtown Colorado Springs to the Marian House Soup Kitchen to unload their backpacks filled with blankets, coats, shoes, sleeping bags and other cold weather gear to help the homeless in our community. This year, instead of going through Monument Valley Park, they marched down Tejon Street to the cheers of local businesses and community members who came out early to welcome the unit home from their latest deployment.

This is the fourth time the unit has marched to support the homeless and low-income populations in our city. Each year, hundreds of soldiers march to deliver cold weather items and food to the Marian House to support those in need. All the items are collected by the Raider Brigade, packed in backpacks and carried to the Marian House. Thank you for your continued support!

**EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM CONTINUES TO THRIVE**

The worth of a book is to be measured by what you can carry away from it.

James Bryce

Early literacy education is one of the strongest components to future success in our culture. The experiences young children have with books and literacy materials are the building blocks for reading, writing, language development, and success in school and in life.

As a Success By 6 provider in our community, our Life Connections program has created early literacy support which has become a component in three of four Catholic Charities program areas.

Clients participating in Life Connections’ Prenatal Nurturing program receive new baby books and information on the importance of early literacy in the home. A specially designed class session stresses six early literacy skills including vocabulary, interest in and enjoyment of books, understanding how books are laid out, narrative skills - understanding and telling stories, letter knowledge, and phonological awareness. These skills become the building blocks for later reading and writing.

Children, birth to five years old, receive books and their parents receive information regarding the importance of early literacy in the home when they visit Marian House Life Support Services. Many of these families would not have books in the home without this program. Parents tell us these books are helping them create libraries at home which makes them feel they are doing something important for their child.

Books are also distributed in the Marian House Family Dining Room, where children are allowed to take books with them every time they come in for a meal.

In Family Immigration Services, while parents are receiving English instruction in their own classes, their young children in childcare participate in Reading Circles conducted by volunteers who enthusiastically bring the joy of reading to our youngest clients! At the end of each reading session, the children are provided developmentally appropriate books they can keep to build their home libraries.

Through collaboration with the Pikes Peak Library District, parents receive information on services offered through the library where the importance of reading and conversing with young children to build their vocabulary is stressed.

Volunteers are needed for Reading Circles. If you can donate your time, help with a book drive, or donate books, call 719-866-6535.

**MARIAN HOUSE TO BENEFIT FROM FOOD & WINE EXPO - MARCH 9**

Once again, Catholic Charities will be one of the recipient charities of the Pikes Peak Food & Wine Expo, presented by the Colorado Restaurant Association, Pikes Peak Chapter. The event will be March 9, 2014 at Broadmoor Hall from noon to 3:00 pm.

Tastings will be offered from over 300 restaurants and wine and beer purveyors. There will be a Chef-Media Cooking Competition and Bartender competition. Tickets are $35 and are available online at www.ppcra.org, through Marian House by calling 719-866-6549, or at the door. When purchasing tickets, mark Marian House in the drop down box on the website as the place you heard about the event! Marian House receives $5 per ticket with this referral.

**3RD ANNUAL LAS POSADAS**

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware."  

Hebrews 13:2

Las Posadas celebrates our commitment to helping those in need, including our immigrant brothers and sisters. Hundreds of people came to the doors of the Marian House on December 7th to ask for entry the same way Mary and Joseph requested a place to stay on the night Jesus was born. The group was led through the ritual by two children, dressed as Mary and Joseph, who are participants in our English as a Second Language program.

Upon arriving at the Marian House, guests were welcomed to the event with a trumpet fanfare and were entertained with traditional music and dancing performed by Las Estrellas Latinas de San Gabriel (The Little Latina Stars of Saint Gabriel Church). They also were treated to a meal of enchiladas, rice and beans prepared by Common Cause Catering.

This event could not happen without our sponsors, volunteers, and staff who work to make this event a success. While the main purpose is to celebrate this devotion that takes on the richness of an Hispanic-style of praise and singing, it also serves as a fund-raiser for Family Immigration Services (FIS), allowing the staff to help families who have migrated to our community. FIS gives immigrants a hand up by leading them in the process of citizenship and residency, or helping develop their ability to speak English well.

For information on this event or to become a sponsor for the 4th Annual Las Posadas, contact Corey Almond at 719-866-6510.

**SOLDIERS MARCH ON MARIAN HOUSE**

On December 3rd, more than 850 soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, marched from Dorchester Park in downtown Colorado Springs to the Marian House Soup Kitchen to unload their backpacks filled with blankets, coats, shoes, sleeping bags and other cold weather gear to help the homeless in our community. This year, instead of going through Monument Valley Park, they marched down Tejon Street to the cheers of local businesses and community members who came out early to welcome the unit home from their latest deployment.

This is the fourth time the unit has marched to support the homeless and low-income populations in our city. Each year, hundreds of soldiers march to deliver cold weather items and food to the Marian House to support those in need. All the items are collected by the Raider Brigade, packed in backpacks and carried to the Marian House. Thank you for your continued support!
Providing Help... Creating Hope. Providing Help... Creating Hope. Providing Help... Creating Hope. Providing Help... Creating Hope. Providing Help... Creating Hope.

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.

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

To Donate
Hunger Never Takes a Holiday
Somewhere in our community, there is a child who is hungry, a parent out of a job, or an elderly person in need of a helping hand. Please give generously today to Catholic Charities to help those in need to have a better tomorrow.