It’s that time of year again, so pull out your best green attire and get ready for the 12th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Gala. This year, the Gala will be held on March 16th at the DoubleTree Hotel. The event begins at 6:00 pm with cocktails, silent auction bidding, and greeting old friends.

Tickets are $100 ($40 tax deductible) or you can gather a group of friends together and purchase a table of 10. Wine and beer are provided for dinner thanks to Barefoot Wine & Bubbly and the DoubleTree Hotel. There is a special gift from our Presenting Sponsor: Freedom Financial Services, and many wonderful auction items on which to bid. We are still in need of auction items, or if you are interested in becoming a sponsor call us at 719-866-6443. Make your reservation now by calling 719-866-6422.

St. Patrick's Day Gala
Our Premier Fund-Raising Event

Thank You To Our Sponsors

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Providing Help. Creating Hope.
Lisa was adopted at six weeks of age. Her mom said the first time they saw her, she was sick, and “just a mess.” Her brothers ages 5 and 6 at the time, asked, “Can we keep her? Is she ours?” That seemed to seal the deal. Lisa always knew she was adopted, even before she knew what that meant. She says, “I always felt I belonged to my family. I have wonderful parents and a great family. It has been a blessing.”

When she was 18, her parents gave her the birth parents non-identifying information. “I was very interested in finding them. Part of it was that even though I looked like I belonged to my family, I didn’t look like anything that I expected,” she said.

She contacted Catholic Charities and found the records were sealed, so a reunion could not be facilitated. Lisa continued with life. She married, had a daughter, divorced, and then remarried. Her new husband encouraged her to try to find her birth parents. In 2007, Lisa called Catholic Charities again and was put in touch with Sarah, a counselor with Life Connections. Sarah told her the laws in Colorado had recently changed, and she would try facilitate a reunion as long as all parties were open to it. Lisa says, “Sarah is a blessing. She was firm, honest, but always kind. She gave me books about what it was like to be an unwed mother at that time. It would have definitely been more difficult had I not read them.”

“Sarah located who she believed was my birth mom, but the woman did not want contact, so that was the end of it,” said Lisa. “She asked if I wanted to find my birth dad, but the story I was told was my birth mom got pregnant and the father left. I thought he was a big jerk, but I told Sarah to go ahead and try to find him. Just before Thanksgiving 2008, Sarah called to say my birth dad, Mike, wanted contact. I agreed and received an email and picture from him the next day.”

Sarah facilitated the first phone call, which was a conference call with Sarah, Lisa, Mike and his wife. It lasted about an hour and Lisa learned more about what happened all those years ago. “Mike told me my birth mother had gotten pregnant and he had suggested getting married, but then she left town and he never heard from her again.”

They started emailing and Lisa began learning about her birth family. Mike began telling the family about Lisa, and his sister Sue immediately contacted her. Lisa says, “We bonded instantly.” That summer, Lisa and Mike visited Florida, where Mike and his family live. “I saw her, she was sick, and ‘just a mess’,” Mike said, “I wasn’t sure what was going to happen. Then in October of 2012, Grandma passed away. I knew I had to go there. Aunt Sue met me at the airport and the next day, we went to see Grandpa. When I walked in, I said, ‘Hi Grandpa’ and he said, ‘I would know you anywhere.’ It was the most natural thing in the world. I spent the next day, sitting at his feet, listening to stories. It was life-changing. At one point, Aunt Sue took me into the kid’s bedroom, where there was a wall covered with pictures and I thought, ‘this is my family.”

“I wrote them a letter, telling them about the millions of other faithful throughout the world and plead with God to hear our intentions! Prayer. In a real sense, when we feel the most powerless, we need to remind ourselves of this great protection for Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities now shares intentions for the Agency with Prayer Society members, and members, in turn, share intentions with us. We have prayed for ailing family members, lost souls, difficult work situations, and so much more. I would love to count every supporter of Catholic Charities as a member of the St. Anthony of Padua Prayer Society. Please see the form below on how to sign up (you can call - 719-866-6422, email - info@charitesscc.org, or send in the form with the enclosed business reply envelope).

Even if you do not feel called to formally join the Prayer Society, please continue to pray for Catholic Charities and all of those who support us. You can count on our continued prayers for you.

Mark Rohlena,
President & CEO

Lisa, her son, and birth dad, Mike

Mike was nervous about telling his parents. He thought they might be upset, being from a different generation, but in 2010 he told them and they were amazing, Lisa says, “I wrote them a letter, telling them about me. Grandma wrote right back, sent some pictures, and told me he was so happy to have me as part of the family. I had been thinking about going to Michigan to meet them, but kept putting it off. Then in October of 2012, Grandma passed away. I knew I had to get there. Aunt Sue met me at the airport and the next day, we went to see Grandpa. When I walked in, I said, ‘Hi Grandpa’ and he said, ‘I would know you anywhere.’ It was the most natural thing in the world. I spent the next day, sitting at his feet, listening to stories. It was life-changing. At one point, Aunt Sue took me into the kid’s bedroom, where there was a wall covered with pictures and I thought, ‘this is my family.”

“I showed pictures to everyone and share my story. I am very proud to call her my daughter.”

Mike, birth dad

We are to be a community of prayer. Where we see pain, trouble, difficulties, and hardship, God has provided a means to have a direct relationship beyond human abilities. How do we unite ourselves to the millions of other faithful throughout the world and pleading with God to hear our intentions? Prayer. In a real sense, when we feel the most powerless, we need to remind ourselves of this great spiritual weapon at our disposal.

Indeed, I challenge anyone to explore the lives of the saints and find a single person recognized as a saint – who the Church proclaims as now beholding the face of God – who did not have a strong prayer life. If we take some time to read the quotes of the saints, we understand quickly why this is the case.

Prayer is imitation of Christ (he prayed so often during his earthly life). Prayer creates connection to and relationship with God. Prayer ties us to one another, a reality that magnifies the power of our petitions in incredible ways. There are no situations in which prayer is inappropriate – in moments of trial or triumph, discernment or doubt, anger or anticipation, death or new life, temptation or thanksgiving.

As the habit of prayer begins to deepen in us, every moment of our lives can take on the reality of prayerful connection. We find ourselves in constant conversation with God, taking more and more of our life and placing it at his disposal.

In May, Catholic Charities unveiled the St. Anthony of Padua Prayer Society. We stated then that the Prayer Society is designed to unite members in prayer around the intentions of well-being and protection for Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities now shares intentions for the Agency with Prayer Society members, and members, in turn, share intentions with us. We have prayed for ailing family members, lost souls, difficult

Lisa, her son, and birth dad, Mike

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Lisa, her son, and birth dad, Mike

We Must Lift One Another Up in Prayer

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful. Elijah was a human being like us; yet he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain upon the land. Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the earth produced its fruit.”

James 5:16-18

A Family’s Reunion
DIFFICULT CHOICES

Difficult Choices is a local education campaign aimed at increasing awareness about the resources available to those facing an unexpected pregnancy in the Pikes Peak region. Difficult Choices aims to empower the community by making them aware of the many support systems in place that can help when facing a “difficult choice”.

The campaign features both men and women and specifically speaks to young men to encourage them to be involved in the decision-making process, and not “let her stand alone”.

For more information on this campaign and to read real stories from men and women in the Colorado Springs region, go to www.difficultchoices.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Jennifer Kleinschmidt

Jen joins us as VP of Organizational Effectiveness, bringing a wealth of experience in nonprofit and Air Force financial management.

She most recently served as CFO for Care and Share Food Bank. Her 20-year Air Force career spanned assignments from Commander to Staff Officer to Instructor in the United States, Europe, and the Pacific. Those assignments honed her skills in managing people, maximizing resource efficiency, and instituting continuous process improvement.

In the short period between her Air Force and nonprofit management careers, Jen volunteered with several local nonprofit agencies serving poor and vulnerable populations in Colorado Springs.

She holds a Bachelor in Accountancy degree from the University of Oklahoma, a Master of Arts in Management degree from Webster University, and recently completed a Certificate in Nonprofit Management through the University of Colorado — Colorado Springs.

Brandon Smith, Jr.

Brandon joins us as a Marian House Security Guard. Previously, he worked as Head of Security with a company in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, where he was born and raised. Brandon says, “I grew up in the church, where a lot of older women pretty much raised me.”

He is married to Elisha and has five children. When not working at Marian House, Brandon is a barber and a massage therapist. He says, “Working at Marian House is amazing!”

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Catholic Charities has recently launched an internship program with the intent of receiving help delivering services to those in need, while providing a hands-on learning experience to participants in various areas of non-profit operations.

Leah Danze, a senior at Colorado College, will be working in the Communications area, primarily on the St. Patrick’s Day Gala and social media.

Rosalie Peña will be working with Parish Social Ministries. She brings a wealth of experience with working in ministry at the parish level.

Faith Melher is working with Life Connections doing her practicum, while pursuing her Master’s in Counseling from UCCS. She joins Arden Stapes, who is in the last semester of her student internship.

In October 2012, the Catholic Diocese of Colorado Springs began an internship program aimed at increasing awareness of many steps Deaconate candidates do on their road to becoming ordained.

Kevin Rishavy and Andre Mason were the first two participants, and two more Deaconate candidates will begin their internships in February.

We hope this is just the beginning of an on-going, mutually beneficial internship program throughout the programs of Catholic Charities. If you are interested in an internship, call us at 719-866-6511.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

- Parishes across the Diocese of Colorado Springs continue to help immigrants with the most critical needs for long-term survival, namely English and legal immigration status. St. Catherine of Sienna in Burlington, is working with Catholic Charities staff on ways to address immigration issues that arise with parishioners.
- Talks continue with the Northern Deanery regarding establishing a permanent Catholic Charities office in this area. We hope to have an office up and running within the next few months.

REUNION cont’d from page 2

However after the experience of meeting my grandfather, I knew I had to call. When I reached her, I told her who I was and thanked her for having me. I said I had a good life. It was clear she was not interested in meeting me or very happy that I had found her. It would be nice to have more - to have a relationship - but I am content to have said what I did. There is no longer an aching need to get that out. I have had no contact since, and I’m fine with it. I know that if I had given a child up for adoption, I would always wonder if they were happy; if they had good parents. I just wanted her to know that I had a good life.”

“I don’t think it would have been the experience it was without Sarah. She made it safe and I felt protected. Mike also said that Sarah was very protective of me. She guided us through the process, and it was just amazing.”
Catholic Charities Events

FEBRUARY 2 - APRIL 13 @ 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
FREE TAX PREPARATION - VITA
The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) will be onsite at the Hanifen Center at Marian House each Saturday, February 28 - April 13, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm for any household making $50,000 or less annually. The Marian House is located at 14 West Bijou Street. Please enter through the courtyard in front and volunteers will direct you to the waiting area. ALL APPOINTMENTS ARE DROP IN ONLY.

WHAT TO BRING
• Photo ID
• Social Security Cards
• Birthdates
• Last year’s tax return (if available)
• Wage & Earnings statements - Form W-2, W-2G, 1099R from each employer
• Interest/dividend statements - Form 1099

For filing a Joint Return - both spouses must be present to sign the return
• Bank account and routing number for direct deposit of your refund
• Day Care Expenses - total amount paid and Day Care Provider’s Tax ID Number

If itemizing, please have:
• Charitable Contribution Statements
• Home Mortgage Insurance Statements
• Home Tax Statement
• Home Interest Statements
• Car Registration
• Medical Statements

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

COMMUNITY-WIDE GIVING PROGRAMS
During the holidays, Catholic Charities participated in several community-wide giving programs. Through the Empty Stocking Fund, GIVE!, Colorado Gives Day, United Way, and the Combined Federal Campaign, Catholic Charities receives financial support that helps us serve those in need, and provides an opportunity to educate the community on the services we provide.

RADIO ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN
We have also been the recipient of the very generous support of Roy & Diane Clennan, owners of Freedom Financial Services, who have been recording and running a local radio campaign about Catholic Charities and Marian House since the beginning of 2012.

TURKEY & HAM DONATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Through donations of turkeys and hams during the holiday season, we were able to deliver 185 complete food boxes with a turkey, and 422 turkeys to families, churches, and food pantries in our 10 county service area. We were also able to trade 7,326 pounds of turkeys (about 500 turkeys) for future meat vouchers with Care & Share to help meet their turkey obligations, and help us provide meat in daily meal preparation at the Marian House Soup Kitchen. These vouchers should provide meat for the next 16 weeks. We also received 75 hams, of which 40 were used in the Christmas meal, and the rest will be used for Sunday breakfast preparation at the soup kitchen. Donations of any kind, especially meat, are very appreciated, so thank you for your support.

MARIAN HOUSE CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM
For the 14th year, Marian House Life Support Services executed its Christmas Gift program. Almost 1,000 gifts were distributed to families who otherwise might not be able to give their children a Christmas gift. Our program is different from other Christmas Gift programs, as we give gifts to parents so they can give these gifts to their children. We believe this strengthens the parent/child relationship. Thank you to Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Holy Trinity Church, Corpus Christi Church, and Pikes Peak Youth Ringers who provided these gifts.

We truly appreciate all of our donors who make it possible for Catholic Charities to serve anyone in need.

MARCH 16 @ 6:00 PM - 12:00 AM
12 ANNUAL ST. PATRICK’S DAY GALA
The 12th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Gala will be March 16 from 6pm - 12am at the DoubleTree Hotel on Cheyenne Mountain Blvd. Attendees will enjoy a silent and live auction, music by the Colorado Springs Conservatory, and dancing to the sounds of One More Shot. For reservations, call 719-866-6422.

MARCH 23 @ 12:00 - 3:00 PM
12TH PIKES PEAK FOOD & WINE EXPO
The 18th Annual Pikes Peak Food & Wine Expo will take place at Broadmoor Hall on March 23. Catholic Charities’ Marian House is the recipient agency this year. Tickets are $30 and can be purchased at www.ppcra.org. If you designate that you heard about it from Catholic Charities, we will receive $10 per ticket.

LAS POSADAS - A GREAT SUCCESS!
The Second Annual Las Posadas event was a big success. Over 300 people - adults, children, immigrants, and the host community - came together for the practice of a sacred Hispanic tradition. This year’s celebration featured a video showcasing what Family Immigration Services (FIS) is doing to welcome and support immigrant families in Central Colorado. Special thanks to West One Family Dental and Powers Liquor Mart for their sponsorship of this event; and to Tim & Barb Hitz, Stephanie Izaguirre, and Roy & Diane Clennan for being Matched Sponsors of GIVE! This event was the culmination of FIS’s participation in the GIVE! community-wide giving program.

Critical Needs:

Marian House
• Soup Kitchen
• Metal spoons, creamer, spices, pasta, #10 cans of vegetables
• Laundry detergent, meat
• Life Support Services
• size 5 diapers, Enfamil & Parents Choice formula, maternity wear
• Community Outreach
• Furniture, canned food, household goods, working vehicles
• Client Services
• Socks, t-shirts, men’s underwear, men’s jeans, pants

Life Connections
• Diaper Bag Items (bottles, wipes, etc.); volunteers to assist with Early Literacy and filing projects
• Children’s Books - birth to 5 years of age

Family Immigration Services
• New or slightly used children’s books, foreign language dictionaries
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.

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado is a Pikes Peak United Way Partner Agency and is accredited by the Council On Accreditation.

Don't Turn a Blind Eye to Hunger

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 have a better tomorrow.

To Donate

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