Donations to Catholic Charities can earn a deduction and a tax credit for your 2013 tax preparation. In addition to the standard IRS tax deduction, donations made to Marian House or Life Connections qualify for special income tax credits that make your donations go further. Tax credits reduce the amount of Colorado State taxes you owe after all other deductions have been included in your income tax preparation documents.

**ENTERPRISE ZONE STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT**

Donations of $500 or more to one of these Marian House programs – Soup Kitchen, Client Services, and Community Outreach – qualify for the 25% El Paso County Enterprise Zone state income tax credit. Checks must be made payable to “El Paso County Enterprise Zone” and mailed to Catholic Charities, 228 N Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. Credit cards are not accepted for this tax credit.

A Colorado Taxpayer ID or Social Security number must be included if this number has not been provided in the past.

**CHILD CARE CONTRIBUTION STATE INCOME TAX CREDIT**

Beginning January 1, 2013, the state of Colorado began phasing the 50% Child Care Contribution state income tax credit back into the tax formula. Donations to our Life Connections adoption/child placement program qualify for this credit. For more information, please contact us at 719-866-6440.

While these two special tax credits can be beneficial in reducing state income tax liability, consult your tax advisor to determine how any tax deductions or credits may affect your individual tax situation.

**Tax Savings Example for a Gift of $1,000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illustration 28% tax bracket</th>
<th>Enterprise Zone 25% Credit</th>
<th>Child Care 50% Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Colorado Income Tax Credit** $250 | $500**
- **Federal and State Income Tax Deduction** $243 | $173
- **Total Tax Savings** $493 | $673
- **After tax cost of giving $1,000** $507 | $327

*Federal tax deduction is lowered because of the add-back effect of reduced state tax. **Distributed over 3 tax years

December 2013

The Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

**Year End Giving**

Utilize Special Tax Credits

We Wish You a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!
Life is like a train ride. We get on. We ride. We get off. We get back on and ride some more. There are accidents and we can console each other. We ride. We get off. We get back on and ride some more. We meet people who are our brothers, sisters, friends and family. They too have journeys they must travel on their own. Then again, there's something about the train that they ever travelled along with you or ever crossed your path… We will sometimes be upset that some passengers whom we love, will choose to sit in another compartment and leave us to travel on our own. Then again, there's nothing that says we can't seek them out anyway. Nevertheless, once sought out and found, we may not even be able to sit next to them because that seat will have been taken. That's quite all right. Everyone's journey will be filled with hopes, dreams, challenges, setbacks, and good-byes. We must strive to make the best of it – no matter what. We must constantly strive to understand our travel companions and look for the best in everyone. Remember that at any moment during our journey, any one of our travel companions can have a weak moment and be in need of our help. We too may vacillate or hesitate, even trip… hopefully we can count on someone being there to be supportive and understanding. The bigger mystery of our journey is that we don't know when our last stop will come. Neither do we know when our travel companions will make their last stop. Not even those sitting in the seat next to us.

Personally, I know I'll be sad to make my final stop… I'm sure of it! My separation from all those friends and acquaintances I made during the train ride will be painful. Leaving all those I'm close to will be a sad thing. But then again, I'm certain that one day I'll get to the Main Station only to meet up with everyone else. They'll all be carrying their baggage… most of which they didn't have when they first got on this train. I'll be glad to see them again. I'll also be glad to have contributed to their baggage, and to have enriched their lives, just as much as they will have contributed to my baggage and enriched my life. We're all on this train ride together. Above all, we should all try to strive to make the ride as pleasant and memorable as we can, right up until we each make the final stop and leave the train for the last time. All Aboard! Safe Journey! Bon Voyage!

We think a lot about gifts this time of year. As parents or grandparents we want to see faces light up when a gift is opened by a small child. We may look for that perfect present for a spouse, or agonize over our choices for the person who is hard to please or may seem to have everything. Gift-giving is an expression of joy and love; we open hearts and attempt to capture a piece of our affection and care within the wrappings of the season.

Christmas is, rightly, about gift. Yet, the gift that we can easily lose sight of is the very gift of Jesus Christ to the world. Our reflections are often crowded out by the busyness leading to Christmas Day, but we must take a moment to ponder the immense love that brought Jesus to the manger as a vulnerable babe. Sin entered the world, and the world was left wandering, searching. The hunger for God never ceased, yet the rift between him and mankind was a breach unfathomable. To remedy this separation, our God did the unthinkable – with all of his power and might he became one of us, entered into the world of sin to give himself and us so completely that the human race would again become one with him. There is no greater humility than this, and no act of love that comes close to God the Son's incarnation and then passion.

From this gift should come the inspiration for every other gift we could give at Christmastime. His gift also forms the basis for our calling to serve at Catholic Charities. Do you remember the two great commandments Jesus directed us to, which form our understanding of charity? “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt 22:37-39). In loving God with all of our being, we mirror the very gift of Jesus as we so completely, overflow with love and compassion. We seek to be an encounter with the gift of Jesus Christ through our actions, that every person may know that they have dignity and worth. Thank you to all of you who help support us in communicating God's gift to so many people. We rely on your generosity to serve in amazing ways. Please keep us in your prayers and if you would like a tour, please contact us. I would love to show you charity in action.
Providing Help... Creating Hope. Providing Help... Creating Hope. Providing Help... Creating Hope.

Without a doubt, Catholic Charities offers a variety of classes, seminars, and specialty services, most of which are completely free of charge to clients and people in the community. These services are offered throughout the year:

- "Know Your Rights" presentations are given quarterly, informing informants and advocates about aspects of immigration law and rights and responsibilities of living in the United States.
- Citizenship Classes are offered for those preparing to become United States citizens.
- English as a Second Language classes are offered September through May, twice a week, evening and daytime programs, at multiple sites. Last year, people from 30 different countries participated in the class.
- Pre-natal Nurturing Class is a nine-session class to help parents learn ways to bond with their baby.
- Child Birth Education classes are conducted by a registered nurse to expectant parents in their third trimester to help relieve apprehension by providing information on relaxation techniques for labor and tips for delivery.
- RealCare® Baby Project brings powerful, hands-on experience to a wide variety of individuals who haven’t had experience caring for a newborn. Participants are required to be the sole “caretakers” of the RealCare® Baby infant simulator, whose appearance and behavior replicates a real infant.

Financial Literacy - Basic classes are offered monthly at the Marian House by Security Service Federal Credit Union. The class provides basic budgeting guidance to help clients manage limited income and plan for emergencies.

Financial Literacy - Advanced classes are offered as requested several times a year at the Marian House by Security Services Federal Credit Union to address long term financial issues.

Community Classes are hosted by Marian House and presented by experts in the field on topics such as de-escalation, personal safety, dealing with mental illness, and protection from the elements. These are open to clients, service providers and members of the community.

Parenting with Love & Logic is a six week course, offered three times per year to help participants acquire skills necessary to become a better parent.

A Pro-Bono Legal Clinic is offered six times per year by the El Paso County Bar Association and hosted at Marian House to provide legal advice to clients and community members.

VITA - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance is offered most Saturdays from January through April at the Marian House for households earning less than $50,000.

Plans are being made to offer basic computer skills classes, nutrition classes, and a job skills program.

SPONSOR A DAY PROGRAM

Catholic Charities is launching a new program: Sponsor a Day. The funds raised from this sponsorship will help fund needs like increasing soup kitchen food costs, and enable the expansion of self-sufficiency programs.

Sponsors can pick a specific day—maybe in honor of a loved one, a special anniversary, or an appropriate symbolic holiday or feast day. Sponsors can purchase a full or half day sponsorship for $1,500 or $1,000, which includes a sign in front of the Marian House on the day of the sponsorship, listings in the Catholic Charities’ Helping Hands quarterly newsletter, the annual report, agency website, Facebook, and Twitter. In addition to this exposure, sponsors also receive a photo in front of the sign, an electronic thank-you with the number of meals served that day, which can be sent to families, friends, colleagues, staff, etc. Volunteer opportunities will also be available if desired on the day of the sponsorship. Sponsors also get first right of refusal for the following year. If interested, please call 719-866-6443.

To launch the program, the first 50 sponsors to commit receive an extra day free!

LIFE CONNECTIONS HELPS COUPLES GROW IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP

There is no question that relationships change with time. The more time a couple spends together, the more they begin to take each other for granted if they are not proactive in maintaining their relationship.

What is needed is a deeper understanding of the complexity and unconscious strivings present when two people fall in love. Our Life Connections counselors have a very positive view of marriage as a committed relationship. They have found the conflict that is closely related to the unconscious aspects of attraction and then love, also contains the potential for significant growth, passion, love and healing.

Our skilled couple’s therapists are good educators, motivators, and trainers. Our counseling goals are to motivate couples to actively participate in understanding their frustrations and in developing relationship skills to guide them to learn what the sources of their struggles are, and how to separate these sources from the everyday triggers with kindness and empathy.

In helping couples we often use Imago based therapeutic techniques. These are highly effective tools that have positively affected thousands of couples around the world. This approach to communication comes from new understandings about the relational paradigm, and is helpful not only for new couples, but couples together for many years, people in business relationships, and more.

This transformational method of therapy provides resources for couples, or individuals seeking to find a way to be more effective in their life and relationships. Couples will call each other to wholeness – to ask their partner to change – to develop those underdeveloped parts of themselves, and to begin to transform frustrations into moments of understanding, healing and connection.

Call 866-6535 to learn more about how to create stronger interactions by getting insights into the unconscious agenda we often bring to our relationships. With this information we can choose to grow together in a creative, non-controlling, and healing ways that create understanding and connection.

Sponsors can pick a specific day—maybe in honor of a loved one, a special anniversary, or an appropriate symbolic holiday or feast day. Sponsors can purchase a full or half day sponsorship for $1,500 or $1,000, which includes a sign in front of the Marian House on the day of the sponsorship, listings in the Catholic Charities’ Helping Hands quarterly newsletter, the annual report, agency website, Facebook, and Twitter. In addition to this exposure, sponsors also receive a photo in front of the sign, an electronic thank-you with the number of meals served that day, which can be sent to families, friends, colleagues, staff, etc. Volunteer opportunities will also be available if desired on the day of the sponsorship. Sponsors also get first right of refusal for the following year. If interested, please call 719-866-6443.

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Catholic Charities News

LONGTIME VOLUNTEER PASSES AWAY

Longtime Marian House volunteer Frank Mota passed away October 5th peacefully at home. A celebration of his life was held on October 20 at Marian House followed by a funeral at St. Mary Cathedral on October 23, 2013.

Frank began volunteering at the Marian House in 1999 as the Volunteer Coordinator. He had a special place in his heart for Catholic Charities. When Frank was 1 year old, his mother died and he went to live at a Catholic orphanage and Catholic Charities workers helped him through grade school. He spent 17 years in orphanages before graduating from high school and joining the Army National Guard.

He attended Wichita State University, where he developed an interest in the hospitality industry, leading him to a career with Marriott. He carried that experience to the Marian House.

Frank said, “The best part of my job is that I get to see the results of my work in people’s lives.” He believed everyone should volunteer. His motto was, “Thanks for volunteering – it’s good for the heart.” In lieu of flowers, family asked that you would like to be on our mailing list, please call us at 719-866-6523 for details or to arrange pick-up.

The gala will be held on March 15 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Colorado Springs. It is a fun event, so make plans to attend now. Invitations will be mailed mid-February. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please call us at 719-866-6422.

Yes, I want to join the St. Anthony of Padua Prayer Society!

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

Catholic Charities is very fortunate to be part of several community-wide giving programs.

Combined Federal Campaign - CFC

Participants can give to Catholic Charities through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). If interested in designating Catholic Charities, our CFC number is 30738.

Empty Stocking Fund

For the 13th year, Catholic Charities’ Marian House is proud to be part of The Gazette-El Pomar Foundation Empty Stocking Fund (ESF). We are one of 15 agencies participating. Every dollar donated grows up to 63% as the Bruni and El Pomar Foundations match donated dollars at varying percentages. Add Staff, Wells Fargo Bank, The Gazette, and El Pomar Foundation cover all the administrative expenses, so every dollar donated goes directly to provide services to people in need. For more information, go to www.ColoradoGives.org.

United Way Catholic Charities is a partner agency with Pikes Peak United Way. Donations can be made through United Way to benefit Catholic Charities specifically, or made to a general fund which benefits all partner agencies in our community. To designate Catholic Charities of Central Colorado, simply put our name in the designated space on your pledge form.

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

Critical Needs:

Marian House

• Soup Kitchen
  HAMS, METAL SPOONS, CREAMER, SPICES, PASTA, #10 CANS OF VEGETABLES & FRUIT
  LAUNDRY DETERGENT, MEAT (BEEF)

• Life Support Services
  SIZE 4 & 5 DIAPERS (NO SMALL SIZES PLEASE), BABY FORMULA, MATERNITY WEAR, BABY LOTION, SHAMPOO, DIAPER RASH CREAMS

• Community Outreach
  CANNED FOOD, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, FURNITURE, 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 3 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.

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.