CC Closes Fiscal Year Strong
Records Set in Several Programs

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado (CC) finished Fiscal Year 2012/2013 out strong on several fronts. While donations were flat versus previous year, the number of new donors continued to increase (+15%), as did website donations (+40%).

Family Immigration Services (FIS) was quite busy this year. Immigration cases were up 131% over the previous FY due to the impact of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Additionally, the two-person FIS counseling team completed 356 consultations - a 99% increase - in addition to logging 2,456 phone calls.

161 students received 8,315 hours of instruction from 27 volunteer teachers, and 96 children received 3,402 hours of literacy based childcare while their parents were in class.

Life Connections continues to expand family counseling services with Pathways to Healing, which has grown 65% since it was added to our services in early 2011. Relinquishment Counseling and Post Abortion Support also continue to grow.

Marian House Client Services provided 38,046 services through more than 30,000 client interactions, which represents a 7% increase in clients served over the previous year. Requests for rent, bus passes, and vital statistics such as birth certificates, driver’s licenses, and identification cards, continue to be areas of un-met needs as the demand for these services regularly outstrips resources. This is an area where we will continue to pursue additional funds to help meet demand.

While we would like to see our soup kitchen numbers decrease, indicating a better economy, CC hit a record in the number of meals served at 214,572 (+3%). Serving this number of meals was only possible through the ongoing support from our dedicated volunteers and donors. In the past year alone, 78,698 volunteer hours were recorded at the soup kitchen, valued at almost $1.8 million. With only five full-time staff, the soup kitchen ministry could not function without volunteer support. Additionally, 95% of all the food used in the preparation of the daily meal is donated, valued at $950,844. Clearly, the soup kitchen continues to be a community ministry in Colorado Springs.

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Marian House Soup Kitchen - FY 2012 - 13

| Direct Expense, $675,349 | Volunteer Labor, $1,765,187 | Donated Food, $950,844 | In-Kind Rent & IT, $240,536 |

Providing Help. Creating Hope.
For 45 Years in Central Colorado.
Elsa was a successful teacher and child care worker in Mexico. However, working with children was a constant reminder of the void in her life as she was having difficulty conceiving a child. At the same time, her husband was having difficulty finding steady employment in photography. Given the issues, and his desire to pursue the American Dream, they moved to the United States to begin a new life.

Since Elsa’s teaching certifications did not transfer to the U.S., she found employment in the hospitality industry while her husband became a landscaper. Elsa says, “When we first came, we were both working and happy. Money was not an issue. However, shortly after moving here, I became pregnant. Now we are very happy to have three children, but financially, it has been difficult.” With three children to care for, Elsa quit her job and became a stay-at-home mom.

While her husband works 40 hours a week for a landscape service, it simply is not enough to support the family of five, especially during the winter months when his hours are reduced. He supplements his income by working other landscaping jobs and odd jobs and usually makes enough to pay the bills. However, last month he had to sell most of his personal landscaping tools to pay the rent, which will now limit the jobs he can take.

Elsa, a gifted artist, supplements the family’s income by painting murals and providing face painting at children’s parties. Additionally, she tries to find work cleaning homes and office buildings when her husband’s hours are reduced.

Over the years, Catholic Charities’ Life Support Services (LSS) has been able to make life a little easier by providing diapers, formula, children’s clothing, Birthday Buddies, school supplies, and Christmas gift support. As a way of giving back, Elsa comes to the LSS events, such as the recent Summer Fling, and paints the children’s faces. She also painted a beautiful mural on the wall that greets families as they come to LSS for help. Elsa says, “Carole (the director of Life Support Services) is like another mom. She tries to help whenever we need it. One time, when my husband lost his job and I was pregnant, the utility service was cut off. It was the middle of the summer and it was very hot. Carole was able to get the utilities turned back on. She is like an angel to us.”

As is common with families just getting by, a medical issue can mean disaster. One of the children has some dental issues - two teeth need to be pulled - but Medicaid is not enough and they don’t have the funds to pay the difference. The child is in pain all the time, but when asked if her tooth hurts, she replies, “Not too much.” Like her mother, the children do not ask for help often and don’t complain.

Elsa and her husband still want the American Dream. They are working towards starting a birthday party business where face painting and photography packages with theme backgrounds would be on the list of services. However, the dream will have to wait until they can save enough to start the business.

Elsa says, “Catholic Charities was there when we really needed them. When we feel like we are breaking down, they help us. They are part of our family. If Catholic Charities wasn’t here, I wouldn’t know what to do, and it would have been really hard to find someone to help us.”

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“The pictures below are just a few examples of Elsa’s art: a child’s room mural and art on a woman’s pregnant belly.”

At Catholic Charities, we have the great blessing of working with those in need. We are given such a privilege to walk a journey with others that is both unpredictable and amazing to behold. As I reflect on what God has called us to do – to minister sincerely to those he brings to us – I am struck by how difficult it is to be truly present to anybody these days. Our time is so full of activities and distraction that it is not easy to give our undivided attention to others or to God. We also like the security of the known and anticipated things of life; anything outside our comfort zones takes some getting used to.

During World Youth Day, Pope Francis gave a powerful homily at the Cathedral of St. Sebastian in Rio de Janeiro. He charged us to be proactive in bringing the good news to those in both spiritual and material need: “We cannot keep ourselves shut up in parishes, in our communities, when so many people are waiting for the Gospel! It is not enough simply to open the door in welcome, but we must go out through that door to seek and meet the people! . . . [G]o and look for them in the nooks and crannies of the streets.”

What a call to active ministry! At Catholic Charities, we have the great blessing of working with those in need.

We must overcome our fear of engagement. We must put aside all the may we may hide behind to avoid creating real relationships with those who thirst for hope and the good news. God, the creator of all, wishes to transform our lives through humble service, and he wants us to be fearless in answering this call.

The only way to communicate the love of God – a love that gives us meaning, helps us to see our purpose and the hope of greater things – is to get to know in deep ways the people we seek to help. God wants a relationship with us, and he can only be active through us if we seek real relationship with our sisters and brothers.

For these reasons, we are looking even more intentionally at all of our ministries here at Catholic Charities to be sure we do not miss an opportunity to come to know those we serve. God has a plan for every moment of service, every encounter, every conversation. All we do must be oriented toward authentic relationship and a renewal of the message that every person has inherent dignity, and is a soul worth getting to know.

We are blessed this month to have Christ in the City join our dedicated staff and volunteers in our work.
Catholic Charities News

DISASTER SUPPORT - FIRES & FLOODING

Although better prepared to respond to the Black Forest fire (BFF) having just dealt with the Waldo Canyon fire twelve months earlier, the BFF disaster has proven to be quite different. More people were uninsured, and they have been slower to seek assistance. During the first week of the fire, Catholic Charities (CC) offered services in the El Paso County Disaster Assistance Center (EPDCAC) to provide help to those who were evacuated. Once the center closed, CC began providing assistance at various locations in Black Forest. Services in the form of gift cards, food, clothing, counseling, etc., was given, including snack packs donated by members of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Castle Rock. Paxton Lee and Alex Drisk, church members, conducted a drive at the church and collected over 100 pre-packaged snack packs which Marian House Outreach staff delivered to BFF victims in need.

CC worked with School District 20 to identify 161 children, from Elementary School to High School age, whose families experienced total losses in the Black Forest fire. The school district provided a complete school supply list for each child. CC was then able to deliver a backpack to each of these children, customized with the specific supplies required by the school for each child.

In partnership with Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Church, two Out of the Ash events were held, where anyone affected by the BFF could attend for emotional and spiritual support. Due to their success, another is scheduled for the future.

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During the time frame of the disasters, Catholic Charities saw record levels of service delivery in both the Marian House Soup Kitchen and Client Services. We are very proud of staff and volunteers who were able to juggle daily needs with the demands of the disasters. Additionally, we mobilized our St. Anthony of Padua Prayer Society to pray for those affected by these events. Almost every person who visited with a Catholic Charities staff member at the EPDCAC registered to be on the prayer list. If you are interested in joining the prayer society, please complete the coupon at the bottom of Page 5 and mail to us.

CC receives COA Reaccreditation

Catholic Charities (CC) was reaccredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) in an expeditious process as a result of excellent compliance ratings in all fundamental practice standards. It is rare to be expedited.

“The process has been intensive, but we are proud it is now complete, and accreditation has been continued for our agency,” said Mark Rohlena, President and CEO of CC. COA’s commitment to maintaining the highest level of standards and quality improvement is designed to identify providers that have set high performance standards and made a commitment to their constituents to deliver the highest quality services. “While the process of maintaining COA standards is rigorous, it is well worth the effort in terms of maintaining standards of excellence and ensuring continued improvement. The benefit to both staff and clients is evident,” said Rohlena.

In the case of CC, the entire organization, not just specific programs, is accredited so volunteers, staff, donors, and clients have the confidence in the credibility, integrity and achievement of the organization. CC has been accredited since 1997, and is the only organization in Colorado Springs with agency-wide accreditation.

Volunteer Truck Drivers

The Marian House Soup Kitchen received a commercial truck from Murphy Constructors earlier this year. The truck is used to pick up food donations throughout Colorado Springs for use in our soup kitchen. Because the new truck is refrigerated and larger than our other vehicles, our team of drivers can pick up more food on each route. This helps reduce fuel cost while enhancing route efficiency.

The driver team, shown below, is stewarded by Operations Manager, Theo Reiter. Theo recently held a driver in-service session to plan the new routes and conduct training. This team logs over 7,000 miles a year picking up donations valued at roughly $70,000 per month from retail outlets throughout the city. More importantly, the largely volunteer force has maintained a stellar record of zero traffic mishaps for more than four years.

Thank you to all the drivers for your time and dedication, and to Murphy Constructors for donating the truck. We could not conduct our Marian House ministry without your support. We hope to have the new truck branded soon.

To Donate

Call 719-866-6440

or visit us at www.ccharitiescc.org

Ways to Give

• Direct gifts: on-line using a Credit or Debit Card, one-time gift or set up a 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)
• Donors designate to us through Pikes Peak United Way
• Donate through Combined Federal Campaign (Agency Code: 50718)
• Gifts in memory or in honor of a loved one
• Planned Giving - Leave a Legacy
• Sign up to receive Catholic Charities updates via email at wc@ccharitiescc.org and click on Helping Hands Newsletter

YES! I WANT TO JOIN THE ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PRAYER SOCIETY!

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

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.

Catholic Charities FY2011 - 2012 Annual Report is available. Call 719-866-6422 for a copy.

To Donate

Call 719-866-6440

or visit us at www.ccharitiescc.org
Catholic Charities News

LIFE CONNECTIONS RECEIVES CCUSA GRANT

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado was one of 50 agencies vying for two $25,000 grants from Catholic Charities USA. The funds were from a foundation for agencies providing pregnancy support services. Life Connections’ Pregnancy Support programs were awarded one of the $25,000 grants because they reflect the church’s life ethic by providing concrete assistance to women, along with supporting and encouraging life affirming decisions and behaviors. Our child-centered approach focuses on the best interest of children while offering women opportunities for personal growth, positive parenting skills, and constructive life-giving decision-making.

Services to women and children are provided through a relational service delivery model that is non-judgmental, respectful and meets them where they are and in whatever state of brokenness. Women are offered encouragement and support through material goods, professional counseling, education, and opportunities for self-discovery and improvement. Some of the services offered to women of childbearing age are:

- Prenatal Nutritional Program
- Childbirth Class Pregnancy Counseling
- RealCare™ Belly Project
- Early Literacy Learning (in conjunction with Marian House Life Support Services)

This grant provides an opportunity for Life Connections and Marian House Life Support Services to collaborate for the enrichment of the lives of pregnant women and their babies. For more information on any of these programs call 866-6535.

CHRIST IN THE CITY / HEART PARTNERSHIP

Catholic Charities (CC) will partner with Christ in the City (CIC) missionaries, primarily in the HEART program (Homeless Engagement and Response Team). HEART was formed in the summer of 2012 with the vision of building community awareness of CC programs where staff and volunteers connect at-risk people and downtown business owners to services. With limited CC staff and volunteers available to support HEART, CIC stepped in to fill the gap.

CIC is made up of missionaries who directly serve the poor. It is a nonprofit formed to address the integral needs of the human person: mind, body, and spirit. Focused on the “fourth world” as defined by Pope John Paul II, their ministry serves chronically homeless and Hispanic communities.

With CIC’s help, the HEART program was expanded from 2 days a week to a 5 day a week program, and the programs’ reach was extended from the downtown area to include routes to the Westside of town. CIC missionaries will also work in the Mariam House Community Outreach and Life Support Services programs as well as with Parish Social Ministry.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

Peak Producers, an organization representing the top 10% of realtors in our community, has voted to continue the “Adopt-A-Family” program for a third year. The program allows businesses and organizations to “sponsor” families in our Marian House programs for one year, providing support in the form of in-kind goods, business connections, referrals, job leads, monetary assistance, and additional support to “fast-track” families on the road to a higher level of self-sufficiency.

Over the past two years, the partnership has helped six families move forward in life. Each family had very specific needs and deficits which were addressed through Marian House programs with support from the Peak Producer organization. Receiving the additional support allowed these families to move to a higher level of self-sufficiency in a very short period of time which would not have been possible without the partnership.

NEW STAFF

Joleah Richardson joined Catholic Charities in September as Communications Coordinator. Originally from Louisiana, Joleah has been volunteering with Catholic Charities for 8 months. She will be very involved in executing the agency fundraiser - the St. Patrick’s Day Gala - as well as furthering the marketing communications for the agency. She has worked for The Pines Catholic Camp and Retreat Center in Big Sandy, Texas and for Discover Goodwill here in Colorado Springs.

LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES HOSTS FAMILY & BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENTS

In an effort to meet the needs of all of our Life Support Services (LSS) family members, a Mother’s Day celebration was held on May 8th. The event was for mothers, mothers to be, and grandmothers. Each mom received flowers and a poem, and had an opportunity to mingle and meet new families.

The Summer Fling celebration began three years ago as a way to give the children and families who frequent LSS a fun event during their school break, as many are not able to take vacations or do exciting activities in the summer. Seventy two parents and children attended the event filled with coloring contests, hula loop competitions, and games such as Let’s Go Fishing, Penny Dive, and Musical Chairs. Face painting, provided by Elia, one of our talented clients (Elia’s story is highlighted on page 2), was the hit of the party.

On August 1st, due to the generosity of Gymboree, 426 children received brand new clothes to prepare for school at the Gymboree Fill-a-Bag Event at Marian House. Families began lining up at 5:30 am and at one point, the line stretched to Cascade Avenue. Ten volunteers and staff helped distribute 4,260 Gymboree items during the five hour event. Families who missed the event were able to shop during the next several days until all the new items had been distributed. The LSS shopping area is always filled with gently used clothing, but this event was particularly special as all the items were brand new items.

On August 14th, LSS began their annual School Supply Distribution. 157 children received bags full of needed supplies so they could be prepared for school.

Critical Needs:

- Marian House
  - Soup Kitchen
  - Metal spoons, creamer, spices, pasta, #10 cans of vegetables
  - Laundry detergent, meat (beef)

- Life Support Services
  - Size 4 & 5 diapers (no small sizes please), baby formula, maternity wear, baby lotion, powder, 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 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.

Help a Child Learn to Read!

The ability to read helps children succeed in school and in life. Catholic Charities' Early Literacy Program puts books in the hands of children every day. Please give generously today to help children have a better, and more successful tomorrow.

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