

September 2014



1968 - 2014

Helping Hands

The Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

Working Together on Immigration Challenges

The challenges faced by agencies working to serve the needs of immigrants can be overwhelming, particularly now with so much focus on the subject of the U.S. Immigration Policy due to the growing concern over the unaccompanied minors (UM) crisis. Children coming to the U.S. borders without a parent is not a new phenomenon, but in the past year, the number of children arriving has almost doubled. The majority are coming from Central American countries: Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Interestingly, the number coming from Mexico has declined.

The reasons for the current surge are varied. A primary factor is the increased unrest and violence in Central America: the region has some of the highest homicide

rates anywhere, and the presence of local gangs is pervasive. Many come in hopes they will be reunited with family members.

"We do not call for open borders, but once immigrants (legal or otherwise) are here, we must be ready to attend to their needs and offer them the ministry that flows from the gospel itself. Now, with at least 60,000 unaccompanied children who have crossed our borders since last October, we face an even greater challenge: to protect and nourish the bodies and the souls of these new arrivals," said Michael J. Sheridan, Bishop of the Diocese of Colorado Springs.

Colorado, which ranks #7 in total Hispanic population, has not been impacted like the border states of Texas, California, Arizona, and New Mexico, but many immigration agencies may become more involved due to the sheer enormity of the humanitarian crisis. Catholic Charities organizations, specifically in Texas, are providing shelter, legal help, foster placement services, emergency and other supportive services.

While Catholic Charities of Central Colorado (CC) has not been called upon to provide direct services to UM's, Corey Almond, vice president of CC's Family Immigration Services (FIS) states, "It's important that we

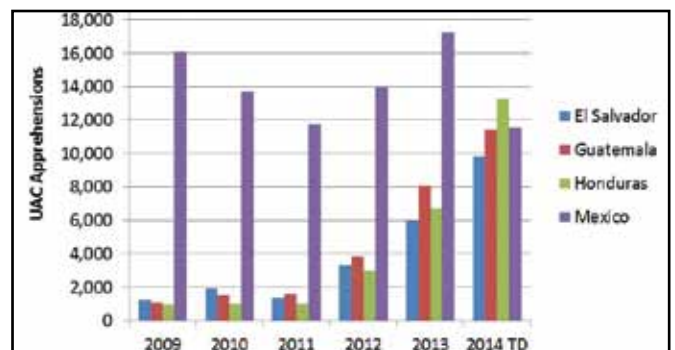
stay up to date with the correct information to give immigrants the guidance they need. One of the best things we can do is to warn immigrants of potential manipulation by coyotes or opportunists here in the United States. Our agency is constantly teaching vulnerable families about laws and the dangers of 'notarios' through our consultation process and with "Know Your Rights" community presentations throughout the diocese."

Additionally, CC can represent immigrants before the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services with our Board of Immigration Appeals recognition and our BIA accredited counselors, but currently does not have the expertise to represent UM's before the immigration court.

If you are interested in finding out more about the relief efforts for UM's, visit the websites of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, Fort Worth, Dallas or Catholic Charities USA.

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For over 45 years in Central Colorado.

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NBC Today Show comes to Marian House

The *NBC Today Show* visited the Marian House on August 28th & 29th as part of a story on the *Colorado Springs Food Rescue (CSFR)* program which delivers food to the Marian House every Thursday.

Durrell Dawson, a producer with NBC News and the Today Show followed CSFR on their delivery to the Marian House. They returned to see how that food was used in the meal the next day. During that visit, they spoke to a Marian House guest regarding their opinions of the quality of the food and the service at Marian House. As of press time, the airing of the program was TBD, but go to www.ccharitiescc.org for a link to the Today Show story.

CSFR was originally founded in Fall 2013 by Colorado College students concerned with food waste. The concept is to redistribute perfectly good food such as day-old bread, blemished produce and unserved food normally thrown away by restaurants, grocers, cafeterias, etc., and deliver it to organizations such as the Marian House Soup Kitchen to be used in meals to feed those in our community who are hungry or food insecure.

Volunteers pick up the food daily and deliver it, usually by bicycle, to various outlets in the city. If you are interested in learning more about the CSFR, go to www.coloradospringsfoodrescue.org.



CC Castle Rock Supports Families

"We would definitely be homeless if we didn't have Catholic Charities' support"

Travis and Vicky have lived in Douglas County for a long time and have helped each other through many struggles over the years. Travis is a chef and Vicky is a waitress. While making a successful living in the restaurant business can be difficult, it was made harder for the couple in May 2009 when Travis was struck by a car. He was unable to work for two months. During that time, they had to depend on some assistance from several agencies in the area to make ends meet.

When Travis returned to work, they felt their lives were improving. Then Vicky slipped at work and suffered a back injury. Trying to get worker's compensation was difficult and she became discouraged. Although she wants to work, several surgeries and physical therapy have been unsuccessful in relieving her overwhelming pain. She has difficulty standing or sitting for extended periods of time.

With Travis' fluctuating income and assistance from local agencies, the couple was able to survive. Things were looking up in 2013 when Travis was hired at a higher paying job, but shortly before he was to begin, he slipped on ice outside of his apartment. He was unable to return to work until the injuries healed and he could be cleared by his doctor. Bills began piling up and Travis and Vicky feared they would become homeless.

In desperation, they shared their story with Catholic Charities of Central Colorado' Castle Rock office (CC), who were able to provide referrals that resulted in the couple getting Medicaid to help cover their medical expenses. Staff also referred the couple to a new program -

Douglas County Cares - which is helping sustain them until they get back on their feet. The program doesn't just provide temporary assistance, it helps families move towards self-sufficiency with comprehensive assistance for up to a year, and is specifically for low income Douglas County residents. CC is not only a referring partner in this program, but provides case management as a family facilitator. CC is managing Travis & Vicky's case, evaluating and assisting in their progress. "It's difficult to accept help because I was so independent before my injury. It's very humbling. We would definitely be homeless if we didn't have Catholic Charities' support," Vicki said.

Douglas County Cares helped Travis and Vicky on their path to self-sufficiency with monetary support for rent, gas, utility assistance, and food. As a result, Travis has had time to recover from his injuries and began a new full-time job in July.

The couple remains hopeful for the future. "We're both just so grateful. We feel so blessed," Vicky said. "When we get back on our feet, I would love to go and volunteer. What they've done for us, I would love to be able to do for other people."





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CEO Transition

Mark Rohlena, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado (CC), has been named director of the Office of Domestic Social Development of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

"Mark has done an outstanding job as CEO of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado, and he is someone who has left his mark on the organization during his tenure. We are going to miss him, but we wish him well and know he will do amazing work in his new position with the USCCB," said the Most Reverend Michael J. Sheridan, Bishop of the Diocese of Colorado Springs.

Rohlena will oversee USCCB efforts in the area of domestic social development, with a special emphasis on poverty. He will assume his position at the bishops' conference in August.

CC will now begin a national search for a new CEO. Mr. Leroy Hoelting, Board President, along with Tom Naughton, Vice Chair of the board of directors of CC, will lead the search.

During this period of transition, Jen Kleinschmidt will serve as the Interim CEO. Jen has been with CC since December 2012 as the Chief Organizational Excellence Officer. In this role, she guided the agency through a COA reaccreditation process receiving an expedited Pre-Commission Review Report as a result of a perfect compliance rating, which is extremely rare. As a member of the Catholic Charities Management Team she has been involved in all programming aspects of the agency as a result of her work with Performance Quality Improvement – a system that evaluates agency trends to produce the highest program outcomes. She has been instrumental in the launch of the Diocese of Colorado Springs disaster planning effort, which Catholic Charities was asked to lead based upon their recent experience with the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires.

Ms. Kleinschmidt said, "It is an honor to serve in this role and I look forward to continuing the mission of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado."

Sponsor a Day

Sponsor a day of meals at the Marian House Soup Kitchen. For just \$1,500 you can provide more than 600 meals to families and individuals who are hungry. Benefits include:

- Name on sponsorship sign in front of the Marian House Soup Kitchen, located on Bijou Street at the entrance and exit of downtown Colorado Springs
- Recognition on the internal television monitor in the main dining room for volunteers and clients to see
- Recognition in Catholic Charities' (CC) *Helping Hands* quarterly newsletter, Annual Report, website, Facebook and Twitter
- Photo in front of sign, or photo of the sign to be shared electronically with business associates, employees, board, etc.
- Volunteer opportunities the day of sponsorship with appropriate photos
- Certificate of Appreciation - both hard and electronic copies to be shared
- Right of First Refusal for the following year



- Electronic "thank you" with the actual number of meals served on the day of the sponsorship
- For a limited time, buy one day before December 31, 2014, get one day free
- Bulk discounts are also available

MARIAN HOUSE SPONSOR A DAY

Thank you for participating in the Marian House Sponsor A Day Program!

Matthew Schell - August 5

Springs Fabrication, Inc. - September 1

St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church - September 29

Springs Fabrication, Inc. - October 31



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Travel With Us



Catholic Charities (CC) will benefit from a planned 13 - day

Marian Shrines Pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain and France with a three night Mediterranean cruise embarking from Barcelona, Spain. The trip, scheduled April 22 - May 4, 2015, will coincide with the 100th anniversary of Fatima. Fr. Paul Wicker will join the group as the spiritual director. Mass will be held at various locations throughout the trip.

Only 34 double occupancy spaces will be sold. If the tour sells out, CC should receive \$10,000. Cost of the trip is \$4,095 per person, all-inclusive, with additional options available. The last day to commit is October 8, 2014. The next information session is Friday, September 26th. For a complete itinerary, contact Cruise Planners - ABC Travel at 719-445-8698. The tour is planned in conjunction with Catholic-Pilgrimage-Tours and Norwegian Cruise Line.



THE OLD MARIAN HOUSE

Marian House: 20 years and Counting

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and First Baptist Church, - outgrowing each. In 1985, St. Mary's welcomed it to the Marian House. At the time, the Marian House was a Victorian-style home, which was originally built to house 22 nuns and was named after the Blessed Mother Mary. The facility became known throughout the city as a place where anyone could have their hunger fed: hunger for food, acceptance, and love.

The Marian House continued to grow and in 1994, Catholic Charities (CC) took over operation of the soup kitchen from the Bijou Community, who had operated the kitchen in all the previous locations. Within a year, the soup kitchen was serving meals to about 275 people a day. The Marian House is the only soup kitchen that offers a hot meal 365 days of the year, and CC is the largest provider of free meals to those in need in the Pikes Peak region.

Marian House expanded beyond the meal service to meet other emergency needs and to help people move forward in their lives by providing specialized services and support such as outreach, emergency basic needs, showers, mail services, replacement ID's, etc.

By 2006, the Marian House was serving an average of 450 people daily or just under 200,000 meals per year, utilizing 25—30 volunteers per day from all walks of life, to prepare and serve the meal. The operation had outgrown the little yellow house which was in need of tremendous repair. At that time, CC embarked on a capital campaign to build a new Marian House, which opened its doors in June 2008, followed a year later by the Hanifen Center at Marian House.

Today, more than 600 meals are served most days, utilizing 50 - 55 volunteers. Self-sufficiency services have expanded to include financial literacy, parenting and computer classes along with partnerships on site to help people receive care in one location. Although CC continues with the *Building Futures Together* campaign to raise funds towards paying off the debt of the new building (roughly \$1 million), the new facility has allowed CC to help meet the growing need in our community. While it would be wonderful to no longer be needed, indicating that most people have become self-sufficient, the reality is the poor will always be with us.

Twenty years after that first meal was served, many things have changed but one thing remains constant: our community cares and continues to reach out to provide for those less fortunate. Thank you for your support of this ecumenical ministry.



THE NEW MARIAN HOUSE COMPLEX



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Charities News

KIDZ KLOZET: SAFE & SECURE KIDZ



Life Connections is introducing a new program this fall to support pregnant clients with limited incomes. Kidz Klozet and Safe & Secure Kidz are initiatives that support, encourage and assist women in carrying their pregnancies to term. It also helps in caring for their babies after birth. The program is designed to provide parents with valuable parenting tools and skills, child development and safety information, referrals, and assistance with securing needed baby items, and services

that will help their babies grow and thrive.

The program rewards learning, fosters responsibility, and nurtures relationships in a way that helps young moms earn baby items, while helping motivate them towards making better choices, reaching goals, and developing positive parenting behaviors.

Expectant and new moms can enroll in the program and earn *Kidz Kash* by attending prenatal nurturing or childbirth classes, infant massage sessions, counseling, prenatal appointments, and for engaging in healthy behaviors that benefit themselves and their babies. The *Kidz Kash* can be redeemed in our *Kidz Klozet* for baby items and other special incentives benefiting new families. The more time the client spends in one of our programs, the more *Kidz Kash* they earn to spend in the *Kidz Klozet*. Just a few of the items available will be clothing, stocked diaper bags, blankets, toiletries, and eventually we hope to have *Pack N Play* portable bed/playpens and car seats.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES PARTNERS WITH BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

Catholic Charities (CC) has entered into a partnership with Peak Vista Community Health Center's First Visitor Program, the local sponsor of Bright Beginnings. Through this program, families receive help supporting their children's physical, emotional, and intellectual development during the critical first three years of life – offering them an opportunity for a *Bright Beginning!*

As a new partner agency, CC will provide parents of babies and toddlers appropriate materials, education and support to engage their children early and start them on the path toward future success. As part of our individual engagement with these families, an age-appropriate Bright Beginnings kit bag will be provided. It includes materials and information on how to best focus parents' limited time for the benefit of their child. This is an ideal partnership because CC serves nearly 1,000 children who are eligible for the Bright Beginnings program through Life Support Services, Life Connections, and Family Immigration Services.

For more information contact Life Connections at 719-866-6535.



Ways to Give

- PRAY FOR US AND VOLUNTEER
- CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES, IRA ROLLOVER, STOCKS & SECURITIES
- COMMUNITY GIVING EFFORTS: DONOR DESIGNATE TO US THROUGH PIKES PEAK UNITED WAY, COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (AGENCY CODE: 30738). COLORADO GIVES CAMPAIGN, OR THE EMPTY STOCKING FUND
- 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
- EVENT PARTICIPATION
- GIVE THROUGH STATE TAX CREDITS
 - EL PASO COUNTY ENTERPRISE ZONE (25% TAX CREDIT FOR MARIAN HOUSE)
 - CHILD CARE CONTRIBUTION (50% TAX CREDIT FOR LIFE CONNECTIONS)
- IN-KIND GIFTS & VEHICLE DONATIONS
- MATCHING GIFTS THROUGH YOUR EMPLOYER AND CORPORATE GIVING VIA GRANTS, EVENTS, DRIVES, AND VOLUNTEER PROJECTS
 - MONTHLY GIVING
 - PLANNED GIVING - LEAVE A LEGACY
- TEXT TO GIVE AT 50155 USING THE KEY WORD CHARITY TO GIVE ANY AMOUNT
- TRIBUTE GIFTS IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF A LOVED ONE
- SIGN UP TO RECEIVE CC UPDATES VIA E-MAIL AT WWW.CCHARITIESCC.ORG AND CLICK ON *Helping Hands* NEWSLETTERS

To Donate



Call 719-866-6440 or visit us at
www.ccharitiescc.org

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Prayer Society

THE MISSION OF THE ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PRAYER SOCIETY IS TO FOSTER ORGANIZED, SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES' STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, DONORS, AND THOSE WE SERVE, AND TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ASK FOR OUR PRAYERS.

JOIN THE ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PRAYER SOCIETY!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

I PREFER TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS
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Please clip and mail the coupon to
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Colorado Springs, CO 80903
or email
prayers@ccharitiescc.org
to join, or to leave a prayer intention.

Charities News

CC SUPPORTS SCHOOL READINESS

Catholic Charities (CC) continues to help prepare kids for school through a myriad of programs and services.

School Supplies

For over 10 years, Marian House Life Support Services (LSS) has served more than 150 children each year with school supplies and clothing. This year, with the support of the community, CC was able to provide school supplies to children throughout all of our programs. Thanks to all who participated.

Clothing

Having appropriate clothing can be a challenge for struggling families with children trying to fit in with their peers. It is a major issue for kids in poverty - trying not to look poor. At LSS, children can pick out clothing that is gently used and sometimes new for each season of the year. Thanks to individual donors and companies, clothing is available year-round to help meet the needs of our struggling families. Ultimately when kids are prepared for school, which includes having appropriate supplies and clothing, they do much better academically, and have the mental attitude to succeed.

Early Literacy

Children in our Family Immigration Services program, Life Connections program, and Marian House programs, specifically Life Support Services and those who frequent the Soup Kitchen Family Dining room are part of CC Early Literacy project where children ages birth to 5 receive appropriate books to take home to begin their home library. These children also participate in Reading Circles where volunteers read age appropriate books to the group. During English as a Second Language classes, student's children receive free childcare with a literacy component in addition to the free books and Reading Circles.

CC is proud of the programs that help prepare children not only for school, but for life. We also offer English as a Second Language classes to help immigrants become better versed in English, which helps them build confidence in communicating and assimilating in our community.

Volunteer

Volunteers are always needed to help with these programs. If you are interested in participating in the Early Literacy project, call 719-866-6535. To volunteer in the ESL program, call 719-866-6516.



EVAN KENDRICK FROM PIKES PEAK LIBRARY DISTRICT READS TO CHILDREN IN CATHOLIC CHARITIES' FAMILY IMMIGRATION SERVICES PROGRAM. READING CIRCLES ARE PART OF THE PROGRAM.



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LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES SUMMER FLING

Marian House Life Support Services held the Summer Fling providing children an opportunity to build friendships and enjoy fellowship while enjoying the mini carnival! Thirty adults and eighty-nine children attended the three-hour event and participated in face painting, games, and a coloring contest. Over 500 prizes were distributed and every child left a winner. Some of the parents said it was like Christmas in July and now their kids had a special event to talk about when they returned to school.



AYERIM - 7, AISLYN - 10, & YANNIN - 5
 STAND IN LINE FOR "GO-FISH."

Critical Needs:

MARIAN HOUSE

- SOUP KITCHEN
 GROUND BEEF, HAM, METAL SPOONS, CREAMER, SPICES, PASTA, #10 CANS OF VEGETABLES & FRUIT, PAPER PRODUCTS (PLATES, CUPS, NAPKINS), SANDWICH SIZE STORAGE BAGS, LAUNDRY DETERGENT
- LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES
 BABY LOTION, SHAMPOO, DIAPER RASH CREAMS, SIZE 4 & 5 DIAPERS, BABY FORMULA, MATERNITY WEAR, NEW TOYS AGES 1 - 17
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES
 CANNED FRUITS & VEGETABLES, NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS, DISHES/POTS & PANS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, WORKING VEHICLES
- CLIENT SERVICES
 MEN'S AND WOMEN'S: SOCKS, JEANS, SMALL UNDERWEAR, XXX T-SHIRTS, COATS, SWEATSHIRTS, FLEECE JACKETS, HYGIENE ITEMS, TOILET PAPER



KIT CARSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF' REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RED CROSS AND CC.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Catholic Charities (CC) is leading the launch of the Diocese of Colorado Springs disaster planning effort and is creating plans that will enable the diocese to respond to emergencies and disaster situations throughout the 10-county region. Meetings have already taken place to help facilitate disaster plans in Cheyenne, Kit Carson, and El Paso counties to plan and prepare for disaster. In June, CC staff members met with local service providers and County Commissioners in Kit Carson county. Disaster was fresh in their minds as they had just experienced a four day electrical outage due to storms that knocked out power lines. More to come in the next few months as plans progress to include more outlying counties.

Be Disaster Aware, Take Action To Prepare! September is National Preparedness Month. Look for weekly "How to Prepare for Disaster" tips on our Facebook & Twitter sites so if you are not already following us on Facebook and Twitter, "Like" and "Follow" us today!

FIS PROVIDES INFORMATION

Family Immigration Services (FIS) visited Leadville to conduct a "Know Your Rights" seminar for immigrants in the western part of the diocese. After the presentation, Catholic Charities' Board of Immigration Appeals certified counselors provided individual consultations to offer help, answer specific questions, and determine eligibility for those who can apply for legal status or immigration benefits.

FIS also hosted Eric Pavri, a local immigration lawyer, for a presentation at *Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church* for immigrants to learn about the new Colorado driver's licenses or ID card opportunity, which allows undocumented immigrants to receive these ID's under certain circumstances. To see his presentation in Spanish, go to www.youtube.com/diocswetv.



FIS STAFF: COREY ALMOND, CRISTINA PAVASARS, IVONNE BASS

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 - ESPECIALLY BABY BOARD BOOKS

FAMILY IMMIGRATION SERVICES

- NEW OR SLIGHTLY USED CHILDREN'S BOOKS, FOREIGN LANGUAGE DICTIONARIES



Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

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.

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Laura Sikes/Catholic Charities USA

Help Children Out of Poverty

In Colorado, 18% of children live in poverty. Five counties in the Diocese of Colorado Springs have higher than average child poverty rates. Please give generously *today* to Catholic Charities to help children receive the support they need.

To Donate

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



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