Jeff Zearfoss, a Catholic Charities volunteer since 2005, was named Catholic Charities USA Volunteer of the Year. CCUSA issued a statement which said, "CCUSA and the Volunteer Management Network review committees were very impressed with Jeff’s long-term dedication to your organization as well as the innovative ways he serves.” As part of this award, Jeff will attend the CCUSA Annual Gathering to be recognized at the awards dinner, on September 12, 2018 in Buffalo, New York.

"Jeff has been an inspiration to many in our organization,” said Andy Barton, CEO of Catholic Charities. From leading the Marian House Soup Kitchen Wednesday volunteer group, to collaborating with us on social enterprise, helping us provide over 4,500 meals during the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires, and his own personal commitment to local nonprofits, he has shown how deeply committed he is to helping others in our community.”

Congratulations Jeff!
"For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: we should love one another. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth."

(1 John 3:11,16-18)

Stacie moved to Colorado to make a new life for herself with a newborn son and fiancé after losing her home to Hurricane Katrina. For a time, she was happy and somewhat stable. Then things began to fall apart. When Stacie’s fiancé pushed her from a moving car she says, “That’s when I knew I had to leave.”

This was not her first experience with abuse. Stacie had been abused as a child and the most recent abuse set off a series of emotions that resulted in her being diagnosed with PTSD. ‘This led to her leaving her position as a caregiver and ultimately qualifying for disability. During this time she turned to alcohol.

She was in an accident which totaled her vehicle, leaving her without transportation. She was so overwhelmed that she surrendered her youngest child, River, to the foster care system anyway.” When she found Catholic Charities, her life began to change.

Part of Stacie’s success is the support of her mentor team through Family Connections. They help with social, emotional and financial planning support. Stacie says, “One of the biggest things that the Family Mentor Alliance does is to make sure that God willing, it [becoming homeless] doesn’t happen again. You have people that care. That’s the biggest gift in all of this.”

Mom Overcomes Abuse to Provide Family Stability

SUCCESS

to us is making a difference in the lives of thousands of families and individuals over the past 50 years

Invest in Success. Donate today by calling 719-866-6422 or online at CCharitiesCC.org

Providing Help. Creating Hope.
On March 17, Catholic Charities held the St. Patrick’s Day Gala - the most successful in its 17 years! On the glamorous green and gold evening, over $350,000 was raised, surpassing last year’s achievement by $40,000!

Not only was the live auction as exciting as ever, with energetic bidding wars for almost every item, the silent and super-silent auctions were filled with marvelous items as well - and every single item was sold!

We couldn’t have asked for a better way to kick off our 50th anniversary and we couldn’t have done it without our wonderful gala patrons, our gracious sponsors, our incredible committee, our board of directors, and our dedicated staff. A special thank you to our four co-chairs: Vicki Dimond, Judy McCarty, Becky Sobral and Honorary Chair, Margaret Sabin.

Thank you! Look for a Gala slideshow in the coming weeks at CCharitiesCC.org/stpatsgala

June 2008 - the new Marian House Soup Kitchen opened. It is hard to believe that only 10 short years ago the old Victorian building was demolished and this new, more functional and efficient kitchen was completed. It was a proud day - over 600 people turned out to enjoy a pancake breakfast, listen to the First Presbyterian Church Choir, and participate in the ribbon cutting. One year later in June 2009, the Hanifen Center for Self Sufficiency, the remainder of the Marian House complex, was completed.

But Catholic Charities' (CC) Marian House history really began 24 years ago, in September 1994, whenCC took over soup kitchen operations from the Bijou Community, who had operated the kitchen in all the previous locations. Since that time, over 4.2 million meals have been served with the support of thousands of volunteers donating millions of volunteer hours. The Marian House is truly a community-wide ministry.

2018 is the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Catholic Charities Castle Rock office, which opened in May 2013. At that time, CC was providing English as a Second Language classes, Parish Social Ministry, and Community Outreach Services in the Northern Deanery area. Today, in addition to those services, CC provides Immigration support, Family, Individual, Couples, and Adolescent Counseling, intensive wrap-around services as a Family Facilitator with Douglas County Cares, food box support, and so much more.

Nineteen years ago in July 1999, Catholic Charities merged with The Life Support Center. That program grew and thrived, first at the Pastoral Center, then at the Marian House Hanifen Center once that building was completed. Most recently, it became part of Catholic Charities Family Connections, now located at the Helen Hunt Campus. While no longer called the Life Support Center, as part of the larger Family Connections program, services for pregnant women and families with infants and small children are still readily available as part of a much larger plan of helping families reach stability.

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NEWS

Jobs Program Hits 300 Jobs Filled!
Another milestone - 300 jobs filled through the Life Skills & Career Development Center (LSCDC) since the program began in July 2015 and for the past two years. 100 jobs have been filled every 9 months! At the fair on April 4, eight clients received interviews and many more met with employers. The next job fair is scheduled for October 2018, but the next hiring event is May 16 at the Marian House.

Bunco Babes Support Family Connections
Bunco Babes is a group of women who regularly get together to play Bunco and support local organizations. Catholic Charities has been a recipient of their generosity for 10 years. The ladies purchase new clothes that are given to struggling families through the Kidz Klozet, where most of the clothing is gently used. This is such a great gift for our families and very appreciated! Thank you!

Current Volunteer Needs
Volunteers are needed in the Soup Kitchen, Family Connections, Client Services, English as a Second Language, English as a Second Language is Needed for ESL Classes and in Castle Rock. Call 719-866-6516 or email VolunteerOffice@CCharitiesCC.org to get involved!

Parenting Classes
Life Connections offers free Childbirth Classes for expecting mothers. Next class is scheduled: June 7: 1 - 4 p.m. Call 719-866-6535 to register.

Catholic Charities Castle Rock Office Surpasses 100 Counseling Sessions
Castle Rock Counseling Services have reached a milestone - over 100 sessions have been provided through this program. The Castle Rock counseling program began in late 2016 as a one day a week pilot program with a counselor based in the Colorado Springs office. Today, two part-time counselors provide individual, marital/premarital, family and child/adolescent counseling for the Douglas, Elbert and Park Counties, five days a week. Counseling services are provided on a sliding fee scale, based on income and size. This is just one of the programs provided by Catholic Charities Castle Rock office to help families and individuals move toward stability and thrive.

Coffee for a Cause
Hey Coffee Lovers (& everyone else)!
Story Coffee Company is donating 5 percent of all in 2018 sales to benefit the Marian House Soup Kitchen. They listened to their homeless neighbors in Acacia Park when asked, “Who helps you the most?” and repeatedly heard, “The Marian House!” They hope to contribute $10,000 by year-end. THANK YOU Story Coffee Company. You are truly making this community a better place. Story Coffee is located at 120 E. Bijou next to Acacia Park.

Playgroup a Hit!
A new program - Playgroup - was introduced by Family Connections at the Helen Hunt Campus. It was an instant hit and a second playgroup began to accommodate the waiting list. This is just one of several family-centric programs available at Family Connections. Other programs include: Love and Logic Parenting classes, Childbirth classes, Parenting the Go, Mothers & Babies, Parenting the Nurturing Way, the Early Literacy Project, Bright by Three and Vroom. For more information, call 719-578-1222

Save the Date
Social Action Gathering Planned for September
Mark your calendars now for the Social Action Gathering, planned for Sept. 15 at St. Peter Catholic Church in Monument. The day will begin with Bishop Sheridan celebrating Mass followed by breakout sessions and lunch. As details become solidified, they will be posted on our website: CCharitiesCC.org/events or call 719-866-6510.

Catholic Charities has been a recipient of the Marian House Soup Kitchen. They listened to their homeless neighbors in Acacia Park when asked, “Who helps you the most?” and repeatedly heard, “The Marian House!” They hope to contribute $10,000 by year-end. THANK YOU Story Coffee Company. You are truly making this community a better place. Story Coffee is located at 120 E. Bijou next to Acacia Park.

Careers at a Best Workplace
Want a career at a Best Workplace in Colorado Springs? Catholic Charities posts current job offerings at CCharitiesCC.org/about-us/employment. Check us out!

April Was Volunteer Month!
Did you know that in the FY2016-2017 our volunteers donated 92,911 volunteer hours. That equals $2,412,899 in kind donations! Volunteers take on a variety of jobs, including preparing and serving food in the soup kitchen, sorting donations, working with clients, and teaching English. Some volunteers come in for special projects or work on our St. Patrick’s Day Gala Committee! Every volunteer is as important and special as the next!

Follow Our Blog!
The Catholic Charities Blog is a collection of work and ideas from our Catholic Charities’ team. This year articles from the Catholic Herald will also be featured celebrating our 50 years of serving the community.

Donate Online @ CCharitiesCC.Org/Donate

Thank you!
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.