Since moving into the Helen Hunt Campus, Family Connections has expanded programming to meet the needs of new and current clients. Recently, PLAYGROUP was started as a 2Gen approach to organized, free literacy education. The group was so popular, almost immediately a second group was formed, and there will possibly be a third group later this year.

HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters), a free program for 3-year-old children aimed at preparing them for Preschool, is just starting at the campus. It takes only 15 minutes a day for parents to work with their child to help them prepare for school.

A collaboration with Mitchell High School, the Siemer Institute for Family Stability, School District 11, and Pikes Peak United Way will allow Catholic Charities to have a Life Coach on site at Mitchell High School to help students and their families find stability and achieve student success. Studies show that families in poverty transfer schools more often, which negatively impacts student success.

The availability of programs and services through Family Connections is growing every month. If you have not had a chance to stop by Family Connections at the Helen Hunt Campus, tours are held on the first Friday of each month. Go to www.CCharitiesCC.org/tours and sign up!
The annual point-in-time survey is a national data gathering exercise engaging hundreds of volunteers who fan out across the community to survey and “count” the number of people who are experiencing homelessness. In Colorado Springs, the results of this count over the past 5 years have been discouraging: the total number of homeless has increased by 32% since 2013. This year’s count puts the number at 1,551. The number of adults who are homeless rose by 45% and of those, the number who were unsheltered jumped from 199 in 2013 to 457 this year - an increase of 130%. That number alone provides statistical validation for the perception that there are more people living outside in our community.

There was, however, encouraging data in this year’s report. The one category of homeless individuals that went down from 2017 to 2018 was children under the age of 18. Of this population, there was an 18% decrease, moving from 282 to 231. Even more exciting is the fact that last year’s survey found 23 children who were unsheltered and that number was down to 9 this year.

At Catholic Charities, we are cautiously optimistic about what this means. In 2016, we made the decision to increase our focus and resources around family homelessness. In partnership with Family Promise, we opened a Family Day Center at the Marian House. Since then, we have worked with the City of Colorado Springs, the Police Department and the El Pomar Foundation to make motel vouchers available to unsheltered families in the winter months. We took over the operation of Family Mentor Alliance, a program that the Springs Rescue Mission had fostered and housed from its inception. And in December 2017, with the support of generous donors, the Lane Foundation and First Presbyterian Church, we opened Family Connections at the Helen Hunt Campus. Bringing all of our support services together under one roof and being located next door to CPCD / Head Start, Family Connections is a lighthouse for families experiencing homelessness and vulnerability.

We have been able to make these changes because of the philanthropic investment of individual donors, organizations, churches, and foundations. Equally important are the partners we have had in this work. In addition to those already mentioned, Partners in Housing and the Salvation Army have filled critical gaps in housing, shelter, and services for families. With all of these agencies working together and the philanthropic support, we all have achieved something to be proud of: our community has reduced the number of children who are homeless.

What we cannot do now is stand down; instead, we take this data as a sign to invest more. One homeless child is too many and 231 homeless children is heartbreaking; but it’s not overwhelming. With continued work and continued support, Catholic Charities and our allies have hope that we can eliminate homelessness for children in our community.

“We have achieved something to be proud of: our community has reduced the number of children who are homeless.”

SUCCESS

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

50 Years of Hope
1968 - 2018

Invest in Success. Donate today by calling 719-866-6422 or online at CCharitiesCC.org
Mom Makes ESL Classes a Family Affair

Three years ago, Magaly picked up a flier for an English as a Second Language (ESL) class offered through Catholic Charities. She knew that learning more English would help her family achieve their goals, including obtaining citizenship, but she was concerned about childcare and how she was going to juggle work and school with taking care of a family. Childcare had not been an option at any of the other ESL classes she’d researched, but when she found out that her children would be able to attend an Early Literacy Program while she was in ESL classes, she decided to sign up.

For Magaly, Catholic Charities provided the perfect combination of services: classes that worked with her family’s schedule, a safe place for her children to continue focusing on their education, and a way to learn more about obtaining U.S. Citizenship. She began attending classes in the evening twice a week, where she learned about “pronunciation and studied social studies, economics, and math.” With the help of her ESL teachers, Magaly’s English improved tremendously and she decided to pursue her broader goal; U.S. Citizenship. That’s when she decided to register for a Citizenship Class that was also offered through Catholic Charities.

In Citizenship Classes, teachers continued to work with her on speaking and pronunciation, while also helping her prepare for the Citizenship exam by covering some of the harder exam questions. She said, "the class made her realize that continuing her English education was the best way to prepare for citizenship."

Magaly’s husband, Pedro, began taking ESL classes shortly after Magaly and has plans to begin the Citizenship Class as well. He said the classes have helped him not only at work, but even in his own home. Pedro’s interactions with co-workers have become easier, he has a fuller understanding of his job, and he can understand his children, who speak primarily English, better too. ESL classes have helped both Magaly and Pedro become more involved in their children’s education and in their lives. Letters home have become easier to read, they can speak with teachers and fellow parents, hold conversations with their children, and help with homework assignments when the need arises. Their children’s homework even helps Magaly and Pedro improve their own English and now they can continue to support their children’s education outside of the classroom.

Magaly and Pedro understand the importance of education for everyone and they know that Catholic Charities has been an integral part of their road to success. They are so grateful that they donate to the Marian House as a way of giving back to the community that is helping them.

Magaly and Pedro have been legal residents pursuing a path of U.S. Citizenship for 14 years and they have never stopped pursuing their dreams. In April, Magaly became an official U.S. Citizen and Pedro continues to pursue citizenship himself. They found that education and learning English are essential components to their success, and the Catholic Charities’ ESL Program and the Citizenship Class have been crucial steps along the way.

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Education was the key to help Magaly’s family achieve their goals. She became a U.S. Citizen on April 16, 2018.
Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

50th Anniversary Events

Join us on Saturday, September 15, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Peter's Catholic Church for Catholic Charities Social Action Gathering: A Cup of Water.

Keynote Speaker
Ralph McCloud

AGENDA

Opening Mass
Officiated by Most Reverend Michael J. Sheridan

Addressing Basic Needs
Serving those on the Margins, One Cup at a Time

Spiritual & Emotional Care
Accompanying Our Brothers & Sisters through Life’s Deserts & Storms

Building Bridges throughout the Community
Networking with Other Churches & Local Organizations

Reaching the Immigrant Community
Journeying with those who Thirst for a New Beginning

Our Ethnic Diversity
Tapping the Springs of a Rich Catholic Tradition

As Director of the CCHD - Catholic Campaign for Human Development - McCloud oversees CCHD work to break the cycle of poverty by helping low-income people participate in decisions that affect their lives.

Whether deeply involved in social ministry or new, we hope you can join us!
Registration: $10. Register online at CCharitiesCC.org/cup-of-water or call Corey Almond: 719.866.6510

Please join us for the annual

Catholic Charities Mass
October 25, 2018
St. Mary Cathedral
12:10 pm
celebrating the work of
Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

A light lunch will follow in Cathedral Hall

RSVP to Corey Almond at 719.866.6510
Over the past three years, Catholic Charities Life Skills & Career Development Center (LSCDC) has helped individuals with high barriers to employment, including criminal records, mental health, substance abuse issues, or those experiencing homelessness, find jobs. Since inception, the LSCDC has made over 360 job placements.

The program provides mentoring services and life skills education to help low-income clients or those experiencing homelessness achieve stable employment. Clients work with a life skills coach to improve employee readiness, job search, and interview skills, while case managers provide wraparound service to support client success. Post placement follow-ups and remediation ensure the placement is successful.

Now, the program is about to get a face-lift with the renovation of the former Life Support suite at the Hanifen Center at Marian House. New elements of the program will incorporate Peer Navigators - clients, former clients and community volunteers. They will connect clients to information, resources, and contacts; help build trusting relationships to more effectively address physical, mental, and spiritual needs; and provide the support necessary to navigate the myriad of services provided at Catholic Charities and associated community partners.

Additionally, Marian House Works!, a volunteer jobs program, offers supervised work opportunities at the Marian House to help clients build confidence with re-entering the workforce, and the soft skills necessary for successful employment. This program targets job seekers who may not be quite ready to enter the workforce in a traditional job or who may need additional practice or experience.

The computer lab will expand from five to ten computer stations and reflect a more professional, co-working environment as well as more space to conduct individualized mentoring, on-site job interviews and hiring events.

Construction is set to begin in September with completion by October. The goal is to increase the total number of clients served, obtain more job placements, increase client knowledge of community resources, engage more employers willing to accept at-risk clients, and increase the number of clients who feel more hopeful about their future.

### What a Difference A DAY MAKES!

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For just $1,500, you can provide more than 600 meals to families and individuals who are hungry.

Call 719-866-6427 to Sponsor-A-Day
**Teachers, Assistants, and Child Care Volunteers are Needed for ESL Classes**

English as a Second Language classes are preparing for the next academic year, 2018/19, and need a variety of volunteers to conduct classes for students and provide child care for children of the students. Classes are offered on several days and times. If interested, call **719-866-6516** for more information or visit our website: [CCharitiesCC.org/donate/volunteer](http://CCharitiesCC.org/donate/volunteer)

**New Refrigerated Truck gets Branding**

In December, Catholic Charities purchased a new refrigerated truck, courtesy of the Walmart Foundation. Earlier this summer, the truck was branded with a truck wrap. Once again, we thank the Walmart Foundation for supporting our Marian House mission. This truck allows staff and volunteers to pick up and deliver refrigerated foods throughout our service area. Thank You Walmart!

**Current Volunteer Needs**

Volunteers are needed in the Soup Kitchen, Family Connections, Client Services, English as a Second Language, and in Castle Rock.

**Build-A-Bear Donation**

Thank you to Build-A-Bear Workshop for donating 120 adorable teddy bears, which are being given to children in our programs. We have seen lots of smiles when the bears have been placed in the children’s arms!

**Give Where You Live!**

Catholic Charities will participate in Colorado Gives Day® on Tuesday, December 4th. Donations are matched by a million-dollar fund donated by Community First Foundation and FirstBank to celebrate and increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. This incentive fund is one of the largest giving-day incentive funds in the country. **Pre-schedule your donation now to support Catholic Charities and our work.**

**Shop for a Cause**

The Outlets at Castle Rock are hosting a Shopping Extravaganza to support charity on September 15th from 10 - 6 pm. Cost is $30/ticket - $20 will be given to the charity of your choice. It includes special discounts, lunch, dessert bar, wine tasting, musical entertainment, a massage, and more. To purchase tickets, go to: [https://www.outletsatcastlerock.com/event](https://www.outletsatcastlerock.com/event) and look for Shopping Extravaganza.
Siemer Institute Collaborates with Catholic Charities

Through a partnership between the Siemer Institute for Family Stability and Pikes Peak United Way, Catholic Charities has been chosen to implement a grant that will help provide stability for students and their families at Mitchell High School. The grant will put a Catholic Charities Family Life Coach on the Mitchell High School campus to address economic and family instability, which disrupts student learning. Key partners in this relationship are School District 11, Mitchell High School staff, and Pikes Peak United Way. The 2Gen/Family Support Services model will address immediate concerns facing the families to promote student success. The goal is: Stable Homes, Thriving Families, and Successful Students.

HIPPY

A Free Program for Kids 3 Years Old

HIPPY - Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, includes 30 weekly lesson packets to help parents teach their child; children’s books, crayons, scissors, and shapes; and monthly parent group meetings are provided. Offered through our Family Connections department, this is the perfect program to help you make your child successful in school. All it takes is 15 minutes a day!

For more information, call 719-309-2974

Empty Stocking Fund to Begin on Thanksgiving Day

Catholic Charities is excited to be part of the Empty Stocking Fund (ESF) Community Fundraising event along with 19 other agencies. ESF has a new mission statement:

Empty Stocking Fund sparks the giving spirit of the Pikes Peak region to benefit local nonprofits serving neighbors in need.

Look for posts and other information under #sparkthegivingspirit

Peer Navigator Program

This exciting new program develops peer mentors to engage and guide at-risk populations to needed services within the Marian House and with community partners. The project trains clients, former clients, and community volunteers to be able to connect clients to information, resources, and contacts. The first class of navigators completed training and are actively working as Peer Navigators. Currently the project supports eight navigators who provide outreach at the Marian House, Salvation Army and Pikes Peak Library Distract.

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!

Take a “Touch the Need” Tour

First Friday Tour at Catholic Charities

Family Connections: 9 a.m.
917 E. Moreno Avenue.

Marian House Services: 10 a.m.
14 W. Bijou Street.
Register online for these tours at www.CCharitiesCC.org/tours

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.

CCharitiesCC.org/Blog
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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Drop donations at the Marian House Dock Monday - Saturday, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Material Goods: 719-866-6281
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Other Ways to Give
#30738

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Colorado Springs, CO 80903
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Castle Rock Office
210 Fifth Street, #100
Castle Rock, CO 80104
T: 720-215-4521

The Marian House
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Colorado Springs, CO 80903
T: 719-475-7314  F: 719-633-0289

Helen Hunt Campus
917 E. Moreno Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
T: 719-578-1222