JOBS PROGRAM BUILDS ON SUCCESS

The Life Skills & Career Development Center, a job coaching and placement program for individuals and families who are low-income, at risk, or experiencing homelessness, will triple its space in the Hanifen Center at Marian House. The program, which provides job skills training, financial literacy, and economic stability, began in 2015, and has placed clients in 346 jobs to date, with 145 placements just last year. Visit CCharitiesCC.org to read more.
From the CEO - Andy Barton

“Which is the first of all commandments?” Jesus replied. “The first is this: ‘Here, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:28-31)

When I began working at Catholic Charities four years ago, the firsthand exposure to the complexity of poverty overwhelmed me. Like so many people who see it only from a distance or read about it in newspapers, I was guilty of oversimplifying the conditions and history that our poor have experienced. Since those first days on the job, I have thought about poverty, in some way, almost daily. I have watched how our community, government, and church help – and hinder – our poor. I honestly do not know whether I understand poverty more or less as a result.

This month’s newsletter highlights the complicated reality. Russell’s story on the next page is a case in point. We try to share these stories with you to spotlight the success that we see our clients achieve; Russell’s story on the next page is a case in point. We try to share these stories with you to spotlight the success that we see our clients achieve.

As a good student from an upper middle class family, Russell never expected to find himself living on the streets, but when he began drinking at the age of 16, alcohol began to consume his life. While he made it into college, he soon dropped out due to his addiction. When I began working at Catholic Charities four years ago, the firsthand exposure to the complexity of poverty overwhelmed me. Like so many people who see it only from a distance or read about it in newspapers, I was guilty of oversimplifying the conditions and history that our poor have experienced. Since those first days on the job, I have thought about poverty, in some way, almost daily. I have watched how our community, government, and church help – and hinder – our poor. I honestly do not know whether I understand poverty more or less as a result.

Russell decided he needed a fresh start and came to Colorado Springs. He attempted to transfer his law license, but was still caught in the cycle of addiction. After being arrested for shoplifting, his application for a Colorado law license was suspended and his plans were ruined. He knew sobriety was the only way to get back on his feet, and he knew he would need help. Russell knew he needed to make a permanent change in his life. He remembered how the staff at Catholic Charities had seen him as an individual and went out of their way to help him succeed, so he asked the staff at Catholic Charities for help once again. They provided bus tickets, food, clothing for interviews, job hunting assistance, and the necessities they knew he needed to gain stability once again.

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From the Streets to Stability

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“When a person is truly ready to change, Catholic Charities will provide everything you need to change your life,” said Russell. “They saw me as an individual and not just another number or allotment. If I could show that I was taking the steps to get a job, they would get me what I needed to succeed and soften the blow to potential employers about me being homeless.”

Russell said, “Catholic Charities staff have been great, positive role models,” and have been a crucial part of him achieving stability in his life. He now attends church multiple times every week, is back in AA meetings, and was able to secure a job working in construction. He recently moved out of the shelter and into a rented room, and hopes to hold his current job for the next year to demonstrate reliability. Eventually he wants to utilize his law degree in some capacity and is hopeful for the future.
Ways to Give

Want to support Catholic Charities? The best way is by check or credit card donation, but there are several community efforts as well.

**STATE INCOME TAX CREDITS**

Colorado Gives is a year-round event, but the big day is December 4, when all donations made in a 24 hour period receive a percentage of a million dollar match. Any donations made on this day go further and work harder. Visit [https://www.coloradogives.org/](https://www.coloradogives.org/)

Catholic Charities encourages you to consult with your attorney, estate or financial planner, or accountant. If you do not currently work with someone, we can provide you with a list of options.

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**CFC and CCC are both government employee giving programs. CFC is federal and CCC is a state program.** To learn more, visit [CFCGiving.org](http://CFCGiving.org) or [ColoradoCombinedCampaign.org](http://ColoradoCombinedCampaign.org).

In October, the City of Colorado Springs unveiled their 2018/19 Action Plan for Homelessness Response. The goal is to make homelessness “a rare, brief, and non-recurring” issue for anyone who is at risk.

The eight-point plan includes education, increasing low barrier shelter beds by 370, implementing a Homeless Outreach Court, establishing a veterans fund, developing affordable housing, supporting a homeless work program, camp cleanups, and creation of an Ambassador Team. What it does not include is any support for families who are homeless.

Families have unique needs, especially those with young children. There is a considerable population within Colorado Springs who experience homelessness while living as a family. As a consequence, children are often forced to live on the street or in a shelter without a stable lifestyle, and are subjected to a variety of trauma. They end up sacrificing education along with other basic needs, laying the groundwork to perpetuate the cycle of generational poverty.

Andy Barton, CEO of Catholic Charities, said, “Family homelessness is a hidden issue. It is not always immediately apparent within a community because it is much less common for a family to engage in activities such as soliciting or sleeping outside. Often it takes the form of drifting from one place to another, couch-surfing, moving from motel to motel, or living in a vehicle.”

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

**WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES!**

**City Homelessness Plan**

Catholic Charities, along with several other partners, is advocating for a ninth point to be added to the plan, calling for an increase in family overnight shelter beds by 20, as well as adding 40 transitional housing units. Family poverty and homelessness remains a persistent issue that has a real, generational, impact on homelessness within the broader community. It deserves a place in the City’s plan.

**LEAVING YOUR LEGACY**

Sustain the work you believe in with a legacy gift to Catholic Charities. Your gift will help families and individuals in the future.

A gift through your estate helps ensure Catholic Charities can provide services to families and individuals in times of need. Your legacy gift can support Catholic Charities overall or be designated to the program of your choice.

For more information about planning legacy gifts to benefit Catholic Charities, contact Sarah Tremmel at stremmel@CCharitiesCC.org or (719) 866-6440.

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

As 1 of 20 Empty Stocking Fund (ESF) agencies, Catholic Charities is fortunate to benefit from donations to the fund and is involved with numerous ESF events throughout the holiday season. Visit [fillanemptystocking.org](http://fillanemptystocking.org) for more information.

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Catholic Charities has several special Colorado State Income Tax Credits available through donations to several of our programs.

**El Paso County Enterprise Zone**

Make a minimum $250 donation by check to any Marian House program to qualify for a 25 percent state income tax credit. Checks must be payable to “El Paso County Enterprise Zone” with “Marian House” in the memo line to be eligible. The county will require the last four digits of your Social Security number.

**Colorado State Child Care Contribution**

Make any donation by check or credit card to the Colorado State Child Care Contribution and qualify for a 50 percent tax credit. If you choose to donate by credit card, please visit our website at [CCharitiesCC.org](http://CCharitiesCC.org). If donating by check, please note “Child Care Contribution” in the memo line. Please mail or deliver checks to Catholic Charities, 228 N Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

For more information and to take advantage of these tax credits, visit [CCharitiesCC.org/donate](http://CCharitiesCC.org/donate).

Thank you for considering Catholic Charities of Central Colorado in your end of year giving! Our offices will be closed December 31, but donations can be made online or by mail – postmarked by December 31. Stock transfers, IRA distributions, and Qualified Charitable Distributions can offer significant tax benefits while supporting your favorite charity.

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**STATE INCOME TAX CREDITS**

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Providing Help. Creating Hope.
In just the past five years, Catholic Charities (CC) has outgrown two offices – one in St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, the other in downtown Castle Rock. Now located in a larger space at 410 South Wilcox Street, the move allows CC to meet the growing need for assistance in Douglas County.

The new space will allow CC to continue working on innovative and collaborative solutions that go beyond the traditional “hand-outs” and address the root causes of poverty. Critical collaborations with the county and other human service providers and a team approach were considerations in the move, particularly the ability to co-locate with Tri-County Health and Alternatives Pregnancy Center.

Last year 635 households were served in the Castle Rock office, which reflects a 150 percent growth in families served each month in just the past three years. Established programs such as English as a Second Language classes, emergency services, and a furniture outreach program are a few of the original programs and are still available. However, extensive case management, counseling services, and specialty outreach programs such as winter coats, Thanksgiving turkeys, and the Christmas Giving Tree give families a sense of normalcy while they work with their case manager to pursue stability.

Case management is a key component to ensure clients start and continue down a path to stability. The theory is if agencies can provide wrap-around services within the case management structure, families will gain stability more rapidly and for the long term.

Catholic Charities was a founding partner and serves in an administrative and case management capacity with Douglas County Cares (DCC), a program that provides wrap-around services and some affordable housing for families experiencing homelessness or poverty. Catholic Charities is also a primary referring agency for the Winter Shelter Network in Douglas County.

The need in Douglas County is clear, and the move to larger offices ensures Catholic Charities will have the programs and services to continue to help families for years to come.

Shoes & Coats for Kids @ Family Connections

Children in the Family Connections programs received a great gift this year: new coats and shoes. In partnership with the Knights of Columbus, children received new coats November 12 during the annual Coats for Kids distribution. Area Knights of Columbus chapters have collaborated with Catholic Charities for many years to distribute new coats. Then, in early December, children were able to pick out a pair of new shoes for Christmas. This is such a gift as struggling families can rarely afford to purchase new shoes. For young developing children, it is particularly important for them to wear shoes that mold to their feet to develop properly. Thank you for supporting children this holiday season!

Join us for Las Posadas

Las Posadas is a traditional Hispanic celebration where all are welcome! It is a re-enactment of the journey of Mary and Joseph looking for a place for Jesus to be born, and symbolizes the difficult journey of migrant families. The event will be held on December 14 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. There is no cost to attend. Dinner and entertainment will be provided and donations will be accepted. Learn more at CCharitiesCC.org/event/las-posadas

Donate Online @ CCharitiesCC.Org/Donate

Get Your Tickets For The St. Patrick’s Day Gala

Join us for this year’s St. Pats Gala, held on March 16, 2019 at Cheyenne Mountain Resort from 5:30 - 9 p.m. Tickets are now available for purchase at CCharitiesCC.org/stpatsgala where you can learn more about the event.

Thank You Safeway

For the sixth year, Safeway and its customers opened their hearts to families in need, donating 1,230 complete meals including a turkey breast, stuffing, gravy and mashed potatoes. One mom said, “Last year we made potato salad and green beans. ‘That’s all we had. We are looking forward to having a turkey with all the trimmings this year!’ Thank you Safeway. You make a huge difference in the lives of those in our community!

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.

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Special State Income Tax Credits
Enterprise Zone 25%
Check donations to Marian House of $250 or more
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Other Ways
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• Sponsor-A-Day at Marian House
• Tribute Gifts – In Honor or Memory
• Planned Giving or Estate Planning
• Employer Matching Gifts

Monetary Donations & Tax Credits:
719-866-6422 or 719-866-6440

Material Donations

Food: Spoons, ground beef, hot chocolate, spices, canned vegetables, nondairy (powdered) coffee creamer
Infants & Children: Size 5 diapers
Layette items: Newborn sleepers and onesies (neutral colors), Newborn pacifiers
Home & Transportation: Dishes, pots & pans, working vehicles, grocery store and gas gift cards
Clothing & Essentials: XL+ sweatshirts & hoodies, Men’s/women’s underwear, ladies socks, gloves, beanie caps, blankets, razors, shaving cream, and deodorant

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

Material Goods: 719-866-6281
Vehicles: 719-229-9942

Thank You Grantors!
El Paso County FEMA
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Thank You Volunteers!
You mean the world to us. Thank you for your gifts of time, treasure, and talent.
We could not do it without you!

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