Helping Hands
Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

Hanifen Employment Center Opens

The Life Skills & Career Development Center has officially changed its name to the Hanifen Employment Center (HEC) and is located on the first floor at the Hanifen Center at Marian House (previously Life Support Center location). The Center opened Feb. 1 with triple the space which provides a training room, more offices for 1:1 coaching and interviews, a partner agency office, and an expanded computer center.

A dynamic team, headed by Michael Branscum - Director of Income & Relief Services, Joy Roane - Vocational Counselor, Sarah Kersey - Client Advocate, and a HEC Manager, will build HEC program resources, the Marian House Works! vocational training program, and employer partnerships to fulfill the vision for the HEC. A team of volunteers will be integral to the daily work of the center, particularly with computer training and reception support.

Many thanks to the El Pomar Foundation, the Estate of Laura Everitt, Downtown Rotary Club, Amnet, and Firma IT Solutions & Services for providing funds and in-kind donations to help with this expansion.

Catholic Charities jobs program began in 2015, and to date, 407 jobs have been filled. With a focus on employing clients with some of the highest barriers to work, we are committed to placing 160 more clients in jobs during 2019.
From the CEO - Andy Barton

“Politics, though often denigrated, remains a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good.”

Pope Francis

Throughout the final two months of 2018, the City of Colorado Springs hosted six town hall meetings at various locations across the city. The intent was to present and gather feedback for a document to address homelessness. The eight point “Action Plan for Homelessness Response” was drafted by the staff in Mayor John Suthers’ office and, with the support of some on City Council, is a response to one of the most frequent complaints the city receives: homelessness.

Catholic Charities staff were present at all of the meetings both to learn and to advocate for the addition of language addressing family homelessness, which was absent in the first draft. Working in collaboration with Partners in Housing, Family Promise and The Salvation Army, we called for explicit attention to the often hidden issue of family homelessness in the Pikes Peak Region. Early in December, before the final three town hall meetings were held, city leadership approved the addition of a ninth point to the Action Plan specifically addressing families experiencing homelessness. We saw it as a win for families, but also as an example of good politics.

More will be out in the months to come about the City’s Action Plan. As a supporter of the people we serve at Catholic Charities, I would encourage you to make yourself aware of the Action Plan. As a supporter of the people we serve at Catholic Charities, I would encourage you to make yourself aware of the Action Plan. As a supporter of the people we serve at Catholic Charities, I would encourage you to make yourself aware of the Action Plan. As a supporter of the people we serve at Catholic Charities, I would encourage you to make yourself aware of the Action Plan. As a supporter of the people we serve at Catholic Charities, I would encourage you to make yourself aware of the Action Plan.

Judy Overcomes Homelessness to Rebuild Her Life

Judy had a “normal” life. She had worked in inventory control for 17 years when her company asked her to come in on her day off to fill in for a co-worker. That day, while in a company van, the driver had an epileptic seizure. The van rolled and Judy lost consciousness. She woke up in the hospital, after being in an induced coma for weeks. Her doctor said, “Welcome to your new life.”

In addition to her broken body, Judy had suffered a traumatic brain injury. She spent nearly three years recovering and trying to cope with her disabilities: she had to learn how to walk, talk, and live again. She says, “I can remember things that happened 20 years ago, but not yesterday.” The brain injury affects her short-term memory, preventing her from holding steady employment.

After her therapy was complete, her son who lived in Colorado, invited her to live with him and help out with the grandkids. However, when she and her son had a falling out, Judy had to leave. With nowhere to go and no work, she became homeless in the middle of the Colorado winter in February 2016.

Judy said it was a stressful experience. At first, it was difficult to even process the shift from a stable and secure lifestyle to one that was traumatic and isolating. She sat at Penrose Library for hours doing nothing - overwhelmed by what to do and how to start building a new life. “I was in a fog for the first month. I began coming to the Marian House for meals and slowly built relationships with other people in the community.”

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Dust off your lucky shamrocks - it’s time for the St. Patrick’s Day Gala! Join us for a fun evening of fine dining, live and silent auctions, entertainment, and a night of fun, all hosted at the beautiful Cheyenne Mountain Resort. Club St. Pat’s was such a hit last year, with live music by One More Shot and dancing in a nightclub atmosphere, we are offering it again!

We welcome Lisa Lyden this year as the Mistress of Ceremonies, who will pair up with our favorite auctioneer - Kevin Patterson of The Patterson Group - to conduct the live and paddle auctions.

Thank you to our sponsors, committee members, volunteers, donors, and attendees for making this event a success! There will once again be fabulous auction items including trips, spectacular jewelry, and fine dining opportunities.

Buy Tickets or Tables: Host your friends or invite a special someone for a one-of-a-kind St. Patrick’s Day celebration. Tables of 10 cost $1,500, individual tickets are $150, or purchase a sponsorship. Tickets include a seated gourmet dinner, wine, welcome Champagne, and entrance into Club St. Pat’s. Go to CChari tiesCC.org/StPatsGala for tickets and more information. Hope to see you there!

In December, the City of Colorado Springs added a ninth point focusing on family homelessness to the proposed “Action Plan for Homeless Response.” The effort to include families in the City’s comprehensive plan to address homelessness was spearheaded by a Homeless Family Solutions Collaborative, comprised of Catholic Charities, Partners in Housing, and Family Promise. This collaborative presented a white paper on the issue of family homelessness referred to as the “20/40 Plan” and has begun work addressing a three year timeline presented within that plan. (The “20” refers to the need for 20 family shelter units and the “40” to the number of recommended family transitional housing units.)

The first major steps focus on data gathering and addressing the shortage of family shelter space. During the Point-in-Time (PIT) count of homeless individuals in the community that was just completed in January 2019, greater focus was placed on counting families through increased volunteers and outreach to new locations where homeless families are located or receive services. In addition to the expanded PIT effort, the collaborative is working to more effectively engage local school districts through their federally mandated McKinney-Vento counts, which identify homeless students.

Conversations regarding the feasibility of developing a 20 unit, single family occupancy shelter are taking place. Local agencies working with homeless families, including Catholic Charities, see this kind of shelter as a critical component to help stabilize homeless families. Currently, the only family shelter in Colorado Springs turns away an average of over 40 families per month due to a lack of appropriate space. Additionally, our current family shelter is forced to separate mothers and fathers once in the shelter due to space constraints. Adding 20 units of single occupancy family shelter would address both the community’s shortage of space as well as the current reality of separating parents/families.

The Collaborative has set a goal of late 2019 for opening this shelter, at an estimated cost of $1.5 to $2 million.
Thank you to everyone: donors, volunteers, clients, staff, employment partners, foundations, grantors, and the community for your support in 2018. We served over 31,000 unduplicated individuals with programs and services to help their families find help and hope. This would not be possible without your commitment to our mission and your generosity of time, talent and treasure. We invite you to see firsthand how your support changes lives. Visit us at CCharitiesCC.org/get-informed/tours

CASTLE ROCK OFFICE
In our holiday issue of the Helping Hands Newsletter, we announced the move of our Castle Rock office to 410 S. Wilcox to accommodate the tremendous growth in the northern region. On Feb. 26, we will host a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House at the new facility. We invite you to join us for this special occasion. Catholic Charities staff, board members, and the Castle Rock Advisory Committee will be available to conduct tours, talk about our programming, and our vision for the future.

Current Volunteer Needs
Volunteers are needed in the Soup Kitchen, Family Connections, Client Services, English as a Second Language, Kitchen, Family Connections, Client Services, and many other supportive services. For Douglas County residents enduring hard times, a free hot meal and access to over 25 local service organizations will be available at the bi-annual Strive to Thrive fair in January. This free event provides attendees with information on where to access food and clothing, medical assistance and more, while providing an opportunity for participants to receive many of those benefits at the event. Attendees also learned about several other local non-profit organizations who are engaging with the local police. This increases FIS’s ability to serve these clients.

Save the Date
April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. April 28 will be the 4th annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Look for more details in the coming months or contact Doug Rouse at drouse@CCharitiesCC.org

Castle Rock Office Expands Counseling Services
In February, Catholic Charities Castle Rock welcomed Heart Centered Counseling in the subleased space of our new facility. This will expand counseling services available to our clients. Current services with Kelly Sheffall and Marica Frank are on a private pay basis, with Catholic Charities providing vouchers on a sliding scale for affordability. They also provide Faith-based counseling. Heart Centered Counseling accepts Medicaid and Medicare as well as all major insurance, will provide evening and Saturday hours, and have both female and male counselors, so clients will have more options in choosing the right counselor fit for them. Look for more service options in the coming months!

Citizenship Preparation Classes
Learn everything you need to know about the citizenship application process.

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

Thank You Volunteers!
Safe & Secure is a free, two hour class focusing on infant/child health and safety. Offered weekly. Tuesday 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and Thursday 10 a.m. - noon, parents completing the class can choose to receive a new portable crib or a new car seat. Learn more at CCharitiesCC.org/Family Services, or register by calling 719-309-2965.

Catholic Charities Attends Strive to Thrive Fair
For Douglas County residents enduring hard times, a free hot meal and access to more than 25 local service organizations was available at the bi-annual Strive to Thrive fair in January. This free event provides attendees with information on where to access food and clothing, medical assistance and more, while providing an opportunity for attendees to receive many of those benefits at the event. Attendees also learned about several other local non-profit organizations who are engaging with the local police. This increases FIS’s ability to serve these clients.
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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719-866-6422 or 719-866-6440

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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
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T: 719-636-2345  F: 719-636-1216

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

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Material Goods:

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