The Marian House Goes Green

Phil and Nancy Broadhagen started El Paso Green Energies/Peak View Solar in 2009. Phil had spent the first part of his career in the IT field and as Nancy recalls, “he came home one day and said ‘I am quitting my job.’” Nancy laughed as she shared the memory. It turns out Phil’s passion for solar projects was just what the doctor ordered. Phil returned to school and began his solar journey with his family by his side.

Nancy and Phil now employ 25 people at Peak View Solar. They have truly built a family business – employing all three of their children. They also employ and insure all of their installers – there are no subcontractors in this operation. Quality matters to Peak View Solar – they guarantee their work is top-notch and treat employees and customers as family.

Nancy and Phil came to Catholic Charities of Central Colorado (CC) with an offer to help CC go green with solar panels at the Marian House Soup Kitchen. Not only would they donate the panels, they would install them as well.

Nancy wanted to do this for CC because she had recently lost her mother, a deeply Catholic woman. She had a calling in her heart to do something for the community who has done so much.

(Story Continued on Page 4)
From the CEO - Andy Barton

“Good Samaritan”

That is why that second figure is so important. 33 is the number of families who gained safe and stable housing last year by working with one of our coaches in our Family Connections program at the Helen Hunt Campus. 33 feels like an awfully small number up against 31,169, but it is, in so many ways, more encouraging. Those are 33 families who are on their way to not needing the services of Catholic Charities anymore. They are mothers, fathers, grandparents, and children who are building the resiliency necessary to bounce back from the bumps in life that one year ago, would have resulted in couch surfing, sleeping in cars, or staying in the shelter.

Catholic Charities Family Connections is setting a new path for our agency by going deeper with the people who show up at our doors. They are serving as Inn Keepers. It is a model that moves from a hand out to a hand up, not from a place of judgment, but from a fundamental understanding of God’s desire for the dignity of the human person.

That final number - 1 - refers to the incredible mother you will read about on the next page in this month’s newsletter. Sarah has turned a story that would break your heart into a story that will warm it. As you read about Sarah, you will see that Catholic Charities played a vital role in her journey to stability. But more importantly, when she speaks of her success, she correctly notes that she did it herself. That is the difference between empowerment and enablement. It is a happy ending to a story, and not another chapter. It is a rebirth of dignity and it is what we call SUCCESS.

Catholic Charities, as an agency, is so grateful to all of those people who make this success possible. Our board of directors provides leadership, wisdom and support for this mission. Our tireless and dedicated volunteers are the engine that keeps us running. And the grit and love with which our staff approaches this work helps to transform lives every day of the year.

We are in this together. In your support throughout the year, you have joined us in being both the Good Samaritan and the Inn Keeper. We are grateful to be in partnership with you.

Sarah’s Path to Independence and a Bright Future

Sarah grew up in a middle-class family and had big dreams. Once she graduated college, she married and had children. She says, “things didn’t work out so well.” Her family experienced homelessness for a while, but when she connected with Catholic Charities Family Connections, she began to regain her direction and learn to support herself and her two children.

By the time Sarah found Catholic Charities, she says she felt defeated, hopeless, dark, negative and angry as to why this would happen to her. She says that she felt lost as a mom, but when she came to Catholic Charities, she was treated with nothing but respect, kindness and empathy. It changed her life and how she views life.

On her first meeting, she and her case manager developed a plan. She says Catholic Charities helped her find her inner strength again, and with their help, was able to meet goal after goal, and eventually regain control of her life. “The support I received from Catholic Charities empowered me. They were “a hand up, not a hand out.”

During her first meeting, Sarah was able to secure an apartment. She will proudly tell you this is the first apartment she has had on her own for more than six months. Catholic Charities was able to give her a car that had been donated to help get to her job as a child care worker, take her children to doctor’s appointments and to school. Sarah has made great strides. She became a certified nursing assistant (CNA), primarily to take care of her daughter, who has some medical issues. Eventually, the CNA license can be an expanded source of income. She accessed online school for her daughter, affording them both more flexibility, and her son enrolled in Head Start - an early learning program, allowing her to work more hours.

Catholic Charities has helped Sarah become more self-sufficient and has given her the know-how to access resources in times of crisis. It has become the community which supports and empowers her to achieve her goals. She has gained confidence in her abilities and gifts, and feels more equipped to encourage and parent her children. She says, “I feel way more confident in myself… and my ability to be a mom.”

For More Stories of Hope, go to www.CCharitiesCC.org and click on “Stories of Hope.”

SUCCESS

At Catholic Charities, we help families succeed so they can thrive, and not just survive. Luis and his mom are successfully achieving their goals of financial health and stable housing through employment, educational opportunities, and working with a Family Life Coach for ongoing support.

Invest in success at 719-866-6422 or CCharitiesCC.org.
As the City of Colorado Springs continues to work collaboratively with agencies and ministries across the region to assist those experiencing homelessness, Catholic Charities continues to focus on how to best serve families and children in crisis. Currently, 65 to 100 families who ask for shelter are turned away each month due to a lack of appropriate shelter. This includes a father with young children, a mother with a teen son, or no available lower bunk beds for young children. The number of unsheltered families is actually greater as many families never go to a shelter because they are afraid, if identified, their children will be taken away from them (which is not true).

While plans to address the temporary shelter needs of families experiencing homelessness are being developed and implemented, their continued to be a lack of affordable housing options in Colorado Springs and surrounding counties. Wages can’t keep up with the cost of living: the median home price exceeds $275,000 and the average rental for a two bedroom apartment is $1,158 per month. This makes it very challenging for families to find and afford housing.

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the poverty guideline to determine financial eligibility for federal programs is $16,910 for a household of two persons. But the 2018 Colorado Self-Sufficiency Standards in El Paso or Teller County for a single parent with one pre-school aged child requires an income between $40,135 and $49,809 to be at a level of self-sufficiency. Currently, only 2-4 in 10 jobs in Colorado pays enough to provide this level of wages.

To address the situation in El Paso County, Catholic Charities convened family shelter agencies to develop the 20/40 Family Homelessness Collaborative to address the lack of emergency and transitional family shelter in the community. As a result, Family Promise will open an emergency family shelter by the end of 2019 to accommodate 20 emergency housing units. The RJ Montgomery Family Shelter will increase capacity by 40-50 beds in the midrange future, and Partners in Housing plans to increase transitional housing inventory by 20 units in the next two years.

These solutions are temporary but should help serve families in crisis as we continue to work with agencies across the region to foster solutions to the affordable housing issues facing our local families.

For more information, visit our website at CChariitesCC.org and click on the Get Informed tab.
Financial Literacy Classes
Catholic Charities Castle Rock has begun offering Financial Literacy Workshops. The first was conducted by Artie Lehl, Programs Manager from Douglas County Housing Partnership. This workshop focused on improving credit scores. Anyone can attend these workshops.

Call 720.215.4521
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FUTURE WORKSHOPS

Need a Job?
Visit our newly expanded Hanifin Employment Center.
M - F 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. walk-in
Staff and volunteers will help with computer skills, one to one mentoring, life skills, resume help, job applications, job fairs and so much more.
Visit us at 14 West Bijou Street

Free Childbirth Classes
Catholic Charities Life Connections is offering a FREE three-hour introductory childbirth class taught by a registered nurse.
April 25, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
June 13, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Aug. 8, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Register By Calling 719-309-2965

Thank You Community Health Partners!
We provide care and resources to clients every day and could not do that without support and partnerships from Penrose/St. Francis, SET Clinic/Peak Vista, Aspen Pointe and CHF/Medicaid. Thank you for helping those who need us the most.

Thank You
For All You Do,
Every Day of the Year,
To Help
Catholic Charities fulfill our mission.
You Are Our Partners in Hope.

Thank You
Volunteers!
We appreciate all of you who give your time, talent and treasure to Catholic Charities.

Teachers, Assistants, and Child Care Volunteers are Needed for ESL Classes
English as a Second Language classes are preparing for the next academic year, 2019/20, 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.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
CCharitiesCC.org/Volunteer

Current Volunteer Needs
With summer rapidly approaching, our volunteer needs change as many volunteers take a well deserved vacation. Volunteers are needed for Marian House Soup Kitchen weekend shifts:
Sat. 7 a.m. - 10 a.m prep
Sat. 10 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. food service
Sat. 7 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. full day service
Volunteers are also needed to sort clothing and other donations on weekdays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (flexible start and end times).

Call 719-866-6516
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CCharitiesCC.org/Volunteer

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:
CCharitiesCC.org/Tours

Faith Community Nurse Receives Prestigious Award
Velda Baker, a Faith Community Nurse with Penrose-St. Francis Health Services, received the Nightingale Luminary Award. The award, given annually by Colorado Nurses Foundation, is one of the most prestigious nursing awards in Colorado. The award honors nurses who advance the profession of nursing and have positively impacted their community through advocacy, leadership and/or innovation. Velda works with Marian House clients three days a week, helping them with dentistry, eye glasses, prescriptions, general health management, co-pays, and so much more. Her care and concern for Catholic Charities clients is a critical component of the overall health services offered at Marian House. Velda will be honored, along with other recipients, May 11 at the 2019 Nightingale Gala.

Congratulations Velda.
We are so proud of you!

Thank You
To all our Volunteers for your time, talent and treasure.

We are so grateful for your Service.

Thank You
Our Volunteers!

Catholic Charities partners with the Catholic Charities Team of America and the Sisters of the Good Shepherd to provide care and resources to clients.

We are so grateful for all the work you do.

Free Childbirth Classes
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Register By Calling 719-309-2965

Follow Us on Facebook
We are on social media.
Like Us.
CCharitiesCC.org/Facebook

Donate Online @ CCharitiesCC.Org/Donate

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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Make a Difference by Making a Gift

Special State Income Tax Credits
Enterprise Zone 25%
Check donations to Marian House of $250 or more
Child Care Contribution 50%
Donations to Child Care
Contribution or Life Connections

Gift Societies
• Caritas Society ($10,000/year)
• 1968 Founders Society ($1,968+/year)

Other Ways
• IRA Distributions, Stocks/Securities
• 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, bus pass and gas gift cards
Clothing & Essentials: NEW XL+ sweatshirts & hoodies, Men’s/women’s underwear, 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!
Colorado Springs Utilities:
Community Focus Fund

Family Resource Center Association

Colorado Springs Office
228 North Cascade Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
T: 719-636-2345  F: 719-636-1216

Castle Rock Office
410 S. Wilcox Street, Suite 102
Castle Rock, CO 80104
T: 720-215-4521

The Marian House
14 West Bijou Street
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