The Annual St. Patrick’s Day Gala is Catholic Charities premier fundraising event of the year. It is a time to come together and celebrate the successes of our clients and our staff. It is also a time to celebrate with old and new friends. For the past 19 years, Catholic Charities has been blessed to have your company and support, and we hope this year won’t be any different.

There will be great food (corned beef, chicken and dumplings, and more), great music and a laugh or two. The auction is sure to impress with amazing trips, baubles, and even a few surprises! But the night does not end there. From 9 - 11 p.m., Murphy Constructors hosts Club St. Pat’s, complete with a live band in a nightclub atmosphere for all the night owls.

Mortgage Solutions Financial has graciously returned as our Presenting Sponsor, and we are welcoming many returning friends and sponsors as well as a few new faces. 2020 is sure to be the best one yet and we hope you can join us.

March 14, 2020, at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort

For more information, including sponsorship opportunities, table and individual ticket purchase options, go to www.CCharitiesCC.org/stpatsgala/ or call Deana at 719-866-6529.

But don’t wait too long - tickets are going fast and you won’t want to miss what is sure to be an unforgettable evening!
As a new decade gets underway, there are plenty of reasons for both optimism and anxiety. Most of us could probably fill a page with lists of the things we are excited for and worried about in our family lives, towns, country and world. Still, the transition represents a time of renewal, regardless of the state of affairs in which we find ourselves. It is as good a time as any to recommit to those things we feel are important. For Catholic Charities that is, of course, our poor and vulnerable.

2020 will be a big year for this agency. We are coming to the end of a strategic plan that was established by our board almost five years ago. This spring, we will be setting new direction. Most of our agency’s stakeholders, from the guests we serve to our volunteers and donors, would probably not recognize our formal strategic plan from the past five years; however, anyone who has been a part of Catholic Charities will recognize the results.

Five years ago, Catholic Charities set its’ strategic focus on filling gaps in emergency services, supporting vulnerable families and improving the economic stability for those we serve. As a result, the agency has expanded into two new sites, one in Castle Rock and one in Colorado Springs at the Helen Hunt Campus. The agency established a day center for families and dramatically expanded case management support to help parents and children break the cycle of poverty. Other changes sparked by the 2016 strategic plan include the development of the Hanifen Employment Center which helps over 30 individuals find work each month and the additional support for our immigrant families seeking legal pathways to citizenship and protection from violence and crime. Five years later, our strategic plan has guided the agency to be more relational and less transactional in our services; more empowering and less enabling in our philosophy.

This important work would not have been possible without thousands of volunteers, donors, staff and community members providing unwavering support day after day. As a result, we enter this new decade with a great foundation and optimism for what the next five years may hold. Though it may be our greatest desire, we know that this next strategic plan will not “solve” or “end” poverty and homelessness. We are reminded of this through scripture, especially in Mark 14:7 “The poor you will always have with you,” but it is more important, perhaps to focus on the second part of Christ’s teaching in that passage, “and whenever you wish you can do good to them.”

I suspect this next strategic plan will be more ambitious than any that have come before it as we dare to believe that we can do more. This vision for Catholic Charities will ask us all to give a little bit extra and to think a little bit differently as we seek justice for our poor and vulnerable. In this new decade, they need our love, our time, our treasure, and our talent more than ever.
Ezequiel was born and raised in Mexico. It was there that he met and married the love of his life, Patricia. The two welcomed three children – two sons and a daughter – over the next 10 years. However, financial and physical hardships took their toll; their money ran out, bills piled up and they did not have insurance to pay for necessary medical care. “That was the hard truth of life in Mexico then,” recalls Ezequiel, but despite the hardships and struggles, neither gave up hope or lost faith in God’s plan. They persevered through the financial, emotional, and physical struggles and remained in Mexico; working hard to support their young family. However, as violence increased and drugs became prevalent in their community, they knew they had to relocate to a safer place. First, the family moved to another city in Mexico but found they were unable to earn enough to support the family. It was then that Ezequiel made the heartbreaking decision to leave Mexico and his family behind. He knew his best opportunity for a better life for his family was not in Mexico, but in the United States.

For years he worked at a tree nursery; saving everything he could to send back to his family. He recalls the lonely years without his wife and her love and support, and he missed his children terribly. In the 1980s, through the U.S. Government’s Amnesty Program, he became a Permanent Resident and took a second job. He had a small apartment but was not able to earn enough to support himself and his family, so he terminated his lease and slept in his car for a year to save as much money as possible. As the violence and drugs began to take over his family’s home in Mexico, he knew he had to find a way to bring them to the U.S. for their safety and their future. Together, they decided the family would come join him; first Patricia and the oldest son, then the other two children shortly after. Having his family back with him was the best feeling in the world.

Soon, the family relocated to Colorado and received a blessing! Ezequiel secured a job on the janitorial staff of a cleaning company and earned a promotion to supervisor. Then in 2008, Patricia and Ezequiel realized their dream of home ownership!

Continued on Page 4: A Journey of Hope
Continued from Page 1: A Journey of Hope

When Patricia began the process of becoming a U.S. resident, she received devastating news that she would need to return to Mexico to serve penalties for coming to the U.S. unlawfully over 20 years prior. The family would once again be separated for years while Patricia petitioned to become a U.S. resident. The family met with two different lawyers and they continued to hit roadblocks; despite having paid taxes, worked and even purchased a home in the U.S., she would have to return to Mexico to live there for at least 10 years. A co-worker told the family about Catholic Charities of Central Colorado and it was there that they met the Immigration and Family Services team. The client advocates and staff attorney worked tirelessly for over three years, filed waiver applications and fought to keep the family together in the home they had built together in the U.S. Ezequiel was prepared to give up his Medicare insurance, disability payments from his employer and Social Security earned over decades of work in the U.S. to return to Mexico with his wife, best friend, and caregiver. He knew the sacrifice would be worth it to spend the rest of his days with his wife.

Patricia returned to Mexico, where she lived with their daughter and her family, to serve her penalty. During that time, Ezequiel traveled back and forth from Colorado to Mexico. Through the work of the immigration services team at Catholic Charities, however, Patricia was able to serve a reduced penalty in Mexico and return to the U.S., having earned her permanent residency status. The two could not have been happier to finally experience freedom and hope – the hope that their life in the U.S. will be the one they can enjoy for the rest of their days. Thanks to the advocacy, support, and intervention of the Catholic Charities team, the two will now enjoy their golden years together in the land they call home.

Tax Savings Example for $1000 Gift

Illustration at 32% tax bracket

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Contribution</th>
<th>$1000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income Tax Credit</td>
<td>($250)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Income Tax Deduction</td>
<td>($225)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Income Tax Credit</td>
<td>($46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Tax Savings</td>
<td>$521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total After-Tax Investment</td>
<td>$479</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For additional assistance, please contact Brea, Development Manager, at (719) 866-6539 or BReimerBaum@CCharitiesCC.org or Sarah Tremmel, Chief Development Officer, at (719) 866-6440 or STremmel@CCharitiesCC.org.

To read other Stories of Hope, go to CCharitiesCC.org/stories-of-hope.
School districts in the United States are required by the McKinney Vento Act to perform a count each year of the children in their schools who are homeless (living in shelter, transitional housing, doubled up due to economic hardship, living in motels or unsheltered). For El Paso County, the most recent survey found 2,142 children living in these conditions. The number is invariably higher since it does not account for children under the age of 5 who are not yet in school. It is truly a hidden crisis in our community.

The sheer numbers of vulnerable families and children led to the formation of the Family Solutions Collaborative (FSC) in 2019. The FSC is comprised of 12 community agencies who provide services for families. Catholic Charities is a founding member. After an initial summit in October, the FSC has turned its focus to four key areas: systems mapping, family voice, common referral, and data sharing. These four priority areas are believed to be the biggest barriers to coordinated support for vulnerable families in our community. In December, group meetings were held to discuss issues in each of the focus areas.

Systems mapping identifies gaps in services across providers and helps show ways we can all work more efficiently in supporting families. By mapping the systems in place, we established shared agreements and understanding of the situations and problems facing families and how we work together to solve them.

Family Voice: Representatives in the collaborative are closely aligned with Catholic Charities in the belief that it is critical to listen to the people who use our agencies when trying to find ways to work better. Work is being done to host small, town hall or focus group meetings with the people we serve to get their feedback on what works and what does not for a family in need of support.

Common referral addresses the problems that are created for both families and agencies when the important information that is shared by individuals in need of services does not transfer to other agencies. We believe there will be far greater efficiency and far less hassle for families if we can establish a common form for information that is shared by all agencies working in the collaborative.

Data sharing across agencies is not presently done but does represent enormous opportunities to improve the success we have as a collaborative with families. When agencies share this information is means faster, better, results for families.

In the first quarter of 2020, staff from participating agencies will work to bring some of the ideas shared in December to fruition. The hope remains that we will be able to dramatically improve the foundations of support for vulnerable families in Colorado Springs. Once in place, solutions to these four focus areas will result in reduced numbers of families and children who find themselves in a place they should never have to be: homeless.

**What a difference a DAY makes!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/3</td>
<td>Today’s Meal is Sponsored by The Davalos Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>Today’s Meal is in Celebration of Gretchen Kraska’s Birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>Today’s Meal is Sponsored by St. Peter Catholic Church Monument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/9</td>
<td>Today’s Meal is Sponsored by Friends of the Marian House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>Today’s Meal is Sponsored by Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>Today’s Meal is Sponsored by Academy Mortgage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/14</td>
<td>Today’s Meal is Sponsored with Love by The Brass Tap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>Today’s Meal is Sponsored by BOK Financial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/23</td>
<td>Today’s Meal is in Memory of Dolores A. Barrowman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/24</td>
<td>Today’s Meal is Sponsored by Monarch Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/25</td>
<td>Today’s Meal is in Honor of All Who Gather Here. Merry Christmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/28</td>
<td>Today’s Meal is in Memory of Cliff &amp; Phylis Kirst and Carlos &amp; Toni Aguirre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/30</td>
<td>In Loving Memory of Mary Kay, Diane, Ron &amp; Jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Today’s Meal is in Honor of St. Peter Catholic Church Volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/24</td>
<td>Today’s Meal is in Honor of Mathew Schell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/31</td>
<td>Adoption - The Real Option</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Call **719-866-6529** to Sponsor-A-Day at Marian House
NEWS

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

Catholic Charities’ Castle Rock and Family Connections programs are in need of vehicles in good working condition. Your donation will help move families and individuals toward stability and financial security.

Call 720.215.4521
https://www.ccharitiescc.org/donate/donate-material-goods/

FREE PARENTING CLASSES

Family Services at the Helen Hunt Campus has expanded its parenting and early childhood development classes to include Cooking Matters, Prenatal Nurturing, Love & Logic and more. Classes are free and open to the public.

Call 719-309-2968
CCharitiesCC.org/family-services/

ESL AND CITIZENSHIP CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE IN 2020!

Citizenship and ESL classes are enrolling for the 2020 school year and are open to the public.

To learn more or to register, Call Michelle at 719.866.6516 or visit www.CCharitiesCC.org/paths-to-opportunity/

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A DAY OF MEALS AT THE MARIAN HOUSE?

For just $1,500 you can support all the meals served in one day and get marketing and publicity benefits!

For more info, go to MarianHouseSponsorADay.org or call 719-866-6529

JOBS SKILLS CLASS OFFERINGS EXPANDED!

The Hanifen Employment Center offers a number of classes at no cost to clients and guests. Four classes are offered most months, each with an emphasis on critical skills needed for success in the workplace.

Classes Include:
Soft Skills, Budgeting, Computer Skills, Interviewing and more!

CALL 719-866-6445
CCharitiesCC.org/HEC/

BASIC MEDICAL CARE & VACCINATIONS AVAILABLE!

We offer free basic medical care including vaccinations and mental health referrals at the Marian House SET Clinic. Appointments are available by calling 719-866-6291 or 719-475-7314 Mon-Fri from 10 am - 2 pm.

For more info, go to CCharitiesCC.org/get-help/

Donate Online @ CCharitiesCC.Org/Donate
CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS
Volunteers are always needed for Marian House Soup Kitchen shifts:
- Mon. - Sat. 7 a.m. - 10 a.m. prep
- Mon. - Sat. 10 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
- Mon. - Sat. 7 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Volunteers are also needed for a number of other programs and projects!

Call 719-866-6281 or email Volunteeroffice@CCharitiesCC.org
To Get Involved

BABY & TODDLER ITEMS NEEDED
We are in need of newborn and toddler clothing, diapers, bottles, and shoes for our families at the Helen Hunt Campus. Donations can be dropped off at 14 W. Bijou St. M-Sat from 8 am - 2 pm.

For more information or to help, go to www.CCharitiesCC.org/donate

Knights Make a Difference
With Coats for Kids

Happiness is measured in children's smiles and the annual Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids distribution provided plenty.

As winter moved into the Rocky Mountain Region, warm coats were admired, put on and zipped up by happy young recipients who paraded out of Catholic Charities with a proud gleam in their eyes. Small miracles were witnessed that day!

Ray Meadows, the Knight's of Columbus chairman of the event, announced that 172 coats were distributed Nov. 16 at the Helen Hunt Campus (an additional 80 coats would be distributed at Catholic Charities and 30 coats through District 11). A total of 282 coats went to children in need!

“You don’t forget this day,” said one Knight, chest deep in boxes with the background noise of grown men shouting out sizes needed for the kids. “The joy just overwhelms you,” he said as he called out, “I need a girl’s 10/12. Blue if you have one. Light blue.”
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.

Helping Hands is published in Feb., May, Sept., & Dec. No article in this publication may be reprinted in whole or in part without permission of the editor. © 2020 Catholic Charities of Central Colorado. Postmaster: send address changes to Catholic Charities, 228 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

PUBLISHER
Catholic Charities of Central Colorado, Inc.
President & CEO - Andy Barton

EDITORIAL STAFF
Editor, Writer, Layout - Rochelle Schlortt
Writer, Layout & Photography - Jill Likness
Circulation - Betsy Finley

At Catholic Charities, we respect everyone who comes to us for help. Many are working toward a fresh start in life. So while their stories are true, client names and images may have changed to protect their privacy.

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, snack bars, ground beef, hot chocolate, spices, canned vegetables, nondairy (powdered) coffee creamer
Infants & Children: Size 1-4 diapers; baby food, NEW children’s shoes; baby clothes and new baby bottles.
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, toiletries, chemical handwarmers, socks.

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

Material Goods: 719-866-6550
Vehicles: 720-215-4521

Thank You Grantors!
The Anschutz Foundation
Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation
Mabel Horrigan Foundation
Larry H. Miller Charities
Colorado Springs Utilities (COPE)
Russell Grinnell Memorial Trust

Material Goods:
719-866-6550
Vehicles:
720-215-4521

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