Across the Pikes Peak region, people who lost a job or had work hours reduced during COVID-19 are scrambling to stay in their homes. During the first several months of the crisis, several stopgap measures were put in place to help keep families housed.

Governor Polis formally banned most evictions from April 30 - May 29 during which time landlords were not allowed to charge late fees. In mid-June, the temporary statewide eviction ban expired sending renters rushing to negotiate with their landlords or find other living situations. Properties with federally backed mortgages such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac had evictions delayed until late July.

Unemployment payments with the extra $600 per week, along with stimulus checks, helped families pay rent and mortgages. That extra unemployment payment ended July 31 so families who still have a breadwinner unemployed or underemployed are struggling to stay in their homes.

At Catholic Charities, we have seen more requests for rent and mortgage assistance than ever before. But thanks to the support of individuals, businesses, and foundations, these families have been given more time to work out their financial situations while getting one-time rent support from us.

By the mid-August, Catholic Charities had helped over 300 households with $250,000 in rent assistance. Hopefully for most, this will be enough until they are back on their feet, but as COVID-19 drags on and more businesses stay closed or close again, it is unlikely that a one-time payment will be enough to see them through this economic crisis.

Requests for food, emergency services, child care, and utility assistance through COPE are all on the rise. If you can afford to help these struggling families through this unprecedented time, please consider making a donation at www.CCharitiesCC.org/donate. These are hard times. If you cannot make a financial gift, we ask for your prayers.
At Catholic Charities, we have been through a lot of plans these last five months. In March, we pulled out our emergency preparedness and continuity of operations plans. (Both now have a pandemic plan subsection.) We have scenario planned and meal planned, participated in or led multiple citywide response plans including mass feeding, non-congregant shelter and isolation shelter plans. If there is one thing the unpredictability of these times has taught us, it is the value of being ready for the unexpected.

Like most, we see the effects of this pandemic lasting for multiple years, with impacts not only on health but on the economy and the social fabric of our communities. Our poor have already shouldered a disproportionate amount of the pandemic’s negative effects and the expectation is for that trend to continue. It is a daunting future, but we have a plan.

Our board and staff have identified three overarching strategic goals to shoulder a disproportionate amount of the impact of racism and the lack of affordable and low-income housing have led to greater vulnerability with the loss of jobs and income. Working to ensure that this population does not fall into further poverty or homelessness will be a priority over this next year. In an approach that is similar to our response to a fire or other natural disaster, our work will help people navigate the systems necessary to regain stability. We will focus on ensuring that children and families are stable and safe, perhaps most importantly by providing rent assistance to prevent evictions for our most vulnerably housed individuals and families.

Catholic Charities will empower all clients to build resiliency and deflect impact of crisis effects. Lack of health equity and access, the impacts of racism and the lack of affordable and low-income housing have led to greater risk of illness and death from the coronavirus, but these have always been barriers facing those we serve. We will focus on homelessness prevention, emergency assistance including food access, case management and providing on-site access to testing (and hopefully a vaccine) to make sure that our most vulnerable are not ravaged by this disease.

Catholic Charities will work to develop agency strengths and flexibility for impactful response to further disruption. Our unpredictable future makes it critical that our agency is prepared and stable enough to be able to continue to serve our communities at the crisis levels. Strategically, this means collecting and using data to better inform our decisions. It means maintaining our financial resources as well as leveraging community relationships to provide solutions. Finally, we must insure that we can continue to meet the needs of those we serve through potential disruptions to staff or volunteers due to illness.

These are uncertain times, but there is no question about what the people of faith and community are supposed to do. We have the Greatest Commandment to guide us: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself… do this and you will live.” COVID-19 has made it clear that our neighbors need our love more profoundly now than ever before. Our lamp is lit. With God as our shield, we will get through this together.

“For you, LORD, give light to my lamp; my God brightens my darkness. With you I can rush an armed band, with my God to help I can leap a wall. God’s way is unerring; the LORD’s promise is refined; he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.”

(Ps 18:29-31)
Susan has experienced more than her fair share of challenges and barriers throughout her life, from a medical condition at birth, to bullying in school, and diagnosed mental and emotional disorders. She was raped, fled a domestic violence situation, and turned to drugs and alcohol to cope. Due to her medical conditions, Susan has had medical bills that she could not pay or have strained her income. The domestic violence relationship caused her to have evictions on her record, leading to wage garnishment, chronic homelessness, strained family relationships, lack of emotional support, and lack of trust of people and agencies. This has impacted her children in a variety of ways.

One of her children, a student at Mitchell High School, was referred by school staff to the Siemer Project, a collaboration with the Siemer Institute, Pikes Peak United Way, and Catholic Charities, to identify students who are homeless, or at-risk, to help the entire family out of crisis. Studies show that when children are homeless, the stress, trauma, and academic disruption lead to problems in school. The program uses coordinated case management and a continuum of services. The 2Gen model (working with adults and children simultaneously) addresses immediate concerns facing the entire family to promote student success.

School staff were concerned for Susan’s high schooler’s living situation since the family was experiencing homelessness. Additionally, Susan’s medical issues require ongoing treatment, resulting in missed work and lower pay. The impact upon her children has been significant. Her older child was expelled from school while her younger one struggles to cope with everything.

Since enrolling in the program, the family’s situation has improved. Susan says, “This program has helped me achieve the goals that I have set, and my Family Life Coach has walked along with me to help me maintain a positive outlook for the future. A future that I never thought I could have. This program has helped me see things in such a different way. It has helped me see who I can become. My hopes are to increase savings, move out of my apartment and buy my own home and get a better paying job.”

The Marian House Kitchen reopened on June 8, transitioning from sack lunches served during the restaurant closure due to COVID-19 (the kitchen follows restaurant closure rules), back to a hot, nutritious meal. The menu continues to be a healthy, well-balanced meal with a hearty amount of calories, lessening the need for second helpings.

One client said, “I am grateful to have this daily meal, but I miss the social interaction that we had before. It is very quiet now because we have to eat in 15 minutes and there is no time to waste.”

Get the best of both worlds with IRA QCDs!

IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) made to Catholic Charities provide several benefits. Reduce your taxable income without itemizing, meet your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) obligation and possibly qualify for generous state income tax credits – all while supporting the work you love!

- Contact your IRA plan administrator to make your gift.
- The donation must be made directly from your IRA to Catholic Charities of Central Colorado (EIN: 84-0586169)
- Contact Sarah Tremmel, Chief Development Officer, at (719) 866-6440 or STremmel@CCharitiesCC.org for more information.

Many clients are working toward a fresh start in life. While their stories are true, client names and images may have changed to protect their privacy.

Ways to Support Catholic Charities

Consider a gift of donated stock?

Gifts of appreciated stock are not penalized by capital gains taxes, while providing a charitable income deduction based on the value of your gift.

- Stock transfers to Catholic Charities benefitting Marian House or Family Connections programming may also qualify for the Enterprise Zone State Tax Credit at a rate of 12.5%.
- Please contact Sarah Tremmel at (719) 866-6440 for more information, including how the stock donation process works.

There are so many ways to support the work you know and love! If you have questions or have a different type of donation that you would like us to consider, please contact our team at: Development@CCharitiesCC.org or (719) 866-6539.

For just $1,500, you can provide more than just a meal to families and individuals who are hungry. You can provide hope.

Sponsor a Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/26</td>
<td>Today We Remember Bri, Nolan, Mary and Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/9</td>
<td>Sponsored by the Davalos Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/10</td>
<td>In Honor of Our Bishop and the Faithful Priests Serving Our Diocese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/12</td>
<td>In Memory of Tom Consentino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/14</td>
<td>In Honor of Audrey &amp; John Daley Happy Anniversary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/7</td>
<td>Sponsored by Friends of the Maran House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/10</td>
<td>Sponsored by Friends of the Maran House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/16</td>
<td>Thank You for Helping Us Celebrate 26 Yrs Together!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Kerrs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/17</td>
<td>In Honor of Peter K's Birthday!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/22</td>
<td>In Honor of Our Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/25</td>
<td>In Thanksgiving for our Blessings - A St. Peter Parishion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/29</td>
<td>Give to the one who asks you. Turn not from one who borrows: Matthew 5:42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/30</td>
<td>Sponsored by Black Forest Lutheran &amp; Holy Trinity Catholic Churches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What a difference a Day makes!

Call 719-866-6529 to Sponsor a Day at Marian House

Donate Online @ CCharitiesCC.Org/Donate

Get the best of both worlds with IRA QCDs!

IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) made to Catholic Charities provide several benefits. Reduce your taxable income without itemizing, meet your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) obligation and possibly qualify for generous state income tax credits – all while supporting the work you love!

- Contact your IRA plan administrator to make your gift.
- The donation must be made directly from your IRA to Catholic Charities of Central Colorado (EIN: 84-0586169)
- Contact Sarah Tremmel, Chief Development Officer, at (719) 866-6440 or STremmel@CCharitiesCC.org for more information.

Many clients are working toward a fresh start in life. While their stories are true, client names and images may have changed to protect their privacy.
Mini-Grants Awarded
The Mini Grant program, administered by Catholic Charities, is supported through the Campaign for Human Development and Rice Bowl. This summer, almost $9,000 in grants were awarded.

Corpus Christi Catholic School: These funds for the tuition assistance programs will enable minority families who have been financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to continue to send their children to Catholic school.

Holy Family Leadville Charitable Outreach: This ministry helps those in need within the parish community. Nearly 50% of the population are elderly, while others are families with children. The funds will be used for rent, utility bills, prescriptions, gas and other emergencies.

Pax Christi Catholic Church Littleton: Pax Christi’s St. Vincent de Paul Society has 13 volunteers who make home visits to help with rent, utilities and food. This one-time emergency assistance keeps families sheltered.

Southgate Ecumenical Resource Center (Grace Church of the Nazarene & St. Joseph Catholic Church): Almost 180 Thanksgiving baskets are distributed to the Southgate Resource Center and St. Joseph neighborhood. This special holiday meal provides much joy to those who cannot afford one.

St. Benedict Catholic Church: St. Benedict’s St. Vincent de Paul Society provides assistance to those in need and to positively impact the poor and newly vulnerable of northeast El Paso County.

St. Mary’s Cathedral: St. Mary’s St. Vincent de Paul Society formed in January 2019. This grant will help with rent assistance, prioritizing families with young children affected by the pandemic.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS
Volunteers are always needed to help at the Marian House Kitchen to prepare and serve the hot, daily meal in the new socially-distanced dining room. Available shifts are:

- Monday - Sunday: 7 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
- 7 a.m. - 10 a.m.
- 10 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

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

To help, please call 719-578-1222 or 719.309.2965

Thank You!!!

Providing Help. Creating Hope.
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, Photography - Rochelle Schlortt
Circulation - Betsy Finley

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY MAKING A GIFT

SPECIAL STATE INCOME TAX CREDITS
Enterprise Zone 25%
Donations to Marian House and Family Connections 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: Plastic Spoons, Heavy Styrofoam plates, individual sized bottles of water, snack bars, ground beef, hot chocolate, spices, canned vegetables, nondairy (powdered) coffee creamer
Infants & Children: Size 1-4 diapers; baby food, formula, NEW children’s shoes; maternity & baby clothes and new baby bottles.
Home & Transportation: working vehicles, grocery store gift cards, bus pass and gas gift cards

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!
ADT Always Cares
Albertsons Companies Foundation
Caring for Colorado Foundation
City Community Development Block Grant
The Colorado Trust
Division of Criminal Justice - Crime Victim Services
Douglas County Hearts & Hands COVID Recovery Fund
El Pomar Foundation - Colorado Assistance Fund
Family Resource Center Association
FEMA Phase 37 and CARES Act
First Presbyterian Church
Governor’s COVID Relief Fund
Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation
Myron Stratton Home
Pikes Peak United Way - Community Impact Fund
SC Ministry Foundation
U.S. Bank Foundation

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