Marisol is measured for a new coat at the annual Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids event held at Catholic Charities Family Connections in October. Even with the pandemic, Family Connections has continued to work with the families in our programs to ensure they not only get the resources they need but have a little fun and socialization as well. In October, a socially-distanced Family Fun Fest was held in conjunction with CityServe day, where families played games, enjoyed food, and socialized with other families in the program. An open-air clothing distribution was also held in late October since the Kidz Closet has been closed since the beginning of COVID-19.
When a struggling community member desperately needed intensive, long-term care, a multitude of Colorado Springs agencies stepped up to help.

Dennis was referred to Catholic Charities by Our Lord of Glory Church. He was disoriented, confused, and it was unclear if substance abuse issues were present. When Dennis arrived at Catholic Charities Marian House, it was lunchtime. He walked in and told staff he needed a case manager. M.J., a Catholic Charities Client Services case manager, set an appointment for the next day. During their brief conversation, she learned he was staying at the Salvation Army R.J. Montgomery shelter.

Dennis arrived for his appointment the next day and told M.J. he had gotten a case manager at Salvation Army. Thinking services could be coordinated, M.J. asked the name of his case manager. He couldn’t remember but had her business card, which was the one M.J. had given him the previous day so she let him know that she was his case manager. Dennis stated that he needed to get off the streets. He had no one to help him and people kept taking his possessions, including his SNAP benefits card. The Department of Human Services was called, and a new card was sent to the Marian House. M.J. also helped Dennis complete the housing assessment (VI-SPDAT), a vulnerability index that determines who gets a housing voucher when one becomes available. She also suggested he meet with our on-site medical providers.

From the CEO: Andy Barton

In a six-year span from 1845 to 1851, starvation and illness took the lives of over 1,000,000 Irish people. That period is known to most of us as the Irish Potato Famine and more reminiscent of the plight of the homeless on the street. In reality, the Marian House is less aligned with the concept of a soup kitchen. Instead, volunteers serve nutritious meals prepared by talented cooks. These meals are served to men, women, and children who are living paycheck to paycheck in increasingly expensive housing, or in low income housing, in their cars, in a shelter, or on the street. In reality, the Marian House is less aligned with the concept of a soup kitchen. Instead, volunteers serve nutritious meals prepared by talented cooks. These meals are served to men, women, and children who are living paycheck to paycheck in increasingly expensive housing, or in low income housing, in their cars, in a shelter, or on the street.

An appointment was set with the Department of Motor Vehicles because he had not responded to their mail to confirm his address. Social Security (SSI) payments had stopped so an appointment was set with Social Security. A case manager was assigned who attends these group meetings to ensure Dennis’ safety. Next, a meeting was scheduled with the Colorado Community Heath Alliance, SET, Penrose-St. Francis Community Faith Nurse, and Catholic Charities to complete an assessment. During the meeting, it became apparent Dennis would need additional care, so appointments were scheduled with Impact Psychiatric Care (July), Neurological Associates (August), Brain Body Integration (October), and an eye exam (June) as Dennis had lost his glasses. Dennis shared that his Social Security (SSI) payments had stopped so an appointment was set with Benefits In Action who discovered the benefits had stopped because he had not responded to their mail to confirm his address. He would need to reapply but would need his ID and birth certificate first. An appointment was set with the Department of Motor Vehicles for August. Once the new identification card was obtained, Catholic Charities applied for a copy of his birth certificate.

Jason, the SET Homeless Clinic Coordinator, met with Dennis and confirmed he had Medicaid benefits, however he had not been seen since 2017. There had been a diagnosis for schizophrenia and a Traumatic Brain Injury from getting hit by a vehicle in 2014, which explained some of Dennis’ behavior. He began seeing a doctor from Penrose-Centura Health to begin a Primary Care Physician relationship.

For all these reasons, we have decided to let go of the word “soup” in our name. We are now the Marian House Kitchen. This is a small change with big implications and we think it reflects the reality of who we are and where we are going. In the past three months, our daily meal has evolved into an even more dignified, restaurant type dining experience. Today, guests are seated at round tables rather than picnic-style rectangular tables. They are served a plated meal when they are seated instead of going through the cafeteria-style line with a tray.

Other changes are also on the way. We believe we can leverage the power of food even more effectively with plans for a food pantry and a food-based social enterprise to create on site jobs for those we serve.

Anyone who has been a part of the daily meal at the Marian House Kitchen, from client to server, has experienced the power of that place. It is the symbol in our community for the love of neighbor that is so profoundly called out in Matthew’s gospel:

“For I was hungry and you gave me food.”

The Marian House has served this role for over 40 years and we will continue to do so for years into the future. In the process, Catholic Charities will be helping today’s poor and vulnerable achieve the type of generational success that those Irish immigrants achieved so many years ago when they first arrived in America.
Marian House to Open a Food Pantry

Providing food to people in need has been a cornerstone of Catholic Charities services for years through the daily hot lunches at the Marian House Kitchen. We also provide food boxes to seniors and emergency food bags to families and individuals in case management. These options are important but have not been part of a larger program to regularly supplement a household’s monthly food support.

Today, plans are underway to open a food pantry at the Marian House in January 2021 to bring all Catholic Charities nutrition assistance under one program. Clients using the pantry will have access to wrap-around services as they work with a case manager to move toward increased stability and receive a monthly food box that will allow them to stretch their limited resources further.

Many of the households we serve are experiencing food insecurity in addition to crises around housing, employment, and access to healthcare. This program allows Catholic Charities to address all four of these areas in a more meaningful way while case managers work alongside clients to create a plan for stability.

During the past seven months, the Marian House made changes to the daily meal service due to COVID-19. We saw many households struggle with access to food. With the closure of two partner agencies - ESM and REACH - where many of our clients received nutrition support, it was natural to explore nutrition opportunities for families already engaging with Catholic Charities in other programs.

"During the pandemic, we converted the cafeteria-style dining room with picnic tables, to pre-plated, pre-set meals at round tables - more like a restaurant. Many of our chronically homeless population have moved to SRM for their noon-time meal, freeing up our family dining room, which will now house the pantry," said Andy Barton, CEO of Catholic Charities.

"The location is perfect because of the volume of people accessing our services each day at the Marian House Campus," said Lori Orwig, Sr. VP of Operations. "We envision shelf-stable food, fresh fruits and vegetables, and perhaps, a variety of prepared foods from our kitchen for a family to take home."

Partnerships are vital to our programs’ success and this includes the work we do with Care and Share, allowing us to provide The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for families, and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) for seniors. With the support of our longtime food donors, both individual and retail, we envision a pantry filled with a variety of shelf stable, fresh and prepared items that will allow the households we serve to stretch their food dollars. Hours of operation and information about enrollment into the program will be announced in the coming weeks.

Creative Ways to Support the Work You Love!

Enterprise Zone State Income Tax Credit – All donations to Catholic Charities are tax-deductible, but gifts made to Marian House or Family Connections programs can qualify for added benefits to the donor on their Colorado state income taxes! Donations of $250+ qualify for this special 25% tax credit and can now be made online. For more information, visit CCharitiesCC.org/EnterpriseZoneTaxCredit

Stock Transfers – Gifts of appreciated stock are not penalized by capital gains taxes, while providing a charitable income deduction. Stock transfers may also qualify for the Enterprise Zone State Tax Credit at a rate of 12.5%.

IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) – QCDs made to Catholic Charities can reduce your taxable income without itemizing, meet your IRA Required Minimum Distribution obligation and qualify for state income tax credits.

Enterprise Zone State Income Tax Credit

 IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

Donate Online @ CCharitiesCC.Org/Donate

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Each December Coloradans come together to help nonprofits. Community First Foundation and FirstBank provide a $1 million fund where nonprofits receiving a donation on Colorado Gives Day - Dec. 8 - receive a portion of the fund. Catholic Charities also has a $40,000 match from an anonymous donor, so your donations work harder. Give on December 8 and make an even greater impact!

Call 719.866.6440 for more info.

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

What a difference a day makes!
To Get Involved

- Adopt a Family and Gift Card
- Christmas Giving Tree

To sign up for either of these options please e-mail Monica which program you would like to participate in at croffice@ccharitiescc.org. Thank you - your generosity makes our Christmas Outreach program possible.

To Learn more, Call: 720-215-4521

The Empty Stocking Fund has Holiday activities scheduled throughout December where you can enjoy the community holiday events and support charity. To support the 20 participating Health and Human Service charities in our community, attend one of the events, or make a donation. For more information, go to EmptyStockingFundCO.org

Microsoft Word - ESSCN00009909.docx

New Scanners at Marian House

Clients can now enter the Marian House courtyard using the new Scanner Hut. They just step into the scanner area for a touch free temperature check, then present their meal card at the window. This creative “hut” provides shelter to the volunteers who scan everyone who enters the Marian House to ensure safety for all during COVID-19.

To learn more or to register, visit CCharitiesCC.org/esl-citizenship
Call Michelle at 719-866-6516

ESL Class Registration

ESL will hold a variety of virtual classes weekly and at 5+ learning levels. Registration and payment are available online. Some scholarships are available.

To learn more or to register, visit CCharitiesCC.org/esl-citizenship
Call Michelle at 719-866-6516

Medical Care & Vaccinations

Care and resources are provided to clients every day through partnerships with Penrose-St. Francis Health Services Neighborhood Nurse Center and SET Clinic. Throughout the winter months walk-in flu shots will be available at the Neighborhood Nurse Center in Client Services on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30-1:30.

Call: 719-866-6432

CFC and CCC are both government employee giving programs. To learn more, visit: https://CFCGiving.opm.gov/welcome or Colorado.gov/ColoradoCombinedCampaign.

CFC #30738

BABY FOOD NEEDED

We need baby food - jars and cereal - for our families at the Helen Hunt Campus. Donations can be dropped off at 14 W. Bijou St. M-Sat from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Call: 719-578-1222 or 719-309-2965

Job Skills Help Continues!

Our Hanifen Employment Center is open and staff is working with clients by appointment, online, via email and by phone to offer skills assistance and job search. Jobs continue to be filled even through COVID-19.

Call 719-866-6445 or email Jobs@CCharitiesCC.org

CURRENT V olunteer 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. Shifts are Monday - Sunday, 7 a.m. - 1:15 p.m., 7 a.m. - 10 a.m., 10 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Contact us at 719-866-6281 or email Volunteeroffice@CCharitiesCC.org

To Get Involved

CASTLE ROCK OFFICE

Our Castle Rock Office continues to stay busy supporting our community through the holidays. From our emergency food pantry to winter coats and warm holiday meals, we assist those in vulnerable situations. There are two outreach programs to bless our families during the holidays:

- Christmas Giving Tree – Please share your blessings with those in need this holiday season
- Adopt a Family and Gift Card Program to support families in need.

To sign up for either of these options please e-mail Monica which program you would like to participate in at croffice@ccharitiescc.org. Thank you - your generosity makes our Christmas Outreach program possible.

To Learn more, Call: 720-215-4521

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View Our Annual Report
CCharitiesCC.org/AnnualReport

Donate Your Vehicle

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

Call 720-215-4521 CCharitiesCC.org/DonateYourVehicle

Family Connections

At Helen Hunt Campus
As the year-end fast approaches, we are pleased to report Family Connections has reopened their family showers and laundry services - by appointment only. This is an important service to support our case-managed families, particularly those who are homeless.

Family Connections has offered multiple events this fall in support of the families currently receiving services, including a Fall Fest with games and goodies, new winter coats through the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids program, and an open-air clothing event.

For the holidays, we need help to provide our children with a little something special. The items most needed are shoes (boys and girls, children and teens), Walmart and Target gift cards ($20 increments), and family or children’s board games.

For more information: Call: 719-578-1222 or email mbenegas@ccharitiescc.org

To provide help, create 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.

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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

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