

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Catholic Charities of Central Colorado Needs Your Help *Donation Shortfall Impacting Services*

Colorado Springs, CO – (February 1, 2024) Catholic Charities of Central Colorado is facing a double challenge: a decline in donations and an overwhelming surge in demand for essential services. The need has become more critical than ever. We are experiencing a funding gap of over \$628,000 which means individuals and families who come to us may have to wait for services, or not be served at all. We need the community's support to help some of the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community stabilize before their situations get worse.

Why are more people struggling?

Individuals and families come to us for a variety of reasons.

- Grocery prices have increased by 2.7% since December 2022, which is on top of a 10.4% increase in the previous year.
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shelter has continued a 40-month increase. In December, the cost of housing, which includes rent, was the largest contributing factor to the overall inflation increase. The gap between those needing affordable housing and the number of available affordable housing units continues to widen.
- Additionally, the Emergency Rental Assistance COVID-19 funds which helped keep people from being evicted, have run out.
- In general, salaries have not kept up with inflation. For many living on the margins, these increases were enough to put their fragile income-to-expense ratio out of balance, causing them to miss rent payments and become evicted or in arrears.

Why are donations down?

For the most part, our decrease in donations has been from a variety of sources including grantors, government sources, and individual contributions. The largest area of decreased donations has been in our Marian House services – the daily meal and the Marketplace pantry, although funding for emergency relief has also seen significant declines.

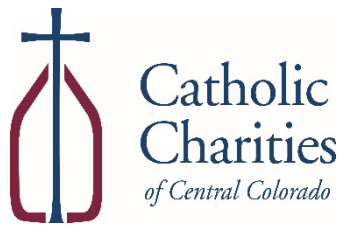
What is Catholic Charities doing to lessen the gap?

- We have implemented a hiring freeze, meaning open positions will not be filled.
- We have implemented budget re-forecasting, cutting anything that can be cut without totally closing programs.
- We are launching this public appeal to inform the community of our need.

How Can People Help?

Donate at www.CCharitiesCC.org/ChangingLives or call the Advancement Team at 719-866-6440.

Anything you can do to help get the message out would be greatly appreciated. Thanks for all you do in helping those in our community through disseminating timely information. Please call with any questions.



Catholic Charities of Central Colorado (CCCC) is a nonprofit organization serving people in need. We provide compassionate, competent, and professional services to strengthen and support individuals, families, and communities based on the value and dignity of human life. CCCC provides numerous services within a 10-county area for vulnerable and struggling populations through a variety of programs and services, from four facilities:

Helen Hunt Campus

Family Services – Services for Families using a 2Gen approach: *Family Connections Early Childhood & Parent Education* programs; comprehensive *Family Life Coaching/Case Management Programs*; *Family Navigation* (children’s and maternity clothing; baby needs such as diapers, baby food, and formula; family showers and laundry). **Hunt Family Housing** – After purchasing the Helen Hunt Campus in Dec. 2022, the 1901 building is being renovated to yield *24 transitional family housing apartments for homeless families*, scheduled to open in 2025.

Marian House Campus

Adult Services — *Navigation, ID replacement, Case Management, Shelter Referrals, Legal Assistance*, and more; **Employment & Life Skills** – Goal Setting, *Employment Skills* (Resume Building, Barriers to Employment, Job Leads), *Digital Equity Program* (Computer Skills/Internet Literacy, Email Proficiency, Google Docs), Financial Literacy, Workshops, and more; **Food & Nutrition Services** – Families and Individuals experiencing food insecurity can receive a hot, nutritious meal every day of the year at the *Marian House Kitchen* or register to shop for groceries at no cost at *The Marketplace food pantry*; **Medical & Health Services** – Monday – Friday walk-in or appointments with the SET Medical Clinic, Penrose-St. Francis Community nurse, or meet with a variety of other medical providers and partner agencies; *Behavioral Health Services*; **Rent & Utility Services**.

Catholic Pastoral Center

Medical & Health Services - Counseling Services – for families and individuals; **Immigration Services** – offers *Legal Services* for people who have a path to citizenship, residency, and other legal immigration status, *Know Your Rights Seminars*, and *Immigration Resources*.

Catholic Charities Castle Rock Office:

Home to the *Family Center of Douglas County*; *Case Management/Care Plans*, *Parent Cafés*, *Emergency Services*, *Child Care Vouchers*, and *Community Outreach Programs*.

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado locations:

Colorado Springs Office

228 North Cascade Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Phone: (719) 636-2345 Fax: (719) 636-1216

Castle Rock Office

410 South Wilcox Street, Suite 102
Castle Rock, CO 80104
Phone: (720) 215-4521

Marian House Campus

14 West Bijou Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
Phone: (719) 475-7314

Helen Hunt Campus

917 East Moreno Street/601 South Institute
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
(719) 578-1222