

# HELPING HANDS

Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

Volume 53

Issue 4



## FAMILY CONNECTIONS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Family Connections is in full swing with fall and winter activities. In September the *Coats for Kids Winter Coat Distribution* sponsored by the Knights of Columbus was a huge success with 228 coats given to children in need. This was followed by *Family Fun Fest* in October, supported by volunteers from CityServe Day. Families enjoyed goodies and participated in games, crafts, and played on the playground at the Helen Hunt Campus. November brought the final outdoor *Clothing Giveaway* of the year, which has been an opportunity for families to connect with Family Connections and learn about the services at the Helen Hunt Campus. In many ways, all of these events have been a gateway for families to become involved in the stability services offered to families by Catholic Charities.

The cooler weather brought the Friday Playgroup inside to the newly completed Children's Resource Center, which is also used for Cooking Matters classes and Circle of Fathers meetings. During the day, children play while their parents meet with the Life Coaches at Family Connections and "shop at no cost" in the Children's Clothing Closet. These families can also take advantage of on-site laundry and shower services.

The Friday Playgroup has grown over the past several months with families coming for socialization activities for both parents and children, including the weekly story-time and related craft activities. Children can keep the book from story-time

*Family Connections Continued on page 4*



## From the CEO: Andy Barton

**“(W)e even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.”**

*(Rom 5:3-5)*

It does not seem possible that the year 2021 is already coming to an end. Maybe it is because 2020 felt so long or maybe is a side effect of COVID, but it seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the coming of a new year. Throughout the past year, I reflected frequently on Paul’s letter to the Romans, especially the passage about faith, hope, and love. To me, Paul captures the essence of what we have been going through and gives great advice. Instead of wallowing in self-pity, we should take the “afflictions” from the pandemic and embrace them in the faith that they will produce character, hope, and endurance.

Catholic Charities was busier than we ever expected in 2021. The year continued to be defined by changes in procedures and practices brought about by the ever-changing face of the pandemic. We gradually opened program areas, negotiated masking regulations, and moved services from virtual to in person and back to virtual again. Mostly, we served a lot of men, women, and families that had never before been to Catholic Charities for services.

COVID-19 exposed a wide range of vulnerabilities in our society, perhaps most poignantly was the vulnerability of those living on the margins. What continued to stand out in 2021 was the number of individuals and families who came frighteningly close to losing their housing with incomes lost to shutdowns and health challenges. In both Douglas and El Paso Counties, Catholic Charities stood as one of the major providers of eviction prevention services providing over 1,500 households with the critical supports necessary to stay in their homes. While not all of those individuals and families would have ended up homeless without help, the assistance will provide long lasting benefits that will help our communities recover more quickly.

At the Marian House, Catholic Charities opened a new food pantry called the Marketplace to help offset the loss of food services in

downtown Colorado Springs, as well as to address the growing need for groceries with rising prices and intermittent scarcity. The Marketplace, now open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. is serving over 100 households each month and has provided over 125,000 pounds of food to our neighbors in need.

In both Castle Rock and at our Helen Hunt location, 2021 brought about dramatically expand services for parents and children. In Castle Rock, Catholic Charities partnered with Manna Resource Center, with support from the county, to stand up the Family Center of Douglas County. This program provides families with the support necessary to build stability and sustain healthy relationships. At the Helen Hunt Campus in Colorado Springs, Catholic Charities expanded early childhood education with programs like playgroups and parenting classes to help supplement the life coaching and family day center, creating a comprehensive mix of services unlike anything else for vulnerable families in El Paso County.

In these ways and in so many others, from work with our immigrant community to English as Second Language classes, Catholic Charities spent 2021 filling critical gaps for our poor and vulnerable. Looking back on all that has been accomplished, I am thankful for the incredible staff who have worked tirelessly for those in need. I am thankful for the army of dedicated and caring volunteers who give of their hearts and their time in so many different ways. And, I am thankful for those who have supported the work and the people we serve with the financial gifts that keep the agency going.

We know this is not the end -- 2022 will be over before we know it and will bring new challenges – but as we reflect on this Advent season, we rejoice in knowing that thousands of our neighbors have made it through 2021 with faith, hope and love.

**I'M MORE.**  
 MORE THAN JUST A POOR KID, A STATISTIC, OR A CASUALTY.  
 Lia will overcome the labels and the odds. She is more because of those who chose to help her family rise. Her parents are loving her and working to provide a stable home and a bright future.  
 Help us, help each other. Visit [CCharitiesCC.Org](http://CCharitiesCC.Org) to find out how you can change lives.



**Catholic Charities**  
of Central Colorado

**GIVE HOPE. RISE.**



## Client Profile

"Seeing the help they gave to those in need really impressed me."



## ESL HELPS OVERCOME LANGUAGE BARRIERS

Maria was born in Columbia, South Carolina, but moved to Panama at the age of 2 when her father, a civil engineer, moved the family for a new job opportunity. She attended college, became an architect, married her husband - an electrical engineer, and had four children - twins Louis and Eduardo and two daughters. Her children and her husband spoke English, but Maria had long forgotten her native language, speaking only Spanish.

When Eduardo experienced some medical issues beyond what the doctors in Panama could address, Maria moved the family to Colorado Springs where Louis had become an executive chef at a local restaurant, and Eduardo could get medical care. Fortunately, Maria's husband, Juan Carlos, could work remotely, traveling to Panama every other month for work and family. They also became involved at St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church where Juan serves as a deacon.

Maria faced a huge obstacle when speaking with doctors. While she could understand them, she struggled with expressing her own concerns and questions with her limited English skills. She was determined to learn English but found that doing it on her own was

a challenge. Then a friend told her about the **English as a Second Language program** at Catholic Charities. Maria loves working with her instructors and the other students. "They treat you with dignity and are lovely and kind people," she said.

This was not her first exposure to Catholic Charities. Maria and her father, a Catholic Deacon, volunteered at Catholic Charities in Panama. "Seeing them help those in need really impressed me," she said. "The volunteer work is one of the best things I have done in my life."

When asked what she would say to someone thinking about taking ESL, Marie replied, "Take these classes, please! You will never regret it... It is the best way to communicate and learn about U.S. culture. This is the one country that gives you the opportunity to live free and work. You need to try to know about the country and the people."

Maria wanted to share her story to let people know about the programs at Catholic Charities and to give a little something back. She wants to encourage others to support Catholic Charities. She said, "We give and we receive. It is important to be humble and receive help when you need it, and it is even more important to give. God always blesses both."

*Providing Help. Creating Hope.*



## HELPING THE COMMUNITY

*Family Connections Continued from page 1*

each week to expand their home libraries.

Ryland - pictured on the front cover - is reading a book with her father during Friday Playgroup. She has been involved in activities at Family Connections since before she was born. Kirsten's mom had heard of the Family Connections programs and reached out to see what might assist these young, soon-to-be parents. Catholic Charities enrolled them in our Childbirth classes and child safety classes. They work with a Life Coach, which has helped the couple gain confidence and feel prepared

for the parenting journey.

Once their little girl was born, they engaged in more programs including *Growing Great Kids* and *MotherRead/FatherRead* which further enriched their life as new parents. They continue to enjoy the relationships built through the weekly playgroups and feel blessed with a baby who not only sleeps through the night but eats well and takes good naps. As parents, they are more confident in their parenting skills and can enjoy all the stages of parenthood.

## Campus Navigators: The First Line of Support For Clients



Catholic Charities security team are now Campus Navigators. The team focus will be less about security and more about directing, engaging, and supporting visitors to help them find the services they need more quickly.

Corey Almond, VP of Adult and Immigrant Services at the Marian

House said, "They listen and determine the next best step for the individual." The position blends security and client services and support into a hybrid model resulting in more engagement with people who visit the Marian House each day. They build relationships while determining the needs of the family or individual, then they direct them to the appropriate service. They might make the person a meal card so they can participate in the meal service, schedule an appointment the Marketplace, or de-escalate high risk situations. They are the eyes and ears for the Marian House, providing individuals and families with dignity, respect, and the help they need, when they need it most.

## A Donors Story: Why Ralph and Alex Support Catholic Charities

It is not often that we get a glimpse into the reasoning behind someone's donation to Catholic Charities. Each person or family makes that choice based on factors known only to them. Regardless, the contribution is important to the work we do for the people we serve. Recently, Ralph and Alex shared why they support Catholic Charities.

Years ago, Ralph and his wife, Sherry, were parishoners at Holy Family Catholic Church, and Catholic Chaities and the Marian House became their charity of choice. Ralph said Sherry was "all about feeding the hungry."

In Feb. 2020 Sherry passed away, and as a way to honor her and mark the one year anniversary of her passing, the family made a donation in her name. Ralph said, "When we made that donation to Catholic Charities, it really made our family feel good."

Alex said, "When I was 18 or 19, we were walking by Catholic Charities... and I was watching them unconditionally show love and give whatever they had to the community, and that really hit home." Alex went on to say that he knew if he needed help, Catholic Charites would be there to help. They support everyone unconditionally, and that is why he supports the organization.



Learn Why Ralph and Alex Support Catholic Charities

Visit [CCharitiesCC.org/donate](https://CCharitiesCC.org/donate) to view the complete video

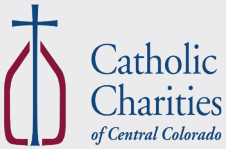
**Thank you Miller Family for Your Support!**



# Ways to Support Catholic Charities

## Creative Ways to Support the Work You Love!

Did you know you can change lives while reducing your taxable income? Here are just a few ways to support Catholic Charities this holiday season or throughout the year.



### Sponsor a Day

### WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES!

- 07/04 In memory of Ed Markham, wonderful husband, father, grandfather, & friend
- 07/07 Today is sponsored by Friends of the Marian House
- 07/08 Today is sponsored by the Glocker Family
- 07/12 Today is in memory of Jim & Betty Elliott on their anniversary
- 07/17 Today is in honor of Peter K's birthday!
- 07/20 Today is in honor of all the volunteers who serve in the kitchen
- 07/26 In thanksgiving for our many blessings. – J & J, St. Peter Parishioners
- 07/28 Sponsored by Maj. Gen. Ray O'Mara USAF Ret. & Carole O'Mara
- 08/02 Thank you Lamar Outdoor Advertising for your support!
- 08/05 Today is sponsored in memory of Matthew Schell. Happy birthday!
- 08/11 Happy birthday, Lisa Marie!
- 08/19 In memory of Ann Lauer, beloved "Navy" wife, mother, and nana
- 08/24 Today is in honor of our seminarians
- 08/27 Today is sponsored by Academy Mortgage
- 09/09 Today is sponsored by Story Coffee Company
- 09/11 Well done, good and faithful servant! (Matt 25:21) Love you, Mom!
- 09/12 Well done, good and faithful servant! (Matt 25:21) Love you, Dad!
- 09/14 Today is sponsored by Ford Motor Credit
- 09/15 Today is sponsored by Ford Motor Credit
- 09/17 55th Anniversary Blessings
- 09/21 In honor of our Bishop & the faithful priests serving our Diocese
- 09/23 Remember Matthew Schell! Love, Grandma & Grandpa
- 09/26 In honor of my mom, Carmelita. Happy birthday!
- 09/30 Today is sponsored by UnitedHealthcare Medicare Solutions

*For just \$1,500, you can provide more than just a meal and essential services to families and individuals in need..*

**You can provide hope.**

Call 719-866-6539 to Sponsor a Day at Marian House or email [SponsorADay@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:SponsorADay@CCharitiesCC.org)

## Tax Advantaged Giving

**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** – 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](http://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%.

## Community Giving Campaigns

COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION

COLORADO GIVES DAY 

December 7, 2021

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. 7 - receive a portion of the fund. Catholic Charities also has a \$50,000 match from an anonymous donor, so your donations work harder. Give on December 7 and make an even greater impact!



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 for us to consider, please contact our team at [Development@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:Development@CCharitiesCC.org) or 719.866.6440.

**Donate Online @ [CCharitiesCC.Org/Donate](http://CCharitiesCC.Org/Donate)**





# NEWS



## DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

Vehicle donations can be life changing. If public transportation is not widely available, a family has no way to get to work, the doctor's office, or even the supermarket. It can be one of the biggest challenges to stability.

**Call 720-215-4521 in Castle Rock or 719-866-6549 in Colorado Springs or Visit**

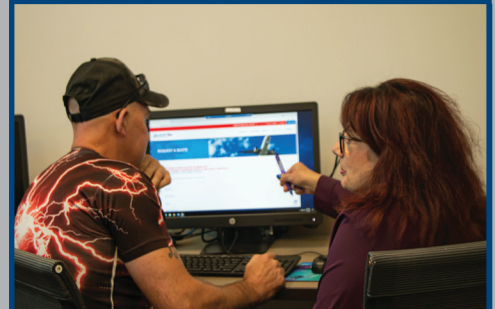
**[CCharitiesCC.org/DonateYourVehicle](http://CCharitiesCC.org/DonateYourVehicle)**



## CITIZENSHIP CLASSES

The next Citizenship Class Series begins January 25. Classes are scheduled on Tues & Thurs evenings from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Atlas Prep High School.

**To learn more or to register, visit [CCharitiesCC.org/esl-citizenship](http://CCharitiesCC.org/esl-citizenship) or Call 719-866-6516**



## GET HELP WITH JOB SKILLS

The 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 help. Look for our Job Fairs as well!

**Improve your employment today!  
Call 719-866-6445  
or Email [Jobs@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:Jobs@CCharitiesCC.org)**

**[CCharitiesCC.org/HEC](http://CCharitiesCC.org/HEC)**

## EXTENDED MARKETPLACE HOURS!

The Marketplace shopping hours have been extended to accommodate more families in need. Hours of operation are:

**Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

Clients are able to shop at no cost each month for a variety of healthy food options to cook at home.

**Email [Pantry@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:Pantry@CCharitiesCC.org) or Call 719-866-6288**



**VIEW OUR ANNUAL REPORT  
[CCharitiesCC.org/AnnualReport](http://CCharitiesCC.org/AnnualReport)**

## FOLLOW OUR BLOG!



The Catholic Charities Blog is a collection of work and ideas from our Catholic Charities team. Check It Out!

**[CCharitiesCC.org/Blog](http://CCharitiesCC.org/Blog)**



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are many opportunities to volunteer at Catholic Charities. With over 70 programs and services, delivered from four facilities, in two Colorado cities, volunteers are always welcomed.

**Call 719-866-6281, or Email [Volunteeroffice@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:Volunteeroffice@CCharitiesCC.org) To Get Involved**

**[CCharitiesCC.org/Volunteer](http://CCharitiesCC.org/Volunteer)**



### MARIAN HOUSE HANIFEN CENTER FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Catholic Charities continues to manage Rapid Re-Housing funds designated for Homeless Prevention. Since the beginning of January, 15 homeless individuals have been placed into stable housing and another 10 are currently in progress. Providing housing stability is even more critical now as we move into the cold winter months.

**[CCharitiesCC.org/emergency-essential-services/rent-assistance/](http://CCharitiesCC.org/emergency-essential-services/rent-assistance/)**



### CASTLE ROCK OFFICE WINTER ACTIVITIES

Winter activities have been underway in Castle Rock (CR) for several months. The coat drive brought in 500+ coats through St. Francis of Assisi, Pax Christi, and St. Mark Catholic Churches which were then distributed to families through CR and other area agencies, ensuring children has warm coats this winter. The annual turkey drive in early November supplemented the St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving food pantry, distributing holiday meals to families in need. The Christmas Giving Tree program, supported by the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi, provides vulnerable families with gift cards or personal gift items to ensure children had a normal and memorable Christmas.

**For information on how to donate or support these types of events, call 720-215-4521 or email [CRoffice@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:CRoffice@CCharitiesCC.org)**



### TAKE A "TOUCH THE NEED" TOUR

**First Friday of the Month  
at Catholic Charities**

**Family Connections: 9 a.m.  
917 E. Moreno Avenue**

**Marian House Campus 10 a.m.**

**14 W. Bijou Street**

**Register at:**

**[CCharitiesCC.org/Tours](http://CCharitiesCC.org/Tours)**



Want a career helping people at a trusted nonprofit in Colorado Springs? Check us out!

**[CCharitiesCC.org/Employment](http://CCharitiesCC.org/Employment)**



### BABY FOOD NEEDED

We need baby food-jars and cereal-for our Family Connections families. Donations can be dropped off at:

**14 W. Bijou St. M-Sat, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**More Info? Call 719-578-1222**

## Contact Us

**Castle Rock Office:**

**Catholic Charities Counseling:**

**Donations:**

**ESL & Citizenship:**

**Family Connections:**

**Family Immigration Services:**

**Hanifen Employment Center:**

**Marian House Client Services:**

**Marketplace Food Pantry:**

**Sponsor a Day:**

**Volunteer:**

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**[emergencyservices@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:emergencyservices@CCharitiesCC.org)**

**[immigration@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:immigration@CCharitiesCC.org)**

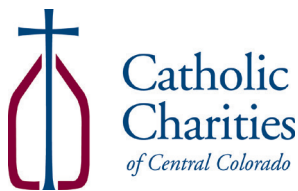
**[jobs@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:jobs@CCharitiesCC.org)**

**[help@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:help@CCharitiesCC.org)**

**[pantry@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:pantry@CCharitiesCC.org)**

**[SponsorADay@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:SponsorADay@CCharitiesCC.org)**

**[volunteeroffice@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:volunteeroffice@CCharitiesCC.org)**



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**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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Family Resource  
Center Association  
Connecting Resources, Impacting Lives



[www.CCharitiesCC.org](http://www.CCharitiesCC.org)  
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## MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY MAKING A GIFT

### STATE INCOME TAX CREDITS

#### Enterprise Zone 25%

Donations to Marian House and  
Family Connections of \$250 or more

#### Child Care Contribution 50%

### OTHER WAYS

- IRA Distributions, Stocks/Securities
- Sponsor a Day at Marian House
- Tribute Gifts – In Honor or Memory
- Planned or Legacy Giving
- Employer Matching Gifts
- Donor-Advised Funds

**MONETARY DONATIONS & TAX CREDITS:**  
719-866-6422 or 719-866-6440

### MATERIAL DONATIONS

**Food:** Bottles of water, snack bars, ground beef, hot chocolate, large bottles of spices, canned vegetables, powdered coffee creamer

**Castle Rock:** snacks, cereal, pasta sauce, crackers

**Infants & Children:** Sizes newborn, 4, 5, 6 diapers; baby food, formula, maternity & NEW baby clothes, new baby bottles, gently used kids shoes, and new toys ages 2 and under

**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.*

*Drop Castle Rock donations M - F, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.*

**MATERIAL GOODS:** 719-866-6550

**VEHICLES:** 720-215-4521 Castle Rock

719.866.6549 Colorado Springs

### THANK YOU GRANTORS!

CCUSA Francis Fund  
CDHS - Colorado Community Response  
Centura Health Equity and Advancement Fund  
City of Colorado Springs - CDBG  
City of Colorado Springs - ESG-CV2  
Diocese of Colorado Springs - RGG  
Eastern Colorado Bank  
El Paso County - CSBG  
El Paso County - CSBG CARES  
Marson Foundation  
Myron Stratton Home  
Phillip S. Miller - Douglas County  
Pikes Peak Community Foundation  
USAA Foundation  
Virginia W. Hill Foundation  
Walmart Foundation  
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#### COLORADO SPRINGS OFFICE

228 North Cascade Avenue  
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