



**WEEKLY PLAYGROUP!
FUN, EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE**

The Early Childhood Education team at Family Connections offers weekly playgroups for children birth through preschool age.

The group meets every Friday at 10:00 am at the Helen Hunt Campus. Enjoy and participate in fun activities, arts and crafts, reading, and engaging time for parents and kids to connect.

**For More Information:
Email KDobyns@CCharitiesCC.org**



Las Posadas

LAS POSADAS

Join us the annual Las Posadas celebration at 6:00 pm on December 16th at the Helen Hunt Campus.

Traditional singing and other activities will be followed by delicious food and hot chocolate.

**For more information email
CAlmond@CCharitiesCC.org**

**917 East
Moreno Ave**



SAFEWAY

Safeway and their customers have once again provided \$50 grocery cards to families and individuals struggling in our community.

Families can use the cards to purchase items for their holiday meal or simply items the family needs. Truly the gift of flexibility and choice for our clients.

Cards are distributed to clients enrolled in the Marketplace food pantry program.

Thank you!



CAN YOU HELP WITH BABY ITEMS?

Wipes and diapers of all sizes are needed, but particularly sizes 4 - 6. Donations can be dropped off at:

**14 W. Bijou St. M-Sat, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
More Info? Call 719-578-1222**

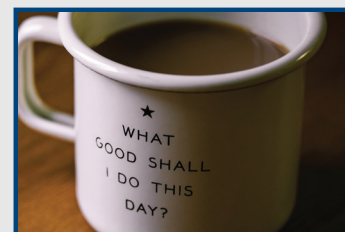
**Donate Your Car or Truck.
Change a Life!**



It may be old to you, but your car gives families a second chance!

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

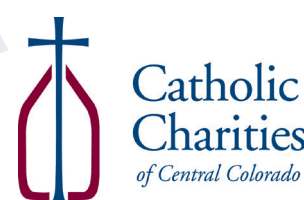
CCharitiesCC.org/DonateYourVehicle



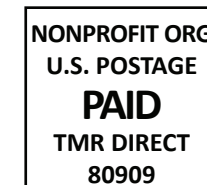
VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Volunteers are needed in most programs

**Visit us at:
CCharitiesCC.org/
Volunteer or call
719-866-6286**



Catholic Charities of Central Colorado
228 North Cascade Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903



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.

VISION: To transform lives through relationships that build individual resiliency and thriving communities

Values: Trust, Love, Service, Grit, Boldness, Solidarity

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Family Resource Center Association
Connecting Resources. Impacting Lives



www.CCharitiesCC.org
info@CCharitiesCC.org



Connect With Us

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Catholic Charities Counseling:
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Family Connections:
Family Immigration Services:
Hanifen Employment Center:
Marian House Client Services:
Marketplace Food Pantry:
Sponsor a Day:
Volunteer:

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Volunteer@CCharitiesCC.org



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

CCharitiesCC.org/Employment

"TOUCH THE NEED" TOURS

First Friday of the Month

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

**Marian House Campus: 10 a.m.
14 W. Bijou Street**

Register at:

CCharitiesCC.org/Tours

FOLLOW OUR BLOG!



The Catholic Charities Blog is a collection of work and ideas from our Catholic Charities team.

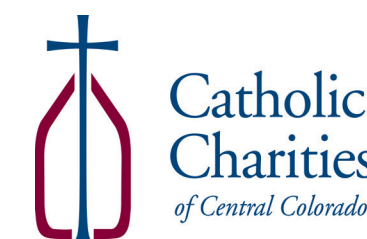
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HELPING HANDS

Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

Volume 54

Issue 4



**MONICA & JAIME:
FINDING HOPE**

"Without Catholic Charities, my son would not have the future he has now."

Family is everything to Monica. With her husband working excessive hours to provide for them, Monica needed a job with better hours so she could take care of their four children and supplement the family's income. At her cousin's suggestion, Monica called Catholic Charities.

Monica began a **Life Coaching program**; her first goal was a better job. After working with **Catholic Charities Hanifen Employment Center**, she found a job working as an in-home caregiver. Monica began to see hope! She loves her job and the flexibility it gives her to be there for her children. Recently she received a scholarship allowing her to become a certified nursing assistant - turning her job into a career.

During a meeting with her life coach, Maria, Monica shared concerns about her oldest son, Jaime. His grades were dropping, he was hanging out with a different group of friends, and she didn't recognize him anymore. He was not happy, and he felt he had limited options for his future. During one of their sessions,

Maria asked Jaime what kind of life he wanted and what kind of person he wanted to be. Jaime became aware of opportunities he had not dreamed possible and realized a different path was achievable. Like his mom, Jaime saw hope.

Jaime graduated high school, enrolled in a trades program, and already has plans to obtain a 4-year degree in a similar field. His enthusiasm is contagious! His younger siblings now talk about attending college – a path they once thought was unattainable.

Monica said the entire family has grown through their relationship with Catholic Charities. From employment assistance, life coaching, parenting classes, family enrichment events, help with groceries at the **Marketplace**, and clothes for the younger children from the **Children's Closet**, Monica never expected to gain so much.

"God put Maria and Catholic Charities in our lives when we really needed them."

From the CEO: Andy Barton

Ways to Support Catholic Charities



“Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up.” Gal 6:9

for food that arose during the pandemic. As inflation has set in, it has become even harder for individuals and families living at the margins to afford food, making the Marketplace services more sought after than ever before. The data is compelling. From 2021 to 2022, there was a 42% increase in people served in the month of September. Thus far in 2022, there have been 483 unduplicated households that have received food from the Marketplace. In September, the Marketplace surpassed 300,000 pounds of distributed food since opening.

That day in September, the dining room was busy with staff, volunteers, and clients working on paperwork, shopping, and leaving with bags of food. I had stopped to talk with a volunteer and was watching as a young couple with a toddler sat at a table and talked quietly with Rob Stinson, the Marketplace Coordinator. They listened intently while the little blond girl sat restlessly on her mom’s lap. There was a combination of worry, uncertainty, shame, and disappointment in their expressions as Rob spoke reassuringly to them. When the conversation was finished, the young mom stood, smiled weakly, and wrapped her arms around Rob in a hug of gratitude and relief. “You’re going to be all right,” he told her and handed them off to the volunteer who helped them gather their food.

When I asked Rob about the encounter, he shared a little of the painful backstory of the mom and dad: the periodic homelessness, violence, fear of losing their daughter. On that particular day, he told me, they were not meeting about anything in particular. They just needed someone to listen and tell them everything would be OK.

The relief those young parents felt on that fall afternoon did not show up in our September data. Nor did the love they felt from the volunteer who walked with them through the Marketplace. We can measure a lot about what and how we are doing, but no metric captures “doing good.” Every day, staff and volunteers at Catholic Charities reach out to the least of our brothers and sisters and engage in the act of doing good. And for those who walk through our doors, that good is what matters most.

Andy

GIVING FAMILIES HOPE.

It’s easy to lose hope when your family is homeless. That’s why Catholic Charities provides early literacy and parenting classes, along with basic needs such as food and housing, to prevent the next generation from becoming homeless. Help prevent homelessness. Visit CCharitiesCC.org.



PROGRAMS & EVENTS

The Marketplace A Food Pantry at Marian House



The Marketplace food pantry continues to be a valuable resource for families and individuals experiencing instability and hardship. Catholic Charities originally opened the pantry during the pandemic as a way to help those struggling with food insecurity as a result of lost wages from reduced work

hours or a complete loss of a job.

Initially, the pantry was open from 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. Mon, Wed, and Fri. Today, hours have been extended to 5 p.m. and a fourth shopping day is coming soon, extending the program to 15 hours per week. Since the pantry shares space with the Marian House Kitchen, the pantry is closed until after the daily meal service is complete.

Since opening Feb 1, 2021, 735 unduplicated families and individuals have been served. Each client family comes to the pantry once per month to choose food to supplement their families nutritional needs. Most clients leave with about 100 pounds of food. To date, over 311,200 pounds of food has been distributed to families, helping them maintain their housing stability by meeting one of their basic needs.

Additionally, last year Safeway and its customers provided \$44,000 in grocery gift cards through the Santa and Turkey Bucks program to clients visiting the pantry, enabling them to choose a holiday meal or supplement the family’s needs through the gift of a \$50 holiday Albertsons/Safeway card.

How Can You Help?

If you can help with a donation of non-perishable food items, they can be delivered to our Marian House Dock located at 14 West Bijou Street in Colorado. Monetary gifts allowing for the purchase of dairy and protein, can be made online at www.CCharities.org/donate or by contacting our Advancement team at 719-866-6440.



Providing Help. Creating Hope.

Employment Services Finding Jobs/Increasing Skills

Need a Job? Have Life Skills Barriers? Unemployed? Gaps in Employment?

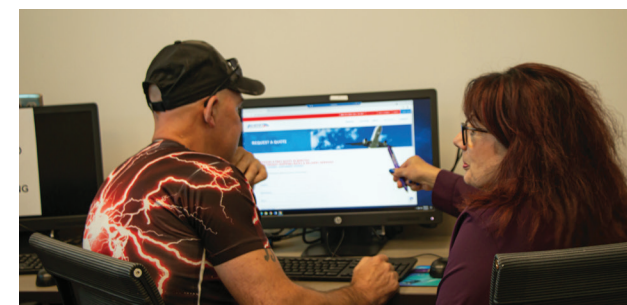
We can help! We offer weekly trainings that will make you more competitive in the job market. **The Hanifen Employment Center (HEC)** offers a variety of clinics, trainings, and classes:

Resume Clinic: Every Tuesday - 10 a.m. to noon.

Customer Service Certification Training
First Tuesday of the Month - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Interview Skills: Every Thursday - 10 a.m. to noon
Meet with employment specialists, get personalized assistance, access the computer lab, attend hiring events, and get referrals to employers.

Are you an employer who needs a qualified flow of talent?



We can help! We work with clients we place for one year post-hire to provide transition support to their new job, referrals for child care programs during work hours, and transportation solutions to and from work.

We assist employers with job posting and recruitment, candidate referrals, pre-employment screening, work readiness training, job retention support, space to host recruiting events, and attendance at our Job Fairs

The HEC is open Mon - Fri, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



You make futures full of hope possible for families in need in our community, and your financial support is needed now more than ever.

Gifts by Card or Check – Gifts can be made online at CCharitiesCC.org/donate with a card, or you can send a check payable to Catholic Charities to 228 N Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

State Income Tax Credits – Changes are coming to Colorado’s state income tax credit programs, effective Jan. 1, 2023. Please contact our team for more information!

IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions and Stock Gifts – Gifts made directly to our organization support life-changing programs and services while helping you avoid capital gains taxes.

Sponsor a Day – Give the gift of a day of essential services at the Marian House! You can choose to sponsor a special date to honor a loved one or anniversary. Contact (719) 866-6529 or SponsorDay@CCharitiesCC.org for more information.

Community Giving Campaigns

Each December, Coloradans come together to help nonprofits. Community Giving Day - Dec. 6 - receive a portion of the fund. **Catholic Charities also has a \$60,000 match** from an anonymous donor, so your donations work harder. Give through Dec. 6 at ColoradoGives.org and make an even greater impact!



There are so many ways to support the work you know and love this holiday season. For more information on how to make these gifts, please contact our Advancement Team at (719) 866-6440 or Development@CCharitiesCC.org.

Building Tomorrow Together

THANK YOU GRANTORS!

City of Colo Spgs Community Development Block Grant
Diocese of Colorado Springs - Diocesan Ministry Appeal
Centura Health Equity and Advancement Fund
State of Colorado Crime Victim Services
Ent Credit Union • Virginia Hill Foundation
Catholic Charities USA • USAA
Western Digital • Albertsons/Safeway

Sponsor a Day

**WHAT A DIFFERENCE
A DAY MAKES!**

- 07/05 – Hope is never lost!
- 07/07 – Today is sponsored by Friends of the Marian House
- 07/11 – Thank you Story Coffee Company!
- 07/17 – Today is in honor of Pete K’s Birthday!
- 07/24 – In loving memory of Audrey Cronin. Love, Judy & Bob
- 07/26 – In thanksgiving for our many blessings. - J&J St. Peter Parishioners
- 07/28 – Sponsored by Maj. Gen. Ray O’Mara USAF Ret. And Carole O’ Mara
- 08/05 – In Memory of Matthew Schell. Happy Birthday!
- 08/06 – Today is sponsored by Story Coffee Co.
- 08/11 – Happy Birthday, Lisa M.!
- 08/12 – Carry each other’s burdens that is how to keep the law of Christ. – Gal 6:2
- 08/13 – In loving memory of Col Jerry Wyngaard, USAF Faith-Family-Service
- 08/18 – In loving memory of Ann Lauer, my phenomenal wife.
- 08/22 – They were the love of each other’s lives. We miss you Mom & Dad
- 08/25 – In Honor of Our Seminarians
- 09/03 – Sponsored by St. Patrick’s Food Pantry Ministry
- 09/04 – Today is sponsored by Friends of Catholic Charities
- 09/08 – With gratitude to our benefactors. Fr. Kane & Fr. Dwyer
- 09/10 – But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength.
- 09/12 – In Honor of Our Bishop and the Faithful Priests Serving Our Diocese.
- 09/14 – We thank Lamar Outdoor Advertising!
- 09/17 – 56th Anniversary Blessings!
- 09/18 – Sponsored By Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
- 09/21 – Thank you, Lamar Outdoor Advertising!
- 09/23 – How precious is your steadfast Love, O God! Psalm 36:7
- 09/28 – Today is In Memory of Christopher Thomas Barta

Donate Online @ CCharitiesCC.org/Donate