



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Catholic Charities of Central Colorado Launches Digital Equity Program**  
*Kickoff Scheduled Aug. 31 at Hillside Community Center*

Colorado Springs, CO – (Aug. 22, 2023) Catholic Charities of Central Colorado is launching a **Digital Equity Program (DEP)**, thanks to a grant from the City of Colorado Springs. The program will launch with a Kickoff event at Hillside Community Center on Aug. 31, 2023, from 6 – 7:30 p.m.

The DEP will help bridge the digital divide by helping residents without connected devices or who lack basic digital skills not only learn those skills but also have access to the internet, thanks to the [Community Economic Defense Fund Affordable Connectivity program](#) which helps people sign up for affordable internet services. We anticipate participants of the program will be people who are low-income and housing-insecure living within Southeast Colorado Springs and who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased digitization seen in its aftermath.

The DEP is a perfect supplement to services already offered at the Hanifen Employment Center (HEC), adding support for navigating the technology required to access employment, housing, financial assistance, and benefits. The existing in-house computer lab will be bolstered by 10 traveling Chromebooks, and both will offer one-on-one tech support, workshops, and courses to increase digital skills and access resulting in participants gaining new skills, support, and information. Classes will be delivered at Catholic Charities HEC and through our mobile computer lab, currently scheduled for Hillside Community Center, Deerfield Hills Community Center, Meadows Park Community Center, and Relevant Word Christian Cultural Center. Visit [CCharitiesCC.org/DigitalEquityProgram](http://CCharitiesCC.org/DigitalEquityProgram) to view the class schedule which is currently TBD.

Catholic Charities' goals for the program include:

- Providing workshops and one-on-one technical support to 160 individuals each year.
- Having 60 individuals participate in the computer literacy course and learn basic computer skills including internet literacy, Google Docs, and email proficiency.
- Having 30 individuals complete the full DEP with certifications (*these individuals will receive a free Chromebook*).

The program will utilize the [NorthStar Curriculum](#). NorthStar is a Minnesota-based company whose mission is to share the power of learning through education, community building, and advocacy. Northstar was developed in response to the needs of job seekers who lacked the digital literacy skills needed to seek, obtain, and retain employment and perform other daily life tasks. The certification for the DEP will come from Northstar, whose certificates will provide important credentials for employment.

Individuals interested in registering for classes or receiving more information should contact Maria Mendez Rodriguez at [DigitalEquity@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:DigitalEquity@CCharitiesCC.org)



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