

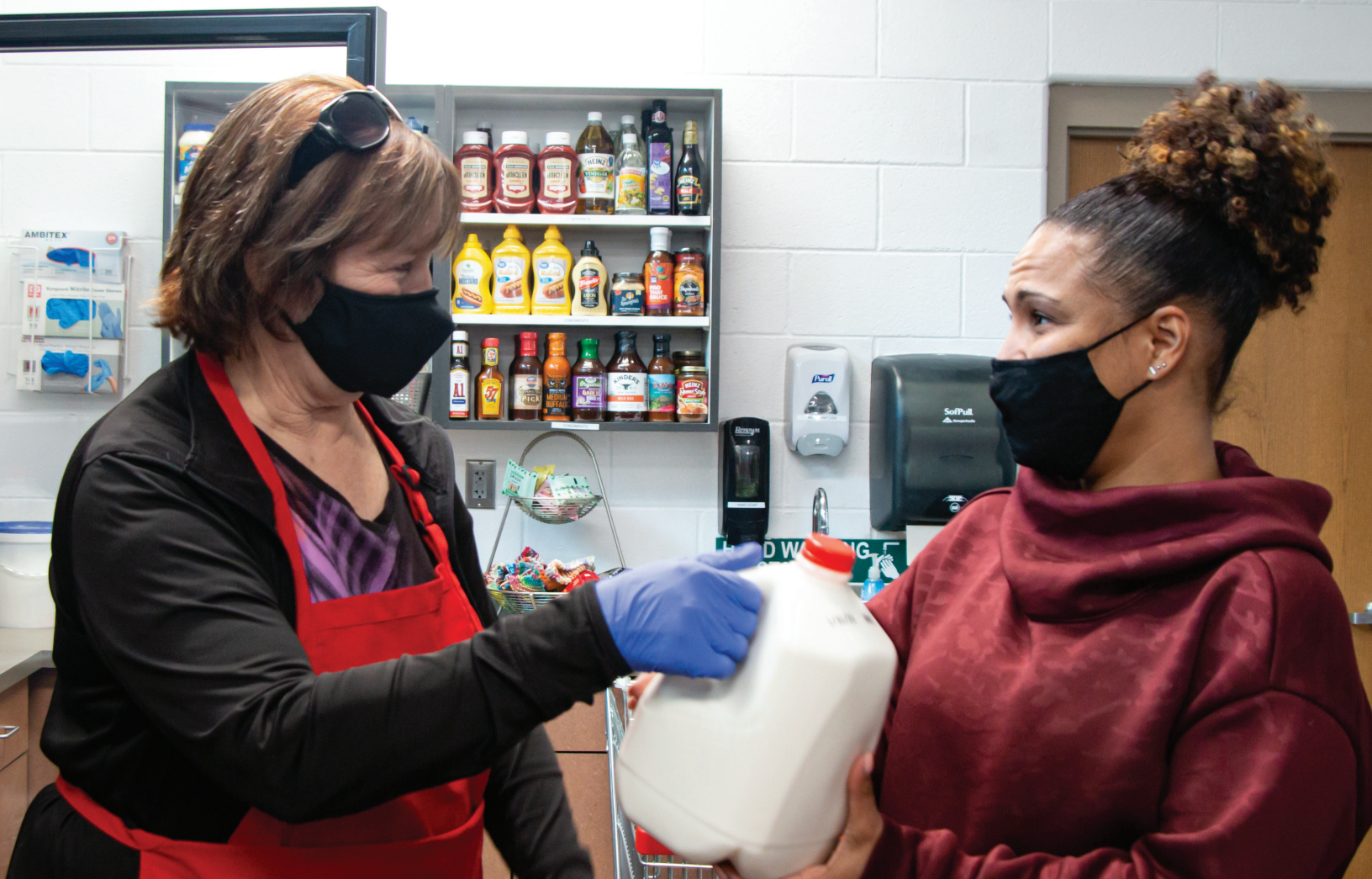
HELPING HANDS

Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

Volume 53

Issue 1

MARIAN HOUSE OPENS *THE MARKETPLACE* A NEW FOOD PANTRY IN COLORADO SPRINGS



The Marian House Marketplace food pantry is open! As a way to better serve our clients and fill gaps left by several downtown pantries closing, Marian House has opened a food pantry, located inside the Marian House Kitchen, to serve those experiencing food instability. Clients can "shop" for fresh and shelf-stable items such as fruit and vegetables, dairy and meat, cereal and grains, and some prepared foods. Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:30 - 3 p.m. Currently, food allotments are once per month per family.

Interested in supporting this food ministry? Food items can be dropped off at 14 West Bijou Street Monday - Saturday, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Monetary donations can be made online at CCharitiesCC.org, by mail (228 N. Cascade Ave, C/S 80903), or by phone - 719.866.6422.

From the CEO: Andy Barton



“For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.”

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

We have reached a point in time where we can better see where we have been, and where we are going in the COVID-19 pandemic. The encouraging development and distribution of two vaccines is providing more optimism than we have experienced in months. As the number of cases have declined in Colorado, the Marian House Kitchen has been allowed to reopen for indoor dining for the first time since Thanksgiving. The virus has, mercifully, mostly spared our homeless population, despite the disproportionate risks they face by virtue of not having the “safer at home” option. There is much to be thankful for as we embark on a new year.

COVID-19 has brought people together in amazing ways. Nowhere has that been more evident than in the outpouring of support that has continued since the first days of the pandemic last March. An abundance of philanthropic funding from foundations and individual donors ensured that, while we had to innovate at times, we never had to shut down our operations. With this financial investment, Catholic Charities has been able to provide over \$750,000 in rent assistance to 773 households in El Paso and Douglas County since April (*numbers reflect those served as of Jan 20, 2021*). That is an incomprehensible number of people who would have become homeless or would be facing homelessness without the generosity of our community members.

Yet at the same time, we have been growing apart. The economic effects of the pandemic have worked to dramatically

expand the gap between upper and lower wage earners. The latter group saw a disproportionate number of service and front-line jobs cut amid shutdowns and travel restrictions. According to reports from Opportunity Insights, a nonpartisan research group, employment for those earning over \$60,000 has largely returned to pre-pandemic levels. For those earning \$27,000 or less, employment levels are 20% below January 2020 levels. On top of employment stability, high earners who hold stocks have benefited from the unprecedented rally in the market. Many of these households have also taken advantage of record low rates to refinance their homes. Those on the margins have enjoyed no such economic boosts.

These disparities are dangerous. They have led, in many ways, to the discontent of the masses that has manifested throughout our nation this past year. As Pope Francis writes in *The Joy of the Gospel*, “Inequality is the root of social ills.” The good news is that the past year has provided us with a model to combat these threats to the common good. We have seen and heard from so many of you who have said, “I was blessed, and I want to share it with those who were not.” My prayer is that we can keep that spirit alive in the months and years to come. Thank you to all of you who have helped chart that course.



**We rise together to serve
our most vulnerable.**

Help us help each other.



Catholic
Charities
of Central Colorado



"I felt hopeless"

Rhea was ready for a new start. Her marriage of nine years had ended, and she wanted to get away from the entire environment and situation. She had fallen in love with the beauty of Colorado through books and pictures and began looking for jobs so she could relocate to the area. With anticipation for a new beginning she left her home state with three suitcases (and not much else) and flew to Colorado.

Before she could start her new job, she tested positive for COVID-19. Her employer covered the testing, but she was unable to start work until she was cleared. She dealt with the illness alone with no medical or family support and a lot of stress about how this might impact her job. She had only been working for about a month when she lost her job. So, there she was, in a place where she had no contacts, family or friends with an empty apartment, no car, no health insurance and now no job.

With COVID-19 restrictions it was difficult to meet people or begin making friends. Jobs were much more difficult to find with the pandemic still in full swing. She applied for jobs wherever she could, but nothing came through. With her funds dwindling, she opted not to purchase her required

TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

medications or furniture for her apartment. Sitting on the floor eating ramen noodles, she was beginning to feel desperate.

"It was a very dark time for me. I tried reaching out to human service agencies in the area without much luck. I was single and not homeless - yet, so their programs could not offer me any support. I felt hopeless."

While searching on the internet Rhea found Catholic Charities. She spoke with David Green, Director of Income and Relief services at Catholic Charities Hanifen Center, and he was able to help her with rental assistance and a variety of other services.

David introduced Rhea to Louise, an employment case manager, who provided funds for the medications she needed as well as bus vouchers for transportation, additional rent assistance, and utility payments (through COPE). For the first time since arriving in Colorado, Rhea felt hope. The staff at the Hanifen Employment Center helped Rhea refocus her employment search through job skills training, guidance, and emotional support, walking beside her as she got back on her feet.

Rhea found a great job where she is thriving and making friends. She will have medical insurance, allowing her to purchase her medication, and she is excited to begin exploring the many trails around Colorado Springs.

Transition is usually difficult, but with the support and stability Rhea now has, she is excited to begin her new life in this place she now calls home.

Join Us for the 20th Annual St. Pat's Gala - Virtually

GALA time

Irish Eyes Will Be Smiling At The



GALA



Have a Wee Bit of Fun While Supporting Charity!

Presenting Sponsor



Associate Sponsors:

The Diocese of Colorado Springs
Ent Credit Union
Penrose-St. Francis Health Services

Join Us on March 17 at 7:00 pm

Virtually at www.SPDGala2021.GiveSmart.com

To Become a Sponsor, or for More Information,
Call 719.866.6539, or Visit CCharitiesCC.org

Donor Gifts Home to Catholic Charities Provides Housing for Struggling Families

Housing prices in Colorado have been on an upward trajectory for quite some time now. For an existing homeowner, this is a positive increase in value. However, for those that are looking to rent, it can be a difficult and terrifying time. Adequate and affordable housing has become a critical issue for many families in Central Colorado.

Recently, the Castle Rock office was blessed with the donation of a two-bedroom townhouse in Parker. The donor, who wished to remain anonymous, asked that it be used to help struggling families, a purpose that tied in perfectly with the work of Catholic Charities through its participation in the Douglas County Cares (DC Cares) program – a multiagency partnership that helps families achieve self-sufficiency.

Then, *Hands of Hope*, a group of caring volunteers from Ava Maria Catholic

Church in Parker, freshened up the home with new carpet, paint, and other items to ensure it was in tip-top shape! The unit will be ready by February for a family that is receiving case management from Catholic Charities. This “transitional housing” is available to a family for up to one year as they work with their Catholic Charities case manager to achieve self-sufficiency.

Each family who stays in this home will only be responsible for paying one-third of their income in rent, with the DC Cares program contributing additional funds each month to offset the expenses for property taxes, utilities and other necessary upkeep.

“Our hope is that this one unit becomes the seed from which will grow a more robust transitional housing program” said Paul Narduzzo, director of Catholic Charities Central Colorado’s Castle Rock office.



“Helping families remain safely housed is a significant step in moving them toward self-sufficiency. When you know you have a roof over your head, and your family is safe, you can then focus on other critical steps to getting your feet back on the ground. We are so grateful to all of those who have been a part of making this come to reality.”



Ways to Support Catholic Charities

Enterprise Zone Cumulative Donations Offering Donors More Flexibility



We are excited to announce the launch of our Enterprise Zone cumulative giving program. Catholic Charities' Development Team has worked with the Pikes Peak Enterprise Zone (PPEZ) team to be able to offer donors more flexibility with this 25% state income tax credit program.

Effective January 2021, donors can participate in our in-house Enterprise Zone cumulative donation program by making donations totaling \$250+ by year-end (minimum of \$25 per gift). You must "opt in" to this rolling donation program by checking the appropriate box in the online donation form or by contacting

the Development Team. Opting in allows our team to track these donations more effectively and process the donations and tax credit forms in a timely manner with the PPEZ office.

You can read more about the Enterprise Zone State Tax Credit at CCharitiesCC.org/EnterpriseZoneTaxCredit. If you have any questions about this program, please contact Development Manager Brea Reimer-Baum at Development@CCharitiesCC.org or (719) 866-6539.

Thank you for your continued support of this life-changing work.

Together, We Rise!

Donate Online @ CCharitiesCC.Org/Donate



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



- 11/7 Sponsored by St. Patrick's Food Pantry Ministry
- 11/11 May we all be an instrument of peace-St Francis of Assisi
- 11/12 Sponsored by BOK Financial
- 11/14 In Honor of Maria & Mario Elizondo's Wedding Anniversary
- 11/16 Sponsored by Ford Motor Credit
- 11/17 Sponsored by Ford Motor Credit
- 11/21 In Memory of Bernard & Rose Bunecke, 43 years of love & faith
- 11/26 Giving Thanks for All God's Blessings
- 11/28 Sponsored by Story Coffee Company
- 11/30 In Honor of our Seminarians
- 12/3 Sponsored by the Davalos Family
- 12/5 In Memory of Gretchen Kraska. Happy Birthday!
- 12/9 Sponsored by Friends of the Marian House
- 12/11 Sponsored by Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
- 12/12 Sponsored by Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
- 12/13 Sponsored by St. Peter Catholic Church Monument
- 12/14 Pray. Hope. Don't Worry. Padre Pio

- 12/16 Sponsored by BOK Financial
- 12/17 In Honor of Peanut
- 12/22 Sponsored by Monarch Mounain
- 12/23 In Memory of Dolores A. Barrowman
- 12/24 In Memory of Richard P. Pechotta Love Always, Linda
- 12/25 The Light of Christ Shines in the Darkness. John 1:5
- 12/27 Much To Be Thankfor For.
- 12/28 In Memory of Cliff & Phyllis Kirst / Carlos & Toni Aguirre
- 12/30 Here's to a safe and healthy New Year!

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES!

Call 719-866-6529 to Sponsor a Day at Marian House



NEWS



Thank you for your support in 2020. Without your commitment to our mission and your generosity of time, talent and treasure we would not be able to help the most vulnerable in our community.

Thank you for being a Partner in Hope!



ESL CLASS REGISTRATION

ESL will hold a variety of weekly, virtual classes at five different learning levels. Some scholarships are available.

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



JOB SKILLS HELP CONTINUES!

Our Hanifen Employment Center is open and staff are 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

CCharitiesCC.org/HEC

PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

With a new pantry at the Marian House, Volunteers are needed to help with daily operations. If interested in serving in the pantry, please volunteer!

**To Get Involved,
Contact us at 719-866-6281
or email**

Volunteeroffice@CCharitiesCC.org



SPONSOR A DAY

What a difference a day makes!

When you donate \$1500 through the Sponsor A Day program, you not only provide a nutritious hot meal, but many essential services to the most vulnerable in our community.

**For more information email:
dheisler@ccharitiescc.org**



FOLLOW OUR BLOG!



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

CCharitiesCC.org/Blog



BASIC MEDICAL CARE & VACCINATIONS

Care and resources are provided to clients every day through partnerships with Penrose-St. Francis Health Services Neighborhood Nurse Center and the 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 for info

**Together We Rise. Together, We Help Each Other.
Together, Hope Is Found.**



CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Volunteers are always needed to help at the Marian House Kitchen to prepare and serve the hot, daily meal. Shifts are **Monday - Sunday, 7 a.m. - 1:15 p.m., 7 a.m. - 10 a.m., and 10 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

Call 719-866-6281, or email Volunteeroffice@CCharitiesCC.org To Get Involved

CCharitiesCC.org/Volunteer



DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

Vehicle donations can be life changing. In places where public transportation is not widely available, a family has no way to get to work, the doctor's office, or even the grocery store without a car. Transportation can be one of the biggest challenges for a family trying to move forward. Recently, Catholic Charities received a vehicle donation needing some mechanical work. *Castle Rock Imports* generously donated labor and materials! Thank You!

Have a vehicle that needs a new home or even one that is beyond repair? Consider donating it to Catholic Charities. Families are always in need of vehicles to help move toward stability and financial security.

Call 720-215-4521

Or visit

CCharitiesCC.org/

[DonateYourVehicle](#)



FAMILY CONNECTIONS AT HELEN HUNT CAMPUS

Family Connections programs are in full-swing. Supporting many families with both donor and grant money given specifically for housing, they have been working non-stop to provide as much help to as many families as they can.

For more information:

Call 719-578-1222

or email

mbenegas@ccharitiescc.org



CASTLE ROCK OFFICE

Our Castle Rock Office continues to assist individuals and families in vulnerable situations within the community. Holiday turkeys, gift cards, and warm coats have been provided to local residents needing support. Rental/housing assistance, utility payments, food items, and other life necessities are provided regularly to struggling families. If you need assistance,

Call 720-215-4521 or email croffice@CCharitiesCC.org



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

CCharitiesCC.org/Employment

Contact Us

Castle Rock Office:

Donations:

ESL & Citizenship:

Family Connections:

Hanifen Employment Center:

Marian House Client Services:

Marian House Food Pantry:

Volunteer:

croffice@CCharitiesCC.org

development@CCharitiesCC.org

esl-citizenship@CCharitiesCC.org

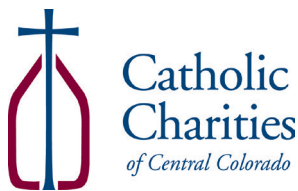
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jobs@CCharitiesCC.org

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pantry@CCharitiesCC.org

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
info@CCharitiesCC.org



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%

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 or Legacy Giving
- Employer Matching Gifts
- Donor-Advised Funds

MATERIAL DONATIONS

Food: Plastic Spoons, Heavy Styrofoam plates, bottles of water, snack bars, ground beef, hot chocolate, spices, canned vegetables, powdered coffee creamer

Castle Rock: jelly, chili, canned meals, snacks

Infants & Children: Sizes newborn & 4, 5, 6 diapers; baby food, formula, maternity & NEW 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.*

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

THANK YOU GRANTORS!

- Anschutz Foundation
- B.P.O. Elks #309
- CCUSA Francis Cares
- El Paso County Public Health Protect our Neighbors Grant
- El Pomar Merit Grant
- El Pomar Colorado Assistance Fund
- Family Resource Center Association CARES
- Inasmuch Foundation
- Mabel Horrigan Foundation
- Pikes Peak Community Foundation
- Russell Grinnell Memorial Trust Foundation

MONETARY DONATIONS & TAX CREDITS:

719-866-6422 or 719-866-6440

MATERIAL GOODS: 719-866-6550 VEHICLES: 720-215-4521

CCHARITIESCC.ORG/DONATE

COLORADO SPRINGS OFFICE

228 North Cascade Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
T: 719-636-2345 F: 719-636-1216

CASTLE ROCK OFFICE

410 S. Wilcox Street, Suite 102
Castle Rock, CO 80104
T: 720-215-4521

THE MARIAN HOUSE

14 West Bijou Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
T: 719-475-7314 F: 719-633-0289

HELEN HUNT CAMPUS

917 E. Moreno Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
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