



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Catholic Charities Enters Family Housing Arena Purchases Helen Hunt Campus Begins Capital Campaign to Convert School to Family Apartments

Colorado Springs, CO – (Dec. 15, 2022) Catholic Charities of Central Colorado has purchased the Helen Hunt Campus from the Legacy Institute. Now work begins to raise \$5.2 million to convert the historic two-story building on the property into 21 - 24 multisized family apartments offering homeless families a stable housing option. This project will significantly increase stable family housing in Colorado Springs.

“We have always been an agency that develops programs to *fill the gaps* in community needs,” said Catholic Charities President & CEO Andy Barton. “With the increase in families experiencing homelessness in our community along with other family-focused shelters closing, the opportunity to purchase the Helen Hunt Campus could not have come at a better time. Once converted to apartments, case managers working in our Family Connections program – located on the Hunt Campus and in partnership with Partners in Housing - will have viable options for helping homeless families regain stability through housing.”

Why Family Housing?

A shortage of housing for homeless families is one of the most pressing issues facing our community. ***Parents and children cannot thrive when they do not know where they will sleep at night.***

- 124 families (241 children/127 adults) are on the waiting list for housing (ViSPDAT)
- The 2022 “Point in Time Count” identified 152 households with children as being homeless - a 21% increase over 2020
- Of the adults & children identified as homeless, 60% are persons of color
- The United States Department of Health and Human Services reports that compared to children who are housed, children experiencing homelessness have:
 - twice the rate of learning disabilities
 - three times the rate of behavioral & emotional issues
 - twice the rate of illness

The Project

The campus, located in the Hillside neighborhood, was once owned by Colorado Springs School District 11 which sold the building to the Lane Foundation – now the Legacy Institute – in 2016. The foundation initially renovated the newer, one-story building to house four nonprofits and the Shandy Clinic. More recently, the larger, two-story building was retrofitted to accommodate three more nonprofit organizations as well as Switchback Coffee Roasters and Catholic Charities' Family Resource Center.

While the one-story building will continue to serve as the nonprofit campus, the two-story building will accommodate a variety of apartments: 9 studios (studio apartments can be combined to form two-bedroom apartments), 4 one-bedrooms, 10 two-bedrooms, and 1 three-bedroom, plus common laundry rooms and offices. Switchback Coffee Roasters will remain in the building and the playground will continue to be a Hillside neighborhood community gathering space.

To learn more, schedule a tour, or donate, visit HuntFamilyHousing.org, or call Matt Boyle, Catholic Charities Director of Advancement at 719-866-6440.

Help us Change a Child's Future.

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Before: Classroom

After: Family Apartment





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 over 70 programs and services, from four facilities:

Helen Hunt Campus

Family Connections – Services for Families: Early Childhood Enrichment & Education programs utilizing a 2Gen approach; comprehensive Case Management/Family Life Coaching; Colorado Community Response program; Student & Family Support program; Family Mentor Alliance; Parenting classes; Children’s Clothing Closet (children’s and maternity clothing; baby needs such as diapers, baby food and formula; family showers and laundry); Special Family programs for birthdays and Christmas.

Marian House Campus

Nutrition Services – Families and Individuals experiencing food insecurity can receive a hot, nutritious meal every day of the year at the **Marian House Kitchen**; **The Marketplace food pantry** – shop for groceries at no cost. Must have transportation and refrigeration; **Hanifen Employment Center** – Life Skills, Career Development, Job Training/Placement/Hiring Events, Financial Literacy, Computer Skills, Resume Building, and Soft Skills in the Workplace classes; **Housing & Client Services** – help with rent, utilities, ID replacement, case management, referrals and so much more; **Access to Health** – Monday – Friday walk-in or appointments with the SET Medical Clinic or Penrose-St. Francis Community nurse, or meet with a variety of other medical providers and partner agencies; **Legal Help.**

Catholic Pastoral Center

Counseling Services – for families and individuals; **Family Immigration Services** – offers legal services to people who have a path to citizenship, residency, or other legal immigration status, and Know Your Rights Seminars.

Catholic Charities Castle Rock Office:

Home to the Family Center of Douglas County; case management, counseling, emergency services, child care vouchers, seasonal 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