

# HELPING HANDS

Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

Volume 53

Issue 3

## THE HANIFEN EMPLOYMENT CENTER

JOB SKILLS

JOB FAIRS

JOB PLACEMENT



After a year hiatus from in person job fairs, the Hanifen Employment Center (HEC) held its first post-COVID-19 fair May 27 at the Marian House Campus. Mask mandates and social distancing were observed while attendees met with employment partners, setting up interviews and obtaining information to move forward with stable employment. Prospective employers represented retail, customer service, production and machine operators, health care, staffing agencies, and more, so that those looking for employment had a diverse selection of employment fields from which to choose.

Classes and one-on-one training are back on schedule at the HEC. A recent participant said, " I found plenty of resources at Catholic Charities. Not only did they help me with my current financial struggles, but they also helped me understand how the workplace has changed and how to manage my fears about COVID-19 in the workplace. The Employment Services team at the Hanifen Employment Center helped me apply for jobs online in their computer lab.

HEC: Continued on page 4



## From the CEO: Andy Barton

“We can understand Jesus’ command to his disciples: “You yourselves give them something to eat! (Mk 6:37): it means working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor, as well as small daily acts of solidarity in meeting the real needs which we encounter.” - Pope Francis

Many who read this newsletter knew – or knew of – Steve Handen, who died last month. He was the man who began feeding the poor out of his home in Colorado Springs in the 1970s. As that ministry grew, it moved to the basement of First Baptist Church and ultimately to the Marian House, where it lives on today. But Steve was so much more than the founder of the city’s first soup kitchen. He was the personification of Christ’s charge to care for our poor and vulnerable.

It is easy to feel small in the shadow of Steve’s life and legacy. We work for our poor: Steve lived with our poor. He was not concerned about organizational growth or fundraising goals, strategic plans, or dashboards. What made Steve such a beautiful soul was his singular dedication to caring for the people who had nothing and no one to care for them. He could be difficult and gruff and was not afraid to tell you when he thought you were not doing enough or focused on the wrong things, but his kindness and love was always present.

Steve’s memory sits with me as I write this letter about our strategic goals for Catholic Charities in the upcoming year. As an agency, Catholic Charities provides supportive services to over 20,000 people a year. To serve as the charitable arm of the Diocese of Colorado Springs, it is important that we have a plan and are able to track and understand how we are doing in executing it.

Over the past four months, the Catholic Charities board and staff have engaged in deep discussion and reflection on how best to serve our poor and vulnerable in a world in which there is still a great deal of unknown caused by the continuing and future impact of COVID. The resulting plan does not change the fundamental work we are doing; however, it does address key areas of vulnerability for those we serve, and in the broader context of the systems that are in place that continue to address poverty and homelessness.

One of the main stressors for those we serve continues to be affordable housing, a pressure that has increased as a result of the pandemic. Our priority at Catholic Charities will focus specifically on ways we can support this critical need for the individuals and families we serve. Through partnerships with city and county government in both Douglas and El Paso counties, we have been working on eviction prevention since the beginning of the pandemic and we expect that work to continue in the year to come.

We believe keeping people housed is one of the best interventions to address homelessness. However, for most that we work with, eviction prevention is more than just paying rent. It is a long-term effort in which staff work for months with clients to help build the systems of support that can help achieve long-term stability through life coaching and case management. This type of highly specialized work concerns itself with improvements in everything from employment to savings and education. Our goal is to increase the number of households who improve their stability through their partnership with Catholic Charities.

Part of making these life changes for those experiencing poverty is about access. Be by making legal, health, nutrition, and employment services more readily available to marginalized populations, we believe we can equip those households with the tools they need to achieve stability on their own.

As we continue to move forward in this ministry of serving our brothers and sisters, we strive to do as Pope Francis encouraged in “The Joy of the Gospel”: to address both the structure of poverty and the immediate needs of those in the margins. In other words, we must be smart and plan well, but at the end of the day we should always ask ourselves what Steve Handen would have done: **open our hearts and love our neighbors in need.**

# We rise together to serve our most vulnerable.

## Help us help each other.





## Client Profile



"Every day I am thankful  
for Catholic Charities"

## WORKING TO ENSURE A HAPPY, HEALTHY CHILD

Josh and Amanda were experiencing difficult times - some due to poor choices, others due to circumstances. But when they had a beautiful, baby girl, who had to live with family members due to those choices, they knew things had to change. That is when they found Catholic Charities Family Connections.

Determined to bring their child home to a safe, loving environment, Josh and Amanda began participating in the Early Childhood Education and Parenting Programs, where they grew as individuals, partners, and parents. The Parenting with Love and Logic class helped them become better parents and Growing Great Kids/Growing Great Families helped them set a strong foundation of learning for their daughter. **These strength-based programs and classes are offered to parents at no cost.** Their case manager walked with them, providing emotional and tangible support such as clothing and baby needs, but more importantly, experience, guidance, and suggestions to make their family stronger.

Alaina is back home with her parents, thriving in the love

and security she feels from them. The family continues to build upon their foundation by participating in on-going case management, parenting, and early education programs such as Cooking Matters and PlayGroup. They have acquired parental resilience, found social support, and understand they can guide the social-emotional competence and education of their child.

Josh and Amanda have overcome many obstacles to reach their goals. Their journey has not been easy and certainly struggles still lay ahead. Only now, the tools they have acquired through these programs have equipped Josh and Amanda to face whatever comes their way, and ensure they raise a happy, healthy child.

Josh says, "I was homeless and on the streets for almost a year, and every day I'm thankful for Catholic Charities... Without them, we wouldn't have our daughter right now, and every day I'm thankful because without her, who knows where I would be?"

*Providing Help. Creating Hope.*



## HELPING THE COMMUNITY

HEC: Continued from page 1

HANIFEN EMPLOYMENT CENTER

# NEED RESUME HELP?

jobs@CCharitiesCC.org



If you or someone you know is interested in developing employment skills or needs help finding employment, please contact us at 719.866.6285 or [Jobs@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:Jobs@CCharitiesCC.org).

Working with a case manager there, gave me the confidence to apply for jobs that fit my skills and experience."

In August, a specialized job fair was held for seniors who need to supplement retirement income, but are struggling to return to the workforce. Amazon, the food services industry, local school districts, hotels, and nursing and therapy center employers participated.

The goal of the HEC is to reach out to the community, aiding those who find it difficult to secure employment. This includes seniors, past offenders, and many who are simply uncomfortable seeking employment post COVID-19.

Job seekers can receive coaching for resume writing, life skills development, financial skills/budgeting, interviewing skills, and computer classes, all offered at the HEC. These services are offered individually, by appointment, or through a classroom structure.

## 413 Served by VITA at Marian House \$673,515 Returned to the Community

Through a partnership with Pikes Peak United Way Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, 413 people were served with income tax preparation assistance at the Marian House Campus. As a result, those clients received a total of \$673,515 in federal and state refunds.

This is a significant increase versus the previous two years. Martha Lewis, site coordinator for the program at Marian House, said, "We worked really hard to take care of as many clients as possible. Our no-show rate was also minimal due to courtesy calling the clients the night before." Other factors contributing to the increase were an extended filing period due to the pandemic and fewer overall sites providing the VITA service in the community.

Clients served in the VITA program at Marian House had an average annual gross income of \$23,306 and received an average refund of \$1,530. Plans are already underway to increase access to the program next year by

expanding the hours of operation at the Marian House and adding more volunteers to help with tax return preparation.





## Ways to Support Catholic Charities

### IRA and Stock Donations Other Ways To Give

There are so many ways to support the work you know and love! We gratefully accept **gifts of appreciated stock/securities**, which can result in tax savings for you while avoiding capital gains. **Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)** made directly to Catholic Charities from your IRA reduce your taxable income without itemizing and can meet your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) obligation. Gifts of stock or gifts from your IRA that are designated to the Marian House may even qualify for tax credit opportunities! For more information on how to make these gifts, please contact Chief Advancement Officer Sarah Tremmel at (719) 866-6440 or [STremmel@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:STremmel@CCharitiesCC.org).



### St. Patrick's Day Gala Coming March 12, 2022!

It's been three years since we could come together in celebration of this life-changing mission. We are excited to see everyone in-person for a night of dinner, dancing, and celebrating the vision of Catholic Charities—to transform lives through relationships that build individual resiliency and thriving communities. **Our team is now seeking sponsors for the 21st annual St. Patrick's Day Gala, to be held on March 12, 2022.** View the 2022 Gala Sponsor Proposal online at [CCharitiesCC.org/StPatsGala](http://CCharitiesCC.org/StPatsGala) and contact Director of Advancement Brea Reimer-Baum at (719) 866-6539 or [BReimerBaum@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:BReimerBaum@CCharitiesCC.org) to secure your sponsorship spot today!



**Give Hope. Rise.**

 **Catholic Charities**  
of Central Colorado  
**Sponsor a Day**

### WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES!

- 4/1 Holy Thursday - A Day to Share a Meal
- 4/4 Happy Easter He Is Risen!
- 4/6 Sponsored by Scholl Home Rentals
- 4/14 Those who are the happiest are those who do the most for others
- 4/24 Sponsored by Friends of the Marian House
- 4/27 Sponsored by The Ellis Family Happy 90th Harry Poepaart
- 4/28 In Honor of Our Seminarians
- 4/29 Sponsored by Black Forest Lutheran Church
- 5/2 Sponsored by The Ellis Family Happy 85th Regina Poepaart
- 5/5 In Memory of Mom, Dad, Kerry, & Pat
- 5/11 Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over. Luke 6:38
- 5/13 Sponsored by Friends of the Marian House
- 5/19 In Honor of Our Bishop and the Faithful Priests Serving Our Diocese
- 5/27 Sponsored by Holy Trinity Catholic & Black Forest Lutheran Churches
- 5/28 In Loving Memory of Jim
- 6/9 Sponsored by the Davalos Family
- 6/12 In Memory of Tom Corsentino
- 6/14 In Honor of Arthur and Carrie Ennis Happy Anniversary
- 6/20 In Loving Memory of Lorenzo and Joseph
- 6/22 Sponsored by Story Coffee Company
- 6/28 In Memory of Helen & George Marvin

*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 719-866-6529 to Sponsor a Day at Marian House  
or email [DHeisler@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:DHeisler@CCharitiesCC.org)**

**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)**



## ESL CLASS REGISTRATION

ESL will hold a variety of weekly, in-person and virtual classes at five different learning levels plus computer and job readiness classes beginning in September. Some scholarships are available.

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

**or call 719-866-6516**



## JOB SKILLS HELP CONTINUES!

Our Hanifen Employment Center is open and has resumed meeting in-person. Staff are working with clients by appointment, online, via email, and by phone to offer skills assistance and job search help.

**Improve you employment today!**

**Call 719-866-6445**

**or email [Jobs@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:Jobs@CCharitiesCC.org)**

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



## FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

The Marian House Marketplace needs your help to ensure the best selection of food items for families in need. Please consider making a food or monetary donation or donate through Amazon Smile. Simply go to [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com), log in, search for Catholic Charities of Central Colorado, and start shopping from our wish list! Your support is greatly appreciated. Questions about the Marketplace?

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



## FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Family Connections will continue having monthly Clothes Giveaway Events through the summer months in support of the community. Families can also visit the Kidz Klozet by appointment.

**Call 719-578-1222 for Information**

## 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)**



## BASIC MEDICAL CARE & VACCINATIONS

Care and resources are provided to clients every day through partnerships with Penrose-St. Francis Faith Community Nurses and the SET Clinic.

**SET Clinic is open daily**

**10:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**Faith Community Nurse**

**Tues, Wed, and Thurs**

**10:30 am -1:30 pm.**



### 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  
To Get Involved**

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

### Careers

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

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



### MARIAN HOUSE HANIFEN CENTER FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Catholic Charities continues to manage Rapid Re-Housing funds designated for Homeless Prevention. The Marian House Campus provides assistance directed to households with no children under the age of 18 (a group that struggles with availability of resources). From January through June, 34 households were helped with \$77,762 in rent assistance, preventing eviction. Several of these clients were then able to sign a new, one-year lease, ensuring extended housing.

**See the May issue of *Helping Hands*  
to learn more about the  
Rapid Re-Housing program.  
[CCharitiesCC.org/newsletters](http://CCharitiesCC.org/newsletters)**



### CASTLE ROCK UPDATE

The Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program continues to help families maintain their homes and keep them safe from eviction. Catholic Charities, one of five Douglas County agencies providing rental assistance, had distributed nearly \$1 million by July. These funds have been allocated by the state to help families impacted by COVID-19.

While assisting with rent, the agency has transitioned 26 of these households into case management. Providing additional resources to help in their journey to self-sufficiency.

**Call 720-215-4521 or email  
[CROffice@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:CROffice@CCharitiesCC.org)**

## 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:**

**Volunteer:**

[croffice@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:croffice@CCharitiesCC.org)

[counselinginfo@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:counselinginfo@CCharitiesCC.org)

[development@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:development@CCharitiesCC.org)

[esl-citizenship@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:esl-citizenship@CCharitiesCC.org)

[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)

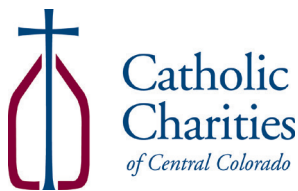
[volunteeroffice@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:volunteeroffice@CCharitiesCC.org)



### 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.  
Call 719-578-1222**



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

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TMR DIRECT  
80909

**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.

**HELPING HANDS** is published in Feb., May, Sept., & Dec.  
No article in this publication may be reprinted in whole or in part without permission of the editor. ©2021 Catholic Charities of Central Colorado. *Postmaster: send address changes to Catholic Charities, 228 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903.*

**PUBLISHER**  
Catholic Charities of Central Colorado, Inc.  
President & CEO - Andy Barton

**EDITORIAL STAFF**  
Editor, Writer, Layout, Photography - Rochelle Schlortt  
Writer, Layout, Photography - Erica Crosen  
Circulation - Betsy Finley



Family Resource Center Association  
Connecting Resources, Impacting Lives



[www.CCharitiesCC.org](http://www.CCharitiesCC.org)  
[info@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto: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%

#### 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:** 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.*

**MATERIAL GOODS:** 719-866-6550  
**VEHICLES:** 720-215-4521 Castle Rock  
719.866.6549 Colorado Springs

### THANK YOU GRANTORS!

- Colorado Springs Health Foundation
- Colorado Springs Utilities - Community Focus Fund
- El Paso County - FEMA Phase 38
- Pikes Peak Community Foundation - Emergency Relief Fund
- Pikes Peak Continuum of Care - Emergency Solutions Grant
- Pikes Peak United Way - Community Investment Fund

**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  
T: 719-578-1222