



**GROWING GREAT KIDS!  
A FREE PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Interested in partnering with someone to better support your child's early development and learning? Hoping to build a strong foundation for your family? **Growing Great Kids** is a free program where parents of children, ages zero through five years, learn through weekly home visits that help support children's early growth, learning and development.

Early childhood learning modules are focused on each child's individual stage of development, and family strengthening modules build upon parenting skills and goals unique to each family.

**For More Information:**  
Email [KDobyns@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:KDobyns@CCharitiesCC.org)



**WE'RE FEELING THE LOVE**

Thank you St. Francis of Assisi (Castle Rock), Pax Christi (Highland Ranch), and St. Mark (Highlands Ranch) for collecting **backpacks and school supplies** for students in Douglas County. These items will be distributed through The Foundation for Douglas County Schools Lend-A-Hand program to children in need.

Ava Maria (Parker) ran a **Christmas in July** program providing a much-needed supply of diapers, wipes, and gift cards for Catholic Charities Castle Rock to give to families in need.

*Thank you for supporting vulnerable families in Douglas County!*

**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  
or visit

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



**BABY ITEMS NEEDED**

Wipes and diapers sizes 3 - 6 are needed for **Family Connections** families. Donations can be dropped off at: **14 W. Bijou St. M-Sat, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.** More Info? Call 719-578-1222



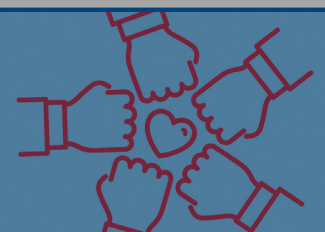
**THE MARKETPLACE PANTRY**

The Marketplace allows families to shop - at no cost - for a variety of healthy foods to cook at home.

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

**To Donate Food:**  
Donations of canned and other shelf stable food, meat, dairy, and produce are needed.

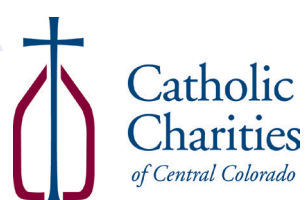
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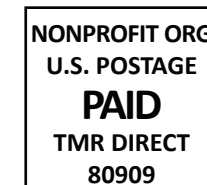
**VOLUNTEER &  
WORK WITH US!**

We need volunteers in almost all of our programs, and we are hiring in a number of departments.

**For information, visit us at:**  
[CCharitiesCC.org/Volunteer](http://CCharitiesCC.org/Volunteer)  
or [CCharitiesCC.org/Employment](http://CCharitiesCC.org/Employment)



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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**Connect With Us**

**Castle Rock Office:**  
Catholic Charities Counseling:  
**Donations:**  
**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](mailto:Volunteer@CCharitiesCC.org)

**Careers** Want a career helping people at a trusted nonprofit in Colorado Springs? Check us out!  
[CCharitiesCC.org/Employment](http://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:**

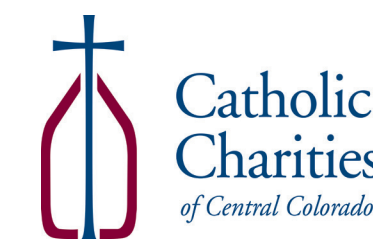
[CCharitiesCC.org/Tours](http://CCharitiesCC.org/Tours)

**FOLLOW OUR BLOG!**

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

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

<b>COLORADO SPRINGS OFFICE</b> 228 North Cascade Avenue Colorado Springs, CO 80903 T: 719-636-2345 F: 719-636-1216	<b>CASTLE ROCK OFFICE</b> 410 S. Wilcox Street, Suite 102 Castle Rock, CO 80104 T: 720-215-4521	<b>THE MARIAN HOUSE</b> 14 West Bijou Street Colorado Springs, CO 80903 T: 719-475-7314 F: 719-633-0289	<b>HELEN HUNT CAMPUS</b> 917 E. Moreno Avenue Colorado Springs, CO 80903 T: 719-578-1222
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**HELPING HANDS**

Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

Volume 54

Issue 3

**"It was a long road, but it's looking better each day. If it weren't for Catholic Charities, I wouldn't be where I am today. No matter what you go through in life, there's help out there."**



**JORGE & ABBY: A SUCCESS STORY**

HOUSED TO HOMELESSNESS, OVERCOMING HEALTH ISSUES, REGAINING STABILITY

Jorge and his mother, Abby, were living a comfortable life until COVID struck. His employer closed down his business, leaving Jorge unemployed with limited savings. When his mother had a stroke, he didn't know what to do next. He moved their belongings to storage and began living in his car. When his mother was released from the hospital, they moved to a motel until funds began running low, then back to his car. At one point he was unable to make his car payment and the thought of losing his vehicle took on a whole new meaning now that it served as their home. With so much uncertainty, Abby asked him to go to Catholic Charities for help.

Jorge visited the Hanifen Employment Center daily, using the computer lab for employment resources and working with his case manager. He was offered a great job, but where would his mother stay while he was working a 12-hour shift? She could not drive. She could not be left alone. He could not leave her in

the parking lot of a distribution warehouse. He could not take the job and was devastated but kept holding on to the words of his case manager, "Don't give up. Keep fighting."

When a friend invited Jorge and his mother to stay with her, Jorge began to find hope. He refocused on his job search and continued working with his case manager. He found a new job, began saving money, and started his search for a new place to live. Jorge was ready to get his life back. As for his mom, having a safe place to stay and not worry about finances for a brief time helped her heal.

With the resources he found at Catholic Charities and the generous help from his friend, Jorge and his mother are finally in their own place again. He loves his new job, and his new employer is so impressed with his work ethic that he has already been promoted. He is thankful the team at Catholic Charities never stopped believing in him.



## From the CEO: Andy Barton



**“Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:7-8**

In June, a local service provider and a Catholic Charities partner agency called Family Promise announced that they would be closing their shelter for homeless families. The New Promise Shelter opened two years ago and provided a critical service in the homelessness response system. Operating in a repurposed motel on South Nevada, New Promise provided 15 rooms for families who would otherwise be sleeping in tents or in their cars. While in shelter, families worked with Family Promise staff - and often with Life Coaches from Catholic Charities - toward more stable housing options. The loss leaves a massive gap in services for the most vulnerable families in Colorado Springs.

The impact of the New Promise closure will be felt by all providers of family services in the community. For the Life Coaches in the Catholic Charities Family Connections program, it takes away the option for one of the most critical steps families need in moving from crisis to stability. It is both the overall reduction in the community’s shelter capacity as well as the loss of the non-congregant family shelter that creates pain points for the system. Congregant shelter (where people sleep in beds or cots in one large room) remains available for families in Colorado Springs but that option comes with limitations. Since males and females are separated in congregant settings, multigender families are forced to split up while in the shelter. Families frequently refuse congregant shelter, even when it means staying outside.

There is a cautionary component to what prompted the decision to close the New Promise Shelter. Like Catholic Charities, Family Promise relies on a variety of funding sources to do their work,

and individual donations are the core financial support. Family Promise cited a \$150,000 decrease in donations since 2020 as the reason that they could not continue operating the shelter.

Philanthropic support for human service agencies has fluctuated dramatically over the past three years. Giving had declined leading up to and through the first part of the pandemic only to rebound to record levels through the middle stages of COVID. If the loss of funding at Family Promise signals a larger trend, it could be devastating for the charitable service sector and those we serve.

Inflation and talk of recession play a major role in the pullback on philanthropic giving; but in a frustrating “Catch 22,” these economic factors simultaneously increase the need for charitable giving. As one small example, the National Energy Assistance Directors Association estimated in June that low-income households, those making an average of \$26,400 annually, will spend 25.7% of their income on gas and home energy bills. That leaves very little for families to spend on housing, child care, food, and other essential items. Higher prices of gas and food coupled with skyrocketing housing costs are hitting our poor and vulnerable disproportionately hard.

Because of your support, Catholic Charities can provide preventative support for those who are on the verge of homelessness, and we will help fill the hole that the closure of the New Promise Shelter leaves in the community. Your gifts make it possible: thank you for sticking with us. With your ongoing help, we will continue to support the women, men and children who are depending on us all.

Blessings,

*Andy*

## PROGRAMS & EVENTS

### Disaster Case Management A Collaboration in Lake County



Prolonged power outages are an unwelcome reality in Leadville, Colorado. In December 2021, the town lost power for five hours. When a generator failed at the Lake County Courthouse, the emergency dispatch housed in that building was unable to operate for several hours. Since power losses are often a result of natural disasters such as forest fires or blizzards, losing the ability to communicate with primary responders can be a life-or-death breakdown.

In the aftermath of the December event, Lake County Public Works worked with Catholic Charities to help fund a solution. Utilizing a grant that was specifically designated for disaster response in rural communities, Catholic Charities provided \$11,600

to Lake County to purchase and install generator “hookups” at the courthouse. This upgrade will allow for backup generators to be used in emergencies, ensuring that power will be available in future outages. The grant also paid for two laptop computers and enhanced “JAWS” software for use during an emergency.

An added benefit of the partnership between Lake County Government and Catholic Charities was the development of a virtual disaster case management (VDCM) plan. The VDCM establishes a process for residents of Lake County to connect virtually with Catholic Charities case managers in the event of a disaster. Case managers can help with housing, food, and other emergency needs to supplement the work of the agency and Lake County Human Services. Space has been identified at the Lake County Courthouse to be set up for this confidential virtual case management as the need arises.

### ESL Classes Discontinued

Catholic Charities has stopped offering ESL and Citizenship classes as there are many other providers in the community offering these services including D2, D11, D20, Pikes Peak State College, and Pikes Peak Library District. “We have always been an agency that develops programs to fill the

gaps in community needs. Now our program is duplicating existing services rather than filling a service gap,” said Catholic Charities CEO Andy Barton.

**Please visit:**  
[CCharitiesCC.org/esl-citizenship](http://CCharitiesCC.org/esl-citizenship)  
**for more information.**

### Legal Immigration Clinic Helping Afghan Refugees



Volunteers help complete residency paperwork.

Catholic Charities (CC) agencies have been helping refugees from all parts of the world for years. CC Denver received special funding to organize legal workshops throughout Colorado to help hundreds of Afghan families complete and submit asylum applications. The Colorado Lawyers Committee is recruiting, training, and organizing volunteers for these events.

On July 16, CC Central Colorado partnered with CC Denver to hold a workshop - the first in the region, at the Marian House Hanifen Center. Seventeen families were assigned four volunteers each - including a translator and a lawyer. Throughout the day, more volunteers assisted with logistics and by days end, the paperwork had been completed, reviewed, and prepared for submission.

Those leading this effort feel a weight on their shoulders to get all the Afghan refugees’ paperwork done completely, correctly, and within the allotted time - one year from the time of arrival in the United States - so their applications can be processed, allowing them to safely remain in the United States. Most of these families faced extreme danger in their home country because they supported the United States troops during the occupation before the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. Asylum applications are complicated and very difficult to complete without legal assistance.

Connie Talmage and Sylvia Strubel greet volunteers and clients at the workshop.



### Building Tomorrow Together Our community will be stronger because of you!



#### Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) and Stock Donations to Catholic Charities

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 a tax savings for you while avoiding capital gains. 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 please contact our Advancement Team at **(719) 866-6539** or [Development@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:Development@CCharitiesCC.org).

#### WAYS TO GIVE

##### STATE INCOME TAX CREDITS

- **Enterprise Zone 25%**  
Donations to Marian House & Family Connections of \$250+
- **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:

719-866-6539 or 719-866-6440

#### THANK YOU GRANTORS!

- City of Colorado Springs CDBG
- Pikes Peak United Way Community Investment Fund
- Walmart Foundation
- Russell Grinnell Memorial Trust
- Colorado Springs Utilities Community Focus Fund



#### Sponsor a Day

**WHAT A DIFFERENCE  
A DAY MAKES!**

#### Thank You to our 4th t Quarter Sponsors

- 04/05 – “If your child asks you for bread, would any of you give him a stone?” Matt 7:9
- 04/06 – Thank God for Luke and Nolan! Love, Cathy and Joe Niebur
- 04/08 – “What is impossible with man is possible with God.” Luke 18:27
- 04/14 – Holy Thursday – a day to share a meal!
- 05/05 – In memory of Mom, Dad, Kerry, & Pat
- 05/07 – Knights of Columbus Council 9993, St. Patrick Church
- 05/09 – Sponsored by friends of the Marian House
- 05/18 – Together we serve!
- 05/24 – In memory of Helen & George Marvin
- 05/26 – Sponsored by Holy Trinity Catholic & Black Forest Lutheran Churches
- 05/31 – “Say the Rosary every day.” -Our Lady of Fatima
- 06/04 – Congratulations Deacon Thomas Pressley! With praise to God!
- 06/06 – In memory of James DeMoor
- 06/09 – Sponsored by the Davalos Family
- 06/13 – In memory of Tom Corsentino
- 06/17 – In honor of our Bishop and the faithful priests serving our diocese
- 06/19 – In memory of my beloved husband, Lorenzo. Love is eternal!

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

**I'M MORE.**  
MORE THAN JUST A POOR KID, A STATISTIC, OR A CASUALTY.  
Lia will overcome the labels and the odds. She is more because of those who chose to help her family rise. Her parents are loving her and working to provide a stable home and a bright future.  
Help us, help each other. Visit [CCharitiesCC.Org](http://CCharitiesCC.Org) to find out how you can change lives.

**GIVE HOPE. RISE.**

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

Donate Online @ [CCharitiesCC.Org/Donate](http://CCharitiesCC.Org/Donate)