

Free PARENT CAFÉ

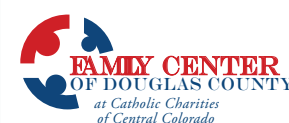
Engage in meaningful conversations with other people in parenting roles about what matters most - Your Family.

First and Third Tuesday starting Sept 5th 6 - 8 p.m.

Meal & Childcare Included

Registration Required:  
www.familycenterdougco.org/services  
RSVP to:  
JLucas@CCharitiesCC.org

Castle Rock Library  
100 S. Wilcox St.  
Castle Rock, CO 80104



SUPPORT MARIAN HOUSE MARKETPLACE

Marian House is in need of non-perishable food for our Marketplace. Help us stock our shelves for the food pantry. Donations can be dropped off at: 14 West Bijou Street Mon - Sat 9 to 2 p.m.

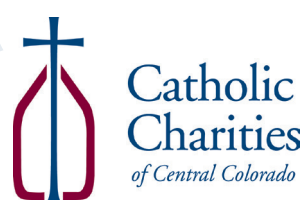
For more information visit our website  
Email Pantry@CCharitiesCC.org



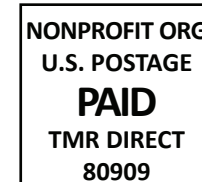
CIRCLE OF FATHERS BI-WEEKLY GATHERING

Circle of Fathers is a program that provides a space for fathers of all walks of life to come together to discuss their experiences, lessons, and challenges as a parent. The group meets every other Thursday on a bi-weekly basis from 5 to 7 p.m.

For more information call Call 719-578-1222 or Email KDobyns@CCharitiesCC.org



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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*At Catholic Charities, we respect everyone who comes to us for help. Many are working toward a fresh start in life. So while their stories are true, client names and images may have changed to protect their privacy.*



www.CCharitiesCC.org  
info@CCharitiesCC.org



Connect With Us

- Castle Rock Office:
- Catholic Charities Counseling: CROffice@CCharitiesCC.org
- Donations: CounselingInfo@CCharitiesCC.org
- Family Connections: Advancement@CCharitiesCC.org
- Family Immigration Services: FamilySupport@CCharitiesCC.org
- Hanifen Employment Center: Immigration@CCharitiesCC.org
- Marian House Client Services: Jobs@CCharitiesCC.org
- Marketplace Food Pantry: Help@CCharitiesCC.org
- Sponsor a Day: Pantry@CCharitiesCC.org
- Volunteer: SponsorADay@CCharitiesCC.org
- Volunteer@CCharitiesCC.org

**Careers** Want a career helping people at a trusted nonprofit in Colorado Springs? Check us out!  
CCharitiesCC.org/Careers

"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

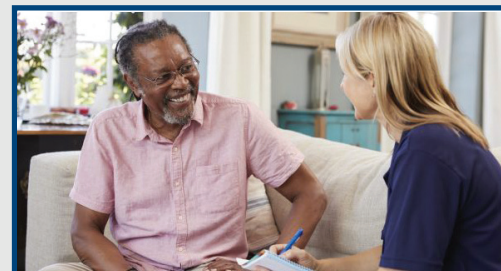
Register at:

CCharitiesCC.org/Tours

FOLLOW OUR BLOG! Blog

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

CCharitiesCC.org/Blog



Life Connections Counseling

Counseling is a journey that offers an opportunity to effectively cope with life's difficulties. Find solutions for enhancing well-being and interpersonal relationships. Catholic Charities offers a variety of counseling services.

For more information call 719.866.6535

**Come Read with Us!**  
Weekly Group Reading

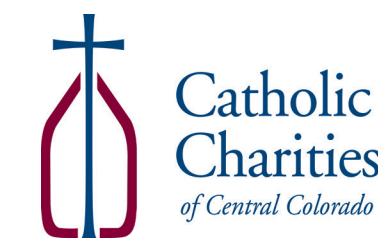
"Come Read with Us" is a Family Connections Playgroup activity developed to increase children's literacy. The group meets every Friday at 10 am to read a book together, then complete a craft. Each child gets to choose a book to take home. This is just one of many activities offered to help children's social and emotional development.

For more information Email KDobyns@CCharitiesCC.org

**VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!**

Catholic Charities has a new website! Check it out. It has better navigation, allowing visitors to find information more quickly. We would love to hear what you think!

Visit us at: CCharitiesCC.org



HELPING HANDS

Quarterly Newsletter of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

Volume 55

Issue 3



A Helping Hand in a Time of Need

Amanda, a teacher, was supporting her son and caring for her mother when she began experiencing a strain on her budget due to the rising cost of living. When she could not pay her rent, she reached out to her son's father for assistance. Over the years, she had accepted reduced child support payments as he could not afford the \$900 mandated by court. But during her time of need, he did not return the generosity, only offering to have their son live with him.

Trying to balance her responsibilities, Amanda made the difficult decision to send her mother to Minnesota to live with her sister, and her son moved in with his father in Colorado Springs so he could finish school with his friends. She moved in with her boyfriend in Thornton where she found a higher-paying teaching position and began saving funds to bring the family back together. While this was difficult for her son and her mother, it was the only way to bring stability into all their lives.

Soon after the move to Thornton, Amanda began recognizing the signs of an abusive relationship. After a difficult episode, she left the relationship and temporarily moved in with a friend in Yoder. While she could visit her son every other week, the only work she found was a part-time position at

Kohl's. She knew she needed help.

Amanda contacted government agencies for assistance but was told her income of \$600 a month was too high to qualify for assistance, so she contacted Catholic Charities for help. There, she was connected to a Housing Case Manager. Together, they made a plan that included a higher-paying job, an apartment she could afford, and long-term goals that would help her achieve resiliency and stability. She quickly found a higher-wage job, and Catholic Charities helped with rental assistance and other basic needs.

Shortly after she and her son moved into the new apartment, Amanda and her case manager developed a plan to keep them in their new home. They worked on a variety of financial practices including better budgeting, savings, and options for supplementing food and clothing budgets. This approach has allowed Amanda to thrive again, not only paying her rent and bills independently, but building a small savings to support her family through any future unexpected expenses.

The experience with, and support from Catholic Charities has inspired Amanda to return to school and become a Social Worker. She wants to help people in the way she has been helped.



## From the CEO: Andy Barton

“How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods, and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?”

1 Jn 3:17

**Imagine a child’s bedroom.** Maybe it belongs to your children or grandchildren. Maybe it is the room that was yours when you were young. What do you picture? Perhaps there is a small bookcase with picture books? Maybe there is a doll house in the corner or firetrucks and trains on a shelf. Is there a lamp glowing soft yellow light? Stuffed animals? Do you see a bed with cartoon sheets and a big pillow where a little head sleeps?

**Now imagine a child who has no bedroom.** A little boy or girl who has never had a place where their toys go, or their own bed with cartoon sheets. Imagine a child who falls asleep in a car one night and a shelter the next night.

**No child should have to live that way.**

Last December, Catholic Charities made a significant investment in making bedrooms a reality for children experiencing homelessness in Colorado Springs. The \$3.8 million purchase of the Helen Hunt Campus in the Hillside Neighborhood was the first step in the agency’s commitment to ending family homelessness throughout the communities we serve. The second step was to raise \$5.2 million more to renovate the 1901 school building into 24 units of transitional housing.

More than apartment units, this vision is to create a home in a neighborhood for parents and children. The Helen Hunt Campus sits on 2.8 acres in the

middle of a beautiful and historic community. Lined with ash trees and lush lawns with a magnificent playground on one corner and the quaint Switchback Hillside café on the other, it feels like a sanctuary. It is an ideal place for families who have experienced the trauma of homelessness to heal and build stability.

The project has been propelled by the support of generous donors and foundations who also saw the need and invested in the vision. In June, Hunt Family Housing came one step closer to realization when the Colorado Department of Housing awarded a \$4.4 million grant for the project. That commitment, combined with individual and foundation pledges, has cleared the way to move forward on construction, which we hope to start sometime in the next nine months. Bedrooms will be ready in early 2025.

This housing cannot come too soon. Identifying the number of homeless families is difficult but we know there are at least 100 families who are currently living in shelter, cars, and motels. We also know that the Salvation Army’s new Family Hope Center, a 31-unit, non-congregant, shelter for families that opened in May is already full and operating with a waitlist. Dignity Commons, a new permanent supportive housing project for families operated by Homeward Pikes Peak opened at the end of April and it too, is full.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis writes: “The Church, guided by the Gospel of mercy and by love for mankind, hears the cry for justice and intends to respond with all her might.” **Children forced into homelessness is one of the great injustices of our present day.** With your support, Catholic Charities is building a mighty response with Hunt Family Housing, **because every child deserves a bed of their own.**

**PROVIDING FAMILY STABILITY.**

Money can’t buy happiness. But it can help prevent homelessness. That’s why Catholic Charities offers employment and financial assistance, plus basic needs like food and housing, to help families get back to a stable life.

Help prevent homelessness. Visit [CCharitiesCC.org](http://CCharitiesCC.org).

## PROGRAMS

### Digital Equity Program



Catholic Charities is launching a new **Digital Equity Program**. “The vision of the program is to increase clients’ access to the critical resources of housing, employment, financial assistance, and benefits through digital literacy and access to devices,” says Maria Mendez Rodriguez, digital equity manager.

Through the program, clients will increase skills in basic computer literacy, Internet literacy, basic word processing like Microsoft Word and Google Docs, and email use. It will provide participants with technical support in both English and Spanish. “Our goal is to provide support to 190 individuals per year,” Mendez Rodriguez says. “Each course and workshop will have between 10 and 15 participants, and we hope to support 100 people through one-on-one technical assistance.” Participants who complete four focus areas consisting of seven to nine sessions of Northstar curriculum will get certified through the Digital Literacy course. They will also receive a Chromebook, thanks to a grant from the City of Colorado Springs. **The program will launch in late August.** For more information call 719.866.6285.

### Castle Rock Celebrates 10 Years Helping Families & individuals in Douglas, Park, and Elbert Counties

It has been 10 years since we opened the Castle Rock office. In the early years of the office, we were mainly an emergency services agency that also offered ESL classes. As needs changed, we changed.



Board & Staff members cut the ribbon opening the current office in 2019

Here is a brief summary of some of the work of the office through the years:

- Partnerships were formed with Douglas County and other human service agencies in the area to develop **Douglas County Cares** - where we serve as a partner agency and family facilitator providing wrap-around services for homeless families. We also house struggling families at our donated townhome; **The Winter Shelter Network** - housed homeless families at local churches during the winter (discontinued in 2023); the **Pathways program** - provided emergency rental assistance during COVID; **Vouchers** - provide childcare and motel vouchers to help struggling families with childcare and emergency shelter; the **Family Center of Douglas County** - where we operate the southern FCDC office serving families in need; provide prevention services for child maltreatment cases and develop parental resiliency skills, and so much more.
- We regularly participate in the **Douglas County Strive to Thrive Resource Fair** - held twice a year - helping families receive information on how they can get help as well as receive items that are not available through SNAP, such as laundry detergent and hygiene items that can sap a family’s budget.
- We developed **Outreach Programs** to help families ensure their children’s social and emotional needs are met through community outreach programs such as providing school supplies, winter coats, Thanksgiving turkeys, Christmas gifts, Easter Baskets, and more.
- In September, we will launch a new program - **Parent Cafés** - to engage parents in meaningful conversations with other people in parenting roles.

Catholic Charities is committed to continue to grow and support families and individuals in the northern part of our diocese to continue to help our clients move from crises to stability. **Want to help? Contact us at 720.215.4521**

### Stock and IRA Donations Another way to support families



Did you know?

You can donate to Catholic Charities (CC) through stocks and IRA donations. CC accepts gifts of appreciated stock and securities and your donation can result in tax savings while avoiding capital gains.

Donating through your IRA Qualified Charitable

Distributions (QCD) directly to CC reduces your taxable income without itemizing, and can meet your required minimum distribution. Additionally, your gifts of stocks or IRA QCDs designated to the Marian House or Family Connections programs can qualify for the State of Colorado Homeless Contribution Tax Credits!

If you have a question about making a gift, please contact Matt Boyle, Chief Advancement Officer at (719) 866-6440 or [MBoyle@CCharitiesCC.org](mailto:MBoyle@CCharitiesCC.org).

**THANK YOU GRANTORS!**

Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs - Family Support Services  
 Russell Grinnell Memorial Trust  
 SC Ministry Foundation  
 Colorado Springs Utilities - Community Focus Fund  
 Blueprint to End Hunger  
 Pikes Peak United Way Community Investment Fund  
 Department of Local Affairs - Transformational Affordable Housing Grant  
 USAA Foundation  
 Diocese of Colorado Springs - Diocesan Ministry Appeal

### Catholic Charities Sponsor a Day

**WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES!**



Sponsor a Day

- 04/04 - Maaco (Garden of the Gods) Thank you Ambuul Family
- 04/06 - Holy Thursday a Day to Share a Meal
- 04/07 - You are forgiven. You are redeemed. Trust in Jesus.
- 04/17 - It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35
- 04/18 - In loving memory of Ann Scholl
- 05/02 - In memory of Roger & Millie Gans
- 05/03 - In loving memory of Jacob Calhoun Peace & Blessings
- 05/09 - In memory of Madeline Mae. In Honor of Adeline Marie
- 05/24 - All things Pass M.T.C
- 05/25 - Sponsored by Black Forest Lutheran & Holy Trinity Catholic Churches
- 05/26 - Hope is never lost!
- 05/27 - If it would take a miracle, Pray to St. Jude. I did, he answered me.
- 05/29 - Let us remember those who gave all for our freedom.
- 06/06 - In memory of James DeMoor
- 06/09 - Happy Anniversary Jorge & Jo-Ann Davalos
- 06/10 - Thou Art a Priest Forever Father Thomas Lee Pressley with Praise to Almighty God
- 06/12 - In memory of Tom Corsentino
- 07/07 - Thank you friends of the Marian House
- 07/11 - Thank you, Story House Coffee Company
- 07/13 - Maria’s Tailor Shop. Hope is never lost!
- 07/17 - Peter K’s Birthday
- 07/24 - Audrey Cronin Love, Judy & Bob
- 07/26 - In thanksgiving for our many blessings. J&J from St. Peters
- 07/28 - Maj. Gen Ray O’Mara USAF Ret. and Carole O’Mara
- 08/05 - In memory of Matthew Schell, Happy Birthday!
- 08/06 - Thank you, Story Coffee Company
- 08/09 - Lorenzo and Joseph John, Oh Lord you are our life
- 08/11 - Happy Birthday Lisa M.!
- 08/17 - Ann Lauer, My phenomenal wife.
- 08/25 - In honor of our Seminarians

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)

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



Donate Here