

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTERS

ATCHISON

502 Kansas Ave.
Atchison, KS 66002
913.367.5070

KANSAS CITY

2220 Central Ave.
Kansas City, KS 66102
913.621.3445

LAWRENCE

1525 West 6th St.
Lawrence, KS 66044
785.856.2694

LEAVENWORTH

716 North 5th St.
Leavenworth, KS 66048
913.651.8060

OLATHE

333 East Poplar
Olathe, KS 66061
913.782.4077

OVERLAND PARK

9806 West 87th St.
Overland Park, KS 66212
913.384.6608

TOPEKA

234 South Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66603
785.233.6300

HOPE DISTRIBUTION CENTER

1708 Steele Rd.
Kansas City, KS 66106
913.432.3141

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

9720 West 87th St.
Overland Park, KS 66212
913.433.2100



9720 West 87th St. • Overland Park, KS 66212



Connect with us at
catholiccharitiesks.org
and follow us on



Engage with Catholic Charities!

Want to learn more about Catholic Charities — perhaps even volunteer — but aren't sure how to go about it? Check out our list of ways to experience, serve and give.

EXPERIENCE

- Schedule an individual visit to learn more over coffee, lunch or after weekday Mass
- Join us for coffee, bagels and an interactive group bus tour of our Mission Operations (KCK Metro). Sign up online: catholiccharitiesks.org/bus-tour
- Coordinate a "Lunch & Learn" event at your parish, church, school or office
- Gather a group for an "After Hours" site visit with a walking tour, pizza and drinks
- Request a tour of a specific site or program

SERVE

- Attend a Volunteer Open House or schedule an individual visit to learn about the 20+ different programs and many unique service opportunities
- Schedule a "Serve Day" for your parish, church, school or corporate team

- Collect food, clothing, furniture or personal care items for those in need (a great alternative to birthday gifts)
- Invite Catholic Charities to attend your company's volunteer fair
- Join a fundraising committee or refer a friend to support the Annual Gathering, Snow Ball or Ben & Betty Zarda Family Golf Classic
- Volunteer to be a parish ambassador

GIVE

- Make a one-time or recurring financial donation to the area of greatest need or a specific program
- Donate real estate, property or a vehicle
- Include Catholic Charities in your will, trust or estate
- Host a fundraising/cocktail party at your home with family, friends or parishioners
- Make a donation or attend one of our key fundraising events

For more information contact Denise Ogilvie, Vice President, Community Engagement: dogilvie@catholiccharitiesks.org ❖



1,700 volunteers each month provide support to **more than 20 programs and services**

\$6.1 million – the financial impact of volunteers

For volunteer opportunities, visit:
catholiccharitiesks.org/volunteer

BREAKING

FALL 2019

catholic  charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

Bread

Family Support Centers Offer Continuum of Long-Term Services

Abby, a single mother, needed assistance with her electric bill. Upon meeting with a Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas case manager, Abby mentioned that she had three payday loans to help her with the bills, including her subsidized rent. Living on a fixed income and trying to provide for her teenage children's daily needs, she was fearful of one day losing the place she and her family called home.

Sadly, Abby's story is not unlike many of those we serve. While the utility bill brought Abby to Catholic Charities, simply helping with its payment would not solve her ongoing financial problems. Abby needed more guidance and support to make an impactful, lasting change.

Recognizing the need to strengthen families — not just stabilize them — led Catholic Charities to begin a shift in 2012 away from one-time, crisis intervention programs to offering a continuum of long-term wrap-around services. As Pope Francis said, "It is not enough to offer someone a sandwich unless it is accompanied by the possibility of learning how to stand on one's own two feet. Charity that leaves the poor person as he is, is not sufficient. True mercy, the mercy God gives to us and teaches us, demands justice, it demands that the poor find the way to be poor no longer."

To better reflect this holistic model of service, our seven Emergency Assistance Centers recently transitioned to being more aptly named Family Support Centers. While the agency



will always provide food, clothing and hope to all those served, the ultimate goal of our Family Support Centers is to move those we serve towards self-sustainability through skills training, financial education and employment.

That is exactly what happened with Abby. At one of our Family Support Centers, she received case management where, as part of a collaborative process, her needs were assessed through one-on-one communication. With her case manager's help and encouragement, Abby participated in our Kansas Loan Pool Project (KLPP), where she attended financial classes and was able to pay off her high-interest, predatory loans. Now, she can start building her credit score, which will help her reach her goal of buying a home for her family.

Abby's help did not stop there. After learning that she was only two semesters away from completing her Nursing degree, Abby's case manager gave her the encouragement that she needed to get started on her CNA. Soon, she will enroll in a community-nursing program.

It is humbling to realize that through the services that Abby received at a Family Support Center, her life has been transformed. She walked in needing financial assistance for an unpaid bill. She left with sustainable hope for the future. ❖

FISCAL YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE:



More than **½ million services** were provided through **20+ programs across our 21 county service area**



14,510 case management meetings held to assess an individual's and family's comprehensive needs



266,899 times food, housing and utility assistance was provided to families in need



\$117,509 amount of debt 94 families eliminated through our Family Financial Transformations™ program

Lauren Solidum, President & CEO

We are determined to serve the entire person.



I write this on the heels of attending the 2019 Convocation, an event where the Archbishop called each of us to engage in evangelization through friendship, active listening and prayer. Let each of us enflame our hearts, homes and communities with the message of Jesus Christ.

Catholic Charities is a perfect example of the Lord's love, mercy, and His call to action to engage others into becoming disciples of Jesus Christ. As the charitable arm of the church, Catholic Charities is proud to be the charity of choice for our parishes — a responsibility we take incredibly seriously. When someone is in need, we strive to be your first phone call. We see ourselves as an extension of our parishes and community at-large. We are a tool for evangelization by connecting or reconnecting individuals and families to Jesus Christ and their parishes through love and service to others.

We graciously attempt to mirror God's mercy as we provide help to individuals — of Christian faith or no faith — in reoccurring need. We promote the sanctity of life, and we are called AND determined to break the cycle of poverty by providing the tools to fish for one's self. We give of our foundation, not of our excess, as 91 cents of every dollar goes directly back into the hands of those that need it.

Within our Family Support Centers, the goal is to create a continuum of care. We accomplish this through Catholic Charities' programming and our valued community partners. Together, we are determined to serve the entire person and to walk the journey out of poverty with them through our love, hospitality, help and hope.

Please pray for our progress and offer your grace during our transitions. I am so incredibly eager to see what God has in store for this next iteration of His plan for His ministries. I am humbled to simply be a part of the work! ❖

What's Ahead for Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas is in the midst of building the next version of a three-year strategic plan. A survey was recently administered to a combination of roughly 300 community partners, volunteers, donors and parish staff to gain feedback about the organization and how community needs are being addressed through programming and services.

Lauren Solidum, President & CEO, is incredibly grateful for the thoughtful insights that were generated due to the survey.

The Catholic Charities team is eager to begin the envisioning process and is equally excited to take several current programs to the next level, continuing the success of the foundation that has been laid. Those program advances include:



Expansion of the asset development programs: Kansas Loan Pool Project, Family Financial Transformations™, Volunteer Income Tax Preparation (VITA), Kids Summer Food and Cents@Work.



Creation of a "workforce arm" designed to expand the St. Rita Program and to strengthen current efforts in employment placement and retention.



Capacity building for the adoption and pregnancy support programs based on the knowledge that in order to truly disrupt broken systems like foster care, kids must be removed from the system, and families who step up to make the selfless choice to adopt, be effectively supported.



Entrepreneurship opportunities that allow Catholic Charities to close the gap on issues like affordable housing, transportation and childcare.

Catholic Charities will not take on all of this alone. "We are committed to engaging critical path partners to ensure we remain focused on our core competencies," says Solidum. "We will strengthen our approach by building networks of programming across the 21 counties in which we serve. Our rural communities will feel prioritized and our parishes will feel confident in our ability to holistically serve those in need."



Mary McGowan Swartz, Mike and Jo Kuckelman

Snow Ball is a Ministry

It is one of the largest philanthropic galas in the area, yet it is more than an annual fundraising event for those who give their time, talent and treasure year after year. Snow Ball is a ministry — one that impacts over 20 programs and services offered by Catholic Charities to those in need.

Mike and Jo Kuckelman, parishioners

at Church of the Ascension Catholic Church in Overland Park, are the Presidents of the 46th Annual Snow Ball, which will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at the Overland Park Convention Center. They are joined by long-time Patron Committee Chairs, Mary and John Campbell, and Table Committee Chairs, Joe and Melissa Valenciano. The William G. McGowan Charitable Fund, Inc., is serving as the event's Honorary Presidents.

To support Snow Ball through a patron gift or to purchase a table, visit: catholiccharitiessnowball.org ❖



Cents@Work Helps Employees Get Financially Fit

Financial stress can take its toll in the workplace. Employees become distracted throughout the day as they worry and try to address personal financial concerns. The employees, however, aren't the only ones suffering. Businesses are affected, too, as an individual's job productivity often decreases.

Since Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas has become a trusted resource for families to gain skills that help them understand their finances, reduce debt and build savings, the agency decided to take that expertise into the workplace. Cents@Work is a new financial wellness benefit program for employers.

Cents@Work is a contractual program that works as an added benefit to companies' existing employee services. "We address distracting financial concerns by providing on-site financial stabilization support," explains Amelia Reyes, MSW, Senior Director of Asset Development.

Employees have the opportunity to attend a series of financial education classes conveniently held in the workplace. The classes help them understand how to eliminate debt and budget for the future. In addition, Cents@Work provides one-on-one coaching to help employees stay on track with their budget and develop an individual goal plan; tax preparation support; payroll-deducted small dollar loans through a third party credit union; and enrollment in the Kansas Loan Pool Project (KLPP) for those with outstanding predatory loan debt.

"Through this program, employers are able to provide a built-in referral source connecting their people to a network of resources that intervene in circumstances which can disrupt work focus and may lead to turnover," adds Reyes.

To learn more, contact Amelia Reyes by email: areyes@catholiccharitiesks.org or call 913.433.2089. ❖

Feeding Hungry Kids Year-Round



This summer, 12,283 nutritious meals were served to children and adults through the Kids Summer Food Program. Although it wraps up in early August each year, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas' commitment to feeding hungry kids continues throughout the school year.

Due to the success of the Kids Summer Food Program over the last five years, Catholic Charities was asked to participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) administers CACFP through a state grant. The goal is to provide healthy meals and snacks daily to participating agencies, including daycare centers and afterschool care programs located where 50 percent or more of the children that live in the area are eligible to receive free or reduced lunch.

As a first-time CACFP partner, Catholic Charities provided 7,817 afterschool meals, serving approximately 1,450 children at eight sponsored sites last year. The shelf-stable meals follow the USDA guidelines and include recommended servings of protein, milk, fruits and vegetables.

"Sadly, these children often don't have access to healthy food at home," says Denise Ogilvie, Vice President, Community Engagement. "Through this program, we can help meet their nutritional needs and contribute to their healthy development, growth and wellness." ❖



Plans Underway to Transplant New Roots Farm

After 11 years, New Roots for Refugees has outgrown its space at Juniper Gardens. Soon, it will move to a new spacious location which will allow for program expansion, employment opportunities and an increase in volunteer engagement.



The new site, which is being leased by Catholic Charities, is owned by the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. It is located adjacent to Providence Medical Center, and includes 50 acres.

The additional land will offer numerous benefits to the farmers. It will allow them the ability to diversify their products and move into larger scale productions. "Many have expertise in perennial fruit and vegetables, small livestock as well as other revenue streams including herbs, flowers and fish," says Meredith Walrafen, Program Manager. "It will offer low-income farmers the opportunity to grow independent businesses that will support their families."

Walrafen and her team are especially excited about the new opportunities that they will have to engage with the community. She says, "We want to offer program tours and work with the schools to offer learning experiences for children. We want our New Roots farm to be a place to celebrate community." ❖

Get the latest news about Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas delivered straight to your inbox!

Go to catholiccharitiesks.org and sign up for our monthly e-Newsletter which highlights our programs, upcoming events and ways you can help make a difference in the lives of those we serve.