



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

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTERS

ATCHISON

502 Kansas Ave.
Atchison, KS 66002
913.367.5070

HOPE DISTRIBUTION CENTER

1708 Steele Rd.
Kansas City, KS 66106
913.432.3141

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

WYCO (KCK)

600 Minnesota Ave.
Kansas City, KS 66101
913.621.1504

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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

Visit catholiccharitiesks.org to learn more about our programs and services.



Connect with us:

@CCNEK @catholiccharitiesks

@catholic-charities-of-northeast-kansas

"...let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." – 1 John 3:18

A New After-Hours Volunteer Opportunity for the Whole Family

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas now has extended volunteer hours at Hope Distribution Center (HDC) food warehouse! We are now offering weeknight and Saturday shifts, making it easier for families, groups and individuals to serve, even with busy weekday schedules.

bags with shelf-stable, easy-to-open items for unhoused individuals. Children ages 8-13 can participate with a parent or guardian, while those ages 14 and older are welcome to volunteer independently. All service opportunities are monitored by a Catholic Charities staff member.

"All food donations at HDC go directly to our eight food pantries across Northeast Kansas," said Pickhinke. "We are so grateful to have these volunteers. They play a crucial role in supporting our food pantries, ensuring that our clients have access to the items they need."

If you know a student needing service hours or are part of a parish or community group, we'd love to have you volunteer. Reserve your spot by visiting: catholiccharitiesks.org/volunteering/hope-distribution-center/. For questions, please email: ccnekvolunteers@catholiccharitiesks.org. ❖



Over **9,000 volunteers** helped carry out our mission, generously donating **158,329 hours** – a financial impact of **over \$5 million**.

The decision to expand these volunteer hours was inspired by the success of this summer's HDC service projects, where nearly 200 students and adults volunteered to sort food and package bags for our Resource Bus.

"We had been considering offering evening and weekend opportunities for some time," shared Camille Pickhinke, Director of Community Engagement. "Our new hours will allow us to accommodate more volunteers who will support our ongoing mission to fight food insecurity across our 21-county service area."

HDC volunteer tasks include sorting food and packing transitional

BREAKING Bread

FALL 2024



'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' – Matthew 25:40

On a single night in Kansas, nearly 3,000 individuals were identified as experiencing homelessness.* Of those, 33% were unsheltered, meaning they were living in vehicles, under bridges and other places not meant for residency.

Fifty-seven percent of those experiencing homelessness in Kansas are living in 14 of the 21 counties served by Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas. Five of the top seven counties are in our service area, and home to six of our seven Family Support Centers.

Housing assistance has increased over 21% this past fiscal year as Catholic Charities strives to proactively fight homelessness before it happens. Financial assistance is provided directly to landlords and utility companies so that at-risk individuals and families with past-due bills can maintain their housing.

"Once families become homeless, it has a cascading effect resulting in a tremendous number of barriers to overcome before they can be stably housed again," explained Amelia Reyes, Chief Program Officer. "They are overwhelmed figuring out where their children are going to stay and how they're going to store their food and personal belongings. It becomes a crisis, often exacerbated by the deterioration of one's mental health."

She noted that it's also much more cost effective to provide financial assistance to help someone stay housed compared to locating a new place, which requires down payments, security deposits, furniture, housewares and more.

For those who are unhoused, case managers strive to remedy the situation as quickly as possible. They work to identify landlords who are willing to be flexible with barriers such as past evictions, low credit scores, criminal background and inability to meet income requirements.

Partnering with Catholic Charities offers many advantages. "Landlords have a team supporting their tenant and it helps in managing any issues that may arise. We have many landlords who have worked with us for years and they continue to do so because we communicate well throughout the lease," explained Cynthia Wilson, Supportive Housing Coordinator.

Once housed, the focus turns to addressing the issues that led to the homelessness.

Case managers work with clients on budgeting, setting realistic goals and job skills. They receive access to the food pantry and assistance with clothing needs, and are connected with resources as they work to gain economic self-sufficiency.

"Because of this program, my life has completely changed. I remember when I first got the keys to my new apartment, feeling immense awe for simply having a roof over my head," noted a client. "It also helped me gain employment, readily access food and experience human connection with my case manager whom I spoke with weekly."

In Wyandotte County, Catholic Charities operates Shalom House Men's Transitional Living Program. It provides a safe, dignified place to live for those committed to engaging in long-term programming such as financial coaching and job skills training. "This past year, nearly half of the residents were not only placed in full-time jobs, but they were permanently housed," added Reyes. "By walking this journey alongside them, they're now on the path to successfully changing the trajectory of their lives." ❖

*Kansas Point-in-Time Count 2024, Kansas State Homeless Coalition



Stats (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)



Nearly \$1.3 million in Direct Financial Assistance helped keep individuals safely housed who were facing homelessness due to unpaid rent and utilities.



15 men exited Shalom House and were permanently housed



237,534 times clothing, diapers and hygiene kits were distributed



Are you an employer in need of motivated, quality employees? Let's talk workforce development. Workforce development is the educating and training of individuals to meet the current and future needs of business to maintain a sustainable and competitive

economic environment. It is a proven human resources strategy significant for individuals who are unemployed or underemployed in our community.

Through our Workforce programming, we help individuals earn living-wage employment by removing the barriers of poverty that keep families from achieving self-sufficiency. We provide guidance and essential skills training to help them overcome challenges including the absence of a high school diploma or GED, lack of transportation and more.

Through a vibrant partnership with educational institutions like Donnelly College, Catholic Charities helps adult students remain committed to their education while balancing the challenges of real life. We also partner with employers, providing them qualified job candidates who are ready to work!

This past fiscal year, 300 individuals were helped through our Workforce programs. We assisted with resumes, job searches and referrals; offered clothing for job interviews; provided work-readiness classes; assisted with tuition and school supplies; helped with enrollment in a certificate or degree program, a work experience program or internship; and more.

- **376 work-readiness classes** were provided in partnership with IMAGO professional learning workshops.
- **206 individuals boosted their employability** and increased their education through our St. Rita program.
- And, my personal favorite, **121 individuals obtained employment** with an average full-time wage of \$21.69 an hour with full healthcare benefits and an average part-time wage of \$19.44 an hour.

If you are interested in entering a Workforce program or an employer looking to hire, email: workforce@catholiccharitiesks.org.

I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food

Did you know that in Kansas, one in eight people—and one in five children—struggles with food insecurity? Poverty impacts many aspects of daily life, including food access, leaving many of our neighbors without nourishment. Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas is committed to ensuring that no one in our 21-county service area goes hungry through a variety of programs.

"As human beings, we all have the right to have our basic human needs of food, clothing and shelter met. However, this is not the reality. Many families live paycheck to paycheck and don't know where their next meal is coming from," explained Camille Pickhinke, Director of Community Engagement.

Last fiscal year, Catholic Charities provided food assistance over 378,000 times. Nearly **three million meals** were donated from individuals, parishes, schools, grocery store rescue and community partners.

Food donations are stored at the agency's Hope Distribution Center, which was founded 10 years ago to help increase Catholic Charities' capacity to serve the hungry. It offers a balanced food distribution to our eight food pantries and is equipped to accept U.S.D.A. commodities and other large-scale donations. It also features a walk-in freezer for perishables and houses the only food pantry not located within a Family Support Center. Items from HDC are also loaded onto our Resource Bus, which delivers food and basic essentials to over 3,700 rural neighbors.

In addition to our food pantries, our case managers assist eligible clients with signing up for government programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) for seniors. Our Food and Nutrition Program also provides education through nutrition classes and cooking demonstrations. Mobile Food Distribution brings fresh, perishable foods to nearly 100 families every half hour during monthly distributions.

This past fiscal year alone, our Kids Summer Food and after school meal programs provided **41,097 nutritious meals and snacks to children** at 28 metro and rural sites over the summer months and throughout the school year.

As the need for food assistance continues to increase, Catholic Charities relies heavily on the generosity of others to help feed the hungry. "We are incredibly thankful to all who answer the call to love by helping us address food insecurity, either through volunteering or donations," added Kendra Dudasko, Outreach Coordinator.

*Numbers reflect statistics from Feeding America which tracks food insecurity in the U.S.

"Give and gifts will be given to you..." – Luke 6:38

Make an impact for generations to come by making a planned gift to Catholic Charities Foundation of Northeast Kansas. Here are some simple ways to leave a planned gift:

- Make a gift from your will or trust
- Provide a gift from a life insurance or retirement account(s)
- Donate appreciated stock (and save on taxes!)
- Consider a gift of real estate (please contact us for acceptance details)
- Make an annual qualified distribution from your IRA

For more information about planned giving options, please visit catholiccharitiesks.org/planned-giving or contact Anita: asmith@catholiccharitiesks.org or **913.433.2007**.



Nearly \$10.8 million worth of food was distributed to hungry individuals and families through our food assistance programs.

Pregnancy Program is Growing

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas is excited to share that our programming for pregnant mothers is expanding thanks to a generous new grant! Formerly known as Pregnancy Maintenance Initiative (PMI), the newly renamed **Pregnancy Support Services** program will continue to offer support, counseling, baby supplies and more to expectant mothers across Northeast Kansas.

"This new funding will allow our team to expand our reach into more locations, including Leavenworth and Lawrence, Kansas, in the near future," said Heather Roberts, Manager of Adoption and Pregnancy Support Services. "We'll also be able to provide more physical donations to new mothers. Items such as car seats or pack-n-plays will now be given to those who have had three or more visits," she added.

Pregnancy Support Services empowers women facing unplanned pregnancies through a variety of comprehensive services that include education, healthcare advocacy, emotional support and material assistance. Our educational offerings cover topics including prenatal care, parenting skills and the option of adoption. Confidential pregnancy counseling is available from our staff of trained professionals who provide caring, non-judgmental support during what can be an emotionally challenging time.

Our staff also serve as healthcare advocates for participants by ensuring that pregnant mothers have access to prenatal care and nutritional guidance. Participants also receive community referrals and assistance with applying to government and non-profit programs such as Medicaid, WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children), food stamps and HappyBottoms diaper bank. Material support is provided free of charge to mothers experiencing financial hardship, including essential baby items like diapers, formula and clothing.

Through education, healthcare advocacy and other resources, the expanded Pregnancy Support Services encourages women to create the best possible future for themselves and their children. "The name change of our program now reflects the all-encompassing work that we do," Roberts emphasized.



110 families received counseling, education, baby items and community referrals

Empowering Refugees Through Digital Inclusion

Basic computer skills may seem commonplace in today's ever-connected world, but for a refugee, digital practices must be learned. Digital Inclusion, a program launched by Catholic Charities in 2022, addresses the unique digital needs of refugees, helping them gain knowledge and confidence to navigate life in their new country.

Case management is provided, in addition to a comprehensive digital education consisting of three pillars: access, connectivity and literacy. Access provides refugees the tools and tech equipment they need. Connectivity enables access to the Internet via a free hotspot available at the Learning Center located in Catholic Charities' Wyandotte County Family Support Center. Literacy is implemented through a class curriculum utilizing images instead of words.

"There are many unique challenges refugees face. It's nice to see them begin to express hope for their own futures and careers through our program," said Pam Rooks, Refugee Digital Access Coordinator.



231 adults received digital access education and 14 laptops were provided

Since its launch in March 2023, Morning Glory Estate Sales has carved a niche for itself. Unlike traditional estate sale companies, up to 40 percent of Morning Glory commissions directly fund Catholic Charities' life-changing programs.

"We've had such a positive response from the community and local business partners. Every sale, people have been appreciative and positively commented on our staff's professionalism, setup and cleanliness of the estate and how they are happy to support our new business, since funds are channeled back to Catholic Charities," said Ginger Jackson, Manager of Estate Sales.

Although limited volunteer staffing posed a challenge, Morning Glory has built a strong foundation for future growth. It now offers online auctions, as well as consignment of high-end items at the Glenwood Antique Mall in Overland Park, as well as Chairish, an online shop. Unsold items are removed and donated to Catholic Charities' TurnStyles Thrift stores.

"We have had many amazing milestones and memorable moments over the last year," reminisced Jackson. "We have a lot to look forward to in the years ahead."

To schedule a FREE consultation, visit: catholiccharitiesks.org/morning-glory



A Ministry of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas

51ST ANNUAL SNOW BALL

BENEFITING CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOUNDATION OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

The legacy continues! The 51st Annual Snow Ball benefiting Catholic Charities Foundation of Northeast Kansas will be held on January 18, 2025. Doug and Kara Ciocca and Chris and Angie Dierks will serve as the presidents for the black-tie event, which will be held at the Overland Park Convention Center. Guests will enjoy a cocktail reception, a sit-down dinner and dancing to music by The Crossroad Sound.

A meaningful gift will help Catholic Charities move those served from a place of needing help, to one of having hope. To learn more, scan the QR code or visit: SNOWBALLGALA.ORG

