



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

Engage in Our Mission with a Hope Talk or Bus Tour!

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas offers two unique opportunities for the community to connect with our mission.

Bus tours provide a broad overview of services. Guests begin their tour at the agency's Overland Park administrative building, then visit sites, including Shalom House Men's Transitional Living Program and Hope Distribution Center (HDC) food warehouse in Wyandotte County.

"With a bus tour, people get to see how our programs overlap to serve the whole person. We offer food, housing, employment support and more. It also highlights how our programming supports the dignity of the human person and

our client-centered approach," shared Denise Ogilvie, Chief Mission Integration Officer.

Hope Talks provide an in-depth explanation of select ministries. Attendees tour HDC and hear directly from program staff. Topics are tailored to the audience, whether that's volunteers, parish groups or community partners. Presentations may feature staff from ministries such as Shalom House, Financial Education or Workforce Development.

"The goal of these events is to expand awareness. People learn the unique perspective of how we operate, and that in turn may make them advocates of our mission or want to serve with us," shared Kristen Pettibon, Outreach Coordinator.

Ogilvie also added, "People learn the importance of how we do our work. They take that to heart and can tell we care about the people we serve."



Scan the QR code to sign-up online for one of our monthly bus tours or an upcoming Hope Talk! ❖

8,624 volunteers helped carry out our mission – a financial impact of over \$5.1 million!



BREAKING Bread

FALL 2025

catholic charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

Financial Education Helps Families Achieve Stability

With a reported 57 percent of all Americans struggling financially, how effective are financial literacy programs when it comes to achieving long-term financial security? A research team from The University of Kansas'



Communication Studies reviewed Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas' **Family Financial Transformations (FFT)** program to determine its impact on the financial success of participants.

FFT is designed to help families reach their financial goals such as increasing savings and reducing debt. Since its start 10 years ago, the program has served **626 families, including 839 adults and 700 children**. Together, these families have **saved over \$612,000** and **reduced their debt by more than \$1.6 million!**

Kimberly Burau, FFT Program Manager, has been integral to the advancement of the program, which offers individualized financial coaching plans, as well as interactive online classes for adults and their children. "Finances affect everyone, yet how to manage money hasn't always been taught in school," explained Burau. "As part of our curriculum, we discuss cash flow, debt, credit scores and more. We also explore the impact of spending choices, even in our classes geared for younger children and teens, so that they can become financially savvy and understand how buying decisions can affect the entire family."

Angela Gist-Mackey, Ph.D., and Alesia Woszidlo, Ph.D., led the KU study, which spanned from 2019-2024. "We were very excited when KU approached us about partnering on this study that would take a deeper dive into whether our education program was in fact providing the skills and resources that families need to one day achieve financial stability," explained Suzanne Evans, Catholic Charities' Senior Director of Education and Literacy.

Before FFT, families admitted to often making uninformed financial decisions or feeling pressured to purchase large items, such as a car, that they could not afford. Following the program's completion, participants experienced significant change. "FFT families were able to better evaluate, plan and execute financial decisions that served their long-term best interest and goals toward family stabilization," said Dr. Gist-Mackey and Dr. Woszidlo.

There was also an increase in financial stability and financial well-being. "Participants felt more prepared, equipped, and resilient when navigating the financial stressors that they were currently experiencing and those that they have yet to face," added Dr. Gist-Mackey and Dr. Woszidlo.

One client shared, "I didn't think we had enough. Now I see that we do have enough. It's just the way that we spend is different."

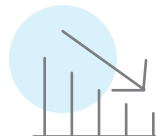
This past year, FFT has added an after-care component offering additional financial coaching sessions and classes for those who have completed the program. "It's a huge compliment to our program that they want to come back to learn more and share their progress," Burau said. "It speaks to the support that we provide and the relationships we build with our participants."

Overall, the KU study solidified what Catholic Charities knew about the program's impact. "Our teams analyze the data and the outcomes of all of our programs to identify gaps and determine impact," said Lauren Solidum, President & CEO, "but this collaboration with KU further validated that our agency is doing critical work in the community, and more importantly, we are moving people out of poverty." ❖

FFT Fiscal Year Impact (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)



225 adults and 129 kids increased their financial knowledge



\$1,639 was the average amount families reduced debt



\$355 was the average savings amount for families

Lauren Solidum, President & CEO

We have been finalizing our next iteration of the agency's strategic plan. I am grateful for the responses from our supporters through our community survey. This information is helpful as we discern the major priorities for the agency: food, housing, mental health and social enterprise. We will continue to address the financial gaps we have recently experienced within our refugee and migrant services and are working to stretch Catholic Charities to do even more in support of the most vulnerable.

Food. We are expanding our reach within rural counties, increasing fresh food volume, partnerships and volunteers. We will evaluate the effectiveness of our Resource Bus services/locations, current food modalities and look into new delivery opportunities. We are considering opening up new Family Support Center (FSC) locations.

Housing. We are focused on eviction prevention through increasing financial assistance for housing and adding transitional housing sites. We want to expand our current transitional housing properties and pump all our employment/education programming into these units.

Mental Health. We will host mental health professionals and/or organizations within our offices, increase training of Mental Health 101 and the Cost of Poverty Experience (COPE). We hope to arm partners with knowledge to direct those in need of mental health services appropriately.

Social Enterprise. We will be opening a fourth TurnStyles. Many have come to love the merchandise, ability to donate and volunteer. We continue to seek new business endeavors to supplement our fundraising/grant writing efforts.

With our new strategic plan will come new projects, expansions and work. Our team accepts the Holy Spirit's challenge with zeal, enthusiasm and with your help, a willingness to do even more for those in need! ❖

Rural Programming Expands to Meet Growing Need

In Kansas, 40 percent of all households in rural areas are not earning enough to afford basic expenses in the county where they live. Families struggle to feed their families, afford rent and pay their bills. To help alleviate this concern, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas is expanding services in the 15 rural communities throughout the Archdiocese where the agency does not have a physical presence.

The new Rural Family Support Services program reflects the growing scope of assistance now available. Previously, services offered in rural counties were delivered exclusively through the Resource Bus and limited to food and direct financial assistance for rent and utilities. Over the past few years, the need has grown significantly. The bus has also become an entry point for connecting those in need with other resources and referrals.

"Our wraparound services, including Financial Education, Workforce Development and refugee and La Luz Immigration Clinic services, have been provided at an ad hoc capacity to our rural neighbors," said Amelia Reyes, Chief Program Officer. "We have now adapted and grown our ability to deliver more of our services by streamlining case management, providing it remotely via virtual meetings or over the phone," she added.

Distance and infrastructure challenges are some of the biggest barriers for rural families interested in accessing our services. "Many neighbors must drive long distances just to access groceries or basic essentials," shared Josh Taff, Family Support & Rural Services Manager. "There are many people in poverty and they need more help to become self-sufficient. Expanding our services will help us address any gaps and increase community impact," he noted.

Reyes also explained that rural areas often lack dedicated funding streams, and with dispersed populations, it is harder for residents to learn about available assistance. "Catholic Charities relies heavily on partnerships with schools, churches and libraries to spread the word and ensure families know when and where our services are available," she added.

With our new programming, more families will efficiently be served across all 21 counties, regardless of location. This program transition is happening in real-time, so the model will continue to adapt to serve the needs of our rural communities. ❖



Over **3,600 individuals** received food, housing, utility, clothing assistance and hygiene items via the Resource Bus. (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

52ND ANNUAL SNOW BALL

Join us for the 52nd Annual Snow Ball benefiting Catholic Charities Foundation of Northeast Kansas on January 17, 2026 at the Overland Park Convention Center. It's more than a great party, it's a legacy of love that has a profound impact on those experiencing poverty. By giving through Snow Ball, **\$0.91 of every dollar will support 25+ life-changing programs!** To make a gift or purchase a ticket/table, scan the QR code or visit: snowballgala.org



Partnerships with Local Hospitals Provide Support to Families with Medical Needs

Families navigating the challenges of a serious illness often face more than just medical concerns. Financial burden due to treatment or long hospital stays can add extra worry to an already stressful situation. Recognizing this, local hospitals, Children's Mercy and St. Luke's Health System, have partnered with Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas to provide resources to patients and their families. These partnerships will provide Catholic Charities with unrestricted funding to help support individuals referred by the hospitals.



127 families (94 from Wyandotte County and 33 from Johnson County) were referred by Children's Mercy Hospital to Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas

Through these partnerships, hospital social workers identify patients' needs. Patients are then referred to Catholic Charities, and the agency works to provide the patient with financial assistance, resources and referrals. Support can also include groceries from one of our eight food pantries, clothing, back-to-school supplies or connections to other community partners.

"Health challenges often create a domino effect, impacting employment, which in turn can affect finances. When basic needs like food, shelter and clothing are not met, physical health can decline even further," explained Angela Jackson-Sampel, Director of Family Support Centers. "When hospitals

see that a patient is struggling to meet essential needs, they can connect families with our support. We help stabilize a difficult situation, so families can focus on their health and well-being. When a child is sick, the last thing a parent should have to worry about is something such as whether the lights will stay on at home. By offering support, we can give families not just resources, but also a little more hope for the road ahead."

The partnership with Children's Mercy began last spring, and St. Luke's more recently, but these connections are not the agency's first collaboration with healthcare systems. Over the past decade, Catholic Charities has also worked with medical teams in Topeka.

"Both partner hospitals' missions align closely with Catholic Charities' values of joy and kindness in service. Having met with their representatives, you can see those values in action," Jackson-Sampel noted. ❖

Coming Soon: Our Lady's Sanctuary of Grace



Pregnant women who are at-risk for homelessness, will soon have another housing option available. Plans are underway for Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas to open **Our Lady's Sanctuary of Grace**, a maternity home in 2026.

The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas generously provided Catholic Charities with financial resources to purchase and renovate a home in Olathe, Kansas, to serve this vulnerable population of women and their children. The property will host several families at any given time. Watch for future announcements in our monthly e-newsletter and on our social media channels! ❖

96 expectant mothers received counseling, education, baby items and referrals to community resources through our Pregnancy Support Services program.

70% Tax Credit for Pregnancy Programming Donors

Make a gift of \$1,000 or more in support of Our Lady's Sanctuary of Grace maternity home or our Pregnancy Support Services Program and receive a sizeable tax credit for your generosity! The Kansas Pregnancy Resource Act offers individuals, businesses and corporations a tax credit of **70 percent** on eligible donations made by December 31, 2025 to Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.

"This is a very exciting opportunity for our donors to reduce their tax burden while supporting our mission to provide assistance to expectant mothers as they navigate pregnancy and prepare for the arrival of their baby," says Kurtis Grothoff, Chief Development Officer.

Unlike a tax deduction, a tax credit is an actual payment towards your Kansas state owed taxes. For those who give a minimum of a \$1,000 donation, for example, \$700 can be subtracted from the amount of Kansas state taxes owed. Donors do not need to itemize taxes to take advantage of the special tax credit, which may be carried forward for up to five years.



Scan the QR code to visit our website for a step-by-step guide with a pre-filled tax form to make your tax-credit gift quick and easy! ❖

Fiscal Year Impact (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)



74,109 individuals and nearly **27,000 families** received help, hope and hospitality through one or more of our 25+ programs



Over **\$1 million in Direct Financial Assistance** helped keep individuals and families safely housed who were facing homelessness due to unpaid rent and utilities



Over **\$11.2 million worth of food** was distributed to hungry individuals and families through our food assistance programs



168 individuals boosted their job skills and advanced their education through our St. Rita Workforce Development program



158 individuals obtained employment through our Workforce Development program, earning an average full-time wage of \$20/hr. + benefits