



notes

catholic charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas

Take Action Against Hunger

Imagine that you can't afford to go to the grocery store when you need a loaf of bread, milk or fresh vegetables. Your only option to feed your hungry family is a food pantry. That's the reality for **426,850** people in Kansas who are food insecure, struggling to put a meal on the table.

During last fiscal year, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas provided food assistance **248,480 times** to individuals throughout our 21-county service area. That's an annual **increase of 30%**.

In 2016,



Ways you can help feed our neighbors in need:

Donate non-perishable food items to an **Emergency Assistance Center** located near you.

Make an **online gift**: catholiccharitiesks.org/donate

Volunteer at one of our food pantries or mobile food distributions.

We also served **10,624** nutritious lunches at **18 sites** -- more than doubling the number of food provided through our Kids Summer Food Program.

As demand continues to grow we count on the support of individuals, families, parishes, grocery stores and other businesses to help us stock our pantry shelves.



Elaine's Hope Story: Breaking the Cycle of Debt

Elaine is 74 years old and lives independently in a small, one bedroom apartment. She receives social security and a small monthly pension totaling \$1,278. She was struggling with her bills. Elaine came to one of our Emergency Assistance Centers (EAC) for help with an electric bill. During her meeting she shared that she had payday loans totaling \$1,725.

She had these payday loans for years and, unfortunately, her low income just would not cover the loans to be paid off while still trying to take care of her daily living expenses and housing. Because of the high rate, Elaine was paying \$275/month just in interest on all of her payday loans. Elaine shared that she had not told her grown children because she was ashamed to let them know she had gotten into this situation in the first place.

Catholic Charities was able to assist Elaine through our Kansas Loan Pool Project (KLPP). By converting her high-interest payday loan into a new, low-interest fixed loan, Elaine now has a manageable payment with an actual payoff date. Elaine participates in monthly financial coaching through the KLPP program. Her bills are now up to date and she has set some realistic financial goals. Elaine has newfound hope through the help of Catholic Charities and our KLPP program.

"It's a relief to know that I now have enough money to pay my bills AND go to the grocery store." Elaine shared.

Learn more about our **Kansas Loan Pool Project**: catholiccharitiesks.org/financial-education/



Catholic Charities Celebrates Topeka's Growth and Generosity

Archbishop Naumann, Ken Williams, CEO of Catholic Charities, local priests and more than 50 supporters gathered at the historic Dillon House in Topeka to celebrate the continued support and generosity of the community. It was also an occasion to recognize Catholic Charities' upcoming 60th anniversary milestone.

During the evening, the programs and services now available at our Topeka Emergency Assistance Center were highlighted. In addition, the launch of our newest Topeka program, the Kansas Loan Pool Project (KLPP), was announced. This loan refinance program works in partnership with a bank to combat predatory lending.

Last year, Catholic Charities provided food to local individuals more than 48,000 times--making it our second largest food pantry. Food brings mothers, fathers and children to our doors, and it serves as the entry point for families to receive additional services including clothing, shelter, diapers, hygiene products, rent & utility assistance, financial literacy and so much more.

We couldn't continue to meet the growing needs of those in Topeka without the constant support of the community. It's evident that they live by the words of newly canonized Saint Teresa of Calcutta, "The greatest good is what we do for one another."



Catholic Charities supporters Doug Sterbenz, Jim Schmank, Madge Schmank and Kelly Kearney celebrate the evening.



Ways to Make a Difference

Our Greatest Need **DONATE YOUR CAR.** Make a difference. It's easy. It's tax deductible. And it makes a big—and lasting—impact for local families right here in our community.



If you have a vehicle you don't want anymore—in ANY condition—please consider donating it to **Cars4KC.com**. You'll avoid the hassle of trying to trade, sell, or junk it, and you'll get a tax deduction that may reduce your tax burden this year. Plus, when you donate your car, truck, RV or boat to Cars4KC, you help people right here in our community. That's because the proceeds benefit valuable Catholic Charities programs and services across the region.

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas

9720 W. 87th St | Overland Park, KS 66212 | 913.433.2100

Looking to volunteer?

Contact Michelle Carlstedt at 913.433.2080 or mcarlstedt@catholiccharitiesks.org.