

Celebrating 60 Years of Giving Help and Giving Hope

A HISTORY OF WELCOMING REFUGEES

Many may think refugee resettlement is one of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas' newer programs. Truth is, the organization has been doing it for over 40 years. It started long before that, however, within the parish community.

"I am proud of the long history in the Archdiocese of welcoming refugees. Originally, this ministry was really the work of particular families who opened their hearts and their homes to support refugees from fleeing oppression in their homeland," says Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann, D.D.

In 1975, Catholic Charities began assisting the South Vietnamese who were fleeing their country out of fear of persecution or execution following the Vietnam War. Today, it's one of the largest resettlement sites in Kansas, welcoming 329 refugees, placing 322 in jobs, enrolling 226 in English classes and helping 271 immigrants become U.S. citizens. "I am very grateful for all that Catholic Charities does today," adds Archbishop Naumann, "to continue this beautiful tradition of assisting families coming from the most difficult circumstances to be able to thrive in their new American homeland."



CATHOLIC CHARITIES: THEN AND NOW

The year was 1956. Archbishop Edward J. Hunkeler, Monsignor John Horvat and Thomas Daly met to discuss the establishment of a new organization within the Archdiocese. Its sole focus would be on the management of "Catholic charitable activities," especially the adoption of children into Catholic homes. On October 23rd of that year, a non-profit named Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas was formed.

Today, the organization continues to be a thriving ministry of the Archdiocese, but operates under the name of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas. Early on, it was known as a "safety net" agency, providing for immediate needs such as food, clothing and shelter. In recent years, it has expanded from stabilizing to strengthening families through more than 20 programs and services impacting every stage of life.

"We continue to match newborn babies with their 'forever families' through adoption and counsel those faced with an unexpected pregnancy. We also resettle refugees forced to flee their country out of fear of death or persecution; offer in-home support to the elderly who need assistance with personal care, homemaking activities and errands; and provide compassionate, hospice care to those at the end of life's journey," says Ken Williams, President and CEO.

Williams adds that Catholic Charities will always give help to those who need food and other basics to survive. "Now, we're working to make families stronger long-term, and moving them forward towards self-sufficiency," he says. "We're giving them hope."



 **248,480**

number of times food assistance provided in Catholic Charities' service area during fiscal year.

 **71%**

increase in the number of individuals who received financial education this fiscal year over last.

 **225,323**

hours of service provided by Catholic Charities' volunteers, serving all programs.

ELAINE'S HOPE STORY: LEARNING TO LIVE ON A BUDGET

Elaine is 74 years old and lives independently in a small, one-bedroom apartment. She counts on her social security and small monthly pension to pay her expenses – food, rent, medication, insurance and more. Unfortunately, it's not always enough.

Recently, Elaine was forced to make tough choices between buying food or the medical prescriptions needed to maintain her health. As someone who has worked most of her life and successfully raised a family, she never thought these golden years would be so financially hard.

A parish friend encouraged her to contact Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas for help. The case worker at the Emergency Assistance Center sat down with her and carefully reviewed her income and expenses. An affordable payment plan was set up with the utility company, as well as the landlord. Before she left, she visited the food pantry and was able to get some fresh produce and canned goods. During one of her follow-up meetings, she shared with her case manager that she had taken out a payday loan awhile back as a quick fix to cover living expenses. She had no idea that she would be charged such a high interest rate. Catholic Charities was able to assist Elaine through its Kansas Loan Pool Project (KLPP), a loan refinance program designed to combat predatory loans.

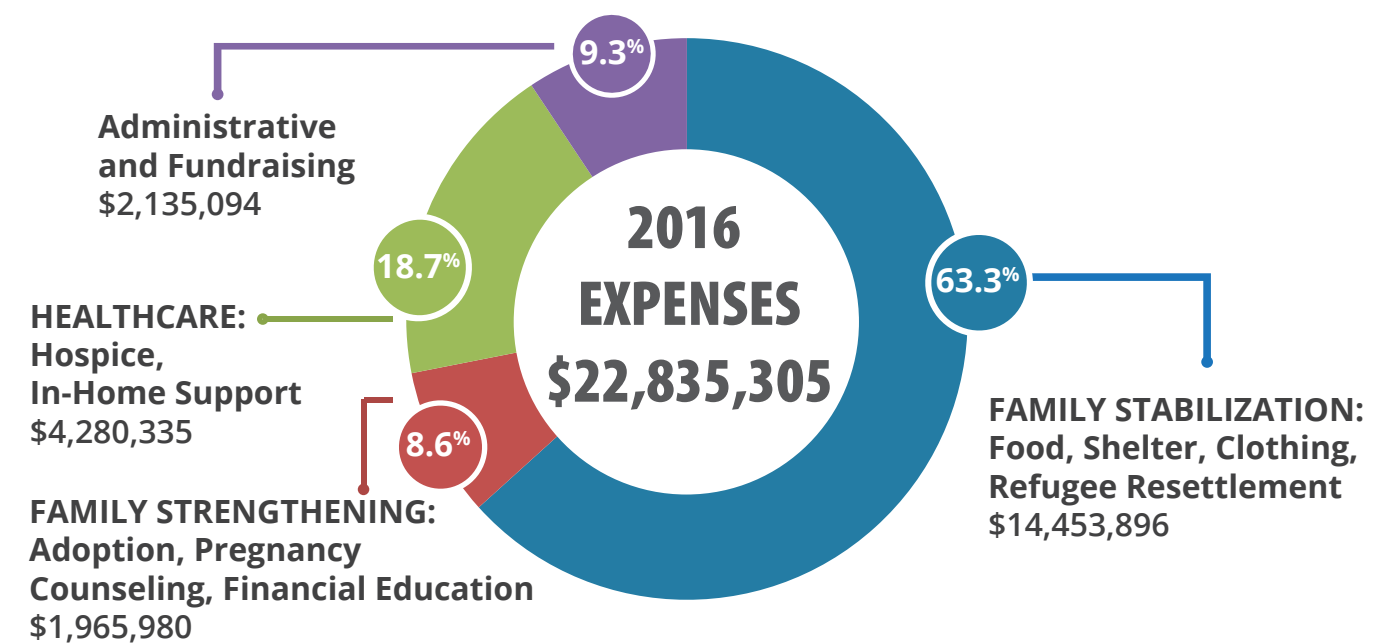
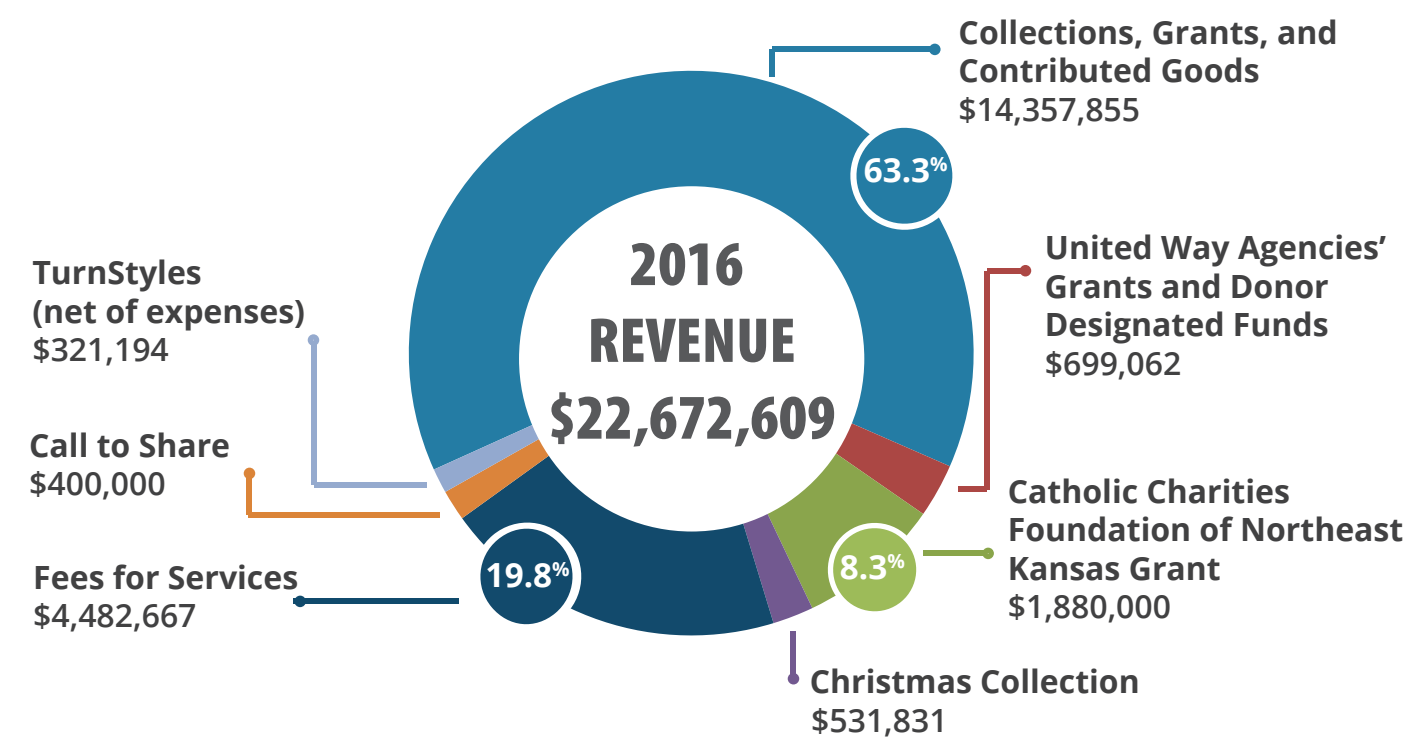
Today, Elaine's bills are up-to-date. She participates in financial classes that are teaching her about setting and achieving financial goals. "It goes to show you," she says, "that it's never too late to learn something that can impact your life."



catholic charities

OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

2016 COMMUNITY REPORT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES: 913.433.2100 | HOPE DISTRIBUTION CENTER: 913.432.3141
 ATCHISON: 913.367.5070 | EMPORIA: 620.343.2296 | KANSAS CITY, KS: 913.621.3445
 LAWRENCE: 785.856.2694 | LEAVENWORTH: 913.651.8060 | OLATHE: 913.782.4077
 OVERLAND PARK: 913.384.6608 | TOPEKA: 785.233.6300

TO DONATE OR LEARN ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

catholiccharitiesks.org



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Serving people of all faiths throughout 21 counties of northeast Kansas



The Kids Summer Food Program served 10,624 meals this summer to students in the Catholic Charities service area.



Kansas Loan Pool Project converted more than 150 predatory payday loans to 6% interest loans.



Nearly \$9.5 million worth of donated food and goods were distributed to families in need through Hope Distribution Center.



329 refugees from all over the world were resettled into our communities through Refugee & Immigration Services.



108 people participated in Family Financial Transformations™, which helps families reach financial self-sufficiency.



Housing assistance was provided 3,716 times and utility assistance 8,627 times through Emergency Assistance Centers.



Aspire Cleaning Service, our new social enterprise providing commercial cleaning services, launched.



End-of-life care was provided to 237 hospice patients and their families through Catholic Community Hospice.