

BREAKING

FALL 2016

catholic  charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

Bread

Celebrating 60 Years of Giving Help and Hope

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.

A year later, Monsignor Horvat was appointed to work full-time as Catholic Charities’ Archdiocesan Director. With the hiring of two social workers who had backgrounds in family and children services, he set up a formal office in Wyandotte County. Initially, he and his staff focused their energies on a single program, adoption. By the time his successor, Fr. Finnerty, took over, people were coming to Catholic Charities for food, clothing and financial assistance. Unable to afford a larger staff to help him with these things, he began recruiting volunteers. With their help, the first emergency assistance center (EAC) became a reality in 1965.

Today, the organization continues to be a thriving ministry of the Archdiocese, but operates under the name of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas. Assistance is provided to struggling individuals and families of all faiths throughout a 21-county service area. Staff has grown from just a couple of employees, to 234. Volunteers remain crucial with over 1,200 each month assisting in the food pantries, sorting clothing, participating in mass food distributions, tutoring refugees, serving as financial mentors and more.

The number of programs has expanded to over 20, impacting every stage of life. “We continue to match newborn babies with their ‘forever families’ through adoption and counsel



Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, D.D., lends a hand in Catholic Charities’ Olathe food pantry.

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,” explains Ken Williams, President and CEO.

Catholic Charities has also added Shalom House, which provides shelter, food and hospitality to up to 24 homeless men each night. EAC offices have grown from one in Kansas City, Kansas, to locations in Atchison, Emporia, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Olathe, Overland Park and Topeka. For those living in outlying areas, services are brought to them through two mobile resource buses.

“Catholic Charities has certainly evolved over the last 60 years from simply stabilizing families, to strengthening and moving them forward,” adds Williams. “We’ve progressed beyond just providing help. We’re giving hope.” ❖

FISCAL YEAR AT-A-GLANCE



Food assistance provided
248,480
times.



71% increase in the number of individuals who received financial education.



225,323 hours of service provided by volunteers.



329 refugees resettled.

The Journey to Self-Sufficiency



Saint Teresa of Calcutta once said, “Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time....” It’s a mantra Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas has been practicing for the last 60 years.

We started as a “safety net” agency, helping with immediate survival needs. Over the years, we realized we wanted to do more than stabilize families, we wanted to strengthen them for the long-term. So we set out to develop programs and services that attack what I see as the three root causes of poverty: 1) unemployment; 2) lack of education; and 3) break-up of the family.

So where are we at today? Our emergency assistance centers continue to be a place where our neighbors in need come for help with the basics. Now, it’s also where they come for one-on-one guidance, especially to learn about budgeting, reducing debt and establishing a relationship with a banking institution. In the last fiscal year, I’m proud that the number of individuals who received financial education through Catholic Charities increased over 70 percent.

And where are we going? We’re contemplating the feasibility of operating a center which will help remove the barriers — transportation, child care, tuition cost — that prevent those we serve from getting the education needed to fill the available trade and technical jobs. Our goal is to help them attain good jobs that will allow them to one day support themselves and their families. It’s really about offering hope for a brighter future. ❖

A History of Welcoming Refugees



This past fiscal year, staff


resettled **329**
refugees


placed **322** in jobs


enrolled **226**
in English classes


helped **271**
immigrants become
U.S. citizens

While many of us may think refugee resettlement has been one of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas’ newer programs, it might be surprising to learn that the organization has been doing it for more than 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., Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas.

After the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops implemented a Southeast Asia refugee resettlement program in response to the Indochina refugee crisis, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas officially joined the humanitarian effort in 1975. The organization began assisting the South Vietnamese who were fleeing their country out of fear of persecution or execution following the Vietnam War.

Today, Catholic Charities is one of the largest resettlement sites in Kansas, with most refugees coming from Southeast Asia’s Myanmar. “Like those before us, we recognize the brave journey our refugees are forced to take, leaving behind all that’s familiar,” says Rachel Pollock, Director of Refugee and Immigration Programs. “We welcome and give them the support they need to rebuild their lives.”

This past fiscal year, staff resettled 329 refugees, placed 322 in jobs, enrolled 226 in English classes and helped 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.” ❖

New Venue – Same Great Celebration!

Snow Ball

Reserve your place now at the 43rd Annual Snow Ball benefiting Catholic Charities Foundation of Northeast Kansas. This year’s event will be held on **Saturday, January 21, 2017** at a new location, the **Overland Park Convention Center**. The elegant evening includes a cocktail reception and formal dinner, followed by dancing. To make a patron gift, or to purchase a table, visit: catholiccharitiessnowball.org



Honorary Snow Ball Presidents Pat Wilkerson, Rich Teahan and Don Foley join Snow Ball Presidents Lynn and Jay Reardon.



Summer Food Program Feeds Hungry Kids

8,642. That's the number of times a child did not have to go hungry this summer.

Instead, they were provided a healthy sack lunch at one of the 18 sites that participated in Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas' Kids Summer Food Program in partnership with Harvesters, the US Department of Agriculture and the Kansas Department of Education.

Although the program is just in its second year, the number of meals, sites and volunteers have dramatically increased. In addition to the children's meals, nearly 1,200 meals were served to their parents or adult caregiver. Also, over 750 supplemental "weekend meal bags" of pre-packaged food were distributed.

Its success can be attributed to the many combined efforts of community volunteers, patrons and staff.

If you would like your community to have a site or would like to volunteer next summer, please contact Denise Ogilvie at dogilvie@catholiccharitiesks.org. ❖

Now, and at the Hour of Our Death...

Many of us may have thought about what we want medically at the end of life, but what about spiritually? Do we want someone to pray with us? Do we want our parish priest or church minister present?



As a faith-based, non-profit, and the only Catholic hospice in the greater Kansas City area, Catholic Community Hospice is committed to providing services that interweave and uphold one's faith. As part of that devotion, the hospice staff began giving Catholic patients a St. Joseph's Prayer Chest blessed by Archbishop Naumann or a parish priest. Inside are items that symbolize religious beliefs and traditions.

"When we present the prayer chest to our patients, their faces just light up," says Donda McLaughlin, Parish Liaison. "I think it brings them comfort, to see all the artifacts that bring Catholics a sense of ritual, familiarity, home. It can also inspire family members to take up prayer for their loved one placed on hospice."

To learn more about Catholic Community Hospice, visit: catholiccommunityhospice.com ❖



Fighting Predatory Lending One Loan at a Time

Did you know that there are more payday lenders than there are McDonald's and Starbucks in the United States? They prey on those who are struggling, offering fast cash. But don't be fooled. With that easy money comes soaring interest rates.

Last year, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas launched the Kansas Loan Pool Project (KLPP), a loan refinance program designed to combat payday and title loans. Working in conjunction with Country Club Bank, 95 predatory loans have been eliminated during the program's first 12 months.

Amelia Reyes, Director of Asset Development, and Sasheen Cutchlow, Financial Stability & Education Coordinator, celebrate KLPP's first year success.

Plans are underway to begin offering the program to Topeka residents. Capital City has stepped up as a financial partner with Catholic Charities. Others in the community, including Central National Bank, are also getting behind KLPP. "We're encouraged by the support we've received," says Amelia Reyes, Catholic Charities' Director of Asset Development. "We're excited to start helping those in Topeka who are being taken advantage of with these types of high-interest loans, reduce their debt."

To learn more about KLPP and program requirements, visit: catholiccharitiesks.org/financial-education. ❖

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.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CENTERS

ATCHISON

502 Kansas Ave.
Atchison, KS 66002
913.367.5070

EMPORIA

616 Merchant St.
Emporia, KS 66801
620.343.2296

KANSAS CITY

2220 Central Ave.
Kansas City, KS 66102
913.621.3445

LAWRENCE

1247 Kentucky 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.
(Food Pantry Only)
Kansas City, KS 66106
913.432.3141

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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



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Food Rescue Program Tips the Scale at One Million Pounds



Leavenworth Food Rescue volunteers Kirby Brown and Matt Belford

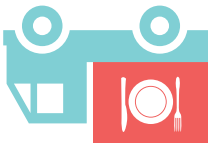
Catholic Charities' food rescue program recently celebrated a major milestone – the collection of one million pounds of perishable food from area grocery stores! That's \$1.7 million worth of donated food to help feed those in need. This feat was made possible with the help of 48 volunteer drivers who logged over 2,000 hours.

Nearly two years ago, Harvesters asked Catholic Charities to help with its food rescue program. Warehouse manager Jeff Schmidt and long-time volunteer Jeff Bailey started with just three grocery stores. Today, volunteer drivers pick up from 19 stores and deliver to Catholic Charities' food pantries in Kansas City, Kansas; Leavenworth; Olathe; Overland Park; and Topeka. It's an outlet for the grocery stores to donate highly valued food such as milk, produce and meat, rather than throwing the items away.

"Some days our food rescue volunteers pick up 3,000 pounds of food or more. That food is helping those in our community who can't afford to go to the grocery store themselves and buy nutritious items. It makes you feel like you're making a difference," adds Bailey.

Additional food rescue volunteers are needed, especially in Kansas City, Kansas. To learn more, contact Michelle Carlsted, Director of Volunteers, at mcarlstedt@catholiccharitiesks.org or call 913.433.2080.

48 volunteer drivers who logged over **2,000 hours**



\$1.7 million worth of donated food

