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December 2017

HOPE notes

catholic  charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

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A Message from Ken Williams, CEO & President



"Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

Those words were spoken by the angel Gabriel more than 2,000 years ago. Imagine what thoughts would run through your head if those words were spoken directly to you. Perhaps you would think that your prayers for a loved one's health or a neighbor's financial situation would be answered? Perhaps that a sin recently committed would be forgiven? If you are like me, I would immediately think about how the Lord's favor is going to benefit me personally.

Not Mary. She knew that it couldn't get much worse in her day than being a young, single woman with child. Yet, she joyfully accepted the Lord's will for her life.

The staff and volunteers at Catholic Charities strive every day to serve those in need. Not because it brings glory to them personally. Not because they are well compensated. Not because it was the only job they could get. Rather, like Mary, they do the best they can to answer the Lord's call and will for their life. It's not easy work, but it brings peace, joy, and hope none of

which money can buy.

From everyone here at Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, Merry Christmas, and may you answer the call of our Lord Jesus for your life, no matter the cost.

Record-breaking Turkey Distribution Feeds Families in Need *Hope Hero Shout Out!*



This Thanksgiving, **2,721 families were able to celebrate with a turkey on the table** thanks to the countless volunteers and supporters at Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.

One in seven people in the state of Kansas are food insecure--meaning they struggle to put food on the table. While that can be a tense situation to face on a daily basis, the stress is often compounded during the holidays.

Thanks to area churches who hosted turkey drives, including **Church of the Ascension, Curé of Ars, Divine Mercy, Holy Cross, Holy Trinity, St. Ann's and St. Michael the Archangel**, some of that stress was alleviated by providing turkeys to **2,721 families in need**. That's nearly **600 more** families than last year!

While families lined up at our 8 food pantries, other area groups including, **Second Baptist Church in KCK, Villa St. Francis, Sister Servants of Mary, Catholic Charities' Friendly Visitors** and the **Knights of Columbus in Osawatomie** helped distribute food to families in need.

In addition to turkeys, **nearly 53,000 pounds of fresh produce** was distributed.

Coming Soon: TurnStyles to Open New Location

The New Year will bring a new location for TurnStyles Thrift, as well as new volunteer opportunities!

A more spacious store is scheduled to open for shopping in March. Situated in a small strip center at **11310 West 135th Street** (135th & Nieman) in **Overland Park, Kansas**, it will replace the Olathe TurnStyles, which has outgrown its space. The Overland Park store at 9750 West 87th street will continue to operate.



Like the other locations, the new store will feature gently used clothing for men, women and children; shoes; accessories; housewares; furniture; and more. Store purchases will help support Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas' programs and services. "Also, this location will help us create greater service opportunities for individuals, families and groups who are often looking for ways to help families in need," adds Zoran Misis, Director of TurnStyles Operations.

To learn about volunteer opportunities, stop by any Saturday from 9-11 am, or attend the Volunteer Open House on Friday, January 26th from 11 am - 1 pm. Information is also available at: turnstylesthrift.com/volunteer

Although the store won't be open for business until spring, items may be dropped off at the donation bay located on the building's backside on Fridays and Saturdays, 10 am - 5 pm, beginning December 22nd. Donations will be accepted Monday-Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm, starting January 22nd. For a list of accepted items visit: turnstylesthrift.com/donate



Join us on **January 20th** for the 44th Annual Snow Ball! **Registration** is now open!

Atmos Energy Gives the Gift of Warmth

Christmas arrived a little early for **312 Atmos Energy customers** in Basehor and Olathe, Kansas. The natural gas company teamed up with Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, paying off gas bills for neighbors in need -- totaling **\$58,604!**



The assistance comes as a result of Atmos Energy's Share the Warmth program. Customers are given the option to round up monthly bills, with that extra change going to provide direct assistance to the elderly, disabled, veterans and families in the community who need help.

The Atmos Energy staff also helped with the turkey distribution at the Olathe Emergency Assistance Center. This is the second year that Atmos Energy has partnered with Catholic Charities. We are so thankful for their help to keep those we serve warm this winter.

Volunteers Help Carry Out the Mission of Catholic Charities



Volunteers Ann White and Norma Harrington enjoy the wine and cheese reception.

Each month, nearly **1,400 volunteers** carry out the mission of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.

Our volunteers generously give both their time and talent in a variety of ways---from hosting food drives to sorting donations at TurnStyles to helping with English language classes or providing companionship and support as a Friendly Visitor or Hospice volunteer.

Last year, our volunteers logged **216,246 hours** resulting in **over \$4.7 million saved** in staffing costs while helping those in our community!

On November 30, the Catholic Charities Volunteer team hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Mass at Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, celebrated by Fr. Bill Bruning. The congregation enjoyed the musical talents of the Bishop Miege Concert Chorale Select Ensemble.

Following Mass, the volunteers were treated to a wine and cheese reception.



Bishop Miege Concert Chorale Select Ensemble

"We are so grateful for all of our volunteers," said Michelle Carlstedt, Director of Volunteers. "This year's Volunteer Appreciation Mass was a wonderful celebration of the work being done by our volunteers to put love into action at Catholic Charities."

For volunteer opportunities, visit us online: catholiccharitiesks.org/volunteer

You Can Give Hope

Ways to Make a Difference

Last year, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas provided food, clothing, shelter, and utility, housing and rent assistance over a half a million times! In addition, we helped families break the cycle of debt and poverty with financial coaching and employment services. Our Refugee and Immigration team welcomed the stranger, and our Hospice partners ministered with end-of-life care. As you can see, the need is great and it continues to grow.

558,673 | The number of times we served our neighbors in need last year

We welcome any amount you can give--whether it's one lump sum or divided across time. Your generosity allows us to continue our shared mission of stabilizing and strengthening families across the 21 counties of Northeast Kansas.

DONATE

Looking to volunteer?
Contact Michelle Carlstedt at **913.433.2080**
or ***ccnekvolunteers@catholiccharitiesks.org***.
catholiccharitiesks.org

See what's happening on our social sites:

