



notes

catholic  charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

AmeriCorps Members Help Get Things Done



Alexandra Kolker never imagined at this point in her life that she would have the opportunity to interact with an international population and teach life skills to new immigrants. Thanks to a partnership between Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas and AmeriCorps VISTA, she and others like her, are gaining more than professional experience - they're impacting the community.

That desire to make a difference coupled with a need for work experience is often what draws people to the nationally recognized AmeriCorps service program. After graduating from college, Emily Wildhaber knew she was interested in social justice and nonprofit organizations. What she didn't know was how to translate that into a career.

"As an AmeriCorps member at Catholic Charities, I've been able to strengthen existing programs as well as build new programs fighting food insecurity in Kansas. Coming from a rural background myself, being able to work so directly to help our rural populations and serve in areas that are so often overlooked has been a cause close to my heart," Emily says.



The experience has gotten Joel Graham out of his comfort zone. "It has allowed me to experience new cultures," explains Joel, who helps prepare homes for newly arriving refugees, as well as secure monetary and in-kind donations for future refugees.

Above all, the experience has been educational, according to Jacob Loel. "I learned so much about the inner workings of charitable organizations and also about how international affairs directly affect refugee resettlement," he says.

For Catholic Charities, AmeriCorps VISTA members give the agency the extra bandwidth needed to take a critical look at existing systems and make recommendations for improvement. "Our members have helped us create new programs, engage new volunteers and serve clients," says Rachel Pollock, Director, Refugee and Immigration programs.

Most importantly, she adds, "They have brought positive attitudes, energy, and a willingness to serve that has impacted all of our clients, our overall office culture, and me personally."



Although they may not share the same faith, this group of students is very alike when it comes to serving others.

Students from Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy, The Islamic School of Greater Kansas City, Rockhurst High School and Notre Dame de Sion High School for Girls are part of an interfaith youth group that recently volunteered at Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.

The students and their adult leaders sorted large bins of food at Hope Distribution Center for delivery to Catholic Charities' eight pantries. In addition, they helped out at the new TurnStyles Thrift store, sorting and hanging clothes.



This is only the second year for the local interfaith youth group, which is modeled after the Interfaith

Youth Core (IFYC), an organization that partners with colleges and universities to turn religious diversity into a positive force. Like the IFYC, the local group chose to use service as a way to unite the students.

"It's a terrific group of both students and leaders!" added Penny Selle, Mission Director, Notre Dame de Sion High School. "In addition to the service projects, the students elected to visit each other's schools to learn more about worship, classes and the school's environment."

St. Michael the Archangel Parish Serve Day Benefits Neighbors in Need

Hope Hero Shout Out!

Parishioners from St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church celebrated their Parish Serve Day by donating their time and service to Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.

Many hands made light the work as volunteers gathered at Hope Distribution Center to help sort food donations and prepare the inventory for distribution to each of our eight food pantries. Categorizing the food within the warehouse helps track the surplus and shortages of each food type.

Parishioners also rolled up their sleeves and assisted at TurnStyles where they received and prepared donations for the sales floor.

"Volunteers are vital to the work we do at Catholic Charities and we are so blessed to have their help," said Camille Pickhinke, Parish



and Community Outreach Coordinator for Catholic Charities. "Every volunteer and every task

matters. In essence, volunteers help us get the donations we receive out the doors of Catholic Charities and into the hands of our neighbors in need quicker."



Register now for the **37th Annual Ben and Betty Zarda Golf Classic** on **Monday, May 14** at the Lake Quivira Country Club!

Visit catholiccharitiesgolfclassic.org for more information.

TurnStyles Thrift's New Store is Now Open!



Spring has sprung and so has our new TurnStyles Thrift store at 135th and Nieman. Thanks to the help of lots and lots of hard-working volunteers over the last few months, the store officially opened for shopping on Monday, March 19th.

Like anyone who moves into a new place, there are still many items on our wish list. We need things like additional storage racks, bushel storage bins, display cases and more. If you would like to help, visit:

<https://catholiccharitiesks.org/turnstyles-wishlist>

Also, in addition to shoppers, we need donations of gently used items. Donations are accepted Monday-Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm at the drop-off located behind the building. For a list of what we accept, visit: <https://catholiccharitiesks.org/turnstyles/donate-items/>

Connect with a New Roots Farmer



Don't have a green thumb? Don't worry. You can still enjoy fresh, organic seasonal vegetables grown by your very own farmer by participating in our New Roots for Refugees Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

For 18 weeks, from May to October, CSA Friends pick-up their small (5 items) or large (8 items) "shares" at the same farmers market, from the same farmer. "The program provides a rare opportunity to connect and support one of our New Roots farmers," explains Meredith

Walrafen, New Roots for Refugees Coordinator. "It's also a chance to learn about the vegetable varieties and ways to cook them from those who grow our food."

For more information or to sign up for the CSA program, visit: www.newrootsforrefugees.org

Mark your calendars now for our summer kick-off event

OPEN HOUSE & TRANSPLANT SALE

Saturday, April 21st 9am – 12pm

Juniper Gardens Training Farm

100 Richmond Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66101

Buy transplants and the first of our spring produce, and meet the New Roots farmers!

save the date

JOIN US *for* A KENDRA GIVES BACK PARTY!

enjoy sips, sweets and jewels

THURSDAY, APRIL 19 | 6-8 PM



KENDRA SCOTT

KENDRA SCOTT - TOWN CENTER CROSSING

4533 West 119th Street, Leawood, Kansas

20% of the proceeds benefit Catholic Charities



You Can Give Hope

Ways to Make a Difference

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When you select Catholic Charities Foundation of Northeast Kansas as your AmazonSmiles recipient, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to our organization.



And NOW through March 31st, Amazon is TRIPLING the donation rate on your first smile.amazon.com purchase.

It's easy! Just go to smile.amazon.com/ch/480623886 to get started.

Happy shopping!



Triple the donation on your first order!

From Mar 12 – 31, Amazon will triple the donation rate to 1.5% on your first eligible purchase at smile.amazon.com.

Looking to volunteer?

Contact our volunteer team at **913.433.2080**
or ccnekvolunteers@catholiccharitiesks.org

Donate

Check out what's happening on our social sites:

