



notes

catholic  charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

Love. Serve. Believe.

For a week in February, St. James Academy students marched into school with cans of fruit, boxes of cereal and even cases of Mac & Cheese for their annual CanStruction, a food drive for Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.



For an hour, each school community competed by utilizing the cans and boxes to "CanStruct" a structure focused around a theme. All competed and one student community claimed this year's CanStruction title. The real prize, however, was the success of the entire student body collecting nearly **19,000 items of food** to be donated to the eight food pantries of Catholic Charities.

Over 100 St. James' students and staff also provided critical support to our community through their volunteerism on their annual Serve Day.

At the Hope Distribution Center, the students sorted and packaged **over 9,000 pounds of food** to be distributed to our eight food pantries. Students on the receiving end of the delivery helped restock shelves in the pantry making sure the food was readily available to help feed our neighbors in need. *Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas provides food assistance over 25,000 times each month.*

Students also volunteered at both TurnStyles Thrift locations. They contributed their retail skills by sorting and prepping the merchandise for the sales floor. TurnStyles Thrift helps our community by providing brand name and household items at discount prices. Revenue generated goes back to support the programs provided by Catholic Charities.

"Working with the students and staff of St. James has been such a gift," said Meg McLaughlin, Outreach Coordinator for Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas. "It's fascinating seeing it all come full circle. The students are able to give, but also see where their donations and time go by entering our programs. These students have been Christ to others; they have animated the Gospel of Jesus."



Students from St James Academy volunteer during their Annual Serve Day.

Volunteers Log Over 216,000 Hours



A critical component at the heart of every organization is the heart of the people. At Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas that is especially true of the **nearly 1,400 volunteers each month** who put their heart into helping their neighbors in need.

Whether it's lending a helping hand at our food pantry, thrift store, men's shelter or any one of our many programs, our volunteers served **over 216,000 hours of service** last year to help carry out the mission of Catholic Charities. Even more than the bottom line savings contribution they make to the organization, is their commitment to serve. Volunteers are a vital part to the success of the programs and services offered.

"Whether you are a reoccurring volunteer who serves weekly, a student who completes hours with our programs, or a corporate group that donates their time supporting our neighbors in need, we appreciate you," said Kristin Filardo, Volunteer Engagement Coordinator for Catholic Charities. "Thank you for living out the mission of Catholic Charities of putting love into action."

And the Nominees are....Mark and Patty Couch, Wyandotte County Volunteers of the Year

Hope Hero Shout Out!

On Tuesday, April 17, the United Way of Wyandotte County Executive Council honored volunteers from 22 non-profit organizations serving Wyandotte county. This annual event highlights the valuable contribution that volunteers make every day in our community.

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas was represented by volunteer duo, **Mark and Patty Couch**. Mark and Patty started volunteering for Catholic Charities after they retired three and five years ago. For them, it was a great way to give back to the community.



These days, you can find Mark and Patty working with just as much passion inventorying, packaging and moving furniture and household items to prepare for a new refugee's arrival to our program.

"Setting up and moving furniture in for refugees has made us appreciate how difficult it would be for them to move to a new country and start a new life with so little," said Patty. "We feel fortunate to be able to help out."

At Catholic Charities, we feel just as fortunate to have Mark and Patty as our volunteers.

"The Couch's go above and beyond in their service to our brothers and sisters in need," boasted Cari Olberding, Volunteer Engagement Coordinator for Catholic Charities. "They have taken on several projects which have allowed for our programs to grow and develop in the most efficient manner. They beam love and kindness to all our neighbors through serving in a multitude of our programs."

Mark and Patty aren't just volunteers--they are also some of our best advocates for

volunteer growth. They encourage others to donate their time to serve.

"There are so many different volunteer opportunities with Catholic Charities -- if you don't know someone who volunteers, find a friend and sign up for something!" added Patty. "The Catholic Charities staff are so friendly and appreciative of their volunteers."



Support Our Fund-A-Need: Summer Food Drought



15,264

total meals
served to children
and adults during
our **Summer
Food Program.**

This year's Fund-A-Need for the 37th Annual Ben & Betty Zarda Family Golf Classic will benefit our Summer Food initiatives.

Over the past 3 years, this golf event has helped Catholic Charities provide more than 30,000 lunches to hungry children during the summer months.



The state of Kansas ranks 47th in the country in providing meals to children during the summer months who depend on free and reduced-price lunches during the school year. No children should ever go hungry.

Golfers and non-golfers alike can make a gift to help feed hungry children this summer. All gifts are 100% tax deductible to our Fund-A-Need.

[Donate to the FUND A NEED](#)



Jason Chen, left, a graduate volunteer accountant, talks with a client about her taxes on Monday, March 12, at Catholic Charities, 502 Kansas Ave. as Eddie Kodet, right, an undergraduate accounting student, works with another person's taxes.

Catholic Charities works to help with tax season

This article was written by Marcus Clem and first published in the Atchison Globe. Tax season is stressful for some, but Jason Chen has the best of three worlds in offering his services as a volunteer accountant to Catholic Charities of Northeast ...

[Read more](http://catholiccharitiesks.org)
catholiccharitiesks.org

Join us for the 4th Annual Wine Cruise!



It's not just the golfers that have all the fun at the Ben and Betty Zarda Family Golf Classic. Join us on the 4th Annual Wine Cruise!

Enjoy the taste of select wines and the scenery of beautiful Lake Quivira while helping our neighbors in need. Afterwards, join us for a sit-down dinner in the clubhouse.

Departure date / time: Monday, May 14 at 3 PM
Tickets: \$50 / person

To register, or for more information, go to:



105th and Roe
Overland Park, KS

Suburban Lawn & Garden's

Charity Friday

Help Support Neighbors in Need

Friday
May 4th
5 pm - 8 pm

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OF NORTHEAST KANSAS
10% of ALL purchases donated
to Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas

Enjoy free beverages, wine, hors d'oeuvres and music!

Perfect chance to shop for Mother's Day Gifts



Can't make it?

Gift card purchases also benefit Catholic Charities!
You can purchase by phone between 5 and 8pm at 913-649-8700



Learn more about Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas
www.catholiccharitiesks.org

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas
9720 West 87th Street | Overland Park, KS 66223
913.433.2100

catholiccharitiesks.org

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