Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas is a ministry of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. All the work that we do embodies the Corporal Works of Mercy, as we provide assistance to people of all faiths across our 21 county service area. That assistance comes in many forms – spanning from the beginning to life’s end.

Every 60 SECONDS Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas provides help and opportunity to families across our 21 county service area

1,600 volunteers each month carry out the mission of Catholic Charities

Brighter Futures are Possible with the Help of St. Rita

JB is a young man with a drive to succeed, but decisions from his past limited him. After being released from jail, JB enrolled fulltime in a technical school while also working a fulltime job for minimum wage. Soon he discovered he was unable to keep up with his living expenses coupled with the cost of school tuition. Eventually, JB lost his housing and dropped out of school.

That’s when JB came to Shalom House, our men’s shelter at Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas. It is more than just a shelter, it is a place for these men to belong to a community, know that they are cared for, and re-establish a sense of purpose.

As a Shalom House resident, JB obtained employment in a temp agency with plans to once again enroll in school. By seeing his determination, our case managers referred him to the Catholic Charities’ St. Rita’s Center program.

Launched in 2017, the St. Rita Center is designed to remove barriers that keep people from the education they need to obtain livable wages.

The St. Rita’s Center program works with Kansas City Kansas Community College’s (KCKCC) Technical Education Center where, upon graduation, students receive certifications in skilled trade areas such as HVAC, Auto, Machine, and Diesel Technician and Major Appliance Repair.

The St. Rita Center curriculum also includes intensive soft skill and financial education classes to lead to financial self-sufficiency.

Currently, JB is enrolled at KCKCC working hard in his HVAC coursework. He has completed and passed all four tests for universal certifications. JB is on track to graduate in the Spring.

“After everything that has happened in my past, I am, for once, hopeful for the future!” exclaimed JB.
Love in Action: 280,000!

That's the number of pounds of food that parish and school food drives throughout the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas donated this past fiscal year to Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas. Support, however, goes beyond feeding the hungry.

There are drives for new socks and underwear for those seeking clothing assistance; books for children who accompany their parents to one of our seven Emergency Assistance Centers; baby items for those participating in our Pregnancy Maintenance Initiative (PMI) program, which helps pregnant women overcome health care barriers to deliver healthy babies; furniture and housewares for newly resettled refugees trying to make a new country feel like home; and more.

Ten parishes also serve as sites for TurnStyles Thrift clothing and shoe donation bins. Several host seasonal farmer’s markets where New Roots for Refugee farmers can sell homegrown produce. One even provides free space for financial classes and program staff meetings.

“The amount of donations that come in from our parishes and schools is absolutely phenomenal,” says Denise Ogilvie, Vice President of Outreach and Grants Management. “We are blessed by such generosity.”

Of the 1,600 volunteers who carry out the mission of Catholic Charities each month, the majority come from the parishes. They stock shelves at our eight food pantries; collect and sort clothing at our three TurnStyle Thrift locations; distribute sack lunches and coordinate activities at our 30 Summer Food sites; tutor those going through our Citizenship Preparation program; mentor those needing assistance with budgeting; and care for the sick and homebound through our Friendly Visitors, In-Home Support and Catholic Community Hospice ministries.

“We are so thankful for those who have graciously given us their time, talent and treasure,” adds Lauren Solidum, President and CEO. “Your contributions offer a life-changing impact for those we serve throughout the 21 counties.”

Join us in serving our neighbors in need! catholiccharitiesKS.org