



notes

catholic  charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

In this edition:

- KCK Emergency Assistance Center Expands to Meet Growing Needs
- JLL Employees Serve as Good Samaritans for Refugee Farmers : *Hope Hero Shout Out!*
- Volunteers Needed For Mobile Food Distribution
- Beth's Hope Story: Achieving Goals
- Shop Through Amazon Smile: Ways to Make a Difference

KCK EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CENTER EXPANDS TO MEET GROWING NEEDS

During an average day, 80 to 100 families walk through the doors of our Emergency Assistance Center (EAC) in Kansas City, Kansas. Some need aid feeding their families or paying rent or utilities. Others are there not just because they're needing help, but they're looking for hope.



Up until recently, that EAC, which included a food pantry, was housed in a small space in our Central administration building. With the demand for food and other services continuing to grow, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas decided it was time to make a move.

Although it didn't go far, the change is big. The new space is in the same building, but now occupies a much larger and brighter area, which can be easily accessed. In addition, it features a spacious lobby for those who are waiting for services.

Perhaps the biggest change is the size of the self-shopping food pantry. "Our food pantry looks amazing. There's plenty of room to display our non-perishable items," says Maria Reyes, EAC Manager. "More importantly, we can accommodate up to six shoppers at a time – twice as many as before. They can choose from a greater selection of food appropriate for their families' dietary and cultural needs."

Also, there's a new freezer offering healthier perishable items including fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, yogurt and more. Plus, there's an additional storage area right next to the pantry, so shelves can be easily re-stocked.

"We understand that it's hard to ask for help," adds Reyes. "We strive to provide as welcoming environment as we can for those we serve."

Catholic Charities has seven Emergency Assistance Centers and eight food pantries which are open Monday – Friday. Services vary by location. For a listing of Emergency Assistance Centers and hours visit online at: catholiccharitiesks.org/emergency-assistance/



JLL EMPLOYEES SERVE AS GOOD SAMARITANS TO REFUGEE FARMERS

Hope Hero Shout Out!



You can never have too much of a good thing – unless it’s an over-abundance of fresh produce coupled with a shortage of storage. That’s the dilemma faced by two New Roots for Refugees graduate farmers. Fortunately, JLL, a firm that specializes in real estate and investment management, stepped in to help out.

The JLL Kansas City office partnered with Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, setting out to build a brand new cooling storage for the refugee farmers’ surplus produce. “I thought I had taken on too large of a project with a \$6,000 shed requiring about 100 hours of volunteer labor, but our staff donations, JLL’s matching fund program and generous service providers made it all work,” says project organizer Craig Cooper and JLL Senior Vice President of Property Management. “Everyone offered to pitch in and asked ‘what can we do to help?’”

They had 100% involvement from all local JLL employees. Some contributed financially, others in sweat equity building it, and some did both. JLL Chief Engineer Ersel Carr and Operating Engineer Ramiro Paton led the team in prepping the work site, installing the HVAC system and even went back after the volunteer day to repair one of the farming family’s home HVAC system.



They also had the support of three local business partners. Metro Air Conditioning purchased the HVAC equipment for the building; Nabholz Construction bought the insulation; and Unlimited Building Maintenance helped the JLL office reach their fundraising goal and buy the storage shed.

According to Cooper, one of the families had been harvesting crops until midnight or later the day before going to market because they lacked the necessary space to store them. Now, they can harvest on a schedule that works for their family and keep the produce cold and fresh for days at a time.

“Probably my favorite thing was seeing our staff and our service providers living out the role of the good Samaritan and helping those in need,” says Cooper. “It was a team effort, from start to finish; from planning in February, to fundraising in April to building it today. We saw a need and we just said, ‘let’s help them out,’ and that’s exactly what we did.”

To learn more about the New Roots for Refugees program, visit us online at: catholiccharitiesks.org/new-roots-for-refugees

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Make a Difference. Feed the Hungry.



Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity for your family or group? You can help make a difference by feeding the hungry. Sign up to help at one of our Mobile Food Distributions!

On the **THIRD SATURDAY** of **EACH MONTH** Catholic Charities distributes fresh produce, proteins, bread, etc. to **over 300 families** in Wyandotte County.

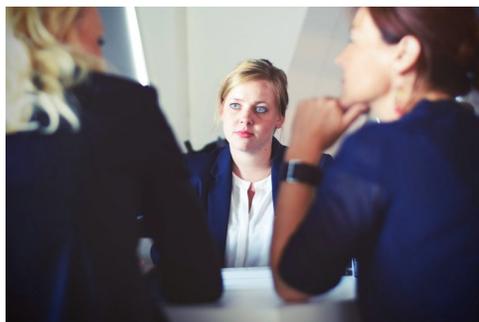
The distributions are held at Harmon High School (*just north of I-35 and Roe*). There are two shifts available. Volunteers help assemble the food bags from 11 AM - 1 PM. Then, from 1 PM - 3 PM, volunteers are needed to distribute the food to the recipients.

BETH'S HOPE STORY: ACHIEVING GOALS

Hi, my name is Beth and this is my hope story...

I started the Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas **Family Financial**

Transformations™ program back in December. I am a single mom of three kids and had been struggling with my finances for the past few months.



In December, I came to Catholic Charities to enroll in **Kansas Loan Pool Project (KLPP)** but I changed my mind and decided to do the Family Financial Transformations™ program after reviewing what both programs had to offer. During my first appointment, I created goals with my Catholic Charities' case manager discussing where I was and where I wanted to be. My three most important goals were to payoff my payday loans, save \$1,000 for emergencies and to enroll in school to get my early childhood education degree.

We all reviewed my budget – my case manager, my financial mentor, and me – and found out that with some modification I'll be able to pay the three payday loans in two months, start saving money for my emergency savings and pay the \$380 enrollment fee for college. After drafting my December budget, we set money aside to pay off the first payday loan (\$275) and save some (\$130) for my enrollment fee. In January, I saved \$250 for my enrollment fee that was due on the 21st of January. I also was able to pay the two other payday loans. So far I've been able to complete two of my three goals. I now have \$288 saved in my emergency fund and used some of my tax refund to pay two student loans and some collections reported on my credit report. I am so grateful to the Family Financial Transformations™ program. Without their help I don't know if I could have reached my goals.

To learn more about the financial education programs offered at Catholic Charities, visit:

catholiccharitiesks.org/financial-education

SHOPPING THROUGH AMAZON SMILE

Ways to Make a Difference

Did you know that just by shopping you can:

- help feed a hungry child?
- help provide shelter for a family experiencing homelessness?
- help an elderly person combat loneliness with the company of a Friendly Visitor?



All of this and more is possible through Amazon Smile. Every time you buy something on Amazon, a portion is donated back to Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas.

It doesn't cost you anything extra but it quickly adds up to help the people we serve. Shopping never felt so good!

Shop & Give Hope: Click [here](#) to shop Amazon supporting Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas!

DONATE

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