



notes

catholic  charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

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SUMMER FOOD DROUGHT

During the summer, when the kids are home from school, parents are responsible for an average of **80 additional meals per child**. And that's *JUST* lunch!

For struggling families whose child qualifies for free or reduced-price school lunches, the summer months can be a strain as they try to make the food they have stretch. The reality is, for some families, when school is out, it's likely

that the food is out as well.

As result, the demand at Catholic Charities' food pantries increases, yet financial contributions and food drives tends to decrease. When donations are down, and our shelves are bare, we don't have as much food to give out. We compromise by giving out less food per person.

We need your help! All of what we do could not be possible without food donations from our community. Together, we can help keep our shelves stocked and our neighbors in need fed.

Please consider making a food or [financial donation](#).

Food can be dropped off at any of our [Emergency Assistance Center locations](#).

SAVINGS PROGRAM HELPS REFUGEES ACHIEVE THE AMERICAN DREAM

- By Jacob Loel, Refugee Employment VISTA

Ramesh Karki looks comfortable, leaning on a desk in his new

office in Kansas City, Kansas' Argentine neighborhood. He's sporting a fashionably cut beard and a blue button down. When he landed at KCI in July of 2012, he had every reason to feel scared, defeated and nervous. He was a refugee, in debt to the International Organization of Migration (IOM) for the cost of his flight from Nepal, where he was living in a refugee camp along with thousands of other members of ethnic minorities expelled from Bhutan. But he was not scared. Instead when he arrived, he says, he had been "already thinking about the land of opportunity."

Like most refugees resettled to Kansas City, Kansas, Karki was... [\(Read more\)](#)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEW TURNSTYLES THRIFT



TurnStyles Thrift, a ministry of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, celebrated the grand opening of its second Overland Park location. Fr. Jerry Volz, Pastor at Prince of Peace Catholic Church, blessed the store, which directs 100 percent of its proceeds to helping families in need. The Overland Park Chamber of Commerce conducted the ceremonial ribbon cutting.

One of the biggest needs of the new store is more volunteers -- from students seeking service hours to retirees wanting to help their neighbors in need. Volunteer roles include receiving donations, sorting/hanging items, working the cash registers and supporting the sales floor. All volunteers must be 14 years of age or older to volunteer without a parent or guardian. Children ages 10 and up are encouraged to join their parents for a Saturday family service activity.

"TurnStyles offers a variety of meaningful ways to serve," says Kristin Filardo, Volunteer Engagement Coordinator. "By processing donations out to the sales floor, our volunteers are helping other families who count on our thrift store to clothe their children and themselves."

Groups of five to 25 are also always welcome, adds Filardo. "It's a rewarding team building experience for those companies wanting to give back," she says, "and we're happy to accommodate their schedules, setting up shifts from two to six hours at a time."

For more volunteer information, visit: catholiccharitiesks.org/turnstyles/volunteer



A LIFETIME OF SERVICE: A tribute to the memory of Jeff Bailey

Hope Hero Shout Out!



At Catholic Charities, volunteers are often the lifeline of the organization making sure we are able to reach the multitude of people served each and every day. They are so very needed and appreciated; they become an integral part of the Catholic Charities family. So, when a member of our family passes away, the loss is deeply felt.

In 2007, after a lifelong career, Jeff Bailey retired and began volunteering for Catholic Charities, easily logging "full-time" hours.

Jeff began his service helping to create and support our food pantry in Wyandotte county. Later, he played an instrumental role in launching the Food Rescue program, where he helped collect and redistribute near-date food from area grocery stores to our food pantries. During his tenure, the program's success was highlighted as having tipped the scales with over a million pounds of collected food.

Whether at the food pantries or food drives, Jeff jumped in to help wherever necessary. His strong work ethic and passion for serving garnered admiration from staff, volunteers and the people we serve. Yet, Jeff preferred no recognition for himself but insisted the appreciation go to other volunteers and staff.

"His heart was as big as his body although he would never take credit for it," said Kim Brabits, Vice President, Program Operations. "Jeff was a great volunteer, but also a devoted friend."

Jeff's compassion and kindness did not go unnoticed. In 2014, he was awarded the well-earned honor of Volunteer of the Year.

"Jeff was warm and inconspicuous," recalled Michelle Carlstedt, who worked closely with Jeff during his time at Catholic Charities. "He was always kind and had a smile to share. He's a role model for me and many others."

Jeff Bailey left an indelible mark on many hearts and cannot easily be forgotten. We appreciate his family for sharing him with our family. Jeff would have never wanted to be the spotlight in our Hope Hero feature article. Perhaps that is exactly why he deserves it.

Tennis legend, Arthur Ashe once said, "True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others, at whatever cost."

Thank you, Jeff Bailey, for your dedicated service.



FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Ways to Make a Difference

What if the only food in your pantry was ramen noodles, mac & cheese, canned corn and green beans? Chances are, you could make do a couple of days. But eventually, even if the lack of variety didn't drag you down, the lack of proper nutrition and protein certainly would.

Right now, our Hope Distribution Center is empty.

Will you help provide food for local families in need?

Although all food donations are appreciated, our most needed items currently are:

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, & salmon)
- Canned Fruits
- Cereals (whole grain, low sugar content)
- Pasta sauce and canned tomatoes
- Whole grains (pasta, pancake mix, etc.)

For a list of drop off locations, visit:

catholiccharitiesks.org/emergency-assistance/

DONATE



The shelves at our Hope Distribution Center are bare.

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