

HOPE notes

catholic  charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

STUDENTS ACHIEVE DREAM OF BECOMING AMERICAN CITIZENS



"I feel that I belong to this country, and I am so happy!" exclaimed Akram Karimino.

Akram was among the 24 students from Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas' Citizenship Preparation Program who became an American citizen last week. They represented Burma, Bhutan, Guatemala, Iran, Iraq and Mexico. A total of 423 people from 69 countries became new citizens together.

Like Akram, others were overjoyed as their dream of becoming an American citizen came true. "I'm so happy, so proud of myself... it means a lot. It means a lot as a person, as a citizen; there was a lot of things I wasn't able to do before, but now I can do. Mostly I am so happy to be a United States citizen," explained Guadalupe Duran.

The students were especially thankful for Catholic Charities' Citizenship program. Juan Munoz stated, "Thank you everyone for your hard work. We passed!"

Since its inception, a total of 300 have successfully graduated from the program. "Many of our students are refugees who have never been officially considered a citizen of any country," said Tracy Forbush, Manager,

Citizenship and Refugee School Impact Programs. "The day they take the Oath of Allegiance is the first day of their lives that they are officially home. It's such an honor to be part of that powerful day in their lives."

The preparation program consists of three levels of 10-week classes that are available from pre-beginner to intermediate literacy. Each curriculum is relevant to the naturalization exam and includes instruction in reading, writing, speaking and listening in English. In addition, students study the required Civics and American History needed to successfully pass the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) 100 civic questions.

Some of the learning takes place outside of the classroom. Students have the opportunity to attend field trips to the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, the National World War I Museum, the federal courthouse where naturalization ceremonies take place and even to the state capitol in Topeka. These field trips include tailored lesson plans that help reinforce the civics and English content taught in class.

Due to class sizes, volunteer tutors are always a welcome addition to the classroom. Tutors work with small groups of adults helping them learn relevant content in a fun, engaging atmosphere. Classes are offered in the morning, afternoon and evening.

For more information about the classes, or for tutor volunteer opportunities, go to: catholiccharitiesks.org/citizenship-classes



SHOP
LATER.

SHOP
LONGER.

Donation hours will remain the same.

TurnStyles Thrift

A Ministry of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas

Extended Shopping Hours are Coming **APRIL 1**

Monday - Friday: 10 AM - 8 PM

Saturday: 10 AM - 6 PM



WE'RE NOT JOKING!

Starting **April 1**, TurnStyles will be extending their store hours until **8 PM Monday-Friday** at all three locations! Donation hours will remain the same.

Get more info:

catholiccharitiesks.org/turnstyles/

TurnStyles Thrift locations:

TurnStyles Thrift – 87th St
9750 West 87th St, Overland Park, KS

TurnStyles Thrift – 135th St
11310 West 135th St, Overland Park, KS

TurnStyles Thrift – Mission
5304 Martway, Mission, KS

IN OTHER NEWS:

In a recent edition of The Leaven, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas CEO and President, Lauren Solidum, discusses the perils of predatory lending and how the Kansas Loan Pool Project (KLPP) can help.

The KLPP program is available to Catholic Charities' entire 21 county service area including being offered on the Mobile Resource Bus.



Predatory lending propels vulnerable into cycle of debt

by Lauren Solidum Neil and Rose struggled with finances due to the unpredictable hours at Neil's seasonal job. When their daughter fell ill, Neil's need to be at her side resulted in an even bigger loss of income. With the bills piling up, their...

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

LOCAL BUSINESSES INVEST IN VOLUNTEERING

Hope Hero Shout Out!



"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." — Sherry Anderson

Each month over 1,600 volunteers play a crucial role in helping Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas serve those in need throughout our 21 county service area. Whether they volunteer daily, weekly, monthly or help with a special one-time project, each and every volunteer is needed and appreciated.

This month, we were blessed with two groups of co-workers from local businesses giving back to our community through volunteer service.

Colleagues from American Century Investments made an investment in people when they spent the morning at Hope Distribution Center sorting pallets of donated food. Sorting and inventorying the food is an essential first step in the food distribution process.

Employees from Deluxe Corporation gathered their own army of volunteers and assisted at not just one, but two, TurnStyles locations. They served our neighbors by processing and organizing the generous clothing donations we receive throughout the week. Their service not only helps Catholic Charities provide affordable clothing to shoppers but also enables sale profits to be used to support Catholic Charities' other vital programs and services.

Thank you to American Century Investments and Deluxe Corporation and all of our wonderful volunteers for your valuable service!



Do you have a youth/employee/community group that would like an opportunity to give back? If so, we provide volunteer activities at TurnStyles Thrift Stores and our Hope Distribution Center warehouse. Or you can host your own drive (food, clothing, household items for refugee program, etc.).

Complete an [online group interest form](#) and a volunteer coordinator will get back with you to arrange an engaging experience.

Still have questions? Contact Volunteer Services at **913-433-2081**.

FUND A FARMER - SUPPORT NEW ROOTS FOR REFUGEES



Eat seasonally and locally through the New Roots for Refugees Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. This year, instead of buying directly from one farmer, customers will purchase a New Roots CSA share, allowing them to enjoy produce from multiple farmers in our training program.

"We're excited about this new model," says Meredith Walrafen, New Roots for Refugees Coordinator. "By pooling produce from the 16 farmers growing at Juniper, we can address any quality control issues or product inconsistencies."

The new model will also allow more time for customer engagement. "The New Roots CSA program helps refugees develop long-term relationships with customers while developing their small business skills and providing them with fresh, local, sustainably grown produce all

summer," adds Walrafen.

This year's CSA season will be longer – 22 weeks. CSA members pre-pay for an entire season and pick-up a variety of vegetables each week at one of four locations throughout the area. The cost to participate is \$21 a share (\$462 + sales tax).

To sign up for the New Roots CSA program, go to: newrootsforrefugees.org/csa/

Join us for the 38th Annual Ben & Betty Zarda Family Golf Classic!

On Monday, May 13, 2019

To register, visit catholiccharitiesgolfclassic.org



golf classic
BENEFITING Catholic Charities Foundation of Northeast Kansas

Register for Golf or the Wine Cruise

Take the Lenten Challenge!

FINISH LENT STRONG!

Ways to Make a Difference

Still looking for a way to make Lent special and help others at the same time? It's not too late to take the Lenten Challenge! Donate 40 items to TurnStyles during the 40 days of Lent.

Why donate to TurnStyles Thrift?

As a ministry of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, your donated items will help neighbors in need who count on TurnStyles Thrift as an affordable shopping destination. Sale proceeds from your donations also impact those who rely on our crucial programs and services.

Visit us online for more information: catholiccharitiesks.org/turnstyles/



9720 West 87th Street | Overland Park, KS 66212
catholiccharitiesks.org | 913.433.2100

DONATE