



notes

catholic  charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

In this edition:

- Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas Welcomes New CEO
- Refugee Summer School Program Impacts Students and Volunteers
- Kids + New School Supplies = GREAT START! : Hope Hero Shout Out!
- Donate A Vehicle: Ways to Make a Difference

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHEAST KANSAS WELCOMES NEW CEO

Lauren Solidum has been named the new President and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas. Solidum, who began her new role on August 13, has over 10 years of professional experience serving from the frontlines and leading organizations as a member of the executive team.

Most recently, she served as Vice President of Mission Advancement for Goodwill of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas. Other professional experience includes working as a Regional Program Director, Alternative Opportunities, Inc.; Vice President of Programs, Enactus United States; and Assistant Vice President, Catholic Charities of Fort Worth.



“Lauren is a life-long learner and a strategic thinker,” says Stephen Penn, Chair, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas’ Board of Directors. “She’s a proven leader with skills in organizational operations, program development and project management. She has a keen business vision and the ability to bring people together around purpose.”

Solidum succeeds Ken Williams, who took the helm at Catholic Charities five years ago. Williams recently left the organization to join Black & Veatch as Chief Financial Officer. Under his leadership, the organization’s focus advanced from being a “safety net” agency, helping with immediate survival needs, to one that stabilizes and strengthens families for the long-term.

The search committee was committed to finding a qualified candidate that would continue the vision set by Williams. “We believe that Lauren brings to the role unique gifts and experiences that will allow Catholic Charities to continue its journey of growth,” adds Penn.

Honored to serve as the CEO, Solidum says it’s a privilege to be part of an organization delivering such meaningful impact. “Catholic Charities is an organization led by a purpose that matters to the communities within Kansas, the country and the world,” she says. “I will serve faithfully, ensuring our mission remains our first priority.”

Solidum holds a Bachelor’s degree in Cultural Anthropology and is currently pursuing her Master’s in Business Administration from Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. She is married with two children.

REFUGEE SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM IMPACTS STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

The following is a reflection written by Andrea Curnes, a St. James Academy high school student who volunteered with our Refugee School Impact (RSI) Summer Program. The program collaborates with community partners, other Catholic Charities' programs and volunteers to help prepare newly arrived refugee children for school in America.

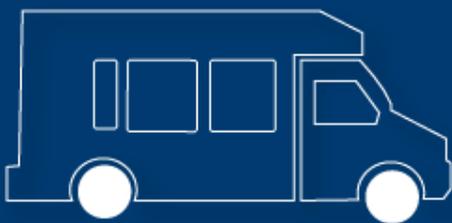


I had an incredible experience working with Catholic Charities for their Refugee School Impact (RSI) Summer Program 2018. My eyes were completely opened to the hardships that so many refugee families are faced with when they come to the States. The vast majority of the information covered in the program were things I had never considered to be problems before. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to have met these kids because it drastically changed my perspective on the refugee crisis in America.

This camp taught me things about immigrant families that I hadn't ever considered. For example, in America, we are familiar with dogs and are incredibly comfortable with them, many of us owning more than one. I was truly shocked by how frightened many of the kids were by the dog that came in to visit. Wild, rabid packs of dogs are commonplace in many of the countries where these families are coming from. It was remarkable how something so ubiquitous in our society had such a different meaning for people from another culture.

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FISCAL YEAR 2018



12,810

times the mobile resource bus provided food, shelter, utility assistance, case management, and financial education

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KIDS + NEW SCHOOL SUPPLIES = GREAT START!

Hope Hero Shout Out!

For weeks, families have been out doing the traditional back-to-school shopping. With lists in hand, they're buying new backpacks, pink erasers, crayons, binders and more. But for parents struggling to feed their children, purchasing new school supplies isn't always an option.



Every year, Catholic Charities' Emergency Assistance Center (EAC) in Leavenworth hosts a back-to-school supply drive. This year, employees at St. Luke's Cushing Hospital and Dillon's, as well as St. Francis De Sales, Lansing, parishioners and many other individuals stepped up and donated school supplies for **286** backpacks! The items were distributed to local families in need.

"The best part of doing this is that when the child returns to school they have the supplies they need to make this a successful year,"

says Jackie Masoner, EAC manager. "Also there is nothing like seeing a kindergartener strut out with their backpack like they own the world! It is awesome."

Several parishes held their own back-to-school supply drives to benefit those served by Catholic Charities. At Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, Shawnee, parishioners donated **235** backpacks filled with school supplies for students in grades K-5. In addition, they contributed Ziploc bags, tissues, bleach wipes, hand sanitizer and baby wipes. Catholic Charities delivered the goods to New Chelsea Elementary, Kansas City, Kansas. School supplies donated by parishioners at St. John Paul II, Olathe, and Church of the Ascension, Overland Park were distributed to refugee children, as well as those served by the Mobile Resource Bus.



DONATE A VEHICLE

Ways to Make a Difference

Avoid the hassle of selling or trading in your unwanted vehicle.

Did you know that Catholic Charities accepts vehicles including cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, RVs, etc.

— whether they're running or not?

You get to deduct the fair market value on your taxes.

All proceeds from your vehicle help those in need.

We'll even arrange a tow or pick-up!

Visit <https://catholiccharitiesks.org/cars4kc> for

more details.

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