Over 27,000 people in Shawnee County are food insecure. They struggle to get enough food to eat. At times, they’re forced to make difficult choices between feeding their families and paying their rent.

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas is here to help. Our Topeka Emergency Assistance Center (EAC) is available to low-income individuals and families who need food or assistance with basic utility payments, housing, clothing or medical prescriptions.

The help goes beyond meeting immediate needs. An on-site case manager works to identify solutions and resources that will lead to long-term change.

GIVING HOPE. GIVING HELP.

Although we had been serving the area, it was determined that an on-site EAC could directly meet the communities’ needs. The Topeka EAC opened in 2014.

This past fiscal year, demand for services continued to grow in Topeka. We experienced an 81% increase in the number of unduplicated individuals served by our EAC. Food assistance nearly doubled, while housing support increased by 26% and financial education grew 45%.

We could not assist our neighbors in need without the support and generosity of individuals, businesses, parishes and foundations who step up to organize food drives, make gifts-in-kind, volunteer in our food pantry and make financial contributions. We are truly blessed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Topeka EAC Address:
234 South Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66603

Phone:
785.233.6300

Call for an appointment to learn what you will need to bring with you to receive services. All services are free and based on need – not religion, race or nationality.

Hours of Operation:
Monday through Friday – 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Pantry Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Topeka Programs & Services

**FOOD PANTRY**
We value the dignity of those we serve, offering a self-shopping food pantry. Every 30 days, shoppers may pick items appropriate for their families’ dietary and cultural needs, choosing from a variety of high-quality, perishable and non-perishable foods including fresh fruits and vegetables. Every day, we offer bread to anyone who comes into our EAC in need of food. We also carry a limited selection of personal care items in our pantry including shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toilet paper, diapers, deodorant and laundry detergent.

**NUTRITION EDUCATION**
We offer either a single or series of nutrition classes using ingredients available in our food pantry to assist families with meals that are nutritious and affordable. These on-site classes are taught by K-State Extension Services, Harvesters, Just Food or our case manager. Samples may be on-hand for taste tests following a cooking demonstration. Recipes are available to recreate the dish at home.

**CLOTHING ASSISTANCE**
We provide gently used clothing through either an on-site clothing closet or vouchers to local thrift stores. Items may include pants, shirts and shoes to meet the needs of those who require an outfit for a job interview; back-to-school wear for their children; or seasonal items to stay warm or keep cool.

**COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP)**
We provide an extra box of healthy food every month to seniors aged 60 years and older who meet eligibility guidelines.

**FRIENDLY VISITORS**
We pair trained, compassionate volunteers with homebound seniors ages 60+ who live alone, as well as those with disabilities, who need caring, friendly people to visit, call or lend a helping hand.

**CASE MANAGEMENT**
We resolve not only emergency needs, but have case managers who work one-on-one to identify long-term solutions that lead to self-sufficiency.

**FINANCIAL EDUCATION**
We provide basic financial education and offer budget coaching and guidance on topics including starting a debt reduction plan, establishing a relationship with a banking institution and applying for available resources. We also offer Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) to those who meet income qualifications or persons with disabilities. Volunteers are IRS-certified and provide free, basic tax preparation.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**
We help with basic utility and rent payments; vital prescriptions; and medical supply expenses. Also, we screen for safety net programs such as SNAP (food stamps) and WIC (Women Infants Children).

**HOUSING ASSISTANCE**
We assist those who may be, or who are at risk for, experiencing homelessness, directing them to community partners who can provide transitional and rapid rehousing support.

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234 South Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66603 | 785.233.6300 | catholiccharitiesks.org