FRIENDLY VISITORS

Friendly Visitors is a free program that pairs compassionate volunteers with homebound seniors ages 60 and older who live alone and need caring, friendly people to visit, call or lend a hand.

Volunteers offer companionship, read mail or write letters, pay bills, do errands, make a daily (Ring-A-Day) telephone call for medicine reminders or provide other helpful services.

To learn more or to volunteer, call: 913.651.1407 ext. 1708.

MISSION

As a faith-based organization, we are inspired by God’s love and compassion to provide unconditional love and necessary help to people of all faiths by stabilizing and strengthening individuals and families in need across the 21 counties of Northeast Kansas.

PURPOSE

To animate the Gospel of Jesus Christ by putting love into action.

VISION

Our neighbors who are challenged by poverty of mind, body and spirit, find the open door of Catholic Charities in their community and are met with help, hospitality and hope.

SHELTER OF HOPE

The Leavenworth Interfaith Shelter of Hope provides a safe, warm place to sleep for men, women and families in the community who are experiencing homelessness. The shelter can accommodate up to 30 people, and is available on a first-come, first-served basis at no cost.

Doors open between 9:00 – 10:00 PM everyday. All guests must leave by 7:00 AM.

Giving HELP, HOSPITALITY and HOPE to people of all faiths in Leavenworth and surrounding areas for more than 40 years.
STABILIZING LIVES

The Leavenworth Emergency Assistance Center provides programs and services to low-income individuals and families based on need — not religion, race or nationality.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

People come through our doors when they are experiencing hard times. There may have been a job loss, serious illness or an unexpected expense. They are struggling to feed their families. They can’t afford their medication and the monthly rent. They need help. Our goal is to meet these immediate, basic survival needs. Services include:

Food Pantry — We value the dignity of those we serve, offering a self-shopping food pantry. Every 30 days, clients may pick items appropriate for their families’ dietary and cultural needs, choosing from a variety of high-quality, perishable and non-perishable items including fresh fruits and vegetables. There is also a selection of toiletries.

Senior Food Boxes — Through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), we provide an extra box of food every month to individuals 60 and older who meet eligibility guidelines.

Financial Assistance — We help with basic utility and rent payments; vital prescriptions; and medical supply expenses.

Housing Assistance — We shelter those who may be homeless, providing transitional and rapid rehousing support.

Clothing — We provide gently used clothing such as 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.

GIVING FOOD

Community help is needed to keep our Emergency Assistance Center shelves stocked year-round. Consider hosting a food drive and donating these most needed items:

Healthy Non-Perishable Food — Canned Low-Sodium Fruits & Vegetables, Peanut Butter, Cereal, Rice, Soups, Pasta and Sauces

Toiletries — Shampoo, Soap, Toothpaste, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Diapers and Laundry Detergent

HEALTH AND WELLNESS is another area of importance for those we serve. We recognize there is often limited access to healthy foods. Also, trying to make ends meet can lead to stress, causing or adding to medical issues. We help by providing:

- Nutrition education and on-site cooking demonstrations using food available at the pantry
- Client advocacy with healthcare providers/hospitals

CASE MANAGEMENT

Every step of the way, our case managers work with our clients to help resolve not only emergency needs, but to identify long-term solutions that lead to self-sufficiency. Topics include:

- Fundamental Financial Education
- How to Apply for Available Resources
- Budget Coaching
- Debt Reduction Plan
- Establishing a Relationship with a Banking Institution

During tax season, we offer Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). This free, basic tax preparation is for people who meet income qualifications or persons with disabilities who need assistance with preparing their own tax returns. Volunteers are IRS-certified.

GETTING INVOLVED

Giving back through our volunteer program is an invaluable way to make a difference.

We need help with:

- Sorting, stocking and distributing food in our pantries
- Assisting clients with the check-in process
- Answering phones
- Organizing community food drives

To volunteer, contact:
Michelle Carlstedt  913.433.2080
mcarlstedt@catholiccharitiesks.org