You Make the Difference

I remain truly inspired by the compassion you continually show to our struggling neighbors using our programs and services. Your prayers and donations helped spread kindness and grace to so many individuals this past year.

Your gifts helped to start a mobile outreach program to allow us to take services to rural areas. On monthly outreach trips, staff members bring food, clothing and hygiene items to communities with limited social services and connect clients with mental health, pregnancy support and financial assistance services.

Your support helped bring solutions to a community problem which was subjecting children to further trauma and chaos. In partnership with other agencies, Catholic Charities established a program to recruit and approve appropriate, local households to care for children taken into police protective custody for the initial temporary stay.

Your generosity inspired some clients featured in this newsletter to become dedicated to helping others. After having been shown mercy, they are making efforts to pass on mercy to others in ways meaningful to them.

Your continued support will allow us to move forward as we prepare to relocate to a different building in Salina. I am confident your continued support will also help us to meet the $85,000 match pledged for our annual fundraising event set for July 24, 2016. To find out more, go to our revamped website at www.ccnks.org.

This newsletter highlights other opportunities for you to offer Hands of Hope to those in most need of thy mercy. None of these stories would be possible without you or your faithful support, so thank you for continuing to share your graces with this ministry.

Eternally Grateful,

Michelle L. Martin
Director
Welcome Baby Jordan

Vangalis and Francisco Razo were living a quiet life with their eight-year-old daughter when they learned they were expecting a second child. Although they were excited, it was a stressful time for their family.

Francisco was blessed with a good job at a construction company but worked long hours. Vangalis was unable to obtain insurance through her husband’s company, and she fell through the cracks of other insurance options. At her Manhattan church, Vangalis learned about the pregnancy program (PMI) at Catholic Charities.

After enrolling in PMI, Vangalis met with her case manager, Jessica Palen, monthly throughout her pregnancy and continued for six months after delivering a healthy baby boy. “Meeting with Jessica really helped me,” Vangalis said. “She helped me plan things out and made it less stressful. She wanted to know how I was feeling and how things were going in my life. We had a good plan in place for when the baby was born. Jessica also referred me to a program called Delivering Change, which helped us with medical bills.”

Jessica said that it was a joy to work with Vangalis. “She never missed an appointment, and it was exciting to see this family become part of the community and gain access to local resources. They are a very pleasant and grateful family.”

Jessica added, “Vangalis was the first person accepted into the Riley County Delivering Change Program, which helped her enhance her prenatal care. It is so important that mothers receive proper care for the health of their babies and themselves.”

Through the PMI Program, Vangalis received prenatal vitamins, diapers and wipes, a Pack n Play and individualized case management with Jessica to help her navigate this pregnancy. “We are so grateful to Jessica, Catholic Charities, and all who support them,” Vangalis stated. “They eased our stress and made us feel happy. We thank God for the help we received.”

Delivering Great Results

Fifty percent of all pregnancies in Kansas are unplanned. This alarming statistic is why Catholic Charities has a program to assist pregnant women. Catholic Charities pregnancy program works with as many as 90 mothers each month to help ensure that they deliver healthy, full-term babies. Willing mothers enroll in the Pregnancy Maintenance Initiative (PMI) Program for free at any time during their pregnancies. They meet with a case manager at least once each month during their pregnancy and may choose to continue in the program for six months post-delivery. Case Managers help mothers set and achieve their health, financial, educational, housing and safety goals.

“Being pregnant can be stressful,” said Peggy Crippen, PMI Case Manager in Salina. “My goal is to try to alleviate some of that stress by helping mothers work through issues and putting plans in place. I think the mothers appreciate having another partner to walk with them during their pregnancy journey. We try to keep both mother and baby healthy.”

Catholic Charities also assists with needed items like car seats, cribs, blankets, formula, diapers and wipes. Jessica Palen, PMI Case Manager in Manhattan stated, “The families that we work with are so grateful for our help. Many of the mothers return the baby items we have given them when they are done using them. They want us to pass them on to other families in need.”

As a certified adoption placement agency, Catholic Charities assists mothers whose pregnancy plans involve adoption as an alternative to self-parenting. Catholic Charities also serves parents interested in adopting a child.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Each year around Mother’s Day, the Hays and Manhattan parishes organize a Baby Bottle Campaign to support Catholic Charities programs for mothers and babies. The Annual Baby Bottle Campaigns happening now are a celebration of family, life and love between mothers, fathers and children.
YOU ARE INVITED
2016 CATHOLIC CHARITIES ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
Sunday, July 24 | 5:00 pm – 7:30pm

Salina Country Club
2101 E. Country Club Rd.

Social, Cash Bar, Complimentary Dinner, Live Auction
Reservations Required! Seating is limited, RSVP TODAY!

To RSVP, go to www.ccnks.org or mail the attached RSVP form below.

AUCTION ITEMS:
• 4 KC Royals tickets and one night at The Raphael Hotel
• 6 KSU football tickets - 50-yard line, exclusive box seats
• 4 KU basketball tickets, parking pass and autographed ball
• Private dinner and tour for 8 at Abilene’s historic Seyle Mansion
• Dinner for 6 with Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger

$85,000 Donation Match through July 24
Anonymous donors have offered a dollar-for-dollar match for donations up to $85,000. Every dollar you donate is doubled! Help turn $85,000 into $170,000 by making your donation today and Give the Gift of Hope to families in crisis.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES 2016 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER RSVP

___ Yes, I am able to attend. Number attending: _______

___ No, I am unable to attend, but please accept my donation of $ ___________________ towards the $85,000 Match.

___ Check/Cash (Please make checks payable to Catholic Charities.)

___ Donate online at www.ccnks.org

Card Number ___________________________ Exp. Date ______ Security Code ______
Name ____________________________________________
Signature _________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City ___________________________ St ___________ Zip ______
Telephone ___________________________ Email __________________

(so we can notify you when your donation has been processed)
Finding the Positive

Michael Piros considered himself a dedicated worker and an athlete. At 46 years old, he still had a passion for running and had completed several half marathons over the years. Michael never imagined his persistent cough was actually a sign that he was in heart failure.

Michael had been coughing for more than a month when he was diagnosed with pneumonia. A few days later at work, he started feeling “odd” and noticed decreased vision in one eye. He soon learned that he was having a stroke which was caused by an enlarged heart. He was suffering heart failure.

For months, Michael had undergone several procedures (including the implanting of a pacemaker). Even after months of medication therapy, his heart still functions at a mere 10% capacity. Unable to work because of his limited heart function, his loss in wages and mounting medical debt have been overwhelming.

“I had signed up for short-term disability, but I forgot to fill out one page, so they hadn’t filed it,” Michael said. “I had always been someone who helped others. I didn’t know where to go to get help for myself.”

Facing eviction, Michael was desperate when he ran into a coworker who suggested contacting Catholic Charities. “I didn’t know anything about Catholic Charities, but she told me she had heard great things. They would help if they could,” said Michael. “I am grateful that she referred me. I felt a huge burden lifted off of me.”

Michael received help through Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Program and the Kelly Mead Fund, which helps people with catastrophic illnesses.

“I have a four year old who doesn’t understand why daddy can’t run and play anymore,” Michael said. “It was hard for me to ask for help, but I am so thankful to everyone.”

The FACE of Homelessness

Jerry walked into our Salina office a few months ago. He was nicely dressed and well-spoken with a neatly trimmed beard and silver hair. It was difficult to guess his age - maybe late fifties or early sixties. He looked like the guy next door … except he wasn’t. Jerry shared with us that he sleeps on a piece of cardboard in a sleeping bag with a pillow and two blankets. All of his possessions are kept in a few trash bags hidden in the grass beside where he sleeps each night.

Jerry is a 71 year old man living on the streets of Salina, but trying to get his life back together. Jerry’s love of cars lead him to a successful career in auto body repair work. In 2004, he was diagnosed with colon cancer that required a surgery, which left him physically unable to continue in the work that he loved. He struggled to ask for help, but he was desperate when he came Catholic Charities in need of medical supplies. Jerry did not have enough money to pay for the colostomy bags he needed after his surgery. Catholic Charities helped with his Medicare co-pay, food, bus passes, and hygiene items and referred him to housing. Although he remains on a waiting list, he remains hopeful that he will have housing soon.

Jerry didn’t want his picture taken, but he does want people to rethink their views on homelessness. “There are many good people who are homeless just like me. Sometimes things happen in life that you don’t expect.” Jerry added, “I want to thank everyone who donates to Catholic Charities. The people who work there are very friendly and have gone out of their way to help me.”
Playing Games to Pay it Forward

Emanuel Manwaring was in a car accident in March, 2011. He suffered severe back and neck injuries that still affect him today, but his most staggering problem was his mounting medical debt. Emanuel shared, “Each operation or treatment just continued to add up. Soon I had more than $60,000 in medical bills.” Emanuel worked multiple jobs to pay down his debt for four years. His bills finally became too much for him. He began missing rent and utility payments. “I needed help in a bad way, or I was going to end up living on the streets.” Reluctant to ask for help, Emanuel came to Catholic Charities when faced with having to choose between buying food or paying bills. “With help from Catholic Charities and other agencies, I was able to keep a roof over my head.” Emanuel greatly appreciated the support he received from Catholic Charities, who helped him with rent, food and hygiene items. “This was the first time they’d ever seen me, and they didn’t hesitate or think twice about helping me. I knew then and there I had to give back any way I could.”

A few months later, Emanuel called Catholic Charities to say that he wanted to turn his love of video games into a tournament with admission to be non-perishable food items for the food pantry at Catholic Charities. At the first Gamers for Good tournament in December, Emanuel collected more than 2,000 food items. That tournament was so popular he held another one in March and collected around 1,500 food items. He is planning another one in August.

Michelle Martin, Catholic Charities Director, stated, “We remain humbled when clients like Emanuel become so filled with gratitude that they develop a passion for giving back to others. We are honored to travel this journey with them.”

Journey of Gratitude

Finances were already tight for Jerry Huckabey, Jr. and his fiancée, when their old car had to be replaced. The new car they bought was within their budget, but they had not expected an increase in their insurance costs, which almost tripled. Although his fiancée was working a full-time job, Jerry’s work was seasonal and slower in the winter. Things only got worse when they received their high electric bills during the winter months. “We got notice that our electricity was going to be disconnected, and we didn’t know what we were going to do,” Jerry said. “I was embarrassed and in a bad situation when I asked my younger sister for a loan. She didn’t have the money to help, but she told me to contact Catholic Charities. They helped us with part of the bill and referred us to other places that could help.”

This spring Jerry came back to the Salina Catholic Charities office, with a desire to give back. “I live close to Catholic Charities, and I noticed the grass was getting long. I thought, I have a mower, so I came in and offered to mow the lawn for the summer.” He added, “It made me feel good about myself that I could give back wherever it was needed … pay my dues. I wanted to let them know how much it meant to me that I got help when we really needed it.” Jerry, a quiet man, expressed sincere gratefulness to all who made this help possible. “I can’t thank you enough. Everyone was so kind, friendly, and very helpful.”

Leaving a Legacy - You can make a generous gift that will cost you nothing during your lifetime. For more information, go to www.ccnks.org/planned-gifts.
Diaper Dilemma

One of the biggest challenges at Catholic Charities is keeping an adequate supply of diapers for families in need. When considering the cost of raising a baby, parents often grossly underestimate the cost of buying diapers. Parents can expect to spend an average of $100 per month per child. Unfortunately, one in three families have to cut back on basic essentials in order to afford enough diapers for their children. While new moms may get food and health assistance, no financial assistance program for diapers currently exists.

To save money, parents are spreading out the time between diaper changes and wiping out stools to reuse soiled diapers. These are unhealthy practices with negative emotional and physical consequences for children.

Thanks to your donations, diapers are available to parents at all three Catholic Charities locations through the Pregnancy Maintenance Initiative and Emergency Assistance Programs. If you would like to donate diapers or wipes, please contact the Catholic Charities nearest you in Hays,