On the Move

I am excited to share that your generosity has Catholic Charities On the Move. I mean that literally as your gifts have enabled the Mobile Outreach program to grow and the Salina offices to move to a newly renovated building.

Your support has provided the acceleration needed for the Mobile Outreach to expand into more communities within our Diocese. Staff from Salina, Manhattan and Hays make weekly trips to extend Hands of Hope beyond our offices. They bring basic necessities, provide client services and educate local communities about available services.

For those in rural areas who struggle financially, trying to connect with needed services becomes one of the greatest obstacles as they often lack the resources (reliable transportation, gas money and time off work) to get to the communities where help exists. For those in poverty, this can be as challenging as traveling to another country. The difficulties faced by our clients became even more apparent to me when I learned of the two men who rode their bikes 20 miles two months in a row just to obtain the small sack of food offered through this program, and of another lady who cried upon receiving toilet paper. These individuals remind me of the need for these services, and how important your support is to bringing hope and dignity back into the lives of the poor.

In a few months, the Salina office shall be making an even bigger move --- to a different building. This new location has become a reality because of the generosity of an anonymous donor and many of you who contributed to the Diocese’s Yesterday, Today and Forever campaign and towards the Itemless Item at our 2016 Annual Fundraiser Auction. We had hoped to raise $10,000 for improvements to the front fascia and exterior of the building at the July event, but thanks to the passionate support of people like you, the bids for this item exceeded $35,000! We continue to be overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. Thank you for helping to bring to life the corporal works of mercy for the clients served each day at Catholic Charities.

Eternally Grateful,

Michelle L. Martin, Director
Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas
John Felt Guided to Catholic Charities

John moved to Kansas from Kentucky five years ago seeking a fresh start and new opportunities. He had been a teacher and explored a variety of careers in his life before coming to the realization that he really enjoyed and could make a good living as a restaurant server.

A few months ago, John started having problems catching his breath and became worried about his health. Unable to physically keep up the pace of waiting tables, he was fired. A week later, he was rushed to the hospital and learned he was suffering from congestive heart failure, COPD, and acute renal failure in addition to his other medical conditions. Not the news this 46-year-old man wanted to hear.

John remained in the hospital for two weeks. Faced with these major health issues, he wasn’t sure that he would ever be able to work again or lead a normal life. “I was scared and alone,” he said. “I felt hopeless and didn't know what to do. I was at the very bottom, and the only way out that I could see was suicide.”

Someone in the hospital gave John a list of places that might be able to help him and recommended Catholic Charities. “God works in mysterious ways, and he guided me to Catholic Charities. I praise him every day. Thank God for Catholic Charities. I don’t know what I would have done without them.”

Initially, John didn’t want to ask for help. “I had never asked for help before, and I was embarrassed. I had always worked for everything I had and taken care of myself. I’m a common guy, and I’m supposed to be rugged ... but I needed help.”

John has resumed working, even though his medical condition causes him to tire quickly. Now, he focuses on the positive. “I am taking one step at a time. It may not be my dream job, but I am going to do it well, and the most important thing is that I can pay my rent.”

Although John still faces a long road ahead with his chronic illnesses, he remains thankful. “Catholic Charities kept a roof over my head and took a huge burden away. It's been a long time since I have been really happy. I smile more now and I like that.”

The Joy of Giving

Give the gift of Christmas wishes and dreams!

For more information on how you can give joy this Christmas through the Adopt-a-Family Program, go to www.ccnks.org, or call:

Amanda in HAYS: 785-625-2644 | Emelina in SALINA: 785-825-0208
Helen in MANHATTAN: 785-323-0664
Changing Lives ... One at a Time

Debra Struggled to Find Stable Ground

Throughout her life Debra has worked hard and cared for others, but now a series of tragic events and serious health issues have left her struggling to find stable ground.

Widowed young, Debra was the sole provider as she finished raising her children. As a grandmother, she assumed the role of caregiver again when her daughter and son-in-law were killed during a home invasion leaving their two daughters, ages four and five, orphaned seven years ago.

In the beginning of 2016, Debra was deeply saddened by the loss of her mother. “That was the start of a really tough year,” said Debra. “One morning while I was getting ready for work, my arm went limp, and I felt like an elephant was sitting on my chest. It scared me, but after a little while I felt better and headed to work.” She wasn’t better because she experienced another episode while driving. Debra was still determined that she could work and only left when her supervisor insisted that she go home to recover.

“I thought I just needed some rest, but when it happened again I went straight to the hospital.” Debra soon learned that she had suffered three heart attacks and her doctors recommended putting a stint in her main artery. While undergoing this treatment, she learned she had breast cancer. During her mastectomy procedure, the doctors removed the lymph nodes under her arm. “The surgery left me unable to use my left arm. It is so weak.” Sadly, that was her good arm because of a prior injury to her other arm. Debra described the difficulty of being unable to work because, in addition to the inability to move her arms, the chemotherapy treatments leave her so weak.

“I wasn’t sure what I was going to do. I had no money coming in and was too sick to work. I had never reached out for help before, but I knew we were going to lose our home if I didn’t find someone to help me. I was so happy to get help at Catholic Charities.”

At the Catholic Charities office, Debra was overcome with emotion to hear about the Adopt-a-Family for Christmas program. She shared, “I have so much stress with our bills and my health that I have nothing left for the girls. They have been through so much . . . they deserve something. This has been really tough.”

Debra expressed her gratitude to all of Catholic Charities donors, “Thank you for all that you do for people like me. Thank you so much for everything. I am so glad that someone recommended Catholic Charities to me. They are wonderful people here and do wonderful things for people in need.”

For most of us, Christmas is a wonderful time of year. For people who are living in poverty and crisis, it can bring feelings of hopelessness and sorrow. Your support of Catholic Charities Adopt-A-Family for Christmas will be the reason that struggling families have hope this Christmas!

Consider helping with Catholic Charities Adopt-A-Family For Christmas Program by adopting a family, donating items, or volunteering.
Upcoming Dates

NOVEMBER 25-26  Offices Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
DECEMBER 8      Offices Closed - Holy Day of Obligation
DECEMBER 26     Offices Closed - Christmas Holiday
JANUARY 2        Offices Closed - New Year’s Holiday
JULY 23         Annual Fundraiser Dinner, Salina Country Club

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:
1. Diapers & Wipes
2. Underwear & Socks - new
3. Coats, Hats & Gloves - new/gently used
4. Canned Soups & Meats
5. Boxed Meals & Pastas

Year-End Statements will be sent to those who donate more than $250 during the calendar year, or upon request.

To hear from more people you have helped, go to the homepage of Catholic Charities at www.ccnks.org and click on Client Video – 2016 Annual Fundraiser.

www.ccnks.org
Remember to like us on Facebook!
Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas

Working to reduce poverty in Northern Kansas