Thank you for supporting Catholic Charities. We know that you are asked to donate to many organizations, and we remain constantly humbled by your tremendous generosity. Throughout this newsletter, you will find many successes made possible by YOU! As one example, I want to share an excerpt of a letter received from a counseling client.

Gratefully Yours,

Carlisle Bergquist LCMFT has been vital in my journey from being a victim of domestic violence and sexual assault to becoming a survivor. I was diagnosed with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and major anxiety and depressive disorders, but with Carlisle’s help I have been able to learn to manage my symptoms and find ways to cope with my anxieties and fears ... When I first started seeing him, I wasn’t really capable of functioning. I could barely get out of bed. I wasn’t eating, sleeping, couldn’t keep a job, and could barely go an hour without my symptoms taking over. Since I started working with Carlisle, I have been able to attain full-time employment and retain my employment. I have also been able to once again attend school to further my education ... I have also regained my health, both physically and mentally. I simply could not have gotten where I am in my journey without Carlisle.

2017 GRANTS: In addition to the donations from individuals, businesses and organizations, Catholic Charities also applies for many grants throughout the year. The money received from grants helps support special programs and projects. We would like to thank a few:

- American Charitable Trust
  Helps support Hays Mobile Outreach

- Daniel Keating Foundation
  Helps Manhattan children taken into Police Protective Custody

- Kansas Health Foundation
  Helped fund staff training

- Salina Regional Health Center
  Helps supply hygiene items

- Sunflower Foundation
  Helped with a copier and computers

- Walmart
  Helped with the WaKeeney disaster
Ashleigh’s Heart is Filled with Joy

Ashleigh, a mother of three young girls, proudly served as a sailor in the Navy. After enduring a serious domestic violence issue, she sadly divorced. As a single mom with no money, she and her daughters moved in with her parents. For the first time, she was trying to live on just one income. She had three young mouths to feed and many bills. Struggling to get back on her feet, Ashleigh felt she had no other option than a payday loan, “In the military, they warned us about payday loans, but I was desperate and didn’t know what my other options would be. I was drowning.”

The payday loan only worsened her financial situation. She turned to the local VA counselor who referred her to Catholic Charities for food and possible help with a deposit. Upon coming to Catholic Charities and discussing her situation, she disclosed that she had a payday loan which was impacting her ability to get back on her feet. Ashleigh learned about the Kansas Loan Pool Project (KLPP) – the program that provides low interest rate loans for people who are victims of predatory lending. “If I hadn’t received help with my loan from Catholic Charities, I would still be making payments, behind on all of my other bills and sleeping on my parents’ couch.”

As Christmas drew near, Ashleigh began to worry how she would do anything for her daughters. She recalls, “It had been such a bad year for us, and I was panicking. I didn’t want to disappoint my girls, but I had no money, and my girls were not going to have any Christmas presents.”

Ashleigh learned about Adopt-a-Family for Christmas during one of her KLPP case management meetings. “I had no idea how blessed we would be when I signed up for the Adopt-a-Family Program. It was so overwhelming,” Ashleigh added, “I thought that each girl would probably get one or two things and maybe some stocking stuffers, but it was a full-blown Christmas. I was very surprised and cried when I went home.”

Ashleigh had been worried about how to pay for coats as they didn’t bring any with them from California, but they received coats and warm clothing as gifts. She said, “I was surprised that I got gifts. I got a coat, too ... I felt bless and was so happy that I could watch my daughter’s open presents on Christmas morning.”

Things have improved for Ashleigh and her three girls. They now have their own apartment, and the girls are involved in many activities. She works full time at the hospital and goes to school. Her finances are still tight, but she is proud to announce that she only has one more payment on her KLPP loan.

Ashleigh remains grateful for the help they received and wants to thank the donors. “They made a single mom of three little girls, heart fill with joy. They gave us hope and were so kind and generous. We really appreciated it!”

“They made a single mom of three little girls, heart fill with joy ...”
For more information on how you can give joy this Christmas through the Adopt-a-Family Program, go to www.ccnks.org, or call:


Yes! I would like to support the Adopt-a-Family for Christmas program by:

_____ Sponsoring a Family     _____ Volunteering

_____ Making a monetary contribution of $______________ to use for:

_____ Adopt-a-Family  _____ Where it is Needed Most

Name

Address

City  St  Zip

Telephone  Email
Still Fighting to Return to “Normal”

Stacy fondly remembers Rachael as a healthy and active 14-year-old. “I hate to use the word ‘normal,’ but she was just a teenager enjoying her life, until last February.” After a persistent cold and a feeling of numbness in her feet and legs, Rachael underwent multiple tests. The doctor sent her to a pediatric neurologist as he feared she might be suffering from Guillain–Barré syndrome (GBS), a rapid-onset muscle weakness caused by the immune system damaging the peripheral nervous system. Eight months ago, Rachael walked into the emergency room for tests and that was the last time she walked on her own.

When admitted to the hospital, Rachael wanted her mother to stay. Stacy stated, “At that time, I had no idea how long this journey would be, but I promised her I wouldn’t leave her.” To keep this promise Stacy took a leave of absence from her job as a Registered Nurse and left her younger daughter with grandparents.

Rachael’s paralysis started at her feet and worked its way up her body. It deteriorated the muscles in her upper body and face, leaving her unable to sit up on her own or grasp things. While at Children’s Mercy Hospital, Rachael regained strength, but she remained paralyzed from the waist down and still had severe upper body muscle issues.

Rachael left the hospital still unable to do much on her own, and she was very emotional from the trauma and sad because of her condition. Stacy became determined to find help for Rachael and contacted Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital (MRH) in Nebraska.

At MRH, Rachael started inpatient therapy on June 5th and began making steady progress. Stacy noticed immediate improvements, “On the second day, she was in a motorized wheelchair with a huge smile. It gave her back some independence.”

Rachael’s therapy in Nebraska lasted nearly three months with the last portion including outpatient therapy which required them to find a nearby place to stay. Stacy had not worked since February and had no money for rent. In her desperate search for help, she discovered the Catholic Charities program for people impacted by catastrophic illness and applied online. When notified her request was approved, Stacy said, “I am not sure what we would have done. The help from Catholic Charities allowed us to stay and have that final month of therapy.” Rachael thrived at MRH. Stacy knew how important it was to maximize Rachael’s therapy. Although Rachael still lacks feeling in her lower extremities, she can walk short distances with a specialized walker but requires a wheelchair most of the time. Her fine motor skills have also improved enabling her to now hold a pencil and silverware.

Stacy and her daughters live with her parents in Delphos, but she hopes to find a nearby house when she returns to work as Rachael still requires 24-hour care. Rachael has returned to school with the aid of two paras, and the family is awaiting the arrival of a motorized wheelchair.

“We are hoping that Rachael makes a full recovery, but there is no typical recovery for people with GBS.” Rachael continues therapy 3 times a week locally. There may be other treatments that could possibly help speed her recovery which her family still wants to try.

After being out of work for the past eight months, Stacy has applied for Catholic Charities Christmas program. She commented, “It has been a rough year for us, and there is no money for anything extra. This is our only chance for any type of Christmas.”

When asked what she wanted most, Stacy replied, “We just hope that Rachael is able to walk again.” That would be their perfect Christmas present.
When the Catholic Charities Salina office relocated this past April, the dream of starting a thrift store was on the horizon. Thanks to dedicated volunteers and staff, the Catholic Charities Thrift Store became a reality and opened the end of June. After quickly outgrowing the original space, the store relocated to the much larger interior warehouse area. With the timely closing of Sears in Salina, Catholic Charities benefited from receiving clothing racks, display shelves, and storage bins that have all enhanced the layout and appearance of the store.

Clients needing assistance receive vouchers for items at the thrift store, but it is open to the public, and all are invited to shop for the clothing, shoes, household and kitchen items, furniture, toys, baby supplies, bedding, books, purses, ties, belts, coats and winter accessories. “We have a great selection of men’s and women’s career wear and an impressive selection of name-brand clothing and accessories,” stated Cara Ivey, Volunteer Coordinator for Catholic Charities.

Michelle Martin, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, remarked, “None of this would be possible without our generous donors who bring so many nice items.” She added, “The Thrift Store supplies our clients with needed items and helps fund the programs and services we offer at Catholic Charities.”

“Our customers tell us that they like our store because it is clean, the volunteers are friendly, and the prices are low,” said Ivey.

The Thrift Store is run by volunteers who sort, price, display, and ring up items in the store. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities or donating items, look online at www.ccnks.org or contact Cara Ivey at 785-825-0208 or civey@ccnks.org.

Focusing on Their Future

Janelle, a single mother of two teenagers, has experienced hardships but she refuses to be kept down. In pursuit of nursing school, Janelle moved to Salina which left her without extended family nearby.

This transition was not as easy for Janelle’s children. When serious behavioral issues erupted, she quit nursing school to focus on her children. Janelle shared, “My family and I lived with little food for a long time. I go without food and clothes because I know my kids need things. It is difficult to live in poverty when you have teenagers. I don’t want them to suffer because of my situation.”

Janelle came to Catholic Charities when she was at a very low place seeking help with her gas bill. Because she lives in public housing, she would have been evicted if her utilities were disconnected. She said, “My family would be homeless if we hadn’t received help from Catholic Charities.”

Recently, Janelle began taking tax-preparation classes in hopes of securing a better paying job. While finishing this coursework, her finances remain very tight. “My kids and I stay home, and they miss out because we don’t have money to do things. That makes me feel very guilty – it hurts my heart.”

Janelle’s tax preparation course concludes in November, and she feels positive about their future. With tears in her eyes, Janelle expressed deep gratitude, “I don’t know if people understand how grateful I am. It is really hard to ask for help. Going through everything I have gone through, it is hard for me to remember that there are nice people out there in the world.”
Thank you to everyone who gave to the Catholic Charities 2017 Annual Appeal – Hope for All on August 12 – 13.

Hope for All is to help as many people as last year and the reason for the $300,000 goal.

If you have not yet given, you still have time to make a difference to someone in need.