People come to Catholic Charities facing a variety of circumstances. They are desperate for help and most generally have nowhere else to turn. YOU restore their hope! Throughout this newsletter you will find stories that are the result of your gifts and prayers. On the final page you will find an Appreciation Report detailing how much YOU were able to do for struggling families during 2017. Thank you for making so much possible.

Many Blessings,

Michelle L. Morton

Supporting Our Youth

This past year, a Legacy Gift from Mary Dolan was used to establish the Youth Assistance Fund to help teens who “age out” of the foster care system or for other reasons end up on their own while still in high school or as young adults.

The first two recipients of the Mary Dolan Youth Assistance Fund were Kassidee and Elias.

Kassidee left an abusive household at the age of 17. She received help from the Mary Dolan Youth Assistance Fund to further her education. With these funds she earned her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification which also enabled her to secure a job. She is planning to obtain her Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) certification with the remaining funds she is eligible to receive through this program.

When Elias turned 18, he needed to move out of his family home for financial reasons. Even though he was still in high school, he had to get a job to support himself. He came to Catholic Charities needing help with rent, food and hygiene items. Through the Youth Assistance Fund, he obtained a bike, helmet and light to use as his mode of transportation to school and work.
Caught in a Vicious Cycle

A prolonged illness left Leia unable to work and desperate for money. With an ever-growing number of bills, Leia thought she had found the answer to her problems when she took out a $500 payday loan. She quickly realized it was a mistake because she would never be able to pay off the loan. She was trapped in the cycle. For four years she paid this lender $575 each month only to continue renewing the same $500 loan month after month without ever repaying the principal. In all, she paid more than $3,600 in fees over the four years. This cycle would have continued had she not come to Catholic Charities.

After receiving a call that her sister had cancer and only six months to live, Leia loaded up her car and moved back to Salina. Her sister was widowed at a young age and needed Leia’s help to care for her family when she became ill. Leia will never regret the move, but it worsened her financial situation. A family member told her about the Kansas Loan Pool Project (KLPP) at Catholic Charities — a program designed to rescue people trapped in predatory title and payday loans.

“It was an answer to my prayers,” said Leia. “I had been paying the payday loan company $575 each month for four years, and there was no end in sight. I was depressed and embarrassed. The stress of it all was affecting my health, and I needed help.”

Through the KLPP Program, Leia paid off her payday loan by obtaining a low-interest loan which she paid off one year later. “You have no idea what this program has meant to me. It is not just about paying off the loan, they fix your whole person.” Leia added, “In my monthly appointments at Catholic Charities, I worked on my budget. Although I don’t have much money left over each month, I am finally able put money into savings.”

Leia credits the KLPP Program for helping her quit smoking. “They showed me how much I was spending, and the cost on my health, and we made it a goal of mine to stop smoking. I am proud to say I have not smoked for six months.”

Save the Date!
Sunday, July 22, 2018
Please join us for the 13th Annual Catholic Charities Fundraiser!

LEAVING A LEGACY …
Please reflect on your personal commitment to our ministry and thoughtfully consider Leaving a Legacy to Catholic Charities through: Planned Gifts (Wills and Trusts), Stock Donations, Transfer of Assets (livestock, grain, real estate, etc.), an Honorarium or Designated Memorial.

Contact Eric Frank, Development Director, for more information at 785-825-0208 or efrank@ccnks.org.
Daniel’s Fight for Life

Daniel came to Catholic Charities months after his diagnosis with stage 3 larynx cancer. Once a strong forklift operator, his body had been emaciated after two rounds of chemotherapy and 35 radiation treatments. As part of his treatment plan, all his teeth had been removed. A stoma in his throat left Daniel unable to speak above a whisper. Daniel was very sick and fighting for his life when he came to Catholic Charities. Unable to work for months, he was out of money, on the verge of eviction and close to having his utilities disconnected. He needed help and was out of options.

Daniel had taken great pride in being able to support his family. At 57 years old, he was shocked by this diagnosis and didn’t want to tell his children. “I knew they would think I was going to die, and I didn’t want them to worry about me,” Daniel said. “I felt like I was letting my family down.”

Today Daniel’s illness is still sometimes overwhelming to him physically, emotionally and financially. He struggles to stay positive with the stress he faces daily. With future medical procedures still needed, including a possible surgery to remove his tumor, Daniel remains unsure if he will be able to return to work, but he has not given up hope.

Through the Kelly Mead Catastrophic Illness Fund at Catholic Charities, Daniel received help with his rent, utilities, and some needed prescriptions. Because of his extreme weight loss, he also needed new clothes and was thrilled to receive clothing from the Catholic Charities Thrift Store.

Debbie Gets a Clean Start

Debbie has a bright spirit that lights up the room, but her past has been very difficult. Growing up in an abusive household, she began using drugs and alcohol at 13 and has struggled ever since with addiction. After completing treatment last year, Debbie knew that she needed to live in a sober living house as she required the structure to aid her recovery. Unable to work while in treatment, Debbie did not have enough funds saved for a deposit and rent to start. She feared going back to living near her old temptations.

Debbie reached out for help. Through the Catholic Charities grant funded program that assists individuals involved with the Saline County legal system who are on the verge of being homeless, Debbie received help with housing. She also received intensive case management which included weekly meetings and other strict guidelines. The goal of the program is to help decrease recidivism by helping those leaving jail to obtain stable housing and employment.

“I had lost my self-esteem and respect. I didn’t think I was worth it or could accomplish anything. I had so much guilt and shame,” Debbie said. But through this program and the support from her sober living house, Debbie has turned around her life. “I prayed to God to help me find the help that I needed and live His will. This program at Catholic Charities changed my life. I thank God each day.”

Debbie works, attends daily meditation meetings and spends time with her family. This full, daily routine has proven successful for her. “I have come so far in such a short time, and I owe it to Catholic Charities, God and the women at the Oxford House. I have a new way of thinking, and I believe in myself. I am not a failure. Just because that is what I was in the past, does not mean I have to be that now.” Debbie expressed her deep gratitude, “Thank you for believing in people like me and helping us get back on our feet and form a firm foundation.”
APPRECIATION REPORT
WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE IN 2017

Program Highlights

Family Support Services

- Pregnancy Support
  157 mothers
  309 children impacted

- Adoptions
  54 services including:
  - 1 adoption
  - 10 home studies
  - 9 post placement studies

- Immigration/Translations
  587 services provided
  Representing clients from 28 countries

- Counseling
  188 clients
  987 counseling sessions

Financial Stabilization Services

- Rent Assistance
- Utility Assistance
- Medication & Medical Assistance
- Disaster Relief Assistance
- Predatory Debt Relief
- Disability Assistance
- Adoption
- Home Studies
- Post Placement Studies

Value of Direct Assistance in 2017

$390,638

Family Support Services

- Family Support Services
  8,397 Clothing/Diapers/Food
  61 Gift Cards/Hygiene Items
  931 Households reached
  42 Catastrophic Illness Assistance
  41 Disability Assistance

Who YOU Helped

3,069 households
6,959 individuals

- Adults: 60%
- Children: 33%
- Seniors: 7%
- Female: 68%
- Male: 32%
- White: 78%
- Minorities: 16%
- Unknown: 6%
- Non-Hispanic: 75%
- Hispanic: 18%
- Unknown: 7%

- 135 Volunteers
- 1,985.25 Volunteer Hours
- Serving 31 counties
- 3 locations
  - Hays, Manhattan & Salina
- 20 employees

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- Facebook: www.facebook.com/catholiccharitiesofnorthernks
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/catholiccharitiesofnk

266 Households
985 Individuals

Adopt-A-Family for Christmas:
562 Children 57%
423 Adults 43%

Pregnancy Support

- 157 mothers
- 309 children impacted

Adoptions

- 54 services including:
  - 1 adoption
  - 10 home studies
  - 9 post placement studies

Immigration/Translations

- 587 services provided
  - Representing clients from 28 countries

Counseling

- 188 clients
- 987 counseling sessions

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