Life Can Change in a Flash

Over the Labor Day Weekend Janet was enjoying a rainy evening at home with her family when they heard loud voices and a frantic knock on the door. The neighbor from the apartment below stood before her drenched and holding his two children. That is when she noticed the water rising behind them. The first-floor of Janet’s Manhattan apartment complex filled with water that quickly rose to also cover the floor of her second-story unit.

During the flooding, Janet’s only vehicle was submerged. Her insurance did not help with the damages because she only had liability coverage at the time. As a single mother, it was crucial for Janet to maintain her nursing job at Fort Riley, so she rented a car to keep going.

Janet was working to save for a replacement vehicle when Catholic Charities called. A donor had given the agency a used van to share with someone in need. That minivan was the answer to Janet’s prayers.

Because the apartment building suffered extensive damage, Janet and her children were displaced. They lived with friends for almost a month before being allowed to return to their home. Although Janet was lucky to have renter’s insurance, it did not cover everything. They lost all the food in their refrigerator and freezer along with other household items.

Despite these challenges, Janet remains positive, “God takes care of you, and I am so thankful for the help we have received. I plan to pay it forward and give when I can.” She added, “My kids look at me to see how I am handling things. I have to be strong and show them the right thing to do.”
You Give Joy to Families in Crisis

Four years ago, Amy and her family moved from an efficiency apartment in a gang-ridden, New Jersey neighborhood. Determined to find a better life, they used their savings to rent a U-Haul and move to the quiet streets of Salina. All was great until her world was rocked by divorce. Amy was left struggling to provide for three young children. Last December, with barely enough money to buy groceries, Amy said, “It broke my heart, but I had to tell the two oldest kids that because we didn’t have any money, they wouldn’t be getting anything for Christmas.” Amy added, “There was sadness in their eyes, but they told me it would be fine. They were just glad to be with me.”

A few days before Christmas, Amy heard about the Adopt-A-Family for Christmas program at Catholic Charities. She came despite her fears it might be too late, “I had never asked for help before. When I started explaining what was going on in our lives, I just broke down crying.”

Although Amy was too late to be matched with a sponsor, she was able to receive help during the “walk-in-day” – the one day in December that families who missed the original application deadline may receive assistance. Amy remembers, “There were a lot of parents and grandparents in the waiting room filling out paperwork that day. Like me, they were desperate to give their kids something at Christmas, but their spirits were high!”

Amy decided to keep the gifts a surprise until Christmas morning. She was too excited to sleep and couldn’t wait to see her children’s faces. She remembers that morning, “It was an incredible moment when they saw their presents. They were in shock. When I told them how people had helped us, they cried … we all cried. It is amazing that people who don’t even know you, are willing to help.”

YOU made it possible for Amy’s children to have warm coats, hats, mittens, shoes and a few toys for Christmas. With YOUR help, volunteers assisted 68 additional families on “walk-in-day” last year. Thank YOU for spreading Christmas joy to Amy’s family and many others!

Catholic Charities and Bishop Gerald Vincke Invite You to Attend:

Mass Honoring Adoption
Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina
Friday, November 30, 2018 at Noon

CATHOLIC CHARITIES 60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Tuesday, January 29
5:00 – 6:30pm
1500 S. 9th St, Salina
Will You Help?

Give the gift of Christmas wishes and dreams!

Adopt a Family
FOR CHRISTMAS

www.ccnks.org
HAYS: 785-625-2644
SALINA: 785-825-0208
MANHATTAN: 785-323-0644
Our Diaper Program

The Diaper Gap

How much does it cost to diaper a baby? Parents often grossly underestimate the cost of buying diapers which can cost between $600-$960/year per child depending upon things like size, brand, and place of purchase. For those on tight budgets, the problem is compounded because they often do not have the funds to buy in bulk, which makes their diapers more expensive. While families living below poverty may qualify for assistance, no programs cover the cost of diapers! To save money, parents will go longer between diaper changes and wipe out stools to reuse soiled diapers. These are unhealthy practices with negative consequences for children.

It remains a challenge to keep an adequate supply of diapers and wipes on hand at each of the Catholic Charities locations. “Diapers are so expensive that we would have to divide them into smaller bundles of 12 to distribute to more families,” said Michelle Martin, Executive Director of Catholic Charities. “We have been praying that one day we would be able to give parents more diapers each time, so they would not be tempted to save money by skimping on the number of diaper changes.”

Prayers Answered

With the help of a grant from the Salina Regional Health Foundation, Catholic Charities has been able to expand its Diaper Program from the Salina location. Eligible families (income 130% below the poverty level) may enroll in the program which goes beyond just handing out diapers. Michelle explained, “This program is designed to encourage parents to review their budgets with case managers before they receive the diapers.” Those enrolled will receive one large box of diapers and a full package of wipes for each child once every two months after meeting with a case manager to review their budgets and discuss strategies for improving their financial situations.

The First to Enroll

Carissa, a young mother with two girls, was the first to enroll. Both daughters were born prematurely, and her six-month-old, suffers from polycythemia – a blood disorder often linked to other health issues. Although their father works full-time at a local manufacturing facility, this young family has experienced financial stress after having two in diapers at the same time on top of medical bills. They share one cell phone and rely on other family members for transportation as they are unable to afford a car.

When Carissa received her two boxes of diapers, she looked shocked. “Wow! There are 180 diapers in each box! I can’t afford to buy very many diapers at a time, so I buy them about every two weeks.” She added, “I love motherhood, but we are drowning right now with only one of us working. This will help us so much!”

Low-income families in America spend twice as much as some families that have access to bulk-buying options for diapers.

Let’s make diapers more accessible and affordable for everyone.

Wh.gov/DiaperGap
**Illness Puts Things in Perspective for Mike**

Mike proudly describes himself as a life-long welder. By age 14, he was on his own. Because of a strong work ethic, he perfected his welding skills and was able to support himself. That changed four years ago when he suffered his first heart attack at only 44 years old. The doctors determined that Mike had suffered two strokes previously. This was the start of a long and complex medical journey for Mike.

Over the past four years, he has endured three additional heart attacks, two heart surgeries, two neck surgeries and two more strokes. “I didn’t know how to do anything but work,” Mike said. “After my first heart attack, I came to Salina where my daughter lived. I worked at all the local welding places in the area, but my health has made it difficult.”

Years of physical labor have taken a toll on Mike’s body, and his most recent surgery was to fuse together the discs in his neck. With restricted mobility, his doctors have limited his lifting to no more than 10 pounds. He ruptured an artery in his neck from the simple task of lifting himself out of bed. Unable to work, Mike needed help.

“I had no idea what I was going to do, but a friend told me to contact Catholic Charities. I am glad I did.” Through the agency’s Disability Assistance Fund, Mike received financial assistance, and a case manager helped him connect to other resources. Mike expressed deep gratitude and said, “God’s been with me through this, or I would have given up a long time ago.”

The last four years have helped Mike put life in focus. “My goal is to be around to enjoy my five children and my grandchildren. I am hoping to be well enough to do that soon.”

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**$50,000 Donation Match**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**Hurry!!** Donations are only being accepted for the match through November 27.

MAKE YOUR DONATION COUNT TODAY at:

www.ccnks.org

www.salina.igivecatholic.org/organizations/catholic-charities-of-northern-kansas

#iGIVECATHOLIC #GIVINGTUESDAY
HELP SUPPORT OUR $25,000 GOAL!

___ Yes, I would like to support Catholic Charities with my gift of $ ___________________

☐ Where It Is Needed Most  ☐ Disability Assistance Fund  ☐ Disaster Relief  ☐ Adopt-a-Family For Christmas

☐ Check / Cash (Please make checks payable to Catholic Charities)
☐ Donate online at www.ccnks.org

☐ Credit Card # ________________________________ Exp. Date __________ 3-digit Code ______

Signature _________________________________________

Name ________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________

City ____________________________ St ______   Zip_________

Phone________________ Email ___________________________

Thank you for your gift.