Coming to a Town Near You

What do Barbie Dolls, Alaska, Hawaii and Catholic Charities have in common? We are all celebrating our 60th anniversaries this year.

Throughout the past 60 years, Catholic Charities has revised its strategies to best help struggling children and families. Because of your continued support, Catholic Charities remains one of the key resources to strengthening and stabilizing local families in need.

The yearly statistics show the amazing number of services provided at Catholic Charities. None of this would be possible without YOUR support, so we are excited to share the results of your donations, volunteer hours and prayers on page 3. We cannot THANK YOU enough!

The Mobile Outreach Program has seen the most growth in the past year. Each week, the Mobile Outreach vans bring basic necessities like food, hygiene items and diapers to rural communities in northern and western Kansas where people have limited access to social services. Mobile Outreach dates, times and locations are available at www.ccnks.org.

During the 60th anniversary celebration in January, we revealed new partnerships to help with funding Mobile Outreach: Long McArthur Ford is providing three 2019 Ford vans and 24/7 Travel Store is supplying the gas. As the Mobile Outreach Program expands, the costs continue to increase as we reach more people.

Jill Smith-Barker who operates the Mobile Outreach program from the Salina office, stated that the majority of people she sees during outreach are elderly and live on fixed incomes from social security or disability. “Sadly, they don’t have extra money for food and hygiene items. They are so appreciative that we come to their communities. The items I bring are a lifeline to them.” She added, “Each town is different, but when I arrive in Beloit and Lincoln, I typically have a group of people waiting for me.” The staff in Hays and Manhattan share similar stories in the communities they serve.

You can donate food and hygiene items at any of the three Catholic Charities offices or make a monetary donation at www.ccnks.org.
Fighting His Way Back to Serve and Protect

A lot can happened in six days ... just ask Randy and Rachel Constantino. Randy, an 8 ½ year veteran of the Salina Police Department, had been experiencing some pressure behind his eye, slight dizziness and a sharp pain in his head when he sneezed or coughed. He attributed these symptoms to a concussion from a recent charity football game but went to a doctor when the symptoms persisted. Six days later, he was lying on an operating table at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, facing a possible 10-hour brain surgery to remove one of the largest brain tumors his doctors had ever seen.

Randy’s wife, Rachel, worried he would not survive the surgery. His tumor developed on nerves leading from the inner ear to his brain and extended into his optic nerve and was pressing down on his spinal cord. “They told us after his surgery that Randy would most likely lose hearing in his right ear. Because they would have to remove some of his balance nerves, he would have difficulty walking. They were also concerned that he would have partial facial paralysis and issues with his vision.”

In between the time he was diagnosed and his surgery, Randy’s fellow officers set up a “Go Fund Me” account and reached out to Catholic Charities for help. Initially, Randy had been so focused on his diagnosis that he had not considered the long-term ramifications of his illness. The doctors told him the soonest he would be able to return to work would be 2020. Living off one salary would have been tough during a normal situation, but with the additional medical bills and travel expenses to the Mayo Clinic, Randy realized his family would need help. Randy said, “I felt very vulnerable to open myself up to accepting financial help from family, friends, and strangers. Seeing what was done financially and with prayer has been amazing. It’s indescribable.”

Randy’s surgery took 12 hours. Rachel shared, “It was a long day, but at the end we received great news. The tumor was benign, and they were able to save his facial nerves.” As expected, Randy lost hearing in his right ear. Currently, Rachel is helping him with daily vision and physical therapy. “Randy sleeps a lot, but that is expected. Because of his balance issues, he needs someone to be home with him at all times. We will go back to Mayo clinic in 10 weeks so they can evaluate him.” Randy’s goal is to be back on the police force, so he works hard each day to recover.

Randy and Rachel know it is going to be a long road with physical, emotional and financial challenges over the next year. In a note Randy shared, “The donors at Catholic Charities have been such a blessing to my family during this trying time in our lives. They have truly lessened our burdens with their generous contribution, which will help fund continued medical and travel expenses to Mayo Clinic. God has blessed us beyond measure, and the donor’s prayers and support are a part of the blessings he has bestowed on us. We are forever grateful.”

“The donors at Catholic Charities have been such a blessing to my family ... We are forever grateful.”

Randy’s tumor measured 5.5cm – a 2.5cm tumor is considered very large. His tumor developed on the nerves from his middle ear to his brain and extended into his optic nerve and was pressing on his spinal cord.
APPRECIATION REPORT
WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE IN 2018

Program Highlights

Family Support Services
- Pregnancy Support: 110 New Mothers, 284 Children Impacted
- Adoptions: 1 Adoption, 13 Home Studies, 17 Families Served
- Immigration: Provided 585 Services, Represented People from 39 Countries
- Counseling: 189 clients, 934 counseling sessions

Financial Stabilization Services
- Value of Direct Assistance in 2018: $440,744
- Food, Hygiene Items, Clothing, Diapers, etc.: 12,057
- Assisted with Homeless Prevention: 34
- Catastrophic Illness Assistance: 30
- Disability Assistance: 41
- Predatory Debt Relief: 35
- Mobile Outreach: 1,010
- Utility Assistance: 780
- Medication & Medical Assistance: 147
- Disaster Relief: 137
- Rent Assistance: 404

Adopt-A-Family for Christmas:
- 214 Households
- 767 Individuals
- 463 Children (60%)
- 304 Adults (40%)

Who YOU Helped

9,026 individuals of which:
- 57% Adults
- 39% Children
- 4% Seniors
- 65% Female
- 35% Male
- 67% White
- 26% Minorities
- 7% Unknown
- 81% Non-Hispanic
- 12% Hispanic
- 7% Unknown

105 Volunteers
3,412 Volunteer Hours
31 Counties Served
3 Locations
- Hays, Manhattan & Salina
20 Employees

Find Us At:
- Thrift Store
- Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/catholiccharitiesofnorthernks
- Website: www.ccnnks.org
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/catholiccharitiesofnk
SAVE THE DATE!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
July 21, 2019
Salina Country Club

HELP STRENGTHEN the future of Catholic Charities by joining the ROUND UP FOR CHANGE CHALLENGE!

Your “Spare Change” can make a huge change in the lives of struggling families. Donate your “Spare Change” by texting “SIXTY” to 43506 on your mobile phone to join the Round Up for Change 60th Anniversary Challenge with Catholic Charities. Every time you use your credit or bank card, the amount to “Round Up” to the nearest dollar will be donated to Catholic Charities to help families in need.


For more information, go to www.ccnks.org.

Please remember Catholic Charities in your will!