Moving in the Right Direction

Think about what you did yesterday, and then think how different it would have been if you didn’t have transportation. Imagine how difficult it would be to get your kids to daycare and school while managing to work if you had to walk everywhere, navigate bus schedules or rely on rides from friends. Then add grocery shopping, haircuts, doctor’s appointments and other errands. You can quickly see how STRESSFUL it can be for families. Not having access to reliable transportation creates so many road blocks for people trying to better their lives.

Jessica just completed the Partners 4 Success (P4S) 6-week course at Catholic Charities through a collaborative partnership with the Salina Adult Education Center. With Jessica’s bubbly personality and sparkling eyes, it’s hard to imagine that 14 months ago she was at rock bottom. A photo she shared with the class showed a dangerously thin woman – the result of her struggle with addiction. Jessica vowed to change her life and has been charging forward ever since. When asked about what motivated her success, she quickly named the three young girls she is now helping to raise. Not only did Jessica graduate from P4S, an intensive 6-week employment boot-camp program, but she will soon finish completing her GED.

One of Jessica’s biggest obstacles has been the lack of transportation. When a HERO contacted Catholic Charities about donating a used car, it solved one of Jessica’s biggest daily struggles. Jessica has shown so much courage and resilience that it has been wonderful to be able to assist her. We are excited to see her continue making positive changes in her life. Jessica could not have been more excited and grateful. She said the 1993 Lincoln Town Car is the nicest car her family has ever owned.

$20,000 Donation Match

Double YOUR impact on families in need! Donations will be match dollar for dollar.


Your Donations in Action

**Bringing Joy to Families in Crisis**

Imagine the heartache of telling your children that Santa will not be coming to your house. Danielle was pregnant when her husband became very ill and unable to work. He was the main provider for their family. She didn’t know how they were going to make it, let alone provide Christmas gifts for the children. Danielle was struggling with how to break the news to her children when she heard about Catholic Charities Adopt-a-Family for Christmas. She was thrilled to receive the help … but it wasn’t just about the presents.

Her husband’s blood pressure and diabetes were both very high, and doctors feared he would suffer a stroke. Knowing they didn’t have money, he refused to take his medicine or the four daily shots he needed because he didn’t want to waste money on himself. Her husband’s illness, a new baby and a depleted bank account, all combined to create stress for Danielle and a sense of hopelessness during the holidays.

Her family was in a downward spiral and felt they were out of options. When Danielle learned about Catholic Charities Christmas program, it was the first positive sign she had seen in a long time. Through tearful eyes Danielle expressed her gratitude, “You have no idea how much this means to us! I am so grateful and appreciative.” She added, “I don’t think I even have a dollar to my name, so being able to see my kids have some joy on Christmas is amazing. They have been through so much.”

**More than Just Christmas**

“It is such a blessing to see families come in with huge smiles on their faces and grateful tears during the Adopt-a-Family program,” said Michelle Martin, Executive Director of Catholic Charities. “They are amazed that people who don’t even know them are willing to help their families.”

To qualify for the Adopt-A-Family for Christmas program, families must be living at or below 130% of the Federal poverty guidelines, which means the gross income for a family of three must be below $27,000. Michelle added, “Often we find that people who are reaching out to Catholic Charities for help with Christmas are facing underlying problems that can be addressed through one of Catholic Charities other programs or community resources.”

Although Michelle loves Adopt-a-Family for Christmas, she wishes it would become Adopt-a-Family All-Year. “The tendency is to think about non-profits only during the holidays, but people need help every day of the year. We are excited to have donors stepping up and taking part in our monthly giving program.”

**Give the Gift of Christmas Wishes and Dreams!**

For more information contact:

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MANHATTAN – Grace 785-323-0644 givey@ccnks.org
Celebrating After a Tough Year

It had been a very tough year for Mari and her daughters. Her oldest had battled ovarian cancer at age 16 and then in the fall, Mari was unable to work for several months while suffering from bronchitis and pneumonia. She was relieved to return to work a few weeks before Christmas as her savings were depleted and she had bills to pay.

Mari found a letter from her youngest to Santa. While reading it, she was overcome with a sense of sadness and panic. She didn't have money for presents and would not get paid until January.

Mari recalled the difficult conversation she had with her 11-year-old, “Santa isn’t going to be able to come for a while. Do you remember when Jesus was born the three kings came and brought presents days later?” Although Mari could see the sadness in her eyes, her sweet daughter responded, “Well then I can wait until my birthday.”

When Mari learned that Christmas help was available at Catholic Charities, it was a huge weight off of her shoulders. She smiled as she shared that her youngest daughter told her, “Mom, don’t forget to go to Catholic Charities when Santa is there.”

Like so many other parents, Mari was thrilled at being able to provide a “normal” Christmas for her children when most things in their lives were anything but normal.

Thank you so much for being the miracle we needed. As a mother, I can’t explain how grateful I am for you. We are forever grateful.- Shelia

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. It has been a very hard year since being diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. This is going to help our Christmas be much more special. God Bless You! - Alex

I have three children and they are my entire world. We have been through a lot this year – actually, the past four. But I was finally able to leave my abusive husband and we are starting over. Thank you for making this a wonderful Christmas for them. - Sherrie

Joy of Giving!
The vans for Catholic Charities Mobile Outreach Program currently travel at least once a month to 18 different communities in northern Kansas. The cost for this program has more than tripled in the past two years. This trend is projected to continue as more families seek assistance and communities request expansion into their towns. Funds from the $20,000 Donation Match will help support the growth of the Mobile Outreach Program along with other vital services.

Success is Costly
People in rural areas have less access to services. We knew there was a great need in the rural areas of northern Kansas. Thanks to YOU, we have been able to expand the services of our Mobile Outreach Program. Even though we expected the program to grow, we have been shocked by the number of struggling families reaching out for help from these mobile units.

Currently, vans from each office (Hays, Manhattan and Salina) drive to different rural communities on Wednesdays traveling to the same locations each month. The vans are filled to the roof with food boxes and hygiene bags. In many locations, there are lines of people waiting when the vans arrive. Recently, they have been running out food boxes before traveling to the last locations. People from surrounding communities also meet the vans to get help. Because some don’t have transportation or are unable to drive, they will carpool, ride their bikes or pay for bus service from their small towns.

Sadly, many of the people needing help are elderly or disabled. They live on limited budgets. After paying rent and utilities and purchasing their prescriptions, they have little money left for food, clothing or hygiene items.

The mobile outreach vans currently travel to Abilene, Beloit, Clay Center, Colby, Concordia, Ellsworth, Herington, Junction City, Lincoln, Minneapolis, Norton, Ogden, Osborne, Russell, Stockton, Sylvan Grove, WaKeeney and Wilson. In addition to food and hygiene items, the vans also bring blankets, formula, diapers and wipes. Clothing is available upon request.

Food boxes contain options to make several meals and includes canned fruits, vegetables along with a protein. People receive up to 8 rolls of toilet paper, deodorant, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion, razors, detergent and Kleenex. Female hygiene items and adult diapers are provided upon request.
DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

Dollar for dollar, your donation to Catholic Charities will be matched up to $20,000!

A GENEROUS DONOR HAS OFFERED A DONATION CHALLENGE MATCH UP TO $20,000 FOR DONATIONS MADE TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES TODAY THRU DECEMBER 3, 2019.

Start Changing Lives TODAY! It’s as easy as:

1. You Donate
2. Your Gift is Matched
3. More Local Families are Stabilized and Strengthened

To Double Your Donation TODAY, mail in the completed remittance form with your gift or donate online at www.ccnks.org.
$20,000 Donation Match: DONATE TODAY!

☐ YES, I WOULD LIKE TO DOUBLE MY DONATION TO HELP FAMILIES IN NEED!

☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $100   ☐ $250  ☐ $500  ☐ $1,000  ☐ $2,500  ☐ $_________ other amount

☐ One-Time Donation  ☐ Monthly Pledge  ☐ Quarterly Pledge

☐ 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 ___________________________