OVERVIEW
Catholic Charities provides educational, physical, emotional and psychological support to help at-risk children and families. We prepare children for school, empower families, and help alleviate poverty by providing high-quality, affordable early childhood education.

HOW WE SERVED

6 facilities
546 children served
222,125 meals served to low-income children

CATHOLIC CHARITIES SCHOOL READINESS GOALS

1. Children will demonstrate increased understanding of health and wellness habits and increased physical development along an individual continuum supported by the family’s health and wellness knowledge and practice.
2. Children will demonstrate growth in sense of self and meaningful social-emotional relationships with adults and peers supported by the family’s knowledge of children’s social-emotional needs.
3. Children will demonstrate increasing ability to actively explore, notice and seek relevant information about experiences supported by the family’s active engagement with learning opportunities in the school and community.
4. Children will demonstrate growth in listening, speaking, reading and writing supported by the family’s engagement in best practices for language and literacy development.
5. Children will demonstrate growth in higher order thinking (including reasoning and problem solving) by applying knowledge of the physical and social world supported by the family’s engagement in best practices for developing cognitive skills.

Charities approaches school readiness goals as a continuum of learning for children ages birth to five. Catholic Charities uses the evidence based Creative Curriculum as the foundation for our program. Assessments are conducted with the Teaching Strategies Gold on-line child outcomes assessment system to collect information about children’s development in combination with information gathered from parents and families at Family Conference/Home Visits. Classroom teachers use daily observations and classroom data reports from Teaching Strategies Gold along with the information gathered from families for individualized and classroom lesson planning.

MEET KATIE & THERIN

Katie and her son Therin have found support and community with the staff and other families at Margery Reed Mayo Day Nursery. It is a warm and welcoming environment. They feel great knowing that Ms. Ruth and Rita will be there for them when they are in need of support. The staff is extremely competent and understanding.

Head Start has helped strengthen their structure and routine. Both have worked with the staff to overcome challenges and are now ready to face the future with confidence.

Therin is inspired to be successful and independent and ready to learn new things.
ACCORDING TO THE DENVER GREAT KIDS COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT 2017*

In Denver, there are three Early Head Start grantees that serve children birth through age two and two Head Start grantees, the Rocky Mountain Service Employment and Redevelopment (RMSER) and Denver Great Kids Head Start (DGKHS) that serve children ages three through five. During the 2016-2017 school year, 1,844 children were served across all Early Head Start and Head Start programs in Denver with combined enrollment totals for Early Head Start (384 children), DGKHS (1,153 children), and RMSER (307 children). DGKHS is authorized to serve children in all Denver neighborhoods.

The five Early Head Start and Head Start grantees collectively served approximately 26 percent of the eligible population in 2016 (Figure 2).1 The need for service is far greater than Head Start resources alone can meet. Other programs that help serve these and other eligible children include the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, the Colorado Preschool Program, the Denver Preschool Program, and Denver Public Schools early childhood programs. *Denver Office of Children’s Affairs

Catholic Charities Early Head Start programs was last reviewed June of 2018 by the Office of Head Start, the program was found to have met the requirements of all applicable Head Start Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

Catholic Charities had a financial audit for the year ending June 30, 2018. There were no significant findings. Catholic Charities was determined to be a low risk auditee.

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EARLY HEAD START AND HEAD START IN DENVER

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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WHO WE ARE
Catholic Charities operates 6 Early Childhood Education facilities in Denver. We also provide Early Head Start, Head Start and Child Care Services in both center-based and home-based options. We provide services from prenatal to children 5 years of age.

In addition to Early Childhood Education, Catholic Charities operates a separate referral-based family ministry called Homebased Counseling. Our Homebased Counseling program offers contracted services through Arapahoe and Denver counties to serve families who are at-risk for abuse, neglect or other trauma. We offer an intensive, in-home therapy program that aims to keep these families intact. This service is referral-based only.

WHO WE SERVE
Our Early Childhood Education ministry served 546 children and their families last year. These families are stretched to their financial limits and are barely able to afford basic necessities, much less quality child care and early childhood education. More than just affordable early childhood education, we prepare children for school, empower families, and help alleviate poverty.

WHAT SETS US APART
Serving the most vulnerable – This past year, approximately 24% of the children enrolled in our programs were experiencing homelessness, and approximately 8% of the children were in foster care.

More than education – Along with giving children the personalized education they need to succeed, our programs also provide nourishing meals, access to dental and medical exams, as well as diapers and other material needs. Our family and community engagement services support and nurture ongoing learning and development for both parents and their children through resource information, program activities and training events.

COMMUNITY IMPACT
According to the latest U.S. Census Bureau estimates, approximately 7,200 or 16%, of Denver children under age five are living in poverty. These children often experience the negative conditions of substandard housing, homelessness, inadequate nutrition, lack of access to health care, and more. These challenges greatly impact a child’s early education and development that can carry into adulthood.

Catholic Charities’ Early Childhood Education Services has one of the largest child care centers and one of the first Head Start delegates in Denver, serving 546 children at an average monthly enrollment of 100% capacity. Our programs have been evolving since 1995 to meet the needs of families through a social-emotional focus as we prepare children for school, empower families, and help alleviate poverty.

Additionally, the most recent report of the Child Welfare League of America showed Colorado had 89,845 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Our Homebased Counseling program responds to the complexity and variability in the needs of children, youth, and families to help keep them intact. On average we spend 6 to 8 hours per week for each family working intensively to help them meet their goals. Of those, 99% of families served this past year maintained children in their home.

MEET NAOMI & ZERESH

At the time, 3-year-old Naomi barely spoke. She still wore diapers. She cried a lot. Then her soon-to-be adoptive mom enrolled her in the care of the loving staff at Catholic Charities’ Mariposa Early Childhood Education Center.

“They were so patient with my daughter,” Zeresh says. “They’re phenomenal.”

Today, Naomi carries on conversations and loves to be around people. “They also helped me better address Naomi’s needs at home. When I was diagnosed with a serious illness early on in the adoption process, the staff would even call me just to see how I was doing. I’m forever in tears when I talk about their help.”

Zeresh is filled with hope and appreciation for a better life ahead.