

CHARITY WORKS

SPRING 2021

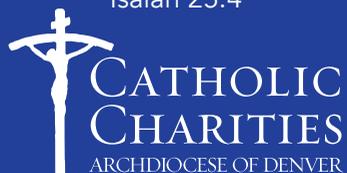
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MEET OUR HEROES OF HOPE AND FACES OF HOPE PGS 4-5
SHELTERING MORE WOMEN SAFELY DURING PANDEMIC PGS 6-7



"For you are a refuge to the poor;
a refuge to the needy in distress;
shelter from the rain, shade from the heat."

Isaiah 25:4





DIAPER DRIVE

BOTTOM LINE DIAPER BANK NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Catholic Charities Lenten Drive
February 17 - April 4, 2021

Help us support one in three families struggling to provide diapers to their children.

For tips on how to host a drive and to donate:
ccdenver.org/diaper



Light of Life
 5TH ANNUAL
 MARISOL TEA

Saturday, April 17, 2021
10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart of Mary Church | St. Bernard Hall
 6739 S. Boulder Rd. | Boulder, CO



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
MICHAELANN MARTIN

ccdenver.org/marisoltea



SAMARITAN CYCLING

2021 Season
Just Around the Corner

SamaritanCycling.org



Invite family and friends to participate in these upcoming events hosted by



40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Join the worldwide 40-day vigil as we pray for an end to abortion.
 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily
from Feb. 17 to March 28

Across the street from Planned Parenthood
 7155 E. 38th Ave.
 Denver, CO 80207

Sign up to participate:
40daysforlife.com/denver
 or contact 40days@ccdenver.org



PRAYER IN THE SQUARE
 Every First Saturday

We gather each First Saturday to pray a Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet for God's love, mercy and peace for our country, for an end to the persecution of Christians and for the sanctity of all human life.
prayerinthesquare.com



RESPECT LIFE RADIO

Don't miss this weekly program hosted by Deacon Geoff Bennett of Catholic Charities, airing on the Catholic Radio Network.
 Go to respectliferadio.com to listen to and download podcasts.

For details on all these events, please go to
respectlifedenver.org

LETTER FROM THE CEO



Visit online at ccdenver.org or call 303-742-0828 to learn more, volunteer or make a donation.

Dear Friends,

For much of 2020, many of us looked ahead to 2021, anxious for the end of the pandemic year. Yet, despite the changing of the calendar, many of the challenges we faced in 2020 remain today. This Lenten season and the promise of Easter remind us, as always, that God is in charge and our challenges will be met with divine grace and a knowledge that all things are possible with God.

“Pray, hope and don’t worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer.” – St. Padre Pio

At Catholic Charities, we are leaning on our faith as we grow to meet the increasing needs of our community. In this spring edition of Charity Works, you will read stories of lives restored and transformed with the help of our generous donors and amazing team here at Catholic Charities.

You will learn how we continue to grow our shelter capacity in response to the impact of the pandemic, and pivot all of our ministries to meet the ever-changing needs of our clients. You’ll meet Candace who came to Marisol Homes saying she was “lost and hopeless.” Today, she and her family are together and say that Catholic Charities made all the difference. “When I felt like I had nothing, they gave me a life. They gave me hope.”

We are grateful for your ongoing support for families like Candace’s and for all of our neighbors who need a hand up as they work through these challenging times. On the following pages, you’ll learn more about our new women’s shelter, the Samaritan House and Little Flower renovations and find out how God is leading all of us to renewed hope during this sacred season.

We wish you many blessings during your Lenten journey, and pray you find much hope and peace in the promise of the Resurrection.

God bless,

Darren A. Walsh
President & CEO



Charity Works is published quarterly by Catholic Charities of Denver, a 501(c)(3) established to serve those in need in Northern Colorado. As the charitable arm of the Archdiocese of Denver, and inspired by God’s love and compassion, Catholic Charities extends the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to the poor and those in need.

ccdenver.org/newsroom

Follow Us:



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Editor, Nissa LaPoint

HEROES of HOPE

HEART FOR HUNGRY FAMILIES HAS ROOTS IN A SISTER'S HELP

Suzie Boyd's heart is always with the struggling family facing hunger—it's all too familiar to her.

"We went through trying times growing up," said Suzie, co-owner with her husband, Curt, of Academy Roofing, based in Aurora.

"It goes way back to when I was a kid. So there's 12 children in my family ... and my dad moved out of the home. My mom was a single mother when there wasn't such a moniker."

She remembers local Sister Michael Mary Eagan, S.C., who helped her mom, recalling her visits to their home and the time they received much-needed packages of food left after a nearby train derailment.

"She watched out for us," Suzie reflected. "They knew my mom was struggling. She was really good to my mom. I remember that much."

She never forgot it. Years later Suzie discovered Sister Eagan was behind Catholic Charities' Little Flower Assistance Center, the food bank, clothing and job assistance center in Aurora. Sister served as a social worker and director for Catholic Charities and helped at Little Flower with ministering to people facing hunger and homelessness. She also founded the Aurora Housing Authority and was instrumental in developing the Mile High Child Care Association, and later began the first Colorado chapter of SHARE (a food and community network). In 2002, she was honored as Aurora's 'Citizen of the Year.' Sister Eagan died December 13, 2020, at age 93.

"Sister was the precursor to the Little Flower," Suzie said. "That's why it is important to us."

Another connection to the food bank surfaced when Suzie's children attended school with children of Donna Potter, the longtime program manager of Little Flower.

One year, the Boyds put a new roof on Little Flower and since then they periodically fund the Joy Drive, a collection of toys and crucial items given to needy children in the Aurora area. Their company's employees will pitch in with volunteering and giving, too. The Boyds also purchase gift cards for seniors through the center.

"My heart is with that group because of what I remember them doing for us," Suzie said. Suzie and Curt, who are parishioners of Our Lady of Loreto Church in Foxfield, always tell their children and grandchildren the importance of giving back.

"I feel like that's what Jesus charged us with is to love another," she said. "To whom much is given, much is expected in return. That's very powerful to me."

The Boyds encourage giving to support families through Little Flower and praise the volunteers who make the work possible.

"I think the mission of Catholic Charities is amazing," said Suzie. ♥



Suzie and Curt Boyd



Benefits Little Flower Assistance Center

**TWO WAYS TO SHOW HEART
DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

Donate
Online
Today

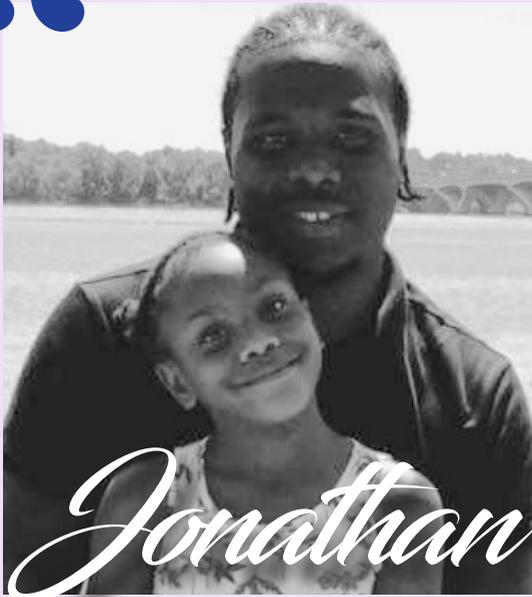
Online
Silent
Auction

ccdenver.org/haveaheart

With the continued impact of COVID-19 and delayed construction, we are unable to host our event in person at this time. Please join us as we transition to an online fundraising campaign. Your support is vital to providing services to neighbors who need our support.

FACES of HOPE

“



I'm 32. I came down from Washington, D.C., to Denver looking for a change in my life. I didn't really have a plan. I stayed with a nice lady for a while. My 10-year-old daughter came down three months later. Then it took a turn for the worse. My daughter and I found ourselves outside late at night with all of our things and nowhere to go.

I got on my phone, and I looked up family shelters. Outside Samaritan House, we were so nervous and so scared. We didn't know if they were going to turn us away. I was down on my luck. A nice young lady came out and said they had a room for us. I almost cried. I couldn't believe it.

Samaritan House was a dream come true for me, because I heard through the program we could eventually get housing. It was that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Samaritan House gave us a nice warm place to stay, three meals a day. On the weekend, activities for children, and reading the Bible. I ran into a bump in the road, because I had some substances in my system, but they didn't kick me out. They worked with me and I got in some programs and got to learn a lot about myself. I was suffering from a lot of hurt. I was suffering from a lot of pain. I was suffering from a lot of anxiety.

I got myself together, started working a security job. I did 13-hour shifts and just really got motivated. And they helped me find housing. Now we are in an apartment. I was able to get clothes, a microwave and pots and pans from the donation center at Samaritan House.

Samaritan House has helped me a great deal. It's all about your attitude when you go in. You know, Samaritan House has given me an opportunity and a chance of a lifetime.

Thank you so much. And please donate. Give help to somebody to get them where they've never been before and live the way they've never lived. I'm just overjoyed and I'm thankful. God bless you all.

Follow stories of hope on the Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts below.

 [CatholicCharitiesDenver](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesDenver)

 [ccdenver_co](https://www.instagram.com/ccdenver_co)

 [CCDenver_CO](https://twitter.com/CCDenver_CO)

“



Marcela and Michael were hit with devastating news while trying to support their three young children. Doctors diagnosed Michael with Lou Gehrig's disease.

"I was just trying to work and we fell behind, and then he had got diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease," Marcela said. "I felt depressed some time because my husband was struggling to walk and had trouble holding things and I was about to have a baby."

Struggling with the diagnosis and then the loss of her job, they were evicted from their apartment. On unemployment, the family moved into a motel and faced a future with very little hope.

While taking classes at Denver Human Services, Marcela heard about Samaritan House. When there was an opening on the family floor at the homeless shelter, they applied and got admitted.

Immediately, a case manager helped her with prenatal home visits and health and wellness during her pregnancy. Marcela was connected to Early Childhood Education, supplies through the Gabriel House Project and counseling. While at Samaritan House, the family was able to pay off debts. Marcela created a budget and saved money. In March, the family was relieved to hear that their hard work had paid off and they would be moving into their new home.

New facility will double capacity Sheltering More Women Safely During Pandemic



COVID-19 has changed the way everyone lives, works and helps others, not least of all for those at Catholic Charities responsible for sheltering and caring for women experiencing homelessness in metro Denver and Northern Colorado. That crisis, and what has followed from it, will result in Catholic Charities taking an even greater role in serving women at a revamped facility in north Denver by this spring.

“The intensity level was off the chart, because we were dealing with a virus that nobody had knowledge of,” said Mike Sinnett, vice president of shelters at Catholic Charities. “We were learning as we go. The old business model for shelters was how many people can we put in a building and get them safe and give them an opportunity to get off the streets. COVID added an element of social distancing which pretty much cut our capacity in half. In order to accomplish social distancing in a sleeping arrangement, you have to have 60-square-feet of space designated for the participant.”

The response by Catholic Charities was to work closely with public and private entities. The City of Denver’s public policy decision in April 2020 was to have the Denver Coliseum be the central residence for women experiencing homelessness, with overnight operations managed by Catholic Charities. That residential facility — operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week — housed up to 225 women a night, providing enough space for social distancing, in addition to centralized health services, meals and security.

Throughout the ongoing response, shelter staff at Catholic Charities rose to the challenge.



What is Shelter Services?

Catholic Charities provides hope to individuals and families experiencing homelessness by providing love, safety, shelter, clothing, food and services to help rebuild their lives and restore dignity. Our approach of mercy and compassion encourages trusted relationships to form and heal wounds caused by trauma. Samaritan House in Denver, Women's Emergency Shelter, Marisol Homes, Guadalupe Community Center in Greeley and The Mission in Fort Collins all provide overnight shelter and an extended-stay program.



"It was an immediate education process on social distancing, sanitizing all the surfaces, wearing masks, hand-washing, general hygiene," said Sinnett. "And re-sharing that information over and over to educate not only the staff but the participants. We have a lot of participants that experience severe and persistent mental health. And (for them) trying to understand why they need to wear a mask everyday is really challenging."

In August, about half of the women were moved to the residential Women's Emergency Shelter in northeast Denver, operated by Catholic Charities. The rest were housed at a Rodeway Inn located in north Denver, with residential operations also managed by Catholic Charities. In addition, Catholic Charities also operates Samaritan House in downtown Denver.

The next month, Catholic Charities submitted a bid to run a new shelter that would accommodate 275 women. In mid-December, Catholic Charities was awarded a contract, with operational details being ironed out with the City of Denver, said Sinnett. That agreement will provide that Catholic Charities will run a shelter for women at a building at 48th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard, north of Interstate 70.

"This will more than double our capacity for single women in the city of Denver from last year at this point," said Sinnett.

That building is currently a shelter for men, operated by the Denver Rescue Mission, which is relocating that operation to a new facility nearby. ❤️

Beacon of Hope Gala 2021

*Celebrating the Joy of Life,
in a New Way!*

Despite the continued impact of a global pandemic and the need to transition our 10th anniversary celebration to an online fundraising campaign, the 2021 Beacon of Hope was a wonderful success.

More than 450 families and businesses came together to shop the online marketplace, successfully meet a \$100,000 match and honor Tim and Martha Reichert with the 2021 Beacon of Hope Award. Participants were also honored by a video address from Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila, heard testimony from clients, speakers and staff — while raising over \$650,000 to transform women's lives, and that of our community, forever.

Our role as provider of medical care and human services has never been more critical. With Marisol Health, Marisol Homes, the Gabriel House Project and its network of services, many women who are vulnerable to abortion, abused and lack material and emotional support have a compassionate and welcoming place to go. ♥

2021 Beacon of Hope Award Tim and Martha Reichert call us to the fight of our lives

Marisol Health is a David taking on the Goliath of Planned Parenthood, said Tim and Martha Reichert, the recipients of the 2021 Beacon of Hope Award.

"Let us work together to save the unborn victims of human sacrifice. Let us work together to save mothers from the deception that lures them into abortion," said Tim Reichert. "This is not just a fight for their lives. It is the fight of our lives."

The award is given annually, with recipients "selected because of their commitment of time, talent and treasure to defend and promote life," said Darren Walsh, president and CEO of Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Denver. "Tim and Martha dedicate much of their time to evangelization and philanthropy. They are noted both for their service on boards and direct leadership of Catholic organizations."

The Reicherts accepted the award, and made their comments, in a video that may be viewed at ccdenver.org/marisolservices.

"We chose to partner with Marisol Services because of the work they do with the most vulnerable among us, but also because of the leaders of Catholic Charities and the expertise they bring," said Martha Reichert. "We are proud to support the work of Catholic Charities and Marisol Services."





MARISOL HOMES CAME TO THE RESCUE OF CANDACE AND HER FAMILY

"Before I moved into Marisol Homes, I was living in a drafty camper with my 2-year-old son. We had an extension cord running into an auto shop. I was parked behind it for electricity and there was no running water. It was very cold, but it kept the snow and rain out. To top it off, I was pregnant with twins. From nine weeks pregnant, I knew one of the twins would not survive due to a birth defect. It was a very difficult and high-risk pregnancy. I felt completely hopeless. I had no job, a 2-year old to take care of and twins on the way. My children's father was incarcerated, so I was on my own to take on all of this. I was scared.

One day my mother found Marisol Homes and contacted them to explain my situation with hopes they would help shelter us. They were more than willing to interview me the following day over the phone. It took about a week to hear back, but they accepted me and my son. My oldest daughter later moved in with us.

Marisol Homes was a godsend!

If it wasn't for them, I would have put my surviving daughter up for adoption and would have never got the footing I needed to get where I am today. They offered much needed counseling as well as many resources to help me get my life stable.

We now live in a beautiful three-bedroom apartment and have no real concerns any longer. They helped clear a path for me by assisting with building my credit up, too. I can't thank the staff and caseworkers enough for the life they have made possible for us! God bless you all!" ♥

Candace's story, and compelling stories from other ministries at Catholic Charities, also appear in the 2020 Catholic Charities Annual Report, available at ccdenver.org/our-mission/financials.

See video of Candace at ccdenver.org/marisolservices.



At-A-Glance

Marisol Women's Services is made up of **Marisol Homes** providing safe and secure community-based housing to single women, pregnant women and single women with children; two **Marisol Health** clinics providing dignified and qualified life-affirming medical care and supportive services for women and men. Marisol Women's Services also includes 13 **Gabriel House Project** locations assisting pregnant women and families with children with diaper needs through the **Bottom Line Diaper Bank** and other supportive services such as referrals for housing, employment, education, parenting programs and more.

1,211 total clients served at two Marisol Health locations*

153 babies were born to Marisol Health clients

439,903 free diapers distributed at 13 Gabriel House Project locations

87 families served at Marisol Homes location with **12,877** nights of shelter**

*Marisol Health in Denver and Lafayette, as well as Bella Natural Women's Care and Family Wellness; includes prenatal visits, client visits, and counseling.

**Marisol Homes consolidated to one home in January 2019.

Greeley

Guadalupe Community Center was the recipient of much-needed underwear thanks to The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints Greeley Stake. The group organized an 'Undie 500' donation drive and gave more than 1,000 pairs. Guadalupe is thrilled with their generosity. These undergarments will help fill a basic need adding dignity and respect to the lives of those served. Thank you, Greeley Stake, for your outstanding support!



Denver

A big shout out to Salesforce in Broomfield and Corporate Workplace Services for all the office furniture donated to Samaritan House. So much was given—eight desks, 16 computer monitors, task chairs, white boards, a TV, ice maker, refrigerator, microwave, filing cabinets and metal racks... valued at \$8,000 worth of office furniture. The team at the shelter is thrilled!

Northeast Denver

Marshall-Rodeno Associated brought Christmas-colored gifts to the Women's Emergency Shelter. The generous group brought 216 bags filled with lots of cheer to women staying at the shelters. It's become a tradition for the company to help support women in need. Thank you!



Metro Denver

Footers Catering made 900 hot and delicious meals for seniors in our Archdiocesan Housing communities and delivered them to multiple locations. Not only did they increase the number of meals given to seniors, but they brought joy to so many who are staying at home. We appreciate you!

Fort Collins

Team members from The Group Real Estate delivered holiday meals to homebound seniors across Fort Collins and Loveland for Catholic Charities of Larimer County to make a difference. The volunteers delivered the holiday meals made by the Mission's hospitality kitchen and donated by the Food Bank for Larimer County. The Community Foundation of Northern Colorado also helped with a \$10,000 grant, which was utilized to provide grocery items for the homebound senior clients. Thanks for your generosity!





Family Activities for Lent 2021

Fill your Lenten season with acts of love and reflection. Here are some suggestions about how to make this a special time.

Blessing Bags: Every member of your family can help purchase, fill and distribute these awesome bags that can be kept in your car and handed out to the homeless, or you can drop them at Samaritan House (2301 Lawrence Street in Denver) or your local shelter. Consider adding the following in your Blessing Bags: lip balm, small tissue pack, soft and non-perishable foods like chewy granola or breakfast bars, fruit chews, tuna/crackers, fruit cup/applesauce and plastic spoon, pair of socks, travel size toiletries, comb, small bottle of water, mints/candy/gum, small hand sanitizer or wipes. Your family can also write a short note to include to let the recipient know you're praying for them.

Diaper Drive: Consider starting your own mini-diaper drive by collecting diapers from friends, family and neighbors, and delivering them to your local Gabriel House Project at the end of Lent. Visit ccdenver.org/diaper to learn more.

Say Thank You: This has been a challenging time for so many in our community and our frontline workers in Catholic Charities' ministries would love to hear from your family. Consider having your children write notes of encouragement to nurses at Marisol Health or the team serving food in our shelters.

Share photos of your family participating in these activities with us at [#CCDenver_CO](https://twitter.com/CCDenver_CO) and please follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

ccdenver.org

40 SPECIAL DAYS PRAYER

God of All People and Places,
From the chilly winter until the warming spring, you give us a special time to think and talk with You about our lives.

The 40 Days of Lent are a sacred opportunity for change, for transformation, for becoming Your holy people.

Help us to pray by helping others wherever we are, whenever we can.

Help us to live simply by reducing our wants and sharing our wealth.

Help us to love others with a smile, a compliment, a "hello" for all.

During the 40 Days of Lent, breathe into us a new spirit, giving us eyes to see You, hands and feet to extend Your healing ministry and lips to thank You for the 40 Special Days of Lent. Amen.

*-Fr. Bob Kelly, OP
Chaplain
Catholic Charities of Denver*

EASTER WORD SEARCH

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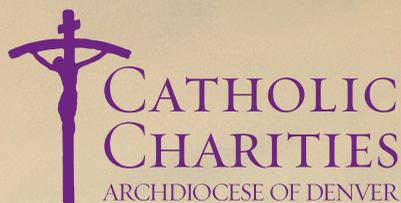
Lent
God
Smile

Spring
Love
Help

Pray
Easter
Holy Spirit

Cross
Giving
Jesus

Mary
Life
Hope



Pray. Fast. Give.

With your donation, help carry the cross of those in need.

A generous donor and friend of Catholic Charities has agreed to match your gift today, dollar for dollar, up to \$24,000! Match ends on April 4.

Please give now to have your impact doubled to help families in crisis.
Questions? Call 720-799-9311.

Donate at ccdenver.org/EASTER

