

CHARITY WORKS

SUPPORTING NEIGHBORS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.

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"The greatest among you must be your servant."
— Matthew 23:11



LETTER FROM THE CEO



"The greatest among you must be your servant." – Matthew 23:11

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the challenges of the past 16 months, Christ's encouragement to "be not afraid" has been a lesson for most of us as we've ridden the roller coaster of the pandemic. Our neighbors experiencing food insecurity, job loss, homelessness and mental health challenges were upended by the pandemic more than most. In response, the work of Catholic Charities of Denver has been life-changing for so many.

Truth be told, we couldn't have done ANY of it without you. Of course, I'm very proud of the way the Catholic Charities team rose to the challenges, leading the way with innovative strategies to pivot when needed to address the issues forced by COVID-19. Continuing their quest for excellence, they worked tirelessly to implement new practices and procedures to ensure the safety of our team and the neighbors we serve.

All seven of the Catholic Charities ministries changed and adapted. And we leaned on our volunteers, partners, donors and the entire community to help us navigate this strange new world.

As the world gets "back to normal" we're eager to see even more of you coming through our doors as volunteers. That's why we're focusing this issue of Charity Works on our amazing volunteer community. It is through your commitment, dedication and generous gifts of time, treasure and talent that we are able to help so many of our neighbors across Northern Colorado.

If you're already a volunteer, we thank you. If not, we would be honored if you would consider becoming part of the Catholic Charities community of volunteers and supporters in your neighborhood. We need you and we're grateful for you.

God bless,

Darren A. Walsh
President & CEO

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ccdenver.org/newsroom

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OUR MISSION:

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.



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Our philanthropic advisors are available to answer your questions and assist with your giving interests.

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SAMARITAN HOUSE CELEBRATES EXPANDED SPACES WITH BLESSING, RIBBON-CUTTING



Auxiliary Bishop Jorge Rodríguez of the Archdiocese of Denver, center, celebrated a ribbon cutting event with Catholic Charities of Denver's President and CEO Darren Walsh, right, and Vice President of Shelters and Community Outreach Mike Sinnett, left.

Samaritan House in Denver celebrated the expansion of services for women seeking shelter, nutritious meals and support services with a blessing and ribbon-cutting by Auxiliary Bishop Jorge Rodríguez of the Archdiocese of Denver.

"God, the provider of shelter and home, has brought us together for the dedication of the first floor at Samaritan House established for those seeking shelter and a place to call home," said Bishop Rodríguez. "May he strengthen us by his grace so that in serving all who come here we may serve Christ himself."

Bishop Rodríguez blessed the newly renovated women's emergency services space, dorms and the crowd. The May 14 event was attended by staff, volunteers and donors. After a short ceremony, the group enjoyed a barbeque meal on the front lawn.

The needs of people seeking help from the downtown shelter have evolved since opening its doors in 1986. A series of renovations on the aging building are focused on best serving the needs of single women, families and veterans who are experiencing homelessness.

"We've learned a lot in those 35 years," said Darren Walsh, president and CEO of Catholic Charities of Denver. "As we thought about this renovation, we took those learnings into account and really looked to provide a more welcoming and accommodating and nurturing environment for the benefit of those that we serve here at Samaritan House."

Some of the updates during the multiyear renovation project include freshly painted walls, new bunk beds, lockers, mattresses and welcoming furniture throughout the building. Other structural updates include power outlets and reading lights for each bunk, additional offices for professional service specialists, an upgraded HVAC system, upgraded bathroom facilities and an increased number of rooms available on the family floor.

"We spent a lot of time working with our guests, asking questions about what would they like to see in the renovation: brighter colors, brighter lighting... Everything that we took into consideration from their feedback we actually put right into the renovation," said Mike Sinnett, vice president of shelters and community outreach for Catholic Charities.

Sinnett said the renovation is meant to respect the dignity of those served at Samaritan House. "We just want them to feel like this is a home to them." ❤️

JOIN THE EFFORT TO REBUILD SAMARITAN HOUSE FOR THE FUTURE

Did you know that Colorado is home to the first building in the nation built specifically to serve people experiencing homelessness? In 1986, a group of community leaders came together to build Samaritan House in downtown Denver. Since that time, thousands of people have been served and have found safe shelter, nutritious meals and support services at Samaritan House.

Today, our focus is primarily on serving women, families and veterans who are experiencing homelessness and food insecurity. Our population has evolved, our mission has not. That's why Samaritan House is undergoing much-needed renovations. We'd be honored if you would join us to help pave a path to stability for those in the greatest need in our community. Please go to samhousedenver.org/renovation to learn more and make a donation. Thank you for your consideration.

VOLUNTEERS: THE HEARTBEAT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES



The 5 a.m. wake-up calls and seven full days of volunteering for Catholic Charities of Denver left a group of Texas A&M college students noticeably tired — yet happily fulfilled and humbled at the chance to serve those most in need.

“It’s been eye-opening for sure,” said Andrew Macha, a senior studying construction science, about their volunteer week in May. “They’re people with desires just like you and me. The most satisfying thing has been just being there for them.”

The group of 14 traveled to Colorado from Texas and did everything from painting and serving meals to assembling furniture, organizing donations, gardening at Marisol Health and talking with participants at multiple Catholic Charities ministries.

As Catholic Charities launches a major new initiative this summer—doubling the number of women it serves in shelter services — volunteers remain the heartbeat of service.

“Having somebody be there to share a smile or to share a hello — just a friendly word of encouragement and support — we have no idea the kind of impact and positive change that can make in somebody’s life,” said Mark Hahn, who heads volunteer and parish relations for Catholic Charities.

The COVID-19 pandemic somewhat limited volunteer opportunities in 2020 and into 2021. But that has now opened up. Catholic Charities invites individuals, families and groups to serve, as well as companies that would like to have employees volunteer together as a team-building exercise.

“We have great ways for families to come and volunteer, whether for a special day, project or recurring service,” said Hahn, noting that volunteers at Samaritan House in downtown Denver can be as young as 13 years old, with a guardian present.

A major new need is for volunteers to serve meals at the new Samaritan House 48th, located in northeast Denver, which is opening this summer. Those openings are for

volunteers 18 years and older, and are well suited for volunteer groups who would like to serve together either once in a while or on a regular basis.

“We’re looking for an additional 1,000 hours in volunteer need per month,” said Hahn. “It’s a big undertaking. It’s a big request from the community. That help is going to be paramount.”

Samaritan House 48th, combined with the downtown location and one on Smith Road, will double shelter capacity to serve women, making Catholic Charities of Denver — by far — the leading provider in Colorado of shelter, food and support for women experiencing homelessness.

“We are expecting that we will have up to 250 to 275 women that we’re caring for at Samaritan House 48th,” said Hahn. “That means three meals a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, that we need to have volunteers supporting those women, and making sure that they have help during those meals.”

Depending on the job, volunteers can go quickly from sign-up to service. Training may be required.

Volunteers can expect a health screen onsite and to wear a mask while serving at the shelters. The time commitment can be as little as two hours.

“Volunteering with Catholic Charities provides a time you can set aside to be in service to others,” said Hahn. ❤️

SOME WAYS YOU CAN SERVE OTHERS BY VOLUNTEERING WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Find many volunteer opportunities at
ccdenvr.org/volunteer.



Serve a meal to a neighbor at Samaritan House Fort Collins or at the Guadalupe Community Center in Greeley.



Get food ready for distribution at Little Flower Assistance Center in Aurora.



Provide baby items for a family in need through Marisol Services.



Visit a senior living in our affordable housing.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEEDS YOU!

Volunteers are, without question, the glue of Catholic Charities and, without them, we simply couldn’t do our work. In emerging from the pandemic and gearing up for the opening of Samaritan House 48th in Denver, Catholic Charities is actively recruiting volunteers for meal service and many other opportunities. If you, or a group you lead, is interested in volunteering, please visit ccdenvr.org/volunteer or connect with **Mark Hahn at MHahn@ccdenvr.org and 720-799-9297**.

TERRY PELTES: WE CAN ALL PROVIDE HOPE TO OTHERS



Terry Peltes and his family have served at Samaritan House for years. In 2019, they received the Courteney Saeman Volunteer of the Year Award. In his own words, he shares how volunteering his time, treasure and talents to Catholic Charities has made a world of difference for his family and the neighbors they serve.

Some of the women we serve have been victims of domestic abuse or have mental health issues and some have just experienced the terrible misfortune that we all pray never comes to anyone we know or love... Most feel that they are unworthy of love or kindness and this crippling despair has robbed them of any hope that their tomorrow will be any better than their today.

But all is not lost for them. I've witnessed firsthand the life-giving and life-changing effects that the services provided at Samaritan House have on the lives of those we serve. If only for a few hours a day, our sisters and brothers experience the love and compassion of Our Lord through the work of the employees and volunteers. Their isolation is lifted and the Samaritan House becomes their refuge from spending their days not knowing whether they will have something to eat or whether they will have a warm place to sleep. It becomes the place of safety and hope for those who face violence and humiliation on the streets, unsanitary living conditions and the moment-to-moment battle for survival. It is the place where they can rest from a day of constant struggles that none of us could ever imagine.

My family and I find our own fulfillment and redemption in our work at this very special place. My hope and prayer is that together, with the generosity of all donors and volunteers, we will continue to be that place of refuge that brings the hope and love of Jesus Christ to those who are desperate for his help. If anyone has questions about the impact of the work that is done at Sam House or how they can get involved to serve, I'd love to speak with them!

Read more about the Peltes family's experience at ccdenver.org/newsroom. In addition, Terry Peltes invites you to email him at peltesterry@gmail.com. ❤️



During a Sam's Supper benefit in 2019, the Peltes family received the Courteney Saeman Volunteer of the Year Award from Catholic Charities President and CEO Darren Walsh, left, and Chief Development Officer Craig Saeman, right. Photo by James Baca.

THE MISSION RENAMED SAMARITAN HOUSE FORT COLLINS



Big news for Larimer County: The Mission Fort Collins is now operating as **Samaritan House Fort Collins!**

Though the name has changed, the mission remains the same. For 32 years, Catholic Charities of Larimer County has been a leader in advocating for our community's most vulnerable and marginalized members. Thanks to our community's generous support, we serve residents of Fort Collins, Loveland and the surrounding area. In addition to a place to stay, our clients are partnered with case managers who provide guidance and resources with the goal that each neighbor will obtain stable income and housing.

"Changing the name to Samaritan House Fort Collins is a meaningful and descriptive evolution for our ministry. Not only does it distinguish our services in Larimer County with a strong brand, but it acknowledges a significant shift in focus and service delivery, aligning more closely with our larger organizational prioritization of providing for women and families with children through all of life's stages," explains Joe Domko, Catholic Charities Regional Director. ❤️

GIVING NEIGHBORS A HAND UP

Catholic Charities shelters provide short- and long-term housing and supportive services with the objective to help participants and guests become self-reliant. In addition to clothing, food, and support services, we decrease chances that participants will become homeless again by providing services including job assistance, money management classes and case management.

HELPING VETERANS GET BACK IN THE SADDLE



A couple of veterans who live at Samaritan House visited Pam and Bob Thode's property in Broomfield to spend time with their horses—learning to put a rope halter on, brush and lead the horses. It wasn't horseplay, but part of the Samaritan House Veterans Services program that gives participants ongoing equine therapy.

"They're very nice. They're nice to be around," said Joe, originally from New York State, who served in the U.S. Air Force in the 1970s.

Mitch, a Coloradan who served in the U.S. Army from 2009 to 2012, got a kick out of his strong-willed horse. "He's the master of the house!"

Samaritan House helps many veterans like Joe and Mitch get back in the saddle and rebuild their lives. The Veterans Services program assists with shelter, nutritious meals, case management and more. Kristine West, veterans services program manager, took the veterans to the Thode's home to learn to interact with horses and, in some cases, see them up close for the first time. They have offered the equine therapy experience for veterans over several years.

Bob Thode led the group in a lesson on how to lead a horse.

"You want to look at where you want to go," he demonstrated while holding the lead rope. "So I look at the cone and I say 'walk on.'"

The veterans also learned how to brush the horses.

Veterans, women and families have called Samaritan House "home" since it first opened its doors in 1986, serving thousands of people over the decades. ❤️



Samaritan House Veterans Services Program Manager Kristine West helps brush a horse during an equine therapy visit with participants in the veterans program.



Joe, left, and Mitch, veterans staying at Samaritan House in Denver, learn to interact with horses through an equine therapy experience offered.

NEW PARENTS FIND LIFE GETS BETTER WITH MARISOL HEALTH



HELP FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Marisol Services provides comprehensive care to include health care, housing and human services. It offers an innovative model to provide individuals with a seamless range of services, including helping women and men with unexpected pregnancies; providing medical care for those who are unable to access high-quality reproductive care; and offering counseling, housing, early childhood education and additional supportive resources.

Jami was once taught not to ask for help, but when she found Marisol Health and a supportive community that helped her through pregnancy and the challenges of early motherhood, life got better.

“Now we can sleep at night,” the 28-year-old mom said about herself and husband Aaron. “We went so long without asking for help, just struggling. We didn’t need to—and once we had (our daughter) we didn’t. From the time I knew I was pregnant, we knew who to call for resources.”

The new parents accessed almost every resource offered by Marisol Health—a medical clinic that provides a full range of women’s health care and social services that is run by Catholic Charities—in Lafayette. Jami relied on a case manager, a mentor and a medical team before she sought community with other mothers.

“We had some struggles through the pandemic but we were still able to get diapers,” said Jami, adding that it reduced their stress. Now a member of a postpartum mom’s group at Marisol Health called New Beginnings, Jami said the community she’s found is invaluable.

“It was really nice to meet other moms and hear they’ve had other issues, too, and not feel so stranded,” Jami said. “Just emotionally, the mom’s group has been that support network that we’ve been missing out on. It’s been very nice to see healthy family dynamics. We didn’t know what that looked like.”

Lara O’Shaughnessy, a Marisol Services specialist, said many mothers are like Jami who are seeking support after starting a family.

“Many of the mothers who are in most need of our social services are young, alienated from their former social circles and feel isolated,” O’Shaughnessy said. “Realizing they are

not alone in their struggles as new parents is transformative in reinventing their identity and building their self-confidence.”

Jami shared that she and her husband each grew up in abusive households and experienced trauma.

“I feel like most people when they are pregnant go to their moms. I didn’t really have that help,” she said. “Before we had our daughter, we cut off ties (with our families). At Marisol, they’re all so welcoming. It’s absolutely wonderful there.” A friend first told her about Marisol Health and Jami went to get a pregnancy test. The staff walked with her through the pregnancy and the birth of their daughter, Aella. “She was born a little early and they were super-concerned about her,” Jami said about their daughter who was born underweight. “It was scary. The beginning of her life was long and frustrating.”

Now potty-training their healthy 2-and-a-half-year-old, Jami says the staff and other moms continue to show support. From the phone calls and holiday dinners and resources, Marisol is the community she was missing.

“There’s this big stigma on having to do things yourself. There needs to be more emphasis on community,” Jami said. “Nobody is an island unto themselves. You can’t do it alone. ... There’s no shame in it. I feel like I’ve gone into a welcoming and loving community from the beginning.”

O’Shaughnessy, who leads the mother’s groups, said she has watched Jami become a more seasoned and confident mother while also offering support to others. “Over the past two years, I have witnessed Jami grow as a woman and mother,” she said. “She has shared with us her challenges and successes as a new mom. Both she and Aaron share a beautiful partnership in raising their daughter. We are so proud of how they have grown as committed and loving parents.” ❤️

SUPPORTING NEIGHBORS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.



Catholic Charities reaches far and wide across Northern Colorado and does more than most people expect. Here's a quick look at some of the ways we're supporting neighbors and transforming lives.

Little Flower Assistance Center in Aurora completed inside renovations and finished exterior updates, thanks to generous donors and a supportive community. The center, which provides food, clothing and resources, was remodeled to better serve families and seniors.

Welcome to Samaritan House Fort Collins, formerly known as The Mission in Fort Collins. The announcement came during the successful benefit dinner — Meal with a Mission — held at Anheuser-Busch Biergarten on June 12. More than \$70,000 was raised from generous families and local businesses.

Catholic Charities Early Childhood Education opened a seventh location, named Quigg Newton, and began in-person classes in early June. Applications are being accepted now for all of our locations. Visit ccdenver.org/ece.

St. Raphael Counseling held its spring marriage conference at St. Mary Parish in Littleton and a series of presentations at Bishop Machebeuf High School.

Kinship Services, a Catholic Charities program that helps relatives — such as grandparents, aunts and uncles — to raise children, distributed 60 art at hand boxes to families in partnership with the Denver Art Museum. The boxes are a fun way for families to experience art at home.

A team of volunteers came to **Marisol Health in Denver** for a “garden day” to plant flowers in the prayer garden. Marisol Health is grateful for their supportive community of volunteers and donors.

Respect Life Denver continues to offer presentations for students from fifth grade through high school on life issues. Learn more by emailing life@ccdenver.org.

Catholic Charities Seniors Services is working with the Denver Regional Council of Governments to provide a new digital program for people 60+ to help prevent falling at home.

Prayer in the Square hosts public prayer events on the first Saturday of each month at locations in Denver metro and beyond. Find out more at prayerinthesquare.com.

MARISOL WOMEN'S SERVICES

- Marisol Health
- Marisol Homes
- Gabriel House Project



SHELTER SERVICES

- Samaritan House (Denver Downtown, 48th, Smith)
- Samaritan House Fort Collins
- Guadalupe Community Center (Greeley)

ARCHDIOCESAN HOUSING

- 30 service-enriched affordable housing complexes

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Kinship Services
- Senior Services
- Little Flower Assistance Center
- Emergency Assistance
- Immigration Services
- Western Slope Services
- Bottom Line Diaper Bank



SUPPORTING NEIGHBORS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- 7 ECE facilities
- Early Head Start & Head Start Programs

COUNSELING SERVICES

- St. Raphael Counseling
- Homebased Counseling



FAITH IN ACTION

- Volunteer Relations
- Respect Life Denver
- Respect Life Radio
- Ecumenical Outreach
- Parish Ambassador Program