

# CHARITY WORKS

**SUPPORTING NEIGHBORS. TRANSFORMING LIVES.**

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*"For the Son of  
Man did not come  
to be served but to  
serve and to give his  
life as a ransom  
for many."*

– Mark 10:45



# LETTER FROM THE CEO



Visit online at [ccdenvr.org](http://ccdenvr.org) or call 303-742-0828 to learn more, volunteer or make a donation.

## 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.

*"For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."* – Mark 10:45

Dear Friends,

Together with our amazing and dedicated volunteers and donors, the Catholic Charities team is blessed to be able to serve our neighbors experiencing food insecurity, job loss, homelessness and mental health challenges. In this edition of Charity Works, you'll learn more about how our volunteers and donors have made the work of Catholic Charities of Denver life-changing for so many.

All seven of the Catholic Charities ministries changed and adapted during the pandemic and continued to serve our neighbors with the grace and dignity they deserve. Moving forward, we will continue to lean on our volunteers, partners, donors and the entire community to help us navigate our new future.

If you keep Catholic Charities and the neighbors we support in your prayers, serve a meal or contribute to our agency in any way, we thank you. We need you and we're grateful for you.

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.

[ccdenvr.org/newsroom](http://ccdenvr.org/newsroom)

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TRANSFORMING LIVES.**

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- Guadalupe Community Center (Greeley)

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# FALLING INTO SERVICE

## SERVING EACH PERSON — AND THE WHOLE FAMILY — AT MARISOL HEALTH

Blaise Buches and Anthony Phan, two seminarians from St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, were assigned to Catholic Charities for the month of July. They learned about, and served at, various ministries. Particularly memorable for Buches was Marisol Health in Lafayette, which provides medical health services, including to women with unexpected pregnancies.

"Their outlook was very much of the whole person and the whole family — in a way that you don't really find in many places anymore," said Buches. "We're here for the mother, for her right now, just for her. And we're here for the father, just him. We're here for the child and just the child. All individually and all together at the same time."

Marisol Health "had a very Catholic feel to it, in a correct understanding of the person and their needs and their desires," said Buches. ♥

Blaise Buches, at right, and Anthony Phan



## YOU CAN SERVE, TOO!

Not sure how to give back this fall season? There are multiple ways to donate and support those in need based on your interests and ability. Monetary donations - call the donor relations line at 720-799-9311. Volunteer - sign up for opportunities at [ccdenver.org/volunteer](http://ccdenver.org/volunteer). Donate your vehicle - visit [ccdenver.org/donateacar](http://ccdenver.org/donateacar). In-kind donations - call 720-799-9311 or drop off items during business hours at 2301 Lawrence St. in Denver. Year-end giving - make a donation to a shelter or childcare center and receive a tax credit. Pray - become a member of the St. Teresa of Calcutta Prayer Society at [ccdenver.org/prayer](http://ccdenver.org/prayer).

## BEHIND THE SEAMS, "SEWING LADY" CREATES CLOTH MASKS FOR SHELTERS

At the Samaritan House, Claudia Miller became known as the "sewing lady."

More than teaching a new skill to residents, she became their companion, offering a friendly face and a chance to help them build confidence.

"That's why I like teaching—I'm helping them to build confidence...and trust that they can do this," said Claudia, a mom of five who has taught sewing for 13 years. "But it's not about the sewing. It's about how I can help build people up with success in making something small, even simply running the sewing machine."

After COVID-19 hit, Claudia shared her skills again by sewing approved cloth facial coverings to help protect staff, volunteers and residents at a time when face masks were on backorder. Hundreds of masks have since been donated and continue to help the most vulnerable served by Catholic Charities.

For her volunteer efforts, Claudia received the annual Courteney Saeman Volunteer Award during the annual Sam's Supper benefit dinner held in September at Mile High Station in Denver. ♥

Claudia Miller



## FOCUS MISSIONARIES DEDICATE WEEK TO SERVICE

Noah, Mary Hope and Josephine and other staff of Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) came to the new Samaritan House 48th location to serve meals to the women. The experience was fulfilling for the group who understands service as the heart of following Christ and loving others in need.

The group also talked to women who recently moved into the shelter location, opened by Catholic Charities to provide the dignity, respect and needed services for women experiencing homelessness. ♥

Noah, Mary Hope and Josephine



# ARCHDIOCESAN HOUSING PURSUING THREE MAJOR PROJECTS TO ADDRESS AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Archdiocesan Housing, Inc., (AHI) which manages 30 properties that house about 3,000 residents, is moving forward on three major projects on Colorado's Front Range that could add another 147 units of much-needed affordable housing in the years ahead.

"We have several projects in the pipeline, but these are our big three today," said Justin Raddatz, vice president of development at AHI, a subsidiary of Catholic Charities, which has identified homeless households and senior citizens as two of the population groups it serves with strategic housing initiatives in Northern Colorado.

All Saints Apartments is a proposed 63-unit apartment building to serve very low-income senior households. It will be on the campus of All Saints Catholic Church on South Federal Boulevard in Denver.

"This will be the first partnership in a long time between the Archdiocese of Denver and AHI," said Raddatz. "We really hope that this All Saints project becomes a model that we utilize over and over again with other large parcels of land that the Archdiocese owns — and which we can build housing on."

In Loveland, the goal of the 54-unit St. Valentine Apartments is to serve people experiencing homelessness. It is a Supportive Housing project, meaning there will be case management resources on site to help residents to get the social services and counseling that they may need to overcome any obstacles in their way of becoming independent. Supportive Housing is nationally known as the best practice to eradicate chronic homelessness and has been successful in hundreds of projects around the country including AHI's Guadalupe Apartments in Greeley.

"We're going to be serving the most vulnerable of the vulnerable at St. Valentine Apartments," said Raddatz of the Loveland project. "That's squarely within the AHI and Catholic Charities' mission."

The third initiative, Immaculata Plaza II Apartments in Greeley, is an expansion of current AHI efforts there.

"The Greeley project serves extremely low-income seniors," said Raddatz. "Those are folks who typically have less than 30% of the effective Area Median Income (AMI). Maybe they're getting Social Security or disability income, but that's it."

Raddatz noted, "We already own and operate a 25-unit building serving extremely low-income seniors right next door. We're building 30 more units of the exact same thing as an extension of service to other seniors in need." ♥

## ARCHDIOCESAN HOUSING OF DENVER

Archdiocesan Housing provides supportive, affordable, service-enriched housing complexes for individuals and families who cannot access appropriate housing at affordable prices. It's no secret that the cost of housing across Colorado is prohibitive for many of our neighbors, and Catholic Charities, in concert with our property management group Housing Management Services, makes a safe, secure, clean place to live available for thousands of people.

We currently own and manage more than 1,700 units of affordable housing in 30 locations throughout Colorado and Wyoming, and we continue to grow and develop new locations. We care for seniors, families, people with disabilities and individuals who have experienced homelessness, and provide them with additional support services to encourage long-term and sustainable housing security.



- 63-unit low-income senior housing project on the Archdiocese of Denver's campus of the Church of All Saints on Federal Blvd. in Denver.
- Residents of all units will be independent seniors aged 62 and over who qualify as low-income under the terms set forth by regulatory agencies.
- It will feature a single four-story elevator-serviced building with Juliet balconies, first floor storefront glass and plentiful common areas.
- With a 12-month construction timeline, the estimated \$18 million project would be completed in November 2023.



### Immaculata Plaza II Apartments in Greeley



- 30-unit Section 8 senior housing project located on 10th Ave. in Greeley.
- The proposed plan extends the existing 25-unit Immaculata Plaza building into a 55-unit campus for seniors qualifying for Section 8.
- Residents of all 55 units will be independent seniors aged 62 and over who qualify as extremely low-income under the terms of the Section 8 contract.
- The \$12 million project could break ground around April 2022, with completion expected to take about a year.



### St. Valentine Apartments in Loveland

- St. Valentine Apartments is a 54-unit Supportive Housing project serving a portion of the 157 documented homeless individuals in Loveland.
- It will have 48 one-bedroom apartments and six two-bedroom apartments.
- The \$17 million project could break ground by May 2022, with a goal to open its doors in June 2023.

Go to [archhousing.com](http://archhousing.com) to learn more about Archdiocesan Housing, Inc.

## HELP FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Marisol Services provides comprehensive care that includes health care, housing and human services. It offers an innovative model to provide individuals with a seamless range of services, including helping families 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.

# MOM SAYS MARISOL HOMES IS LIKE EXTENDED FAMILY



Michelle says singing is a form of worship for her.

"I sing all the time," said the 39-year-old mother. "I sing when I need to drown out my sorrows. God has got me through a lot of things. [He] is my main man."

Michelle is a participant at Marisol Homes, a long-term home and program for single mothers and pregnant women, many who have fled domestic violence. Michelle sang to a crowd of Marisol supporters at the Catholic Charities' Songs of Hope event August 8. Seven musicians performed while people sat in lawn chairs or blankets and enjoyed a picnic dinner.

Then Michelle sang songs made famous by pop singer Adele. Michelle also shared her experience that led her to Marisol Homes.

"Before I came to Marisol Homes I was trapped in the cycles of domestic violence and drug addiction," she shared. "I would use drugs to be able to withstand my daily life. I was circling the toilet bowl of negativity when I was accepted into Marisol Homes."

In December 2020, Michelle moved in with Felicity, her daughter born 10 months prior, and started a new life. She achieved sobriety and took advantage of many classes to help with grief and learn parenting skills.

"I'm learning new things every day here," said Michelle, who also has a 20-year-old and 11-year-old living in other states. "It's kind of like having your extended family that expects the most out of you. They give you the support. It's been really nurturing." ♥



Michelle and her baby, Felicity



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM SONGS OF HOPE



# COOKING WITH SAM HOUSE



Cooking for large groups can be a daunting challenge. Just ask Nathan Bliemeister, the kitchen supervisor at Samaritan House in downtown Denver, who oversees the operation that produces three meals a day for hundreds of participants experiencing homelessness.

What's his secret sauce for successful meals?

"I always approach everything I cook in that kitchen as if it would be something I would serve to my grandmother," he shared. "Then I can serve that to anyone with a smile on my face and not worry about a thing."

Working together 365 days a year, the Samaritan House kitchen staff prepare and cook nearly 500,000 nutritious meals for families, veterans and women at multiple Samaritan House locations. They also prepare meals for children at Catholic Charities' Early Childhood Education centers.

Bliemeister's number one tip for cooking for large groups is to stay organized, clean and make sure knives are sharpened. Second, have a plan for leftovers, he says.

"I always like to check on the wholesomeness or quality of what I'm offering," he said. "If it's something that can be utilized for another meal, I will go down that route. Most of the time we will ... make a soup out of it."

He suggests overproducing a little beyond the expected guest list with the idea of sending some home with leftovers.

With lots of planning, the right kitchen tools and a dash of love, Nathan said meals made at home or for large groups will be a huge hit. ♥



## REBUILD AND RESTORE

### RENOVATION PROJECT

Help Samaritan House continue to serve delicious and nutritious meals by supporting its capital campaign. Visit [samhousedenver.org](http://samhousedenver.org) for details.

## SAMARITAN HOUSE MEATLOAF

Total time: 1 hour 30 minutes  
A frequent dish at Samaritan House due to popular demand, this meatloaf delight is sure to please your guests, too. Our chefs recommend this recipe.

### INGREDIENTS

1/2 tablespoon olive oil  
1/2 cup yellow onion, finely diced  
1/2 cup bell pepper, finely diced  
2 pounds 80% lean ground beef  
1-1/2 sleeves of crushed Ritz crackers, 32 count, equal to one cup crushed  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
1 cup sharp parmesan cheese, grated  
1/2 cup whole milk  
1 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. black pepper

### For the Topping:

1/2-3/4 cup ketchup  
2 tbsp. brown sugar  
1 tsp. yellow mustard

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven 350 degrees F.
2. Optional: Sauté the diced peppers and onions in a small pan with the canola oil until softened, about 5 minutes. This gives them a more subtle flavor and texture.
3. Crush the Ritz crackers so that they resemble fine breadcrumbs.
4. In a large bowl mix the eggs, cracker crumbs, onion, bell pepper, cheese, milk, salt and black pepper. Add ground beef and mix until just combined. Don't overwork the meat!
5. Form it in a loaf and place it into a loaf pan. Not using a loaf pan can result in the loaf falling apart. It also takes much longer to cook, which causes it to dry out.
6. Bake for 30 minutes. Combine the topping ingredients while it bakes and set aside.
7. Remove the meatloaf and brush on the topping. Bake for an additional 30-40 minutes. (Pull it once it reaches 155 degrees.)
8. Let it rest for 15 minutes in the loaf pan prior to slicing in. It will increase 8-10 degrees in temperature during this time. Ensure the middle is 160 degrees before you slice it.
9. Serve with creamy mashed potatoes and enjoy!

## 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.*



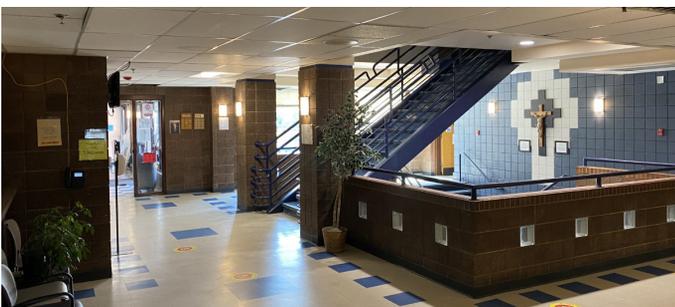
Gabriel House Project announced its new name — Marisol Family — during a live concert event called Songs of Hope on August 8. We are continuing to serve families at 12 location across the Front Range with diapers, materials and educational support.

Dominican Brothers, Jacob (pictured right) and Augustine, assisted staff and residents at Marisol Homes every Wednesday for the past year. The staff said goodbye to them as they move to St. Louis for their next chapter in college. Pray for them on this incredible journey to the priesthood!



Marisol Health celebrated its five-year anniversary on July 1. Since its inception, Marisol Health has served nearly 4,000 individuals. In July, the team hosted an annual "Brick Blessing" in the Marisol Health Denver prayer garden in appreciation for donors and volunteers who support its crucial work.

Samaritan House Fort Collins is preparing to open its women's shelter to a 24/7 operation. Guadalupe Community Center in Greeley is finalizing plans for its cold weather shelter.



Samaritan House Denver began Phase III of its capital campaign renovations. The next steps include construction of a new freight elevator for the kitchen operation. Learn more at [samhousedenver.org](http://samhousedenver.org).

Samaritan House 48th is now serving more than 100 — and up to 270 — women at that location. The overnight emergency shelter at Samaritan House downtown has expanded its number of beds to 40 to accommodate more women. If you have an interest in volunteering, please sign up at [ccd Denver.org/volunteer](http://ccd Denver.org/volunteer).



Catholic Charities' School Supply Drive was a success this year after churches and groups donated more than 700 backpacks filled with supplies for low-income families. Thanks to all parishes and individuals who participated!

Respect Life Denver is hosting 40 Days for Life 365 in Denver as a new location. The aim is to have a prayer presence outside the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic, at 7155 E. 38th Ave., in Denver, 365 days of the year. We are also gearing up for the 40 Days for Life fall campaign, from Sept. 22 to Oct. 31. Sign up at [40DaysforLife.com/Denver](http://40DaysforLife.com/Denver) for vigil hours, and encourage family and friends to sign up. You can also search for other campaign locations in Colorado at [40DaysforLife.com](http://40DaysforLife.com).



Two Catholic Charities Early Childhood Education (ECE) centers — Child Development Center and Margery Reed — are participating in their second Federal Review as a partner with Clayton Early Learning. Good Luck TEAM!

Three other ECE center locations — Garfield, Annunciation and Kentucky — are enrolling for the fall, with some building and technology upgrades complete.

Mulroy Senior Center is phasing back in-person activities. In addition, Senior Services, Archdiocesan Housing, Inc., and the Bottom Line Diaper Bank are collaborating to ensure older adults in the community get the incontinence supplies they need in a dignified and efficient way.

St. Raphael Counseling is recruiting new staff for its outpatient clinic and school counseling program to meet the increasing need for mental health services.



Respect Life Denver will host its next Gospel of Life presentation with Cathy Ruse, governor of Ave Maria School of Law, speaking on "Sex Education in Public Schools." To give more people the opportunity to attend, she will be offering the same presentation at St. Thomas More Catholic Parish in Centennial at 7 p.m. Friday, October 22, and at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Parish in Northglenn at 10 a.m. Saturday, October 23. Learn more at [RespectLifeDenver.org](http://RespectLifeDenver.org).