Happy Easter!

By Chris Ice, CEO
Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph

Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians 5:14, states in part, “the love of Christ impels us.” Not coincidentally, this is also Bishop James Johnston’s Episcopal Motto (in Latin), “Caritas Christi Urget Nos.”

Pope Benedict in his Apostolic Letter, Porta Fidei, stated that “it is the love of Christ that fills our hearts and impels us to evangelize.” We at Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph are here to serve, change hearts and evangelize because the love of Christ impels us.

As I reflect during the Lenten season on the great things we accomplish at Catholic Charities, people don’t always understand who we are or what we do. We are not just another charitable organization. We are the charitable arm of the Diocese who serves the poor and vulnerable in our 27-county area. We don’t just serve their earthly needs, but also strive to serve their spiritual needs.

People are born with a huge “hole” in their heart and are not sure how to fill this “hole” or longing that God designed to be filled with him. When they arrive at our doorstep broken and lonely, we are here to lift them up by first attending to their temporal needs and then to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and give them hope for their future.

May you have a blessed Triduum and Happy Easter. We are praying for you!

“Caritas Christi Urget Nos.”
“The Love of Christ impels us.”

816.659.8201
cice@ccharities.com
Encountering a Veteran
By Kevin Murphy,
Executive Director of Marketing and Communications

Leaving the grocery store with my hot lunch in hand, I was intent on getting back to the office. As the newest employee at Catholic Charities, I didn’t want to breach their 30-minute time allocation for lunch, so I quickly grabbed a piece of chicken from under the heated lamp, checked-out, and was making my way toward the double set of sliding exit doors.

Still unsure, I begrudgingly replied, “What do you need?”

Flashing his veterans ID, the man continued. “I’m a veteran and I just need a ride home. My wife has cancer and I’m only working part-time so I can take care of her. I just need a ride.”

After discovering the man lived only a few miles away, I agreed to give him a lift. Our exchange must have lasted a bit too long because the grocery stores on-duty police officer interrupted us, urging us to take our conversation outside so the door sensors would be allowed to close.

Together, this perfect stranger and I set out for my car. The walk I dreaded walking alone just a few minutes earlier, now passed in a flash. As we settled into my car and the heat began blowing at our feet, our conversation again took flight.

As the first set of doors blew open, I felt the crippling cold of Kansas City’s record low temperatures. It’s the kind of heavy, damp cold that penetrates bone. Simultaneously, I spotted my car in the distance and dreaded the long walk.

I didn’t think I parked that far away when I entered but re-emerging from a warm store back into the reality of the cold, biting wind, made my car appear much further away.

Before passing through the final set of doors, a voice stopped me, “Excuse me sir, can you help me?”

Unfortunately, like many who are approached in this manner, a learned, cynical, almost auto-defense mechanism kicks in. I warily turned to discover an older gentleman, perhaps someone’s grandfather, standing behind me holding two small plastic bags of groceries. He didn’t appear to be in crisis, but when he spoke his voice was shaky and deeply pained.

He looked at me with a felt need to respond. “Just because you need help, doesn’t mean you have to look like it.”

The man relayed how he had asked others before me for help and was shocked when one person quipped, “You don’t look like you need help.” For some reason, that careless comment cut him to the quick. His appearance was neat, not disheveled, an obvious point of pride. Perhaps this was a result of his military background, I’m not sure, but one thing I do know, that remark unsettled him.

He looked at me with a felt need to respond. “Just because you need help, doesn’t mean you have to look like it.”

By now, most of my defenses had melted away and I converted to full help mode.

catholiccharities-kcsj.org Please remember Catholic Charities in your will or estate plan. facebook.com/charitycatholic @charitycatholic
Our new Kansas City Office is located at 4001 Blue Parkway, Suite 250, Kansas City, MO 64130 and are open Monday to Friday. Come visit us and pray in Our Lady Undoer of Knots Chapel.
I listened as the man continued to share how tough life had become. With each need he unveiled, either spoken or unspoken, I had a solution – Catholic Charities!

- He didn’t have a car – Catholic Charities can provide a bus pass.
- He was only working part-time – Catholic Charities can hone your job skills, build your resume, even set up one-on-one interviews with select companies!
- He was a veteran – Catholic Charities offers a retinue of services tailored to veterans.
- His two grocery bags held a few miniscule items – Catholic Charities can help provide basic food allowing you to focus on the bigger picture of life.

I implored him to visit our Welcome Center located just 15 minutes from his home. “We’re in a new location,” I shared. “It’s the same building as Mazuma Credit Union right off Blue Parkway.” His voice perked up, “I know where that is! ”Well, praise God I found you! Thank you, Jesus!” he exclaimed.

By now, I had arrived at his driveway. Our encounter was about to end as abruptly as it began. I shook his hand, told him I hoped to see him again, and slowly drove away from his home at the bottom of a dead-end road.

Contemplating the encounter on the way back to my office, I knew God sent this man my way for a reason. As the new director of marketing and communications for Catholic Charities-KCSJ, God made clear the task before me: to capture all that Catholic Charities-KCSJ does and present it to those who might use our services, as well as the myriad of people who influence the acceptance of those same services.

The task is monumental, because Catholic Charities-KCSJ doesn’t have a single product or service. Instead, our focus areas have developed over time, becoming nuanced. Within each focus area are layers of services. This was purposeful, as we strove to walk with our clients, surround them with service, and ultimately escort them out of poverty. It summoned creativity, sparking multi-faceted programs.

“Well, praise God
I found you!
Thank you, Jesus!”

he exclaimed.

While there are many charitable organizations which perform a single act and they are not to be diminished, the approach of Catholic Charities-KCSJ is different. It is best captured in the words of Pope John Paul II when he addressed Catholic Charities in 1987:

“Service to those in need must take the form of direct action to relieve their anxieties and to remove their burdens, and at the same time lead them to the dignity of self-reliance.”

Like all great Catholic teaching this doesn’t pit one activity against another but sees both as
OUTPACE POVERTY
WALK/FUN RUN
FAMILY FESTIVAL
APRIL 21, 2018
LOOSE PARK

Join us for the 6th Annual Outpace Poverty Walk, Fun Run, and Family Festival. We’re making great strides in the fight against poverty in our communities. By joining us at Outpace Poverty 2018, you’re making a difference for our neighbors in need — including one in five children living in Northwest Missouri.

Grab your friends and build your team!
• Start with family and friends
• Ask coworkers
• Share with your church, school, or neighbors
• Use your social network

OUTPACEPOVERTY.ORG

REGISTRATION 8:00 A.M. START 9:00 A.M.

VISIT OUTPACEPOVERTY.ORG OR TEXT “OUTPACE” TO 71777 TO REGISTER!
complimentary. For example, in Catholic teaching it’s not Faith or Works but rather faith working itself out through love (Gal 5:6); it’s not the Bible or Tradition, but rather the Bible and Tradition (2 Thess 2:15); it’s not loving God or loving neighbor but loving God & neighbor (Matthew 22:34-40); so too, it’s not just meeting our clients immediate need but simultaneously lifting them to the dignity of self-reliance.

Therefore, Catholic Charities-KCSJ’s model flows from this wisdom:

Welcome Center

This is where all clients begin; where we address their immediate need for food, clothing, shelter, hygiene products, diapers, etc. If we stopped with this activity alone, we’d be performing a good deed. After all, we are called to feed, clothe and comfort. However, our good deed would be stunted because we failed to uncover the root cause of someone’s poverty and therefore poverty, like a demon, lurks at the door, ever-pressing and ready to devour. Instead, the Welcome Center meets their immediate need while simultaneously conducting an intake process which seeks to unveil the causative agent. Information gathered through casual conversation signals a client’s path through our other programs.

Child and Family Services

The family has been called “the first and most important path” man walks in his social life therefore, it heads our list of program offerings. Here we offer classes designed for Mom’s with children under the age of one, adoption services, parenting skills for parents with children under the age of five, financial literacy classes and even deaf and disabled ministries.

Workforce Development

In this area, we offer basic job training skills, resumes and even one-on-one job interviews with companies seeking to hire. Since work is key to the whole social question of man, it is likewise center in our offerings.

Housing

Housing is a Catholic Charities foundation! It represents more than mere shelter, rather it provides security, dignity and a place where families can fully develop. In our programs, we offer homelessness prevention services, shelter referrals, permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities and rapid re-housing for veterans.

In the following pages, each of these focus area’s will detail more of what we do at Catholic Charities Kansas City-St. Joseph and during this Holy Week, you might consider walking with us as we seek to serve and to lift those in need.
Welcome Center

By Kisha Thomas,
Director of Welcome Center

What is the Welcome Center?
The Catholic Charities Kansas City-St. Joseph Welcome Center serves as the single point of entry for all client engagement, representing a unique and innovative approach to reducing poverty. Its uniqueness lies in the process which first seeks to meet a client’s immediate need, but also, seeks to uncover the potential underlying cause for crisis such as housing, medical, transportation, unemployment, or other looming factors known for provoking instability.

How does the Welcome Center work?
A client visits the Catholic Charities offices located at 4001 Blue Parkway (Suite 250) in Kansas City or 1123 S. 10th Street in St. Joseph and is directed to a Resource Specialist within the Welcome Center. This specialist is knowledgeable in the array of resources available both internally and externally, and through casual conversation, helps direct a client’s path.

- 92% of clients reported that they gained resources which will help meet their long-term needs.
- 91% of clients reported their sense of wellbeing improved.
- 95% of clients reported they had their immediate need met.

Since its inception, the Welcome Center has provided:

- 25,706 pounds of food
- 38,260 pieces of clothing
- 71,149 hygiene items
- 3,327 packs of diapers
- 7,408 bus passes

Is the Welcome Center unique?
While there are over 8,000 charities in the Kansas City – St. Joseph area, there is only one Catholic Charities offering this Welcome Center concept!

Other charitable organizations may seek to relieve immediate needs or remove burdens, but most do not dive deep enough into a client’s life to uncover the barriers hindering a client’s path to self-sufficiency. While immediate needs can be satisfied, without this form of sustainability planning the root cause for poverty will rear its head again in a short period of time.

Why is the Welcome Center approach critical to Catholic Charities – KCSJ?
At the heart of Catholic social teaching is the dignity of the human person. Giving aid to someone is indeed a righteous act but lifting them to self-reliance can be the most powerful method of reminding them of their God-given worth and of bearing His image and likeness.

What are the plans for growing the Welcome Center?
The Welcome Center is seeking to expand our services by adding a mobile unit(s) capable of delivering emergency assistance to the 27 counties within our diocese. Currently clients must visit one of our physical locations to experience the Welcome Center process. Obviously, this is a stumbling block for residents of our many rural communities which can range up to 120 miles away.

Can you help make our mobile units a reality?
Contact Kisha Thomas at kthomas@ccharities.com or 816.659.8237
As Easter approaches, it’s hard not to think about the trials Jesus went through in his final days on earth and how hard this must have been on his mother. Mothers want the best for their children and strive to do their best in raising children to be healthy, successful adults.

Although times have changed in the last two thousand years, just like Mary, we have to overcome the unique challenges of our day. Today’s challenges include social media, financial instabilities, food insecurities, peer pressure, etc., making parenting a daunting vocation.

Therefore, it is imperative families receive whatever support they need. As the charitable arm of the Kansas City-St. Joseph diocese, Catholic Charities-KCSJ has several programs designed to support families who struggle with poverty. These programs are designed to move a family from crisis to sustaining to thriving.

Since our inception in 1879, we have helped connect families through adoptions. While many parents choose to parent their children, there continues to be pregnant moms who yearn for a better life for their child, and through an ultimate act of selfless love, turn to Catholic Charities to facilitate their private adoption.

For parents who do choose to raise their children, we offer a series of programs — Mom’s Empowerment, St. Germaine’s Little Lambs, and Mazenod Mission. Although each program is geared towards different stages in a family’s life, each offers case management, support, education, and emergency assistance. These can be one-on-one sessions catered to individual needs and goals. Child development assessments are included, ensuring a child is on the right developmental path in accordance with their age. Small group Parent Café’s are fun and effective ways to build support networks.

All families served are low-income and their finances carry a heavy toll. The parents are either unemployed or underemployed. Many have not reached their highest desired education level. They are often behind on bills and struggling to stay housed. Thanks to the help of our case managers, families get enrolled in public benefits, including, SNAP, WIC, and Medicaid. Since education leads to self-reliance, our financial literacy programs inform families about budgeting, prioritizing bills, saving money and more. Thanks to a partnership with United Way of Greater Kansas City, we work with families to enroll young adults in our individual development accounts program where they are provided a match for higher education expenses. For every $1 the young adult puts into a school savings account, United Way matches up to $8. This money can then be used to cover the cost of tuition, books and necessary degree-related supplies so cost, as a barrier to education, can be lessened or removed.

The last program that makes up Child and Family Services is Deaf and Disability Ministries. This program focuses on supporting the Church’s work to be inclusive of individuals and families with disabilities. Masses are interpreted weekly for deaf parishioners. Open-door masses are hosted several times a year and parishioners with disabilities are invited to participate. If you’d like to set up a workshop on acceptance and inclusion for those with disabilities, please contact Theresa Hursh thursh@ccharities.com or call 816.659.8222.

Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, like the Church, considers serving the family one of our essential duties. Happy Easter!
Workforce Development

By Jennifer Baker,
Workforce Development Employment Specialist

From the time a client walks into the Workforce Development laboratory, the goal of Catholic Charities Kansas City-St. Joseph employment specialist is to tailor an experience which propels the client into gainful employment. This journey begins with exploration, discovering what the client’s employment goals and expectations are. From there, we take the client through a comprehensive training analysis which addresses the issue of motivation, and affirmation. These two elements are critical for those who have been away from the labor force for an extended period due to medical issues, incarceration, or other circumstances. To lift them to the dignity of self-reliance, we help identify their good qualities, affirm these qualities, and then remind them of the ultimate quality, being made in the image and likeness of God!

An initial phase in the training process, focuses on the dynamics of selling one’s skills to potential employers by creating a 30-second commercial. This “elevator pitch” not only highlights the client’s strengths but provides a platform to answer two of the most important and prevalent interview questions:

1. “Tell me about yourself”
2. “Why should I hire you?”

Our training program instructs clients on how to dress, body language, verbal skills, and even avoiding the pitfalls of social media which can hamper the acquisition of a job, as well as, jeopardize a job once it has been attained. This means being prepared and understanding workforce culture.

From the client’s perspective, one of the most helpful and extensive training components is the practice of answering difficult interview questions, in particular, questions about felony convictions. This practice allows the client to understand what an interviewer is seeking and how best to respond in an honest, self-aware manner.

The last component of training is job retention. This encompasses a 10-step guide on how to keep a job once it is attained. When the training module is complete, clients are scheduled for a resume workshop where the Catholic Charities employment specialists assist them in drafting a professional resume.

Immersion into the Workforce Development program provides clients with one-on-one job coaching and even on-site employer interviews. When clients fully engage in this process success in employment is inevitable.

Since the Catholic Church views work at the very center of the social question for man, it occupies the same position of importance in our work at Catholic Charities-KCSJ.

If you know someone who struggles with unemployment or underemployment, please contact Jennifer Baker at jbaker@ccharities.com or call 816.659.8232.
At Catholic Charities Kansas City-St. Joseph, we have a long history of providing housing support case management for various Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs and providing targeted, case-by-case housing aid through our Welcome Center. Recently, Catholic Charities also launched a housing development initiative to add to its traditional housing services. **Neighborhoods of Hope** is an effort to become the developers and owners of primarily permanent and transitional living housing.

Our reasoning for this was birthed out of experience. Many of the clients we work with have past convictions or evictions on their record. Because of this, no matter how hard they work, their chances of attaining quality, affordable housing through traditional channels is severely impacted. Catholic Charities has a strategic advantage over many housing providers in the traditional market because, through our many program offerings, we get to build relationships with clients for a longer period of time. So, while a given client may look like a housing risk on paper (i.e. have a criminal conviction or eviction record), we have the benefit of having gotten to know them in a way that a traditional housing provider often doesn’t. Because of this, if we owned the homes we were seeking to place our clients in, we would be less worried about risk mitigation as we have a good sense of who our clients are before renting or selling housing to them.

While this is a new initiative, Catholic Charities’ Neighborhoods of Hope effort has already secured funding and grounds to begin single family housing development, with the first target neighborhood being Northeast Kansas City. If all goes as scheduled, two new single-family homes will be constructed and rented to clients by June 1, 2018. From there, the plan is to build 10 more single family homes this year.

**But, we need your help to make it happen!**

Additionally, we are in the process of getting funding and grounds for our first transitional living residence, a six-unit dormitory style model.

In the field of charitable work, the term “housing services” can encompass many things. Here are a few:

**Emergency Shelter** – immediate access to communal space where several individuals and/or families can have a roof over their heads for a few days or even a few weeks while they try to gain stability.

**Transitional Housing** – often represented by apartment or dorm style living quarters with moderately longer stays than emergency shelters. This can range from 60 days to 6 months and may include an in-patient treatment component for challenges such as substance abuse.

**Permanent Housing** – apartments and single-family homes where people can live for as long as they are able. This is regarded as the final step in someone’s journey toward housing stability.

**Case Management** – where a professional helps a client access the best type of housing to fit their needs while mitigating potential barriers.

This is an exciting moment for Catholic Charities Kansas City-St. Joseph as, for first time in our history, we will own and operate the housing we place clients in. The flexibility this approach offers creates an opportunity to provide wrap-around services to clients in a way that previously didn’t exist.

If you can help Catholic Charities Kansas City-St. Joseph grow its Neighborhoods of Hope effort, through money, land, expertise, or any other housing development skill, please contact Jarrod Sanderson at jsanderson@ccharities.com or call 816.659.8227.

At Catholic Charities-KCSJ, we want families to realize the dream of having a home, not simply as a place of shelter but a place where family life can be fully lived.
Join a company with a real mission!

Tara McGranaghan, Chief Human Resources Officer

Development Manager

- Full time
- Kansas City Office

The Development Manager will be responsible for managing annual appeals, parish-based fundraising and special event sponsorships. The ideal candidate should:
  - Be comfortable in direct solicitation of individuals, corporations & foundations
  - Possess a bachelor’s degree in business, communications or related field
  - Have excellent written and verbal communication skills to appeal to a diverse audience
  - Display strong organizational, administration, and interpersonal skills
  - Have experience in preparing written reports and oral presentations
  - Have high energy and passion for the mission of Catholic Charities Kansas City-St. Joseph

Performance Quality Manager

- Full time
- Kansas City Office

The Performance Quality Manager will be responsible for managing the client database system. The ideal candidate should have:
  - Intermediate to expert knowledge of computers to input information, maintain program data, and create and generate reports
  - Strong organizational, communication, interpersonal and presentation skills
  - Analytical and application skills
  - Ability to work effectively within the framework of Catholic teachings

Administrative Assistant

- Full time
- Kansas City Office

The Administrative Assistant will provide administrative support to the Director of Child and Family Services, including:
  - Preparing correspondence, reports and presentations
  - Completing monthly grant outcome tracking
  - Filing, ordering supplies, maintaining paperwork, handling calls and inquiries
  - Maintaining confidential information in a discrete and professional manner
  - Assist as needed with agency-wide projects

The ideal candidate should have a high school diploma (Associates degree preferred), 1 year of administrative assistance experience, proficiency in Microsoft Office, excellent written, verbal and interpersonal skills, and demonstrated ability to meet deadlines in a fast-paced environment.

Family Development Specialist

- Part time
- St. Joseph Office

The Family Development Specialist assists families in the Northwest region (Andrew, DeKalb & Nodaway counties) through comprehensive case management, focusing on helping parents develop healthy children and assist with any immediate family needs. The ideal candidate must possess one of the following:
  - Bachelor’s degree in Social Work or related human service field, licensed master social worker, licensed clinical social worker, licensed professional counselor OR Master’s degree in psychology or counseling from an accredited school with at least 3 years’ experience in child and/or family welfare issues
  - Must also possess reliable transportation and a clean driving record

4-day work week • paid holidays • vacation • sick time
CATHOLIC CHARITIES
KANSAS CITY – ST. JOSEPH

Please send your resume to:
Catholic Charities
Attention: Tara McGranaghan
4001 Blue Parkway (Suite 250)
Kansas City, MO 64130
hr@ccharities.com
816.659.8220

Find full job postings or apply at catholiccharitiesjobs.org.
Reflections of Hope
2018 St. Teresa of Calcutta Service Award Luncheon

Monday, April 30, 2018
11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Hall
4503 Frederick Avenue
St. Joseph, MO 64506

Join us, on Monday April 30, for the fourth annual Reflections of Hope luncheon held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in St. Joseph, Missouri and benefits the Catholic Charities programs serving the St. Joseph area and surrounding northwest Missouri counties.


Message from Pope Francis on Lent

Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. How I would like almsgiving to become a genuine style of life for each of us! How I would like us, as Christians, to follow the example of the Apostles and see in the sharing of our possessions a tangible witness of the communion that is ours in the Church!

For this reason, I echo Saint Paul’s exhortation to the Corinthians to take up a collection for the community of Jerusalem as something from which they themselves would benefit (cf. 2 Cor 8:10). This is all the more fitting during the Lenten season, when many groups take up collections to assist Churches and peoples in need. Yet I would also hope that, even in our daily encounters with those who beg for our assistance, we would see such requests as coming from God himself.

When we give alms, we share in God’s providential care for each of his children. If through me God helps someone today, will he not tomorrow provide for my own needs? For no one is more generous than God.
It’s likely you pass people in need daily. Please consider using this Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph calling card as a way to encourage interaction with our Welcome Center and to set people on the path out of poverty.