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Catholic Charities

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

NOVEMBER 2011 VOLUME 3 NUMBER 3



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ADOPT A FAMILY

In this season of Thanksgiving, there is no better way to celebrate our gratitude than by blessing someone less fortunate at Christmas. Catholic Charities' annual Adopt-A-Family program provides a simple and fun way for groups or individuals to make Christmas special for families who might otherwise receive no Christmas gifts.

The program anonymously matches families in need with sponsors who buy them Christmas presents. Last year, the program provided gifts for more than 400 Oklahoma families.

To become an Adopt-A-Family sponsor, call Catholic Charities' Family Support Services at 405-523-3013, or email adoptafamily@catholiccharitiesok.org

by Nov. 15. You will receive your assigned family's Christmas wish list in time to shop. You will also receive instructions for wrapping the gifts and delivering them to the gift drop-off site at Corpus Christi Church in Oklahoma City on Dec. 12. Within days after you drop off the gifts, your "adopted" family will receive them.

If you would like to help but are unable to shop, make donations by credit card at www.catholiccharitiesok.org. Gift cards and checks may be mailed to Catholic Charities, 1501 N. Classen

Bldv., Oklahoma City, OK 73106, with a note designating the gift for "Adopt-A-Family."



Kids volunteer to wrap presents.

ADOPTION IS THE OPTION

November is National Adoption Month and Catholic Charities is kicking off its campaign to highlight adoption as a positive response to unplanned pregnancy.

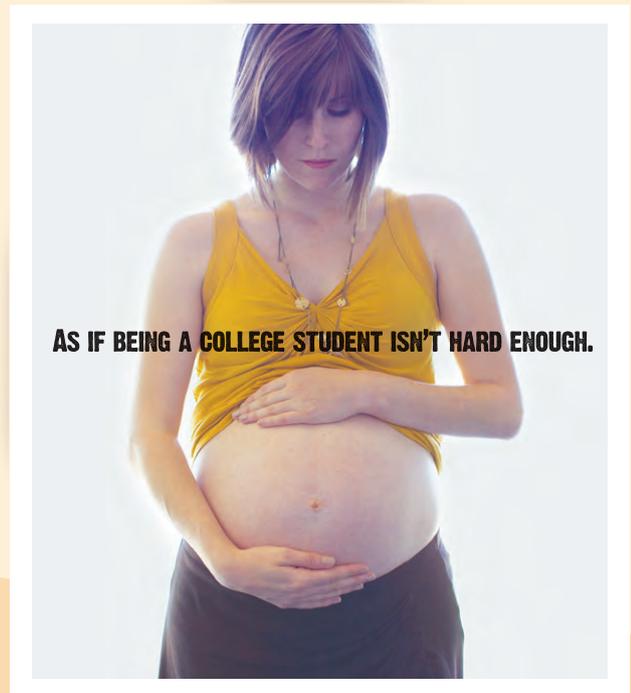
Catholic Charities offers open and closed adoptions. Open adoption occurs when the birth parents and prospective adoptive family personally interact with one another. The interaction may include letters, emails or photos, depending on the desires of all parties. Closed adoption occurs when there is no interaction or identifying information between the birth parents and prospective adoptive parents.

“Having the option of open adoption is incredible. You still are very much a part of your daughter’s life or your son’s life. It was just such an incredible sense of relief,” said one birth mother who recently used Catholic Charities’ adoption services.

Most families adopting through Catholic Charities meet their new child for the first time at a placement ceremony in Catholic Charities’ Annunciation Chapel. The ceremony celebrates the birth parents’ loving decision to choose life for their baby and the adoptive parents’ decision to love the baby as their own.

Catholic Charities has developed adoption promotion posters and materials suitable for schools, health clinics and doctors’ offices. For more information about these materials or about Catholic Charities’ adoption services in general, contact Kirsten Lee or Stephanie Storzyszyn at 405-523-3012, or visit www.catholiccharitiesok.org.

Also, check out our YouTube videos tab on our Facebook page (facebook.com/ccokc) to watch “My Adoption Story” – one birth mother’s experience with adoption at Catholic Charities.



Life shouldn't end if you get pregnant.
Not for you or your unborn child.

THANK YOU, CATHOLIC CHARITIES!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, from the hearts of those we serve: “No word will express my gratitude to you! I cannot find the exact words to tell you that I thank you for your help. May you continue to use your talents and skills to bless others!”

“We are extremely grateful for Catholic Charities. They helped us create our family by giving us our baby girl. We came to them with broken hearts and they provided us with hope. The staff was open and honest the entire way and provided friendly and ethical services.”

“Before I came to the Holy Family Home I had no idea where my life was going or how it was going to end up. But staying at the home brought faith and joy and surrounded me and my daughter with love in the form of a gentle hand, and for that I couldn't be more grateful.”



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF FAITH, HOPE & CHARITY

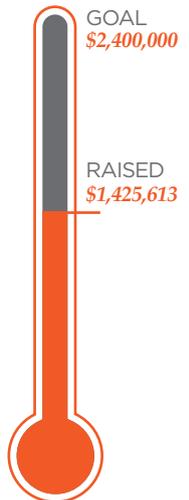
Catholic Charities’ Annual Appeal continues to seek the participation of all Catholic households in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Every contribution unites our donors with the social ministries of the Church which are carried out by Catholic Charities throughout the archdiocese.

The increased poverty rate in our nation, along with the reduction in government support for programs that directly help the poor, will increase referrals and requests for the help of Catholic Charities in the coming year. Many will be helped by your gift.

We appreciate the generosity of each person who has contributed generously to the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal.

You may make a one-time or recurring gift online with a credit card at www.catholiccharitiesok.org.

Please support the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1) *Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program* - Dec. 12-17, Corpus Christi Church
- 2) *Annual Meeting* - Feb. 20, 4 pm, Mass at St. Joseph’s Old Cathedral followed by the meeting at the OKC National Memorial
- 3) *Green Tie Gala* - March 10, 6:30 pm, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IS DIFFERENT

What makes Catholic Charities different from other social service charities?

Catholic Charities is, at its core and in its actions, Catholic. The teachings of the Church are foundational to the organization. In an age where there is often a split between the good news of Jesus Christ and popular culture, the corporal works of mercy as exhibited by Catholic Charities stand as a beacon to light the path of those who serve and those who are served. Our belief in the primacy of Christ is the well from which all actions must spring.

Here are some of the ways Catholic Charities is Catholic:

- The work of Catholic Charities is rooted in scripture. In the famous judgment passage in Matthew 25, Jesus tells his followers that the world will be judged by how they treat Him, found among the hungry, homeless, sick, imprisoned and poor. This teaching is reinforced in the great scene in the 13th chapter of the Gospel of John when Jesus washes the feet of his disciples and charges them to do so for others.
- Catholic Charities is an integral part of the Catholic Church. This ministry has been an integral part of the Catholic Church for 2,000 years, beginning with the apostles and continuing through the works of religious orders and contemporary organizations.
- The ultimate rationale for our services is our belief in the sanctity of the human person and the dignity of human life. This is reflected, for example, in adoption services that are among our most traditional, and the care for poor and vulnerable, which is a hallmark of our work.
- Catholic Charities' ministry is authorized by the Archbishop. Our work is the extension of the work of the Archbishop to serve in ministry to the poor and vulnerable.
- While the core values of Catholic Charities are rooted in the faith traditions of the Catholic Church, in all we do we show respect for the religious beliefs of those we serve.
- The work of Catholic Charities recognizes the physical, mental and spiritual needs of those we serve. Counselors, case managers and other staff members recognize and affirm the importance of this spiritual dimension.
- Catholic Charities has a special relationship to the archdiocese and parishes. As partners in the charitable works of the Church, we can work together in community to serve as the hands and feet of Christ. By working in active partnership with religiously sponsored charities, and by supporting an active public-private partnership, Catholic Charities evangelizes.
- Finally, in heeding the Gospel call to advocate for the unborn and those in need, Catholic Charities hopes to help fashion a culture of life and dignity.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES EARNS REACCREDITATION

The Council on Accreditation (COA) has announced that Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has been reaccredited.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent not-for-profit international accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and human service organizations. More than 1,800 public and private organizations are either COA-accredited or in the process of seeking accreditation.

The COA reaccreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization's administrative operations and service delivery practices. All are measured against national standards of best practice, emphasizing services that are accessible, appropriate, culturally responsive, evidence-based and outcome-oriented. The measurements confirm that the services are provided by a skilled workforce and that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.



The council's award letter states, "Because COA reviews and reaccredits the entire organization, not just specific programs, you can have confidence in the credibility, integrity and achievement of your entire organization. COA congratulates Catholic Charities for their hard work and wonderful achievement and is proud to have it as part of COA's Community of Excellence."

Dear Friends of Catholic Charities:

The gift of gratitude is at the heart of our mission. Gratitude is a strong spiritual force which binds our relationships in working and serving together. It is the foundation of charity. This gift helps us to understand that as those we serve depend on us, we need each person we serve to draw us closer to God and each other. We are each other's keeper. We share our gifts with each other.

Mother Teresa found the face of Christ in comforting the sick and feeding the hungry in the slums of India. She claimed that each was "Jesus in disguise," finding God's light and beauty reflected in their faces. Her witness of following Jesus showed all of us a God whose love and mercy has no boundaries.

To share in Catholic Charities' work, be it as a donor, one who seeks help, a volunteer, staff member or advisor, our spirit of gratitude gives us awesome appreciation for the truths we discover in exchanging our gifts with the poor. We come to realize that our own hunger for love is much more painful than our hunger for bread. Daily, each person at Catholic Charities is blessed by the gratitude of all whom we encounter.

We give thanks for the faith that unites us in service, for the hope that lifts our spirits and for the love that makes our lives sacred. This is Catholic Charities' wish and blessing for you and your loved ones at Thanksgiving.

Very gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim O'Connor". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tim O'Connor
Executive Director



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Clinton Office

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Clinton, OK 73601
(580) 323-6363

Enid Office

528 W. Broadway
Enid, OK 73701
(580) 237-7352

Guymon Office

904 N. Main St.
Guymon, OK 73942
Phone: (580) 468-0904
Fax: (580) 468-0904

Catholic Charities offers services in Adoption (including adoption searches), Maternity Counseling, Family HOPE, Refugee Resettlement, Immigration Assistance, Counseling, Advocacy, Disaster Relief, Holy Family Maternity Home, Educational Services and Outreach to Parishes. Catholic Charities also has established the statewide office for Faith Community Nursing (also known as Parish Nursing).

MISSION STATEMENT

To put into practice the gospel values of justice, love, compassion and hope through service, empowerment and advocacy.

Catholic Charities Oklahoma City Office

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Catholic Charities appreciates the corporate underwriting of this publication by:

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catholiccharitiesok.org
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