



# CATHOLIC CHARITIES

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

PROVIDING HELP • CREATING HOPE • SERVING ALL

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*“I support Catholic Charities because I have faith in the integrity of the organization to always do what is right.”*

- James Everest, Catholic Charities Board Member Emeritus & 2014 Green Tie Gala Ambassador

## PROVIDING SANCTUARY IN NORMAN CATHOLIC CHARITIES PREPARES TO OPEN SANCTUARY II

In 2009, Catholic Charities opened its first day center for homeless women and their children, the Sanctuary Women’s Development Center located in southwest Oklahoma City. In the time since its opening, the need for Catholic Charities’ homeless services has grown, with more than 600 women visiting the Sanctuary each month for counseling, social services, solution-focused advocacy and refuge from life on the streets.

Now, Catholic Charities hopes to make the same impact in Norman as it plans to open Sanctuary II next spring near St. Joseph Catholic Church. The new location will offer assistance to homeless and at-risk women and their children in Norman.

“There’s a misconception that homelessness only occurs in large metro areas. The reality is that homeless populations can be found in all communities, especially during difficult economic times,” said Patrick Raglow, executive director of Catholic Charities. “By expanding to the Norman area, we hope to reach those who are in need of our services and meet them where they are.”

According to a 2010 report, homelessness is a growing problem for Norman-area families, with more than half the homeless population under the age of 18. Although some services are available in the area, they have limited capacity. Due to the success

of its predecessor, Sanctuary II is poised to help women in need by offering a safe place to stay during the day, and by working alongside them, customizing a plan to transition out of homelessness.

Catholic Charities is anticipating opening Sanctuary II in early 2014. Startup funds for this project were made possible by the overwhelming success of the 2013 Green Tie Gala and a generous donation from Randy and Connie Calvert. Funds raised from the 2014 Green Tie Gala will support both Sanctuaries and Holy Family Home, a transitional group residence for homeless women and children.



Staff member Erica Cardiel customizes a budget with a client at the Sanctuary Women’s Development Center.

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES WELCOMES NEW ADOPTION DIRECTOR

For Natalie Bross, working with clients in Catholic Charities' Adoption and Pregnancy Services isn't just part of the job, it's a calling. Adopted by her stepfather at a young age, Bross knows how the love of an adopted parent can forever change a child.

"Adoption is part of my life story, though not in the traditional sense," Bross said. "When my dad adopted me, it changed my life for the better. As a result of the experience, I knew I wanted to help children find the incredible love I found with my dad."

Bross, who joined Catholic Charities in Summer 2013 as Director of Adoption and Pregnancy Services, has worked with adoptive families for more than eight years. Bross said the best part of working in adoption is that moment when the adoptive parents meet their child for the first time and become a very special family.

Although the process begins with an expectant mother and a couple hoping to adopt, it doesn't end once the adoption is finalized. Catholic Charities offers a wide range of services to help birth and adoptive parents throughout the continuum of adoption.

"Adoption can be a life-changing event and each family's needs are unique. Catholic Charities is here to help with counseling, education, customized birth and adoption plans, follow-up care and more," said Bross. "Most of our services are provided at a minimal cost to adoptive parents and free to birth mothers in need. As a faith-based organization, our primary concern is creating a caring environment for everyone involved."

In addition to her work with adoption, she provides assistance and guidance for expectant mothers who wish to keep their child, but may need a little help during their pregnancy. Among the services Catholic Charities offers a woman facing an unplanned pregnancy are counseling, transportation to medical appointments, goal-planning, education and care after the baby is born.



Adoption and Pregnancy Services Director Natalie Bross and Senior Director of Mission Advancement Sonny Wilkinson attend the Red Shoe Gala in support of Ronald McDonald House Charities.

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## A LOOK INTO CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Three Catholic Charities clients at the Holy Family Home celebrate after graduating from their GED program.



Students from St. Gregory's University sponsor a fall festival for clients and the low-income neighborhood surrounding the Sanctuary.



The St. Peter Religious Education Class in Guymon helps Catholic Charities' Guymon office collect food for Loaves and Fishes.

## PROJECT TOGETHER

### NEW PROGRAM LAUNCHED TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS AFTER MAY TORNAOOES

Following this spring's devastating tornadoes, Oklahoma families were left to pick up the pieces, physically and emotionally. In the months following the turbulent storms, Catholic Charities helped those impacted families meet immediate needs, such as temporary housing, clothing and everyday essentials.

Now, as efforts move toward long-term recovery, some survivors are finding the scars of this disaster run much deeper than physical loss. To help heal the emotional impact of the destructive storms, Catholic Charities launched Project Together in September. Funded by the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and the CHRISTUS Health Foundation, Project Together provides bilingual counseling and mental health services to disaster survivors directly and indirectly affected by the May storms.

"The impact of a disaster is often much greater than the loss of material items. For many survivors, there's also the added financial stress, feelings of loss, and sometimes, severe depression that can linger on well after the physical and housing needs are fulfilled," said Monica Palmer, senior director of Clinical Services at Catholic Charities. "We are grateful to be able to provide free counseling services to those impacted by last spring's incredible disasters."

Project Together offers counseling to adults, adolescents and children in both English and Spanish. Since its inception, Project Together has helped 20 individuals and families cope with the trauma of disaster. To learn more about Project Together and other services offered by Catholic Charities' St. Joseph's Counseling Center, call 405-524-0969.



Project Together Counseling Coordinator Azra Buksh



Project Together Trauma Counselor Nubia Fiesel

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## SIX-MONTHS LATER

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES FULLY ENGAGED IN LONG-TERM RECOVERY

A member of the Oklahoma Disaster Recovery Project, Catholic Charities is one of few non-profits dedicated to long-term recovery efforts. In the past year, Catholic Charities has provided long-term assistance to 380 families impacted by natural disaster and continues to help more than 200 families through the recovery process. Through the Oklahoma Disaster Recovery Project, 1,177 households have received or are in the process of receiving disaster recovery assistance.

Following the May storms, Catholic Charities was the recipient of an overwhelming \$5.4 million from across the nation - funding which solely supports the disaster recovery operations, not daily operations of Catholic Charities' 13 other non-disaster related programs. To date, \$1.5 million has been spent on direct relief and long-term recovery assistance - a number which grows daily.



Catholic Charities' Disaster Relief team offers comfort.

Catholic Charities is also honored to report that the American Red Cross at the national level has looked favorably upon the establishment of policies and procedures for disaster response, which were largely developed by Catholic Charities' own Gwen Johnson along with Lenard Liebe of the American Red Cross. The American Red Cross office plans to further develop the policies and procedures to serve as a template across the nation.

"Gwen has done wonderful work with this response. It does not surprise me in the least that the quality of her work will set the standard across the nation," said Patrick Raglow, Catholic Charities executive director.

## DEAR FRIENDS OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES:

*Blessed and Challenged.* While those two words might apply to all of us at any point in our lives, they certainly have applied to Catholic Charities this past year! And, undoubtedly and always, in that order: Blessed first—indeed, it is a blessing to know that we are blessed!

Yes, we faced and are still dealing with challenges large and small. But the blessing of knowing that our loving God would see us through the journey of our work was truly sustaining. Through the prayerful support of many throughout the Archdiocese and the generous gifts of time and treasure that in turn became gifts to others, we were able to bring His message of help and hope to the thousands that came to us.

Of course, the tornado response was the most far-reaching and dramatic of our challenges. More than 8,000 households were affected. Yet within minutes resources poured in from around the world, acknowledging again that we are never alone. Since that time, Catholic Charities has partnered with the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul Society, United Methodist Church in Oklahoma, and the United Way of Central Oklahoma to establish an unprecedented collaboration named the Oklahoma Disaster Recovery Project, which will continue to provide the healing and help needed for all affected to recover from the storms.

Demands on our parish priests are as great as ever, so counselors from Catholic Charities' St. Joseph's Counseling Center make a trip twice each month to 10 parishes across the diocese offering counseling services to families and individuals, in addition to counseling provided through our regional office locations.

Just since this past May, our Refugee Resettlement program shared the blessings of Liberty and Freedom to 209 refugees from nine countries, and increased support to secondary migrants in the Guymon area. Our Family H.O.P.E program provided \$15,905 in rent/utility assistance to families during the month of October alone. Case management services were also offered to these families, better equipping them to meet and overcome their challenges. Parish outreach programs connected an average of 50 different parish ministries each month.

Warm wishes to you and your family during this Christmas season. May the light that shone above the stable in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago serve as your guide during this season of hope. Thank you for your support in 2013 and we are looking forward to continuing our work, through your generosity, in 2014.

In His Service,



Patrick J. Raglow  
Executive Director



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Wednesday, Jan. 15, 6 p.m.*

### Sanctity of Life Mass

Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help,  
Oklahoma City

*Saturday, Jan. 18, 5 p.m.*

### Martin Luther King Mass and Multicultural Tribute

Corpus Christi Catholic Church,  
Oklahoma City

*Wednesday, Feb. 5, 9:30 a.m.*

### Rose Day

The State Capitol

*Thursday, Feb. 20*

### Annual Meeting and Mass

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Norman

*Saturday, March 8*

### Green Tie Gala

National Cowboy and Western Heritage  
Museum, Oklahoma City

*Tuesday, March 25, 8:30 a.m.*

### Catholic Advocacy Day

The State Capitol

## Monthly Snapshot



14

Women in residence  
at Holy Family Home



716

Hours provided in  
professional  
counseling services



896

Total unduplicated  
clients served



31,842

Total amount in cash  
assistance provided  
to non-disaster  
related clients



111,851

Total amount in cash  
assistance provided to  
disaster related clients

• Statistics from October 2013

## DONORS RESPOND GENEROUSLY TO 2013 ANNUAL APPEAL

Three months after it began, Catholic Charities' 2013 Annual Appeal reached 86 percent of its goal in pledged donations. Titled, "Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor," the appeal has received a wonderful response from donors. As of the second week in December, Catholic Charities has received about \$2.5 million in pledges coming from more than 6,600 donors.

Nevertheless, Catholic Charities is still \$100,000 away from the \$2.6 million needed to continue providing help and creating hope for an estimated 16,500 clients it will serve in the coming year.

"The past year has been tremendous for Catholic Charities. Our donors have responded so generously, enabling us to continue our work serving central and western Oklahoma," said Patrick Raglow, executive director. "We are appreciative of the pastors in each parish and their parishioners for their continued support of our mission. Each parish has limited resources and we are honored to be a recipient of their generosity each year."

Sonny Wilkinson, senior director for Mission Advancement, said, "A small donation of \$20 per month provides much needed

**Goal: \$2.6 million**



funding to programs that give Catholic Charities the resources to provide shelter to women who otherwise would be on the streets, an apartment for a newly arrived refugee family or counseling for a family in crisis. Our donors make it possible for each of our clients to overcome incredible obstacles they face in their lives."

Donations made to Catholic Charities are tax-deductible, in accordance with IRS standards. For more information about the Annual Appeal, call 405-523-3009 or visit [www.catholiccharitiesok.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesok.org) to make an online donation and view the many services and programs that are supported through your gift.

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## A LOOK INTO CATHOLIC CHARITIES



Supporting United Way at their campaign kick-off pancake breakfast.



The children at Holy Family Home make good use of the Oklahoma snow days.



Seminarians fill backpacks with school supplies for clients in transitional housing.



Students from Bishop McGuinness High School make snack packs for homeless clients.



Santa comes to the Sanctuary to surprise the women and children with gifts.



Thanksgiving lunch for our clients at Cattlemen's Steakhouse.

## Board Members

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Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley  
Archbishop

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Charles E. Wade, Jr.

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Maria Mendez Wallace

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## MISSION STATEMENT

To provide help and hope to all through the Catholic tradition of service.

*Catholic Charities offers Adoption/Pregnancy Services, Family HOPE (case management), Refugee Resettlement/Support, Immigration Legal Services, Counseling, Advocacy, Disaster Relief, Homeless Services including Sanctuary Women's Development Center and Holy Family Home, Educational Services, Faith Community Health Ministry and Parish Outreach.*

## JAMES EVEREST NAMED AS THE GREEN TIE GALA AMBASSADOR

Catholic Charities invites Oklahomans to don their finest green for a night out at the Green Tie Gala. Featuring dinner and a silent auction, the Green Tie Gala is an annual event benefiting Catholic Charities' Homeless Services, Holy Family Home in Midwest City and Sanctuary Women's Development Center in Oklahoma City, and soon, Norman.



Operated by Catholic Charities, Sanctuary and Holy Family Home serve women in the Oklahoma City metro with the cooperation of many community partners, including Baptist Mission Center, City Rescue Mission, Grace Rescue Mission, Healing Hands, the Homeless Alliance, TEEM, Stockyards City Main Street Association, the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Besides raising money for a very worthy cause, this year's Green Tie Gala will honor James Everest, who has been named the 2014 Green Tie Gala Ambassador.

**Chair:** Linda Haneborg

**Co-Chair:** Deborah McAuliffe Senner

**Date:** Saturday, March 8

**Location:** National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City

**Tickets:** \$200, available January 2

**Information:** (405) 523-3009 or [www.catholiccharitiesok.org/greentie](http://www.catholiccharitiesok.org/greentie)

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