

Tuesdays are especially busy after hours because our Blessed Mother Teresa Dental Services also provides an extraction clinic at that time. Our walk-in guests receive free pain relief (extractions) on the first three Tuesday evenings of the month; no appointments are required. There are generally two or three volunteer dentists and four or five volunteer assistants who help out from 3pm until 9:30pm. Each month, we have ten to fifteen different volunteer dentists and eight to ten different volunteer assistants in addition to one full-time dentist and three full-time assistants. They work hard to help so many patients that by the end of this month, we will have provided care to nearly 700 patients with extractions this year after the regular work hours!

Jennifer Cook, DDS, our dentist who leads the program, shares how our after-hours dental services help to improve so many of our clients' lives. "Many patients seen in our clinic are looking to re-enter the workplace but cannot find jobs because of the condition of their teeth. Again and again, we see a patient's self-confidence improve when we remove teeth that have been a constant source of pain and embarrassment and, in some cases, give them a new smile with a denture or partial."

People who need healing on the inside are also helped Tuesday evenings. **Quentin Henley, MSW and LCSW**, of the Catholic Charities' staff, and volunteer professional counselors **Paul Sandstrom, MS, Psychology, LPC, NBCC, NBCC, and Kevin Stephenson MA and LPC**, see counselees until 7:30pm on Tuesdays and by other appointment when possible.

Our St. Padre Pio Emergency Assistance Center also serves people in need on Tuesday evenings. **Andrew and Joanie Altendorf**,



St. Katharine Drexel Education Program holds classes during the day and in the evenings, making it easier for those who work to attend classes that fit into their schedule.

Randy Gradwohl, and **David Hall** are among many other generous volunteers who help serve as many as 50 families from 4:30pm to 7:30pm every Tuesday night. Nigh Herndon, a Bishop Kelley High School student, and his friend volunteer regularly on Tuesdays. They come every week and are zealous in their service.



Every one of Catholic Charities' 13 programs provides some type of service outside of normal business hours.

Our volunteers and staff don't stop welcoming people in need after the work week is over; many work into the weekends. Every third Saturday of the month, from 9am to 11am, our St. Padre Pio Emergency Assistance Center welcomes people in need with just as much hospitality

as we do our regular work week guests. St. Jude Helping Center in McAlester also serves those in need until 6pm on Fridays and from noon until 3pm on Saturdays.

Our residential guests are assisted 'round-the-clock, 24/7. There is always a volunteer or employee on duty eager to help our lovely new moms and babies staying in the Madonna House and families residing at St. Elizabeth Lodge.

Refugees are also welcomed with open arms whenever they arrive in Tulsa. We often pick them up at the airport at various times of the day and evening to greet them with gift baskets and help them become acclimated to their new home.

Whether it's picking up an Iraqi refugee from the airport, giving food to a homeless man, teaching kids soccer, relieving a toothache, or caring for a pregnant mom in the middle of the night, our eager volunteers and staff are there to help. Thousands of people are assisted during our regular work hours and hundreds more served outside the weekday hours. We want to give all of our volunteers and employees credit and thank them for being the Hands of Christ 'round the clock.



When refugees arrive in Tulsa, Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services employees meet them at the airport to welcome them to the United States. They are often greeted by friends and family who live in the Tulsa area.



Gary Highberger



Pius Devasahayam &
St. Bernard Men's ACTS Team



Frank and Margaret Ridley

Volunteer Spotlight: Food Pick-Ups

How wonderful it would be if bread and milk would just magically appear in our food pantry when there are hungry families at our doors. Alas, they do not. Without our volunteers who give their time to pick up donated food, we would not have any bread, pastries, or dairy products to give our guests. We want to recognize these dependable volunteers who pick up bread, pastries, and dairy products and deliver them to Catholic Charities:

- **Ed Burns** picks up bread and cakes from Reasor's (71st and Sheridan).
- **Bob Casey** picks up bread on a different day from the same Reasor's and also Blue Moon Café and Bakery; Bob is one of our longest-serving volunteers (20+ years!) and he also serves in the food pantry and helps with the Christmas toy drive.
- **Gary Highberger** (pictured - top left) collects bread and bagels from Panera Bread every Tuesday night and delivers them on Wednesdays.
- Catholic Charities employee, **Pius Devasahayam** (pictured - left), and others in the St. Bernard Men's ACTS Team pick up from Einstein Bagels every weekday and bring bread and bagels to Catholic Charities. Last year, they brought us 9,600 lbs. of bread! **Ann Owen and Melanie Owen** are now picking up food from a different Einstein Bagels, which is managed by a former Madonna House resident.
- **Margaret and Frank Ridley** (pictured - bottom left) visit the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma every Monday morning when milk, eggs and other dairy products are available at no charge. They deliver it to Catholic Charities, and families who visit the St. Padre Pio Emergency Assistance office receive dairy items with other groceries.
- Volunteers meet the Eastern OK Community Food Bank trucks every week and transport food to our Outreach Centers:
 - St. Jude Helping Center, McAlester: **Dcn. Bill Anderson, Stephen Dunbar, Nicholas Dunbar, Larry Finamore, Mark Kringlen, and Chris Spurgeon**
 - CC-St. Joseph Parish, Muskogee: **Vernon Antonini, Ed Canterbury, Oscar Fidles, Bill Miller, Jim Schagunn, and Patrick Walker**, and another volunteer provides his pallet jack
 - Poteau Helping Center: A "small but mighty" group of eight volunteers unload the truck and restock the food pantry shelves
 - Sallisaw Helping Center: Several volunteers help, particularly **Debra Presley** and her church's minister

John O'Neill, Coordinator of Volunteer Resources, tells us how important the efforts of volunteers are in feeding our hungry guests. "Everything they bring directly benefits the families who come to Catholic Charities for help."

Our Lord said, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." – Matthew 25:35. A big thank you to Ed, Bob, Gary, Pius and his team, and Margaret and Frank for all they do to help feed our Lord cloaked as our hungry guests! May God bless you for all your services!

We also extend a whole-hearted "thank you" to **Reasor's, Blue Moon Café and Bakery, Panera Bread, Einstein Bagels**, and the **Community Food Bank** for their generous and consistent donations that provide for so many.



Transfer Your Value & VALUES

Planned giving is more than a transfer of one's assets: it is the transfer of your heart and the values by which you have lived. If you want to show your love for your family members through your legacy and you also want to continue your charity for others, Catholic Charities can help.

If you would like assistance on how to create or update your estate plan, please contact us. This service and charitable financial planning with our professional staff are confidential and free of charge. To learn more about leaving a legacy, contact Tish Stuart, CFRE, Director of Mission Advancement for Catholic Charities, 918.508.7116, or tstuart@cctulsa.org.



Steve Hanlon, top right, and St. Benedict Men's Club members volunteer their time each month to repair and maintain vehicles owned by residents of St. Elizabeth Lodge.



THE CAR GUYS

The "car guys" are a wonderful group of men from the St. Benedict Men's Club who volunteer their time and car skills to help St. Elizabeth Lodge families with the maintenance of their cars. These men repair cars every third Saturday of the month starting at 8:45am. Their car ministry includes everything from general tune-ups and oil checks to replacing timing belts.




Steve Hanlon started this ministry approximately seven and a half years ago. The "car guys" started at the old Catholic Charities' location. However, because one of the volunteers was a professor at the University of Tulsa, they were later able to move to a nicer facility on the TU campus that enables them to provide more difficult services, such as replacing drive shafts, for free. **O'Reilly Auto Parts** helps provide the needed parts at a discount.

Steve tells us how this ministry developed, "In March 2007, I was at a St. Elizabeth Lodge meeting about apartment maintenance when one of the lodge managers said they would like to start a program to teach the residents how to do preventative maintenance such as checking oil and other fluid levels and oil changes. I felt I could do this, so Ron McDonald and I met with several residents. It became obvious that these people's cars needed much more than oil changes, and most of them did not have funds for parts, so we started working on funding and more volunteers. **Dick Biedermann †** worked with O'Reilly Auto Parts and arranged a discount. Funding comes from the **St. Benedict Men's Club** and some matching corporate funds. By January 2008, we were able to start paying for the needed car parts and usually had enough volunteers to do the work."

The car guys give the residents useful general information on how to check the oil, transmission fluid and tire air pressure. They also provide other useful know-how about the maintenance of their vehicles. They even provide tips for what information to gather before purchasing a car and tips for troubleshooting when problems arise.

Altogether, the car guys put in a total of 487 volunteer hours this year alone. That's the equivalent of \$14,595 worth of free labor. **Tom Kraemer, Roberto Martinez, Terry Rainey, Larry Stokes, Jeremy Daily, George Soukup, Paul Connett** & many **TU Students** are all dedicated volunteers who regularly work hard in the car ministry.

This car ministry has helped many people already. The St. Elizabeth Lodge residents are single, working women with children who don't have a decent place to live on their own. Because of the car ministry, these ladies have working cars to help with their employment and family lives. A big thank you goes to Steve Hanlon and the 24 other generous men who volunteer to improve the lives of the St. Elizabeth Lodge families.


Save the Date

**cooking up
compassion**
Celebrating 10 Years!
Thursday, January 29, 2015
**Tulsa Ballroom at
Cox Business Center**
 For more information,
 call 918.508.7115


STORIES

OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES



As former clients of Catholic Charities' Sallisaw Helping Center, **Tom and Regina Fenn** and their seven children give back to their community. They now organize a food drive at their business, Grizzlie's Shaved Ice, with donations going to the helping center they once relied on to help them make ends meet.



After completing her elementary and middle school education and GED preparation at St. Katharine Drexel Education Program, **Paula Ramirez** walked proudly in her cap and gown at her high school graduation in May 2014. Paula now helps others by volunteering as a teacher assistant at Catholic Charities.



Since coming to Catholic Charities' Madonna House program in November 2013, **Jentri Croley** has turned her life around. The parenting and life skills she has learned have shifted her focus to providing for herself and nine-month-old baby, Jack. Now living at St. Elizabeth Lodge, her next goal is to begin college classes and work toward home ownership.



...and Francis makes 7!

Welcome **Francis George Sartorius**, son of our Executive Director, Deacon Kevin Sartorius, and his wife, Jennifer.

Looks like their 7th child has some fans in his older siblings.

We pray for health, happiness and lots of rest for the entire family. **Congrats!**

For more details about these three Catholic Charities success stories, see your November 2014 Eastern Oklahoma Catholic magazine, available online at dioceseoftulsa.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

of the Diocese of Tulsa

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YOUR 2014 FALL NEWSLETTER

Spread more **JOY** this Christmas!

Here are just a few ways you can help those in need during the holiday season.

Go to cctulsa.org for more information.

Find your **JOY** by **SERVING** those in need

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
ANNUAL APPEAL

A pledge or donation to the Annual Appeal helps support all 13 Catholic Charities programs.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.
GIVING TUESDAY

Double up on those Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals and donate to Catholic Charities' toy drive on Giving Tuesday, December 2nd.

*Toys will be accepted through December 19th. Go to cctulsa.org for dropoff times.

Donations of holiday food items, such as canned vegetables, pumpkin pie filling and stuffing mix, make it possible for 1,000 families to enjoy a home-cooked Christmas dinner.