

Love Changing Lives.

Your gift in action.



Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma is partnering with GoFresh to distribute free food boxes through the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program. The boxes include fresh produce and dairy products and are available to anyone in need. Each week through June, volunteers are teaming up at 13 locations across Eastern Oklahoma for this special initiative. Some locations will extend through the summer.



Deacon Ed Falleur leads the volunteer team in a prayer before Muskogee distribution.

Cars lined up @ Gathering Place on a hot and humid Saturday morning.



The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented need in our community. Included in those affected by this crisis are local farmers, who were throwing away tremendous amounts of product because they had no buyers. The USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program was created to pay farmers for their product without waste, as the food is being given out to those in need.

Catholic Charities, powered by hundreds of volunteers in 13 locations in Eastern Oklahoma, is taking on the challenge of distributing these boxes of produce and dairy to those who need them. To ensure safety during the pandemic, each of the sites features a drive-through distribution with volunteers wearing masks.

Tulsa ■ Cushing ■ Pawhuska ■ Hominy ■ South Coffeyville ■ Miami Broken Arrow ■ Muskogee ■ McAlester ■ Sallisaw ■ Idabel ■ Durant

“We strive to serve every person with dignity and are pleased to be partnering with so many amazing volunteers and organizations on this important project,” said Deacon Kevin Sartorius, CEO of Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma.

For a list of locations, times and volunteer opportunities, visit cceok.org/f2f.



Aim your phone camera at this QR code to see our video about Farmers to Families or visit cceok.org/f2fvideo.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES Eastern Oklahoma | **Love Changing Lives.**



Big changes are coming...

Over the years, Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma has grown from operating a relatively humble food program into the largest distributor of food to individuals in need in the entire state of Oklahoma. That growth has come because of the incredible commitment of our volunteers, donors and staff.

Before COVID-19, we were serving about 75-100 families a day in Tulsa through our Emergency Assistance Program. Now we're up to 250-500 families a day. That growth has taken over our Tulsa warehouse. We are seeing incredible need and we believe that this need is not going away anytime soon. If anything, this need will continue to grow.

We are planning for this new reality and want to seize the opportunity to equip Catholic Charities to serve in the best way possible!

Our vision is to be more holistic with our food distribution process. We have received special funding to purchase and install new semi-size freezers and refrigerators, allowing us to accommodate vastly larger quantities of fruits, vegetables, meats and other frozen products. These new coolers will take up a good portion of our warehouse. With this new-found capacity, we also plan to transform our clothing center into a grocery store, allowing our clients the opportunity to select the items they prefer and allowing them more dignity in the process. These changes will allow us to serve a much greater number of people for years to come.

In order to continue to be a clothing resource for our neighbors in need, we hope to partner with another Tulsa nonprofit to provide clothing vouchers for our clients; however, we are still in the beginning stages and will know more as we progress. We do plan to continue our long term collaboration with Yale Cleaners with the Coats for Kids program and the Sisters of St. Joseph Diaper Drive at Monte Cassino.

We are still in the early planning phases, but we wanted to keep you informed so that as our plan develops, you can be a part of that team and can be assured that we will continue to be Christ's merciful love to those who suffer.

Did you know?

- During the pandemic, Catholic Charities has made necessary modifications to allow continuous delivery of essential services. With the exception of our dental clinic, all of our programs remain operational in some capacity.
- A \$100,000 grant is helping CCEOK clients who need assistance with prescription medications in Tulsa County.

Aim your phone camera at this QR code or visit cceok.org/program-announcement to hear Deacon Kevin talk about the changes coming to our food program.



“Catholic Charities means family to me. When we leave here, I will never forget the people who have treated me with such kindness. Thank you.”

Current St. Elizabeth Lodge Resident



Record-setting night for Cooking Up Compassion

Thank you to everyone who supported Cooking Up Compassion 2020. We set records for fun and funds raised with this festive new spin on our 15th annual gala.

A huge thank you to event chairs, Tom and Jess Biolchini, and our presenting sponsor, Vast.bank.

We can't wait to do it again on Saturday, February 13, 2021...save the date!



“Car Guy” Steve Hanlon named National Volunteer of the Year

Catholic Charities USA announced that Steve Hanlon of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, has been named Volunteer of the Year for 2020. Independent Catholic Charities agencies across the U.S. nominate candidates for the award from nearly 300,000 volunteers.

For the past 12 years, Hanlon has coordinated a car care ministry for residents of Madonna House and St. Elizabeth Lodge. Hanlon works directly with residents to coordinate necessary car repairs to get them back on the road to jobs, classes, group sessions and other important off-campus activities.

While Hanlon's ministry officially happens just once a month, he spends countless hours finding supplies, recruiting volunteers, maintaining records and ensuring funding. He can often be found working on a resident's car in the parking lot of CCEOK whenever issues pop up between monthly car clinic dates.

“We are blessed with great volunteers like Steve Hanlon, whose commitment to serving those in need truly exemplifies how love changes lives,” said Deacon Kevin Sartorius, CEO. “We are grateful to Steve for helping Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma fulfill our mission to be Christ's merciful love to those who suffer.”

The national award for volunteerism, given annually since 1998, is granted to an individual who embodies the mission of Catholic Charities to provide critical services to those in need, advocate for justice in social structures and call the entire Church and other people of good will to do the same.



To see a video about Steve's Car Care Clinic, simply aim your phone camera at this QR code or visit cceok.org/car-care-clinic.



Donations from individuals like you fuel our mission to be Christ's merciful love to those who suffer.

Many are surprised to learn that Catholic Charities does not receive funds from the Diocese of Tulsa's Faith & Works Annual Appeal.

You may donate using the enclosed envelope or by going to our website:

cceok.org/donate



Get your ducks in a row.



No matter how big or small your estate, now is the time to take control of your future and give your family peace of mind.

Arrange an appointment with a member of our planned giving department today!

Call (918) 508-7116 and learn more about these complimentary planning services.

