

Love Changing Lives.

Summer 2022
Newsletter

Your
gift in
action.



Offering them dignity: *The Market at Catholic Charities*

As record inflation causes food prices to skyrocket, food pantries are needed more than ever by those struggling to make ends meet. Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma has introduced a new concept for giving food to the hungry in the Tulsa area. The Market at Catholic Charities opened in April after a \$5 million, year-long renovation. The Market allows those in need of food to “shop” for the healthy foods they will enjoy. It looks like a grocery store, but no money changes hands.

At a ribbon cutting and blessing on April 11th, more than two hundred people came to see what the fuss was all about. Dcn. Kevin Sartorius welcomed Mayor GT Bynum, Chamber President Mike Neal, Bishop Konderla and board members, volunteers and supporters as they toured the new facilities and enjoyed lunch prepared by Chef Michael Fusco.

“Following the 2019 flood, they helped 1,200 families find shelter. Following the start of the global pandemic in 2020, they put 18 million pounds of food on the tables of families in need. In 2021, President Biden’s top advisor on Afghan refugees came to Tulsa and told me their work was the model for the nation. And now Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma is investing in yet another way to help those in need with their new food market. So grateful for Deacon Kevin Sartorius and his team who are doing so much important work in our community!”

- Mayor GT Bynum



As the largest provider of food to individuals in need in the state of Oklahoma, Catholic Charities sorely needed to upgrade the space used for their food program. The remodeled facility has three times the warehouse space, a new loading dock, and semi-size freezer and cooler spaces. A new commercial kitchen will be the home of a culinary training program and will be a place where ready-made meals are made for clients to choose in The Market. Two refrigerated box trucks, a maintenance building, a road and parking lot were also added with the renovation project.

“The Market at Catholic Charities is ultimately about the dignity of the person in need,” said Dcn. Kevin Sartorius, CEO of Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma. “Thanks to our partnerships in the community, we have an abundance of fresh produce, dairy, eggs, meat...way more than non-perishable foods to give away. By allowing people to choose what they like, it helps them feel good about what they put on the table for their families, and it helps us reduce food waste from giving people food items they won’t eat.”

“So far, everyone seems to be very happy,” said Tim Neuman, Director of Client Food Services in Tulsa. “Families love being able to choose their own groceries.”

Neuman stressed that the most critical need at The Market at Catholic Charities is volunteers to assist shoppers in the aisles by explaining the process for shopping and help stock shelves.

Those interested in volunteering may visit cceok.org/volunteer for more information.

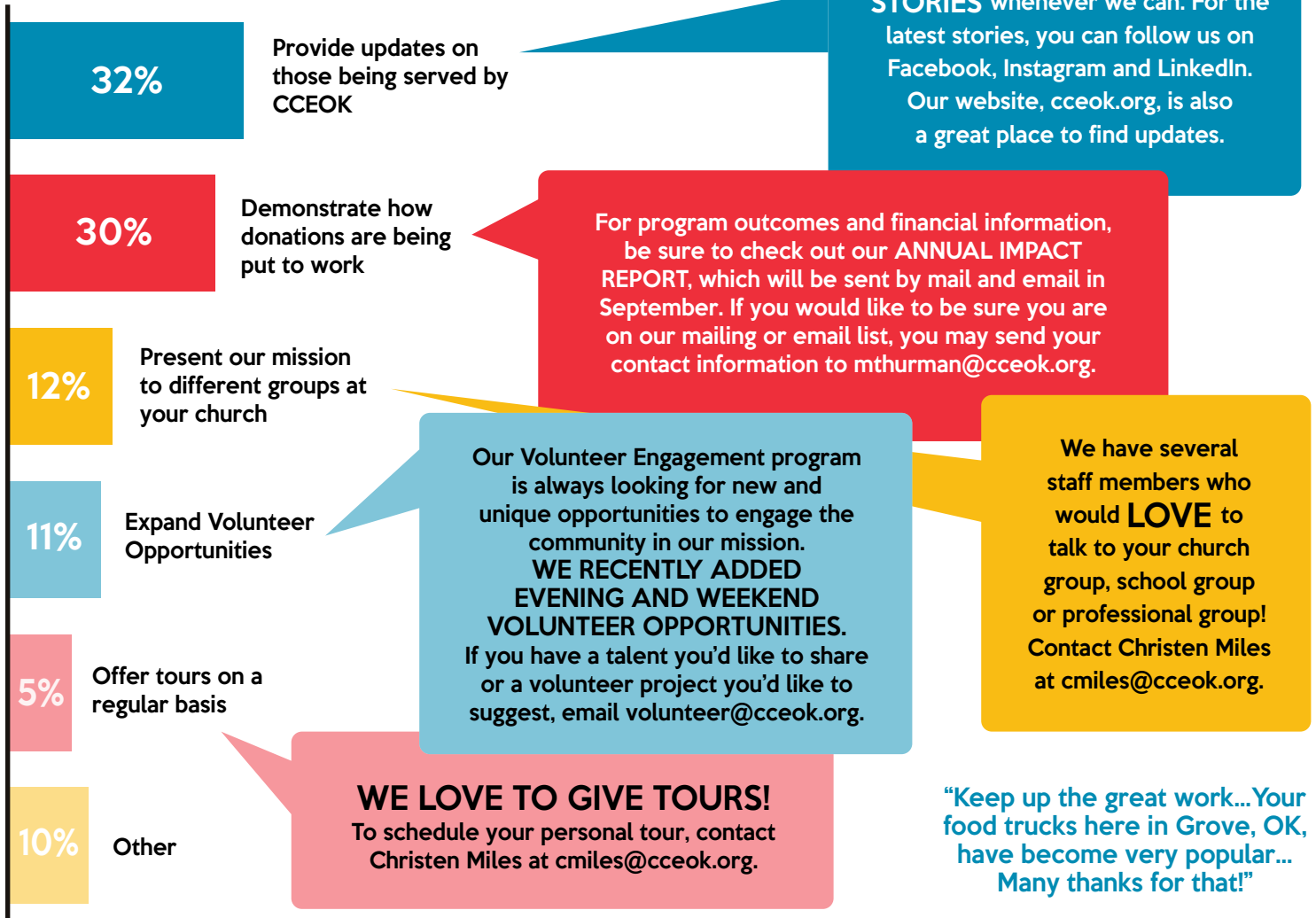
CATHOLIC Eastern Oklahoma
CHARITIES Love Changing Lives.



Donor Survey RESULTS ARE IN!

We recently surveyed our donors and would like to share your feedback and changes in the works!

How can we encourage your support?



Some nice things you had to say...

"I trust Catholic Charities to use my money prudently to help people."



"The Catholic Charities team does an outstanding job of leveraging resources to serve our community and are one of the best managed/run nonprofit organizations in Oklahoma."

"I feel once people see Catholic Charities in action, they are impressed and more likely to get involved. I suggest offering 'limited time' volunteer opportunities. Targeted short-time volunteer exposure might be enough to entice people to get involved."

"Encourage the parishes to share all the volunteer opportunities."

Want to give us your feedback?
Visit cceok.org/survey



Groups love Volunteering!

If you'd like to volunteer with a group or individually, visit cceok.org/volunteer or email volunteer@cceok.org

An estimated **68%** of Americans do not have a will or estate plan.

Through our partnership with Tulsa Community Foundation and The Advancement Group, and as a service for our donors and friends, Catholic Charities provides complimentary and confidential charitable estate planning services.

Have you included Catholic Charities in your estate plan? Let us know! We are planning an extra special event for members of our Caritas Christi Society and would love to send you an invitation.

Contact Laurie Gero at 918-508-7116 or lgero@cceok.org for more information.

Mark & Kim Owen

"When my husband and I started working on our estate plan, we knew we had acquired more than we deserved through many blessings. Both of us agreed we leave a portion of our estate to nonprofits that serve the needs of others well. That's the key word...well. Catholic Charities serves so many needs in Eastern Oklahoma and they do it better than any."

~ Kim Owen, Board of Governors

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



Hear directly from our CEO, Deacon Kevin Sartorius, as he answers your questions on topics like:

- *Do you need to be Catholic to receive services from CCEOK?*
- *Why is there a single red brick in the courtyard wall?*

Read his responses or submit your questions at

cceok.org/askkevin



PARTY FOR A CAUSE WITH 1,000 OF YOUR CLOSEST FRIENDS!

FEATURING THE PARTY CRASHERS BAND

FOOD STATIONS BY LOCAL CHEFS



SAVE THE DATE!

18th annual
COOKING UP COMPASSION
 2.3.23



THE GRAND HALL AT COX BUSINESS CONVENTION CENTER

THANK YOU TO MANDY & BLAKE ATKINS FOR CHAIRING ANOTHER YEAR!

CCEOK.ORG/CUC