

SERVICE IN ACTION

February 2022

Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of Service In Action, CCEOK's Revamped Volunteer Newsletter!

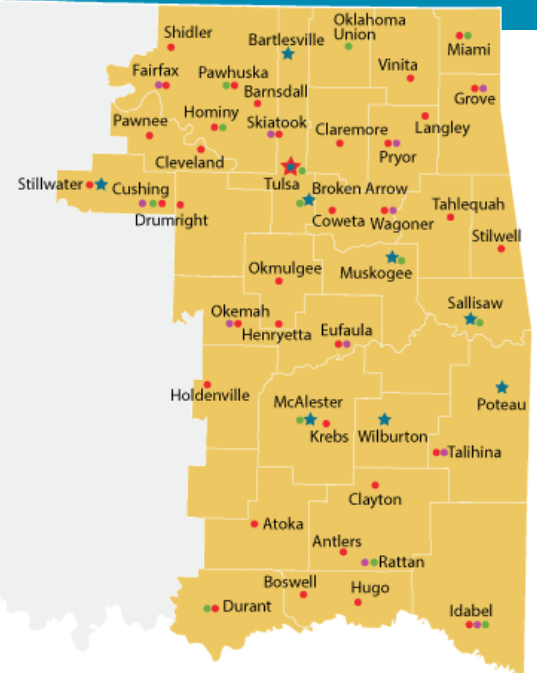
Why this name?

St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "Prayer in action is love, love in action is service."

Service in Action is love in action as we know Love Changes Lives.

This is what we see from all our volunteers across all of Eastern Oklahoma. There is an outpouring of love in action – Service in Action – when you give your time and talent "to be Christ's merciful love to those who suffer."

Almost two years ago, a volunteer, Dennis Hayes, asked if I ever thought about a volunteer newsletter, and I said yes, but I didn't have the time it would take to do a good job. Dennis took the reins and has been an integral part of the success of our Food For Thought newsletter. There is a small team that works on the newsletter: Dennis hunts down the sources, does the research and develops the material. Julia Rush creates the page layouts, graphics and makes it pretty. Angie Gallant edits and makes any necessary changes to create



the final product. They do this every month! Most importantly, many volunteers contribute their stories.

I help with the pictures and ideas.

We started by focusing on the changing of the food distribution to The Market, and included the new garden and kitchen ministries. Now it's time to change our focus to all our CCEOK volunteers. We are excited to share all the wonderful things that happen here at CCEOK and the people (you!) that make it happen. Without you, we would not be able to be Love Changing Lives... which is why we have renamed your newsletter to Service in Action.

- CCEOK's Volunteer Director, Kelly Cassidy

Catholic Charities McAlester

Catholic Charities (CC) has been helping individuals in the McAlester area for more than 10 years, offering food, clothing and financial assistance to those who need it most. Begun in 2011 by Deacon Bill Anderson from St. Joseph Parish in Krebs, CC's McAlester presence has had three locations over the years, and most recently, a newly-remodeled, donated building on Choctaw Avenue (see photo).

Catholic Charities McAlester (CCM) fulfills food needs for an average of 200 families (400 individuals) each month through a market-like shopping experience, staffed by a dedicated group of volunteers and the Manager, Carey Fabrizio.

Carey is a very personable local guy. He was raised by his grandparents in Krebs and has attended St. Joseph Parish his entire life.

Carey worked in Foster Care at Oklahoma's Department of Human Services (DHS) for many years until 2016, when he became a part-time coordinator for CC's McAlester location.

CC's Margarita Summers was driving down from Tulsa to cover the center, so getting a local coordinator to manage the activities there was key. Carey was hired, and continued in the part-time role for two years until he got an offer to return to DHS in 2018.



Last June, the coordinator role at McAlester was open again, and Carey was hired to fill the spot.

CCM is open from 10-3 Wednesday through Friday. Food distributed comes from a weekly order from the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, church donations, the occasional delivery from CC's Tulsa Warehouse, individual donations, and until recently donations from a local restaurant in McAlester. CCM also provides some financial assistance using resources provided by the Knights of Columbus, St. John Parish and CC. In the future, financial resources from other sources are being considered. CCM also provides holiday baskets and sponsors a toy drive at Christmas.

All the good work being done at the CCM could not happen without the efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers. Volunteers have been instrumental in collecting, transporting, stocking, and distributing food and clothing since the location was established.

Members of the Knights of Columbus, parishioners from the two area Catholic churches, as well as several other individual volunteers collectively staff the market every week. Carey is McAlester's only paid employee, so most of the work is accomplished by those dedicated volunteers!

HANDS OF CHRIST

By Deacon Kevin Sartorius

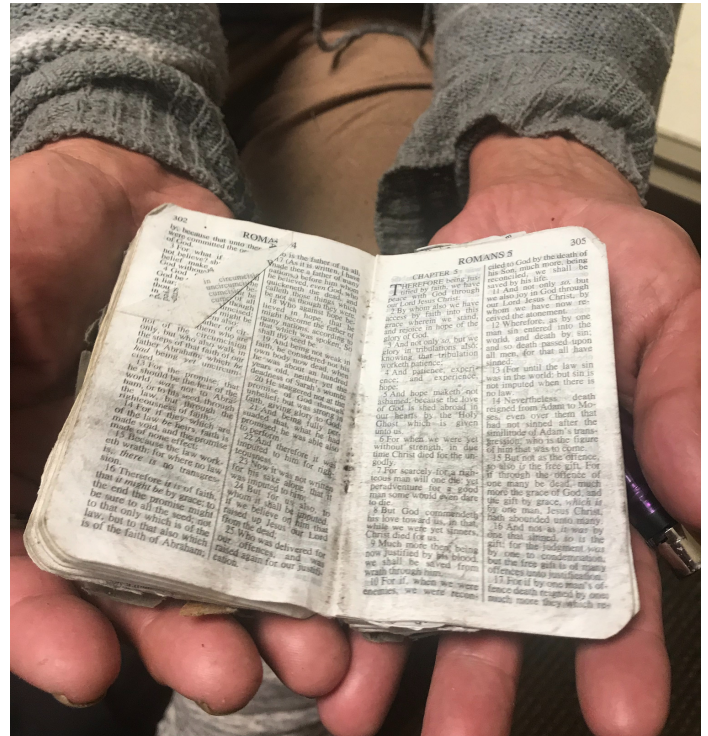
I will remember March 19th, 2020, for the rest of my life. We were at the front end of Covid not knowing what would come. Anxiety, if not fear, filled the day. The last day we would have access to Mass in our diocese for the foreseeable future. Never having been told I could not go to Mass, it left a pit in my stomach. How would we get through this time...

We were giving food to those who came at the side door near the pantry but not allowing anyone into the building to stay safe. The line was long and spaced too close together and a homeless woman, cold and confused, approached wanting to come in. This woman persisted and it caused a lot of guilt and frustration not knowing what to do.

I asked her to go to another entrance and let her come in and sit where she wouldn't be near others and started talking to her. Did she know what was happening around the world? Only that the streets had few cars, the gas station and Tulsa Community College's Northeast campus were nearly deserted and she was afraid.

When asked how she was managing, she shocked me.

From her pocket appeared a little Bible wet from the rain. She opened it holding it out to me. The text said to, "rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame because God's love has been poured into our hearts." I then realized that the hands holding that Bible were the hands of Christ offering me consolation, not the other way around and what a blessing her hands were to me that day. I will always treasure this picture she let me take.



A big CCEOK

WELCOME

to all of our newest volunteers!

- Nathan Ryan - Adult Education
- Caitlyn Stokeld - Adult Education
- Brett Driscoll - Car Care Ministry
- Oralia Jimenez - Counseling/EA
- Andrew Bubert, DDS - Dental Clinic
- Stefan Gelfan, DDS - Dental Clinic
- Tyler Roland, DDS - Dental Clinic
- Miranda Wilson, DDS - Dental Clinic
- Linda Mitchell - Dental Clinic
- Bailey Robertson - Dental Clinic
- Sheng Lor - Dental Clinic
- Cailin Masters - Dental Clinic
- Marva Peters - The Market
- Richard Royer - Mary Martha Outreach
- John Bray - McAlester
- Diane Brownlee - McAlester
- Mary Perteet - McAlester
- Stephanie Tedesco - McAlester
- Tim Leger - Ministry of Compassion
- Vana Moore - Ministry of Compassion
- Emily Jimenez - Porta Caeli House
- Alex McCorkel - Porta Caeli House
- Noelle Vandenburg - Porta Caeli House
- Zandra Drywater - Porta Caeli House
- Victoria Shoot - Refugee Resettlement
- Elizabeth Colflesh - Sallisaw
- Felicia Opiela - Sallisaw



UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 17-19 - Rachel's Vineyard Retreat (English)

Mar. 4 - ShamRock the 'Ville

Want to get the word out on any events happening in your CCEOK program or location? Email volcommunications@cceok.org to have it included in the newsletter!

WHAT'S GOING ON

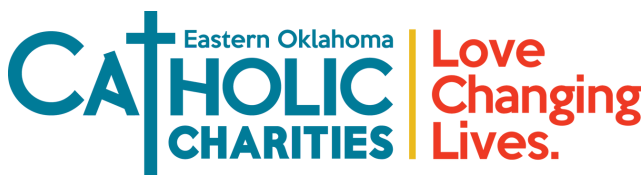
Catholic Charities Mary Martha Outreach's annual 5K & Fun Run is almost here! Join us Saturday, March 4th, in Bartlesville for a fun morning. The 5K starts promptly at 9 am with the 1 mile Fun Run at 9:05.

We have had several of your smiling faces come support us in the past and we would love to see more of you! You can run, walk or sign up to volunteer with us. Hope to see you there! Join Kelly Cassidy as she walks, jogs, and walks some more!

Register at shamrocktheville.com



GET INVOLVED



Volunteer with us! cceok.org/volunteer
Join our Facebook Group!

For story ideas, feedback, etc.,
email: volcommunications@cceok.org