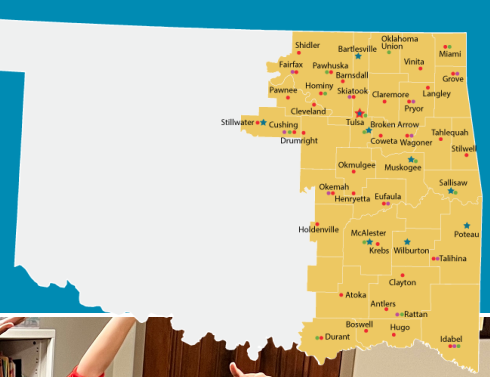


SERVICE IN ACTION

June 2023



Little Blessings Children's Ministry

Catholic Charities has two places for mothers who need temporary, non-emergency housing. Madonna House is our maternity home for expectant mothers or mothers raising infants up to about a year old. St. Elizabeth's Lodge is transitional living for mothers with custody of school-age children who are experiencing homelessness and who need assistance transitioning to permanent housing.

Madonna House provides communal living space for up to nine residents. St. Elizabeth's Lodge provides two-bedroom apartments for up to seven residents. Mothers can stay rent-free while contributing a percentage of their income to a savings account (which they take with them when they leave) for up to a year. They are required to work 20 hours per week. Residents pay a \$125 deposit when they move in.

Residents that meet requirements for admission to the programs attend coaching sessions, parenting classes and evening classes.

As with other CCEOK programs, volunteers are key to the success of this program. Volunteers provide childcare for the residents who are attending the mandatory evening meetings and classes, as these activities must be conducted without children present. Residents whose cars need repair can utilize the services of the Car Ministry, a volunteer-led ministry.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening childcare volunteers use a SignUp Genius. Volunteers watch school-age kids in a playroom in St. Elizabeth's Lodge; there's also a resource room containing books and games where the older kids can go. Angela solicits volunteers by getting the word out at various women's groups. However, male volunteers are welcome too, and high-school boys have served in this capacity to get service hours. Youth groups have also helped.

Angela Grissom is the volunteer coordinator for the program. While there are both adult and non-adults volunteering, each adult must be Virtus-certified, and a Virtus-certified person must be always in the room with children.

Volunteers are also needed for Transitional Living Events throughout the year – like providing childcare for a Mother's Day brunch.

Right now, the biggest need is to support the moms in these programs so they can be successful. And the best way to do that is by helping with childcare so that moms can attend important classes. Becoming a regular childcare volunteer is a great way to help these beautiful families!

Scan the QR code to sign up!



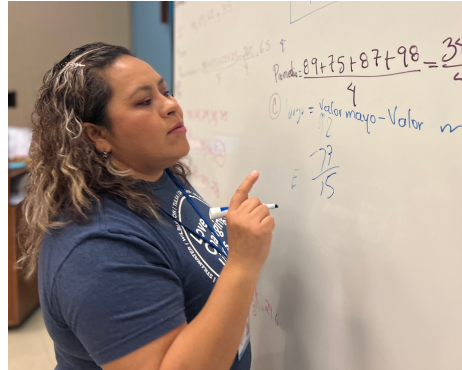
Congrats, grads and teachers!

On Tuesday the 23rd of May, Catholic Charities (CCEOK) Education Department graduated 24 adult students that successfully passed all five of the tests required to obtain a high school equivalency certificate from the State of Oklahoma! This is an important milestone for these individuals – as it allows them access to a much broader range of jobs and potentially additional educational opportunities.

CCEOK prepares the students for each of the tests throughout the semester and provides paper-based testing at the Tulsa campus when they are ready to test.

The HiSET program at CCEOK is offered in both Spanish and English, and students may opt for daytime or evening preparatory classes. The HiSET program is similar to the GED program, in that it requires mastery of five (GED requires four) subject areas: Language Arts (Reading and Writing), Math, Science, and Social Studies. In the classroom, students are taught the reasoning and analytical skills required to successfully pass the tests.

CCEOK provides this instruction free to those students who have heard about the program and wish to enroll. There's been a waitlist in the past, so the program is quite popular. Many of the adult residents at both St. Elizabeth's Lodge and Madonna House also enroll in the program.



English as a Second Language classes are also offered. The curriculum for this program is more theme-based – that is what words and sentences help the learner through specific theme-based interactions. The curriculum also adjusts for differing learning styles including listening, reading, writing and lots of practice.

As with many of the programs that CCEOK offers, volunteers are key to the success and sustainability of the Education Department offerings. Education volunteers don't need to be teachers! For the HiSET program, volunteers need to be knowledgeable about their subject up to the 10th grade level. They don't need to be proficient in all of the subjects; they just need to be enthusiastic about the subject they are teaching. Volunteers for the ESL program do not have to speak Spanish!

They prefer that you don't so students get more practice with English. Volunteers should be adults, as the prep classes consist of all adults – an adult learner might feel intimidated having a teenager teach what might be construed as basic concepts. Classes are offered on a semester basis and need to be staffed a couple of days each week, in both the morning or evening. Substitute teachers, proctors and testing assistants are needed as well, and don't require as much of a commitment of time. They have openings for volunteers in both programs, and they especially need volunteers who are proficient enough in Spanish to teach HiSET classes in Spanish.

If you are interested in being a part of the Education Ministry, please reach out to Beth Nichols at bnichols@cceok.org or (918) 508-7133.

HANDS OF CHRIST

By Anne Edwards, lead volunteer, Kitchen

Being the “Hands of Christ” seems so lofty – so divine. Am I capable of being so close to God as to be His hands? St. Paul’s letter to James, the second chapter, examines and explains that faith without works is nothing. St. James calls on me to do something. So how do I start?

St. Teresa of Calcutta is quoted as saying to do small things with great love and that it can start with a smile. I can do that! Being the hands of Saint Teresa is a place to start and a step in the right direction. I can smile at the people I work with, and I can smile at our guests.

The love of Christ surrounds us. Who is Catholic - who is not – there is no distinction. Each person is met with a smile and “how can I help or what do you need?” Christ would like that - He expects that!

I don’t see my hands as Christ- I see our guests as Christ. I feel Him in the people that surround me and the guests that we helped. I feel Him in the quiet courtyard and in the chapel. I feel Him in every aspect of Catholic Charities.

We are called to be the Hands of Christ and I think I may be getting there.



A big CCEOK

WELCOME

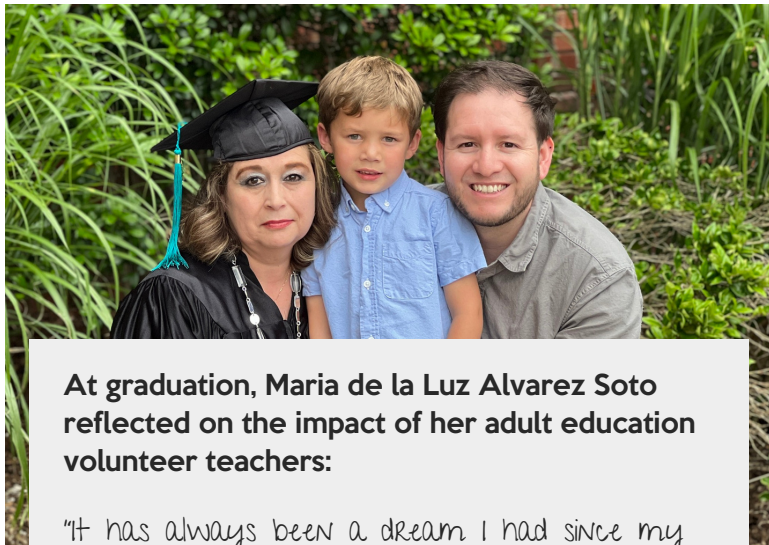
to all of our newest volunteers!

- Rick Humdy – Dental
- Matthew Lauderdale - Dental
- Michael Strand, DDS – Dental
- Robert Nichols - Education
- Tim Castoe - Garden
- Theresa Whitehead - Garden
- Ana Hightower - Immigration
- Marc Wharton – Kitchen
- Jean Griffin – Market
- Al Yowell – Market
- Fran Bionchini – Porta Caeli House
- Laura Brumley – Porta Caeli House
- Jill Johnson – Porta Caeli House
- Roger Johnson – Porta Caeli House
- Mary Beth Soard – Porta Caeli House
- Diana Rucker – Refugee Resettlement
- Paddy Swiney – Transitional Living
- Kristy Brod - McAlester
- Lanae Tafoya - McAlester
- Catherine Costanza – MOC
- Amy Ghere - MOC
- Andie Ghere - MOC
- Cathy Echils – MMO
- Yair Garcia - MMO
- Demarco Hudson - MMO
- Joseph Holmes - Sallisaw



EXCITING NEWS!

We are so happy to announce the birth of an exciting new partnership! Beginning Wednesday, May 31st, doctors and nurse practitioners from Ascension/St. John and “In His Image” Family Medicine Residency will be our new pregnancy care providers at Catholic Charities. Give them a warm welcome!



At graduation, Maria de la Luz Alvarez Soto reflected on the impact of her adult education volunteer teachers:

"It has always been a dream I had since my youth, since I was not able to finish my high school education in Mexico, and I always kept it tucked away in the back of my mind ... I would like to thank the teachers at Catholic Charities, primarily my instructor, Luis Bello. Thank you for your patience with me, and for your time and work. He has done much to help us understand our lessons and pass our tests."

Make an impact with Adult Education "Summer Shorts"

Adult Education will have ESL and HiSET classes in June and July. **You don't have to be a teacher to help, and you don't even have to help for the whole summer!** Contact Beth Nichols, bnichols@cceok.org, to find out more about being Love Changing Lives this summer.



We're Celebrating World Refugee Day on Friday, June 16!

CCEOK will celebrate from 6:30-8:30 PM with B'nai Emunah Synagogue, another refugee resettlement agency, and hold the event at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church. The theme is: **The World Makes Tulsa Better.**

This will be a fun day to welcome our new neighbors to Tulsa. Contact Ally Fjeldsted at afjeldsted@cceok.org to volunteer or get involved with Refugee Resettlement.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 2 - Give Blood, Save Life! 8:30AM-2:30 PM at the Tulsa Campus. Sign up by visiting the address below and search for zip code "74115" www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive

June 23 - The Market closes early at noon

June 23 - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

July 4 - All CCEOK locations closed

GET INVOLVED



Volunteer with us! cceok.org/volunteer
Join our Facebook Group!
For story ideas, feedback, etc.,
email: volcommunications@cceok.org

MAKE A DONATION!

