

Why we give: Bill and Barb Drotar

It has been such a pleasure serving as chairs of Cooking Up Compassion this year. Catholic Charities is a wonderful charity near and dear to our hearts. The organization wraps its arms around so many people in so many communities with so many different and varied needs. Their grasp is far-reaching and full of love and hope for the betterment of all. Catholic Charities was truly the inventor of "Pay It Forward".

Bill and Barb Drotar chaired this year's Cooking Up Compassion. They have been event patrons each year since 2010 and Barb has served on the auction committee for the past seven years. We cannot thank them enough for their generosity.



Catholic Charities' 2015 Saint Nicholas Toy Drive committee and many gracious elves (volunteers) worked tirelessly to bring joy to 300 families at Christmas! Local parishes, schools and private organizations collected toys, clothing and gifts for more than 900 children. Because of you, these families were blessed beyond measure on Christmas morning.

Special thanks to our chairs, Jenny Kinzie and Candice Steichen, and to Bishop Kelley High School, Cascia Hall, Church of Saint Mary, Monte Cassino School, St. Benedict Parish, St. Pius X Parish & School, St. Therese Parish, Laredo Petroleum and Jackie Cooper!



Lisa with her son, Owen

New face on campus: Lisa Laughery

Name: Lisa Laughery (pronounced Lowry)

Title: Director of Volunteers and Human Resources

Last job: Tulsa Zoo (8 years)

Cool stuff: CVA (Certification in Volunteer Administration)

2014 Volunteer Tulsa's Volunteer Administrator of the Year

National Volunteer Manager Committee - Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Parish: St. Benedict in Broken Arrow

Family: Owen (2 1/2) and two fur babies

How to reach her: 918.508.7125 or laloughrey@cctulsa.org

Lisa looks forward to working with our incredible volunteers and creating new and interesting volunteer opportunities. She would love to hear your ideas!

If you're ever on campus, stop by and see her in the Administration building. She might just share some of her obscure animal knowledge with you.

A hero among us

Down-on-her-luck veteran becomes leader among fellow residents of St. Elizabeth Lodge

As a single mother and veteran of the U.S. Navy, Dora takes seriously her role as provider for her four children, Izabella (6), Santiago (9), Zebastian (11) and Joaquin (12). Last year, the family found themselves living in an abandoned house without utilities. Still, Dora managed to get the kids to school every day and get to work. One day, a stranger discovered the family living in the home and decided to help them. After putting Dora in touch with the Veteran's Administration, the family was invited to live at St. Elizabeth Lodge.

Dora admits she was frustrated that she could not protect and provide for her children on her own. She said, "I know it takes a lot to be able to pick yourself up, but you can't do it by yourself." When asked what they like about St. Elizabeth Lodge, the children repeatedly said "it's safe", and that's comforting to Dora. She knows they now have a safe place to live while she gets them back on their feet.

In the meantime, Dora serves as president of the new neighborhood association at St. Elizabeth Lodge, advocating for the residents and encouraging a sense of community among the single mothers and children that live there. She assists with child care at Catholic Charities' Education Program, when needed, and, of course, makes sure her four children are raised to be respectful and responsible citizens.



Dora's family and others were featured in a video, "Christ has no body but yours..."; which was shared at *Cooking Up Compassion*. View the video at cctulsa.org/videos or on our Facebook page by searching for Catholic Charities Tulsa.

"No words can explain my mom," says 12-year-old Joaquin. "She's awesome. She's great."

Dora, with the help of the VA, is close to obtaining affordable housing for her family, and, thanks to a generous donor, she was able to purchase a reliable vehicle to assure that they will have transportation to school and work.

"It's gratifying to know that there's so many people that care for others...freely," Dora said about the staff, donors and volunteers who make it possible for her to work toward independence for her family. "Thank you is not enough, but it would be thank you from the bottom of my heart and my kids'."

"No words can explain my mom. She's awesome. She's great."

~ Joaquin (12)



New Strategic Plan includes growth to new communities

The words of St. Catherine of Siena have set the stage for Catholic Charities' new Strategic Plan – "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."

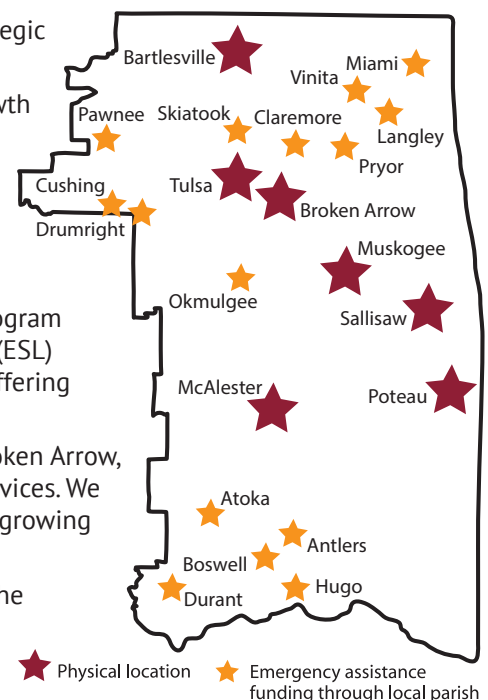
Over the next three years, we will seek to **Go Deeper**, building on the tremendous growth our ministry has experienced. Our volunteers and donors, who have made this growth possible, will be invited to grow alongside us in the services we offer.

One of the new strategic priorities is **Deepening the Reach Client Care**. To help make this a reality, we will be adding helping centers in three new Oklahoma communities by the end of 2018. We have already begun work on two:

Bartlesville – Very soon, the Bartlesville community will have a new education program offering high school equivalency (GED/HiSET) and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. We are busy recruiting volunteers teachers and tutors and plan to begin offering classes later this year.

Broken Arrow – Thousands each year have been burdened with traveling from Broken Arrow, Wagoner and Coweta to our main campus in order to access Catholic Charities' services. We are assisting St. Anne Parish with their Ministry of Compassion to better meet the growing needs of the poor in Broken Arrow and surrounding communities.

The third helping center location is yet to be identified. We will continue to evaluate the needs of our communities and choose a location that will best serve the people of eastern Oklahoma.



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YOUR SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER



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THERE'S A WAY TO HELP.



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Leave a Lasting Legacy.

Your gift can support the mission of Catholic Charities for generations to come.

Reduce or eliminate taxes, enjoy income for life and establish financial stability. Talk with our planned giving team and learn how you can provide for your family's future through planned giving: establishing a trust, setting up a charitable gift annuity or creating a gift through your estate.

Contact Laurie Perkins at 918.508.7116 for more information.

Help us make our
GOAL

Your gift to the 2016 Annual Appeal will help us serve more than 60,000 people this year. If you have already given, **THANK YOU!** If you'd like to make a gift, use the enclosed envelope or donate online at cctulsa.org.



You're invited...

TOUR CATHOLIC CHARITIES

If you haven't seen what we've been up to lately, you might be surprised!

Email us at info@cctulsa.org to schedule your guided tour of our campus at 2450 N. Harvard in Tulsa.

We'd love to show you around!