

Love Changing Lives.

Spring 2026 Newsletter

Your gift in action.



Behind the mission: The Data That Helps Us Serve

At Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma, our mission is to be Christ's merciful love to those who suffer. Every bag of groceries, every dental appointment, every class, every safe night of shelter, and every act of compassion is rooted in that mission.

But behind each act of mercy is an important question: How can we serve better? That is where data becomes an essential part of our work.

Catholic Charities has a dedicated data analytics team made up of Peter Chacon, Sister Lucy Marie Fitzmorris, and Doyinsolami Osobukola. Their work often happens behind the scenes, but it strengthens every program by helping us understand needs, measure impact, steward resources wisely, and improve how we care for the people who come to us for help.

At first glance, data may not seem like the language of mercy. Numbers, reports, charts, and databases can feel far removed from the personal, human work of Catholic Charities. But when used well, data helps us see people more clearly. It helps us recognize patterns, respond to needs, and make thoughtful decisions that allow our services to reach farther.

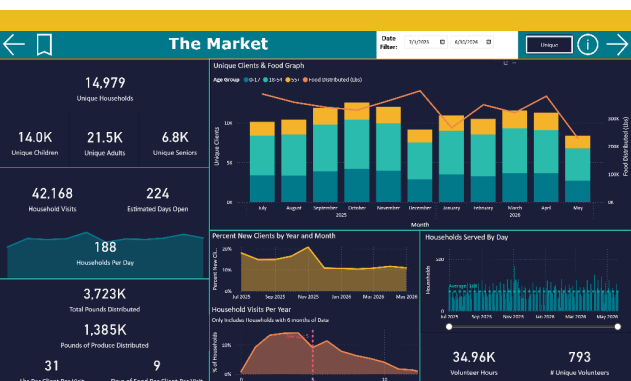
Each of our programs gathers information connected to the services it provides. In our food programs, that includes how much food is donated or purchased, where it comes from, where it goes, how many households are served, and how much food spoils before it can be given away. This helps us manage inventory, reduce waste, stretch donor dollars, and ensure food reaches families in the right places at the right time.

Our dedicated three-person team helps Catholic Charities use information wisely so each one of our 15 programs can love, serve, and steward more effectively.

Other programs gather information that helps us better understand the needs of the people we serve. This may include family size, housing status, income challenges, employment barriers, health needs, educational goals, or other factors affecting a person's stability. A family may first come to Catholic Charities needing food, but data may help reveal a larger pattern of need connected to housing, transportation, employment, medical care, or education. This allows us to connect clients to additional services, identify gaps in care, and work toward long-term stability.

Peter Chacon, Director of Program Analytics, has served at Catholic Charities for six years. A graduate of the United States Military Academy, he holds degrees in Economics, Mechanical Engineering, and Theology.

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Through dashboards like this, Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma can track services, understand trends, steward resources, and strengthen the way we serve our neighbors in need.

Inspiring the next generation through service

Catholic Charities is inviting young people into meaningful service today to form the compassionate volunteers, advocates, and donors of tomorrow.

As part of our **2026–2028 Strategic Plan**, we are looking toward the future not only by strengthening our programs today, but by inspiring the next generation to carry this mission forward. Under the plan's sustainability priority, CCEOK has set a goal to double the number of volunteers under age 18 by June 30, 2028. More than a volunteer goal, this is an investment in building a lifelong culture of service, generosity, and mercy.

To make this possible, Catholic Charities is expanding youth-friendly volunteer opportunities across our 15 programs, giving students and families a broader view of the many ways Catholic Charities serves those in need. From food assistance to outreach, education, gardening, and more, these experiences help young people see charity not as a distant idea, but as an active expression of faith.

We are also creating more meaningful and accessible ways for young people to serve. One important step is the development of a dedicated volunteer space in our warehouse that will allow school and youth groups and families with children to participate in hands-on service in a safe environment, separated from forklifts and other warehouse hazards.

Through partnerships with schools and parishes, CCEOK is also helping reinforce charity and Catholic Social Teaching as essential parts of our Catholic identity. By inviting young people to encounter Christ in those who suffer, we are helping form compassionate hearts today and future volunteers, advocates, and donors for tomorrow.



Get your youth involved at Catholic Charities! Contact us by email at volunteer@cceok.org

What's new? HEALING MINISTRIES

More than just basic needs

Our Healing Ministries continue to grow as we walk with those carrying deep wounds and help them encounter hope, mercy, and restoration.

We have reopened our **Counseling** program, providing licensed therapists for individuals, couples, and families.

New are **Healing the Whole Person**, a parish-based Catholic program designed to help individuals find spiritual, physical, and emotional freedom, and **Mental Health First Aid** training, which equips individuals to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats, offering healing after abortion, and **Grief to Grace Retreats**, which provides healing from abuse, continue to grow as a focus on mental health comes further into the forefront of our programs.

Together, these ministries reflect our commitment to caring for the whole person and creating more pathways for healing, hope, and renewal across Eastern Oklahoma.

For more information, visit cceok.org/healing.



Behind the Mission: The Data That Helps Us Serve - continued

Sister Lucy Marie Fitzmorris, a Benedictine Sister of St. Joseph Monastery in Tulsa, has served at Catholic Charities for four and a half years. She holds degrees in Computer Engineering and Engineering from the University of Oklahoma and serves as Inventory Manager and Program Analytics Lead.

Doyinsolami Osobukola, Database Coordinator, joined Catholic Charities in June 2025. She holds a degree in Physics Electronics from the Federal University of Technology Akure, Nigeria, a postgraduate diploma in Public Health from the University of Suffolk, and a master's degree in Business Analytics from the University of Tulsa.

Together, this team helps Catholic Charities answer important questions: **Who are we serving? What needs are increasing? Are resources being used well? Are clients becoming more stable? How can we improve?**

These questions matter because the people we serve matter.

For our donors, data provides a true picture of the impact of your generosity. It helps us report outcomes, apply for grants, build partnerships, plan for the future, and remain accountable to those who trust us with their gifts.

Most importantly, data helps us stay attentive. It helps us notice who is suffering, understand what they need, and respond with greater compassion, wisdom, and effectiveness.

Big thank you to our event chairs

Mary Quinn & Frank Cooper

& to our patron committee for a record-breaking night!

Save the date for next year!

February 6, 2027

& the return of the Red Hot Revolution band! (formerly The Party Crashers)

Event Chairs Ida & T.D. Eureste

A Stone Cold Jam!

21st Annual **COOKING UP COMPASSION**

cceok.org/cuc



It was our honor to serve as chairs of Cooking Up Compassion. Mary and I had a wonderful time working with such a dedicated staff and Patron Committee. I pray daily that I hear God's voice and witness his love. My prayers are answered when I see the work that Catholic Charities does. ~ Frank Cooper



2026 Patron Committee



Board Spotlight

"I support Catholic Charities because I've seen firsthand the way it truly extends Christ's merciful love - welcome for the immigrant who has left their homeland, food for the mother hoping to support her family, a smile from the man who received dental care he couldn't afford on his own. It is remarkable how Catholic Charities meets our neighbors where they need us, and it is a blessing to be a small part of that work.

Together, we are Love Changing Lives."

G.T. Bynum
Vice President of Community & Government Affairs
Saint Francis Health System
CCEOK Board Member

Don't Itemize?

There's a new tax deduction for you.

Recent federal tax changes have created new charitable deduction opportunities for 2026, including a new above-the-line deduction for those who do not itemize (up to \$1,000 for singles or \$2,000 for joint filers on cash gifts) and continued high percentage of Adjusted Gross Income for those who itemize their deductions. For many donors, this opens the door to make an even greater impact while gaining meaningful tax benefits.

Visit cceok.org/donate to save on your taxes

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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



food
 emergency
 assistance
 workforce
 development
 dental care
 maternity care
 adult
 education
 transitional
 living
 disaster
 recovery
 car care



Why wait
 UNTIL THEY'RE
homeless?

Every day, our 15 programs work to keep families in their homes and break the cycle of poverty.

Your gift helps our clients stay one step ahead of a crisis.



Visit cceok.org/donate to prevent homelessness today!