

SERVICE IN ACTION

December 2023



Groups at CCEOK make a huge impact!

Volunteering is a wonderful way to spread joy and happiness to those around us. Volunteering is also a way to connect with our friends and neighbors who may need a helping hand, a basket of groceries, or just a warm smile and a blessing of hope. The work of volunteers is vital to the community, to good causes, and to people in need as even the smallest tasks can make a real difference in the lives of those we serve.

For the past year, Catholic Charities has welcomed numerous businesses, schools, and community organizations to share their time and talents with us. Although we have many individuals that commit to weekly or monthly volunteering, groups that have volunteered have made an equally amazing impact on the lives of our neighbors in need. In addition to this impact, group volunteers build a sense of accomplishment, make new work friends, and connect on a deeper level with the community. It also is a way to show gratitude for blessings in their own lives.

A few of the groups that Catholic Charities is grateful to partner with are Bank of Oklahoma for their small

group volunteer days, Magellan Midstream for their efforts in bringing the garden dream to reality, AZZ Galvanizing for their enthusiasm for our Tuesday night Market, Life Senior Services "Give 5" program for encouraging their participants to consider Catholic Charities as their volunteer commitment, David Bolding and the Owasso Soccer Team who answered our call for volunteers for our partnership with the North Tulsa Soccer League, and many more that brought helped the programs at Catholic Charities. We look forward to welcoming these groups back and meeting new groups in the future.

Matt Argo, Supervisor, Surge Analysis Integrity Engineering says, "It has been a joy to work with Anita Mills and Catholic Charities on expanding the garden beds at the CC headquarters. Knowing that our work contributes to others in a meaningful, tangible way through the food pantry is important to me. I enjoy knowing that Day of Caring projects will have an impact in years to come, and am glad that we have developed such a good relationship between Magellan (now ONEOK!) and Catholic Charities."



So thankful for our volunteers!

Our incredible volunteers helped make the 2023 Thanksgiving Day of Blessings a special morning for our neighbors.

Together, we are **Love Changing Lives!**



HANDS OF CHRIST

By Kelly Cassidy

Volunteer Coordinator

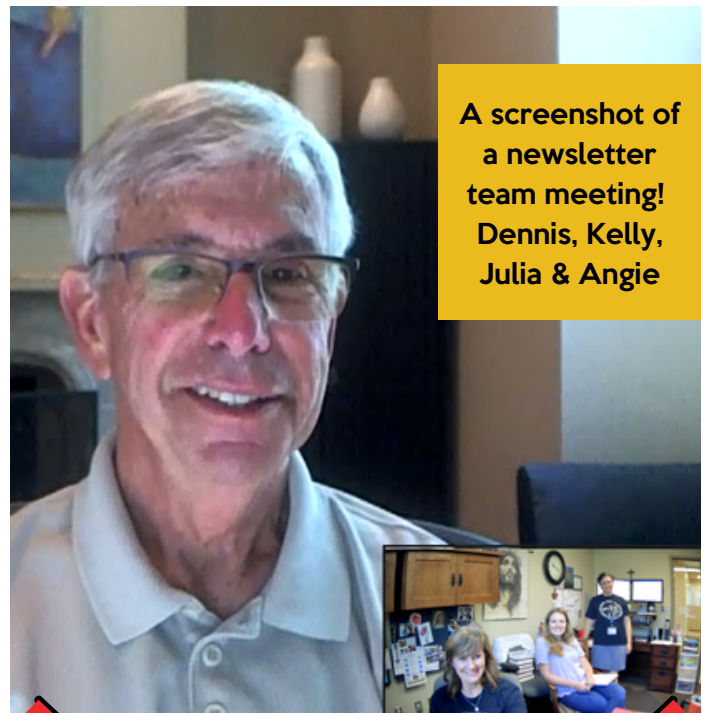
In the eight years I have been at Catholic Charities, I have always said that it's not just our neighbors in our communities that we serve. We serve each other as well – employees and volunteers (staff) combined. I've told new volunteers on their first day that it's not just the task at hand that is important (serving the meal, teaching the students, setting up apartments, etc.) It's what happens as you walk alongside the poor that's just as important.

During this past year, I began a morning prayer routine at home before going to work. I was looking to increase my prayer life and work/home life balance. I decided to do this for Christmas (during Advent) and then again before to prepare for Lent and Easter. One morning during my prayer time, I heard God in my spirit say, "Let me take care of you." I had no idea what that meant, but I began to pray that I could let God do just that.

What I didn't know was my dad was in his last season of life. Through Lent and the Easter holiday, our family experienced his last days, and he passed away on May 5. Five weeks later, the Father's Day storm swept through the Tulsa area and our house caught fire from a lightning strike. We were out of our home from Father's Day until Saturday, November 18 - exactly five months.

This past year, I have walked in our clients, guests and neighbors' shoes. I've seen the hands of Christ through the eyes of someone in need. Having to ask for help is very humbling and hard. Looking back, I saw the staff (volunteers and employees) walk beside me, my husband (and dog) by giving help in so many ways: offering to help us move, providing meals, supplies, prayers, understanding, time off when I needed it, check-ins to see how I'm doing. Mercy, kindness and patience. Through this past year, I did see God take care of me through all of you. It's what we do here at CCEOK – for one another and for our brothers and sisters in need.

The newsletter team is taking off the month of January, so look for your next issue February 1st, 2024!



A screenshot of a newsletter team meeting!
Dennis, Kelly, Julia & Angie

A big CCEOK

W E L C O M E

to all of our newest volunteers!

Chad Brandt - Dental
Nicolette Crider - Dental
Josh Diatte - Dental
Manas Kommareddi - Dental
Chloe Schmitt - Dental
Donna Allen - The Market
Earl Antwine - Dental
Tami Barrett - The Market
Kathleen Coleman - The Market
David Klein - The Market
Ellen Floyd - McAlester
Rouan Uys - McAlester
Robert Aul - Ministry of Compassion
Elizabeth Kunkel - Ministry of Compassion
Tiara Blackshire - Ministry of Compassion
Laurel Hamilton - Ministry of Compassion
Kristin Kelley-Stanberry - Ministry of Compassion
Corey Stanberry - Ministry of Compassion
Shannon Branch - Muskogee
Kristi Graham - Porta Caeli House
Katherine Harlen - Porta Caeli House
Judy Kent - Porta Caeli House
James Norwine - Porta Caeli House
Jeremy Bryant - Refugee Resettlement
Paula Najera Diaz - Sallisaw
Marcia Davis - Sallisaw

MARKET HOLIDAY HOURS

DECEMBER	Sun. 3	Mon. 4 9am - 2pm	Tues. 5 9am - 2pm & 5pm to 7pm	Wed. 6 9am - 2pm	Thur. 7 9am - 2pm	Fri. 8 CLOSED	Sat. 9
	Sun. 10	Mon. 11 9am - 2pm	Tues. 12 9am - 2pm & 5pm to 7pm	Wed. 13 9am - 2pm	Thur. 14 9am - 2pm	Fri. 15 Closing Early 9am - noon	Sat. 16 Day of Blessings 9am until we run out
	Sun. 17	Mon. 18 Opening Late noon - 3pm	Tues. 19 9am - 2pm & 5pm to 7pm	Wed. 20 9am - 2pm	Thur. 21 9am - 2pm	Fri. 22 CLOSED	Sat. 23
	Sun. 24	Mon. 25 CLOSED Merry Christmas!	Tues. 26 CLOSED	Wed. 27 Opening Late noon - 3pm	Thur. 28 9am - 2pm	Fri. 29 Closing Early 9am - noon	Sat. 30 CLOSED
JAN	Sun. 31	Mon. 1 CLOSED Happy New Years!	Tues. 2 CLOSED	Wed. 3 Opening Late noon - 3pm	Thur. 4 9am - 2pm	Fri. 5 9am - 2pm	Sat. 6

Want to learn more about the programs at Catholic Charities? Come and see what we're all about!

Thursday, December 7th at 10am or 6pm



Please log your volunteer hours – it's like giving to Catholic Charities twice!

By Brennen Gray, CCEOK Grant Writer



As the Grant Writer, my job is to ask charitable foundations to give their financial resources to Catholic Charities through written proposals and applications. On every single grant proposal I submit, I include our total number of volunteers and how many hours they gave last year. Why? Because the more volunteers are willing to give their time, the more willing donors are to give their money. Foundations prioritize giving to community-supported nonprofits, and volunteer engagement is the single most important statistic for gauging how invested a community is in the work of an organization. In our most recent fiscal year, 6,233 volunteers gave an astounding 114,931 hours to our mission, and we add immense power to our grant proposals by including this data. Catholic Charities would greatly benefit from reporting similar or better numbers next year; the only problem is, we can only count hours that are logged! So, from the bottom of my heart, please remember to log all of your hours by signing in AND signing out!

Merry Christmas!
All CCEOK locations closed
Dec. 22, 25, 26 & Jan. 1



GET INVOLVED



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

MAKE A DONATION!

