

MUSKOGEE OUTREACH

Perched in the middle of the block on West Broadway in Muskogee is a modest, non-descript metal-roofed, brick building that is home to Catholic Charities Muskogee. This outreach location began in the 1980s by offering peanut butter sandwiches out of St. Joseph Catholic Church. This small operation became the first parish outreach center in Oklahoma. An effort years later, organized by Deacon Ed Falleur, resulted in the construction of the existing stand-alone building, which originally contained office space and a few small storage rooms. A later expansion resulted in a bulk food warehouse, a walk-in refrigerator, and several food freezers.

Catholic Charities Muskogee is led by Liliana Carbone. Liliana and her staff of about 25 regular volunteers have grown to now operate a food pantry for about 10 to 30 families a day, provide English as a Second Language (ESL) and high school equivalency (HiSET) classes, and provide formula, diapers and clothing to infants and toddlers (to about 4 years old) to needy families in the area. In addition, some emergency assistance is available – in the form of rent, utility bills and deposits - to those families who otherwise might be homeless.

The services are available to clients from 9 am to noon each weekday, but in an emergency, these resources can be available at any time.

Clients register through AssistOK. CCEOK staff will help obtain IDs for clients who don't have one, and where a birth certificate or other identifying document might be required, they may be able to help them get those as well.

Some bulk food for the pantry is ordered from the Food Bank. Other food, like fresh vegetables and meat, are sourced from CCEOK's Tulsa warehouse or are either bought or donated by local grocers and businesses. CCEOK Muskogee also hands out Commodity Food Senior Program boxes to those older than 60 who qualify.

Infant clothing, formula and diapers are donated by individuals and businesses throughout the year and through the collections at St. Joseph Parish.

Liliana organizes an appreciation lunch for volunteers several times a year, where news and other information can be distributed to the group.

Again, it is just amazing to see what can be accomplished by a dedicated, passionate group of volunteers!



HANDS OF CHRIST

By Deacon Bill Anderson

We do all we can at Catholic Charities McAlester to provide warm clothing, food, and financial assistance when available. Our volunteers are great and very dedicated. We've become like family, hugging each other when entering the building in the morning. Jesus tells us in the Gospel: "Where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, there I am among them." We certainly feel the presence of Jesus among us as we assist those in need.

Our volunteers are also very generous, not only with their time but also with their resources. More than once, I have seen them dig into their pockets for a few dollars to give to someone in need when our finances were empty. Is this not living the Gospel?

Volunteering helps us to realize how fortunate we are. I and others have brought food to those who are homeless, living under bridges, or in cold tents. My 12-year-old granddaughter loves to go with me. She has a big heart and is sometimes in tears to see young children like her whose eyes light up when they get a basket full of food.

One volunteer really proclaimed the Gospel, not with words so much as with an act of generosity and kindness. It was in late November about two years ago, a cold rainy day. The door opened and a man came in, shivering from the rain. His clothing was ragged, and as I looked down, he was wearing wet worn-out stockings and no shoes! A volunteer took the man to the back of the helping center and seated him in a chair. We gave the man a cup of hot coffee to warm him. The volunteer went to a local store and soon returned with some new stockings and shoes. The volunteer did not just hand them to the man. The volunteer knelt down, removed the man's wet stockings, dried his feet and put on the new stockings and shoes, and even laced them up for him! I immediately thought of the Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of his apostles. Now that is living the Gospel!



Phalyn Andres - Dental
Sen Boih - Dental
Makina Croft - Dental
Kyah Dixon - Dental
Kennedy Field - Dental
Shelby Godbey - Dental
Kenley Hayes - Dental
Carter Henry - Dental
Ryan Henry - Dental
Gabby Hua - Dental
Sarah Isaacs - Dental
Jason Nguyen - Dental
Jade Petersen - Dental
Paige Resler - Dental
Taylor Treat - Dental
Katelyn Wilson - Dental
Patrick Easterling - Education
Anna Gormley - Education
Linda Lawson - Education
Elder Daniel Morgan - Education & PCH
Caroline Villafana-Quinones - Education
Stephanie Pomeroy - Education
Sarah Steffes - Education
Michael Amberg - The Market
Victoria Moore - The Market
Jonathan Nataprawira - The Market
Ashley Brashers - Ministry of Compassion
Patricia Lovell - Ministry of Compassion
Tina Wilkins - Ministry of Compassion
Elaine Yarnall - Ministry of Compassion
Lydia Fortney - MMO
Lindsay Fick - Porta Caeli House
Marian Henton - Porta Caeli House
Anna Lampkin - Porta Caeli House
Brenda Stukey - Porta Caeli House
John Stukey - Porta Caeli House
Samantha Romo - Refugee Resettlement
Va Yang - Refugee Resettlement
Virginia Floyd - Sallisaw
Angela Key - Wilburton

A big CCEOK

≡ Welcome ≡

to all of our newest volunteers!





03 · 09 · 24

SHAMROCK
THE 'VILLE

15th
annual
5K & FUN RUN

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT

CATHOLIC Eastern Oklahoma
CHARITIES | MARY MARTHA
OUTREACH
Love Changing Lives.

SHAMROCKTHEVILLE.COM



Thanks to all of the Cascia Hall sophomores who volunteered at CCEOK Wednesdays in January!



The Market
will close early on Feb. 14
for Ash Wednesday
11 am Mass at PCH
11:30 am Mass in the CCEOK chapel

GET INVOLVED

CATHOLIC Eastern Oklahoma
CHARITIES | Love
Changing
Lives.

Volunteer with us! cceok.org/volunteer

Join our Facebook Group!

For story ideas, feedback, etc.,

email: volcommunications@cceok.org

MAKE A
DONATION!

