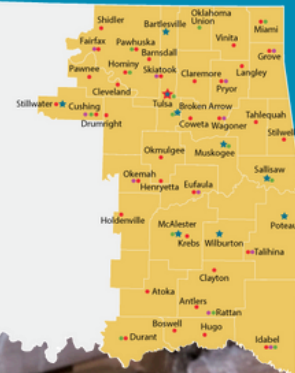


# SERVICE IN ACTION

June 2024



## CCEOK chooses its 2024 Volunteers of the Year!

CCEOK is proud to announce that Christi Johnson and Kevin Legleiter are our Volunteers of the Year!

“Christi and Kevin are great examples of volunteers who demonstrate an unwavering commitment to Catholic Charities and live out their baptismal calling by living lives of service,” said CCEOK Director of Volunteer Engagement, Kelly Cassidy.

Christi Johnson volunteers in multiple programs, but lately has spearheaded the life skills component of the Good Shepherd Kitchen Culinary Training Program.

“She offers comprehensive guidance to students on navigating the social intricacies of a bustling restaurant and culinary environments which will help them find meaningful work, maintain and develop substantial relationships in the workplace, and help them to be persons of strong moral character,” Dcn. David Hamel said of Johnson’s volunteer efforts.

Kevin Legleiter volunteers every day in our Tulsa warehouse and has been instrumental in making sure that CCEOK clients have a choice of products when they come to The Market.

“To be a servant leader is to follow the example of Christ, who came to serve and not the model the world provides. Kevin follows the mission of service to one another and giving of himself. We are grateful to have the talents of Kevin Legleiter here at Catholic Charities.” Senior Director of Food and Nutrition Programs, Tim Neuman, said of Legleiter.

“Volunteers make it possible for Catholic Charities to be Christ’s merciful love to those who suffer,” Cassidy emphasized. “We’re truly blessed with so many volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to serving our neighbors in need.”

**Congratulations to Christi and Kevin!**



## Volunteer Motivation

We all know someone who volunteers with us who just always seems to be there – whenever we're at Catholic Charities giving our time, so are they. They are there when we arrive, and many times they're still there when we leave. And they're not paid for their time!

What motivates these folks to come in, sometimes day in and day out, to show up and give their time to the program or programs they support?

After talking to a number of these folks about why they do what they do – for hundreds or sometimes for over 1,000 hours per year – a few themes start to emerge.

Contributing time gives them a **sense of purpose**. Many of us are retired and were looking for something that would provide meaning and purpose when we were no longer working or raising kids – or both. One hears that people need a reason to get up in the morning,

a reason to make the effort to come in and, along with other volunteers, to help people we don't know get past a difficult time in their lives.

Another theme that emerges is **the desire to help people**. Most volunteers interact directly with the people they are helping, and the heartfelt appreciation, the looks on clients' faces, the satisfaction of helping someone in need is a reward in itself.

Next, the opportunity to enjoy **the camaraderie of other like-minded people** who come in and help not because they have to but because they want to is very satisfying. While there may be differences in how a task is accomplished, working as part of a team keeps all of us mentally sharp and focused.

Finally, and probably most importantly, is the notion that they are doing the **Lord's work** here on earth!



## What Are Those Green Binders Popping Up Around CCEOK?

The green binders have been placed in each meeting space on campus and in outreach locations. The first section in the binder is the Liturgical Calendar for the Church in the United States. Each day will indicate a Solemnity, Feast, Memorial of the Saints, and Weekdays of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time. If you want to know what the Church is celebrating on any day, just check the first section of the binder.

The second section is a calendar of quotes for each day. It can be used for professional development and formation of the heart. Some quotes may resonate more than others, but by using them to pray with or discuss, we continue to live by our Catholic culture. This part of our Catholic identity.

Quotes have been taken from Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Rule of St. Benedict, the Rule of the Congregation of St. Vincent de Paul, Deus Caritas Est, Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Francis and a few other Catholic sources.

We want, with God's grace, to imitate Christ the Lord, in so far as that is possible in view of its limitations. Living and leading a virtuous life in and through our work at Catholic Charities inspires each of us to have a genuine commitment to grow in holiness, fulfill the mission to "be Christ's merciful love to those who suffer" and to influence our community and the greater community to grow in knowledge and virtue.





# HANDS OF CHRIST

By Linda Poole

## Catholic Charities Sallisaw volunteer

Catholic Charities Sallisaw is more than our address, it is our focus and mission. We strive to be the helping hands of Christ in our community. We strive to begin to make a positive change in our client's lives from their initial encounter and continuing through their relationships with the volunteers and staff at Catholic Charities.

At Catholic Charities Sallisaw, we begin each day with a few moments of prayer to remind ourselves that God is at the center of all we do and that we may be the most caring contact that our clients will experience today. We believe that Love Changes Lives.

We come together as volunteers and employees to seek to share Christ's merciful love with all those in need in our communities. We are, in turn blessed by our community in the form of financial support, hands-on assistance and donations of goods and services.

Our staff offers support from the initial front office encounter to greet our clients to begin to assess their needs. These needs may take them to the Clothing Center, the Household Room or the Food Pantry. There are opportunities along their journey to build relationships and receive counseling, comfort and referrals to additional resources.

Behind the scenes, busy hands are receiving donations, sorting and dispersing much needed items – always looking for the opportunity to connect on a personal basis with each client and to support them in a loving and respectful manner. We have doctors, nurses, teachers, support staff, gardeners, maintenance people and truck drivers, all coming together as a family. How we arrived on the doorstep of the outreach center is just as varied. Some come through community service programs and others just felt that calling, or nudge to do something for others and listened to The Holy Spirit guide them to our doors. We have become a family to be the hands of Christ welcoming our clients to become a member of the Family of Christ.



A big CCEOK

≡ Welcome ≡

to all of our newest volunteers!

Miles Brunner - Dental

Brandon Cox - Dental

Carrie Hall - Education

Anthony Molinar - Education

Lisa Barton - Market

Sherry Heath - Market

Robert Kusnadi - Market

David Phillips - Market/Garden

Abigail Duffy - Ministry of Compassion

Max Hawkins - Porta Caeli House

Bryan Overton - Porta Caeli House

Cammi Yarnall - Porta Caeli House



**June 24-28**

## Save the Date for the Volunteer Lemonade Stand

Mark your calendars for our second annual CCEOK Volunteer Lemonade Stand on the Tulsa campus courtyard patio. We'll have refreshing lemonade, tasty treats, fun music and great fellowship. There will also be special surprises every day for volunteers on campus who stop by!



## Muskogee & Sallisaw Volunteers Celebrated

On May 18, Sallisaw and Muskogee volunteers were celebrated for their hard work to help our neighbors in need in their communities. It was a fun day, complete with lawn games and fellowship!



**Congratulations to the Adult Education Class of 2024 who earned their GED and thanks to the volunteers who make this program possible!**

## GET INVOLVED



Volunteer with us! [cceok.org/volunteer](http://cceok.org/volunteer)  
Join our Facebook Group!  
For story ideas, feedback, etc.,  
email: [volcommunications@cceok.org](mailto:volcommunications@cceok.org)

MAKE A  
DONATION!

