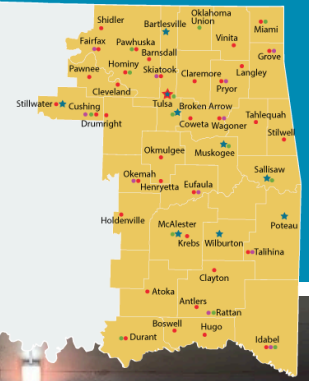


# SERVICE IN ACTION

May 2024



## A CCEOK Potato Adventure in Proctor Hollow

By Kevin Legleiter, CC Warehouse Volunteer

“I don’t know what we’ve gotten ourselves into” was the only comment I made when Dennis Hayes arrived on a recent day at CCEOK. We had agreed to take on the adventure of hauling two truckloads of potatoes from Nicut, OK to CCEOK in Tulsa. As we departed, Dennis agreed to lead in his truck and I brought up the rear.

Two and half hours later, we arrived in Proctor Hollow, OK, and learned the load of potatoes would be delayed for a couple of hours. So, we stood in the parking lot and discussed an upcoming newsletter article Dennis was writing concerning why people selflessly volunteer so much time at CCEOK. It was as though Socrates and Plato were having a great philosophical conversation in Proctor Hollow! I commented that during a recent wait at Hiland Dairy in Chandler, I found a book (Holy Moments- A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life) in the CCEOK truck. The book states people need a “sense of purpose” in their lives to have a fulfilled life. I speculated to Dennis that CCEOK provided that “sense of purpose” to the volunteers.

A short time later, Carey and Walter arrived in two additional CCEOK trucks. The community center personnel admired the beauty of the four CCEOK trucks. I commented that as President of CCEOK’s Transportation Division, I run a tight fleet of trucks!

The semi of potatoes arrived and we all began unloading and reloading the 42,000 pounds of potatoes. The forklift driver reminded me of a bull rider, with his bushy mustache and the 70-foot bell tower rope he used to pull the potato-filled totes off the truck. As Dennis and I pushed the 2,100-pound potato totes onto CCEOK trucks, we reminded ourselves how our time in purgatory was being rapidly reduced by our work - we may have even banked some “credit” in our purgatory accounts.

During the return trip, one of my seven sisters called me and asked what I was doing. I responded “hauling potatoes halfway across the state for CCEOK”. She commented what would CCEOK do without me? I responded the Holy Spirit would still accomplish the Lord’s mission.

My comment made me reflect on the philosophical discussion Dennis and I had earlier: Why do CCEOK volunteers selflessly give so much time? Is it because the volunteers listened to the Holy Spirit and that it led them to CCEOK to accomplish the Lord’s mission?

What else could it be?





**VOLUNTEER**  
 A PERSON WHO  
**MAKES A DIFFERENCE**  
 ONE ACT OF  
**KINDNESS**  
 AT A TIME.

**CATHOLIC** Eastern Oklahoma  
 CHARITIES

**Volunteer Appreciation Week 2024**





# HANDS OF CHRIST

By Dcn. Paul Louderback,  
Disaster Outreach

In my career, I've been blessed to work at some amazing places and experienced some pretty cool things. After graduating from OSU in 1984, I was hired at the Tulsa Zoo and was able to use the degree I had spent years acquiring. In my 30 years at the zoo, I wore several different "hats", from zookeeper to supervisor/curator to registrar...not knowing that all of my experiences would prepare me for future endeavors. God was preparing me for bigger and greater things.

In 1990, I was blessed to make a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, which set me on a discernment journey to move to Chicago and study with the Augustinians. But at the end of my first year, I discerned out...the priesthood wasn't God's will for me. He had other plans for me. But I learned much from the Augustinians. God was preparing me.

Over the next several decades, my involvement with the Church grew. I became involved in the Knights of Columbus, doing parish work and volunteering at different places. God was preparing me. Then in 2017, I answered the call to explore the diaconate, and after six years I was ordained. In Nov. 2021, I began my employment with Catholic Charities.

What a blessing working here has been for me. God had prepared me not only for the diaconate, but also to be "Christ's merciful love to those who suffer." He had prepared me through all my past experiences to not just be able to manage administrative duties (which is important) but to listen with patience and compassion to the person who just lost their house to a fire. To be present to any and all disaster survivors as they are often in shock at losing their belongings, their homes and even their pets. And sadly, we sometimes are called upon to speak and spend time with those who have lost a loved one. This can be very humbling to realize that God is using me in such a critical moment, as he does many other staff members (employees and volunteers) here at CCEOK. While recognizing that through me, God is working...I am the one who is being blessed! I am being blessed by not only what I am doing as a deacon but also by working in this wonderful agency we call CCEOK!

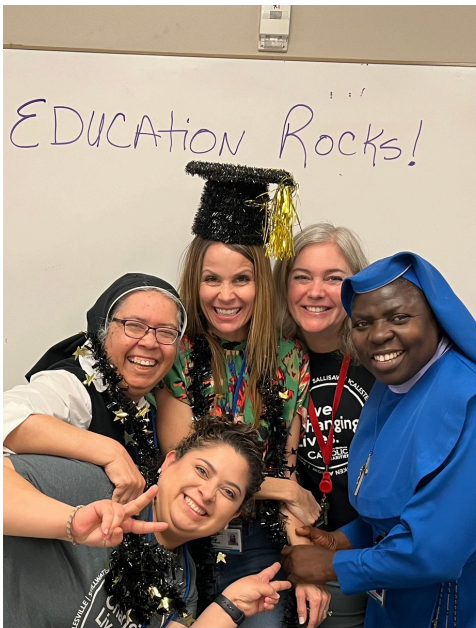


A big CCEOK

≡ Welcome ≡

to all of our newest volunteers!

Daniel O'Brien - Disaster Preparedness  
Carmen Portillo - Education  
Charit Mukamuri - The Kitchen  
LaQuinta Smith - Kitchen  
Hannah Byram - The Market  
Lynette Espinales - The Market  
Charlene Holloway - The Market  
John Kite - The Market  
Tamra Sheehan - The Market  
Michael Suse - The Market  
Helena Baker - Porta Caeli House  
Sallye Brooke - Porta Caeli House  
Elder Kimball Brown - Porta Caeli House  
Mary Kay Latham - Porta Caeli House  
Nancy Leon - Porta Caeli House  
LaQuita Mancuso - Porta Caeli House  
Kim McCall - Porta Caeli House  
Embrey Pollet - Porta Caeli House  
Catherine Willis - Porta Caeli House  
Freddy Chambers - Workforce Development



## Looking for a fun and fulfilling volunteer opportunity?

Adult Education is currently looking for summer volunteer teachers!

Previous teaching experience is NOT required and you do not have to be bilingual. ESL classes are offered Mondays and Wednesdays, 9-11am and 6-8pm. HiSET (GED) classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-11am and 6-8pm. Summer schedules are flexible. Volunteers are welcome to teach one class...or as many as they want! We would love to have you join our amazing team! ESL classes will be held on campus on Mondays and off campus on Wednesdays, experiencing and learning life skills at places such as banks, hospitals, libraries, etc.



Our front desk volunteers had a half-day retreat to refresh and recharge their batteries. Thanks to the front desk volunteers – the first friendly faces that our neighbors, guests and students encounter when they come to Catholic Charities!



We're so grateful for our kitchen volunteer team! They go above and beyond to feed our neighbors in need and to make delicious items that people can get from the Market. Earlier in April we were glad they took a morning to rest and celebrate all that they have accomplished!



The baseball team from Bishop Miege High School in Shawnee Mission, Kansas, came for the 2nd year to volunteer at Catholic Charities on the school's "Day of Service." Thank you for being game-changers both on and off the field!

## 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!

