

SERVICE IN ACTION

November 2023



MOctoberfest, prost!

Recently, parishioners of St. Anne Catholic Church in Broken Arrow held their annual fund-raising event called MOctoberfest to benefit Catholic Charities Ministry of Compassion. The event is timed so that it doesn't overlap with Tulsa's Oktoberfest, and allows BA families to come together in a smaller venue to celebrate the end of the traditional German growing season in a local setting.

The event is organized by volunteers from St. Anne and from the parish of St. Benedict, who arrange for music, beer, wine and traditional German faire, along with a petting zoo (this year kids could pet a chicken) and pony rides. All of the MOctober fun happens under a tent set up on the grounds behind the Parish Hall.

About 50-60 people volunteer at MOC every month. Volunteers can be resource volunteers who coordinate the delivery of financial, legal, medical, and other assistance, work in the food pantry, conduct ESL classes, and work at a pop-up grocery store over at a nearby apartment complex for the elderly and disabled.

MOC is always looking for new volunteers! The space is too small to accommodate larger volunteer groups, but occasionally an activity is scheduled so larger groups can participate.

MOC has a unique arrangement with some students at Bishop Kelley – they sign up for 4 years, then show up on assigned Saturdays to unload Food Bank food, stock it, and clean the pantry. Clients at the pantry shop for their food, directly off the shelves in open cases. Refrigerated and frozen food is also provided along with fresh produce, eggs, milk and meat when available.

This year, more than 100 people volunteered at MOctoberfest on October 7th. The event, one of two primary fundraising events for MOC, generated more than \$20,000, all of which is earmarked for MOC.

In October 2024, remember that there's a party going on at St. Anne in BA, and the proceeds go to a great cause!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTH TULSA SOCCER LEAGUE

Fr. Celestine Obidiegwu (Fr. C), the pastor at St. Augustine and St. Monica Catholic Churches and a huge soccer “football” fan, noticed last spring that there were very few opportunities for kids in North Tulsa to learn, practice and play the game near where they lived.

So, Fr. C and his team organized the North Tulsa Soccer League, offering the land behind St. Augustine for its use. That area originally had been partitioned into 4 soccer pitches but it was uneven, and not in good enough shape to play an organized game. So that the new league would have good playing fields, Fr. C received donations from community groups to grade and mark out 9 new pitches – some small enough for the youngest of players, and others for the older kids.

Recognizing that there would be many North Tulsa families that would come to the field to watch their kids play, Catholic Charities (CC) offered to bring food to the families attending the soccer matches. For three Saturdays in the Spring of 2023, and continuing again for several Saturdays this fall, CC provided a truck loaded with bags of dry goods, produce, and other items to hand out as a package to any family wanting it.

CC’s Volunteer Office arranged for volunteers from area schools and adults from other organizations to assist a CC driver with the distribution. Some of the groups who have helped distribute food include Cascia Hall, Bishop Kelley, Owasso High School’s soccer team, the Booker T. Washington’s Hornets Against Hunger, employees of Bama Frozen Dough, and the Knights of Columbus from the Parish of the Most Precious Blood.

On game day Saturdays, it’s awesome to see kids aged 10 and under - and some are very young - show up with their parents and siblings all kitted out to play on the new pitches that have been made to look their best. As one looks out over the expanse of humanity where numerous matches are being played simultaneously, one can’t help but think how many kids’ lives are being touched in this small, but significant way. Maybe we’ll see some future professional players emerge from these fields on Apache!



Interested in the Refugee Resettlement program?

Join us Thursday, November 16th,
for a training and information session!

1:00 - 2:30 PM
Admin Conference Room
CCEOK’s Tulsa Campus
2450 N. Harvard Ave. Tulsa
Scan the QR code to sign up!



HANDS OF CHRIST

By Kathleen McGuire

Refugee Resettlement volunteer

I was at an apartment at the University of Tulsa recently working with other volunteers to arrange donated furnishings for a young lady arriving soon from Afghanistan as a refugee sponsored by CCEOK. It was a familiar experience for me. Twenty-three years earlier, I had been in another TU apartment the day my daughter moved in for her freshman year. I remember making her bed and worrying about leaving her alone. This time, making the bed for the young refugee who was on her way alone from Afghanistan, I thought about how she wouldn't have her mother to help her settle in.

This was one of many humbling moments I've had as a "Hands of Christ" volunteer assisting refugees as they start new lives in America. We welcome them at the airport, set up their new apartments and cook the first hot meals they'll have here. Later, we help them access social, medical and employment services, open bank accounts, shop for groceries, enroll in school and English classes and sign their kids up for sports activities.

Volunteering has rewarded me in ways I did not expect. I've driven a newly arrived refugee home after a successful job interview that helped her on her way to becoming self-sufficient. I've had the fun of introducing a family to the American custom of Mother's Day. I get to learn from case managers and staff I admire at Catholic Charities doing very difficult work. I've witnessed the generosity of family, friends and neighbors as they share their time, talent and treasure in order to help refugees rebuild their lives. Old friends have reached out to me to ask "What can I do?" Most surprising, I have many more people in my life who are precious to me and who have started calling me Granny.

There's more than enough of this rewarding work to go around. CCEOK is resettling 225 refugees in the coming year, so many more "Hands of Christ" are needed. If you can join us, you will be blessed many times over!



A big CCEOK

WELCOME

to all of our newest volunteers!

Daryn Hance – Dental
Margaret Hammond – Dental
Susan Denny – Dental
Makayla Davis – Dental
Madison Blaylock – Dental
Maria Gabriela Aguilar – Dental
Vickey Francis - Dental
Heather Johnson - Education
John Hart – Immigration
Julio Beltran - The Market
Rick Darnaby - The Market
Mary Holder - The Market
Charles Shannon - The Market
Kevin Terronez – The Market
Dcn. Dean Wersal - The Market
Angela Woods – McAlester
Leona Ellis – McAlester
Julie Clemons – Ministry of Compassion
Debora Schaberg – Ministry of Compassion
Shannon Branch - Muskogee
Tim Desmond – Porta Caeli House
Vincent Santine - Porta Caeli House
April Winkler – Porta Caeli House
Jeremy Bryant - Refugee Resettlement
Gaudy Carlton - Refugee Resettlement
Tonya Bond - Sallisaw
John Wilfong - Sallisaw
Lynda Wilfong – Sallisaw



Check out our information and training session to learn more!



Save the Date for
Christmas Day of Blessings!
Saturday, December 16

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



Catholic Charities was the beneficiary of many volunteers that took part in United Way Day of Caring. 1 day, 5 companies (Saint Francis Health Systems, Magellan Midstream Partners, Gateway Mortgage, Tulsa City-County Library and Sharpshooter Communications), 6 hours, 12 projects, 76 volunteers.



Look who has been hanging out in the garden lately! CCEOK is a certified Monarch Waystation on the Monarch Butterfly migration trail. From caterpillar to butterfly, we enjoy having them here every summer.



GET INVOLVED



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

MAKE A
 DONATION!

