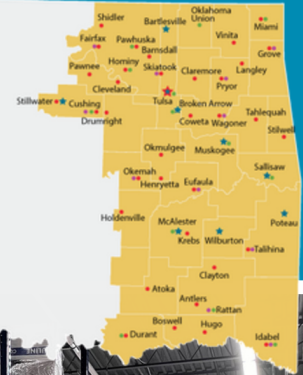


SERVICE IN ACTION

October 2024



Wagoner Team



Wed. Night Team

Outreach Mobile Food Pantries

Many of us are not aware that the Eastern Oklahoma Outreach program at Catholic Charities (CC) also delivers food to communities where there is no brick and mortar CC building.

Senior Director MaryLynn Lufkin, Outreach Director Carey Fabrizio and Walter Wiedel have developed a mobile food pantry (MFP) schedule that, once a month, covers each of 12 locations, from Rattan in far southeast Oklahoma to Miami, in the northeast corner of the state. Fairfax, in Osage County, is the western edge of the coverage area.

Some of the MFP locations are reachable only by non-paved road. One location is on a rodeo ground. Others are more picturesque – Webbers Falls' location, for example, is in a park right on the river. Many locations do not have any other source of food or helping agencies close by so having access to something, at least once a month, is a blessing to those in need.

MFP's could not occur without the dedication of a group of core volunteers who assist lead volunteer Embry Hood each Wednesday evening. They include Nancy and Roger Baalman, Erin Schwartz, Fernando Gutierrez, Scott and Joseph Schurman, and Robert Eubank. These folks pull dry goods off pallets in the Tulsa warehouse and create an assembly line so other volunteers can fill bags that are later paired with fresh produce, meat, bread items and other products on site at the MFP and given to our neighbors in need.

Each MFP day, Walter loads up a truck with the bagged food and supplemental items, and delivers it all to a location, where he's arranged for volunteers to assist him unloading, bagging, and loading food into a client's vehicle. Volunteers come from local parishes, schools and other religious and civic organizations in the vicinity of the MFP.

Continued on next page

Each one of the locations is staffed by a lead volunteer, who are: Larry Boyer in Eufaula, Tamra Bowman in Fairfax, Margo Goodall in Pryor, Evon Kaze in Skiatook, Earlyne Hutchens in Wagoner, Maria Verduzco in Stilwell, Richard Jones for Foyil, Elfie Bowling in Talihina, Judge Robert Reavis in Miami, Pam Wemhaner in Webbers Falls, Patrica Welch in Rattan, and Jarel Brown in Poteau.

Smaller locations serve around 90 families, while the larger locations can serve 200-300 families each month.

To be part of the Wednesday night team, building bags of food, sign up using the link/QR code. To be part of a MFP, contact Walter at wwiedel@cceok.org. The volunteer need right now is for drivers and also for on-site helpers. More hands are also needed in Tulsa to build the food bags. Thank you for helping serve our neighbors!

Welcoming Porta Caeli House's New Volunteer Coordinator

Caleb Harlan is Porta Caeli House's (PCH) new Volunteer Coordinator, replacing Mary Nole, who retired earlier this year.

Caleb started at Catholic Charities in July after ten years as a Presbyterian minister, most recently as the leader of the Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at the University of Tulsa. In 2020, Caleb made a friend in Gerald Murphy at the Newman Center (Director of the Catholic ministry at TU) who introduced him to the study of the Catholic faith. Over the intervening four years Caleb became a student of Catholicism, leading him to quit his job at RUF in April of this year. During his search for a new job, he met Deacon Kevin, who with Deacon Erick, told him about several openings at CC Tulsa, including the position he now holds. Caleb is husband to Meggie and father of four young children.

There is a committed group of volunteers who staff PCH, serving at the front desk, in the kitchen, with house cleaning, and as guest companions – visiting with and praying for the dying, but Caleb is looking to expand the types of engagement that volunteers may have with the families and individuals who are at PCH. This expansion includes fellowship events in their dining room for family members who are visiting,

Mobile Pantry Monthly Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Talihina		Build a bag		Miami	Rattan
		Fairfax	Build a bag		Eufaula	
	Foyil		Build a bag		Webbers Falls	
		Pryor	Build a bag	Wagoner	Skiatook	Stilwell Poteau

Sign up to build bags on Wednesday nights!



as well as some level of long-term grief support for family members after their loved one dies. Volunteers with experience in managing grief would follow up with family members to see if there's anything they might need, or simply be someone they can talk to.

Another new volunteer opportunity would be as a caregiver assistant – a person who can have a bit more hands-on interaction, assisting our staff in many ways, particularly coming around at mealtimes and helping them eat what they can.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering at PCH, please contact Caleb at charlan@cceok.org, or 918 935-2604.



HANDS OF CHRIST

Kevin Legleiter, Warehouse Lead Volunteer

Over the last few months, as I unloaded trucks at Catholic Charities, I began noticing a young mother walking through the back CC lot with her three young children. Admittedly, I was initially concerned about the mother and children being in danger by the truck & forklift traffic behind CC, but noticed the mother kept close watch over her children and the children stayed close to their mother.

I began waving at the family as they passed through the lot. The children were so adorable that I began waving and yelling "Hello cuties". With the encouragement of their mother, the children would all smile and wave back.

One day I stopped the forklift and formally introduced myself to the mother, telling her my name was "Kevin." To my utter astonishment, she told me her name was "Kevina" and went on to explain that Kevina is the female version, Irish origin, of the name Kevin. (Coincidence, or the Holy Spirit at work?)

Over the weeks, we continued our regular greetings and exchanges. If her children were not with her, we'd discuss that her son had bad allergies; or it was too hot to bring them out. One day she discussed taking them to the library.

Kevina came through the lot not long ago with her children; as usual I waved and yelled "Hello cuties". As usual the children and Kevina all smiled & waved. Then Kevina called my name and walked over to me.

Kevina excitedly told me that she finally had gotten her own apartment! She said she was so thankful for all the help CC & the women's shelter provided her. But she wanted to stop and tell me ...because on the days that she was down and felt no hope for a better tomorrow, a wave and "Hello cuties" uplifted her and gave her the hope and encouragement to keep going.

Kevina's comment reminded me that the Holy Spirit's prompting to say a simple "hello" to someone can provide the hope and encouragement they need for the day.

A reminder to me to closely listen to the Holy Spirit in my daily life.



A big CCEOK

Welcome

to all of our newest volunteers!

Maha Achour – Dental
Brooks Beck – Dental
Ishah Bhakta – Dental
Madalyn Cory – Dental
Jack Doan - Dental
Hana Elkashef – Dental
Abby Emde – Dental
Jocelyn Hernandez – Dental
Makena Janzen – Dental
Brynne Maclaven - Dental
Ashley Nail – Dental
Adelina Pizana - Dental
Ethan Schneller – Dental
Eduvigés Barrios – EA
Brissa Arriaga - Education
Leticia Martinez Carreno – Education
Karina Cisneros – Education
Quinnlan Murray – Education
Duncan Ornelas - Education
Miriam Ortega – Education/MOC
Margarita Summers – Education
Juan Becerra – Healing Ministries
David Johnson – Kitchen
Christopher Jackson – The Market
Brent Park – The Market
Marcus Scott - The Market
Christopher Bradley – McAlester
Jeanne Gaudrone – McAlester
Monica Culver – MMO
Rafael Fuenmayor - MOC
Linda Ritchie – Muskogee
Nicole Lease – PCH
Elizabeth Ackerman – Sallisaw
Amber Farris – Sallisaw
Cara Mosby - Sallisaw



United Way Day of Caring was a big success. Thanks to Gateway, ONEOK and St. Francis Health Systems for being Love Changing Lives!




The Market - Upcoming Closures
Wednesday 10/16 - Closed for The Market planning & cleaning day
Friday 11/1 - Closed for Solemnity of All Saints

Holiday Market Closures

NOV	Sun. 24	Mon. 25 9am - 2pm	Tues. 26 9am - 2pm & 5pm to 7pm	Wed. 27 Closing Early 9am - noon	Thur. 28 CLOSED Happy Thanksgiving!	Fri. 29 CLOSED	Sat. 30 CLOSED
	Sun. 1	Mon. 2 Opening Late 10am - 2pm	Tues. 3 9am - 2pm & 5pm to 7pm	Wed. 4 9am - 2pm	Thur. 5 9am - 2pm	Fri. 6 9am - 2pm	Sat. 7 St. Francis Distribution 9am until we run out
	Sun. 8	Mon. 9 CLOSED	Tues. 10 9am - 2pm & 5pm to 7pm	Wed. 11 9am - 2pm	Thur. 12 9am - 2pm	Fri. 13 9am - 2pm	Sat. 14
	Sun. 15	Mon. 16 9am - 2pm	Tues. 17 9am - 2pm & 5pm to 7pm	Wed. 18 9am - 2pm	Thur. 19 9am - 2pm	Fri. 20 9am - 2pm	Sat. 21 Day of Blessings 9am until we run out
	Sun. 22	Mon. 23 Closing Early 9am - noon	Tues. 24 CLOSED	Wed. 25 CLOSED Merry Christmas!	Thur. 26 Opening Late 10am - 2pm	Fri. 27 9am - 2pm	Sat. 28 CLOSED
	Sun. 29	Mon. 30	Tues. 31 9am - 2pm No evening hours	Wed. 1 CLOSED Happy New Years!	Thur. 2 9am - 2pm	Fri. 3 9am - 2pm	Sat. 4
	JAN	Sun. 29	Mon. 30	Tues. 31	Wed. 1	Thur. 2	Fri. 3



Ministry of Compassion threw their volunteers an end of summer luau that included Hawaiian food, raffle drawings, a dessert contest and other fun!



GET INVOLVED



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

MAKE A DONATION!

