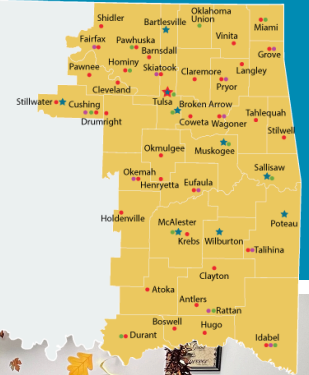


# SERVICE IN ACTION

November 2024



## Volunteers Planting Seeds of Hope in Our Community

Emergency Assistance (EA) is the Catholic Charities (CCEOK) program that provides clients with help for basic needs, connects them with available community resources and offers prayer for their needs – all with dignity and compassion.

Clients can request financial assistance through the program once a year, and those who request assistance are urged to enroll in case management – a strength-based service designed to encourage a partnership between a client and their case manager to tailor a goal-oriented plan to overcome financial stressors and prevent homelessness.

EA is looking for volunteers to assist with case management so that staff can concentrate on the other, longer-term components of managing client engagement.

There are no specific technical requirements for volunteers in this role, but volunteers need to be humble, patient, understanding, non-judgmental, and able to coach and mentor clients.

Training for this role would involve shadowing existing EA case workers, then followed by a stint at The Market

to see what questions clients are asking, and finally becoming familiar with the various programs both at Catholic Charities and those offered through other charities in the area.

Still in the “idea” stage are opportunities for volunteer-led ongoing workshops like a nutrition class or parenting classes.

Current EA volunteers include: Robert Cooper, Eduviges Barrios, Cynt Simon, and Milena Jensen

EA is also working to place resource officers on campus. They are looking for volunteers to be present in The Market to assist clients with any other issues they might have and share information about other CCEOK programs, and resources available elsewhere in the community. EA is looking to staff these positions with (hopefully, but not required) bilingual people, and those special volunteers who can come in on Tuesday evenings!

For more information, please contact Ally Fjeldsted at [afjeldsted@cceok.org](mailto:afjeldsted@cceok.org), or Valerie Valadez at [vvaladez@cceok.org](mailto:vvaladez@cceok.org).



## CCEOK Welcomes Refugee Resettlement's New Volunteer Coordinator

The Refugee Resettlement program, which helps refugees originally from other countries adjust to their new lives here as our neighbors, has a new Volunteer Coordinator, Benazir Noorzad.

Originally from Afghanistan, Benazir is fluent in Dari, English, Hindi, and Urdu, and can converse in Pashto and Russian! She was honored as a Fulbright scholar at Oklahoma State University, where she earned a master's degree in Global Studies, and ever since joining the Refugee Resettlement team, Benazir has been taking part in all aspects of the CCEOK resettlement process.

Volunteers meet the families arriving from many different nations at the airport and transport them to their new living spaces – usually an apartment that's been rented and furnished in advance by the apartment set-up team. They are also provided a culturally appropriate meal. Refugees receive necessary legal assistance, are told about services available locally, helped with job searches and if they have children, they are enrolled in school. In short, whatever help they might need in their first 90 days after arrival is provided through the program. The group also conducts a cultural orientation seminar to help these new neighbors adjust to life here in the US.

While there are some core volunteers who are assisting with helping our newest neighbors, more volunteers are needed to join the team!

There are no specific requirements for volunteers. What is required, though, is a general desire to help new arrivals become functioning members of our community. Some roles involve moving furniture into apartments, but other roles are not as physical. There is definitely something for everyone.

If you are interested in helping this program assist new arrivals to (re)build their new lives with dignity and respect, please contact Benazir at [bnoorzad@cceok.org](mailto:bnoorzad@cceok.org), or at (918) 345-4345.



A NEW EVENT  
TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS!

Loving in  
**LENT**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**MARCH 5 - APRIL 5, 2025**

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS,  
FAMILIES & GROUPS

MORE DETAILS TO COME!



# HANDS OF CHRIST

## Judy and Chuck Schiffli, Kitchen Lunch Service Volunteers

In 2007, I (Judy) retired after working 40 years as a registered nurse. One of the first things I did was to visit Catholic Charities on North Denver Ave. Working every week with my husband, Chuck (also retired), and two other couples in that little house, we helped families by providing clothes for them and their children. When Catholic Charities moved to the beautiful new campus on North Harvard, I worked in the housewares department. There I was able to help many families with the basic needs of linens, bedding and kitchen equipment.

In 2022, Chuck and I were asked if we would like to help in the kitchen and serve lunches. Our daughter was able to join us also, since she just retired. So now you can see us on Thursdays serving delicious lunches provided by Chef Michael Fusco and his host of kitchen volunteers and culinary students.

This has been the most rewarding thing we have ever done. We get to interact with clients, employees and volunteers. The friends we have made while at Catholic Charities are a true gift from God. The volunteers and employees are so friendly and always willing to go the extra mile to help those in need.

As we share our meals with the clients we can listen to their stories and live out the Catholic Charities motto of "Love Changing Lives". With a smile and an open heart, we try to serve God and the people that we come in contact with as best we can.

Thank you, Catholic Charities, for this wonderful ministry!



A big CCEOK

# =Welcome=

to all of our newest volunteers!

Grace Bernard - Dental  
Lucy Campbell - Dental  
Amber Croney - Dental  
Mossimo Cuevas - Dental  
Hailey Doolin - Dental  
Sophia Eaton - Dental  
Riley Gray - Dental  
Shanna Hoffman - Dental  
Zoe Holmes - Dental  
Sarah Rowland - Dental  
Janae Russell - Dental  
Mallory Tiger - Dental  
Anthony Wagner - Dental  
Nadia Webb - Dental  
Hannah Wright - Dental  
Mackenzie Olson - Development/ EA/Education  
Anthony Ors - Garden  
Elder Jonathan Davis - Market/EA  
Taylor Evans - MMO  
Mary Joslin - MMO  
Marcos Maldonado - MMO  
Therese Amigo - Muskogee  
Kyle Lee - PCH  
Joyce Markes - PCH  
David Markes - PCH  
Lindsay Stroud - PCH  
Karl Watkins - PCH  
Linda Auld - Sallisaw  
Margaret Mahan - Sallisaw  
Mary Morris - Sallisaw  
Paula Wilburn - Sallisaw

## Ave Maria!

Thank you to  
volunteer Claudia  
Hernandez for  
touching up our  
statue of the  
Blessed Mother and  
for sharing this  
wonderful picture  
with us!







SAVE THE DATE FOR  
*Christmas Day of Blessings!*  
**Saturday, Dec. 21st**



Indian Capital  
Technology  
Center  
students  
helped bring  
tail wags  
to the pets  
of many  
shoppers at  
The Market!



**MMOnday!**  
The Volunteer office  
spent a Monday  
morning recently  
working alongside  
dedicated MMO  
volunteers.



## The Market - Upcoming Closures

Friday 11/1 - Closed for Solemnity of All Saints  
Tuesday 11/5 - no Tuesday evening Market  
Wednesday 11/6 - Market closed all day, rural  
outreach still building food bags in the evening.

**NOV**

Sun. 24	Mon. 25	Tues. 26	Wed. 27	Thur. 28	Fri. 29	Sat. 30
	9am - 2pm	9am - 2pm & 5pm to 7pm	Closing Early 9am - noon	CLOSED Happy Thanksgiving!	CLOSED	CLOSED



Recently, the CCEOK Volunteer office celebrated its  
volunteers. Without the hard work of these 4  
dedicated individuals, the Volunteer office could not  
support all CCEOK programs, outreaches  
and mobile food pantries.

A big 'Thank You' to Vic Alonzi, Beth Jensen,  
Barbara Mistelske and Debra Vloedman!

## 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!

