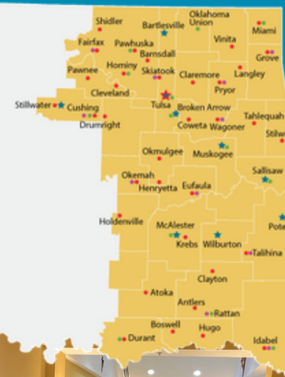


SERVICE IN ACTION

September 2024



Building a New Event to Help - and Bless - Our Neighbors; Reenvisioning Our Day of Blessings

We're trying something new! Building a whole new event to bless our brothers and sisters.

For many years, Catholic Charities' Thanksgiving Day of Blessings has been a hallmark event for both our neighbors in need AND for our volunteers. Since Tulsa is currently blessed with so many other non-profit organizations - both large and small - there has been a significant increase in the number of food giveaways during the days and weeks preceding Thanksgiving.

To be sure, an abundance of groups wanting to help others is a great problem for our community to have! However, this led Catholic Charities to look at not only boosting our Christmas Day of Blessings, but also to seek a different opportunity to bless our neighbors - at a time of year when not so many are doing the same thing.

For our organization, the natural time to do that is during Lent.

Recently, a group of employees and volunteers (staff) met to begin building a new Lenten-themed event, [Loving in Lent](#).

This new event will be about showing Christ's merciful love to those in need in different ways. Of course, food will be involved, but it won't be the primary focus of [Loving in Lent](#). This event will be a great opportunity for volunteers to serve the community when the focus on holiday giving has passed.

Our Christmas Day of Blessings will be the morning of Saturday, December 21. In the past, the Christmas event was more low-key than Thanksgiving, but that's all about to change!

This year, we'll be doing more to not only hand out a Christmas meal but also to show our neighbors that they are seen, prayed for, and loved. As soon as all of the details are planned, a SignUp Genius with volunteer opportunities for individuals, families, and groups will be available.

Stay tuned to learn more about [Loving in Lent](#) as soon as plans are finalized!



Synchronized Chip Dipping: Well done, Refugee Resettlement Team, who gathered for lunch after acing a double apartment set-up in the scorching heat!

Congratulations to our CCEOK volunteers who win gold every day for their efforts to serve our neighbors in need!



Jerry & Pearlann are a formidable Front Desk package volleyball team!



Baguette Press: Determination and pure muscle power help Mitichiziko lift piles of baguettes and other bread items onto the Market shelves, so our clients have plenty of choices.

Can Curling: Rick and Donna win big in Can Curling! You can catch them training every time they volunteer in The Market!



Steak Discus: Using a week-old Salisbury Steak found cleaning out the PCH fridge, Vern takes gold against PCH Volunteer Coordinator, Caleb!



Courtyard Sprinkler Dodging: We loved watching Ann dodge the sprinklers while getting into the Immigration building. She's a champ at this precision sport!

HANDS OF CHRIST

By Erin Schwartz, CCEOK Volunteer

A few years ago, I started volunteering with CCEOK as a way to give to an organization that is close to my heart. Most weeks, you'll find me with the crew of Wednesday evening volunteers. We start in the warehouse breaking down pallets of food, then pack hundreds of bags of food for outreach locations across eastern Oklahoma.

Through my employer, I am also able to give back to the community by volunteering in The Market with my coworkers. We have the opportunity to assist shoppers and stock the shelves to get ready for the next day's clients.

One day, while working in The Market, I assisted a neighbor who was selecting groceries for his family, and we simply started talking. As I walked with him and sensed his openness, I asked how he was doing, what was on his mind, how his family was, and more. While walking with him to his car with his cart full of food, he stopped me and said, "You gave me my dignity back today. Thank you." It reminded me that we shouldn't listen to immediately respond; we listen to learn and love and allow someone to feel appreciated.

We don't know everyone's story, but we do know that we can show them charity and compassion. We give of ourselves so others may receive kindness and fullness of love and mercy. And in the words of CCEOK, "Together, we are Love Changing Lives."



A big CCEOK

>Welcome

to all of our newest volunteers!

Riley Crimson - Dental

Blair Dieterlen - Dental

Samantha Howell - Dental

Cailey Martin - Dental

Sandra Perozo, DDS - Dental

Iqra Saleem - Dental

Kyra Shock - Dental

Kenneth Hill - Disaster

Cody Oetken - Disaster

Robert Cooper - EA

Ayanami Quinones - Education

Javier Quinones-Ramos - Education

Grace Vanuza Rogers - Education

Karla Williams - Education

Tyler Rossow - Education

Bailey Bridges - Transitional Living

Nicole Johnson - Transitional Living

Guadalupe Remirez - The Market

Maria Cervantes - McAlester

Karen Painter - McAlester

Linda Kay Jones - MMO

Brenda Elliott - Muskogee

Edouard Champon - PCH

Ruth Ann Harris - Sallisaw

Lorrie Dost - Wilburton

SAVE THE DATE!

BEER, LIVE MUSIC & FOOD

20 24

Moctober Fest

19 OCT

ST. ANNE CATHOLIC CHURCH
301 S 9TH ST.
BROKEN ARROW, OK 74012

11AM-9 PM FREE ENTRY

WWW.STANNEBA.ORG




Volunteers from Porta Caeli House gathered recently to train on their volunteer roles and enjoy food and fellowship together.

Retreat

Emergency Assistance will be closed for a staff retreat on Friday, September 6. They will be letting clients know so that they are aware ahead of time.



The Catholic Charities Volunteer Office and Workforce Development were at the recent Diocesan Faith Formation Conference sharing the many great volunteer opportunities at Catholic Charities.



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

GET INVOLVED



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

MAKE A DONATION!

