

# SERVICE IN ACTION

August 2025



## Meet PCH Volunteer Coordinator Cassie Leach

Cassie Leach is glad to be part of the important ministry at Porta Caeli House, CCEOK's home for the dying. Prior to joining the Catholic Charities family, Cassie worked as a missionary with Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), helping to engage and equip college students to grow in their faith and to spread the Gospel message. She first served as a missionary at Benedictine College, and then at Christ the King Parish, which is ultimately what brought the Indiana native to Tulsa.

Wanting to keep the Lord and her faith at the center of her life, Cassie began her career at CCEOK first as a Resident Assistant in the Transitional Living Program before moving to the role of House and Volunteer Coordinator at PCH.

"We live out our faith in our work," she said of working at CCEOK and the role the dedicated team of PCH volunteers fulfill. "Our volunteers give dignity and respect to our guests as they pass."

Since being hired at PCH in early May, Cassie has had a chance to meet almost all of the 50-60 regular weekly volunteers on the PCH team, getting to know them and learning the different jobs each one does to make the house the best it can be. The volunteers at PCH not only serve the guests and their families with compassion and dignity but also have formed friendships and built community with one another, Cassie said.

Additionally, as House Manager, she is responsible for keeping all supplies inventoried and ensuring there is enough of everything for both volunteers and caregivers – this includes everything from food for the guests to medical supplies caregivers need like gloves, small cups and such.

Even while transitioning to the new role at PCH, Cassie is also transitioning to a new chapter in her personal life – planning her upcoming wedding in November. Congratulations, Cassie!

If you are interested in joining the PCH volunteer team, contact Cassie at [cleach@cceok.org](mailto:cleach@cceok.org).





The Market



Muskogee



Tulsa Front Desk



Ministry of Compassion

**Congratulations  
to all of  
our 2025  
Summer Sizzle  
winners!**

some winners not pictured here.



The Market



Volunteer Office



Facilities



Mary Martha Outreach



# HANDS OF CHRIST

By Fran Clark,

Adult Education volunteer

In 2016, I moved to Tulsa after retiring from my career as a computer analyst with Phillips 66. Settling into the ease of retirement life in a city I did not really know had its ups and downs.

I volunteered for a few organizations but did not really find what I was looking for until 2019. That is when a gym friend and truly the most Jesus like friend I knew asked me to consider volunteering to help Catholic Charities with the Afghan Resettlement Program. I knew this was the right work organization for me when at the initial training the trainer said our most important job was to love those in need. Loving others is something I am really good at.

I taught cultural orientation during the initial Afghan program. After that program was completed, I moved to volunteering for the general refugee resettlement program. I learned that there are no barriers to helping others. Cultural differences, language differences, personal experience.... all that matters is a willing heart and spirit and perhaps some really good translation apps. My claim to fame during my refugee settlement experience was taking our new arrivals to the DMV. I did it 24 times in one year.

In 2024, the same friend asked me if I would consider teaching ESL... remember I speak little Spanish... but once again all that is required is a willing heart. In each of the previous Catholic Charities volunteer experiences I have had, I encouraged those I was helping to learn to speak English. Now I was being asked to facilitate that end goal. I was assigned to teach ESL 3. In this class we help students fine-tune their English abilities. I must say it is so much fun as the students are so eager to learn. Sometimes they ask me questions about English, and I don't know the answer. Who knew that I would have to learn more about the language I have spoken my whole life!

What I hope everyone knows is there is always a way to help others. You don't have to be an expert. You only need a willing heart and spirit. I would also like you to know that I ALWAYS get back more than I give! Thank you, Catholic Charities!



A big CCEOK

# ≡Welcome≡

to all of our newest volunteers!

AnnClaire Murray - Education

Elder Ewing - Market/Kitchen

Kennedy Perkins - Market

Destony Tucker - MMO

Layla Suliburk - Immigration

Bruce Sander - PCH

Artur Moraes - Sallisaw

Abigail Truett - Transitional Living

Annagrace Wilson - Transitional Living



**Congratulations to the Kitchen and Workforce volunteers who made the most recent Culinary Training graduation a great success!**



## Calling all volunteers!

The Volunteer Office has a new Facebook group, **Volunteers Changing Lives**. Please join our group and be in the know with all things CCEOK volunteer related!



Scan this QR code or search "Volunteers Changing Lives" on Facebook to join!

### Upcoming CCEOK & Market Closures



**Thursday, Aug. 14** - The Market & Warehouse will be closed for a retreat

**Friday, Aug. 15** - CCEOK will be closed for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary \*

**Saturday, Aug. 30** - There will be no Last Saturday Market due to Labor Day weekend

**Monday, Sept. 1** - CCEOK will be closed for Labor Day \*

\*PCH & Transitional Living are always open

It was a joy to have several amazing student groups on campus both in Tulsa and Sallisaw last month!



Young homeschoolers eagerly lent their hands to the garden, learning about plants, teamwork and volunteerism. A great way to plant seeds of love and charity.



Volunteers from Zionsville, IN, spent time in Sallisaw refreshing the front garden and sign, then split into teams to paint two offices and a bathroom—just when CC Sallisaw needed it most!

## GET INVOLVED



Volunteer with us! [cceok.org/volunteer](https://cceok.org/volunteer)

Join our Facebook Group!

For story ideas, feedback, etc.,  
email: [volcommunications@cceok.org](mailto:volcommunications@cceok.org)

MAKE A  
DONATION!

