

SERVICE IN ACTION

August 2026



Workforce Development is Expanding

The life changing work in CCEOK's Workforce Development Program is growing to help build strong futures for students.

In addition to culinary and auto repair programs, CCEOK's Workforce Development Program is expanding to include a healthcare role - certified nursing assistant (CNA).

"We offer job training in sectors that are growing and have a strong outlook for future employment," said Program Manager Joe Rogers. "These careers are background-friendly, offer fair starting wages, and provide opportunities for advancement. We're excited to add the new program to our portfolio."

Volunteers are needed to help ensure success in the new training areas – including those with some medical or healthcare backgrounds. All curriculum is provided by CCEOK. In addition to volunteer instructors, administrative support is also needed.

The first week of any new cohort will be spent covering general topics like testing for food handler permits and patient care basics for the healthcare tract, all using provided curriculum.

After that, the cohorts will head to different locations for hands-on training, depending upon which tract they're pursuing.

"Our goal is to help people change their own lives by supporting them as they develop the skills needed to provide for themselves and their families through meaningful work," Rogers said. "By walking alongside our neighbors in solidarity, we help restore the dignity that comes from being able to provide for your own family."

If you are interested in **changing lives** through the Workforce Development Program, please contact the Volunteer Office at volunteer@cceok.org.



Congratulations to all 2026 Summer Sizzle Winners!

Not all winners pictured here



The Market & Adult Education



Kitchen



Muskogee



Sallisaw



The Market



MOC



Front Desk



The Market restocking



The Market



Emergency Assistance



Jim in Muskogee's Food Pantry

Outreach Locations Have a Big Reach

Data from the Fiscal Year 2025-2026

CCEOK is blessed to serve our neighbors in **Eastern Oklahoma** through the work of our outreach locations.

65 **CC McAlester** volunteers gave 5,692 hours helping their neighbors in need.

304 volunteers at **CC Sallisaw** served their community with over 14,215 hours of love and kindness.

576 **CC MMO** volunteers helped the Bartlesville-area community for 12,812 hours in various ministries.

At **CC MOC** in Broken Arrow, 281 volunteers provided 10,271 hours of compassion in their community.

158 **CC Muskogee** volunteers served others in their community for 4,520 hours.

At **CC Wilburton**, 23 volunteers gave 1,304 hours blessing their community through its food pantry.



Dee & Karol at MOC



McAlester: Gave away **10** semi-trucks of food
 Sallisaw: Gave away **12** semi-trucks of food
 MMO: Gave away **60** semi-trucks of food
 Muskogee: Gave away **10** semi-trucks of food
 MOC: Gave away **15** semi-trucks of food
 Wilburton: Gave away **3** semi-trucks of food

A big CCEOK

≡Welcome≡

to all of our newest volunteers!

Leticia Velasquez Martinez - Auto Shop

Jackson Craig - Dental

Ryan Henry - Dental

Jayden Wheeler - Dental

Jared DeBrosse - EA

Stanley Markham - Kitchen

Jennifer Ware - McAlester

Carol Willcutt - McAlester

James Barnes, Sr. - Muskogee

Kristen Psomas - Muskogee

Shanon Snyder - Muskogee

Kira Thomas - PCH

Roger Wyrick - PCH



Carol & Misty in Sallisaw

MMO volunteers

Outreach by the truckload:

One truckload is about **30,000 lbs of food**

Indian Capital Technology Center students serve and learn at CCEOK

Five Occupational Therapy Assistant students from ICTC in Muskogee, spent seven Fridays this summer completing fieldwork assignments in three CCEOK programs.

One student worked as a caregiver assistant at PCH, completing her class project by creating a poem to help PCH families understand a difficult part of the end-of-life journey.

The Body Knows

The body knows when it is time to rest,
To lay aside hunger and thirst,
A quiet slowing down, a gentle peace,
As worldly needs begin to softly cease.

We offer comfort with a tender hand,
And follow where your quiet needs command.
We always offer, but never press,
To force a meal may cause distress.

So, rest your heart, and let the burden go,
Your body guides the path you need to know.
We hold your hand, we watch, we wait,
As you quietly journey to Heaven's Gate.

Elizza Hughes

During the end-of-life journey, the body naturally winds down and no longer requires food or water. As digestion slows, refusing sustenance is not a cause of starvation, but rather a peaceful, physiological preparation for rest.

The two workforce interns helped students with resumes, interviews and other roles.

They created chore charts for the students in the kitchen and auto shop, as well as an attendance tracker to help Workforce.

Two students helped in The Market and Warehouse, working in different areas and interacting with our shoppers.

Their student projects involved researching and producing resources pamphlets for shoppers in The Market that helped direct them to available services in the Tulsa area for specific needs.



All CCEOK locations will be closed on the following days:



Friday Aug. 14
Monday, Sept. 7

PCH and Transitional Living programs do not close. Please contact your program manager if you cannot make your shift.

In Memory: Brenda Elliott CC Muskogee volunteer



CC Muskogee volunteer, Brenda Elliott (far left, in the red shirt), passed away recently. Brenda had volunteered in the Muskogee food pantry since 2024.

"She was a wonderful woman who always put others before herself," said CC Muskogee Coordinator, Liliana Carbone. "She cared deeply about everyone around her and was always ready to help wherever she was needed."

Brenda was always the first to arrive and never hesitated to do whatever needed to be done. Whether it was entering intake information into the computer, unloading the truck, or offering guidance and encouragement to clients, she did it all with kindness and dedication.

"Brenda will be deeply missed, but she will always be remembered with love and gratitude for the difference she made in the lives of everyone who knew her," Liliana added.

GET INVOLVED!

