



CCEOK recognizes its Volunteers of the Year!

Cheryl Huber, Tim Desmond and Embry Hood are Catholic Charities of Eastern Oklahoma's 2025 Volunteers of the Year!

These three individuals were recognized for their contributions to the mission of Catholic Charities and for their personification of Christ's merciful love to those who suffer.

“Our organization is blessed with so many incredibly giving, talented and dedicated volunteers, which makes our decision to narrow it down to just three people very challenging,” said Kelly Cassidy, Director of Volunteer Engagement for CCEOK. “At every location, we have volunteers who selflessly live out their baptismal calling to serve our brothers and sisters. But every year we are asked to choose just three to nominate for Catholic Charities USA.”

CCUSA selects just one volunteer from among the hundreds of submissions from Catholic Charities organizations across the country. Previous CCEOK winners of the award include Steve Hanlon (Car Care Clinic) and Trang Coulon (The Market). This year, the winner did not come from CCEOK, but Tim Desmond was named a finalist.

Cheryl Huber embodies the connection between God's people and the care and keeping of His amazing creation. With Cheryl's volunteer assistance and energy, the formerly plain green spaces on the Tulsa campus of Catholic Charities have become places of peace, rest and beauty.

Tim Desmond is a guest companion, along with jumping in wherever needed, at Porta Caeli House. Tim is with PCH guests as they pass from this life to the next. Along the way, Tim's gentle spirit, his smile and joy are in and of themselves great ministries to his fellow volunteers and the employees at PCH.

Embry Hood is the lead volunteer for the Wednesday evening group building food bags for distribution at our mobile food pantries. Embry has built a team dedicated to the mission of combating food insecurity in our rural communities, many of which have fewer food resources than Tulsa.

On behalf of everyone at CCEOK, congratulations to Cheryl, Tim and Embry and thank you for being Love Changing Lives!



HANDS OF CHRIST

By Felix Cuellar & Susan Edwards,
The Market & Warehouse volunteers

Why? "Why" indeed!

I recall our priest once rhetorically asking the celebrants at a Mass, "why do you sing?" Father's question caused me to ponder.

The following day, I woke early to a clear, bright morning. Walking outside, I spotted a bird on the wire singing his heart out. I remembered and thought to myself, "why." He was perched alone, no other birds nearby, no predators that I could see. I watched and listened for a long moment.

Little bird, why do you sing?

Why? Why do we do what we do? I do not remember purposely "learning" to serve. I followed the examples of my father and mother. Teachers, priests, the adult friends of my family who became my friends – I remember seeing them do for others. As a child, as a young person, I often joined them in their acts of kind service. I do remember being reluctant initially. "Why do I have to do this?" My overwhelming memory now is how good it felt to do for others...the kind words, smiles, the warm feeling inside.

So, I came to Catholic Charities to serve. And I say because of the people and the relationships - both clients and fellow volunteers. We all work hard, but we also laugh, tease each other, share family joys and concerns. We wonder about our friends when they are missing. We are part of a team, working to serve our clients.

My time at Catholic Charities is but one of my blessings. Those with whom I work alongside, those we serve – it is a joy, their company. During Mass, we hear the words Jesus spoke to his Apostles, "Do this in memory of me." And this also brings to mind the memory of those who, by example, taught me to serve.

It comes down to a writing in the Book of Micah 6:8.
"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

For me, there is no turning away.
To know why? It is in your heart, not your head.



A big CCEOK

Welcome

to all of our newest volunteers!

Stefanie Lee - Dental

Audrey Webber - Development/Kitchen

Richard Lieb - Education

Allison Goins - Kitchen

Ryen Fjeldsted - The Market

Sister Claire Stallings - The Market

James Ross - McAlester

David Bechtel - MOC

Donna Gresham - MOC

Gary Gresham - MOC

Elder Christian Jones - MOC

Elder Evan Simpson - MOC

Maria Tran - MOC

Cindy Cannon - PCH

Jennifer Fulbright - PCH

Robert Morton - PCH

Kelly Van Arsdell - PCH

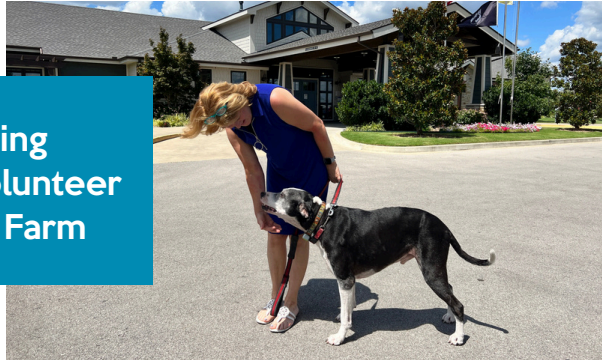
Janet Baldwin - Sallisaw



Welcome Back Dcn. Kevin!

CCEOK's CEO, Dcn. Kevin Sartorius, arrived on his first day back at work to a hallway of volunteers and employees welcoming him back. Also, his office was decorated in a very special way - marking his three-month absence from us during his time spent among the people in Guatemala, where Bl. Stanley Rother served and was martyred for the faith in 1981.

A Legacy of Loving Service: PCH Volunteer Jake from State Farm



Jake from State Farm, a beloved pet of PCH volunteer Celia Bisett, recently crossed the Rainbow Bridge. He was a treasured member of the Bisett family and a blessing to those he served at PCH. Celia and Jake started volunteering as soon as PCH opened, dropping by a few times a week to visit families, guests and staff (employees and volunteers). Jake offered gentle kisses and an ever-wagging tail to those in need. Since 2021, the two had a regular schedule welcoming visitors at the front door. Jake was a mixed-breed rescue, but a PCH guest declared his heritage to be "100% good dog." He was registered with the Alliance for Therapy Dogs for over 10 years, working at Jenks Public Schools with special needs kids, and as a comfort companion when there was a school crisis. Jake was nearly 13 years old when he crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

URGENT NEED: Wednesday night bag builders for Mobile Food Pantries

The core team of volunteers who fill food bags for mobile food pantries on Wednesday evenings needs more help this summer! Please consider signing up for this 1.5 hour opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in rural Oklahoma.




*Quacklic
Charities
Lemonade Stand
& Drawings*

June 23-27
At the CCEOK Courtyard Fountain
Noon-1PM
Two Winners Each Day!

GET INVOLVED



Volunteer with us! cceok.org/volunteer

Join our Facebook Group!

For story ideas, feedback, etc.,
email: volcommunications@cceok.org

MAKE A
DONATION!

