

*faith*works

SPRING 2025



Thank You
Volunteers

FEED the Hungry. **HEAL** the Hurting. **WELCOME** the Stranger.

Letter from the President

Dear friends,

We have so much to celebrate at Catholic Charities as our various programs continue to serve and assist the most vulnerable people in our community. While I am forever thankful for our dedicated donors and hard-working staff, I am also deeply grateful for the work of our volunteers!

Simply put, they are the backbone of our organization and without their dedication we could not fulfill our mission to **Feed the Hungry, Heal the Hurting and Welcome the Stranger**.

The commitment of our volunteers never ceases to amaze me. In 2024 alone, our volunteers logged over **100,000 total hours** of work at Catholic Charities. Think about that – our volunteers are putting in incredible amount of hours each day to make sure we live out Christ's call to help those in need.

They help deliver food to those who are **hungry**. They help sort and distribute clothing to those who need the **healing** warmth of a winter jacket. They help young parents in need of diapers. They make sure low-income families have something under the tree for their kids at Christmas. And they're there to **welcome** any stranger who needs housing or shelter assistance. They are willing to step up morning, noon or night, come rain, snow or shine!

The work of our volunteers allows CCEW to utilize our limited financial resources in the best way possible. Volunteers help us engage with the communities we serve, they share valuable skills and knowledge from a life of learning, and they are passionate advocates for the work we do.

So, on behalf of the entire organization, a big thank you to each and every one of our amazing volunteers!

Blessings,



Rob McCann
President & CEO
Catholic Charities Eastern Washington



P.S. Join us at our Catholic Charities GALA on Friday, May 9
at the Davenport Grand. Register today!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Gala
2025

Save the Date

Friday, May 9 | Davenport Grand Hotel

Register at cceasternwa.org/gala

Thank You Volunteers

VOLUNTEER STATS: 2024

1,700 volunteers

100,000 hours served

Savings of \$3,300,000

2024 blossomed because of you!





Families healing from addiction and trauma are experiencing the restorative power of art. Recently, an exhibit of artwork by local artists and creatives has become a welcome addition to their home at Rising Strong.

Several years ago, an American Indian/Alaska Native staff member envisioned the symbolic central display that now hangs in the foyer of the former Holy Names Convent. Four large animal portraits stand out against the finely detailed brick wall. Each symbolizes a stage residents go through during their 4-stage program as Mikey Canessa-McGregor, Staying Strong Care Coordinator, explains to residents:

- **Coyote: The Trickster**

The Coyote is often viewed as foolish and boastful, representing perhaps who you once were, not who you are becoming. By embarking on this journey, you begin to embrace the true nature of the coyote – well-meaning, and often acting for the greater good. It symbolizes the initial steps toward transformation.

- **Salmon: Prosperity and Renewal**

The Salmon, a vital source of sustenance for both animal and humans, is a symbol of perseverance. Much like salmon swimming upstream, this phase requires hard work and resilience as you continue to push forward toward your goals.

- **Eagle: Strength and Focus**

Known as the “Master of the Skies,” the Eagle symbolizes those in the third phase of their recovery. Like the eagle, you are mastering your own path, soaring higher and seeing more clearly the road ahead. Your vision is unobstructed, and your strength carries you toward even greater heights.

- **Bear: Strength, Courage, Family and Teaching**

The Bear represents those who have reached the final phase of their journey. As the protector of the animal kingdom, the Bear reminds us of the strength and love that so many of you show to your families. By completing your journey, you are teaching your children and loved ones that the cycle of struggle can be broken.



The Art of Healing

Olivia Evans, an artist of Native, Black and Italian heritage, created the captivating pieces, adding animal tracks to each portrait (except for the salmon, of course).

"I always include tracks if I can," she explains, "because I have a strong connection to the land and to my heritage. I also was thinking about walking in the shoes of another person – the journey and experiences each one must take."

"Olivia brought these concepts to life, and of course she's gone above and beyond after that initial project by curating the exhibit," explains Janine Pederson, Rising Strong director. "This is home for 20-25 families for 18 to 24 months. We don't want it to feel institutional - just as homey and comfortable as it can be."

"Originally, we were looking to hang, I believe it was around 40 (works) total. Area artists just poured in with love and connection to this project – they really wanted to be a part of it," Evans explains. "We wound up with 93 pieces – reflecting themes of multi-cultural, multi-generational, multi-lingual. I wanted to show the full compass of what Spokane's art scene offers." Oil paintings, photographs, water colors, mosaics - even a wire sculpture - are featured.

"Recovery is difficult" Pederson explains, "We ask a lot of our residents and this display has had a huge impact in making them feel appreciated. People stop and look. They are finding new ways to focus and keep their minds engaged."

"To see families stand together and engage in conversation over a piece of art – what each of them sees or experiences with it – it's so encouraging," she continues. "Every time they walk down the hall, they notice something different."

Since the artwork has gone up, residents have expressed interest in visiting museums and galleries, and perhaps trying their own hand at generating art as well. There's discussion of murals on blank walls, and the heritage presented by Sister Paula Turnbull, one of the most renowned sculptors of the Pacific Northwest, who lived and worked at Holy Names Convent.

For residents who are creating new lives, the transformation of the facility with engaging pieces of artwork, mirrors the personal transformation they are experiencing, McGregor reflects.

"This is one way we can show our residents how much we care," Pederson adds. "We're validating the hard work they've done to recover, and we're showing them we'll support them in any way we can."

To find out more about our Rising Strong program, go to ccesasternwa.org.

Gratitude for the Support of The Spark and The Loft

The Spark, Walla Walla's Resource Center for unstably housed youth and young adults, and The Loft, a shelter for youth ages 12-17, are programs of Catholic Charities Walla Walla. These programs provide essential services to young people in need, helping them navigate difficult situations and offering a safe space to thrive.

Thanks to the community's collective effort, The Spark and The Loft are able to provide resources, including meals, hygiene supplies, emotional support, and a sense of stability. From Thanksgiving dinner to hygiene bags, and from art projects to essential clothing and food donations, our donors and partners have truly helped to create a welcoming and supportive environment for the youth and young adults we serve.

The partnerships we have with local organizations and businesses have strengthened our ability to provide a wide range of services, from health and wellness programs to educational and vocational support. In addition, we are fortunate to receive support from many anonymous donors who visit daily to donate much-needed essentials.

We are incredibly grateful to all those who contribute in various ways. Your kindness makes a significant difference in the lives of young people experiencing housing instability and other challenges. Thank you for your continued support of the Spark, The Loft, and the young people who rely on these programs. Your generosity is changing lives!



In great appreciation

Thank you to our CCWW donors, supporters and volunteers who attended our GU vs WSU basketball watch party last month. We so enjoyed visiting and catching up with you all, and are so appreciative of your support, prayers and advocacy of our Catholic Charities Walla Walla programs. We plan to make this an annual event...stay tuned!



A campaign to support our clients in their journey toward stability and hope



CATHOLIC CHARITIES  EASTERN WASHINGTON



Please donate today by scanning the QR code with your phone or visiting www.cceasternwa.org.

At Catholic Charities, we work to feed the hungry, heal the hurting, and welcome the stranger. This Easter season we invite you to join in that work, and to walk with us as we create positive change in our community.



The Forever Value of Endowments

Establish your legacy of giving through an endowment that helps support the valuable programs at Catholic Charities Eastern Washington.

Learn how and why it makes a significant impact!

 **Catholic Charities Foundation**



Contact Ann Marie Byrd today.

Ann Marie Byrd - Executive Director
Catholic Charities Foundation

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For more information, go to www.cceasternwa.org and click on our **Ways to Give** page.



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SALT & LIGHT

A PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY RESOURCE FOR
OUTREACH, ADVOCACY AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Bishop Daly invites your support of CRS Rice Bowl, particularly as we celebrate the **50th anniversary** of this Lenten program of global solidarity. The U.S. Catholic community, through Catholic Relief Services, supports hunger, nutrition and agriculture programming in more than 120 countries around the world. As we observe the ancient practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Lent, CRS Rice Bowl is a way to extend our charitable reach. Owned and operated by the U.S. Catholic Bishops, CRS also permits us to retain 25% of CRS Rice Bowl donations at the local level. Each year, Catholic Charities presents a slate of small grants to Bishop Daly for approval. Last year, we made 13 grants to address hunger and nutrition to small community non-profits in six Eastern Washington counties.

Learn more at www.crsricebowl.org. Contact the Parish Social Ministry office at Catholic Charities for a rice bowl of your own.

Scott Cooper at scott.cooper@cceasternwa.org or
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