

# faithworks

GALA HIGHLIGHTS/SUMMER 2025



CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
*gala* 2025

# A letter from our CEO

Dear friends,

Thank you to our donors, partners, supporters, volunteers, staff and guests who attended our annual Catholic Charities Gala on May 9.

The elegant evening was a wonderful reminder of the generous partners we have in the community! A big highlight of the night involved awarding key individuals and couples who are integral to the success of our work. We honored **Bill & Sandi McMillan** as Volunteers of the Year for their commitment to the House of Charity. The Donna Hanson Staff Award was given to **Denise Brooks**, Accounts Payable Clerk in Finance, for living out our four core values of Respect, Compassion, Collaboration & Justice.

Bishop Thomas Daly bestowed the Bishop's Medal Award to **Dave & Doreen Kishel** for their exceptional and decades-long dedication to helping and supporting others, while being amazing examples of what it means to be servant leaders. They have lived the mission of Catholic Charities to Feed the Hungry, Heal the Hurting and Welcome the Stranger. They certainly embody everything we strive to achieve here at CCEW.

Many of our agency programs are celebrating incredible milestones this year. Look inside this issue to find more details on how we are honoring their decades-long work and service to others.

I continue to be amazed at your continued and wonderful gifts, advocacy, prayers and dedication to our mission. We are so very grateful!

Many blessings,



**Rob McCann**  
President & CEO  
Catholic Charities Eastern Washington



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Gala 2026 | May 8, 2026

Please scan the QR code to donate to the Gala campaign

## 2025 Gala Award Winners



Dena Carr presenting Bill and Sandi McMillan, the Volunteer of the Year Award



Denise Brooks, recipient of The Donna Hanson Staff Award



Bishop Thomas Daly and Rob McCann presenting the Bishop's Medal Award to recipients Dave and Doreen Kishel



# Thank You To Our Amazing Partners!

Signature:



Platinum:



Gold:



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Mission:



*Special thanks to the Schweitzer Foundation for their ongoing support!*

Thank you to National Color Graphics for underwriting our print needs for the Gala!



CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
*Gala*  
2025





## 40 Year Anniversary Open House

June 12 | 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

PREPARES Family Center  
25 W 5th Avenue



Please scan the QR code or visit  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/NH7KQHT](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NH7KQHT) to RSVP.



## St. Margaret's Shelter 25th Anniversary Open House

July 21 | 1-4 p.m.

101 E Hartson Avenue

RSVP: [heather.eddy@cceasternwa.org](mailto:heather.eddy@cceasternwa.org) or 509-624-9788

## Dominican Sisters Haven Dedication

September 9 | 12:30 p.m.

171 Buena Vista Drive, Colville, WA

RSVP: [housing@cceasternwa.org](mailto:housing@cceasternwa.org)



Christmas Bureau is busy planning for a great event this December! If you would like to get involved with us, or learn about our program, please visit [ChristmasSpokane.org](http://ChristmasSpokane.org). We wish all of our volunteers and supporters a very happy summer!

# Catholic Charities and Salish School Land Transfer Ceremony



Organizational leaders, school children, dignitaries and well-wishers gathered on the banks of the Spokane River May 21 to acknowledge and celebrate the land gift agreement between Catholic Charities Eastern Washington (CCEW) and Salish School of Spokane (SSOS). The agreement will give Salish School of Spokane permanent ownership of the land along the Spokane River where their new school facilities and Cultural Recreational Community Center will be built. CCEW will be building a 72-unit River Family Haven community next door as well.

The emotional and momentous ceremony included a smudging of the land, a blessing, songs from the Salish School students and a blanketing ceremony. Joined by our CEO Rob McCann, from the SSOS were Executive Director, LaRae Wiley, Board Chair Randall Schleuffer, and Principal Chris Parkin.

This project will break ground in February 2026. If you are interested in supporting this amazing work, please contact Ann Marie Byrd at [annmarie.byrd@cceasternwa.org](mailto:annmarie.byrd@cceasternwa.org) or 509-358-4266.



## Celebrating Two New Bulldogs!

We are excited to celebrate two of our Gonzaga Family Haven residents who have been accepted to Gonzaga University for the fall semester! Pictured here are the students with Carie Weeks, Associate Director of Admissions from Gonzaga. **Go Zags!**



# Chaplaincy Program

CCEW's Chaplaincy program is an amazing two-person team of Deacon John Ruscheinsky and Lori DeCicio. Between them, they bring certifications in spiritual direction, grief counseling, and critical incident response, as well as lived experience. They provide social/emotional, and spiritual support to staff in client-facing roles, especially following an incident like a death, an accident, or an altercation, as well as to clients, residents and patrons of our programs and properties. Chaplaincy helps to care for the whole person, especially the employee who shows up every day to do difficult work.



Recently, Deacon John has received requests for bibles and for prayer from clients and residents. While we do receive periodic donations of bibles, this increase in demand leads us to reach out publicly in search of bibles in good condition. Please consider donating a bible that might be an "extra" on your home bookshelf or purchasing new or used bibles.

## Generous Giving today from your IRA

For those 70½ Years Old and Older



You can give any amount (maximum of \$108,000) from your IRA directly to a qualified charity like Catholic Charities Eastern Washington or the Catholic Charities Foundation without having to pay income taxes on the money. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover, or also referred to as a qualified charitable distribution, or QCD.

- Your gift will be used today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making in various programs
- If you are required to take minimum distributions, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your obligation
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction
- Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level.



**For more information please contact Ann Marie Byrd**

**Ann Marie Byrd - Executive Director**  
Catholic Charities Foundation

(509) 358-4266 | [annmarie.byrd@cceasternwa.org](mailto:annmarie.byrd@cceasternwa.org)

For more information, go to [www.cceasternwa.org](http://www.cceasternwa.org) and click on our **Ways to Give** page.



**Catholic Charities**  
EASTERN WASHINGTON

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# SALT & LIGHT

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

## Welcome Pope Leo XIV

With the rest of the Church, we welcome and give thanks for the election of Leo XIV as our new Holy Father and Shepherd of the Church. From his first words offering peace and then asking for peace, to his significant choice of name (following in the tradition of Leo XIII, considered the Father of Modern Catholic Social Teaching), from his early life in the United States to his years of mission among the people of Peru, we hold on to hope and to great expectations for our new Servant-in-Chief.

