

# faithworks

WINTER 2024

Dear Friends,

As we embark on a new year filled with hope and purpose, we are delighted to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each one of you who contributed to the success of our 2023 Christmas collection. Your generosity has empowered us to continue our mission, making a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

In this issue of Faithworks, we dedicate a special section to express our sincere appreciation for the outpouring of support during the holiday season. Your kindness and commitment to those in need will bring joy and relief to thousands of people in our community. We're also highlighting an exciting partnership with Skils'kin—a collaboration aimed at welcoming many of our supportive housing residents with disabilities into employment. The project earned recognition last fall by winning the Catholic Charities USA Innovation Challenge!

Furthermore, we are thrilled to announce that our 2024 Gala event will take place on Friday, May 10 at the Davenport Grand. Please save the date, as we invite you to join us in celebrating the spirit of community and the power of collective good. We look forward to seeing you there!

In the face of challenges, your ongoing support fuels our mission and inspires us to reach for even greater impact. Together, let us make 2024 a year filled with hope, compassion, and positive transformation.

Many Prayers,



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

*Thank you!*



We want to extend our great appreciation for all of you who contributed to our 2023 Christmas Collection!! These funds will be used to sustain and operate programs for the upcoming year. You are helping seniors access healthy food, veterans get back on their feet, and supporting housing for individuals and families. We are blessed by your continued and always generous support!

*Thank you!*

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

**20  
23**

CHRISTMAS BUREAU



# Our volunteers are out of this world!

450 individual volunteers served 8,735 hours!



We served 25,920 individuals

13,123 children

Over 7,900 families



\$237,700 distributed in grocery vouchers



Learn more about how you can get involved by following us on social media!



# Update on Fire Assistance

Following the Oregon Road Fire (Elk) and Gray Fire (Medical Lake) in August, Catholic Charities distributed quick resources through the Medical Lake and Cheney parishes, as well as New Hope Resource Center in Colbert, supported by St. Joseph parish there. With the backing of local donations and funding from our national partner, Catholic Charities USA, we have now taken a seat as a funder around the Unmet Needs Roundtable, part of the Long-Term Recovery Group that was established in the County. Disaster Case Managers have been on the ground working with fire survivors and are now bringing cases to a group of funders for long-term recovery. Catholic Charities has begun to pay out on individual household cases as they work toward rebuilding or move on to new housing. In the world of disaster recovery, we say that long-term recovery is often a 3-to-4-year process. Catholic Charities is committed to the long term, with flexible funds that enable us to respond to unusual and wide-ranging cases that have been vetted. Long after most of us have moved on, Catholic Charities will be offering funds so that households can realize their recovery plans and rebuild their lives in the communities they call home.

## Catholic Charities Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy creates new friendships throughout the Diocese.



Parishioners from across the Spokane Diocese joined Catholic Charities Eastern Washington on a pilgrimage last October. Representatives from Immaculate Conception in Colville, Sacred Heart, St. Mary's, St. Peter's, St. Aloysius in Spokane, St. John Vianney, St. Joseph's/Otis Orchards, and even St. Mark's Lutheran visited various holy shrines throughout central and southern Italy on an 11-day trip that included Rome, Florence, Assisi, Loreta, St. Giovanni Rotundo, and Salerno. The "Shrines of Italy" tour gave the group an opportunity to learn about a variety of saints including St. Francis and St. Clare in Assisi, Padre Pio in St. Giovanni Rotundo, and St. Benedict and St. Scholastica at Mont Sant' Angelo. The highlight of the trip, however, was the papal visit and getting to see, hear and be blessed by Pope Francis on a beautiful sunny Wednesday in Vatican Square. Our pilgrimage leader, Fr. Vic Blazovich, lead us in the rosary and Mass daily and helped us to stay focused on the graces and interruptions God placed in our pilgrim paths. It didn't take long for bonds of friendship to form amongst our group of 30 over shared meals, bus rides, prayers and tours.



# Thank you to all who gave us donations during the Christmas Season!



CAPA Diaper Donation

CAPA Christmas Party at Cataldo

Cataldo Hat & Sock Drive

Catholic School Pajama Drive

Chief's Teddy Bear Toss

Girl Scout Troop Donation Drive

Gonzaga Prep Food Drive to Havens

Gonzaga University SAAC for Hygiene Drive

Hygiene Campaign Drive



# Remember when....

Marilyn Richards started out at Catholic Charities when it was just Msgr. Frank Bach, Donna Hanson, and Sr. Mary Gardner. There were not many staff other than in the office at the Chancery, as she recalls. She served on the Catholic Charities Board for seven years and was the secretary of the board for two years. During those years, Catholic Charities was mainly dedicated to serving the homeless and serving children.

She fondly remembers Donna as a dynamo who had great vision which was shared by Msgr. Bach. He was always so supportive of Donna's ideas and plans.

Marilyn then served for 6 years on the St. Anne's Women's Auxiliary serving as President for one year. There were 20 original members of the Auxiliary. St. Anne's at the time, was still involved in adoptions and housing teen mothers at the facility. Marilyn was a physical therapist and would help the expectant mothers with their pre-natal exercises.

She shared that the Auxiliary held two fundraisers every year, the St. Anne's Dance, and the Fashion Show. The dance event was one of the largest events in Spokane at the time and grew in attendance each year. It was always held at the Historic Davenport Hotel. One year, a Spokesman Review reporter came to Marilyn and Jane Hedequist, and suggested that they add a few more elements to the event. So instead of having just one band perform in the main lobby they hired two more bands to play in separate areas upstairs, one room being the Marie Antoinette room. They also added breakfast as well. It was a hit! The Women's Auxiliary members would host cocktail parties at their homes or in hotel rooms at the Davenport prior to the dance. Marilyn shared that the husbands of the Auxiliary members were the main support of the St. Anne's dance, helping to haul in the supplies needed and assisting with hanging the decorations.



The other event was the Fashion Show, which in the early days had approximately 600 people in attendance. Marilyn had the privilege of being the emcee for one year and expressed that she thoroughly enjoyed it. The clothes for the show were provided by the Bon Marche and the Crescent. A shop called Katherine's made and donated all the hats to accompany the outfits.

Marilyn was drawn to the community in need and describes her most memorable moment as her association with St. Anne's. She shared that was where her heart was!

**Thank you, Marilyn, for taking us down memory lane. We deeply appreciate your dedication to Catholic Charities and especially to St. Anne's for all those years.**

# CCUSA Innovation AWARD



Catholic Charities thrives on bringing innovative solutions to community needs, an approach that recently garnered national recognition. At the recent Catholic Charities USA Annual Gathering, CCEW won the CCUSA Social Innovation Challenge 2.0 and brought home a prize of \$633,333.

Our winning proposal funds the Next STEP Project – STEP standing for Supportive Transitions to Employment Possibilities. We collaborate with Skills'kin in Spokane – experts who help people with disabilities find meaningful employment. Next STEP brings job guides to CCEW's low-income housing, directly engaging the many people with disabilities who live with us to find jobs.

The national competition required the project to be replicable, which Next STEP accomplishes through both organizations' affiliations with nationwide networks. Susan Foster-Dow, Chief Mission & Strategy Officer for CCEW, and Steve McBride, VP of Operations for Skills'kin and Catholic Housing Ventures board member, brought this collaborative approach to life in Spokane, and the national prize makes it possible to build out the model to be shared with other communities.

Catholic Charities and Skills'kin are proud to collaborate on this innovative local pilot and national award, providing meaningful outcomes for individuals and whole communities when more people can enjoy the dignity of work.

  
Gala

**Join Us**  
**Friday, May 10, 2024**  
**Davenport Grand Hotel**

[cceasterwna.org/events](https://cceasterwna.org/events)



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EASTERN WASHINGTON

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# SALT & LIGHT

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

This Lent, we invite you to participate again in **CRS Rice Bowl**, a program that invites us to reflect on the challenges of global hunger—and our Gospel call to care for our global human family.

CRS Rice Bowl is an opportunity to encounter people from around the world and recognize them as our sisters and brothers, through the *three ancient pillars of Lent*. When we **pray**, we encounter Jesus, who is present in the face of every member of our human family. When we **fast**, we encounter the obstacles that prevent us from fully loving God and our neighbor. And when we **give alms**, we share in solidarity with those who need our support.

Remember that **25%** of CRS Rice Bowl donations stay here in Eastern Washington and fund small grants to food banks around the Diocese, especially in rural communities. Last year, we made **14 grants in 8 counties** with your support." The Parish Social Ministry office can supply you with CRS Rice Bowl materials.

FOR  
**LENT**  
FOR **LIFE**

PARA LA  
**CUARESMA**  
POR LA **VIDA**



[crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) | [crsplatodearroz.org](http://crsplatodearroz.org)