

Catholic Charities Backgrounder

Since 1933, Catholic Charities in Oregon has been bringing hope, resources and advocacy to the poorest and most vulnerable throughout the state, regardless of faith, race, marital status or condition in life. The organization serves as the professional social service arm of the Archdiocese of Portland, yet is funded completely through grants and donations.

Catholic Charities began its legacy in 1838 with the founding of a predecessor organization's first orphanage. It was formally established in 1933 when it began representing Catholic social service institutions in court cases, and acting as case managers for children.

Today, Catholic Charities operates all of the programs noted below, and has four member agencies and 20 grantee agencies serving people of all ages, races and beliefs.

Current programs offered by Catholic Charities include:

Between Us provides interactive, research-based workshops designed to help teens, singles, and engaged and married couples build and maintain healthy relationships.

Caritas Housing develops, builds and rehabilitates housing for low-income working families, seniors and persons with disabilities.

El Programa Hispano provides a comprehensive array of services to low-income Latinos in the Portland metropolitan area, including: Domestic Violence Prevention Services, El Programa Hispano Family Services, El Programa Gang Outreach & Prevention Services and El Programa Hispano Social Support Services for Educational Success.

Elizabeth House is a residential maternity home and care program for young women ages 14 to 22, who are homeless and pregnant or parenting.

Haven House is a transitional housing facility for young single mothers where they can rebuild their lives in a safe, secure, affordable and nurturing environment.

Housing Transitions is a Housing First model serving homeless women with the primary goal of helping them obtain and retain permanent supportive housing.

Outreach and Support to Special Immigrant Populations (OSSIP) serves victims of human trafficking.

Immigration Legal Services provides professional legal advice and representation to low-income immigrants and refugees, with family reunification cases receiving special attention.

Ministry to the Elderly helps the elderly and those in frail health, and provides one-day retreats for caregivers, parish staff and volunteers.

Project Rachel maintains a 24-hour crisis line for people impacted by abortion. A confidential post-abortion reconciliation and healing program is also provided to help anyone affected by abortion.

Pregnancy Support provides assistance and counseling to any pregnant woman.

Adoption Services provides adoption services to birth parents and adoptive families.

Refugee Resettlement assists in the relocation of refugees into Oregon from refugee camps located throughout the world.

The first record of Catholic Charities service statistics, from 1952, shows Catholic Charities as having served 1,323 individuals. Today, the number of people served annually exceeds 25,000.

Into the Future

In 2004, Catholic Charities began its purchase of a 4-acre site at SE 28th Avenue and Powell Boulevard from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This is the future site of Catholic Charities' Clark Family Center, where many of the organization's programs and administrative offices will be based. Construction of this \$37 million campus began in 2004, and completion is set for late Spring 2010. Funding for \$25 million of the development was secured for construction of 132 units of affordable housing, the final stage of which was completed in October 2008.

The Catholic Charities campus will include these buildings:

Clark Family Center – Groundbreaking for Clark Family Center occurred on April 30, 2009. The focal point of the campus, this 60,000 square foot building will house Catholic Charities' administration offices, as well as the offices and/or service centers for these programs:

- Adoption Services
- Between Us
- Caritas Housing
- El Programa Hispano
- Housing Transitions
- Outreach and Support to Special Immigrant Populations (OSSIP)
- Immigration Legal Services
- Ministry to the Elderly
- Pregnancy Support
- Project Rachel
- Refugee Resettlement
- Early Childhood Development – This new service will be provided by a partner organization, Grandma's Place, and will serve pre-school aged children in educational and skill-based learning, as well as elementary school children in after-care activities.
- Loaves and Fishes Meal Center – In partnership with Loaves and Fishes, lunches will be provided on-site for senior citizens with a focus on Asian and Latino populations with culturally specific cuisine.

While most of the Catholic Charities programs will be housed in the new building, El Programa Hispano will also continue to operate from its main office in Gresham, and Elizabeth House will remain in its location in Southeast Portland.

Howard House – A 12-unit complex for chronically homeless people that was completed in August 2007.

Esperanza Court – An affordable 70-unit apartment development, completed in October 2008.

Single Family Housing – Catholic Charities has developed a partnership with another nonprofit agency to develop home ownership opportunities for 13 low-income families.

Kateri Park – Located on SE 28th Avenue just east of the main campus, development of this 50-unit housing complex and community center for low-income families began in 2004, and was completed in 2005.

Member Agencies

Catholic Charities also operates a branch service office in Southern Oregon under the name Catholic Charities in Southern Oregon. In addition, Catholic Charities serves as an umbrella agency to three member agencies, per a designation by Archbishop Levada in 1989. Two of these agencies – Catholic Community Services of the Mid-Willamette Valley and Central Coast and Catholic Community Services of Lane County – provide social services in their local areas based upon the needs in their communities. CYO/Camp Howard provides youth athletic programs in the Portland area and a youth camp for the entire Archdiocese. Each member agency receives funding from Catholic Charities' annual campaign, as well as other technical and professional assistance. Catholic Charities is also the link between each member agency and Catholic Charities USA.