YOU PLANTED SEEDS OF HOPE. THEY BLOOMED.

Jesus often used agricultural images in his parables. Few other realms speak so clearly about death, life and growth.

In the past year, you joined us at Catholic Charities of Oregon as we helped about 13,000 Oregonians till the soil of their lives. You, our clients and our staff combined efforts in a cooperative act of loving cultivation.

You planted seeds of hope that flowered into stable housing, new jobs, safety for refugees and improved status for migrants. Residents of our tiny homes and apartments grew in stability and confidence through the tender care of our skilled staff. Households flourished with support and education in family life.

In a world that can at times seem like a desert, you proved that life is really a garden. I am so grateful.

Natalie M. Wood, executive director

A jubilant Gentil-Prospéra Yombai, newly arrived in Portland with his refugee family, carries cherries in his bicycle helmet to offer guests at his house. Gentil’s family, from the Central African Republic, is being served by Catholic Charities and its volunteers.
MOVING FROM HOUSELESSNESS

705
Houseless individuals engaged during outreach on the streets in the past year

160
Houseless individuals entered intensive case management to change their lives

92%
Group of clients placed in permanent housing who are still there after a year

On the back porch of Catholic Charities, women who are houseless or transitioning out of houselessness gather before coming in for meetings with case managers to apply for housing or obtain food or clothing. The back porch is a fertile place for friendships and comparing notes about how to move from the mean streets.

It was a helpful place for one woman with a sensory disability last year. With assistance from a case manager, she earned a long-term housing voucher and was accepted at two beautiful housing units. Later this summer, she’ll mark a successful year of residency. There are scores like her.

MORE THAN A ROOF

941
Units of affordable housing

245
Units under development

Your support is bearing fruit as we are about to open Good Shepherd Village in Happy Valley, our largest housing community yet. Also, crews are breaking ground on two new affordable housing developments, Glisan Landing in Northeast Portland and Francis & Clare in Southeast Portland near St. Francis Parish.

At a time when some Oregonians are despairing over the crisis of homelessness, Catholic Charities won’t give up hope. We prefer to create new affordable apartments so those living in tents can find more stability and advance in life. As always, we don't just build; we offer services so new residents can stabilize and rise. We also make sure our buildings are designed with the right mix of privacy and communal life.
WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME

1,488
Number of services provided to refugee clients

2,212
Open immigration legal services cases

220
Refugee youths served

In 2022, Catholic Charities Refugee Services provided housing, legal advice, financial coaching, cultural navigation, employment and more. Youths got aid enrolling in school and being tutored in English, math and other subjects.

Our history includes assisting refugees as far back as World War II. Our faith requires that we take in the stranger. Only because of your support can we welcome and help dynamic households like Prosper and Evelyne’s.

This family of nine, which escaped murderous peril in the Central African Republic, has sparked amazing generosity from Southeast Portland neighbors, who have taken their new friends to parades and even berry picking. The refugees’ house has become a hub of neighborhood joy, energy and goodwill, going both ways.

REVENUE AND EXPENSES
for the Year Ending June 30, 2022

Efficient use of financial resources allows Catholic Charities to deliver life-changing housing and supportive services to the most vulnerable Oregonians. Thank you for making this work possible.
PUBLIC DISCOURSE

In the past year, your support helped Catholic Charities re-propose love, compassion and social justice to the conversation on public life. It’s our attempt to stymie poverty and division before they start.

Our major video series funded by the Murdock Charitable Trust explored the lives of immigrants and refugees, including a Ukrainian mother and an Afghan worker, plus a Catholic parish that uses a spare building to house refugee families.

After the death of Pope Benedict XVI, we assembled an online seminar on “organized love,” his idea that is so seminal to the work of Catholic Charities and all social service organizations.

A Lenten email and social media series highlighted the social mission of the Catholic Church and how it can apply joyfully to all people.

In June, Catholic Charities hosted a talk by Jesuit Father Greg Boyle, a leader in gang intervention and healing but also a trusted social philosopher on love and compassion in general.

“We are allergic to the idea of holding the bar up and asking folks to measure up,” Father Boyle said. “Instead, we hold the mirror up and we say, ‘You’re exactly what God had in mind when God made you.’”

He added, “We want people to see their truth that they’re unshakably good and that they belong.”

With your help, Catholic Charities will continue to bring goodness and reason to thought on social issues.

RESPONSIBLE RESIZING

Like many other organizations in the past year, Catholic Charities of Oregon had to make difficult yet responsible and realistic decisions to ensure that we can continue to operate our longest-running programs and reach as many people in need as possible.

With sadness, we closed four lovely programs: Disaster Services, the Intercultural Counseling Center, Save First Financial Wellness and Germaine’s Kitchen. These programs relied on generous COVID funding that is no longer available.

Disaster Services was a limited duration effort, and funding is no longer available. We will reapply should, God forbid, another disaster hit.

The counseling center faced challenges in covering costs and suffered chronic staffing shortages because of the nationwide dearth of bilingual counselors.

Save First and Germaine’s Kitchen were designed as social enterprises to serve clients and generate revenue to support Catholic Charities of Oregon overall. As a result of the pandemic and business trends, these two programs continually missed their revenue goals.

For clients in need of all these services, our case managers have stepped in, or we refer to other good agencies. We are elated to tell you that we handed Save First over to Lighthouse Financial, a well-respected agency based in Vancouver, Washington. Our dining room and kitchen are likely to be used in the near future by a local feeding and culinary training provider.

Catholic Charities is committed to efficient use of our financial resources, including donations from our generous supporters.