

# What we do

## Catholic Charities of Oregon



### Migrant Services



Many of the families we assist have fled war, gang violence, persecution and/or domestic violence.

We help migrants in Oregon with refugee, asylee or parolee status to follow the legal pathways to citizenship set up by Congress.

We offer support in housing, support in employment, education in inculturation to the United States, attentive individual case management to help with all needs of the household, and expert legal assistance.

### Homeless Services



We are one of few agencies helping women experiencing homelessness, many of whom are escaping domestic violence. Our goal is to assist them to recover from trauma and become stably housed.

We offer outreach to homeless camps to fulfill immediate needs and encourage all homeless campers to enter services and seek housing.

Our offices are a daily drop-in site for homeless women, offering case management, food, clothing, hygiene and a communal life.

We run a vibrant tiny house community and transitional apartments.

### Community Services



For the most vulnerable residents in our housing or for those in the wider community, we provide support needed for long-term stability in housing.

We offer case management, which examines a person's entire life and possible resources. We keep on-site resident service coordinators in our housing communities to provide for all kinds of needs that arise, including food, clothing, baby supplies like diapers, wipes and blankets and parenting education. We host health fairs and classes that help ensure successful living.

### Caritas Housing



At the start of the new millennium, it became clear to us that more affordable housing was a key to serving society. We now have more than 1,200 units of affordable housing across western Oregon.

We offer housing development, community revitalization, and links between housing and access to affordable health care.

Our permanent supportive housing is for the most vulnerable among us, providing ongoing case management and other support services for residents.



# Catholic Charities of Oregon

Inspired by the transformative power of God's love, Catholic Charities of Oregon — the social service arm of the Catholic Church in western Oregon — partners with the most vulnerable, regardless of faith, to achieve lasting solutions to poverty and injustice.

## Who we are

The roots go back to 1844, when the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur opened an orphanage in the Willamette Valley. Various social needs were met by other pioneer Catholic groups.

At the start of World War I, the local church unified ministries in what it called the Catholic Children's Bureau, a forerunner of Catholic Charities. When the Great Depression arrived, Oregon Catholic leaders sought to apply that coordinating principle to all services for those down on their luck.

In 1933, church leaders formed the first Catholic Charities office, where four workers were case managers for people in need. Employment was a focus, with hundreds of jobs listed each year.

Catholic Charities began its refugee resettlement work after World War II. It started an



*Esther Dorgan of Catholic Charities elder services visits a home in 1955.*

immigration legal office in 1996 and a housing initiative in 1999. The agency now offers about 1,200 affordable units.

As of the mid-2020s, the agency still has the founding spirit of help and hope and has focused energies on combatting the homelessness crisis, providing affordable housing and serving migrants and refugees.



*A young resident of one of our 1,200 affordable housing units. Catholic Charities Housing includes social services.*

***Catholic Charities of Oregon believes that all people are created in the image and likeness of God and possess dignity, value and worth. Our response to this intrinsic human dignity is to recognize, promote, and defend it from all forms of attack and to create the social conditions in which all people may flourish.***

*From our Social Justice Statement*

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