



Hands of Hope

SPRING 2024

Changing Lives

with Love



*You gave this family
a Christmas to remember*

INSIDE

How you are supporting
families in need

A special Christmas story

Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive



Megan Robl
Executive Director



Give **today**.
Provide *hope* to
our neighbors in
need **tomorrow**.

To Donate:

Return the form on back page
or visit ccnks.org/handsofhope

Your Love *In Action*

*So faith, hope, love remain,
these three; but the greatest of
these is love.*

– 1 Corinthians 13:13

Greetings in the joy of Christ!

I want to shout out a huge
THANK YOU for being the
backbone of Catholic Charities.
Your kindness has a ripple
effect, and, in this issue,
we're excited to share some
heartwarming stories from your
impact.

Your diaper donations? You're
bringing smiles to mothers,
making life a bit easier for their
little ones. That's the spirit of
love in action! (page 5)

And how about the amazing
group of women who blessed a
single mom during Christmas?

Talk about spreading joy
and warmth! Your generosity
turns moments into cherished
memories. (page 3)

I've got one more incredible
story. Because of your support,
a woman received life-saving
medication. Your love literally
saved a life. (page 7)

Your giving isn't just changing
lives; it's a testament to the
teachings of Jesus. You're
making a real difference, and
we can't thank you enough.

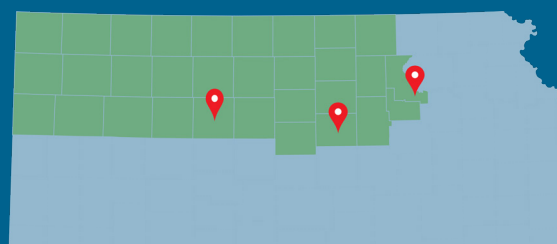
Keep being the hands of hope,
the heart of love, and the reason
behind countless smiles.

With gratitude,

**Guided by God's love, our mission is
to provide compassionate service
to all people in need throughout
northern Kansas.**

We do this in a variety of ways:

- Financial & Housing Assistance
- Personal Care & Basic Needs
- Counseling Services
- Pregnancy Support & Adoption Services
- Thrift Store in Salina – *COMING SOON* in Hays!



**Serving 31 counties
from offices in Hays,
Salina, and Manhattan**



Adopt-a-Family

During this past Christmas season, Amanda faced financial constraints that prevented her from purchasing gifts for her children. Thanks to the generosity of donors and sponsors like YOU, her family experienced the joy of the holiday season and received essential items. **Pictured: Amanda, Charleston, and Abigail.**

Christmas Joy through generosity

Thanks to your kind generosity, the Catholic Charities Adopt-a-Family Program warms the hearts and homes of families facing tough times during the Christmas season.

Last Christmas, over 80 families felt the joy, all because of your support that's turned this program into a tradition of spreading happiness. Among them is Amanda, a single mom to Abigail (14) and Charleston (6).

Facing tough times, Amanda reached out to Catholic Charities. "It would be wrong for them to not have anything on Christmas," she shared, expressing the challenges of providing for her kids during the holiday season. Your support through Catholic Charities became a lifeline, a source of hope amid her struggles.

The Adopt-a-Family Program captured the hearts and commitment of the women of Salina's PEO Chapter BW, who have actively sponsored families for at least five years. Member Shannon Rayl shared the group's motivation, saying, "We were always moved by the stories we heard about the families. We loved that Catholic Charities made it possible for us to just step in and do this so easily."

"I wasn't expecting all that. I was really happy to see those cleaning supplies. The kindness out of people's hearts, to do this for a family...you don't see that. It's very rare."

*-Amanda,
Adopt-a-Family Program Recipient*

Amanda's experience with the group's sponsorship was nothing short of magical. Faced with unique challenges, she had requested cleaning supplies, and the group responded with creativity and generosity. Each member contributed their favorite cleaning supplies, providing enough for almost a year. The unexpected outpouring of support left Amanda emotional and overjoyed.



“You just want to help share the load, share the burden of providing for her family and maybe give her room to breathe so that she doesn’t have quite so much stress. Just to know, people are supporting her and that people care and that she matters. She and her children matter to us.”

*-Shannon Rayl,
Adopt-a-Family Program Sponsor*

“I wasn’t expecting all that. I was really happy to see those cleaning supplies,” she said. “The kindness out of people’s hearts, to do this for a family...you don’t see that. It’s very rare.”

Rayl shared the joy of making a difference, especially for moms like Amanda. “You just want to help share the load, share the burden of providing for her family and maybe give her room to breathe so that she doesn’t have quite so much stress,” she said. “Just to know, people are supporting her and that people care and that she matters. She and her children matter to us.”

Amanda’s tears of gratitude spoke volumes about the big impact of the Adopt-a-Family Program, thanks to the kind support of donors like you. She highlighted the program’s reliability and reassurance that help would be there when needed. “I would thank them for providing for my family, for something I couldn’t do, giving them something I couldn’t get them,” Amanda said. “It means a lot. I’m just really, really, thankful and grateful.”

As the PEO Chapter BW reflected on their experience, member Betty Schmidt emphasized the true spirit of Christmas. “When you can give back



just a little bit, that is what Christmas is all about,” Schmidt shared.

Your ongoing support ensures that families receive essential help and hope, no matter what they may be going through.

Diaper Drive

Every year, the Salina Diocese Catholic Schools organize a diaper drive that assists families with diaper needs across the Diocese. Because of YOU, these diapers will provide loving support to babies in need across northern Kansas.



Filling Needs for *Many*

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas is excited to announce the success of the 2023 Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive in partnership with the Diocese of Salina Catholic Schools! Generosity surpassed expectations, contributing diapers valued at \$14,000, exceeding last year's donation. This dedication has significantly impacted the lives of those in need across the Diocese.

Throughout October, generosity was on full display as students, teachers, and families

rallied together for this important initiative. The collected diapers were delivered to Salina on November 10, and Hays Catholic Schools made a direct delivery to the Catholic Charities location in Hays the following week.

The impact extends beyond the numbers. A recent study shed light on the harsh reality that 47% of families are grappling with diaper needs, forcing them to make tough choices like cutting back on essential food or utilities. This financial strain not only impacts health but also hinders





employment, with 1 in 4 parents missing work or school due to lack of diapers for daycare drop-offs.

Annually, Catholic Charities provides over 250,000 diapers valued at \$90,000 to 500 families across the region. Initiatives like the Happy Bottoms Diaper Drive play a vital role in helping these families overcome these challenges.

Diaper need is not only physical but can be emotional for parents, as well. One young mom who picks up diapers monthly through the diaper program recently shared a powerful story. She is a single mother with two young children in diapers. When she saw the diaper drive photos on Facebook, she said the generosity moved her to tears, making her feel like less of a burden for needing assistance.

Thank you for supporting this incredible project and for making a real difference in the lives of local families!



Emergency Financial Assistance

We understand that life's challenges can sometimes lead to financial difficulties. This program aims to provide support to individuals and families facing crises in northern Kansas communities.

Hope in *Hardship*

Jessica recently found herself facing a monumental dilemma: choosing between essential medications vital for her survival and the reality of being able to afford those medications.

On January 2, 2024, Jessica's life took an unexpected turn when she sought emergency care in Salina, only to be swiftly airlifted to Wichita due to a brain bleed and multiple strokes. After a challenging week in the hospital, Jessica came home to another big problem: the financial burden of her prescribed medications.

Determined to find help, Jessica turned to Catholic Charities. With new hope, Jessica talked to emergency assistance coordinator Melissa Herrera. Together, they filled out paperwork, and Melissa helped Jessica step by step. As they talked, Melissa learned about Jessica's struggles caring for her mother, the sudden sickness, and the money problems that came with it.

When Melissa found out that Jessica couldn't afford her life-saving medications, she immediately got in touch with pharmacies to

“Without you guys, I probably would have died. You all are real game-changers, for real”

*-Jessica,
Emergency Financial
Assistance Recipient*

make sure Jessica could get her medications right away.

The good news came fast. Melissa coordinated with a local pharmacy and Catholic Charities was able to cover the cost of over 100 days of insulin and 60 days of blood pressure medication. Jessica was so thankful, saying, “I was just grateful that you guys helped me with that. I was super blessed I was able to find help.”

Your kind generosity is making a real difference in people's lives, just like Jessica's.

“Without you guys, I probably would have died,” Jessica said. “You all are real game-changers, for real.”



PO Box 1366
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www.ccnks.org

A Small Request

With increased postage costs, Catholic Charities is adapting and is counting on **your** support. To ensure you receive all the latest stories, news and updates in the most economical way, please send your name and email to Hannah Nichols at **hnichols@ccnks.org**.

Thank you and God Bless!



Give **today**.

Provide hope to our neighbors in need **tomorrow**.

Donor Information

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____
Home Parish _____

Leave a Legacy

- ☐ I have made a gift to Catholic Charities in my will.
- ☐ I would like to learn more about leaving a gift to Catholic Charities in my will.

Cash or Check Donation:

☐ Check # _____ ☐ Cash Enclosed _____
☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250
☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other _____

To give by credit card or bank account:

Give securely online at **www.ccnks.org/handsofhope**

Return donation form with payment to:

Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas
PO Box 1366, Salina, KS 67402-1366



Thank You! Your Gift of Hope is Changing Lives!

Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.
A receipt will be sent to you for your records.