



CHRONICLE

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YOUR PUBLICATION FROM COMMONWEALTH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Commonwealth Catholic Charities

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Commonwealth Catholic Charities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit social service organization aiding residents of central and southwestern Virginia. Services are provided to all people.



New Programs Help More People *Your Generosity Gives Hope in Starting Over*

CCC recently absorbed a vastly important group of programs into the agency: Refugee Resettlement, Immigrant Services, and Interpreter Services. Formerly under the Catholic Diocese of Richmond as Refugee and Immigration Services, these programs have been serving folks in need since 1975.

Since then, staff and volunteers have helped 15,000+ people escaping persecution and likely death, giving them the tools they need to rebuild their lives. Programs are delivered from three offices: Hampton Roads, Richmond, and Roanoke.

What does it take to offer someone a fresh start? *Refugee Resettlement* entails setting up housing, meeting the new arrivals at the airport, planning with the family, ensuring health needs are met, providing orientation, enrolling

children in school, teaching English, and finding stable jobs.

Immigrant Services offers help to people who choose to come to the US, many with the same needs as refugees. Immigration counseling, English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction, orientation to US laws and practices, information and referral, and school liaison support help stabilize families and acclimate them more quickly.

If you've ever traveled or lived abroad, you know language is a barrier to successful adjustment. In addition to English instruction we offer *Interpreter Services* for medical providers, courts, businesses, and social service agencies. Screened, highly-trained professionals speaking over 30 languages ensure that issues are clearly understood by all parties and mistakes avoided.

LEARN MORE!

You can learn more about new CCC services and explore volunteering with these programs at www.cccofva.org or by calling:

Richmond: 804-355-4559 • Hampton Roads: 757-247-3600 • Roanoke: 540-342-7561

Chronicle

Did you notice the new color this time? This shade represents our Refugee Resettlement program. We offer

Your Giving Made Easier

Did you know that Commonwealth Catholic Charities takes donations via credit card?

We want you to be able to make a gift quickly and easily, as your support allows us to keep doing important work strengthening our community! You can make a gift using your credit card over the phone, in your letters/remittance envelopes, and via our website—www.cccofva.org. Online donations are especially easy, plus you'll receive an immediate email confirmation as well as a letter from us for your tax purposes.

If you're interested in making a monthly gift, talk to us! We're well-equipped to create a monthly giving plan for you, debiting your account on a regularly-scheduled basis. Your monthly giving program will be customized for you—we can adjust forms of acknowledgement and timing to fit your needs.

If you'd like to create a monthly giving plan, please call 804-545-5941 and we'll be happy to customize a program for you.

Thank you so much for your support. Your dollars empower folks throughout central and southwest Virginia, offering help to those who need it most. Without you, we simply could not fulfill our mission of strengthening the most vulnerable!

IMAGINE THIS:



You're fleeing your homeland due to persecution or civil war and arrive in America with nothing other than determination and a will to succeed.

Your support of the Refugee Resettlement program can make a world of difference. To make a gift that will change lives, go to our website: www.cccofva.org

One Spot to Better Serve Homeless

CCC's Homeless Point of Entry (HPE) program has switched to one location serving homeless individuals and families—our site at Saint Paul's Baptist Church South is closed. Consolidating staff and resources to one location will enable HPE to better serve the growing number of individuals and families who need help.

For years, Saint Paul's has faithfully supported Commonwealth Catholic Charities' various programs and services, allowing HPE to co-locate there in 2007. CCC appreciates Saint Paul's Baptist Church for their generous partnership and for their continued efforts to improve and support our community.

Please note Commonwealth Catholic Charities Homeless Point of Entry Program will now serve homeless families and single adults in one location at The Conrad Center, 1400 Oliver Hill Way.



Carla Turnage, HPE Manager, and friends are a welcome sight to those in need

Roanoke Fire Destroys Donations



Bystanders watch sadly as the garage burns

Tragedy struck in Roanoke on the evening of August 4th, when a bolt of lightning hit the garage containing donations for the Refugee Resettlement program. Household items like tables, chairs, mattresses, lamps, appliances, televisions, couches, and bedroom furniture were lost in a fireball that licked the night sky for several hours.

The garage is a historic building in southwest Roanoke City. Though the loss of the property and donations are heartbreaking, no one was injured and none of the surrounding properties were damaged.

Anything you would need to take into an empty space and turn it into a home is now needed. The strike also impacted the electronics in the Refugee Resettlement and Immigrant Services building, affecting computers, phones, printers, and scanners.

You can help! If you have furniture you'd like to donate or know of others who do, please call 540-342-7561 or email Beth Lutjen at Beth.Lutjen@cccofva.org. CCC will be organizing a furniture drive soon with the help of some of Roanoke's local media. Please stay tuned!

A Few Cans Go Far in Feeding the Hungry

"The poor need help today, not next week."
—Catherine McAuley

Today, St. Francis House is the largest provider of food for the needy in the Roanoke Valley. Amazingly, this tiny outpost began in 1973 as a simple outreach mission, but thanks to your help, St. Francis House has grown to serve hundreds of folks every week.

Your donations of money and food save lives and nourish both the bodies and souls of the folks who come to us for help. Because no one should have to feel the anxiety of not knowing where his next meal is coming from, we ask you to keep up the good work. Start a food drive in your workplace, your church, your school, tennis club, pool, book club...back to school time is the perfect time to get involved!



The drop in food donations over summer has left St. Francis House with empty shelves.



Let's get restocking!



(L to R) Betty Dagenhart, Kenneth King, Patricia Diffenderfer.

Volunteer Highlight:

Mr. Kenneth King, Esq.

Do you have your affairs in order? Just thinking about it can be a daunting—and exhausting—effort.

For the folks at Clearview Manor (Vinton, VA) involved in CCC's Independence for Seniors program, relief and valuable expertise came from Mr. Kenneth King, Esquire.

Mr. King came to Clearview and spoke to residents about the legal documents folks need to put their affairs in order. Clearly explaining the need for Advance Medical Directives, naming a medical power of attorney, and outlining trusts and wills, Mr. King offered hours of sound legal advice—an enormous gift for people without the knowledge or financial ability to put their documents together.

Mr. King and his loyal staff prepared everything for the folks who participated and brought the documents back to Clearview Manor. Exclusive Personal Estate Solutions document packages were ready for each person, just awaiting their signatures. That means a basic will, Medical and Financial Durable Powers of Attorney and Advance Medical Directive were all included.

Deepest thanks to Mr. King and his staff at Kenneth King Law Group for an invaluable gift. Your time in explanation, clarification, instruction, and preparation is truly priceless.

Food, Glorious Food!

Your gifts of nutritious, shelf-stable food are never more needed than right now! Summer has left shelves bare, meaning less help for the hungry families who come to us for emergency help. Now is the perfect time to coordinate food drives or pick up an extra can of soup or box of cereal at the grocery store each time you shop. Times have been hard for so many recently—who isn't tightening their purse (or wallet) strings? Giving the gift of food is inexpensive, easy, and goes far in boosting the health and hearts of people who need it.

In RICHMOND—
Bring your food to 1512 Willow Lawn Drive any time Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call (804) 285-5900. We can also pick up from your group or business!

In ROANOKE—
Bring your food to St. Francis House, 824 Campbell Avenue SW or call (540) 345-9090. We can also pick up from your group or business!

Brown paper bags piling up at home? Bring them to us! Be green and reuse/recycle your brown paper bags by donating them to CCC. Our food pantry goes through approximately 420 bags *per month*, and we're always in need of more. Your donations of bags save money, staff time, and enjoy a new life carting home nourishing food for hungry folks in need!

Foster Kids Honor World Refugee Day

CCC's foster care program put together a summer favorite—a picnic—to honor World Refugee Day on June 18. Kids and parents involved in the foster care program came out to Harry G. Daniel Park to celebrate and honor "cultural diversity day." Since not all kids are refugees, foster care decided a new name was definitely needed for the celebration.

About 35 kids and families had a great time eating hot dogs, playing games, and enjoying the afternoon together. Though the picnic was only from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., most folks wanted to linger later and take a little more time having fun.

Your help is crucial! CCC is always in need of warm-hearted foster parents, as well as donated items like backpacks and school supplies. We're also grateful for your thoughtful financial support. Your gifts really make an impact and give kids a better life.



Kids get ready for the next ball to be set

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The Chronicle is a publication produced for the employees, volunteers, contributors, clients, and friends of Commonwealth Catholic Charities. If you are interested in sharing comments or contributing story ideas, please contact the editor by email at Morgen.McElroy@cccofva.org. The CCC Annual Report is available online at www.cccofva.org.

A Recent Success Story in Guardianship

Sam*, a CCC guardianship client, had been kicked out of his public school due to his disruptive behavior. Dealing with emotional and behavioral problems made school life difficult, and with no help from friends or family, he wasn't quite sure of his future. Thanks to your support of CCC and its programs, like guardianship—a public guardian/conservator program for incapacitated, indigent adults 18 years of age or older who can't make informed personal and/or financial decisions for themselves—Sam found help through a special group that helps at-risk kids access services. He was given the chance to go to St. Joseph's Villa, where his communication skills, behavior, and desire to do something positive grew and improved. He completed an internship with Positive Vibe Café, and is now working at Old Navy three days a week. Brighter things are definitely ahead.

*Name has been changed to protect confidentiality.

Walking for Refugees is a *Labor of Love!*

SEPTEMBER

6

What are you doing Labor Day? If you haven't made plans yet and will be in the Roanoke area, why not take an easy stroll through beautiful Wasena Park for a great cause?

Labor of Love Walk

Benefitting refugee and immigrant children served by the Refugee Resettlement and Immigrant Services programs of CCC.

You'll receive a free t-shirt, snacks, water, and the happiness of knowing you've created huge impact in a child's life.

Cost:

\$15 per walker

\$10 Students (please show valid id)

\$40 Family (3+ people)

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Walk any time!

Where:

Wasena Park

Brick Shelter

September 6

Why:

Labor of Love benefits refugee and immigrant children, who arrive here with no possessions. Money raised from your walk will help clothe, feed, and educate these kids.

How: Call Beth at (545) 342-7561, email Beth.Lutjen@cccofva.org, or visit www.cccofva.org to learn more! We need your help...please take advantage of the long weekend and do something positive for yourself AND our community.

