



Hope

NEWSLETTER

Keeping you updated on the news and celebrations of Catholic Charities

ISSUE 9 | WINTER 2018

Family Left Homeless by Fire Finds Support and Relief from St. Vincent Centers, Makes New Start

When their apartment building caught fire, 37-year-old Anita and her four children were left homeless. Most of the building's tenants were evacuated to local homeless shelters, but when she learned that her oldest teen would need to go to a different shelter, Anita refused to separate the family. To keep them together, they all spent their first two nights sleeping in their car.

Anita had learned that some of the other tenants had gone to St. Vincent Centers to receive free clothing after the fire. So, she and

her children visited the thrift store to obtain warmer clothes and winter accessories like gloves, beanies, clean socks and scarves; they also received blankets and personal hygiene items. The agency connected them to a family who allowed them to stay in a parked RV in their driveway.

Anita cooked meals on the RV's small stove with items she received from the food bank, and was also given some basic kitchen items (pots, pans, plates and cups).

"I am so grateful for the support we received from the staff at St. Vincent Centers, and the wonderful family who allowed us to use their RV," the single parent said. "I was afraid that we would be stuck trying to survive in that car

"It is so wonderful to know that these types of services exist for anyone who is facing an emergency like this."

or would find ourselves in other unsafe conditions."

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After only a few weeks, the family found a new place to live. Anita, a working mother, never thought she would be in the position to receive emergency services like those at St. Vincent Centers, but she was deeply touched by the support. To “pay it forward,” she donated back all the kitchen supplies.

“I think most people see St. Vincent as serving only the poor among us,”

Anita said. “But I was quite surprised at the support we received. I consider myself very independent and work hard to support my family, but it is so wonderful to know that these types of services exist for anyone who is facing an emergency like this. What could have been a difficult transition was made tolerable with their help.”

Shoppers at the stores are vital to St. Vincent’s mission – all sales proceeds help the agency serve those in need.



ABOUT ST. VINCENT CENTERS

St. Vincent Centers in Union Gap and Kennewick have been serving those in need since 1946. Formerly known as St. Vincent de Paul, the name has changed, but the mission has remained the same.

Your Donations Make a Difference!

With the proceeds of the sale of items at their thrift stores, St. Vincent Centers provides assistance to thousands of families each year through its emergency services programs in Union Gap and Kennewick, and its food bank in Union Gap. They offer crisis relief by providing clothing, household items, food, and shelter.

Recognizing that crisis relief does not provide long-term solutions, St. Vincent Centers partners with, and offers referrals to, related agencies with programs that address the underlying causes of the crisis situations. This holistic approach helps those who are suffering hardship recognize necessary next steps to aid them on their journey toward sustainability.

At left, Angie, a job coach with Entrust, works with disabled participants of the St. Vincent Centers employment training program.

Emergency Services:

St. Vincent’s provides free clothes and kitchen basics, including blankets and accessories during winter. The agency averages 45-50 participants per month, and approximately 75% are children. This includes the homeless, and others who are experiencing emergencies. Some participants that have used the services refer others, and St. Vincent also receives referrals from Catholic Charities, the Red Cross, World Relief and

other agencies. In December, more than 1,800 emergency service vouchers were distributed in Yakima at a local Christmas event, and more than 700 new toys were donated by generous parishioners at Holy Family Catholic Church, St. Paul Cathedral and St. Joseph Catholic Church.



St. Vincent Centers also distributes free clothing to local schools. In August, the Kennewick location gave free clothing and shoes to more than 350 children in need.

Employment Training:

St. Vincent partners with Entrust, one of the largest organizations focusing on individuals with disabilities. The free employment training program helps those who are looking to join the workforce for the first time, as well as those

Food Bank Provides Relief for Those in Need

Editor's Note: Raquel Alcalá, St. Vincent Centers director, answers some common questions about the food bank in Union Gap.

Q: What is the role of the Food Bank at the Union Gap St. Vincent Centers?

A: The main role is to provide emergency food. We also strive to create awareness in the community, and collaborate with other food service providers to develop and implement a holistic approach to our relief efforts.

Q: How many are served yearly?

A: Based on our most recent data: An average of 6,744 households are served yearly, with an average of 18,720 people served yearly.

42% are adults: ages 19 – 54.

41% are children and youth: ages 0 -18.

And 17% are seniors: ages 55+.

Q: Where do you get donations?

A: Food drives from the community, organizations, individual donations of food and cash, and large food bank distribution centers. Although the amount of food received as a donation is not an issue, oftentimes these donations do not yield the types of food needed for a nutritious box of food. For example, we receive a pallet of frozen French fries for the week. We then have to make food

purchases to ensure nutritional items are included in that week's boxes. Flour, rice and beans are items purchased monthly because they are not commonly donated, but important to have in a home.

Q: How do people donate items to the food bank, and what type of items are needed?

A: Individuals or organizations can make food and monetary donations at the thrift store; our staff is trained to receive and process any donations received. Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Sundays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Or, if preferred, they can visit on a food bank day: Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. – noon. All-purpose flour, rice, beans, and canned vegetables are the most needed items.

Q: If someone needs help, how do they access the food bank?

A: We are located at: 2629 Rudkin Road, Union Gap. Hours of operation: Tuesday and Friday 9 a.m. – noon. Photo ID is required.



Raquel Alcalá, St. Vincent Centers director, and Omer Gress, longtime St. Vincent Centers food bank volunteer, share a light moment.

who are looking for a second opportunity. The program is designed to mirror a "real" job experience. Expectations are established, and evaluations are conducted to ensure participants stay on track with their plans. The program focuses on customer service and cleanliness and organization. Participants are trained in all aspects of the daily operations of the store, including cashiering. The agency also plans to engage volunteer mentors to

support participants beyond employment training.

Learn more . . .

Call Raquel at **509.457.5111** to learn more about SVC services.

Donate, Shop, Volunteer.

Check out these opportunities:
First Wednesday of each month
The SVC truck will accept donations in the parking lot at Catholic Charities, 5301 Tieton Drive, Yakima, noon-1:30 p.m.

August

Back-to-school event in Kennewick.

November - December

Christmas toy drive and distribution.

Need to Donate an Old Car?

Have an old car taking up space in your driveway? Donate it to St. Vincent Centers! We accept all types of vehicles, including boats, trailers and motorcycles.

For information, call 855.505.4483 or 855.505.GIVE.



Catholic Charities

SERVING CENTRAL WASHINGTON

Catholic Charities – Yakima

5301 Tieton Drive, Suite C
509.965.7100

Catholic Charities Housing Services

5301 Tieton Drive, Suite G
509.853.2800

Catholic Charities – Tri-Cities

2139 Van Giesen
509.946.4645

Catholic Charities – Wenatchee

145 South Worthen Street
509.662.6761

St. Vincent Centers and Food Bank – Union Gap

2629 Main Street
509.457.5111

St. Vincent Centers – Kennewick

120 North Morain Street
509.783.7020



Our Mission

*Motivated by Christ's love,
we bring hope to life,
especially for those most in
need.*

Would you like to join our mailing list
and stay informed? Email
jdeccio@catholiccharitiescw.org

Text to Donate: CCHOPE to 91999

Upcoming Catholic Charities Fundraising Events:

March 17, 2018 Benefit Dinner and Dessert Dash | St. Joseph's Church | **Wenatchee**

June 22, 2018 14th Annual Garden Gala | Cascade Gardens | **Yakima**

October 6, 2018 30th Annual Gala Dinner | Anthology | **Richland**

www.catholiccharitiescw.org

Vision

We envision communities where people are treated with dignity and respect, their basic needs are met, and they are empowered to enhance the quality of their own lives.

Values

- We affirm our faith in God who calls us to serve.
- We celebrate the uniqueness and dignity of people.
- We nurture children and strengthen families.
- We provide quality services to those in need.
- We serve people of all faiths.