

2022 Report to the Community



**Catholic
Charities**

SERVING CENTRAL WASHINGTON

A Message from the CEO

2022 — A Year of Opportunities

At Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington, we made a positive difference in the lives of children, youth, families, and seniors by providing safe and affordable housing, quality early learning services to get kids ready for kindergarten, healing trauma through counseling, helping youth find their way after foster care, walking beside a pregnant mom who needs support, navigating resources for grandparents raising their grandchildren, and so much more.

Everyone deserves a place to call home and lay their head at night. We have provided homes for 52 farmworker families in Tieton. We have three new affordable multi-family housing developments in Mattawa and Yakima that will be finished in 2023 to support low-income families.

Your generosity has helped us partner with parishes to provide Light of Hope funds when families struggle with day-to-day needs, helping with rent, utilities, diapers, and food. PREPARES has supported nearly 4,000 families with young children and pregnant moms this year through the gift of time from volunteers and generous donations. Together, we bring hope to families who feel so alone!

Can you imagine being 18 years old and confronting the world of adulthood on your own without family support? Many foster youth find themselves in that place. Through LifeSet and other services, we are there to help them navigate finishing school, finding a job, managing a budget, locating housing, and supporting them through the journey of life.

We are blessed for the many ways you help us create promising opportunities for those we serve.

*Darlene Darnell
President & CEO
Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington*



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

Light of Hope Fund

Helping Struggling Families

Through your generosity, Catholic Charities has awarded \$435,000 to assist families and individuals through the Light of Hope Fund.

The Light of Hope Fund was created in April 2020 through a partnership with the Diocese of Yakima to assist those struggling due to the effects of the pandemic. The fund helped those who had lost their jobs, had their hours cut, or could not work due to having the virus or caring for someone who did. Donors have kept the fund alive, enabling us to continue to respond to those in need by providing small cash grants, gift cards, and gas cards.

“The Light of Hope Fund is one of the few bright spots that has emerged from the pandemic,” said Darlene Darnell, President and CEO of Catholic Charities. “The fund gives us a means and the resources to help people who are struggling.”

“We recognize that the grants don’t solve the complex problems that families face, but they are a practical expression of God’s love for them.”

— Leanne LaBissoniere, Parish Outreach Manager

The small grants are used to assist with needs such as groceries, household supplies, prescriptions, past-due utility bills and rent, and unexpected expenses like car and home repairs. “We recognize that the grants don’t solve the complex problems that families face, but they are a practical expression of God’s love for them,” said Leanne LaBissoniere, Parish Outreach Manager, who coordinates the distribution of the Light of

Hope Fund. “We hope the grants give people hope to face the challenges they are experiencing.”



Initially, larger grants were awarded to 39 parishes in the Diocese of Yakima. The parishes were able to use the funds to help people who came to them in need. The effects of the pandemic have eased, but there continues to be a great deal of need in the communities we serve.

The Light of Hope Fund is used to help families with young children who cannot afford diapers or other essentials. Grants are awarded to help seniors with urgent home repairs. Gas cards are given to help families who have to travel out of town for a loved one’s medical treatment. In some cases, we’ve used the Light of Hope Fund to help families facing tragedies such as a missing child, a housefire, or a dire medical diagnosis.

Referrals for the assistance offered through the Light of Hope Fund come from Catholic Charities staff and parishes throughout the diocese. Those seeking assistance may visit St. Vincent Center, 2629 Main Street in Union Gap.

Thank you to generous donors who have helped the light shine in lives of those in need.



PREPARES Extends the Embrace of the Family

There is no one like family when tragedy hits. But, when family is not available, PREPARES: Pregnancy and Parenting Support extends the embrace of the family by providing both the practical help and the love and companionship that parents need to nurture their babies and young children.

Tragedy struck Luis and Esther's family just days before Christmas when their small home caught fire and burned to the ground. The

parish helped Luis and Esther provide gifts for the kids and Christmas dinner. A Light of Hope grant provided a deposit on an apartment and a gift card to help set up the household.

The family was still living with their neighbors when Christmas arrived, but they were able to celebrate with a holiday meal, a few gifts, and the hope that better days were ahead. A few days before the new year arrived, they moved into their apartment, and their PREPARES companion was there with a housewarming basket of kitchen essentials and toys for the kids.

The fire took away the material goods Luis and Esther had worked hard to acquire, but they were thankful it didn't take their or their children's lives. Through the Light of Hope Fund, PREPARES was able to offer the family the precious gift of hope.



Tragedy struck Luis and Esther's family just days before Christmas when their small home caught fire and burned to the ground. The couple and their five children lost everything

couple and their five children lost everything and were living with neighbors when they reached out to PREPARES.

The PREPARES staff helped meet the family's immediate needs – diapers and wipes for their 6-month-old baby and clothes for their small children. They also connected Luis and Esther with community resources to help with food, clothing, and other essentials. Gift cards from a local

It's never easy to start over. And for families struggling to make ends meet, starting over is overwhelming. Simple expressions of love from strangers who care can make the difference between despair and hope – hope that tomorrow will be better than today.

PREPARES is a nurturing response of the Catholic community in Washington state, open to all, to provide meaningful, local, and sustainable support to mothers, fathers, and families as they nurture their children through pregnancy and early childhood.



Youth & Young Adults

LifeSet: Empowering Youth Transitioning to Adulthood

Every year, approximately 20,000 young people in the United States turn 18 in child welfare systems without ever reuniting with their biological families. Now provided through Catholic Charities Youth and Young Adult Services, LifeSet is a unique program for young adults ages 17.5 to 22 in Yakima, Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties. LifeSet provides one-on-one support to those who have experienced foster care or juvenile incarceration and are struggling to transition into independence. Case managers work with young adults to complete goals, manage crises, build life skills and strengthen long-term support.

“It fits well with our philosophy of what we do with our youth and young adults,” said Avery Zoglman, LifeSet Program Supervisor. “LifeSet is a very client-centered program. It integrates well with our goals to offer more intensive services.”

LifeSet is a national program that offers an individualized, evidence-informed model that pairs a highly trained specialist with each young person to help identify and accomplish goals. LifeSet has helped young people across the country become successful adults, including reduced homelessness, increased economic well-being, and improved mental health.

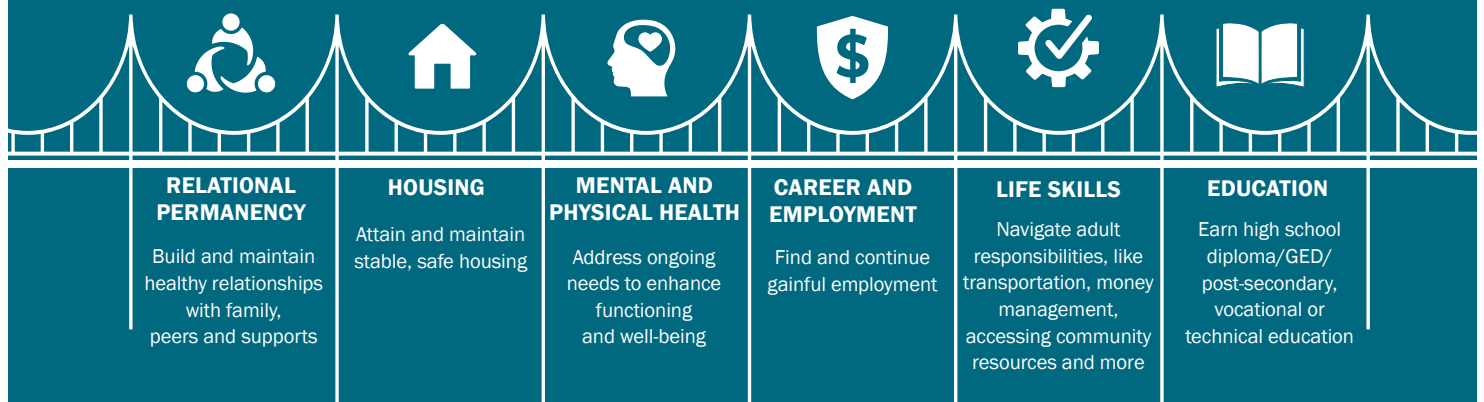
For more information or to refer someone to the program, contact azoglman@catholiccharitiescw.org.



“Benny, my case manager, has helped me be more organized. I have a little agenda calendar where I write down my daily things to do. I needed help deciding on a career path and I know what I want to do now and how I am going to do it. I am moving to a college dorm. I am also learning ways to cope if I get anxious. I’ve had lots of help and without it I would have had a difficult time progressing as much as I have by myself.”

— Gabi, YYAS LifeSet client

LIFASET: THE BRIDGE TO SUCCESSFUL ADULTHOOD



Catholic Charities Housing Services

St. Catherine De' Vigri Villas in Tieton

28th Annual Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Award recognizes best in affordable housing

In September, CCHS was awarded the Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Award for its most recent development – St. Catherine De' Vigri Villas, located in Tieton. CCHS was recognized for its efforts to engage farmworkers in the community through its strategic partnership with the local nonprofit, Tieton Arts and Humanities.

The new 52-unit, affordable rental housing development brings much-needed housing to the community, helping to address the acute shortage of housing in this small rural town. Staff also offers a program for residents connecting them to a myriad of resources to help them navigate paperwork, and provides after-school programs for their children.



Alexis Ibarra, Resident Services Program Specialist, is serving at CCHS through AmeriCorps. She provides early learning and after-school programming at St. Catherine and accompanies residents through local resource connection.

“The majority of our residents work in agriculture, and many don’t speak English, so I’m there to help them. Together, we can apply for utility and rental assistance, farmworker grants, and other local resources. Tieton is a very small town, and this partnership ensures residents can get connected to resources throughout Yakima County,” she said. Alexis enjoys working with the residents and hopes to encourage them to take advantage of all the opportunities available.

Alexis also facilitates two programs with kids on-site at St. Catherine. “I have a Play & Learn group where children aged 0-5 engage with their parents in play to help with healthy development and growth, and to prepare them for kindergarten and first grade. My after-school program consists of homework support, different activities such as art, crafting, or science projects.”



As a first-generation college graduate, Alexis encourages the kids to get an education. “I like to use myself as an example and create conversations where the kids start thinking of what they want to do after graduating.”

CCHS named the property after St. Catherine De' Vigri, the Catholic patron saint of the arts, in honor of our Cultivando Voces (Cultivating Voices) initiative, a collaborative art project that brought together local nonprofit Tieton Arts and Humanities, Mexican-American artist Christie Tirado, and property residents.

The Cultivando Voces project spurred the creation of two large mosaics, an art form integral to Tieton’s largely Latino and immigrant community. One of the mosaics will be proplayed at the property, and the other will be located in the community at large. Prioritizing the engagement of residents in the design process created the

chance for resident farmworkers and their families to be recognized and celebrated through the creation of an artistic tribute to their Latino history and culture.

St. Catherine De' Vigri Villas is the largest multi-family housing development in the history of Tieton and the first affordable housing development to be built in the area in over 30 years. With the development of this and future properties, CCHS hopes to continue the decades-long revitalization of this small rural community, which is a majority-minority community with a Latinx population of 77%.

The affordable homes at St. Catherine's include 17 two-bedroom homes, 31 three-bedroom homes, and five four-bedroom homes serving residents earning 30 percent, 40 percent, and 50 percent Area Median Income (AMI). All of the residences are two-story townhomes except for the three ADA fully accessible units, which provide an equitable housing option for residents with disabilities. The property is located on five acres of land and features amenities, including resident meeting spaces, a classroom, management offices, on-site laundry, and an outdoor playground. In addition to the St. Catherine De' Vigri Villas,

Catholic Charities Housing has assisted 50 families in becoming homeowners through our sweat equity homeownership programs for low-income first-time homebuyers. The 103 housing units created by CCHS account for more than 20% of the total housing stock in this small town.

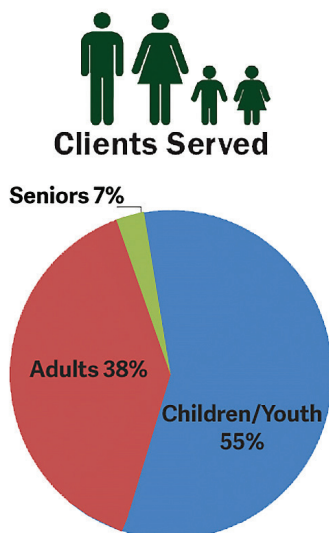
"I'm happy to be living here. Finding affordable housing has been difficult. Being a single mother of three boys and the only income earner, living here has made it a lot easier for our family. Being able to access the resources provided by the staff has been very beneficial. My youngest son attends the after-school program here and enjoys it."

— Maria Santibanez, St. Catherine resident

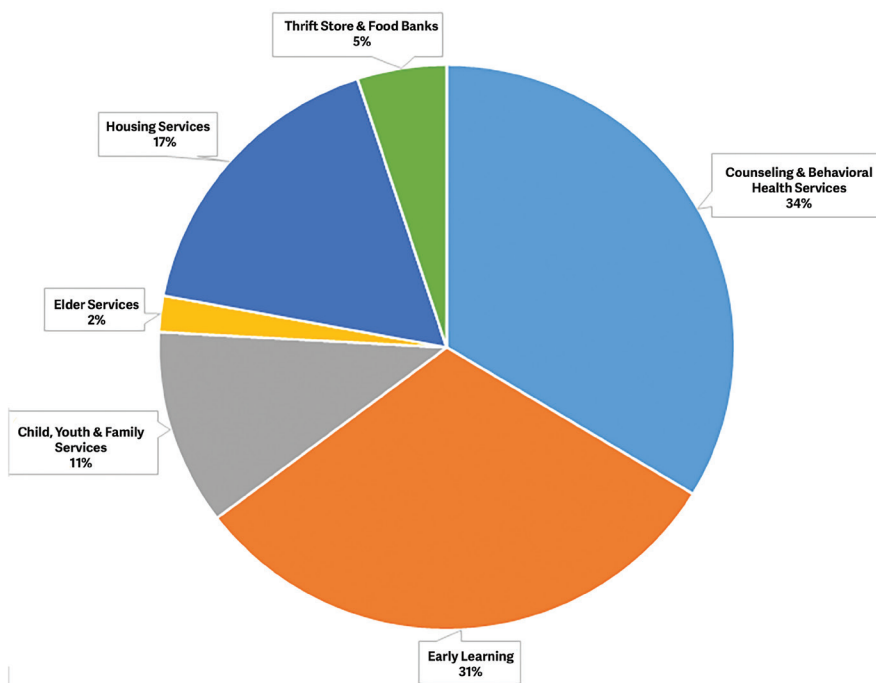
Our Mission by the Numbers

Did you know?

Catholic Charities brings hope to 50,000 individuals in Central Washington by Embracing People, Strengthening Families, and Empowering them to Thrive.



Direct Services to Bring Hope to Those Most in Need



Yakima

5301 Tieton Drive, Suite C
509.965.7100

Tri-Cities

2139 Van Giesen, Richland
509.946.4645

Wenatchee

145 South Worthen Street
509.662.6761

Moses Lake

524 E. 3rd Avenue
509.436.7015

Sunnyside

1691 Washington Court
509.965.7100

**Catholic Charities
Housing Services**

5301 Tieton Drive, Suite G, Yakima
509.853.2800

St. Vincent Center

Thrift Store and Food Bank
2629 Main Street, Union Gap
509.457.5111

Postage indicia

FPO

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Our Mission

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

Janice Deccio, **Editor**
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www.hopetolife.org**