



## SUMMER 2024

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### Care to Dance?

June has landed. Summer is nearly here, school is almost over, and another fiscal year at Catholic Community Services (CCS) is winding down. "*The **only** thing constant is change*" - a theme we know all too well within the walls of our Agency. Like the neighbors we serve, our greater community, and the world around us, CCS is in constant motion, reacting to a rising need for all our services, declining donations, workforce challenges, and changes in funding sources, not to mention the uncertainty created by our country's turbulent political environment. Not a single day that passes at CCS is like the previous day.

*"The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails."*

~ William Arthur Ward

Yet despite the daily challenges, changes, and chaotic times we face, CCS's **mission has not waived**. Our mission **to love our neighbors as ourselves** is more solid, steadfast, courageous, and intentional than ever. Committed and determined, our leadership team, staff, and volunteers demonstrate strength and tenacity that keep the engine of our Agency moving forward, "adjusting the sails" to ensure our hungry neighbors are fed, clothed, housed, resettled, and moving toward self-sufficiency. The great work of CCS continues, no matter what wind blows our way.

We are grateful to all who support our work, our new community partners who have emerged to help during these turbulent times, our committed volunteers, our long-standing supporters and event sponsors who always say "yes", property owners offering their rentals to our newly arriving refugee families, and donors who continue to give what they can so our mission remains focused.

Alan W. Watts makes this great suggestion for dealing with change:

*"The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance."*

I couldn't agree more. Anyone care to dance?

I wish you a summer of health, safety, and many blessings. Thank you for supporting the work of CCS.

Lorri Perreault  
Executive Director

### A Sweet Success

Our annual Desserts for Dinner event raised over \$8,000 for our OASIS program which provides services to unhoused families in Springfield. Our heartfelt thank you to all the talented bakers, generous sponsors,

patrons who purchased a dessert box, and always to the City of Springfield who graciously supports our work.

**Congratulations to The Sassy Cupcake for winning the Mayor's Measuring Cup award** presented by Springfield's Mayor Sean VanGordon with their Chocolate Salted Caramel Cupcake with Hazelnut frosting, candied hazelnuts, and gold dusting!

The OASIS program offers support to families experiencing homelessness. It includes an Emergency Family Shelter and a Daytime Drop-In Center, which provides food, supplies, and laundry facilities. The program also offers case management services to help families identify and overcome the challenges that led to their homelessness. Case managers work closely with each family to create personalized plans focused on finding permanent housing, increasing income, and accessing community resources. This comprehensive approach aims to break the cycle of homelessness and empower families to create brighter futures.



When asked about their experiences staying in the emergency shelters (pictured above), here's what our families said:

"The shelters have given me a sense of community and hope to keep trying."

"CCS has helped me believe in myself, get connected into the community and supported me towards housing."

"I am thankful for the opportunity at the CCS emergency shelters. They have been amazing and have a lot of compassion in helping my family and I get back on our feet once again."

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## **Refugees Are Not a World Away!**

**Learn More June 20th!**



Torn from their country in crisis, today they're our neighbors, friends, and colleagues, resettling in our community from Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Guatemala, Venezuela, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Mexico, thanks to the diligent work of CCS's Refugee & Immigrant Services Program (RISP) and dedicated volunteers of the Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County (RRC).

RISP is the only full affiliate refugee resettlement agency in Lane County, supporting over 50 new arrivals this year with immigration legal services and a full host of holistic services including case management, employment services, housing and home furnishing support, English classes and other educational connections, and resources for childcare, healthcare and other necessities to help refugees and immigrants navigate the complexities of starting a new life in an unfamiliar place and becoming self-sufficient, active participants in our community.

As **World Refugee Day** approaches on **June 20th**, consider learning more about this great work that is creating a more diverse community for all of us to enjoy. Join RISP and RRC at their free World Refugee Day community celebration from 4-8pm at First United Methodist Church in Eugene. All are welcome! Delicious Afghan-Uzbek food is available for advance purchase only from Manti, a new business launched by a local refugee family. Register to attend and/or purchase food at [World Refugee Day 2024 | CCSLC](#) or click the button below.

## RSVP World Refugee Day



## Will You Help?

Food insecurity in our community is on the rise, exacerbated by the recent closing of two previously available food pantries in Eugene, the rising cost and shortage of food nationally, climate change, and many other components of a complex economy. As the largest distributor of free food in Lane County, CCS is feeling this rising need. During the past three months alone, March/April/May 2024, our Agency distributed **9,239** food boxes to neighbors in need.

We are so grateful to our longtime partner, **FOOD For Lane County**, and our recent collaboration with **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, who supply most of the food to our two pantries in Eugene and Springfield.

We also greatly appreciate our pantry team of staff and volunteers who show up every day to ensure food is on the table for thousands in our community.

We encourage additional community support and urge those who can help to please do so. Whether it's monetary support to CCS to purchase additional food and fresh produce, a donation of non-perishable food items, or volunteering your time in one of our two food pantries, every act of generosity helps in the fight against hunger. Let's work together so that no one in our community goes without this basic human necessity.



Recent photo of CCS's Debbie Prechtel, accessing food at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Bishop's Storehouse in Springfield.

The day before, CCS food pantries distributed a record-breaking number of 374 food boxes in four hours!

Our pantries' shelves are quickly barren with these kinds of numbers!

**Help Feed the Hungry**

## **CCS's Community Drives Fill Gaps**



You may have noticed one of the many CCS collection barrels that periodically show up throughout our community. We use these barrels to encourage community member donations in filling needed resource gaps faced by many of our neighbors in need.

Right now, our **Squeaky Clean Hygiene Drive** is underway through June, collecting community donations of greatly needed hygiene items

For a list of items and collection locations visit <https://www.ccslc.org/squeaky-clean-hygiene-drive> or click the button below.

As the new school year approaches, our **Back-to-School Drive** will launch and we will ask for donations of necessary school supplies that are a financial challenge for many families in our community to purchase. Together, we can ensure that every child in our community has the opportunity to start the school year with the tools and confidence they need to thrive.

## Clothing = Dignity, Respect, and for many, Employment

CCS's free Clothing Closet is a godsend for many who visit our Springfield Community Service Center, helping stretch personal and family budgets as far as possible. In the past year, from May 2023-May 2024, 8,465 visits were made to the Clothing Closet and 41,000 pieces of clothing were distributed.

Doors are open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, for this great **FREE** resource!

**Always in short supply** are men's casual street clothes, new socks, new undergarments for men and women, and belts.

Drop off donations in Springfield only M-F 9 a.m. to noon, in the alley off 10th Street, at the Clothing Closet entrance. Please do not drop donations at the Springfield Community Service Center main desk.

**The Eugene Service Center does not accept donations.** We do not sell clothing donations, we offer them back to the needy in our community at no-cost!



Making this all possible is Clothing Closet Associate, Elizabeth Hickey (pictured above) and our committed volunteer team.

Thank you to all who touch this work. Your efforts are essential for many in our community!

Please consider donating gently used clothing or organizing a clothing drive on behalf of CCS's Clothing Closet.

To learn more about the Clothing Closet and how you can help visit <https://www.ccslc.org/need-help>

## SAVE THE DATE - Great Hour of Caring 2024 Annual Power Hour Fundraiser

Our largest fundraiser of the year, the Great Hour of Caring 2024 will take place on September 19, from 8am-9am at Venue 252 in Eugene.

We are inviting you to support us in our critical community work of feeding the hungry, preventing homelessness, supporting refugees and immigrants, and providing emergency shelter to the unhoused in our community.

As we witness needs at record highs, this fundraising power hour is more important than ever.

Tickets are available now at [www.ccslc.org/ghoc2024](http://www.ccslc.org/ghoc2024) or through the button below.

**Buy Tickets**



**Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!!**



**Can't attend GHOC 2024, but want to support CCS?**

**Donate**



**Locations**

1025 G St, Springfield OR 97477  
1464 W 6th Ave, Eugene OR 97402  
1055 Charnelton St, Eugene OR 97401

**Contact Us**

541-345-3628  
[ccslc.org](http://ccslc.org)

