

Catholic  
Community  
Services  
OF LANE COUNTY

*Loving Thy Neighbor*

**FALL 2024**

**Donate Today**

## **Attitude of Gratitude**

Dear Friends,

National Gratitude Month is here!

If there is one way to ensure that you wake up every single day feeling calm, joyful and at peace, it's to adopt an attitude of gratitude. This means operating from a place of abundance instead of a place of scarcity and fear. Grateful people give thanks for *everything* in their lives, even on the days when it feels like nothing is going right.

At CCS, we meet hundreds of neighbors every day who have things not going right, yet many remain immensely grateful for what we do for them- a food box, a toothbrush, an ID replacement, a case manager's encouragement, a shelter bed, a rent payment, a utility bill paid. These grateful neighbors remind **us** of the meaning of gratitude in a very big, profound way.

And, our generous community reminds us as well. The outpouring CCS receives from donors big and small, event sponsors, dedicated volunteers who serve alongside our staff, and our community partners is truly profound. We are so very grateful to all who support our mission to *Love Thy Neighbor*. Thank you to every hand and heart that touches our work.

I wish you a Thanksgiving season of good health, safety, and many blessings.

*Lorri Perreault*  
Executive Director



“FOR EACH NEW MORNING  
WITH ITS LIGHT,  
FOR REST AND SHELTER  
OF THE NIGHT,  
FOR HEALTH AND FOOD,  
FOR LOVE AND FRIENDS,  
FOR EVERYTHING THY  
GOODNESS SENDS.”

– RALPH WALDO EMERSON

**A Grateful Heart** ❤️

October 4, 2024

Dear All,

*Thank you all so much for your help. I am about ready to fly out of the nest a little, then a lot, after a year of being down and out for the first time in my life. I do have a few permanently bumped spots but I am mostly on the road going the right way perhaps coming out of some of the hardest times of my life. I couldn't have done it without you all making it possible for me to have a roof, food and basic needs.*

*Your organization, attention to detail and support is absolutely important and appreciated. I have been through a lot but I have more places to go. I am working PT now and have gotten my social security well on it's way.*

*Again, my words cannot equal all of your difficult and earnest, plain, hard work and patience, and thank you all so much,*

S.A.

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## **Volunteer Finds Joy in Brief Moments of Connection**

In a world where it's easy to overlook life's simple blessings, Nancy, a dedicated volunteer at CCS's Springfield food pantry, reminds us that gratitude often reveals itself in unexpected moments. For the past three years, Nancy has faithfully served our community one day per week, discovering that what began as a simple desire to help has blossomed into something far more meaningful.

"It's the little moments that touch your heart," Nancy shares, recalling a particularly memorable interaction when a client's face lit up at the sight of dried red beans from South America. "She was so excited because it reminded her of home. These connections remind us that food is more than sustenance, it's a bridge between cultures and a carrier of memories."

Nancy has found unexpected joy in these cross-cultural exchanges, with some clients even teaching her Spanish during their visits. These informal language lessons have transformed routine food distribution into opportunities for genuine human connection, embodying CCS's mission of "Love Thy Neighbor" in its truest form.

While the work brings many rewarding moments, it also presents emotional challenges. "It's difficult when the pantry shelves run low," Nancy admits, her voice reflecting genuine concern. "Especially for our unhoused neighbors who have limited cooking options." Yet even in these challenging circumstances, Nancy finds inspiration in the unwavering gratitude of those she serves. "Our homeless clients are often the most appreciative," she notes. "They're grateful for everything we can provide to help them get through the day, always hoping tomorrow brings better opportunities."

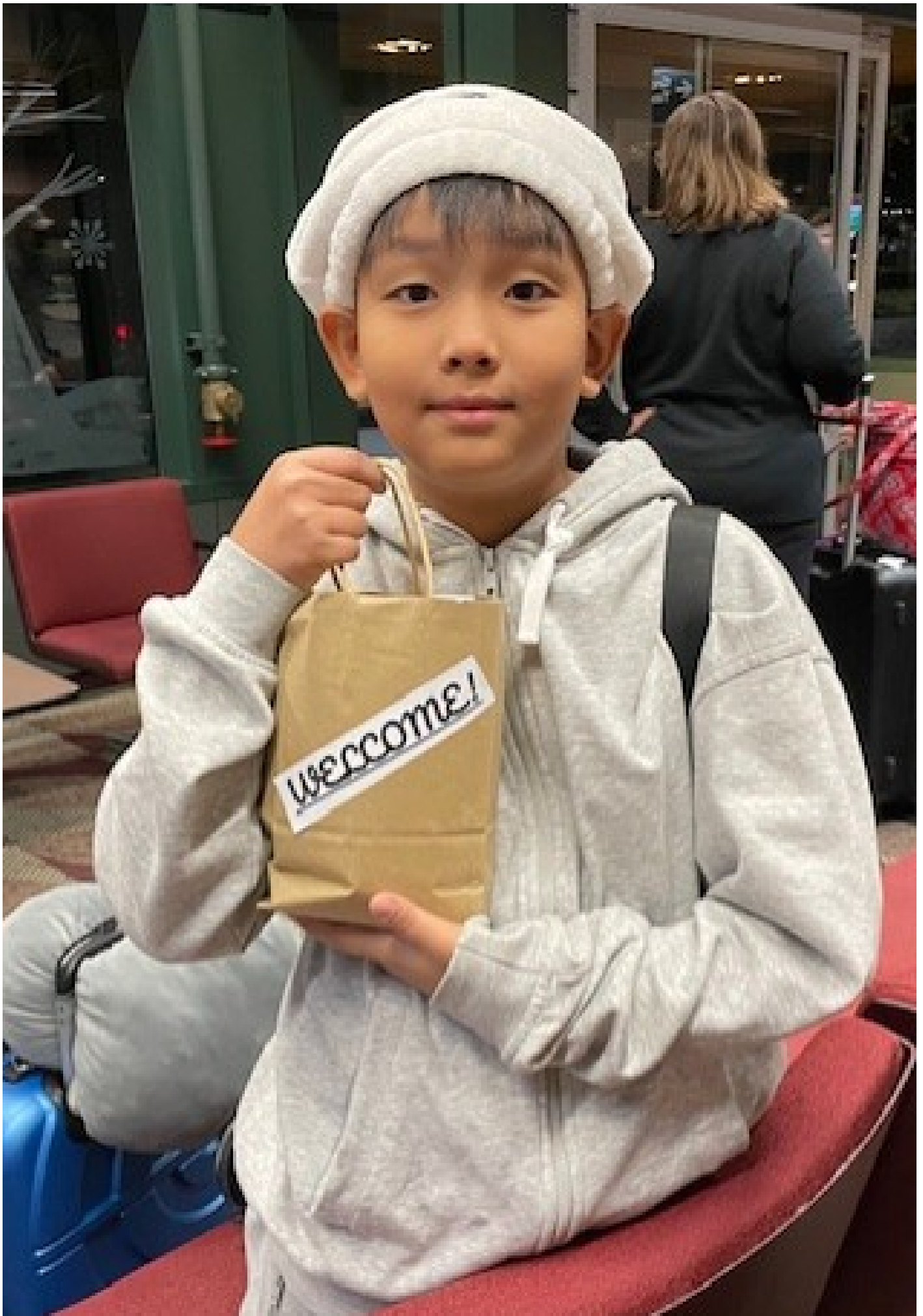


Nancy's own gratitude extends to the broader community that makes the food pantry's existence possible. She expresses deep appreciation for the local farmers and community partners whose consistent donations help stock the pantry's shelves. Their generosity ensures that the pantry can continue serving as a vital resource for neighbors in need.

Through Nancy's eyes, we see how gratitude flows both ways at the food pantry—from the appreciation shown by clients receiving help to the fulfillment volunteers experience in serving others. Her story reminds us that even in challenging times, there's always room for connection, compassion, and gratitude.

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## **Why CCS Welcomes New Neighbors**





The subject of immigration is politically divisive in our nation, and it has often been a point of contention throughout American history. Meanwhile, the Catholic Church has long been at the forefront of efforts to welcome immigrants to the U.S. and promote their successful integration. Recently, these realities have collided, producing a rise in hostility from a limited number of public officials, media outlets, and private organizations toward the longstanding migration-related ministries of the Church. Below are a few answers to questions that might be on your mind:

### **Does the Catholic Church advocate for "open borders"?**

*No. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Political authorities, for the sake of the common good for which they are responsible, may make the exercise of the right to immigrate subject to various juridical conditions, especially with regard to the immigrants' duties toward their country of adoption" (no. 2241). This includes a sovereign country's right to uphold its borders.*

### **What does Catholic teaching say about irregular or illegal immigration and undocumented migrants?**

*Regarding an immigrant's obligations, the Catechism states: "Immigrants are obliged to respect with gratitude the material and spiritual heritage of the country that receives them, to obey its laws and to assist in carrying civic burdens" (no. 2241). The Catholic Church affirms the rule of law, encourages the use of lawful immigration pathways, and discourages migration simply for the purpose of advancing one's individual position without regard for the common good in one's country of origin.*

### **Do Catholic organizations encourage unlawful migration by serving people who enter the U.S. without authorization? By serving these people, are Catholic organizations contributing to the crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border?**

*There is no evidence or research to support the claim that the humanitarian services provided by Catholic organizations incentivize unlawful migration. Rather, many studies have concluded that a varied and often complex set of push-pull factors typically influence a person's decision to migrate.*

### **Key Principles Derived from the Magisterial Teaching of the Catholic Church:**

- Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland (i.e. the right not to migrate).
- When the conditions necessary for a dignified life are absent, persons have the natural right to migrate to support themselves and their family.
- More prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome those in search of the security and means of livelihood unavailable in their country of origin
- Countries have the right to maintain their borders and regulate immigration, consistent with the common good and with respect for the sanctity of human life.
- Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection.



- The God-given dignity and rights of undocumented immigrants should be respected.
- Immigrants have a responsibility to respect the country that receives them.

The topic of immigration is complex. CCS is committed to serving Lane County as its only full affiliate refugee resettlement agency under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB's) Migration & Refugee Services. This resettlement program is completely 100% legal pathway to enter the U.S. and is not irregular or unauthorized migration.

If you'd like to learn more, please click USCCB Migration & Refugee Services button below or feel free to email CCS's Refugee and Immigrant Services Program (RISP) at [RISP@ccslc.org](mailto:RISP@ccslc.org).

We hope to see you at Welcoming Our New Neighbors on November 14th!

[USCCB Migration & Refugee Services Info](#)



# Welcoming Our New Neighbors

A community fundraiser supporting  
refugees & immigrants in Lane County

**Thurs., November 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6p**

Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene  
1685 W 13th Ave, Eugene, OR 97402

♥ **Tickets \$35**

Come enjoy food, drinks, and  
inspiring stories!

[www.ccslc.org/wonn2024](http://www.ccslc.org/wonn2024)



Scan to purchase  
tickets



**SUPPORT Wonn EVENT HERE**

# Thank you to our AMAZING sponsors!



**KILGREN LAW** LLC  
*attorney at law*



**Eugene Mennonite**  
*People Practicing Peace*



**ROSSWHITE**  
*the Law Office of Ashley Ross White, LLC*



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH IN EUGENE



Oregon's  
**MARKET OF CHOICE**



**FUMC OF EUGENE**



# Family to Family Christmas Giving 2024



CCS supports over 165 local families with 200+ children who are experiencing homelessness, job loss, hunger, domestic violence and other barriers that will prevent a joyous Christmas this year. We can change that with community generosity. We are collecting gift cards so every parent can purchase a Christmas gift for their child.

***Can you please help us bring a bit of Christmas joy to these families?***

Please consider donating a \$25 or \$50 gift card to Target, Walmart, or Fred Meyer. Drop off gift cards no later than **Dec. 5th** to:

CCS Development Dept.  
1025 G Street- Springfield

Or donate below toward the purchase of gift cards for these families.

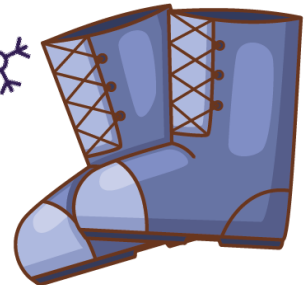
**Donate Here  
Gift Card Purchase**

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

# Winter Warmth Drive



**Help Keep Our Community  
Warm This Winter!**



**October 1 ~  
November 30**

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 **Winter Warmth Drive** is underway through the end of the month, collecting community donations of greatly needed warm clothing.

For a list of items and collection locations visit [Winter Warmth Drive | CCSLC](#) or click the button below.

## Winter Warmth

SAVE THE DATE!

# LightTheWorld Giving Machine

A Giving Machine is a unique vending machine that allows people to support local and global non-profit organizations. Instead of purchasing a snack for yourself at the Giving Machine, you're providing things like a sheep to a family in a developing country, funding for a polio vaccine, money to buy a pair of shoes, or a dozen meals for a local food bank. In Eugene this year, local non-profit organization recipients include Food for Lane County, Shelter Care, CASA, Catholic Community Services of Lane County, and Community Sharing. 100% of all donations go to the local and international partner agencies.



OFFICIAL LAUNCH & RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

Monday, Nov 25 @ 9:00 am

VALLEY RIVER CENTER  
(BY KAY JEWELERS)



facebook.com/eugenegivingmachine  
instagram.com/eugenegivingmachine

THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



# Catholic Community Services

OF LANE COUNTY

*Loving Thy Neighbor*

#### Community Service Center Locations

1025 G St, Springfield OR 97477

1464 W 6th Ave, Eugene OR 97402

#### Contact Us

541-345-3628

[ccslc.org](http://ccslc.org)

