

228 N Cascade Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 | 719-636-2345 | [www.ccharitiescc.org](http://www.ccharitiescc.org)  
Family Connections - 917 E. Moreno Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 | 719-578-1222

# Catholic Charities of Central Colorado

## Vision

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado will carry out its mission, for all those in need, through loving witness to the Gospel, compassionate and competent service, and meaningful advocacy.

**1968**  
Established

Serving  
Colorado Springs,  
Castle Rock, El Paso &  
Douglas County

**68**  
Staff

## Mission

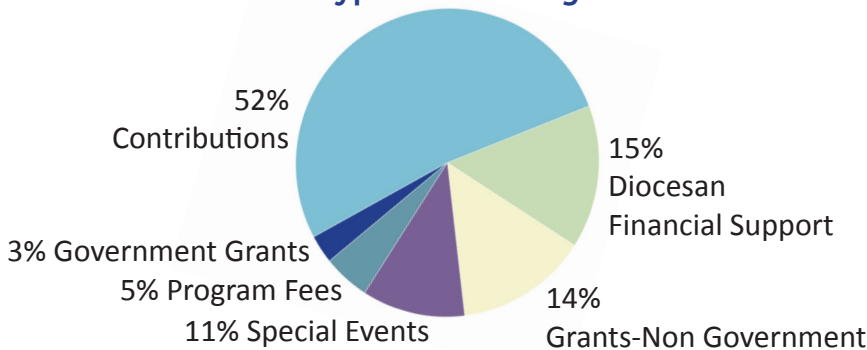
In response to Jesus Christ's call to affirm the value and dignity of each human life, to build solidarity within the community, and to advocate for justice for the poor and vulnerable, Catholic Charities of Central Colorado humbly engages in the ministry of charity for those in both economic and spiritual poverty so that all – staff, volunteers, and clients – may fully achieve their God-given potential.

**1,700**  
families served annually

**501(c)3**  
Org structure

**\$4,367,611**  
2017-2018 Budget

## Types of Funding



## Key Family Programs

- Adoption Services
- Age Appropriate Book Distribution
- Bright by Three
- Child Watch
- Coats for Kids
- Comprehensive Case Management
- Enriched Childcare for ESL Classes
- Foster Cradle Care
- Layettes for New Moms

## Serving Our Community

Catholic Charities' Family Connections serves a spectrum of family needs from those facing homelessness, to those needing to strengthen their family's resilience and stability, to those wanting to better understand parenting strategies and child development. In addition to offering safety net services to address immediate needs for families in crisis, Catholic Charities' Family Connections uses a Healthy Engagement model where families participate in multiple programs over a longer period of time, earning points toward essential items creating added child safety and family stability. Families are in charge of achieving their own goals with this approach. Programming is focused on a family strengthening perspective as families are their best decision makers. The objective is to help families in deeper, more meaningful ways while encouraging engagement in healthy behaviors such as playgroups, early literacy, and educational opportunities for themselves and their children. Family Life Coaches work to bolster the sense of self and build self-regulation to improve outcomes. Coaching builds skills and mindsets over a period of time through interactive relationships and provides positive self-worth and motivation helping families to move forward. A 2Gen Approach creates opportunities for addressing the needs of both vulnerable children and their parents together. The concept of Family Connections means it is possible for a family to enter into services to address an immediate housing or shelter need, but then continue to engage to build financial resiliency, parenting skills, and get their young children engaged in preschool and literacy programs. Poverty presents so many challenges – low paying jobs, struggles with food security, and lack of enrichment opportunities – all which are compounded further by the immense need for, and lack of affordable housing in our community.

Highlights

Catholic Charities' Family Connections moved to the Helen Hunt Campus, which brought all major Catholic Charities family programs under one roof in a family-centric facility located in a neighborhood, allowing for growth and new offerings. This move also initiated a partnership with Head Start, allowing Catholic Charities to place up to 7 preschool children in head start programming daily while parents work with Family Connections life coaches. New program offerings include: Playgroup, for parents and preschool children includes motor skills activities, circle time, finger plays, etc., while promoting school readiness and early literacy; Parenting on the Go, an on-demand parenting and child development program for families unable to attend a traditional parenting classes; Kidz Korner, a space hosting a variety of kid-centric programs; Vroom, teaching parents how to connect to their child to foster brain development; Mothers & Babies, promoting healthy mood management; and Parenting the Nurturing Way, for the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Colorado Community Response, a partnership with DHS, was added to prevent child abuse by empowering families to become self-reliant.



How You Can Help

- Donate children's clothing (new and gently loved)
- Volunteer for Kidz Klozet
- Fund direct client assistance

Family Success Story

After moving to Colorado from the Midwest hoping to find a better life for their three children, Matthew and Beth found their combined income wasn't enough to cover the high rents. They did what they could to keep from becoming homeless and the family was accepted into a transitional housing program, which helped them move into an affordable apartment. They thought they were on their way to self-reliance, until they discovered their apartment was infested with bed bugs. They lodged a complaint with the landlord, who evicted them instead of fixing the situation. Now homeless and with an eviction on their record, it was nearly impossible to find other housing. Through their church they were directed to Catholic Charities who provided a Mentor Team and helped them secure affordable HUD housing. The family has connected with case management and a local mentor team who helps with budgeting and goal setting, and they participate with other mentored families in enrichment activities. This ongoing support helps the couple focus on stabilizing their family. Matthew is employed full-time, and Beth works part-time while she is working toward her Bachelor's Degree.

