

## **Catholic Charities** Chronology

**1838** – Catholic Charities in Oregon begins its legacy when Father Francis Blanchet and the Sisters of Notre Dame du Namours establish the organization’s first orphanage.

**1902** – The program that would later become Catholic Charities’ Adoption Services\* is established to match birth mothers with adoptive parents.

**1913** – Father Edwin O’Hara and other community leaders successfully lobby for Oregon’s first child labor laws.

**1917** – Catholic Children’s Bureau is established.

**1933** – Father Lucien Lauerma presents an evaluative report on Catholic social welfare work in the Archdiocese of Portland, resulting in the official founding of Catholic Charities. Father Lauerma employs four staff members representing Catholic social service institutions in court cases, and acting as case managers for children.

**1938** – Catholic Community Services of Salem is established to advocate for children in foster care.

**1942** – Archbishop Edward Howard establishes the annual Catholic Charities collection appeal.

**1942** – Catholic Charities begins providing “state aid” foster care placement and support services.

**1945** – Catholic Charities participates in the reception and resettlement of refugees after World War II. Catholic Charities continues to aid refugees from throughout the world today through its Refugee Resettlement\*\* program.

**1946** – The Catholic Youth Organization sports program is founded.

**1952** – Catholic Charities of Lane County is established (and in 1984 is renamed Catholic Community Services of Lane County).

**1952** – Camp Howard, a 160-acre wooded campsite near Sandy, is founded to conduct summer sports and camp programs for elementary and junior high schoolchildren.

**1954** – Catholic Family Services (CFS) and Catholic Services for Children are formed (and in 1989 are combined to become Catholic Community Services of Portland).

**1960** – Group home residential services are initiated.

- 1965** – Catholic Charities begins the delivery of emergency assistance services at the Downtown Chapel.
- 1982** – CFS hires an outreach worker to assist Latino farm workers, establishing the beginning of El Programa Hispano\*\*\*. Among the services offered through this program today are emergency assistance, housing, mental health counseling, support to victims of domestic violence, youth and school retention programs, and community education programs.
- 1986** – Elizabeth House\*\*\*\*, a residential maternity home and care program for homeless and pregnant (or parenting) young women is opened.
- 1987** – Archbishop William Levada commissions a study to evaluate Catholic social services within the Archdiocese.
- 1989** – Archbishop Levada and a newly appointed Board of Directors establish a restructured Archdiocesan Catholic Charities organization with Dennis B. Keenan, MSW, serving as the organization’s executive director. (Keenan remains in this role today.)
- 1990** – Catholic Community Services of Southern Oregon is established in response to the needs of families impacted by the downturn in the timber industry, (In 2006, the organization is renamed Catholic Charities of Southern Oregon.)
- 1991** – Ministry to the Elderly is initiated to support parish-based services for the elderly.
- 1994** – Catholic Community Services of Portland merges with Catholic Charities. This merger adds the following programs to the Catholic Charities roster: Pregnancy Support & Adoption\*, Refugee Resettlement\*\*, El Programa Hispano\*\*\* and Elizabeth House\*\*\*\*.
- 1994** – Project Rachel is launched to provide emotional and spiritual healing to persons personally impacted by an abortion.
- 1995** – Services to victims of domestic violence begin with the hiring of a victim advocate. (This program employs nine workers today.)
- 1996** – Immigration Legal Services is established in Portland.
- 1998** – Catholic Charities opens a day center for homeless women.
- 1999** – Immigration Legal Services opens a branch office in Medford.
- 1999** – Caritas Housing Initiatives LLC is established to develop, build and rehabilitate housing for low-income working families, seniors and persons with disabilities.
- 1999** – Caritas Housing completes its first affordable housing project - Rondel Court in Molalla is acquired and renovated, providing 30 units of housing for families, seniors and people with disabilities.
- 2000** – Casa Verde is completed, providing 26 units of housing for farm worker families in Canby.
- 2000** – North Slope Village is acquired and renovated, providing 24 units of quality affordable housing for families, seniors and people with disabilities in rural and economically depressed Sutherlin.
- 2001** – The Catholic Charities immigration program initiates an expanded program to help victims of domestic violence establish legal residency.
- 2001** – Catholic Charities, along with Providence Health System, launches a Latino health care awareness program.
- 2002** – Catholic Charities begins support and advocacy services to victims of sexual assault.
- 2003** – Catholic Charities opens SUN community schools in Gresham. (In 2005 an additional community school is opened in Sandy.)

**2004** – Sandy Vista is completed, providing 54 units of housing for farm worker families in Sandy, and receiving accolades from the community for design.

**2004** – The Outreach and Support to Special Immigrant Populations (OSSIP) program serving victims of human trafficking is inaugurated.

**2004** – Catholic Charities begins its purchase of a 4-acre site at SE 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Powell Boulevard from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Construction of this \$37 million campus begins.

**2005** - Kateri Park is completed, providing 50 units of affordable family housing in Southeast Portland.

**2005** – Cedar Park Gardens, 20 units of subsidized senior housing in Sandy, is purchased (and renovations are completed in 2006).

**2005** - Haven House, a transitional housing facility for young single mothers, is established.

**2005** – Catholic Charities establishes the first (and so far, only) Spanish language 24/7 domestic violence hotline in the State of Oregon.

**2006** – Catholic Charities preserves Caritas Plaza and Caritas Villa, providing 60 units of housing for seniors and people with disabilities in Portland.

**2006** – Between Us is established to help teens, singles, and engaged and married couples build and maintain healthy relationships.

**2006** – Catholic Charities launches Housing Transitions, continuing its tradition of serving homeless women.

**2007** – Redevelopment of Howard House in Southeast Portland is completed, providing 12 units of housing for some of Portland's most marginalized citizens.

**2008** – Esperanza Court is completed in Southeast Portland, providing 70 units of affordable rental housing, including 14 units of housing specifically for families in crisis.

**2008** – El Programa Hispano initiates school retention and youth support programs in Portland Public Schools.

**2008** – Renaissance Court is completed, to be followed by Rain Garden in June 2009, together providing 51 units of housing for those experiencing mental illness at Villebois in Wilsonville.

**2009** – Catholic Charities completes its first major capital campaign, generating \$12.5 million in just 18 months and making the construction of Clark Family Center a reality.

**2009** – Ground is broken on Clark Family Center.

**2010** – Clark Family Center is due for completion in Spring 2010. With the completion, Catholic Charities will add these programs:

- Early Childhood Development – This new service will be provided by a partner organization, Grandma's Place, and will serve pre-school aged children in educational and skill-based learning, as well as elementary school children in after-care activities.
- Loaves and Fishes Meal Center – In partnership with Loaves and Fishes, lunches will be provided on-site for senior citizens with a focus on Asian and Latino populations with culturally specific cuisine.