

Catholic Charities
WESTERN REGION

Spirit of Hope



INSIDE:
Back to School!

A Message from the Regional Director

Jesse Boeckermann
Western Region Director



Thank you for everything you do to make Catholic Charities' Western Region Office (WRO) an organization that makes a meaningful impact in the lives of people in the 12 westernmost counties of North Carolina. Our work would not be possible or *nearly as successful* without the dedicated support of donors like you, our volunteers, staff, and community partnerships.

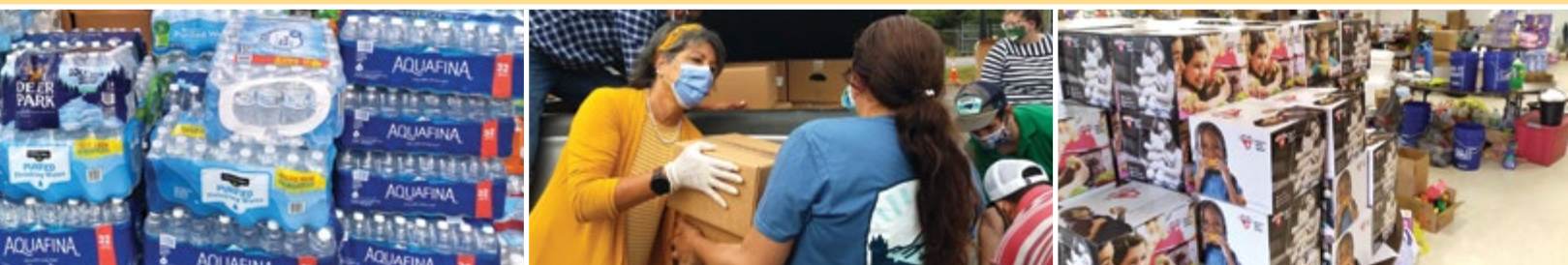
Catholic Charities' WRO continues to offer clinical mental health counseling, drive-thru food pantry, refugee resettlement services, personalized case management, and financial assistance to people facing financial crisis. We are proud that many of our staff are bilingual, providing a more streamlined experience for non-native English-speaking participants.

Recently in August, Catholic Charities responded to the needs of people in Haywood and the surrounding counties affected by the devastating flooding and storms. Our staff reached out to every Catholic church in western North Carolina to ensure our neighbors were safe and knew Catholic Charities was there to help. We worked closely with Father Paul McNulty, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Waynesville and Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Canton, to serve people in need in Haywood County. We brought supplies to the Madison County Sheriff's Department and participated in a resource drop in center event near Cruso to help Spanish-speaking families get connected to the help they needed.

Our partnerships with fellow nonprofit organizations continue to expand our impact in the community. Some of our recent collaborations include Helpmate (domestic violence shelter) to ensure women remain in their homes and stay safe. Working with Babies Need Bottoms (diaper bank), we've helped to deliver nearly 10,000 diapers to families in need so far in 2021. With Pisgah Legal Services, we helped a refugee family from Guatemala complete their health insurance documents in Hendersonville. A partnership with Project Dignity made it possible to deliver roughly 900 feminine hygiene products to local women in need. With MANNA FoodBank, we have hosted nine food distribution events in four different counties in the last year, serving an average of over 85 households and 365 people each month.

And our work, and staff, continue to grow! The WRO now has seven full-time staff members and an intern serving our communities. We welcome Noele Aabye as our new Refugee Resettlement Case Coordinator, Maddy Rhinehart as our new AmeriCorps VISTA Impact and Volunteer Coordinator, and Orion Rapoza as an intern from UNC Asheville.

Thank you for supporting our work and helping our neighbors in need in western North Carolina – we couldn't do it without you.



Welcome! New Faces at the Western Regional Office



Maddy Rhinehart
*AmeriCorps
VISTA Impact
and Volunteer
Coordinator*



Noele Aabye
*Refugee Resettlement
Case Coordinator*



Orion Rapoza
*Intern from
UNC Asheville*

Back to School!

Catholic Charities Western Regional Office (WRO) Partners with United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County

It is that time of year - back to school! It is a time of excitement for students to meet new teachers, fellow classmates, and reconnect with school friends after the summer break.

However, this time of year can also bring financial worries to many families who have limited resources to provide school supplies for their children. Many of our program participants' employment opportunities continue to be affected by COVID-19 since tourism is a significant aspect of the Asheville/Western North Carolina economy.



But through our longstanding partnership with United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County, our staff, donors like you, and volunteers, we knew we would be able to help provide relief.

Our staff worked closely with the United Way to ensure that many of our Buncombe County neighbors in need received school supplies free of charge. More than 150 backpacks were distributed to Catholic Charities participants in our counseling program, refugee services, Hispanic ministries, and other families in need identified by our caseworkers.

Providing a backpack full of school supplies may seem like a small thing, but its impact is great. It alleviates parental stress, and it helps save money that can be used for higher priority needs such as rent, food or utility payments. A gift of a backpack and school supplies also allows a student to start school feeling prepared and supported. We are grateful for the support of our volunteers, who not only picked up the backpacks but also helped sort and organize them for our participants.



It is through partnerships like this, our staff, donors, and volunteers when we all work together for the community's common good that we can see the most impact. We are grateful for each of you who made this effort possible. Thank you.



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Charlotte

50 Orange Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Visit our website ccdoc.org

Upcoming Events

WRO Advisory Board Meeting

October 27 at 6:00 p.m.

MANNA Community Markets

November 9 and December 14
Woodfin Community Center

MANNA Express events

October 14, November 11,
and December 9
(location TBD)

Volunteer Today



Catholic Charities
Diocese of Charlotte

Are you interested in helping our brothers and sisters in western North Carolina? Come share your time and talents by serving as a volunteer for Catholic Charities. There are many different types of volunteer opportunities in most of our programs and for the MANNA Community Market and MANNA express events. Contact Hilary Kalisch, Western Region Office Volunteer Coordinator, at HRKalisch@charlottedioocese.org to see how you can get involved!