**Increasing Access to Housing**

Lane County has developed a "No Wrong Door" approach in which any household experiencing homelessness can access a "Front Door" to be assessed for housing and services. Assessments are standardized and involve several questions to answer. In turn, the household is put on a waiting list for housing.

Organizations that provide housing may use this waitlist to determine whom they can help. In past years, the average wait time was 2 years. With increased Covid-related funding, this wait time has decreased and more people are getting access to the waiting list.

CCS had two Case Managers trained to perform these assessments in addition to their regular duties and required an appointment. With an increase in demand for housing assistance and increased support from the county, CCS responded. In April 2022, 6 additional employees, including staff who work at the lobby front desks, were trained to perform these assessments for clients. This means that we can now add Walk-In assessments in the Service Centers on non-pantry days as well as ones done by phone or by appointment. More trained employees mean more people are helped.

The newly trained staff and managers are very excited about the growth of this service. Without a stable place to live, holding down a job, or being successful in school is a challenge. One employee on staff experienced becoming housed because of the Front Door Assessment and knows first-hand that "it works".
Fourth (and Fifth) Friday Free Days

Since the reopening of the Clothing Room in November of 2021, donations of clothing have been pouring in.

To help unload the surplus of items, CCS started handing out extra free items such as jackets and socks to clients on the 4th Friday of the month. When a month has a 5th Friday, it’s an extra bonus. Now clients can pick up a few extra needed items at the end of the month when money is tight.

We appreciate clothing donations that are clean with no rips, tears, or stains. (No shoes) Please bring your gently used items to the Clothing Room via the alley Monday - Friday between 9 am and 12 pm. Thank you!

"Just get a job."

If you have ever wondered why there are so many people on the streets when there are “perfectly good jobs out there”, you are not alone. Unfortunately, the answer to that question is not so simple. Several factors contribute to being unhoused including obstacles to finding work:

#1 No Permanent Address. Most jobs require a permanent address during the hiring process.

#2 No Stability. Housing is an expensive resource. Without a safe place to sleep, eat, or shower each day, it is difficult to do well in a job interview or keep up job performance.

#3 No reliable transportation. Missing the bus or a car breakdown can make it hard to be at work on time.

#4 Mental or physical disability. For many people who are older or injured, finding work outside of labor, especially without the resources already mentioned, is hard.

#5 Documentation. Most jobs require documentation. To get an ID or Driver’s License, one must show proof of identity, which is usually in the form of a Birth Certificate, Passport, or Immigration Documents.

Catholic Community Services offers assistance with getting ID’s and Birth Certificates through the Eugene and Springfield Service Centers. The cost of this service adds up over time. We are grateful for the support of caring community members who help keep this service available.

It's hard to get a job when you don't have an I.D. card

Thanks to a sponsorship from SELCO Community Credit Union, Catholic Community Services of Lane County may provide more clients with ID and Birth Certificate replacements in 2022.

"SELCO is all about removing barriers to self-empowerment, which is why we’re thrilled to help bridge the gap between CCS clients and the essential documentation required for employment, housing, and so much more."
- Jillian Daggett, Senior Branch Manager, Gateway Branch
Celebrating 70 years so far!

In 1952, Monsignor Edmund J. Murnane expanded Catholic Charities of Portland and opened a branch in Eugene, Oregon. This branch would soon be renamed Catholic Charities of Lane County. From 1954 to 1956, Murnane served as Chaplain of the Oregon State Council. Catholic Charities of Lane County at this time offered emergency aid during the crisis, a foster home program, marriage counseling, and help for unwed mothers and their children.

In 1966, Villa Gerard opened. Villa Gerard was a home for unwed mothers. While there, women were able to receive medical attention and prenatal care at Sacred Heart Hospital.

In the 1970s, the Young Fathers Program was created to focus on young men ages 14-28 who were expecting a child, adopting, becoming a step-parent, or trying to regain custody of a child. This program consisted of classes and training. These young men learned about topics such as child development, positive discipline, the culture of being a father, nutrition, co-parenting, communicating with a significant other, and being a single parent.

In 1994, Joe Softich created a shopping style system in the food pantry that allowed people to choose what they wanted instead of being given pre-packaged boxes. This system reduced waste and was a better use of time for volunteers. The shopping-style pantry has been adopted in several other food pantries around Lane County.

Since 2000, CCS opened two locations in Eugene & Springfield, became the largest food box distributor in Lane County, opened temporary housing options like tiny homes, expanded services to the unhoused through G Street Oasis, now called OASIS, and expanded services to Refugees, Immigrants and Asylum seekers in Lane County.
Upcoming Events

July - All Month
Independence from Hunger Drive
Grocery Outlet in Springfield

August - All Month
Back to School Drive, Various locations
Info Nights: Planned/Estate Giving
Help and Hope Hour, Springfield

August 16th & 18th
Day of Reflection on Poverty
St. Thomas More

August 25th, 11 am
Help and Hope Hour, Springfield

August 25th, 11 am
Day of Reflection on Poverty
St. Thomas More

September 11th, 2pm
Great Hour of Caring, Venue 252

September 22nd, 8 am
In-Person Breakfast w/ Streaming option during lunch hour.

Thanks to our Newsletter Sponsor

OCCU

Catholic Community Services of Lane County

1025 G. Street | Springfield OR 97477