Dear Friends of CCS:

To see Jesus in others... With the state of our world today, do you wonder how this is even possible? Endless mass shootings, senseless police violence, oppressive and unjust ideas dividing humanity further, corruption in political leaders, alarming homelessness, and war... When will it end? When will it get better?

As Christians, we’re taught it will end when Jesus comes again. But until this Second Coming occurs, what can we do? We can relentlessly forge ahead through these uncertain times. We can build, support, and see God’s kingdom here on Earth, here in Lane County. We can seek joy through the lens of Christ, through the lens of love and we can imagine Jesus in everyone we meet.

Here at CCS, we are blessed with the opportunity to meet Jesus every day in our work. Christ arrives at 8:00 am when the food pantry doors open, when families arrive to do laundry or to warm up after a cold night in their car, and when a newly arrived refugee is warmly welcomed. No us and them, only us.

Praise God for Catholic Community Services, for our beloved community, for all who strive to make it stronger, healthier, and inclusive, and for your loving support of what we do.

May your Lenten journey be blessed with the vision to see Jesus in everyone.

Yours truly,

Lorri Perreault
Executive Director

Donate online here or visit cslc.org

To donate by check, please use the enclosed envelope.
Dear CCS,

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Thanks to your donors who made it possible for us to have a home after almost a year of homelessness: sleeping in the car, a tent, or wherever we could find a friend with a couch.

We are now a success story! I have 2 jobs and an awesome apartment.

No words can define our gratitude.

The Uding Family

Wish List

While we do not have the storage to collect items beyond food, clothing, and hygiene supplies on a regular basis; there are times when we could use some extra help with our case-managed families (including RISP and OASIS). Currently, items like these are in need:

- Cleaning Supplies
- Kitchen and Bathroom towels
- Cups, Mugs, Silverware
- Toilet Paper
- Baby Supplies
- Mini-fridge
- Twin Bed

To donate an item listed above, please bring it to the Springfield CCS location and say "It's a Wish List Item". If you have other household or furniture items that you would like to donate, please contact CCS in advance so that we can determine if there is a family who can use them. Thank you!

Jesus,

In this season of Lent, may we see you in everyone we encounter and grow in our ability to recognize ourselves as one family. Help us believe in the possibility of a more charitable world that will overcome polarization and brokenness. Transform our minds and hearts to see our neighbors and our world as you do. Set our hearts aflame to tirelessly bring about your kingdom where all will find peace.

Amen.

Adapted from "Civilize It" prayer | USCCB
Maryam Rahmani arrived in the United States from Afghanistan in September of 2021. A few months after her arrival, she received a scholarship to the University of Oregon to study English. CCS’s Refugee and Immigrant Services Program (RISP) helped her attain a computer for her studies and placed her with a host family for three months, then found housing for her and two other young women for one year. Maryam stays in touch with her host family, Janet, and Evelyn. She says, “They are like my family. We go to each other’s houses for meals and visits.” Maryam also received legal assistance for her asylum status and support finding employment. She says, “I am so grateful to RISP staff members: Christine and Bob, for helping me.”

Maryam’s first job in Eugene was with the Graduate Hotel. Currently, she holds three jobs at 1.) New Horizons as a Care Giver, 2.) Lane County working with the Afghan community, and 3.) Serves as a Dula in her “spare time”. She juggles these jobs, all while studying for a CNA certification. (She was already trained as a nurse in Afghanistan but not qualified to practice in the U.S.) She loves all of her jobs because she gets to meet people from a variety of places and learn about their culture, language, and food. She loves helping people and staying busy so she is starting her own business selling Afghan clothing! (pictured right)

"I am so grateful to live here. I have everything I need. I never feel alone," she says with an enthusiastic smile. "The only thing missing is my husband who is still in Afghanistan.” His work put him in danger and because he refuses to get help from the Taliban, he remains in hiding. She sends him money from her 3 jobs and hopes that he can someday join her here in the U.S. "I am so lucky to be here but I miss my husband." Until they can be reunited, she enjoys working, studying, and contributing to the community.

RISP: The Refugee and Immigrant Services Program provides case-managed social support services for low-income asylum seekers, asylees, and refugees. Services include support in applying for emergency rent, utility assistance, immigrant legal services, employment support, and much more. When our newest neighbors are able to stabilize and support their families, they are able to continue contributing to our community and make our community stronger.
Help and Hope Hour
May 4, 2023, at Eugene Location: 1464 W. 6th Ave
Our free, one-hour tour will inspire and inform you about our work in this generous community.
RSVP to development@ccslc.org or call 541-345-3628 x313

Dessert for Dinner Fundraiser
May 6, 2023 - Springfield CCS Parking Lot
Dessert boxes are pre-ordered online and picked up at CCS.
Participating bakeries and details coming soon.

Inspiring Communities to Unite in Compassion, Kinship & Inclusion

Keynote Address
Fr. Greg Boyle of Homeboy Industries
The Shedd Institute
June 26, 2023, 5:30-7:30 pm
Admission is Free. Registration is required.
Reserve your seat at ccslc.org/onlyus