



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES  
CATHOLIC HOUSING SERVICES  
SERVING PEOPLE OF ALL BELIEFS

April 1, 2024

Dear Friend of CCS,

It is with gratitude that I share the profound impact of gifts given to help rebuild lives like that of Michael. Six years ago, Michael was battling severe addiction, living in his truck, friendless, nearly succumbing to, in his words, ... *“the darkest place I had ever been--my own mind. The people at CCS started to feel like friends to me, like people who cared whether I lived or died. To put it bluntly, they saved my life.*

*“I intend to follow my dreams, working on my art, letting people know they are not alone and that there is still beauty in this world we live in. And, telling others that showing compassion to that person holding up that sign, with their head low in shame--you just may be their saving grace.”*

I am frequently humbled by the strength and solidarity of the people we are privileged to serve. Like Michael, who received services from **CCS Housing and Essential Needs (HEN)**, many remind us to care for our brothers and sisters still struggling to escape the despair of homelessness, addiction, and isolation. I ask that you listen to their calls to be that *“saving grace”* by making a generous gift to Catholic Community Services (CCS) today.

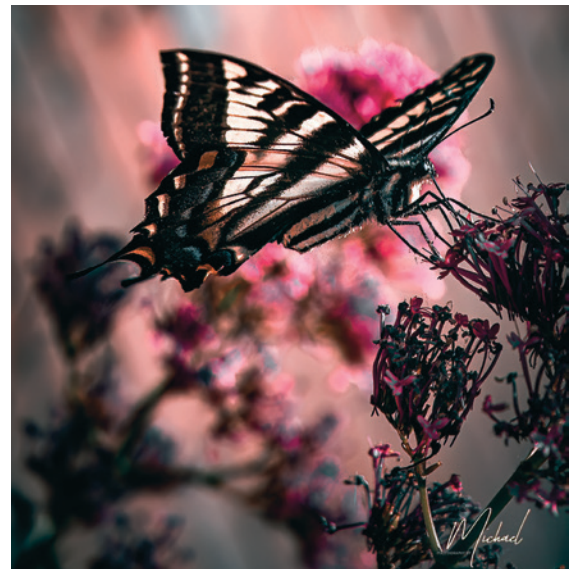
With your help, we bring hope and healing to tens of thousands of people who carry burdens of isolation, hunger, homelessness, mental illness, family fragmentation, aging, and disability.

Today, Michael is in school, an artist well on his way to achieving his dream of becoming a professional photographer, sharing his vision of the *“beauty in this world we live in.”*

CCS needs your generous support to continue to help the men, women, and children who turn to us in need across western Washington. Please continue to partner with our efforts financially and with your prayers.

With heartfelt gratitude for your support and best wishes for the joys of spring!

Michael Reichert, President



*“When you reach that point when hope seems lost and you are about to give up, fight even harder... change your perspective, and you will see things in a very different light.”*  
Quote and Image by Michael

We are deeply grateful for your faithful support of CCS  
Your gift to the Spring Appeal will be a *saving grace* for our neighbors in need!  
Double your impact! A generous donor has offered to match the first \$15,000 we receive.

*"It's only because of Grace  
that we have any hope for true  
and lasting change or growth."*

*Unknown*



*Image by Michael*



"To donors, I will say this from me: personally, being homeless, a gift can go a long way. It can help a person in many ways that the person giving might not even know or get to see. Whether you know it or not – action and compassion, that is how Christ puts it. Action is compassion."

*Yusef, Moved from CCS Nativity House Shelter to CHS Guadalupe Vista Permanent Housing, Tacoma*

"When we came to CCS, I was honestly losing hope... There are too many people to name who have been so kind and so nice and treat you like you are a human being. They don't treat you like you're homeless. You know, without the donors, this wouldn't be possible. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping my family because, without you, it would not be possible."

*Noelle, CCS New Bethlehem Family Programs, Bellevue*



"I'd been homeless, sometimes couch surfing and living with family, but I didn't have my own personal space. I've battled over the years with anxiety, depression and PTSD. With CCS, I found out it's okay to ask for help. I really appreciate and thank everyone here. There is real peace and healing in this place. I hope others can find it here too. God wants us to have a life."

*Molly, College student resident at CHS Martina Apartments, Seattle*

"I've never met a group of people like this. You can feel they care—it just radiates off them."

*Terry, CHS Martha's Place, Mount Vernon*



*www.photographybymichael.art*