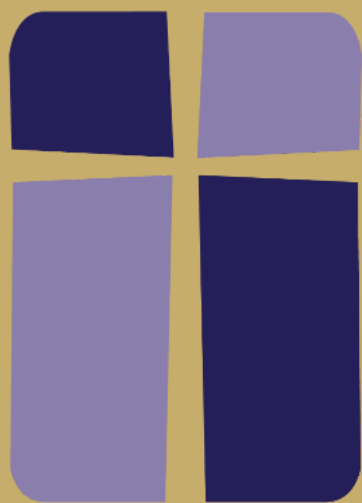




Catholic Community Services

OF LANE COUNTY

Loving Thy Neighbor

WINTER 2025

Donate Today

"You are dust, and to dust you shall return".

Dear Friends,

After 20 days of "touch and go" in the hospital, Pope Francis, the holy leader of the world's Catholic Church since 2013, woke today rested, in stable condition, and most certainly filled with hope. Such a significant day to wake up to as today Catholics across the world observe Ash Wednesday in a special "jubilee year", celebrated every quarter of a century. The theme of holy Jubilee 2025, which began on Christmas Eve, is "Pilgrims of Hope".

Pope Francis wrote about the Jubilee 2025 in an official papal letter entitled *SPES NON CONFUNDIT*, "Hope does not disappoint" (*Rom 5:5*) where he reflects:

Signs of hope should also be present for migrants who leave their homelands behind in search of a better life for themselves and for their families. Their expectations must not be frustrated by prejudice and rejection. A spirit of welcome, which embraces everyone with respect for his or her dignity, should be accompanied by a sense of responsibility, lest anyone be denied the right to a dignified existence. Exiles, displaced persons and refugees, whom international tensions force to emigrate in order to avoid war, violence and discrimination, ought to be guaranteed security and access to employment and education, the means they need to find their place in a new social context.

May the Christian community always be prepared to defend the rights of those who are most vulnerable, opening wide its doors to welcome them, lest anyone ever be robbed of the hope of a better future. May the Lord's words in the great parable of the last Judgement always find an echo in our hearts: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" for "just as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me". (Mt 25:35.40)

As we enter this first day of Lent, our 40-day season of prayer, fasting and giving leading us to Easter, let's keep our migrant neighbors, our unhoused neighbors and our neighbors in need in prayer. May they wake each day, as Pope Francis did today, with hope in their hearts and may they find their way through the doors of CCS and into the hands of our dedicated staff and volunteers.

Bless you all for joining us as "Pilgrims of Hope" in support of our work.

Lorri Perreault
Executive Director

ASH WEDNESDAY



May the holy
Ash Wednesday
illuminate your
life with peace
& love on the
blessed Ash
Wednesday
& always.

REFUGEE & IMMIGRATION SERVICES UPDATE

Current Federal Situation:

The Trump administration's new immigration policies have created chaos and uncertainty in refugee and immigrant services across the country. On Feb. 26, the U.S. State Department immediately terminated long-standing, active contracts for refugee-related programs with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), CCS's national resettlement agency, but attorneys for the bishops called the action unlawful. The termination notice — saying that the USCCB's work "no longer effectuates agency priorities" — and the USCCB's response were filed in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., where the USCCB is asking a judge to halt the government's suspension of the program. In court documents, attorneys for the USCCB state the contract termination is an example of the Trump administration's refusal, based on a policy disagreement, to spend funds appropriated by Congress for the time period Oct. 1, 2024-Sept. 30, 2025, for the purpose of finding homes and jobs for refugees admitted to the U.S. legally.

Local Impact:

The suspension of the Refugee Admissions Program has directly affected CCS's Refugee & Immigrant Services Program (RISP) and our community, with two refugee families' planned arrivals to Eugene being cancelled and other anticipated arrivals on hold. This reflects a broader nationwide impact, with hundreds of refugee arrivals being halted across the country. Our local immigrant communities are experiencing increased stress and fear during this uncertain time, needing the support and services of RISP more than ever. And, financially, CCS is at risk for non-reimbursement of contracted services provided but not paid, dating back to last quarter of 2024 to present.

RISP Services Status:

Despite stoppage of federal funding and the pause of refugee admissions, RISP services remain fully operational for now because of diverse funding sources including state funding, grants, and community donations. We continue to provide case management, employment services, immigration legal services, and our Asylum Seekers Pilot Project. To support these efforts, scan the QR Code or donate through the button below.

Community Support:

The strength of our refugee and immigrant program lies in our community's support and fierce commitment to our immigrant neighbors. Local landlords have provided safe, affordable housing, volunteers assist with advocacy, transportation and daily needs, community groups assemble Welcome Kits, and medical professionals accompany immigrants to appointments. This collaborative effort has created a positive and successful environment for newcomers seeking home and safety in Lane County.

For additional ways to help and information about client resources, please contact RISP.



SUPPORT RISP

CONTACT RISP

A JOURNEY OF HOPE: FROM CRISIS TO SUCCESS

When Marlee first walked through the doors of Catholic Community Services in November 2017, she was cradling her one-month-old son Kingston in her arms. Like many young parents, she found herself facing moments of uncertainty, needing just a little help to keep her small family stable and secure.

The caring case managers at CCS responded with more than just practical assistance—they offered hope. Through food assistance, clothing, and help with utility bills, CCS provided crucial support that allowed Marlee to maintain a stable home for herself and baby Kingston during those challenging early days.

"Having that safety net made all the difference," Marlee reflects. "Knowing there were people who cared, who could help us stay on our feet—it gave me the strength to keep pushing forward."



And push forward she did. While ensuring Kingston had a secure home and consistent schooling, Marlee pursued her dream of becoming a nurse. Through determination and hard work, she advanced from Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to earning her Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), all while being a devoted single mother.

Today, Kingston is a thriving seven-year-old second grader—happy, healthy, and bright-eyed with possibility. And while Marlee has occasionally needed CCS's services over the years, these moments of support represent exactly why CCS exists: to be there for community members when they need a helping hand.

"That's what makes CCS special," shares Family Support & Connections Lead, Abigail. "We're not just here for one-time emergencies—we're here to walk alongside our neighbors through all of life's chapters, celebrating their successes and offering support during challenging times."

Marlee's journey from a worried young mother to a successful nurse and devoted parent exemplifies how a little help at the right moment can transform lives. Her story reminds us that sometimes, all it takes is compassion and community support to help a family thrive.



SUSTAINING HOPE THROUGH SACRED PARTNERSHIPS

Every week, our dedicated staff make the trip to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) Bishop's Storehouse to pick up vital food supplies that keep our pantry shelves stocked. What began as an emergency response when our shelves were critically low has blossomed into a vital partnership that ensures no neighbor goes hungry.

"When we learned about the empty shelves at CCS's food pantry, we knew we had to help," says Brother David Willis of LDS. "Our faith calls us to serve our neighbors, and working with CCS helps us fulfill that sacred responsibility, increasing our ability to serve the community."

The support has grown even stronger with a transformative grant from Lane Community Health Council – marking a historic first for CCS. For the first time in our organization's history, we have funding to purchase food for our pantries. Brett at McDonald Wholesale has been instrumental

in this new chapter, patiently guiding us through the ordering process. His dedication stems from personal experience – his own family received food boxes from CCS when he was young, and now he's helping us serve the next generation of families in need.

The impact of these partnerships has been profound. Our food pantries now offer:

- Fully stocked shelves of staple foods from the Church
- Fresh produce and meats through Lane Community Health Council funding
- Pre-cooked, ready-to-eat meals from Food for Lane County, perfect for our unhoused neighbors
- Culturally specific foods that respect diverse traditions

"The difference between 'here's what we have' and 'what would your family prefer?' is immeasurable," explains Debbie Prechtel, CCS Food Pantry Coordinator. "Thanks to our partners, we're not just feeding people – we're nourishing them with dignity and respect."

The transformation is perhaps most visible at day's end. Where we once had to turn people away with just beans and rice, we can now offer fresh, healthy, and culturally appropriate food choices that truly support our neighbors in need.

Want to learn more about supporting our food security programs?

Contact the Development Department at 541-345-3628 ext.1317 or development@ccslc.org to learn about partnership opportunities.

SHAMROCKS & SHENANIGANS WITH IRISH ECHO

Get ready for an unforgettable evening of Irish music, delicious food, and community spirit! Join us for our annual St. Patrick's Day celebration featuring the local band Irish Echo. Dance the night away while supporting vital community services in Lane County.

Event Details: Saturday, March 15th, doors open at 5:30 PM at Marist High School, Eugene.

Make a difference while having a great time! All proceeds support Catholic Community Services of Lane County's essential community programs.

Get Your Tickets Today! Online at ccslc.org/irishecho or call 541-345-3628 ext. 1317.

Don't miss Eugene's premier St. Patrick's Day celebration!



DRIVING HOPE: DELIVERING MORE THAN DONATIONS

When CCS needed a volunteer driver last year, Jeffrey Harris stepped up to the wheel—and he hasn't stopped moving since. For a full year now, Jeffrey has been CCS' sole volunteer driver, becoming an essential link in our mission to serve Lane County's most vulnerable residents.

Jeffrey has single-handedly managed all our donation transportation needs. Throughout four major community drives—Squeaky Clean Hygiene Drive, Back-to-School Drive, Winter Warmth Drive, and the current Cold Weather Shelter Drive—Jeffrey has quietly ensured that generosity reaches those in need. His routine involves delivering empty donation bins to community partner locations, monitoring and collecting donations as bins fill, and retrieving the bins when drives conclude.

What makes Jeffrey's contribution truly remarkable is the geographic scope of his service. With anywhere from 10 to 27 partner drop-off locations spanning Eugene, Springfield, Veneta,

Junction City, and Cottage Grove, his commitment requires significant time and energy.



Jeffrey's reliability means we never have to worry about how donations will make their way to our service centers. That peace of mind is invaluable.

Beyond scheduled pickups, Jeffrey responds to unexpected needs with grace and promptness. Just last week, when CCS Service Centers completely ran out of dental hygiene products, Jeffrey quickly collected a donation of toothbrushes and toothpaste from O'Hara Catholic School—a small errand with an enormous impact for clients in need of these basic necessities.

As we celebrate Jeffrey's one-year "driving anniversary," we extend our deepest gratitude for his unwavering dedication. His service reminds us that sometimes the most meaningful contributions happen behind the scenes, on the road between generosity and need.

Would you like to join Jeffrey on the road? CCS urgently needs additional volunteer drivers to expand our collection capacity and ensure no donation goes uncollected. Whether you can offer a few hours weekly or monthly, your driving can transform community generosity into direct assistance.

Contact us today to learn how you can help keep CCS moving forward!

Email development@ccslc.org or call 541-345-3628 ext. 1317.

2025 UPCOMING EVENTS TIMELINE



March 15, 2025

St. Patrick's Day Celebration with Irish Echo

- Time: Doors open at 5:30 PM
- Location: Marist High School, Eugene
- Features: Traditional Irish buffet dinner, live music, dancing, cash bar
- Tickets: Available at ccslc.org/irishecho or call 541-345-3628 ext. 1317
- Benefits: CCS essential community programs

15th Annual Squeaky Clean Hygiene Drive

- Collecting: Dental care products, dishwasher soap, facial tissue, diapers, household cleaning products
- Online donations: 100% of contributions used to purchase needed items
- Information: ccslc.org/squeaky-clean-hygiene-drive



Desserts for Dinner Fundraiser

- Pickup: 9-11 AM at 1025 G Street, Springfield
- Features: Curated dessert boxes from Lane County's finest bakeries
- Special Guest: Springfield Mayor Sean VanGordon
- Ordering: ccslc.org/d4d2025 (limited quantities available)
- Benefits: OASIS and other programs supporting unhoused families

Help for Today Hope for Tomorrow & Caring Community



May 21, 2025

Help & Hope Hour Tour

- Time: 4:30-5:30 PM
- Location: Springfield Community Service Center
- Description: Behind-the-scenes tour showcasing CCS services and impact (no fundraising)
- Registration: Free but limited space at ccslc.org/help-and-hope-tours
- Contact: development@ccslc.org or 541-345-3628 ext. 1317

JUNE 20

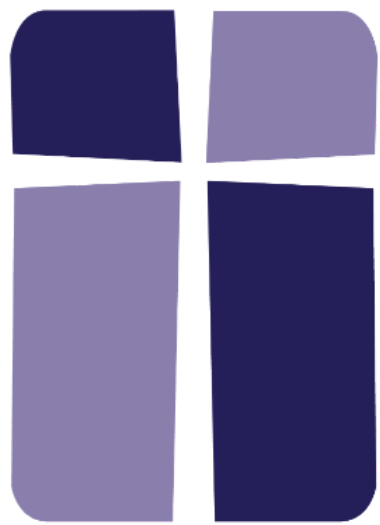
World Refugee Day



June 20, 2025

World Refugee Day Celebration

- Time: 4:00-8:00 PM
- Location: First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive Street, Eugene
- Cost: Free community event
- Information: ccslc.org/wrd



Catholic Community Services

OF LANE COUNTY

Loving Thy Neighbor

Community Service Center Locations

1025 G St, Springfield OR 97477

1464 W 6th Ave, Eugene OR 97402

Contact Us

541-345-3628

ccslc.org

