



This winter, Theresa (mom) and Karie (daughter) celebrated moving into their own apartment after months of uncertainty and stress. Complex Care Program Director Jessie and staff joined them to celebrate and make sure they are set up for the future.



Faces of Hope

Ending homelessness one family at a time.

Catholic Social Services | Winter 2023

A family affair: mom and daughter find permanent stability, together

Thanks to your support, Complex Care provided the safe environment Theresa and Karie needed to find housing and get back on their feet

This past July, mother and daughter duo Teresa and Karie found themselves faced with challenges they had never experienced before. They were unsheltered, living at Centennial Park during an endless stretch of rainy days. They got very little sleep, their tent was soaked

inside and out, and the frequent bear activity in the campground kept them alert and afraid. After three weeks in the rain, Teresa and Karie were worn down from the trauma of living without safe shelter.

Finally, Jessie Talivaa, Complex Care's Program

Director, found Teresa and Karie living in their tent at Centennial Park. Karie vividly remembers the day Jessie found them and told them, "We have a place for you guys. I'm not gonna leave you here."

Continued on next page...

...Continued from cover

Because of your generosity, Teresa and Karie were able to stay at Complex Care, which gave them the safe environment they needed to find housing that could accommodate Teresa’s mobility challenges.

A few months after Teresa and Karie found safety at Complex Care, Jessie joined them to celebrate another milestone: Teresa’s move-in day in an apartment just below her daughter’s, close enough for Karie to keep taking care of her mother each day.

Teresa and Karie are excited to settle in and make their new spaces their own. Thank you for helping families like Teresa and Karie escape from unsafe environments to stable housing, where they can look forward to a safe and bright future.



“Even this long after moving in, I still wake up in the morning and can’t believe I’m in my own place – and such a nice place too!”
-Karie

Thanks to the support of our community, Theresa and Karie join the nearly 700 people housed by Catholic Social Services last year who can look forward to a safer, brighter future.



of all people housed in Anchorage each month are housed by Catholic Social Services, on average.

Thank you for joining our community in providing essential services like food, housing, and social and emotional support to our neighbors in need.

Feeding families, uplifting children

At St. Francis House Food Pantry, the nutritional support you provide helps thousands of children reach their full potential

During the twilight hours of a typical morning at St. Francis House Food Pantry, cars begin forming a long line. Each day, around 150 of our neighbors pick up a box of food. Some visitors to the pantry just need enough food for a few days. Others are elderly and living on fixed incomes, stretching their budget. Others are newly arrived refugees looking for ingredients to make a familiar ethnic dish.

Lately, a larger portion of the food you donate goes to children and families.

In Anchorage, 1 in 7

children live in families that struggle to afford enough food, according to Feeding America. Chronic hunger has serious impact on our youth’s physical, mental health, academic achievement, and future success.

Last year, St. Francis House saw this high need firsthand, **serving 3,604 children, approximately 32% of the total service population.**

Donors, volunteers, and staff at the food pantry work together to provide each of these families with food they can use. “We make sure that our food boxes aren’t just a collection of random calories, but that it’s actually possible for a family to sit down together and have breakfast, lunch, and dinner with what they receive at St. Francis House,” Program Director Claire Lubke said. That means full, nutritious meals for new neighbors and our next generation, helping them find what they need today so we can build a stronger tomorrow together.



When you give to St. Francis House Food Pantry, faithful volunteers and staff make sure your donation gets to those who need it most, whether that’s elderly neighbors, new arrivals, or families raising their children to be the next generation of our community

Can you help end generational homelessness?

You can help develop the next stage of long-term support for families in Anchorage and create a brighter future for our community with Supportive Family Services



“We are moving the focus from simply providing clients with a roof over their heads to addressing family wellness as a whole,” explains Program Director Kjersti Langnes.

Kjersti and her team are ending the cycle of generational poverty and homelessness through the Strengthening Families Framework, a “research-

informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect,” through weekly group learning sessions. During weekly meetings, parents receive coaching from case managers on parenting and problem-solving skills, build peer relationships, and

share in their successes and challenges in raising a family.

Supportive Family Services is one of our newest programs, but it’s one we’re very excited about. Your gift or volunteer hours will create stronger individuals and stronger families, so their success can echo through generations.

“It’s a wonderful way to learn about important family matters. I felt so welcomed, involved, and like I was learning a little something new each week.”

-Supportive Family Services participant



We hope you'll join us for the
32ND ANNUAL CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES WILMA CARR

Charity Ball

MAY 13TH 2023

• visit cssalaska.org/charityball for details •