



Kids from Clare House joined the annual Shop with a Cop & Firefighter event!

Faces of Hope

Catholic Social Services | Winter 2024

Ending generational homelessness, one precious moment at a time



The kids at Clare House enjoyed meeting Sasha the porcupine on a special visit from the Alaska Zoo!

You strengthen families by addressing both their physical and emotional needs, to build resiliency and put a stop to the cycle of homelessness.

When a mom and her kids stay at Clare House, they are surrounded by case management, peer support, and enrichment activities through the Supportive Family Services (SFS) program. With art projects, parenting support groups, financial literacy coursework, family community outings, and more, SFS participants

share positive experiences and develop life skills, which have been proven to disrupt the cycle of chronic homelessness.

For the new year, SFS kicked off its “Superhero” theme for enrichment activities available to families.

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The Superhero theme focuses on the youth’s strengths and how those strengths can be incorporated and celebrated in a family setting, and through character building opportunities with their peers. To practice, teens at Clare House led a “Coloring and Compliments” activity for the younger children, where everyone drew pictures together and practiced giving each other compliments on their work! These **positive life experiences and community-building skills help families improve their social and emotional**

wellbeing, which is essential for creating permanent stability.

By supporting Catholic Social Services, you provide collaborative, wrap-around services for families to strengthen our community and end generational homelessness.



The students of Aquarian Charter School supported families in their community by gathering and personally delivering 92 squishmallows: one for every kid at Clare House!

Celebrating one year of building community with our neighbors

3rd Avenue Resource & Navigation Center is a one-stop program for adults experiencing homelessness, with over 48 partners and dozens of services.



3rd Ave connected Violet with the help she needed to find housing for her and her son, who has special needs.

In February 2023, the 3rd Avenue Resource & Navigation Center (3rd Ave) opened its doors to the public, embarking on a new and innovative chapter in homelessness services for Anchorage. **3rd Ave connects service providers and adults experiencing homelessness** by creating a space where neighbors can meet basic needs while also having access to high-level services, like housing assistance and employment services.

We saw the effectiveness of this model firsthand

for “Violet,” a client who visited 3rd Ave to find housing for herself and her son with disabilities, who were both experiencing homelessness. During the winter, Violet often visited 3rd Ave to warm up, eat a snack, and work with service providers like Alaska Legal Services Corporation, Cook Inlet Housing Authority, Freemo phone services, Nine Star employment services, and the Arc of Anchorage.

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Violet told staff she really appreciated 3rd Ave and having a reliable place to come for regular help:

“I thank heavenly father for you. This whole place is beautiful. When I come, I feel welcome and warm here. It’s a place to relax and unwind.”

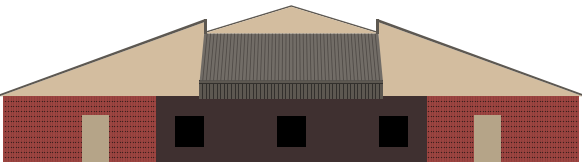
While visiting 3rd Ave, Violet enrolled in SNAP services, Medicaid, free cell phone services, found assistance for her son through the Arc of Anchorage, and found a job and stable housing. **And we’re seeing more neighbors like Violet find the help they need every day, setting them on the path to permanent stability.** Thank you for helping us bring this new service to our community!



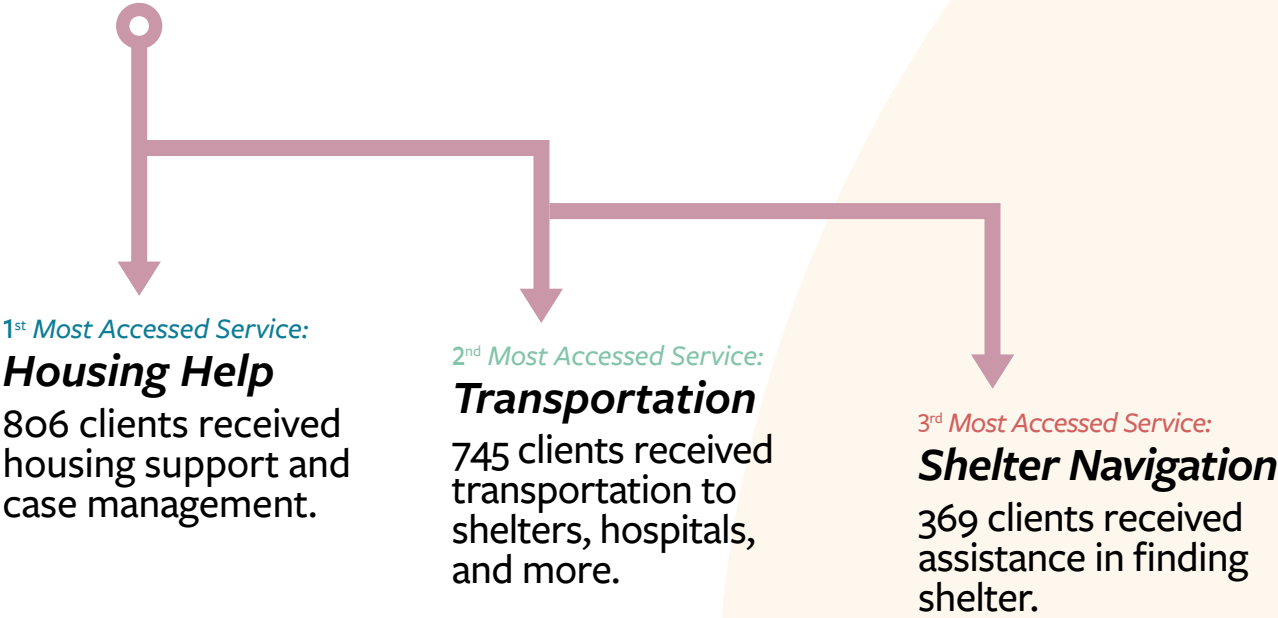
When a client visits 3rd Ave, Sia and other staff members make sure their basic needs are met and help them connect with deeper services and partner agencies.

Guiding clients on the journey to permanent stability

A Place to Start



Over 3,700 clients have received support from 3rd Ave since opening, through over 22,000 front door entries.



Creating financial independence for new Alaskans

Your support provides new arrivals in Alaska with the skills to find work, contribute to their community, and flourish.

From a Ukrainian grandfather who works in an Anchorage gift shop to an Afghan mother who sells homemade bread and works part-time, new arrivals build out our Alaskan workforce and strengthen our economy.

Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS) clients arrive in Alaska eager to build a productive life in the U.S. **Finding work is often their primary focus—**

and most of them do. In 2023, RAIS clients secured nearly 400 job placements and promotions.

To get them ready for the U.S. workplace, RAIS mentors new arrivals to develop the skills they'll need. Staff at the Welcome Center help clients find job listings, write resumes, and prepare for interviews. Cultural Orientation and Job Readiness classes offer English language practice and teach

clients how employment and taxes work in America.

Employment and income are a critical step for our neighbors in need, whether they're new to the country, or experiencing homelessness. Employment skills, coupled with social and emotional wellbeing, and basic needs like a hot shower, build up our neighbors so that they can reach permanent stability.

CENTER: Congolese arrivals Jeska and Harriet apply for a job at the Anchorage School District Job Fair.

RIGHT: Valentin arrived in Alaska from Ukraine in August 2022. He now works at a gift shop, and he and his wife host his co-workers regularly for Ukrainian meals in their home.



We hope you'll join us for the
THE 33RD ANNUAL CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES WILMA CARR
CHARITY BALL
MAY 18 2024

• visit cssalaska.org/charityball for details •