



Caritas Impact Statement; April – December 2022

Edgar's Place, a small building and Caritas's traditional home on the St. Matthias grounds was demolished in late April. Volunteers started seeing clients in the St. Matthias church building on April 29. By mid-June, more clients began coming to the church, with the trend continuing through year end. Currently, Caritas encourages this trend by requesting clients to come in person, when practical.

During the last nine months of 2021, Caritas served 182 clients: in the same period in 2022, Caritas helped 276, an increase of 66 percent, even considering Caritas was closed two snow days in December 2022. This increase is probably the result of three things: first, the sharp rise in the cost of basic consumer goods, from food to gas; second, the remission of the Covid-19 pandemic; third, Caritas is now using the internet instead of the newspaper to reach out to potential clients.

The last three quarters of 2022, 178 clients returned and 118 were new. Many clients returned in Q2, continuing a trend initiated in Q1 when the grip of inflation tightened. In Q3, usually the quarter with the fewest new [or returning] clients, new clients spiked. Again, this appears to reflect our neighbors' responses to the challenge of making ends meet. Even the demand for basic personal products grew markedly (toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant).

In addition to serving those in our community with emerging difficult issues, Caritas also reaches out to those on the edge. Here are two examples:

- 1.) Client announced they had exhausted stay at homeless shelter but is on list for apartment locally in near future. Caritas found and paid for a cost-effective motel in our area to provide the client shelter, hopefully until their new apartment is ready. Potential success story.
- 2.) Client had been sleeping in car for a long period [reported in late November] because no one would rent to them because of a prior eviction. Caritas listened, found the client without support of any kind, concluded we could not help them directly, and referred them to their county social services and public defender. Outcome unknown; potentially problematic.

Specifically, Caritas helped with:

11 car repairs; 8 car insurance; 8 car payments; 6 car registrations, license renewals.
39 gas vouchers; 27 rental assists; 12 motel stays; 2 storage units; 1 medical; 2 dental.
1 daycare; 4 furniture vouchers; 11 household items; 25 personal products; 21 clothing.
24 electric/gas; 6 LP/Propane; 1 water bill; 5 phone bills; 6 phones; 13 phone cards; 23 food pantry grocery bags; 25 supermarket gift cards; 7 pet food; 4 Christmas gifts.

We continue to recognize the extensive, direct, personal value to community members that our donors provide. And we thank the Franciscan Compassionate Fund, who has, as always, reached out with mutual support for many of our clients whom Caritas was not able to help alone. And appreciation to our compassionate staff who does their best to find a way.