



Assistance Center of Collin County

900 18th St. Plano, TX 75074

Services Manager Joyce Geisler 972-422-1125

Seton Service Days Coordinator Jeri Phillips 214-695-2214

Assistance Center of Collin County

In 1977, forward-thinking citizens of Plano formed the Center's first Board of Directors. Initially named the *Information and Referral Center of Collin County*, the Center was established as a not-for-profit organization to "inform, guide, direct, and link people to appropriate human service resources". Since then we have grown along with the needs of the community. Each physical move has enabled us to deliver more services resulting in serving even more families of Collin County. Responding to the growth and greater needs of the county, our organization addresses medical/dental needs, employment/job training, adoption, cultural arts organizations, volunteer opportunities, housing, food, and clothing utilities assistance amongst other services. In light of the broad range of assistance we were providing, our name was changed to *The Assistance Center of Collin County or ACCC*. Today the ACCC is the primary contact point for all Collin County residents who are in need of human resource services.

What the ACCC does... With a passion for improving the quality of life for everyone in the community, the ACCC leaders (The Board of Directors and Executive Director) direct the Assistance Center of Collin County to bring everyone the real and new perspectives on today's economic climate, showing everyone how they can collaboratively assist their neighbor with short-term support to continue on life's path. And preserve the individual, family and community at large from further potential negative impacts of financial crisis. The ACCC leaders are combining their talents for education, inspiration and careful discernment in leading the Assistance Center of Collin County in the successful implementation of a strategic plan to ensure that the organization is directly and wisely addressing the needs of today's citizens in Plano and Collin County as a whole. Along with continual work to match the community's desire to care for those in need with the appropriate allocation of resources, the ACCC leaders are promoting the Center's mission via a screening process to ensure aid is provided to individuals who need assistance rather than long term support. Individuals and families who don't meet short term assistance guidelines are referred to other agencies.

The Assistance Center of Collin County provides the following:

- emergency, short-term financial assistance to children, families, residents including the elderly facing a crisis or emergency situation preventing evictions, foreclosures, utility shut-offs and providing food, clothing and prescription medications
 - assists clients in reclaiming self-sufficiency through counseling, training, referrals and financial support
 - informs, guides, directs and links people to appropriate human service resources
 - conducts client intake, qualifications and distribution of back packs, required school supplies and shoes for "Tools for School" and toys and food for "Hope for the Holidays" community give-back drives
- coordinates follow-ups with clients to determine measurement of outcome after providing financial assistance, counseling, training and referrals **Breaking the myth:** The Assistance Center of Collin County is not a welfare agency. The Assistance Center is placing a higher-consideration on families with children and residents who have been consistently solvent and placed into a temporary, unexpected crisis which can be deterred through short-term assistance with the end result of reclaiming self-sufficiency.

Info for Seton Service Days event—Nov. 18, 2017

Seton Work site Coordinator: _____

SSD coordinator—Jeri Phillips 214-695-2214

Volunteers: Check in at Seton Church at 8:00am, to get info about the day & Mass....then head to front desk of ACCC at 9:30am to be connected with Joyce Geisler

Service activity will be: painting

Things to bring: Wear your Seton Service Days T-shirt & grubby work clothes comfortable "closed toed" shoes, refillable water bottle, lunch or snacks (if desired) **We finish about 1:00pm**

Seton Service Days — BEFORE... DURING... AFTER...

FOOD FOR THOUGHT and DISCUSSION with Group or Family

“Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth, but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world”

(St. Teresa of Avila)

Things to think about before you head to your worksite: Do I know who else is going to this site? Do we know what we are scheduled to do there? Have we exchanged info & planned a route? What things am I most excited about? What things am I a little anxious about?

Questions for Agency Representative: Who is served here? What do you do for people? How are you funded? What is your job? What part does our community play in your agency? What will we be doing today?

Things to think about while at the worksite: How am I different from the people we serve today?...How am I the same? What are some of the reasons that an agency like this is needed? Am I learning something new today?...information?...skill?

Things to talk about after the work is completed: What did we do today? Where did we see Christ today? What did we learn about ourselves today? To which of the 7 themes of Catholic Social Teaching did we make a connection today (*can be more than 1*)? Did what I do today make use of the gifts/strengths I have?...if not, what could I do differently next time? Is there anyway for me and other to help work toward eliminating the need for an agency like this (*advocacy*)? How can I continue to serve others (*direct action*)?... on my own? ... as a family?... as a faith community?... as a civic community?... as a global community?...

7 key themes of Catholic Social Teaching

The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and Episcopal documents. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents. In these brief reflections, we wish to highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition. (This summary should only be a starting point...)

Life and Dignity of the Human Person – The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Our belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity for the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and assisted suicide. The value of human life is being threatened by increasing use of the death penalty. We believe that every person is precious, that **people are more important than things**, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community and Participation – The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society—in economics and politics, in law and policy—directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. The family is the central social institution that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. **We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society**, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities – The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, **every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities**—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable – A basic moral test of a society, is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers – The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected—**the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.**

Solidarity – We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. **We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences.** Learning to practice the virtue of solidarity means learning that “loving our neighbor” has global dimensions in an interdependent world.

Care for God's Creation – We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. **We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation.** This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.