

Catholic Charities of Yakima Facts

Catholic Charities agencies in Central Washington (Yakima, Klickitat, Benton, Grant Douglas, Chelan, and Kittitas Counties) provide services to nearly **90,000** people each year without regard to national origin, income, or religious beliefs. Of those, **54%** are under the age of 18, **40%** are adults (18-64), and **6%** are seniors (65+). Catholic Charities and its agencies – with a total operating expense of about \$13 Million annually – employ over 300 people. More than 70 volunteers serve on numerous diocesan and local agency boards in addition to the thousands who give generously of their time within agency programs. Located in Yakima, Catholic Charities centrally provides supervision, technical support, fiscal services, planning and human resources for the following agencies:

- The network of 9 **Catholic Family & Child Service (CFCS)** offices - serving 47,000 persons annually. Whether building families through adoption, supporting families through specialized mental health services, or assisting seniors so they can remain living independently, CFCS is an essential resource for scores of people each year.
- **Catholic Charities Housing Services, Diocese of Yakima (CCHS – aka Diocese of Yakima Housing Services)** which, to-date has not only provided affordable housing to more than 1,200 adults and children in 9 Central Washington communities, but also facilitates and supports on-site residents councils that offer empowering activities which encourage families to participate in self-enrichment programs.
- **St. Vincent Centers (SVC)** – located in 4 communities. Though all stores offer clothing and household items and furniture, the Union Gap store is a unique multi-service location offering a Food Bank as well as a Social Services division – providing assistance to thousand of people each year.

The Area:

- Nestled along the eastern flank of the Cascade Range, The Diocese of Yakima consists of seven central Washington counties: Douglas, Chelan, Kittitas, Yakima, Klickitat and Benton with a population of 460,000 people, 76,000 Catholics and 41 parishes.
- Within the 18,000 square miles of the diocese can be found Mnt. Rainier National Park, Mnt. Adams, the Yakama Indian Nation, portions of the Columbia River Gorge, the Grand Coulee Dam and the Columbia Basin.
- Yakima, with a SMSA of over 100,000 is 2.5 hours from Seattle and 3 hours from Portland, Oregon, and located in the high desert of south central Washington in the rain shadow of the Cascades. With 6 inches of rain and 2 inches of winter precipitation annually, in combination with its proximity to the mountains, it is an ideal location for the year-round outdoor enthusiast with skiing, mountain and rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking and white water rafting readily available.
- Widely known as the fruit basket of the nation, the economic base is largely agricultural with apples and other hard fruits leading the way. Additionally, wine grapes, hops, mint, cattle and potatoes are major regional commodities. High tech industry is found in the Tri Cities of Richland, Pasco and Kennewick in support of the Hanford Reservation.