



spring 2025

**PICTURED:**  
*After losing their home in Ukraine, you've helped Tetiana (second from left) and her husband, and their family create a new life here in Alaska.*

# Faces of Hope

## You helped Tetiana find new life

*Tetiana feels most at home in the classroom. Thanks to you, she's finding new opportunities to teach, with renewed physical strength.*

Tetiana has always loved to teach and share her creativity. In Ukraine before the war, she had a successful career as an economist and lectured at a local university. She describes herself as a lifelong trailblazer: "I have always had a desire to learn something new myself and immediately pass this knowledge on to others!"

All that changed in 2022, when she and her family had to leave their homes to flee the war. Though they found safe harbor in Alaska, a lifelong hip condition worsened, and the

pain prevented Tetiana from doing many of the things that gave her life.

Thanks to the support of donors like you, Tetiana worked with RAIS case managers and her local sponsors to afford a life-changing hip surgery that ended years of pain. Recovery took time, but as she improved she found in herself a renewed desire to create, teach and share: "After the process of rehabilitation and recovery, I just really wanted to give a gift to those people who invested

their finances, energy and time in us."

Through your generosity, Tetiana's opened a new chapter in her life and is finding avenues to teach again, like helping high school students develop their skills with an art workshop.

For Tetiana, her family, and thousands of others like her, your generosity provides life-changing support and care. Thank you for investing in our neighbors, old and new, and being a transformative force for good in our community.

# Thank you for helping Charles and his grandson build a bright future

*Through Supportive Services for Veteran Families, you help Veterans get back on their feet and get ready to rebuild.*

“Once we got to the hotel, my grandson told me how much better he felt from not bouncing house to house. It gave him a sense of pride too. When we got there, he had his own room. He was so happy.”

Charles is a US military Veteran who honorably served his country in his youth and now takes care of his grandson. But for many, as the cost of food, healthcare, and rent have crept higher, he struggled to maintain housing in the Mat-Su Valley. As his and his grandson’s situation grew more precarious, they started moving a lot, staying intermittently with friends and in short-term accommodations.

Thanks to the support and encouragement of donors like you, Catholic Social Services has been able to expand several services to the Mat-Su Valley, including our Supportive Services for

Veteran Families program. With help available in his own community, Charles had access to more than just housing support—his case manager provided transportation for him to get to important appointments and receive on-going support, as well as guidance as he applied for benefits and planned out a stable future.

If Charles could share anything with other Veterans, it would be: “Stop hesitating and go get help because it’s good for your soul, so you’re not sitting around feeling embarrassed.”

Thanks to you, Charles and his grandson and many more Veterans have a safe and stable place to live with plans for a brighter future. Thank you for serving our Veterans and showing our gratitude for their years of service to our country.



*RIGHT: On move-in day, Charles posed proudly in front of the door to their new apartment. Thanks to you, Charles has a safe and stable place to raise his grandson.*



**Robin Dempsey**  
Chief Executive Officer

It has already been an eventful year, full of challenges but also resilience. With the help of our partners, supporters, and collaborators, we’re working hard to make a difference in the lives of our vulnerable neighbors. From exciting initiatives, like offering Behavioral Health Services and clinical counseling, to providing essential basic needs and case management support, we’ve been able to make a real impact together. We’re incredibly grateful to have so

many dedicated partners and supporters in this work. Our collaborative efforts have required flexibility and a few inevitable growing pains, and we are deeply thankful for the perseverance of our staff, supporters, and clients who have been with us every step of the way. Together, we are making a lasting difference, and we couldn’t do it without you.

*Robin Dempsey*

## Thank You for Joining Us to Welcome New Alaskans

We’re so thankful for everyone who worked alongside us for our Build Belonging event. Our community came together to celebrate the strength and resilience of refugees in Alaska.

Special thank you to our friends at Alaska Literacy Program, Anchorage Community Land Trust, Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, ACLU of Alaska, New Chance, and English Plus AK.



### PHOTO CAPTIONS:

- A. Tabitha shared her story of coming to Alaska and waiting for her family to join her.
- B. Alaska Office of Refugees staff shared about their work and how the community can get involved.
- C. Attendees participated in interactive projects to emulate the everyday experience of refugees learning to navigate in a new language and culture.
- D. Attendees joined the advocacy effort, writing postcards to elected officials in support of resettlement in Alaska.
- E. Clients sold delicious baked goods and shared their culture with attendees.

## Empowering Change in Our Community!



In January 2025, Supportive Services for Veteran Families housed 48 individuals—a record month of good news!

We are incredibly proud of our case managers, including Heather (pictured right) who was recognized by our friends at Alaska Warriors Partnership for her phenomenal work.

**Thank you for empowering our case managers and their clients to create positive change in our community!**

# Will you help our neighbors make permanent, lasting change?

*Your support for Behavioral Health helps clients overcome major obstacles like substance misuse and mental health challenges.*

In all the years we've worked to address homelessness, we've learned that helping our neighbors create permanent stability requires support for all areas of their lives, from basic needs to long-term care and counseling.

That's why Behavioral Health Services provides a comprehensive approach that not only addresses immediate needs but also equips clients and families with the long-term tools they need to thrive. This combination of short and long-term support creates lasting stability, strengthening families, and fostering a more

resilient community.

At Behavioral Health Services, clinicians provide ongoing therapy, even working directly with clients staying in emergency shelter. When a client leaves shelter, they still have access to their clinician so that they can successfully remain in housing.

"There's no set end date for services," says Ashley Martin, Catholic Social Services' Chief Behavioral Health Officer.

"We look at the whole picture, the whole person by helping clients get connected to medical, mental health, and housing services."



ABOVE: Ashley Martin, Chief Behavioral Health Officer

*Behavioral Health Services is a powerful tool to help our neighbors turn the corner and create permanent stability.*

***Will you help provide Behavioral Health Services to even more clients, to help build a brighter future for them, their families, and our community?***



THE 34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES WILMA CARR  
**CHARITY BALL**

We hope you'll join us on

**SATURDAY**

**MAY 17 2025**

at The Hotel Captain Cook

Visit [cssalaska.org/charityball](http://cssalaska.org/charityball) for details.