Samaritan House is a ministry of Catholic Charities of Denver.
Catholic Charities operates 23 different programs to help individuals and families in our community.

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REBUILD AND RESTORE
RENOVATION PROJECT

PHASE 2
THE HISTORY
Originally founded in 1986 by Msgr. Charles B. Woodrich—also known as Father Woody—and Archbishop James Casey, the shelter made headlines as the first in America to be designed and built specifically for the homeless. In a story published November 1984 in the Denver Post, Father Woody said, “Our Samaritan Shelter has a different bottom line—one that stresses a caring, human dimension to restore the personal dignity of those who’ve been denied a sense of self-worth.”

A HAND UP
It’s not just a place to sleep. We provide a temporary home, a place for new beginnings. Samaritan House provides a longer-term program to help our residents regain independence. Each of our residents is matched with a case manager who helps them navigate our 120-day Residential Program. The goal of the improvements is to meet the increased needs of the population we serve. Samaritan House serves 300 individuals every night including men, women, veterans and families. We help them on their path to becoming stable and productive members of our community. Samaritan House supports the Women’s Emergency Shelter serving up to 225 women each night at Samaritan House and at our Smith Road location.

PHASE 2 UPDATES AND CHANGES (FIRST FLOOR):

Expanding...
- Expand the women’s restrooms to accommodate the current Women’s Emergency Shelter capacity.

Upgrading...
- The restrooms to make them more Handicap accessible
- The Women’s Overnight Shelter for streamlined supervision

Updating...
- Finishes throughout to create a cleaner and more inviting environment for staff and participants that will improve and restore an outdated facility.
  - Individual Client Services Dormitory
  - Veterans Dormitory
  - Women’s Emergency Shelter Overflow mainly utilized for those with mobility issues
- Updating or replacing mechanical systems throughout with energy saving fixtures and equipment.
- Staff offices for increased efficiency and move the break room to the second floor for better use of the space available.

THREE YEAR PLAN
Catholic Charities is seeking $6 million through 2021 for renovations, staged in 2019, 2020, 2021

PHASE 1
$1,750,000
FAMILY SHELTER, KITCHEN, EXTERIOR GROUNDS
Updated women’s emergency shelter, men’s and women’s dorms

PHASE 2
$2,500,000
1ST FLOOR SHELTER OPERATIONS
Updated women’s emergency shelter, men’s and women’s dorms

PHASE 3
$1,750,000
2ND FLOOR SERVICES
Expand dining and offices, update patio, rec room, chapel and veterans’ facilities.

Statistics from FY 2018-2019
- 48 Beds Dedicated to Veterans Program
- 80,120 Nights of Shelter Provided (Includes single women, pregnant women, and women with children)
- 466,899 Meals Provided by Samaritan House
  - Note: Catholic Charities also provides additional meals in Ft. Collins and Greeley

MANNY
"I’ll tell you one thing—the Samaritan House received me with open arms. I don’t know what they saw in me. All the personnel had a smile on their face and wanted to help. I came to their veteran’s program to get out of homelessness. What I have now is because of them.

“I was 17, I entered the U.S. Army then later joined the National Guard. I served in places like Germany and Italy. I got injured twice. Once I fell off a tanker and injured my hip, another time I fell and had a head injury. I left to work for a railroad company—started out with a sledgehammer in my hand and worked my way to foreman. I had a good life. I had a wonderful family—a wife and two kids. I got injured on the job and they offered me $150,000. Unfortunately, with that money came friends … and drugs. I had to leave my wife and family. I didn’t want her to go down with me.

“For 20 some years, I was homeless. I’ve drifted through some 40 states in this country. I used cocaine, crack then meth. I was hooked on heroine. I just got locked into drugs. What made me stop was my three beautiful granddaughters. They saw me panhandling one day on the streets in Texas, where I’m from. I was so ashamed and one day I just said, ‘This is it, I got to go.’ I bought a bus ticket and came to Denver with $200. I love Denver—it’s one of the special places in my heart.

“God has been so good. I was in a homeless shelter and someone told me I was in the wrong place. There’s better help at Samaritan House. If you’re willing to do your part, they’ll help you. I was there for 9 months. They helped me find housing and with the VA helped me find my beautiful apartment. I’m now clean and managing my depression. I want to go back to Samaritan House to volunteer. I give my gratitude to them.”

- Manny