

PREPARES Program- CCUSA Innovation Challenge finalist

Webinar

October 14, 2020

We accompany moms
on their journey of
pregnancy and parenting



Working to Reduce Poverty in America

PREPARES

Pregnancy & Parenting Support

Building Parish Partnerships to Serve Life & Justice

Lisa Green, Director CAPA/PREPARES CCEW

Scott Cooper, Director Parish Social Ministry CCEW

October 14th, 2020

A PROGRAM OF



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES
OF WESTERN WASHINGTON



Catholic
Charities

SERVING CENTRAL WASHINGTON



Catholic
Charities
EASTERN WASHINGTON

A Program of the Bishops of Washington State



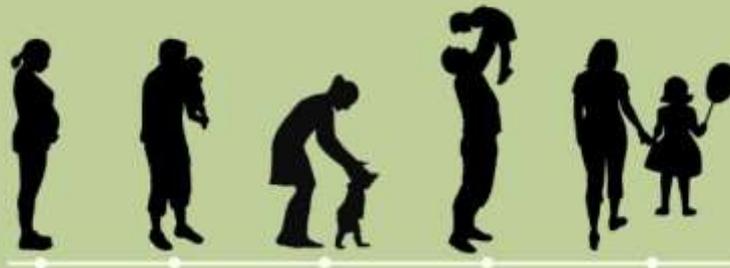
*“Pope Francis tells us that ‘accompaniment must lead others ever closer to God.’
By walking with and assisting mothers, fathers, and their children from
pregnancy to age five, PREPARES volunteers, by their presence,
form mutual relationships that bless those they serve
as well as receiving blessings in return.”
– Bishop Joseph Tyson, Yakima Diocese*

PREPARES Mission

Through the unified efforts of the Catholic community in Washington State
PREPARES was initiated to offer pregnant woman and their families
unconditional, safe, and nurturing care.

- Open to all people
- Operated by Catholic parishes
- Provide services including:
 - Essential Needs (diapers, formula, clothing, car seats, safe sleeping)
 - Parent and child groups
 - Referrals to community services
 - Companionship and mentoring
- Services offered in both Spanish and English

From pregnancy to the child's fifth birthday



PREPARES timeline

1920s: Adoption program begins at St. Anne's

1985: After over 4K adoptions, shift to Childbirth and Parenting Alone (CAPA)

2010: CAPA changes name to Childbirth and Parenting Assistance

2013: CAPA becomes the model for Statewide PREPARES

2014: PREPARES pregnancy and parenting support is launched

Five Years of Growth

PREPARES STATEWIDE

	Parishes Engaged 	Direct Volunteers 	Families Served 	Staff 
Year 1	75	83	1,435	4.2 FTE
Year 2	100	136	2,400	5.2 FTE
Year 3	122	282	5,298	6.2 FTE
Year 4	143	417	6,432	7.2 FTE
Year 5	158	525	12,231	8.2 FTE



CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Funding for first five years of implementation provided by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

Implementation of PREPARES

- Parish connection
- Parish Plan
- Volunteer recruitment
- Volunteer training
- Ongoing support provided by CC agency through Area Coordinator position
- Life affirming service in action

Partnerships Created

Within Parishes:

Respect Life

St. Vincent de Paul

Youth groups, schools

Catholic Organizations

Catholic Daughters

Catholic Women's
Organizations

The Knights of Columbus

Catholic Healthcare:

- Providence
- Franciscan
- Peace Health

Community Resources:

Lives Changed – Rural Families



“By experiencing the relief and appreciation for being able to access free diapers and supplies, it is apparent that PREPARES really makes a difference in the lives of these families.”

- Shelley, PREPARES Volunteer

Lives Changed – Building Community



“I see the Church differently now, not only as a place to pray, go to Mass and receive the sacraments, but as our second home. This is a way immigrants can build relationships and an extended family.”

- Maricela, Play with Love Facilitator

Lives Changed – Companions



*“I've been humbled by my biases, assumptions and caregiver ‘superiority.’
I now see struggling individuals as courageous, intelligent, resourceful
survivalists doing the best they can.”
- Lindy, PREPARES Volunteer*

Lives Changed - Volunteers



“I am grateful for the opportunity to live out my faith.”
“I sometimes feel like I get more back than I give.”

Rooted in Compassion & Mercy

“Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven.”

– *Pope Francis*



Vision: Any mom in the state can go to a parish in her community and be served.

What it looks like across the state



“We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love.” –*St. Teresa of Calcutta*

Thank you for your participation!

Questions and Answers

Learn more at: <https://preparesforlife.org/>

Lisa Green lisa.green@cceasternwa.org

Scott Cooper scott.cooper@cceasternwa.org

October 14, 2020



Working to Reduce Poverty in America.