



## PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **The Responsible Landlord Engagement Initiative Website Kick Off Event**

*Helping Neighborhoods Improve Their Quality of Life*

What: RLEI Interactive Website Kick Off Event

Who: Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, District 3 Councilmember Raul Peralez

Why: RLEI helps communities stay safe and vibrant

When: February 24, 5:00-7:00 pm

Where: San Jose City Hall Rotunda, 200 E Santa Clara St., San Jose, CA 95112

SAN JOSE, CA, February 23, 2016 – Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County’s Responsible Landlord Engagement Initiative (RLEI) will be celebrating the “Kick Off” of their new interactive website and scalable customer relationship management platform on **February 24th at the City Hall Rotunda from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo welcomed attendees and talked about how RLEI is helping neighborhoods in San Jose stay safe and healthy. Other featured speakers were: District 3 Councilmember, Raul Peralez; District 2 Councilmember, Ash Kalra; Leena Randhawa, Citi Community Development; San Jose Police Department Chief, Eddie Garcia; Housing Department Director, Jackie Morales, and RLEI Program Manager, Jaime Angulo.

The RLEI is a program that helps communities stay safe and vibrant. RLEI works alongside neighborhood leaders, law enforcement, and local government to hold property owners and tenants accountable to making lasting improvements in their properties to maintain the well-



being of the community. Over the past five years, RLEI has worked alongside 35 neighborhood groups in San Jose to improve the safety and livability of their residents.

The RLEI represents a new way of approaching the issue of improving problem properties by rallying existing resources and finding unique ways to hold private property owners accountable, inviting them to join and wherever possible lead the revitalization effort. In each case, the goal has been to establish a sustainable solution for the problem property. Property owner, tenants, nearby residents and other stakeholders join hands so that the physical and social conditions are improved for the long-term.

David Honda, Captain of the San Jose Police Department, states, “The RLEI brings together resources from the City, the Police Department, as well as the community and other non-government organizations to impact quality of life issues which also impact crime issues in specific neighborhoods.”

The Initiative has evolved from one case with 55 petitioners in 2011 to 56 cases with 1,042 petitioners in 2015. The majority of cases are located in low or moderate-income communities across San Jose. Moving a case to the point that it is in “Good Standing” means that the neighborhood leaders who filed the Request for Support are satisfied with the fact that their claims have been addressed. Dramatic improvements include emergency health and safety repairs, bed bug abatement, replacement of property managers, blight removal, and crime reduction. The type of problem property varies, from detached single family residences to multifamily housing complexes with hundreds of units and also commercial properties.

“College Park residents are extremely grateful for the services that RLEI has provided. This invaluable service has brought peace and safety to our neighborhood. We highly recommend working with RLEI to address problem landlords for building collaborative solutions within neighborhoods,” said Chris Tulin, President of College Park Neighborhood Association.

For additional information please email Jaime Angulo, RLEI Program Manager at [jangulo@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:jangulo@catholiccharitiesscc.org) or call 408-283-6150 Ext. 401.

#### About Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County has worked to strengthen families and build economic self-reliance for the poor and vulnerable in the county for 60 years. Each year, more than 500 employees and 1000 volunteers serve more than 54,000 individuals of all cultures and beliefs through 42 programs in more than 80 sites. Program areas include behavioral health, youth and family services, economic development, employment, financial education, housing, immigration



legal services, in-home and long-term care, older adult services, refugee resettlement, refugee foster care, and more. Catholic Charities is working to reduce poverty with social change goals that target the alleviation, prevention, and reduction of poverty in our communities.

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