



Voices of Hope

Refugee Youth Earns Full Ride to Berkeley

Aracely Perez is not one to back down. Despite her family's opposition to her education, Aracely attended school in her native Guatemala, where she was one of only three girls in her high school graduation class. Her perseverance paid off. After a tumultuous journey that brought her to the United States, Aracely will attend UC Berkeley this fall and all expenses are paid due to the number of scholarships she earned.

"I am not the kind of person to let somebody tell me I don't have the right," she says. "My mother thought women should be in the kitchen, not in school. There was a lot of violence in Guatemala and my home life was unbearable, so I left."

She arrived in this country five years ago at age 16, unable to speak English and without any family or friends. She waited in a shelter for immigrant children in Texas before being accepted into Catholic Charities' Refugee Foster Care program. With the help of Catholic Charities, she was able to find a stable home and the support she needed to succeed.

Her life turned around when she was placed with Liz Schwarte in 2009, who lives in



Liz Schwarte and Aracely Perez

San Francisco and saw an advertisement for the Refugee Foster Care program on BART.

"I had no idea the program existed," Liz says. "I'm so glad I decided to make that call. Aracely

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Extraordinary Gift Helps Working Caregivers

Thanks to an extraordinary gift by local developer Jay Paul, Catholic Charities has extended the hours at its Day Break Cares Adult Day Care Center in Sunnyvale. This is the second gift he has made to the Adult Day Care Center. Five years ago he supported efforts to open it.

The center is now open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. The longer hours make it easier for caregivers in Sunnyvale and surrounding communities who hold down jobs in addition to their caregiving duties. An estimated seven in 10 people who care for a family member (other than children) are employed, according to a National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP survey.



Day Breaks Cares staff, clients, and volunteers provide a warm welcome for dedicated donor, Jay Paul, at their adult day care center in Sunnyvale. L to R: Day Break client, Ching-Ming Hsueh, Jay Paul, Greg Kepferle, Amy Andonian and Ginger McClure

"Working caregivers are unsung heroes in our community, and Jay Paul recognizes this," says Amy Andonian, Program Director for Catholic Charities' Day Break Adult Care Services. "His generous gift and ongoing support of the Day Break Cares Adult Day Care program in Sunnyvale is helping so many family caregivers receive the respite and support they need to continue their tremendous work, both at home and in the workplace."

Jay visited the day care center recently to see his gift in action. The center serves older adults who just need a little socialization during the day to those who need a more structured, protective environment due to early-stage Alzheimer's or mild dementia. It provides a range of socialization, recreation, and health promotion activities for older adults, including daily exercise, art and music therapy, reminiscing, games, gardening, and health screenings. The center also has staff and volunteers who speak Chinese and Vietnamese.

For more information about Day Break Cares, visit www.DayBreakCares.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Roll Against Poverty" Bocce Ball Tournament

August 23, 2012
Campo di Bocce

Caritas Annual Celebration

October 18, 2012
Saint Christopher Parish

Community Focus

Ticket Sales Support Catholic Charities

You can support Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County by purchasing your tickets to the Frys.Com Open golf tournament at www.frysopengolf.com/tickets/ and entering the partner code "CATHOLIC" in the promo box. Part of the PGA Fall Tour, the tournament will be held at the CordeValle Golf Club in San Martin from October 10-14.

PARTNERS IN ENDING POVERTY

Lives are changing every day thanks to the generous donors who support Catholic Charities Appeal and the parishes that reach out into the community with their charity and goodwill. This year Catholic Charities Appeal raised more than \$688,000 thanks to you.

The success of Catholic Charities Appeal is due in large part to the pastors who open their doors to us and the volunteers who are willing to organize Appeal activities and speak at Masses. But even beyond the actual Appeal weekend, the parishes continue to be valued partners in ensuring that Catholic Charities' programs and services reach their parishioners and the surrounding community.

While Catholic Charities proudly serves people of all cultures and beliefs, our mission is rooted in the Scriptures. Our work follows a long Catholic tradition of caring for the needy.

Parishes connect people in need to Catholic Charities' programs and services, and parishioners spend countless hours volunteering for the agency. In addition, many of these programs are held at the parishes and

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Message From the CEO GREG KEPFERLE

Dear Friends,

Have you ever run a marathon? While I haven't, I was impressed when I heard on the radio the other day about a woman in her 80s who ran endurance runs. She would pace herself, not trying to go too fast so that she could go farther. Sometimes I think the work we do at Catholic Charities is like running a marathon. Poverty won't be ended overnight or by the next quarter or next year, but step by step we get closer to our goal. We need to pace ourselves, keep focused on the goal, and renew our energy along the way. As we are faced with cutbacks in some programs and with new opportunities in others, we continue to seek a balance as we help our clients move forward on the path to prosperity.

In this period of "constrained resources" it's more important than ever to find ways to renew our strength. I find myself re-energized every time I visit a program and hear from participants how they are changing their lives and renewing their spirits. Celebrating the end of tax season with the Tax EZ volunteers, I was touched by the generous gift of their time and knowledge to help their neighbors overcome poverty. Visiting Day Break Adult Day Care, I felt renewed watching staff and volunteers as they played and worked with seniors who needed special care. While judging the CORAL afterschool dance contest, I laughed with delight at the energy and enthusiasm of the youth as they danced and cheered their hearts out for their schools. Meeting with parish volunteers for Catholic Charities Appeal, I was moved by their sincere charity and dedication in helping raise donations that will help people they don't even know.

In these pages you will read amazing stories of renewal. I hope they renew your spirit and your dedication in overcoming poverty. The road in front of us may be long, but it is filled with joyful moments that give us the strength to carry on.

Many blessings,
Gregory Kepferle, CEO

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ENVIRONMENTAL SAVINGS STATEMENT

Trees – 19 fully grown

Water – 8,504 gallons

Energy – 12 million BTU

Solid Waste – 914 pounds

Greenhouse Gases – 2,030 pounds

New Board Members Bring Diverse Life Experiences

Catholic Charities recently elected Bob Braham, Khan Bui, and Susan Busco to its Board of Directors. All three were actively involved with the agency before joining the board.

Bob currently serves on Catholic Charities' Development and Golf committees and is a member of the Caritas Society. He also volunteers his time during the Catholic Charities Appeal, speaking on behalf of Catholic Charities, and has served on the Communications Advisory Committee. He is Vice President of Product Marketing for a division of EMC.

Kahn is a member of Catholic Charities' Long-range Planning Committee. He has a background in philanthropy and was recently named Public Benefit Investment Manager at Cisco. Before that he served as Corporate Philanthropy and Donor Engagement Officer at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. He also worked at St. Patrick Proto-Cathedral, where he directed the individual and corporate fundraising strategy.

Susan recently joined the Development Committee and is a longtime member of the Caritas Society. She also serves on the Caritas Celebration Committee. The Celebration was held at St. Martin of Tours for the past two years and will be held at St. Christopher this year. She is Senior Manager of Supply Chain at Qualcomm.

"We are truly blessed to have Bob, Khan, and Susan join the board," says Ray Triplett, Board President. "They each bring a firm commitment to serve Catholic Charities with a valuable diversity of life experiences, expertise, and perspectives. The board joins me in welcoming them and we look forward to working together."



Bob Braham



Khan Bui



Susan Busco

"Promotoras" are Trusted Source for Health Information

Blanca Schwarz and Leticia Muñoz are part of a grassroots movement to improve the health of Latinos, who are at higher risk for a number of diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and Alzheimer's. They are lay health workers who have received special training to provide health education in their own community. Known as "promotoras," Blanca and Leticia teach two classes at Catholic Charities' Eastside Neighborhood Center aimed at helping older adults reduce risk factors that lead to chronic disease like high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and obesity.

On Mondays they teach an exercise class and on Wednesdays they offer a health education class. "Many of the people who come to the center are under a lot of stress and that affects their physical health," says Blanca, who started teaching the classes after visiting the center. "We talk about issues like healthy eating and also ways to reduce stress and stay positive."

Leticia, attended Blanca's classes more than five years ago and became interested in health education. Now she teaches the classes with Blanca and volunteers her time as a promotora out in the community.

"We are seeing an alarming increase in Alzheimer's among Latino seniors," says Milton Cadena, Director of the Eastside Neighborhood Center. "We are trying to understand all the relationships between isolation and stress, high blood pressure, and diseases like diabetes and Alzheimer's. They are all interrelated, so we need to address the root causes. That's what these promotoras are doing."



Blanca Schwarz & Leticia Muñoz lead a Health Education Class on Wednesday mornings at ENC.

Legacy Donor Likes the Long-term Value of Gift

Joe Melehan is looking for long-term results. That's why he decided to include Catholic Charities in his estate plans several years ago. He likes that Catholic Charities gives people a hand up so they can get their lives on track rather than just a handout, which only provides short-term relief. The fact that his gift will help people long after he's gone was also important to him.



Celeste and Joe Melahan

have named Catholic Charities in their estate plans. They are leaving a legacy that will bring hope for generations to come. The couple are also members of the Caritas Society and Joe has been an active volunteer,

“Catholic Charities helps people get up and out of the poverty cycle,” Joe says. “It's not a Band-aid approach. I can't think of a better place to put my money. My wife and I would also like our assistance to have an effect on the next generation.”

Joe and his wife Celeste are members of Catholic Charities' Circle of Hope, which honors those who

serving on Catholic Charities' Board of Directors as well as the Planned Giving and Golf committees.

“I have been aware of Catholic Charities most of my life and have supported the organization over the years, but it wasn't until I served on the board that I really understood what it does,” Joe says. “I was amazed by the range and level of services. Catholic Charities reaches nearly every segment of society. What I found is that Catholic Charities is the most efficient and far-reaching organization of its kind in this community.”

Both Joe and his wife were born and raised in the Santa Clara Valley, Joe in San Jose and his wife in Santa Clara. Joe is actually the fifth generation of his family to settle here.

“I like the fact that Catholic Charities is working right here in the local community helping people here,” he says. “The community has been very good to me and my family, and we want to give back. My wife and I were both raised in families and went to schools that taught us to give back. For me, there is no better way to give back than to support Catholic Charities, now and in the future.”

GET INVOLVED

Consider leaving a legacy by joining our Circle of Hope, which honors individuals and families who have named Catholic Charities as a beneficiary in their estate plans. For more information, contact Magi Young at (408) 325-5225 or myoung@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

Caritas Receptions Highlight Hope and Renewal

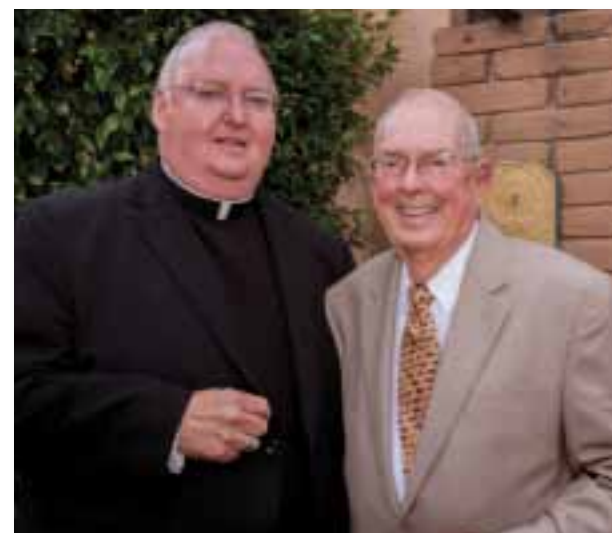
Caritas Society members and their guests gathered together at two Caritas Receptions in July to catch up with old friends and hear inspiring stories of hope and renewal. On July 11, 120 members and their guests gathered at the Saratoga home of Ed Porter, a founding member of the Caritas Society, where they heard from Fr. Thomas J. Reese, S.J., Senior Fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center in Washington, D.C. and a former Trustee at Santa Clara University. He is an author and widely recognized expert on the U.S. Catholic Church. He talked about the importance of charity in the Catholic Church, saying that it is “at the heart of who we are.” Quoting Pope Benedict XVI, he noted that charity is an essential element of the Church, equal in importance to the Gospel and the sacraments.

Cathleen and Duke Powers hosted the July 24 reception at their Los Altos home, where 70 members and their guests heard about people



Bishop Patrick J. McGrath, Cathleen and Duke Powers

whose lives have changed for good thanks to the generous support of Caritas Society members. Leyla, who is a refugee from Somalia, talked about how Catholic Charities' Refugee Foster Care program helped her start a new life. She is currently attending De Anza College.



Bishop Patrick J. McGrath, Ed Porter

Madelaine Yannaccone, Program Supervisor for Catholic Charities' Day Break Cares Adult Day Care, focused on a client who cares for her aging parents and how their quality of life has dramatically improved thanks to the program.

Caritas Annual Celebration

Thursday, October 18, 2012

6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer and Program

6:45 p.m. Reception

St. Christopher Parish

1576 Curtner Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125

Enjoy wine and food stations from around the world.

Talk with Bishop McGrath, CEO Greg Kepferle or a Catholic Charities staff or client.

Discover the impact of Caritas Members' support.

This event is for Caritas members and others interested in joining the Caritas Society.

For more information, please contact Sara Johnson at (408) 325-5259 or sjohnson@catholiccharitiesccc.org.

Rebuilding His Life One Step at a Time

Jesse Pena was working in the high tech industry and teaching at a community college when his life fell apart. After a run-in with the law, he lost his job and eventually became homeless. He was angry, bitter, and hopeless. A decade later he has a place to call home and is looking forward to the future thanks to Catholic Charities' Mission Rebuild.

"If it wasn't for Mission Rebuild, I would have no faith," says Jesse, who joined the program nearly two years ago. "They have given me a tremendous amount of hope. They helped me get my life organized. They talk for you when you are too broken, too busted up to talk for yourself. They help you pick yourself up by the bootstraps."

Like other Mission Rebuild clients, Jesse served in the military. The supportive housing program helps these homeless veterans find stable housing so they can focus on rebuilding their lives. Case managers connect them to the services they need like counseling, health care, transportation, job training, and benefits.

Jesse says he had become pretty haggard from living on the streets for 10 years. He had given up even trying to find a job. But he has cleaned himself up and is taking advantage of employment services offered through the Employment Development Department. His Mission Rebuild case manager helped him apply for Disability payments and CalFresh (food stamps), which are helping him get by. His financial problems were compounded by child support payments he owed, and he was even able to get that settled. Now he is hoping to find a job.

"Without Mission Rebuild, I'd just be another homeless person angry at the world," Jesse says. "They were instrumental in changing my life."

Dedicated Volunteers Receive President's Service Award

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County honored the dedicated volunteers who are committed to helping the agency change lives for good at its Second Annual Volunteer Breakfast. This year 40 volunteers from Catholic Charities' Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program were recognized with the President's Volunteer Service Award, receiving a lapel pin, special certificate, and letter from President Obama.

The breakfast was held at the San Pedro Square Market in downtown San Jose in April, National Volunteer Month. More than 250 volunteers attended the event, where they were welcomed by Catholic Charities' CEO Greg Kepferle. His speech was translated into Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese to accommodate the diverse group of volunteers.

"We may never fully know the impact you have made in the world through volunteering and helping others," he told the gathering. "We are thankful to have a group of extremely strong, dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers."

At any given time, about 1,000 volunteers work for Catholic Charities, helping to provide much-needed programs and services. About half of those are long-term volunteers who donate their time to the organization year after year. Volunteers donate more than 90,000 hours to Catholic Charities each year.

Volunteers in the Ombudsman Program advocate for people living in licensed nursing homes, assisted-living facilities, and board-and-care homes. They are certified and licensed by the state of California after 36 hours of in-class training and 10 hours of hands-on experience. These trained volunteers speak up for the frail, elderly, chronically ill, isolated, and otherwise



Volunteers in the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program were recognized with the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award.

at-risk long-term care residents, many of whom have nobody else to stand up for them.

Catholic Charities operates the Ombudsman Program through a mandate from the Older Americans Act under the California Department of Aging. Most Ombudsman volunteers donate a significant amount of time to the program. Each volunteer is assigned at least one facility that they visit regularly. Ombudsman volunteers talk to residents and address any concerns they might have.

"We couldn't operate the Ombudsman Program without the help of volunteers," says Wanda Hale, Program Manager for Catholic Charities' Ombudsman Program. "It is a very dedicated group of volunteers. They are all very committed to the program. It does take a special person to do this work, but it is also very rewarding."

GET INVOLVED

You can help frail seniors get quality care by volunteering for the Ombudsman Program. Contact Marlene Siebert at (408) 325-5260 or marlenes@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

Tax-Efficient Giving: The CLAT by C. DAVID SPENCE, ESQ., the Royse Law Firm

Today's economic climate makes a Charitable Lead Annuity Trust, or "CLAT" particularly effective. A CLAT is a dual-purpose trust, designed to transfer assets to children in a tax-efficient way by making maximum use of a donor's charitable gifts.

A CLAT is created when a donor transfers an income producing asset to a specially crafted trust. A charity (like Catholic Charities) is granted the right to an annual contribution stream from that trust for a specified term of years. At the end of the term, the remaining assets are distributed to the donor's children.

ESTATE AND INCOME TAX EFFECTS

A CLAT is a gift to the donor's children as well as to charity. Because of special IRS rules for valuing CLATs, the taxable gift to the children is significantly discounted. The effect of the IRS' valuation method is that much of the accumulation in the CLAT is shifted to the children without gift tax consequences.

The CLAT can also create charitable contribution deductions for the donor, either all in year one or spread annually, as the payments go out to charity. The IRS' calculation method uses the low-interest rates to generate lower taxable gift values and higher income tax deductions.

EXAMPLE

Assume in July 2012, a donor owns real estate worth \$1,000,000, which is expected to yield 8% annually. He wants to use a CLAT to contribute \$25,000 per year for ten years to Catholic Charities, and give the property to his children at the end of ten years. The CLAT would flow like this:

Year	Beginning Accumulated Principal	8% Annual Growth	Catholic Charities' Distribution	Remainder for Children
1	\$1,000,000	\$80,000	\$25,000	\$1,055,000
2-9	\$1,055,000	\$831,816	\$200,000	\$1,686,816
10	\$1,686,816	\$134,945	\$25,000	\$1,796,761
Totals		\$1,046,761	\$250,000	\$1,796,761

In this example, the IRS' calculation of the charity's annuity interest would be \$234,263. As a result, after 10 years, the CLAT will transfer \$1,796,761 to the donor's children, with less than half of that value (\$765,737 = \$1 Million - \$234,263) treated as a taxable gift. This CLAT could generate potential estate tax savings for this donor of between \$360,000 and \$567,000! So, this donor transferred \$250,000 to Catholic Charities and *saved more than that in estate taxes alone!*

CONTACT YOUR ATTORNEY

Everyone's situation is different. You should contact your attorney and tax advisor before forming a CLAT.

If you would like to discuss this or other planned giving strategies, please contact Magi Young at (408) 325-5225 or myoung@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org. If you have questions about this article, please feel free to contact David Spence at (650) 813-9700 ext. 211, or by email at dspence@royselaw.com. David is a member of Catholic Charities Planned Giving Advisory Council and head of the Estate, Trust and Wealth Strategies Practice at the Royse Law Firm.

GOLF TOURNAMENT CHANGES LIVES

More than 250 golfers and volunteers joined Catholic Charities in June for another successful Golf Tournament at beautiful Cinnabar Hills Golf Club. Participants enjoyed the fast-paced play under warm sun as temperatures soared. This year \$273,000 was raised by the Golf Tournament, which will help Catholic Charities reach more people with programs and services that are changing lives for good. As part of the tournament, Fund-a-Need raised more than \$50,000 for supportive housing, which will be used to leverage a 10-to-1 match in government funding.

The day long event was capped by a gourmet dinner and live and silent auctions. NBC 11 meteorologist Christina Loren emceed the event and a number



A strong committee helps make the tournament possible. Pictured Back, L-R: Diana Oliveira, Rodney Wade, George Montanari, Toby Cordone, Chairman, Drew Haaser, David Beronio, Bill Del Biaggio, German Scipioni, Tom Robinson; Front L-R: Susan Flach, Wendy Talamantes, Tim O'Donnell, Mary Aumack, Greg Staszko; Not pictured: John Aiassa, Michael Benito, Mike Blach, Bob Braham, Jim Childers, John DiNapoli, Celeste Drake, Joe Melehan, Paul Normandin, Bill O'Brien, Ron Pelzel, Derek Tam, Gene Toomey and John Valencia

of fun and unusual items were auctioned.

For example, the "Chopped" package included a cook off in the winner's home between NBC executive Lance Lew and restaurateur Jim Stump's professional chef Anthony Jimenez. The two will go head to head to create a three-course dinner for 12. Another fun auction item was a trip to Los Angeles to see the "Ellen Show." The package included two tickets to the show and a VIP tour.

Foursomes sell out fast, so be sure to save the date for next year's Golf Tournament on June 10 so you can join in the fun while supporting a great cause.



Cypress Foursome, Wade Financial Advisory, Inc., L-R: Mark Jamieson, Mike White, Ron Kaminski and Rod Wade



Lexus of Stevens Creek, Sponsor, L-R: Mark Hudson, Rich Sorrentino, Brendan Harrington, and Andy Aguillar



Title Sponsor Heritage Bank of Commerce, L-R: Gerry Graham, Bill Del Biaggio, Sam Carter, and John Angelesco



Augusta Sponsor Greg Staszko helps promotes another Fry's.com tournament in partnership with Catholic Charities. L-R: Wayne Leong, Rob Davis, Tim Jarvis and Greg Staszko



First place winners, Front, L-R: Margi Connelly, Terry Sweeney; Back, L-R: Margie Blach, Sheryl Pelzel and Marilyn Singh



Celebrating a successful day. L-R: Karen McQuade, event manager; Drew Haaser, golf committee chair; Christina Loren, NBC Bay Area; John Aiassa, golf committee and auctioneer; and Greg Kepferle, Catholic Charities CEO

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Grandmother is Grateful for Kinship Resource Center

After raising four children of her own, Sandra Namauleg never thought she would be doing it all over again. But last year it became clear that she needed to provide a stable home for her four grandchildren. So once again her days are filled with daycare concerns, homework, and bedtime stories.



"I was a little out of practice," says Sandra, who works full-time. "The truth is I wouldn't be where I'm at now without the help I have received from the Kinship Resource Center. It was really scary at the beginning, but they have helped me so much."

Catholic Charities' Kinship Resource Center helps caregivers who for some reason have had to step in and take over the parenting responsibilities for another person's child. The caregiver is often a relative like a grandparent or sibling, but not always.

"When the children came to live with me, I realized there were a whole lot of needs I hadn't thought about," she says. "I had to find daycare. They needed school uniforms and shoes, so many things. Catholic Charities helped with all that and more."

Sandra found out about the Kinship Resource Center through Catholic Charities' CORAL afterschool program where her grandchildren attend. At first she was reluctant to get help.

"I was so embarrassed that my daughter wasn't taking her parenting responsibilities seriously," she says. "I never thought I would need this kind of help. But Catholic Charities has made it so much better; just knowing people care about me. I get a lot of support at the meetings."

Sandra attends monthly meetings at the Kinship Resource Center, where she talks with other caregivers and attends classes. She was also assigned a case manager who has connected her to a number of resources.

The classes address a range of parenting issues like discipline and time management. The Kinship Resource Center also has a support group where caregivers can share their challenges and successes. She brings the children to the monthly meetings, where they get a chance to socialize with other youth being raised by someone who is not their parent.

"I have met so many wonderful people through the Kinship program," Sandra says. "And it's great for the children because they get to talk to other kids in the same situation and they realize they are not alone. People ask me how I do it. If it wasn't for the Kinship Resource Center, I wouldn't be so calm."

New Beginnings Gives Infants and Toddlers a Good Start

Life with an infant or toddler can be a struggle, particularly if you have limited resources or very little contact with friends and family. Catholic Charities' New Beginnings program supports parents with young children by helping them get the tools they need to engage their children in meaningful play and feel confident about their parenting abilities.

"My daughter is my first child, so I didn't have any experience," says Nikki Ngo, who has a 23-month-old and another one on the way. "After I joined the program, I realized I need to spend more time with her. Now we are looking through books together at home."

New Beginnings is for parents and children ages 3 and younger, a critical bonding time for parent and child. Thanks to a grant from the Bella Vista Foundation, the program has been piloted at three of Catholic Charities' FIRST 5 Family Resource Centers, one on Race Street in San Jose and two in the Franklin McKinley neighborhood.

"Many of the mothers we work with are isolated all day; they may be new to this country or don't speak English," says Saul Gonzalez, Catholic Charities' FIRST 5 Program Manager for the Learning Together Initiative. "We are providing a place where they can come and enjoy their little ones and meet other parents from the neighborhood. It serves as a support group where they can share some of their challenges."

The 10-session program is held twice a week for five weeks. Parents are encouraged to get involved with other activities and programs at the Family Resource Centers, so the support they receive doesn't have to end.

The sessions include interactive playtime in several languages and time for parents to connect. The program includes a Raising A

Reader component that is focused on helping parents understand the importance of reading aloud to their children to promote early literacy skills. In addition, participants are invited to attend Literacy Fiestas, small gatherings held in someone's home that celebrate reading and connect neighbors to each other.



"One of the goals of the program is to reduce the stress and depression some of these mothers experience," adds Program Coordinator Guadalupe Maciel. "We did a behavioral health survey before and after the program and saw stress and depression among participants drop significantly."

While most of the participants in the pilot program were women, Dean Tran is glad he joined. "In my culture, caring for the children is the woman's job. But now I see it's important for both parents to be involved with the children," he says.

GET INVOLVED

You can help parents give their children a good start in life by volunteering at one of the Family Resource Centers or by donating to Catholic Charities. Go to www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

Vegetable Garden Provides Healthy Produce to Seniors

Ripe red tomatoes hang on the vine and a variety of vegetables add to the colorful array. The garden at Eastside Neighborhood Center has been a labor of love for Catholic Charities' supporters like Marcia Green and volunteers like Richard Chavez, who helped build the garden and now tends it along with other senior volunteers at the center.

"So many people have helped to make this garden a reality," Marcia says. "From designing the garden beds and building them, to donating the supplies and the vegetable plants, it has been a true community effort."

She spearheaded the project after learning there was space for a garden at Eastside Neighborhood Center, but no funds available to fence in the garden and purchase the plants and supplies needed to build the raised beds.

Through friends and other Catholic Charities' supporters, she was able to raise more than \$8,000 to create the garden. Marcia also secured a number of donated items as well as price breaks on the lumber and other materials, which allowed the group to stay within its budget.



Marcia Green, a CC donor and volunteer, has been very involved with the planning and building of the vegetable garden. Her positive and energetic character has been a driving force in this project.

The fresh produce will be used for the noon meals served to seniors at the Eastside Neighborhood Center. Many of these older adults rely on the center for much of their nutritional needs.

GET INVOLVED

You can support projects like the garden by donating to Catholic Charities at www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org. Your gift will ensure that seniors living in one of the most underprivileged areas in San Jose will have access to fresh, healthy produce.

Refugee Youth Earns Full Ride to Berkeley

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

truly is the joy of my life. She is an amazing young woman.”

Aracely excelled in high school. Not only was she on the honor roll, she logged an impressive list of accomplishments, including starting a program that provides organic produce to low-income families in San Francisco.

Even though Aracely had already graduated high school in Guatemala, she wanted to attend high school here so she could master the English language and get better prepared for college.

“It was hard transitioning to a new life here, but Catholic Charities gave me a lot of help adapting to this new culture,” says Aracely, who wants to become a lawyer. “I could talk to my case manager about anything.”

Catholic Charities’ Refugee Foster Care program matches unaccompanied refugee and

immigrant children with foster parents. Many of the youth are from war-torn countries or are victims of human trafficking. Their parents are either gone or unable to care for them.

“This has been such a special experience,” Liz says. “The level of support we have received from Catholic Charities has been impressive. I would really encourage anyone who is interested in parenting to look into it.”

GET INVOLVED

Help refugee youth like Aracely start a new life in this country by becoming a foster parent. Catholic Charities must turn down 80 percent of the applications from refugee youth because there aren’t enough foster parents. For more information, contact Refugee Foster Care at (866) 842-1467 or rfc@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

PARTNERS IN ENDING POVERTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

serve the local neighborhood. This is true particularly in areas like East San Jose, where churches offer a number of services that are helping families struggling to get by.

Thanks to the incredible support Catholic Charities receives from the community and its partnerships with local parishes, the most vulnerable among us are getting the help they need to turn their lives around.

GET INVOLVED

Your help is needed all year long. Catholic Charities offers a number of ways to support the programs and services that are helping people overcome poverty and turn their lives around. To learn more, visit our website at www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

Dance Off Draws Cheers

Excitement was in the air as some students nervously awaited their turn and others focused on getting every step right. About 250 students from Catholic Charities’ CORAL after-school literacy program participated in the CORAL Dance Off in May, representing 13 schools in the Franklin McKinley and San Jose Unified school districts.

San Jose Vice Mayor Madison Nguyen provided opening remarks for the competition, which was held at Sylvandale Middle School. The Dance Off included two divisions: one for grades kindergarten through third and another for those in fourth through eighth grades. In the younger division, Meadows Elementary won for Best All Around, Washington Elementary earned Best Cheer, and Anne Darling Elementary received Most Spirit. In the older division, Hellyer Elementary was awarded Best All Around, College Connection Academy won Best Team Work, and Meadows Elementary earned Best Dance.

“In addition to improving literacy skills and academic achievement, CORAL also tries to give students opportunities to grow, develop, and shine,” says Sara Reyes, Director of Children, Youth and Family Development at Catholic Charities. “These dance competitions turn into huge events where the community gathers as one to cheer on their children and schools. Self-esteem, school pride, and healthier students are some of the many benefits that the dance component of our program provides.”

CORAL increases literacy rates and closes the achievement gap for at-risk youth through a proven literacy curriculum, a staff of dedicated role models, and a collaboration of caring parents, teachers, and volunteers.



Anne Darling Elementary performs their cheer in front of the judges.

CORAL has a big impact on the lives of these young people, both inside and outside of the classroom.

“The community involvement is great; the parents come, the children come,” says CORAL volunteer Sandra Hernandez. “I really like programs like this because our children are our future.”

GET INVOLVED

Make sure local children have access to the CORAL afterschool program by donating to Catholic Charities online at www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

Step Up Moves Anti-Poverty Agenda Forward

As government continues to cut funding for critical social programs, Step Up Silicon Valley is embarking on a new way to fund programs aimed at reducing poverty. The network was recently awarded a \$100,000 Disruptive Innovation grant from The Health Trust to conduct a feasibility study that would examine the use of public bonds as a way to fund these programs.

“This won’t end the need for government contracts or philanthropic support, but we have to find additional ways to fund these programs,” says Almaz Negash, Director of Step Up Silicon Valley. “This new funding model also has the potential to move key elements of the nonprofit sector to focus on measurable results.”

The model invests in highly effective programs using private investments in public bonds. The way it works is a nonprofit, or more likely a collaborative of nonprofits, works with a bond-issuing organization to raise funds to solve a social

problem. The bond-issuing organization secures investors who will provide it with working capital. Investors are guaranteed a rate of return, which the government pays if the program is successful because it will ultimately save tax dollars.

For example, an individual who can’t find housing or a job not only costs society, but also isn’t able to contribute. But if a nonprofit funded by one of these bonds helps him secure housing and a job, those costs are reduced and he becomes a taxpaying member of society.

Minnesota is the first state to pass a human capital performance bond, one type of public benefit bond. The grant will be used to research the most cost-effective social bond mechanism for Santa Clara County and develop a plan for piloting one of these bonds.

The grant is part of Step Up Silicon Valley’s effort to cut poverty in Santa Clara County. The network is also working on several policy issues

to move its agenda forward, including curbing payday lending and increasing the minimum wage.

Step Up supported the City of San Jose’s ordinance preventing payday loan operations from opening in low-income neighborhoods. Payday lenders charge exorbitant interest rates, often pushing low-income individuals deeper into poverty.

The network is also supporting a local initiative to raise the minimum wage in San Jose from \$8 to \$10 an hour. Minimum-wage employees have to work two or three jobs just to make ends meet in Silicon Valley.

“Payday lenders trap the very people we are helping to overcome poverty,” Almaz says. “While raising the minimum wage may be controversial, it will help to improve the lives of those living in poverty, and that’s what we are all about.”

Address Service Requested

DID YOU KNOW?

On any given night, nearly 700 veterans in Santa Clara County have no place to call home. In fact, about 10 percent of those who are homeless in our county are veterans. Catholic Charities' Mission Rebuild helps homeless veterans find stable housing and connects them to services so they can get the help they need to rebuild their lives.



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Catholic Charities Voices of Hope Newsletter

GET YOUR ZUMBA ON!



The latest Zumba Fitness Party received a great turnout at the Washington Youth Center. Participants engaged in a Latin-style calorie burning workout that is effective, fun, and entertaining. For more information, contact the Washington Youth Center at (408) 938-6731. Classes are held Monday through Saturday at various times.