



## **MEDIA ALERT**

September 7, 2017

### **Catholic Charities, PACT, and the Multi-Faith Community Form Powerful Collaborative to Support DREAMERS in Need of Urgent DACA Renewal and Access to Resources**

*Due to Recent Rescinding of DACA, Some DREAMERS Must Renew Legal Status in Less Than Four Weeks*

**What:** A powerful collaborative between Catholic Charities, People Acting in Community Together (PACT), and the multi-faith community will help DREAMERS renew their legal status by the October 5, 2017 deadline. The collaborative will offer a DACA Renewal and Know Your Rights Clinic on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at Most Holy Trinity Church from 9:00 am and 12:00 noon.

**Who:**

- Gregory R. Kepferle, CEO, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
- Father Jon Pedigo, Director of Advocacy & Community Engagement, Catholic Charities (Fr. Pedigo is a fluent Spanish speaker and can do interviews in Spanish)
- Robert Yabes, Program Director, Immigration Legal Services, Catholic Charities
- DREAMER client of Catholic Charities
- Akemi Flynn, Executive Director, PACT
- Local clergy

**Why:** The White House administration's decision to rescind DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) has threatened the immigrant community that are served by Catholic Charities, PACT, and local Parishes. This new partnership, and the September 16 DACA Renewal and Know Your Rights Clinic, will help our DREAMER community know their rights, know their advocates, and know how to move forward during this contentious, stressful time.

**When:** Friday, September 8, 11:30 am to 12:05 noon

**Where:** Most Holy Trinity Church, 2040 Nassau Drive, San Jose, CA 95122; we will be outside the church

**Background:**

Due to the current administration's recent rescinding of DACA, a number of DREAMERS must renew their legal status by the October 5, 2017 deadline, which is less than four weeks away.

The new partnership between Catholic Charities, the multi-faith community, and People Acting in Community Together (PACT) will help DREAMERS renew their legal status and know their rights.

*Based on what we know, no new initial DACA applications will be accepted after September 5, 2017. People with work permits that expire between September 5, 2017 and/or before March 5, 2018 will have one month*

*(until October 5, 2017) to get a new two-year work permit. Unfortunately, people with work permits that expire after March 5, 2018 will no longer be eligible to file for renewal.*

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### **About Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County**

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County stands with immigrants and their families. Our faith tradition leads us to support and serve the most vulnerable.

Our experience working with immigrants and especially youth and young adults who have been recipients of DACA has shown us how great a contribution socially and economically these young people offer our country and communities.

Catholic Charities will continue to support immigrants by providing the most up-to-date and accurate information available regarding the White House administration's decision to rescind DACA and to inform about other potential legal remedies.

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 62 years. Each year, more than 500 employees and 1,000 volunteers serve more than 36,000 individuals of all cultures and beliefs through 40 programs in more than 100 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.

Learn more at <http://catholiccharitiesscc.org>.

### **About PACT (People Acting in Community Together)**

Founded in 1985, People Acting in Community Together is a multi-faith, grassroots organization that provides leadership training and experience to community members of many different ethnic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. Through PACT, people work together to solve the most pervasive social problems of our day.

#### **MISSION**

PACT's mission is to empower everyday people to create a more healthy and just society by winning extraordinary victories for the community - not by speaking for them, but by teaching people how to speak up and take action in the public arena through grassroots organizing.

#### **VISION**

We are PACT: Diverse, multi-faith community builders who challenge ourselves and all those with power to catalyze a movement to end racial and economic inequalities in Silicon Valley. With a prophetic voice that organizes people to speak truth and justice we demand and create pathways to shared prosperity and a society in which every person lives with dignity and respect.

Learn more at <https://www.pactsj.org>.

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