

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



MEDIA ALERT

April 28, 2017

Catholic Charities and the Vietnamese American Community Commemorate Black April Together

What: 42nd Black April Commemoration

Who: - Khanh Duy Russo, Board President, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
- Hoa Kim Nguyen, Immigration Legal Services, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
- Claire Collins, Refugee Foster Care Program, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
- Vietnamese American Community Organizers

All speakers are available for interviews

Why: To commemorate the *Fall of Saigon* and discuss parallels with the Vietnamese American refugee experience and the plight of refugees today

When: 12:00 Noon to 3:00 pm

Where: San Jose City Hall Rotunda, 200 E Santa Clara St., San Jose, CA 95113

SAN JOSE, CA – April 28, 2017 – **On Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 12:00 Noon, Catholic Charities will be participating in the 42nd Black April Commemoration at the San Jose City Hall Rotunda.** Black April marks the Fall of Saigon and the end of the Vietnam War, triggering Vietnamese citizens to flee the country and come to the U.S. as refugees. Many were resettled in Santa Clara County.

Speakers from the Vietnamese American community, including former clients and employees of Catholic Charities, will share their personal stories as former refugees. When they arrived to the Bay Area from the refugees camps, they were practically homeless. With the help of community organizations and faith-based agencies, Vietnamese refugees became Vietnamese American citizens, raised their families in the area, contributed to the local economy, and gave back to the community.

The parallels with the Vietnamese American experience and the plight of today's refugees will also be discussed at the event. Learn more about Black April at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/42nd-black-april-commemoration-tickets-33712785850>.

“Catholic Charities has been serving our Vietnamese American neighbors for 38 years,” said Gregory R. Kepferle, CEO of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. “We have always been there for the Vietnamese American community and they have always been there for us. We join them on Black April because we know that it is important to know our collective history in order to learn how to shape the future, so that today's refugees and immigrants can thrive.”

Since 1979, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County has served the Vietnamese American community through our Refugee Resettlement program. To date, we resettled approximately 7,000 refugees from around the world to and helped them make their home in the Bay Area.

The largest Vietnamese population of any city in the U.S. is located in San Jose, California. They make up the second largest Asian group in Santa Clara County.

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 more than 61 years. Each year, more than 500 employees and 1,000 volunteers serve more than 40,000 individuals of all cultures and beliefs through 40+ programs at more than 80 sites. Program areas include behavioral health, youth and family services, economic development, employment, financial education, supportive 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 www.catholiccharitiesscc.org.

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Available for Interview:

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