



MEDIA ALERT

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County Celebrates 60th Anniversary
*Out of Poverty Action Summit Convenes Community Leaders to Develop
Action Plan to Reduce Poverty in County*

What: Out of Poverty Action Summit

Who: Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

Why: Recognizing that 380,000 county residents still struggle in poverty, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County will convene a **Social Policy Breakfast and Out of Poverty Action Summit** – to develop a community-wide anti-poverty action plan including education, housing, employment and asset development, healthcare, and nutrition.

When: Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Where: Tech Museum of Innovation, 201 South Market Street, Downtown San Jose, CA

Who Should Attend: media, community members, anyone interested in poverty alleviation, poverty prevention, and poverty reduction

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PRESS RELEASE

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County Celebrates 60th Anniversary
*Out of Poverty Action Summit Convenes Community Leaders to Develop
Action Plan to Reduce Poverty in County*

SAN JOSE, CA, October 1, 2015 – We live in one of the wealthiest and most innovative regions on the planet. Yet one in seven children is poor. We have one of the country’s largest homeless populations, and yet many still struggle to make ends meet. Recognizing that 380,000 county residents still struggle in poverty, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County will convene a **Social Policy Breakfast and Out of Poverty Action Summit** on October 14, 2015 – to develop a community-wide anti-poverty action plan including education, housing, employment and asset development, healthcare, and nutrition. Strategies will align along three paths: poverty alleviation, poverty prevention, and poverty reduction. These events are part of an all day celebration commemorating Catholic Charities’ 60th Anniversary.

The Social Policy Breakfast and Out of Poverty Action Summit begins at 7:00 am at the Tech Museum. Key speakers include: Sr. Donna Markham, OP, PhD, President and CEO of Catholic Charities USA; Emmett Carson, PhD, President and CEO of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation; Miriam Rivera, JD, Managing Director, Bay Area Growth Fund; Randy Pond, former EVP, Operations, Cisco Systems; Dave Cortese, President of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors; and Cindy Chavez, Supervisor, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

The City of San Jose will recognize October 14 as “Catholic Charities Day,” with Mayor Sam Liccardo presenting a commendation to leaders of the social services agency. Assemblymember Nora Campos, District 27, will also present the agency with a resolution. Catholic Charities provides a spectrum of social services to residents in need in Santa Clara County, including job skills training and placement, older adult services, mental health and substance abuse counseling, housing assistance, financial education, immigration support, refugee resettlement, and educational programs for youth. The agency also convenes partners to advocate for, and incubate social change through Step Up Silicon Valley and Parish Partnerships.

The 60th Celebration will conclude with a Mass at St. Joseph Basilica Cathedral and a Gala at the San Jose Marriott. The Gala will honor three couples for their outstanding years of service at Catholic Charities. Longstanding members of the Caritas Society will also be recognized that evening. The three honoree couples – Carol and Bob Peters, Andrea and Joe Thomas, and Susan

and Ray Triplett, will receive the first ever Matthew 25 Award – “Whatsoever you do for the least of these, you do unto me.”

Catholic Charities is the social service and social justice arm of the Diocese of San Jose and works for social change to address the underlying causes of poverty for people of all cultures and beliefs. In 1955, Helen Hansen was the first Executive Secretary of Catholic Social Services of San Jose, which had a budget of \$14,000. Today, Catholic Charities has 520 staff, a budget of \$34 million, and serves 54,000 people each year in Santa Clara County.

Tickets to the Social Policy Breakfast, the Out of Poverty Action Summit, and the Gala can be purchased online at <http://bit.ly/hope-and-opportunity>. For questions, please email info@catholiccharitiesscc.org or call (415) 706-2926.

About Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County changes lives for good. We help people of all cultures and beliefs rise up out of poverty and overcome the barriers to self-sufficiency. Because most lives are a complex pattern of choices and circumstances, we take a holistic approach to helping people change their lives, taking into account the whole person as well as their family and life situations. We do this through a broad range of services, including job skills training and placement, older adult services, mental health and substance abuse counseling, housing assistance, financial education, immigration support, and refugee resettlement. We also provide educational programs that help young people develop into self-sufficient adults. Each year, we serve more than 54,000 people in need.

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Available for Interview:

Catholic Charities Leadership

- Gregory R. Kepferle, CEO
- Jacqueline Copeland-Carson, PhD, Chief Program and Operations Officer

- Almaz Negash, Managing Director of Step Up Silicon Valley, Catholic Charities' social innovation network and anti-poverty lab

Catholic Charities Participants

- **Jose Sanchez**, a former gang member, became a client through our Vocational and Educational Reentry Services, turned his life around, and is now a full-time employee at Catholic Charities. He is a Peer Mentor for our Focus for Work program.
- **Mayra Tostado**, former member of Washington United Youth Center, grew up going to the Center, went to college, and is now a successful journalist and PR spokesperson.
- **Andrew Costa**, formerly homeless client and Vietnam Veteran, is now permanently housed and received services from us. Andrew recently wrote a book about his experiences.

Biographies:

Gregory R. Kepferle, CEO

Gregory Kepferle is CEO of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, a \$34 million nonprofit social service and social change organization which works to end poverty by serving and advocating for people of all cultures and beliefs. Greg has worked in the Catholic Charities network for over twenty-six years.

Greg is Vice-chair of the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities USA and past president of Catholic Charities of California. In 2007, he organized *Step Up Silicon Valley: The Campaign to Cut Poverty* in Santa Clara County as a community-based network to disrupt the cycle of poverty. From this he incubated the Franklin-McKinley Children's Initiative, a neighborhood-based anti-poverty strategy, and 1000 Out of Poverty, an outcomes-based collaborative pilot. He is a member of the American Leadership Forum – Silicon Valley and a member of Rotary International.

Greg has a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and a certificate in Peace Studies from Saint Louis University, a Master's Degree in Philosophy from Loyola University of Chicago, and a Master's of Divinity from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley.

Jacqueline Copeland-Carson, PhD, Chief Program and Operations Officer

A widely recognized advocate and scholar of diversity in philanthropy, Dr. Jackie Copeland-Carson is Chief Program and Operations Officer for Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County (CCSCC), where she oversees the \$34 million agency's anti-poverty and other services to 54,000 people in Silicon Valley each year. Formerly president of Copeland Carson & Associates, a global management consulting firm, she has worked with nonprofits, foundations, and

corporations to promote social change and responsibility throughout the U.S. and worldwide. Among her leadership roles over the past 30 years have been executive director of the African Women's Development Fund USA, national Vice President for private client philanthropy at US Bank, and program Vice President for The Philadelphia Foundation.

Trained as an anthropologist and urban designer, Dr. Copeland-Carson, a Huffington Post blogger and frequently sought after keynote speaker, is also an award-winning author and evaluator. Her latest study, *American Global Giving*, examines 21st century philanthropy trends and innovative ways that nonprofits can attract more diverse donors.

She holds two masters degrees, one in urban planning and the other in cultural anthropology, with a Ph.D. in anthropology all from the University of Pennsylvania. Specializing in the US, Africa and South Asia, her undergraduate degrees are from Georgetown University's College and School of Foreign Service in literature and African studies.

Almaz Negash, Managing Director of Step Up Silicon Valley

Almaz Negash is a seasoned business executive and nonprofit leader who believes in the power of individuals to gain economic self-sufficiency through social enterprise development and employment. Born in Eritrea, Negash immigrated to the United States in 1987 and earned her BA from the University of San Francisco and MBA from Golden Gate University. Negash is the Managing Director of Step Up Silicon Valley, a social innovation network and anti-poverty lab focused on increasing economic self-sufficiency through convening, advocating for policy changes, and incubating innovative solutions. Under her leadership, Step Up incubated Pay for Success, a new model for financing social programs in Santa Clara County.

For the last two decades, Negash has sought to improve the quality of life of our communities through local and global partnerships. In 2010, Negash founded the African Diaspora Network (ADN) to inform and engage Africans in the Diaspora and facilitate direct collaboration with social entrepreneurs, innovators, and business leaders to invest in and improve the lives of everyone on the continent. Her greatest gift is her natural ability to bring together individuals from all walks of life to work on something bigger than themselves. Merging business expertise with the empathy built by years of cross-cultural experience in international trade negotiations and her work with heads of state, CEOs of corporations and nonprofit organizations, community leaders, and researchers of renowned educational institutions, Negash has sought to prove that people of different backgrounds and interests can work together to create positive, impactful change in their community.

Negash is contributing author of *The Role of Africans in the Diaspora* published in 2013 and contributing author of *Awakening Social Responsibility* published in 2007. She has written numerous articles on global trade, social and educational issues. Negash received the African Diaspora Bridge Builders Award from the Diaspora African Forum Foundation and the Diaspora African Forum in 2014 for her work with ADN.