



## **MEDIA ALERT**

March 2, 2017

**Neighborhood Champions to be Recognized at Annual Event**  
*Responsible Landlord Engagement Initiative Honors Residents  
Who Took Responsibility for Their Neighborhoods*

**What:** 16 San Jose Neighborhood Groups will be recognized for their efforts to work with landlords and property owners to keep their neighborhoods Safe, Vibrant, and Healthy

**Who:** City of San Jose Elected Officials, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County, San Jose Neighborhood Leaders, San Jose Police Department, and City of San Jose Directives

Speakers include: Assembly Member Ash Kalra, San Jose Vice Mayor Magdalena Carrasco, San Jose Councilmembers, SJPD Deputy Chief Anthony Matta, CEO of Catholic Charities Greg Kepferle, Chair of the Board of United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County Ken Kelly

**Available for Interview:** Jaime Angulo, RLEI Program Manager, \*Fluent in Spanish

**Why:** RLEI is the *only* community driven program of its kind and its success is based on the commitment of residents who take pride in making their neighborhoods safe and clean. Catholic Charities is the host agency of RLEI

**When:** Thursday, March 2, 2017, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM; event is free and open to the public

**Where:** City Hall Rotunda, 200 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113

### **Background:**

The Responsible Landlord Engagement Initiative (RLEI) is a program that helps communities stay safe and vibrant. They work with neighborhood leaders, law enforcement, and local government to hold property owners and tenants accountable for assuring that their properties contribute to the wellbeing of the community.

The RLEI represents a unique way of approaching neighborhood development through improving problem properties. RLEI rallies existing resources and finds creative ways to engage with private property owners, inviting them to join and wherever possible, lead the



revitalization effort. In each case, the goal is to establish a sustainable solution for the problem property. Property owners, tenants, nearby residents, and other stakeholders work together to improve the physical and social conditions in the neighborhood for the long-term.

Over the past six years, the RLEI has worked alongside **85** neighborhood groups in San Jose to improve the safety and livability of their residents. The initiative has evolved from one case with 55 petitioners in 2011, to 85 cases with over 1,275 petitioners by end of 2016.

Dramatic improvements include 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.

In July 2015, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County accepted the opportunity to manage the RLEI thanks to funding support from ***Citi Community Development*** and the ***City of San Jose***. The program fits directly into the mission of Catholic Charities as we work to “build just and compassionate communities for people of all cultures and beliefs.”

### **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 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 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.

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