

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### PRESS RELEASE

March 2, 2018 *(after announcement)*

#### **Google.Org Announces Grant to Support Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County to Increase STEM Learning Opportunities for Underserved Kids in San Jose**

San Jose, CA (March 2, 2018) – Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, the largest multi-service agency serving individuals and families in need in Santa Clara County for more than 62 years, and Google.org, the philanthropic team within Google, Inc., announced a \$325,000 grant to expand STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) learning opportunities in San Jose, CA. The grant will be used to expand the STEM curriculum and install a mobile computer lab at one of 22 after-school programs managed by Catholic Charities. The lab computers will come preloaded with software that guide students through fun and interactive activities to enhance STEM interest and understanding.

Catholic Charities' after-school program, called CORAL (Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning), is a K-8 extended learning program embedded in schools across San Jose Unified and the Franklin-McKinley School Districts. "CORAL has proven to be of great value for students and the community. We serve nearly 3,000 children per day at our school sites. Kids get help with their homework, literacy support, and even a nutritious snack," said Gregory R. Kepferle, CEO of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. "With Google's support, we will have the tools to incubate new STEM curriculum at one site and then expand it to the remaining 21 sites."

The pilot will be launched at Anne Darling Elementary School in the San Jose Unified School District, where over 100 kids attend the CORAL after-school program each day. The school serves 441 children, 86% of which come from socioeconomically disadvantaged households. "Many households include parents that both work, often more than one job. CORAL keeps these kids out of empty homes or negative influences like gangs after the regular school day is over. We offer the kids a place to continue learning and now with Google's help, their interest in STEM will grow, and they will aspire to STEM careers," said Kepferle.

The grant—the largest single cash gift from a corporation that Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County has ever received—was announced on March 2, 2018 at Anne Darling Elementary School at a special event hosted by Principal Ronald Hammond, Superintendent Nancy Albarran, and Catholic Charities. Adrian Schurr and Javier Gonzalez of Google.org were also

present. “Catholic Charities’ CORAL program, with its STEM focus, aligns with our priorities of educating kids and creating opportunities in STEM careers,” said Schurr.

### **About Google.org**

Since 2005, Google.org has worked to extend the reach of nonprofit innovators and connect them with a unique blend of support that includes funding, tools, and volunteers from around Google. These innovators are the believers-turned-doers who have made the biggest impact on the communities they represent, and whose work has the potential to produce meaningful change that can scale. Though each nonprofit’s project poses a fresh challenge, we ask the same question every time: “How can we bring the best of Google to power their work and accelerate their progress?” Google.org has focused on three areas: helping organizations connect people to jobs and opportunity; support innovators fighting racial bias and advancing justice for all; and supporting nonprofits creating a quality education for everyone.

### **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 62 years. Each year, more than 500 employees and 1,000 volunteers serve more than 38,000 individuals of all cultures and beliefs through 34 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](http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org).

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### **Media Contacts**

Caroline Ocampo  
Chief of Communications  
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County  
[ocampo@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:ocampo@catholiccharitiesscc.org)  
(408) 325-5122

Adelene Ramos  
Marketing Communications Program Supervisor  
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County  
[aramos@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:aramos@catholiccharitiesscc.org)  
(408) 325-5123