



# Voices of Hope

NOVEMBER 2018 VOLUME 14, ISSUE 55 SERVING PEOPLE OF ALL CULTURES AND BELIEFS

## Feeding Our Community One Meal at a Time



In an area with incredible wealth, we also have many community members who experience devastating hunger and poverty. Thanks to our caring volunteers and staff, last year we served more than 575,000 warm and nourishing meals to our neighbors in need through our various nutrition programs.

At Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, we provide low-cost hot, nutritious meals to seniors in need who attend our Eastside Neighborhood Center in East San Jose and our John XXIII Multiservice Center in downtown San Jose. Our Senior Nutrition program serves more than 70,000 meals each year.

To help low-income children throughout the county, we provide healthy meals and snacks to the kids who participate in our free Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning (CORAL) K-8 after-school program, which is located at 22 sites. In partnership with the San Jose Unified School District and the Franklin McKinley School District, we serve over 1,900 students on a daily basis during the school year. In the summer, we serve over 600 students.

It is not easy to make ends meet in this valley, and we know that many families have parents who often work more than one job, who struggle to decide whether to pay for rent, health insurance, or groceries. To help ensure that low-income, hard-working families do not go without food, we work with Second Harvest Food Bank at various sites to provide bags of healthy groceries. In addition, we have community gardens that people can use at our Franklin McKinley Children's Initiative, Eastside Neighborhood Center, and Dahl Family Resource Center.

Thanks to funding from Catholic Charities of California, we offer Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed), which helps people lead healthier lives. In addition, we established healthy eating policies at 13 locations serving youth in the community.

For more than 63 years, Catholic Charities has worked to strengthen families and build economic self-reliance for the poor and vulnerable in our community. To find out how you can help us move the needle on poverty in our own backyard, please visit [www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/donate](http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/donate).

**Catholic Charities serves more than 575,000 meals each year to our neighbors in need**



## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, YOU CAN SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN THREE WAYS...**

### DONATE

This Christmas, your generosity will be rewarded two-fold during the **Sobrato Challenge**. Every new or increased dollar you give during this year's Christmas Appeal will be matched through a 2 to 1 challenge grant from the Sobrato Family Foundation.

Our successes are only possible through the generosity and compassion of our supporters, like you. Please consider increasing your gift to help us maximize this challenge. Visit [catholiccharitiesscc.org/donate](http://catholiccharitiesscc.org/donate). Thank you!

The **SOBRATO** Family Foundation

### SHOP

Sign up for **Amazon Smile** and your holiday shopping can benefit Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. The AmazonSmile Foundation donates .5% of eligible purchases to our agency – and there is no cost to sign up. Please register at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), select Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, and your purchases can support our work changing lives for good! And please remember to return to the Amazon Smile website each time you make purchases. For more information, call (408) 325-5160 or email [cshaw@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:cshaw@catholiccharitiesscc.org).



### GET INVOLVED

Our Christmas gift program, **Season of Sharing**, runs through December 20, 2018. Donations are needed to make Christmas brighter for those who will have little or nothing under the tree on Christmas morning. (See article on page 3 to learn how to get involved.)

For information, contact (408) 325-5125 or [giving@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:giving@catholiccharitiesscc.org).





## Message From the CEO GREG KEPFERLE



Dear Friends,

As we prepare to celebrate this season of hope and sharing, my heart is filled with gratitude for the abundance of generosity from Catholic Charities supporters. Thanks to our donors who invest their wealth and their wisdom, Catholic Charities continues to succeed in changing lives for good. We see signs of hope every day. From the child who has learned to read at grade level to the senior whose hunger is sated by a hot healthy meal. From the orphaned refugee girl whose life is saved from traffickers to the citizen returning to society from jail who now has a decent job. From the immigrant who passed her citizenship exam to the father reconciled with his children. From the young man freed from gang involvement to the once homeless family who now has a permanent home.

I am encouraged by the foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individual donors who trust Catholic Charities to do quality work. They are investing in us even more as they see the amazing results with our clients thanks to the quality work of our compassionate staff and volunteers.

As our community has asked Catholic Charities to do even more, the agency has stepped up. Yet more needs to be done. Today, we especially need more help for those who are struggling with housing and food. More children need our after-school education support. More seniors need our senior support services and clients struggling with mental illness need our behavioral health services. Families struggling with poverty and the high cost of living need help making ends meet.

I invite you to join me in investing in Catholic Charities' Community Impact Funds, so we can be there for these families who have the courage to knock on our doors asking for help to turn their lives around. Join us as we impact poverty through food, housing, health, education, and economic security.

As you sit down with loved ones and count your blessings this Thanksgiving, please remember those that we serve. With your contribution, together we will continue to change lives for good.

Many blessings in this season of Thanksgiving,  
Gregory R. Kepferle, CEO

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# Community Impact Funds – Your Help is Their Hope

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County envisions a thriving community in which everyone has access to affordable health care, sufficient nutritious food, affordable housing, meaningful educational and career opportunities, and reliable income that meets their basic financial needs. We invite you to grant the gift of hope and opportunity to our most vulnerable community members through our Community Impact Funds. Our essential services in food, housing, health, education, and economic security give a hand up to our neighbors in need by providing the foundation for stability and self-sufficiency. Your Help is Their Hope.

## FOOD

*When you or your children are hungry, life's challenges are even more difficult to overcome.* We serve over 575,000 meals to more than 10,000 of our neighbors in need each year, preparing hot meals at our senior centers, distributing free grocery bags at our community centers, and providing nutritious snacks for our after-school students daily. A hearty meal goes a long way for those who endure hunger each day. By nourishing the body, we nurture hope and nourish the soul for our neighbors in need.



## HEALTH

*Health and well-being take many forms, from the physical to the emotional.* Seniors receive wellness assessments and nurse check-ups, individuals and families access counseling, frail adults are cared for at our Adult Day Care centers, and young men and women attend peer support groups and gang prevention to place them on a path to healthy adulthood. Health is wealth—we care for the well-being of our community members to foster holistic strength.

## HOUSING

*Our region's housing crisis means that families are often crowded in shared apartments with other families, live in converted garages, or sleep in cars. This is not home.* Our housing programs provide support for families and individuals facing housing instability or homelessness, from case management to housing placement for flood survivors to supportive services at Charities Housing sites, to direct financial assistance to keep people in their homes. Neighborhoods are assisted to address unsafe and blighted properties. Home is a place of love, belonging, community, and safety, not stress, fear, or instability. We provide comfort, respite, and the daily blessing of home for those who are without.

## EDUCATION

*Education opens doors to opportunity and life-long learning.* Our after-school expanded learning program, CORAL (Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning), serves 2,500 youngsters in high-needs neighborhoods every year with literacy and STEM programs, sports, and enrichment activities. Our Family Resource Centers provide parenting education and early childhood programs, while senior and neighborhood centers host classes and workshops, and ESL instruction helps participants to navigate civic processes and connect to the wider community. Our programs open doors to educational pathways leading to stability and self-sufficiency.

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Income is the key to self-sufficiency, the key that will unlock all of the above for people living in poverty.* Our employment programs specialize in placing those with severe barriers to employment, securing jobs for over 100 people every year, while our Financial Education programs help participants to budget, save, and plan for their future. We assist our immigrant neighbors to obtain legal status and citizenship to secure employment and engage in the community, and help refugees fleeing violence and instability around the world to build a new life in our beautiful and vibrant Santa Clara County. Our participants pursue meaningful career opportunities and professional development that fosters skill sets and drive. We support our community members to seek and sustain a reliable income to achieve long-term stability.

## VOICES OF HOPE PUBLISHING INFORMATION

### Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

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### ENVIRONMENTAL SAVINGS STATEMENT

Trees – 19 fully grown

Water – 8,504 gallons

Energy – 12 million BTU

Solid Waste – 914 pounds

Greenhouse Gases – 2,030 pounds



## CORAL STUDENTS DECK THE HALLS (AND TREES!) WITH TECH

Back by popular demand, our CORAL after-school students will once again participate in the Christmas Tree Ornament programming project. The goal of the project is to introduce students to “coding” skills. Each student programs a lighting sequence for a microprocessor controlled tree ornament that is hung on a tree throughout the holidays at San Jose’s Christmas in the Park event. Thanks to growing donor support, this year 125 students will have this fun opportunity to learn about computers, programming, circuits, variables, functions, light colors, and more.

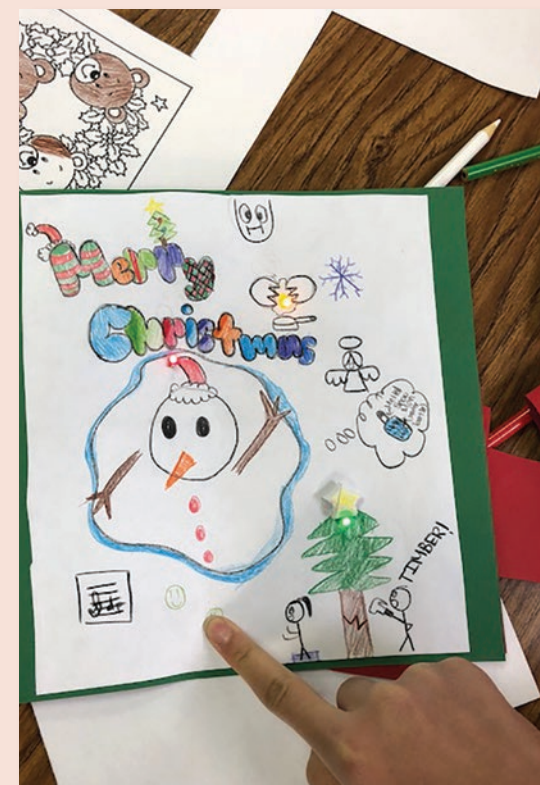
According to Aldo Estrada, STEM Curriculum Manager for CORAL, “Participation in the Christmas Ornament project turned out to be an incredibly memorable experience. Sometimes it can be difficult to explain STEM curriculum and its significance to parents, however, the value of the ornament project was very tangible to both students and parents.”

At the culmination of the project during the Thanksgiving weekend, with families in attendance, each student will place their special ornament on their school’s designated tree. The brightly lit trees will be on display for the duration of the holiday season, serving as a source of both great personal and family pride.

This project is a great example of how Catholic Charities partners with the community and thinks creatively to provide enriching learning opportunities for students in need. And it illuminates the fundamental value of Catholic Charities programs to individual and corporate supporters.

Do you have an educational project or concept that students will remember for the rest of their lives? Do you work for a company that is seeking to show how their technology helps our community? Join us and help develop the future engineers, scientists, and community leaders of the future!

To learn more about our CORAL program, its partnerships and special projects, contact CORAL and Family Services Director, America Aguirre, [aaguirre@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:aaguirre@catholiccharitiesscc.org).



## SEASON OF SHARING MAKES CHRISTMAS BRIGHTER FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

You can make Christmas brighter for a needy senior or family this year.

Catholic Charities’ Season of Sharing program collects gifts for individuals and families who will have little or nothing under the tree on Christmas morning. Last year, more than 2,000 Christmas gifts were distributed to grateful Catholic Charities clients of all ages.

Please consider donating an unwrapped gift this year or getting your organization, parish, club or corporation to participate as a group. One idea is hosting a “Party With A Purpose” and asking guests to bring an unwrapped gift to donate to Season of Sharing.

Needed items include:

- Gift cards to stores (especially Target, Walmart, Safeway, and gas cards)
- Games, toys, books, sports equipment, dolls, and crafts for infants to teens
- Sweatshirts, gloves, hats, and socks for kids, teens, and adults
- Blankets
- Personal hygiene items, including toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and deodorant

“We are so thankful to all of the individuals, parishes and corporations who participated last year,” said Susan Lucas Taylor, Catholic Charities Chief Development Officer. “Together, we can brighten this Christmas season for thousands of families!”

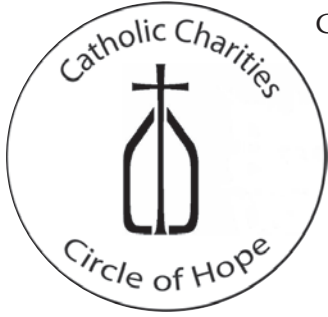
The program runs through December 20, 2018. For more information or to set up a donation pick-up, please call (408) 325-5125 or email [giving@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:giving@catholiccharitiesscc.org).





## Bishop's Tea with Circle of Hope

Hosts Gloria Citti and Adrianna Citti Glascott welcomed Bishop McGrath and guests to his annual Bishop's Tea in September. The event is a reunion of sorts. Longtime supporters and members of Catholic



Charities' Circle of Hope gathered to share memories and stories of how they first came to support Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County.

Circle of Hope members are special friends of the agency who have made a bequest within their will or trust. Guests enjoyed traditional afternoon high tea in Gloria's sumptuous garden while Bishop McGrath shared timely reflections and touching thoughts about his time as Catholic Charities' Board President.

If you would like to join Circle of Hope, or would like to learn more about making a legacy gift to Catholic Charities, contact David Russo at (408) 325-5248 or drusso@catholiccharitiesscc.org. Join Circle of Hope today and don't miss next year's event!



Gloria Citti and Adrianna Citti Glascott



Bishop McGrath, Gloria Citti, Gregory R. Kepferle



Guests enjoyed high tea in Gloria Citti's beautiful garden setting.



Longtime supporters of Catholic Charities' Circle of Hope enjoy each other's company at the Bishop's Tea.

## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 'ROLL AGAINST POVERTY' BOCCE TOURNAMENT RAISES FUNDS FOR PROGRAMS

Catholic Charities' 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Bocce Tournament in September brought 32 teams and many guests to Campo di Bocce for a fun-filled evening to "Roll Against Poverty." Highlights of the evening included the Wine and Spirits Ring Toss, Silent Auction, Dream Vacation Raffle, along with delicious food and wines.

This year's Bocce Champions were The Bean Counters, sponsored by Marc Seymer. Coming in at a close second was Linna's Pallinas sponsored by The Party Helpers. Congratulations to the winners and all of our tournament players!

"Thanks to our generous sponsors, dedicated committee members, and enthusiastic players and

volunteers, the tournament raised critical funds for Catholic Charities programs and services to combat poverty in Santa Clara County," said Joe Gentzkow, Tournament Chairman. "We are grateful to all who made this 10th Annual Tournament such a success!"

This year's Tournament had the first ever "Honorary Queen of Bocce," Sandra Sepulveda, a partner at the law firm Berliner Cohen, LLP and member of its Estate Planning Group. Sandra has made helping our community a priority for the entirety of her career. She has served as a Vice President of the Board for the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley and has been volunteering for Catholic Charities since 2009. She

has served on the Bocce Planning Committee from its inception and on the Catholic Charities Board of Directors since 2014. She has been instrumental in growing this Tournament and tripling event support.

Including Sandra, Committee members for the Bocce Tournament are John Di Palermo, Dominic DiTullio, John Doyle, Joanne Escobar, Steve Giachetti, Craig Kovaleski, Kevin Moul, Beth Rhodes, and Paul Vaccaro.

Are you interested in serving on next year's Bocce Tournament Committee, or participating in the Tournament? Contact Kathleen Burroughs, kburroughs@catholiccharitiesscc.org or (408) 325-5191.



Joe Gentzkow (second from left), Chair of the Bocce Tournament Committee, took a break from play to enjoy some time with friends.



Barbara Gentzkow, Andrea Thomas, Paul Gentzkow, and Joe Thomas



Congratulations to the 2018 Bocce Champions the Bean Counters, sponsored by Marc Seymer, who showed off their trophies while posing with Greg Kepferle, CEO of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, and Sandra Sepulveda, 2018 Honorary Queen of Bocce. Bean Counters teammates are (L-R) Eric Piziali, Jonathan Healey, Greg Simpson, and Marc Seymer, all Adobe employees except Marc who recently left Adobe to start his own company.



One of the highlights of the evening was the Ring Toss game.



2018 Honorary Queen of Bocce Sandra Sepulveda



Isaac Merrill, Danielle Demartino, Liza Riguerra, Andrew Chang



# Five Reasons You Should Consider Informing Us of Your Bequest

Have you made a bequest in your will or trust to Catholic Charities? Here are five reasons you should consider sharing the information about your legacy gift:

1. **RECOGNITION** – Documenting your philanthropy allows Catholic Charities to recognize you now, during your life. As a member of the Circle of Hope, you will be invited to our exclusive tea hosted annually by the Bishop.
2. **PEACE OF MIND** – Documenting your planned gift helps to ensure your charitable goals are met – now and in the future. We will work with you to confirm that appropriate language is used to meet your legacy goals, documents are drafted properly and stored safely.
3. **DESIGNATE A PURPOSE** – It is important to record how your contribution will be used. Will your gift support us in perpetuity, for a specific program, or will it support a vulnerable population? You have options and we would love to discuss them with you.
4. **INSPIRING OTHERS** – A legacy gift is exemplary and serves as a role model for others. Your philanthropic legacy can motivate additional donors thereby providing even more resources to help Catholic Charities reduce poverty further.
5. **NO OBLIGATIONS** – We recognize that your goals need to be flexible. You may change your mind or your financial circumstances may change. Indeed, even listing a gift amount is an approximation. Further, we respect and honor your intent and privacy. Informing us will not encourage further solicitations on our part.

If you have made bequest to Catholic Charities in your will or trust, please inform us today and join our Circle of Hope. Contact David Russo at 408-325-5248 or [drusso@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:drusso@catholiccharitiesscc.org).

## CAKES FOR KIDS

Catholic Charities partnered with Cakes4Kids to bring birthday joy to the refugee foster youth and families we serve. Cakes4Kids is a



nonprofit that believes every child deserves to celebrate their birthday regardless of their circumstance. A network of volunteer bakers

make fresh custom cakes for foster, orphaned, and other children facing difficult situations.

This September, Manju, a refugee foster youth supported by Catholic Charities, received the first cake from the partnership. By request and to Manju's specifications, a volunteer baker made her a custom sugar-free chocolate cake decorated with butterflies.

Andreas Valverde, a Catholic Charities' Refugee Foster Care social worker shared how important these little gestures mean to the youth she supports. "It helps them feel like they belong. I cannot wait to deliver the next cake!"

To learn more about how you can help make a difference for the children we serve, please visit [www.catholiccharitiesscc.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org).

## Financial Foundations Initiative Empowers Participants

In her early 70s, Lana dreamed of a vacation to visit her sister in Fresno, who she had not seen for many years. But living on a fixed income prevented Lana from pursuing her dream. Between cost and distance, it seemed financially impossible, until one day, Michael Carter, Program Supervisor of Catholic Charities' new financial education program, suggested, "Let's figure out a budget for that. Let's talk about having you go on a train to see your sister." Lana's eyes lit up with joy.

The Financial Foundations Initiative teaches basic money management. Participants learn how to manage their finances, save, and set long-term and mid-range financial goals that enable them to turn dreams into reality. Whether it is owning a home, affording clothes, or saving for a vacation, the program seeks to encourage participants to envision a goal and teach them the financial mechanisms to make it happen.



Mike and Lana worked together to develop a budget for a five-day trip to Fresno via train with enough saved for Lana to visit restaurants and do some sightseeing with her sister. The trip amounted to approximately \$400, and for Lana, this was a lifelong dream that she achieved on her own, with the help of Catholic Charities.

With anchor funding from Citibank Community Development and additional support from Wells Fargo, the program is set to meet its goal of serving 75 clients with one-on-one coaching by June 2019.

"Nobody wants to save for a rainy day," says Mike, "But people should save for something good, because if something bad happens, you have money for that, too."

To learn more about the Financial Foundations Initiative, please contact Program Supervisor Michael Carter at [mcarter@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:mcarter@catholiccharitiesscc.org). If you'd like to donate to support our Community Impact Fund for Economic Security, which helps clients like Lana, please visit [www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/donate](http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/donate).

## PARTNERING WITH PARISHES



**Father Jon Pedigo,**  
Director of Advocacy &  
Community Engagement

Tens of thousands of our neighbors live in extreme poverty and they turn to our parishes for support. Parish offices are inundated with requests to help with groceries, rent, transportation, and utilities. Parishes play a vital role in the well-being of those in need; however, most parishes do not have the capacity to do a needs assessment on clients, the resources to help people enroll in social programs, or personnel for longer term case management.

Through interviews with clergy, lay people and volunteers who serve in St. Vincent de Paul and food pantries, I heard many people say that they would like Catholic Charities and parishes to work more closely together as a way to do more than give people a hand out. I heard many people from other parishes say they want to work directly with those in need. One person said, "I live in a bubble. I know that there are people in need and I want to do more than just help them, I want to know them."

Inspired by Pope Francis' teaching that an "encounter" between people of different backgrounds will lead to mutual and eventually systemic transformation and the words of St. Paul, "We are no longer strangers, but friends," Catholic Charities will pilot a partnership in East Side San José (Deanery Six) that will put people on a pathway toward self-empowerment through creating a network of existing and new volunteers who will be trained to do a basic needs assessment and help connect people to social service programs run by Catholic Charities or other agencies. Catholic Charities will be dedicating personnel toward this effort to facilitate training and supervision of volunteers and the administration of the program. With faith in God and the collective strength of parishes, the community, and Catholic Charities, all things are indeed possible. ¡Si se puede!

Feel free to reach me with any questions at [jpedito@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:jpedito@catholiccharitiesscc.org).

## SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS CATHOLIC CHARITIES IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) has awarded Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services (ILS) \$460,000 to support the work of the South Bay Legal Immigration Services Network. The collaborative is comprised of nine immigration legal service organizations in Santa Clara County, with the goal of improving access to quality immigrant legal services and community education for immigrants and refugees through service coordination, common capacity-building, and project collaboration. These services help immigrants and their families improve their immigration status and become more aware of their individual rights and responsibilities as members of the community. SVCF recognized the work of ILS and other organizations at their annual Legacy Society event on September 5.



**Robert Yabes (second from right), Program Director for Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, receives the award from SVCF on behalf of the ILS team.**



# Restorative Justice Center Helps Adults Change Their Lives for Good

Catholic Charities' Restorative Justice Center helps adults with a criminal background change their lives for the better. The Center takes a more holistic approach to healing, recognizing that program participants often turn to crime, drugs, or alcohol as a result of past challenges or trauma. Through access to various social supports, the program stabilizes lives for recovery and successful reintegration into the community.

**Bridges of Hope** is a faith-based re-entry program. The program provides case management services and faith-based services to men and women coming out of Main Jail and Elmwood Jail. They also help with basic needs and connect participants to additional community services.

**Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together (BEST)** provides case management and social opportunities for young men and women ages 12-24, who live in six local hot spots that have been identified as being highly impacted by gangs and police involvement. The program is based out of Washington United Youth Center.

**PRO-GRIP** provides therapy, intensive case management services, and social opportunities to youth ages 14-21 who are on Juvenile Gang probation. The program is offered throughout Santa Clara County.

**Support and Enhancement Services (SES)** provides therapy, case management services, and social opportunities to youth ages 12-18 who are on Juvenile Probation. The program is also offered throughout Santa Clara County.

**Inmate Services** provides light case management services, referrals to legal services, linkage to reading materials, linkage to eyeglasses, linkage to faith-based services, and linkage to family members in the community are provided to men and women who are at Main Jail or Elmwood Jail.

**Right Directions Program** clients come from prison, jail, and AB109 (Assembly Bill 109 diverts people convicted of certain classes of less serious felonies from state prison to local county jails). Full scope employment services are provided, including Job Readiness/Job Preparation, Job Development, Job Placement, and Job Retention. Tattoo removal is also provided for life threatening, visible tattoos.

**Gender Responsive Opportunities for Women (GROW)** clients come from prison, jail, and AB109. The program provides full scope employment services, including Job Readiness/Job Preparation, Job Development, Job Placement, and Job Retention.

**Probation Employment** – JOBTREK clients come from the probation department. Full scope employment services are provided, including Job Readiness/Job Preparation, Job Development, Job Placement, and Job Retention.

To learn more about the Restorative Justice Center, please visit [www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/health](http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/health). If you would like to make a donation to Catholic Charities' Community Impact fund for Health, please visit [www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/donate](http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/donate).



(L-R) Omar Torres, Rudy Rodriguez, Maya Esparza, Juan Cruz, Cora Tomalinas, Sara Reyes, Potter the Otter, Tam Nguyen, Esmeralda Aceves

## FRANKLIN-MCKINLEY CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE CELEBRATES FAMILY RESOURCE & WELLNESS CENTER GRAND OPENING

Franklin-McKinley Children's Initiative, a program of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, in partnership with FIRST 5 Santa Clara County and the Franklin-McKinley School District (FMSSD) celebrated the grand opening of two new neighborhood resources and support services at Daniel Lairon College Preparatory Academy on September 18. The Seven Trees Family Resource Center works closely with parents and the community to promote their children's development, ensure their children are ready for school, build strong family relationships, and create a connected community. The Wellness Center provides mental health and student support services for children attending FMSSD schools, with community-based services provided by School Linked Services and Uplift Family Services.

## Car Donations Benefit Immigrant & Refugee Integration Services

Each day, Rayi goes to school with a smile. His parents are proud because at the age of 12, it is the first time that he has ever attended school. Diagnosed with down syndrome and cerebral palsy, he was unable to attend school in Afghanistan due to a lack of special education services. But through the help of Catholic Charities' Immigrant & Refugee Integration Services (IRIS) and the Car Donation program, Rayi is enrolled and attending school for the very first time.

IRIS provides displaced families with an array of services, including housing, ESL tutoring, cultural orientation, transportation assistance, job training, referrals to community resources, and case management. These services are made possible through Catholic Charities' Car Donation program. For 17 years, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County has accepted donations of all types of vehicles that directly help families and individuals in need within Silicon Valley onto paths of self-sufficiency.

Rayi is one of a family of eight whose parents greatly value education. His father, Isaad, was a veterinarian and professor in their regional university in Afghanistan. Both parents made an extra effort for their older daughters to attend college and take extracurricular English language classes. Now, Rayi has access to the resources that he needs to learn and thrive.



"I am so happy with the services that Catholic Charities has provided to my family," says Isaad. "My case manager knows so much about my religion and culture. It makes me so surprised, but so happy. The best is that my case manager has helped enroll my children in school, even my 12-year old son with a disability. September is the first time my son will be going to school. Every day he goes with a smile. He loves it!"

Your donations are a part of a community effort to help rebuild lives. Consider donating your working or non-working vehicle to Catholic Charities' Car Donation program. Learn more at [www.cardonationcc.org](http://www.cardonationcc.org) or call (866) 565-5912.

## THE HEALTH TRUST TRANSFERS SEVEN FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES

The Health Trust recently transferred seven Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to Catholic Charities. FRCs are a place-based strategy to strengthen communities by investing in families with young children living in high-risk neighborhoods. FRCs offer parenting and child enrichment classes; screenings for oral health, vision, hearing, and development; health and nutrition information; resource and referral assistance, and more, all free of charge. The Health Trust previously managed six centers and co-managed one site with Catholic Charities before determining the transition as the best alignment for their new strategic plan focusing on health prevention and support among specific populations. Catholic Charities now manages 11 of the 17 FRCs in the County of Santa Clara.





## ON A MISSION TO MAKE THE WORLD – AND THE BAY AREA – A BETTER PLACE

Catholic Charities and Santa Clara University's Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship held the San Francisco Bay Area GSBI® Boost on July 24-26, 2018 in San Jose, California. The Boost was a free, three-day, capacity-building workshop for social entrepreneurs who are positively impacting the lives of those in need in the Bay Area. Seven programs from Catholic Charities participated in the Boost, including Art for Change, Baby Steps, Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning (CORAL), Adult Day Care, Immigration Legal Services, Responsible Landlord Engagement Initiative, and Supportive Housing Services. The Boost was made possible thanks to a grant from Agnieszka Winkler, Vice President of Catholic Charities' Board of Directors. To learn more, please visit <https://www.scu-social-entrepreneurship.org/bayareaboost>.



Bay Area social entrepreneurs attended the San Francisco Bay Area GSBI® Boost, which was sponsored by Catholic Charities and the Miller Center.

## Gather Family and Friends to Serve Hot Meals for Neighbors in Need

Planning a holiday party for residents who live at one of eight affordable Charities Housing sites where Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County offers supportive services is a great way to involve families in the spirit of giving. This is a great activity for 2-3 families to do together. Volunteers provide a home cooked or purchased meal for 50-100 residents and bring food to the affordable housing site ready to serve. For many residents, this dinner may be the only holiday meal that they receive. It may also be the only festive party that they attend this holiday season. This kind of event has become a family tradition for many of our loyal donors. If you would like to gather family and friends to help our neighbors in need during the holidays, please contact Alison Poetsch at (408) 325-5288 or [apoetsch@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:apoetsch@catholiccharitiesscc.org).



## Philanthropy and Volunteerism Inspired by Beloved Son

It is the memory of their beloved son, Joseph Harold LaScola, which inspires and motivates the philanthropy and volunteerism of Joseph A. and Emily LaScola.

"The work of Catholic Charities and local parish outreach programs personify Joseph's way of helping those less fortunate than himself," the LaScolas said.

Catholic Charities is grateful to the LaScolas for their dedication. Their family foundation's recent challenge match secured the largest number of Caritas Society donors in the history of the agency.

"Joseph felt deeply that our Catholic tradition instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first," according to the LaScolas. "We know he walks beside us in our efforts to help the poor."

For information on becoming a Caritas member with Catholic Charities, please contact [apoetsch@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:apoetsch@catholiccharitiesscc.org) or (408) 325-5288.



The Most Reverend Patrick J. McGrath and Susan Lucas Taylor (far right), Chief Development Officer for Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, gratefully receive the LaScola Foundation's generous gift from Emily and Joseph A. LaScola in memory of their son.

## Distinguished Giving Committee Hosts First "Let's Talk" Series Focused on Education

We all know that education is one of the greatest equalizers, the best escape route from a life of poverty. However, research shows that people struggling with poverty are less likely to achieve a college education. In East San Jose, the Franklin-McKinley School District has a population of 7,500 elementary students; 45% are English language learners and 77% are from low socio-economic status. The needs of these students and their families are high and the demands on the school district are great.

On September 10, 2018, Catholic Charities' Distinguished Giving Committee Co-Chairs, Judy Marcus and Mike Pope, hosted a conversation to discuss education for our poverty challenged youth. Juan Cruz, Superintendent of the Franklin-McKinley School District, launched the dialogue and highlighted the long-standing partnership between the school district and Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. For many years, the agency has supported the community with Family Resource Centers, Prevention and Early Intervention Programs, and Academic Support through the CORAL (Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning) after-school program. Thirty guests participated in an intimate dialogue that brought greater understanding of the challenges and needs of poverty challenged students.

The event was the first in a series titled, "Let's Talk," designed to host meaningful conversations about the important issues impacting our community, offering a forum for our distinguished supporters to provide feedback and guidance on the best ways that Catholic Charities can address these issues.

Catholic Charities is committed to moving the needle on poverty for our community, especially for the children that we serve. If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please visit [www.catholiccharitiesscc.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org).



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## DID YOU KNOW?

Catholic Charities and the County of Santa Clara launched a new House Sharing program that matches people willing to rent out a room in their home with people seeking affordable housing. The program is administered by the agency, who will conduct marketing and outreach, facilitate housing agreements, screen House Providers and Renters through background checks, and will provide advice/support to participants. Learn more at [www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/house-sharing-home](http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/house-sharing-home).



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Catholic Charities Voices of Hope Newsletter

# FOOD IS LOVE...AND WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY!



Our staff and volunteers at Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County know too well how difficult it can be for seniors on a fixed income to pay the bills, rent, medication, groceries, and all the things one needs to survive in this valley. To help make things a little more manageable, we provide low-cost hot, nutritious meals to these older neighbors in need at our Eastside Neighborhood Center in East San Jose and at our John XXIII Multiservice Center in downtown San Jose. For many of them, this will be the only hot meal they have that day. Thanks to the big hearts of our staff and volunteers, we have been serving the older generation for more than 54 years. If you can help us feed more seniors by volunteering or gifting us with a donation, please visit [www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/donate](http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/donate).