

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **The Agency**

**\* Do you only serve Catholics?**

Catholic Charities is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation that serves clients regardless of race, ethnicity, income, gender or religious belief.

**\* Where are you located?**

Programs are located throughout Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, situated in areas of the most need.

**\* What do you do?**

Catholic Charities' programs alleviate hunger, strengthen communities, guide children and teens, protect the aging, and assist immigrants and refugees.

### **Programs**

**\* How many programs do you have?**

There are approximately 50 programs in the three counties of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara.

**\* What kinds of programs do you have for youth?**

The agency offers after-school child care, tutoring, a homeless shelter for runaway teens, and a job training and education program for youth and young adults.

**\* What do you do for the homeless?**

We have five shelters in Los Angeles County that help the homeless turn their lives around with mental health referrals and oversight, education, job training, life skills classes and support.

**\* How do you help the hungry?**

Most of the 22 community centers have food pantries. Many centers also help clients apply for CalFresh (food stamps).

**\* What are community centers?**

The centers try to improve impoverished communities by providing food, financial assistance, and life-enhancing classes and services. Financial assistance for rent, utilities and transportation is subject to funding availability and may have geographical restrictions.

**\* Are you using taxpayers' money for illegal immigrants?**

Overall, Catholic Charities helps legal immigrants and refugees to assimilate, learn or improve their English, further their education and pursue job training so that they can be successful contributors to society. We also provide legal assistance to refugees who arrived here, primarily, because they are fleeing violence in their home countries.

**\* How successful are your programs?**

While we provide emergency assistance to many clients, the emphasis of the programs is on achieving long-term improvement in the lives of the individuals and families we help.

## **Getting Involved**

### **\* Do you have any fundraising events/special events?**

There are two corporate special events each year: a golf tournament and a white tie/black tie Christmas Gala. Each Region – and some individual programs – also have their own fundraising events. Contact them directly for more information.

### **\* Do you take car/vehicle donations?**

Yes. You can call 855-370-4483 or go to the How You Can Help section of the Website.

### **\* Do you have volunteers?**

Yes, we have more volunteers than staff. Volunteers are the backbone of the agency.

### **\* Do you need volunteers?**

Always. We need help with everything from assisting with clients, doing clerical work and picking up donations and fundraising.

### **\* I live in \_\_\_\_ and would like to volunteer?**

You can go to the Where We Are section of the website to find out where the services are located. Chances are, there is a program near you. Call Tanya Aldecoa, Director of Volunteers, at (213) 251-3421.