



# The Catalyst

The Newsletter for  
Catholic Charities  
of Santa Barbara County

Summer 2010

## Preventing Hunger & Homelessness

### The Great Opportunity Presented by the Great Recession



*Frank Bognar*  
Regional Director

One of the surprising and remarkable things I've witnessed in this deep economic downturn is how adversity can act as a catalyst for people—helping both individuals and organizations to pull together. Despite the harsh treatment resulting from the downturn, the severe economy has, at the same time, brought out the very best in

people. In numbers I had not seen before, people have demonstrated in words and actions, a deep desire to help families in need. And further, they have put into action—in some of the most creative ways—initiatives to assure that families have sufficient food on the table, are able to stay together in their homes, have clothes and shoes that fit for their children to wear to school, and sufficient heat to keep warm.

Perhaps in better economic times there can be more of a distance between those of us who have what we need and those of us who need assistance—the latter somehow just being “out there somewhere” away

from one's own routine. In this recession, however, I think people, in general, share in a greater sense of vulnerability and a feeling that “we're all in this together.” And that common experience leads to a connectedness among us which, in turn, helps us to focus on what's most important in our lives.

Catholic Charities is often one of the ‘last stops’ in providing safety net services; its resources are finite. Nonetheless, each of its centers in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Lompoc and Santa Maria are alive with unparalleled activity, delivering vital services to unprecedented numbers of people. This is most heartening because, al-

though the amount of services we can provide is finite, what we can provide is a great deal of help that can make an enormous difference in the lives of many—all because people throughout our communities have stepped up far beyond “business as usual” to support local families who are in greatest need.

This issue of *The Catalyst* has, as its focus, the efforts of a community pulling together. It also contains information about the upcoming Silent Angel Dollar for Dollar Match campaign this November—whereby donors can double the impact of their donations to help families stay in their homes.

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

941 Walnut St.  
Carpinteria, CA 93013  
805-684-8621

903 E. Chestnut  
Lompoc, CA 93436  
805-736-6226

609 E. Haley St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103  
805-965-7045

607 W. Main St.  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
805-922-2059

### Mobile Food Distribution Sites

4681 11th St.  
Guadalupe, CA 93434  
805-922-2059

Isla Vista  
6647 El Colegio Road  
Isla Vista, CA 93117  
805-965-7045

4711 Hwy. 166  
New Cuyama, CA 93254  
805-922-2059

Sisquoc  
607 W. Main St.  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
805-922-2059



Courtesy of The Santa Maria Times

*Region-wide*

In 1924 the Santa Barbara Region of Catholic Charities was formed to provide a wide range of human services for all people most in need. Today, Catholic Charities is focused on its mission of preventing hunger and homelessness as it continues to serve people of all faiths, or none. This, the third annual **Partnership In Service Awards Dinner**, was dedicated to our neighbors hardest hit by this economic downturn. Proceeds from this event help finance our programs.

On the evening of June 6th, over 190 persons gathered at the Santa Ynez Valley Marriott to honor the outstanding 28 parish volunteers and their pastors of Santa Barbara County. Bishop Thomas Curry presented certificates of gratitude to these honorees and also recognized the pastors by awarding a commemorative artwork acknowledging the just-end "Year of the Priest." Again, we would like to thank all who joined us and for your ongoing support of the Catholic Charities mission.

*Honorees*

**Pat & Joe Schulte**

San Roque

Rev. Msgr. Michael Jennett

**Lupe Luna-Martinez, Jenny Lafferty**

St. Raphael

Rev. Bruce Correio

**Beverly Grennan, Carmen Torres**

St. Mary of the Assumption

Rev. Riz Carranza

**Leonides "Tita" Zaragoza, Chris Bastian**

Holy Cross

Rev. Ludo De Clippel

**Virginia Rodriguez**

Our Lady of Sorrows

Rev. Paul Devot

**Mariana Contreras, Patty Contreras,**

**Mariana Flores, Daisy Lazcano,**

**Mariana Perez, Kassandra Zuniga**

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Rev. Rafael Marin-Leon

**Robert M. O'Toole**

**Vicente & Julie Rodriguez**

Queen of Angels

Rev. Msgr. John Fitzgerald

**Francisco Ramos**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Rev. Msgr. Stephen Downes

**Luis Trenado, Nancy Dort,**

**Martin & Catherine Garcia**

St. John Neumann

Rev. Lucio Juarez

**Ron & Yvonne Davisson**

St. Joseph

Rev. Adalberto Blanco

**Veronica Crespin**

La Purisima Concepcion

Rev. Thomas Cook

**Fran Cahill** (in memory)

St. Louis de Montfort

Rev. Charles Hofschulte

## *Core Programs & Services Throughout Our Region*

From July 2009 through June 2010, our programs served over 41,000 unduplicated persons and provided more than 15,600 families with critical emergency services designed to prevent hunger and homelessness. Clearly the economic downturn of these past two years has impacted demand for overall services (an increase of 54%) while the number of new clients expanded 37%.

The principal activity continues through the doors of our four Food Pantries and the four Mobile Food Distribution sites in Isla Vista, New Cuyama, Guadalupe and Sisquoc, where qualifying low-income families and individuals can find supplemental and nutritious food at no cost. Additionally, our case-managed clients can qualify to receive rental and utility financial assistance and referral to other agencies for appropriate services.

### ***Client Story***

A single mother with two children, a former client in 2007, recently was diagnosed with cancer and has been receiving chemotherapy treatments. Unable to work because of her illness, she returned last month to tell us she was in arrears with her utility bills and asked for our temporary help. She income requalified, and with her client status reinstated, she received financial assistance for both gas and electric for one month. Arrangements were made for weekly delivery from our Food Pantry for a period of one month and further extended upon re-evaluation of the client's financial circumstances. Receiving these services allowed her to stay current with rental payments, while supplementing food for both she and her children and avoiding utility shut-off.

### ***Client Story***

A new client's (single mother with 4 minor children) oldest daughter was recently diagnosed with Lupus. Mother previously worked for three years but had to quit her job due to her daughter's deteriorating health. The client's unemployment benefits had expired; her Calworks benefits had been frozen due to a series of convoluted issues. Working with the client, the Catholic Charities case manager was able to facilitate a direct resolution of the Calworks issues and funding has been resumed. CERF Funding was used to help stabilize both the rental and utility/water arrears and, further, the co-case manager was able to assist this family with a social security appeal on behalf of the ill daughter, and the financial benefits have been restored.

### ***Funder Stories***

Catholic Charities participated in several new initiatives during this past fiscal year. As noted in our Fall 2009 Edition, the **Santa Barbara Foundation's Community Economic Relief Fund (CERF)** provided an immediate avenue of help with food distribution to 912 north county families seeking first-time assistance; likewise, 150 additional families benefited from funds directed to preventing power shut-offs or evictions.

Beginning November 2009, Catholic Charities has collaborated with Good Samaritan Shelter in both Lompoc and Santa Maria to access new federal dollars available under the **Homeless Prevention Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) Program**. Under the same program we are also working directly with the City of Santa Barbara. This three-year commitment is focused on directing funds to qualified families at risk of losing their housing.

Fully appreciating the downturn's ongoing impact on our fund raising efforts, in mid-October 2009, our three advisory boards committed to organize a year-end dollar-for-dollar matching campaign. Community response was, quite frankly, incredible. The success of the **Silent Angel Match** campaign allowed us to significantly increase our food purchases from the Santa Barbara FoodBank and further supplement our client emergency financial services thereby providing relief to 1,018 additional new families who would not have been served.

Our sponsoring benefactors delighted in knowing that their investment was effectively leveraged and, again, have made it possible to move forward with Silent Angel Match 2010. Kick-off is November 1st and will conclude December 31st.

### ***Client Story***

A single full-time working mother, with children aged 2, 3, and 6, has had her work hours at the school district reduced by 35%. She also lost income when her child support was lowered last year due to the amount of income from her job. Case management worked with her to get an appointment with the child support division and a court date to reinstate her child support. Through the CERF, we were able to help with rental assistance while she revamped her budget and waited for a new court date.





The newsletter for Catholic Charities  
of Santa Barbara County

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Fax: 805-963-2978

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Federal ID #95-1690973

Serving the following communities:



**Member Agency**



United Way of Santa Barbara  
Central Coast United Way

Non-Profit Organization  
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SANTA BARBARA, CA  
Permit #930

## Preventing Hunger & Homelessness



**2010 Region-wide Silent Angel Campaign, November 1 – December 31,  
will be the only direct appeal for the entire year.**

**2010**

May 16  
June 6  
August 6  
September  
November 1  
November  
December 3  
December 31

**Save the Date!**

Annual Pranzo Luncheon  
3rd Annual Partnership in Service Awards  
Annual Golf Tournament (new date)  
Agency Retreat  
Silent Angel Match Kick-off  
Holiday Turkey Drives  
Mistletoe Ball  
Silent Angel Match Concludes

**2010**

Santa Barbara  
Region-wide  
Lompoc  
Region-wide  
Region-wide  
Region-wide  
Santa Barbara  
Region-wide

*For more info, please call your local office listed on page one.*

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