

# The Parable of Backpacks and Shoes!

Do you remember the building anxiety and growing excitement as the summer days of August drew to a close and the undeniable return to school loomed ever closer? Parents celebrated, knowing that the firm hand of the parish nuns would now take over the education of their children. The kids, reluctantly, gave in to the anticipated change from carefree summer play to the prospect of early rising, rigors of the classroom and the dreaded homework. Things haven't changed a whole lot today except that parish nuns are no longer the backbone of a Catholic education.

Catholic Charities

workers know how important it is for students to be ready for school, to feel capable of achieving good grades and to value their education. Our client families, however, face the likelihood that their children may have to start school deprived of basic school supplies and dressed in hand me down and worn clothes. This sets the stage for an unhappy beginning and a

feeling of being less than others.

The members of the "Loaves and Fishes" of St. Jude Parish in Westlake Village understand the needs of these kids as the start of school approached. They provided enough backpacks filled with school supplies to take care of 400 needy children from Moorpark, Oxnard, Thousand Oaks and Ventura.

Jackie and John Treuting have led the "Loaves and Fishes" back-to-school program for several years and are thrilled that their efforts mean so much to these kids. Jackie and John joined Patricia Calderon, Moorpark Program Coordinator, at Kohl's Department Store to enjoy the kids and add their contribution to 100 needy children, who received a new pair of shoes for the first day of school. Patricia used gift cards, donated by a number of donors, to get these kids off on the right foot. ❖



Trying on shoes can be fun for any girl.



A new backpack brings a smile to an appreciative young teen.

# Conejo Valley Bids Farewell to Pat... and Hello to Adela

by Pat Esseff

It was a sad good-bye for clients and colleagues alike. Pat Steiner was the Client Resource Coordinator at the Thousand Oaks office of Catholic Charities for six years. She started as a volunteer in the Ventura office the previous year and found that she liked responding to the various problems that people brought to Catholic Charities. Not only did Pat like it—she was good at it! In those years she touched the life of hundreds of individuals and families.

But Pat knew that Adela Clayburg would do a fine

job as the new Client Resources Coordinator in Thousand Oaks. Adela, too, had started as a volunteer in the Ventura office and understood the programs that Catholic Charities offered. Being bilingual is also a big help. Finishing the rental assistance and Edison program has helped Adela meet our clients and learn the community. By the end of the holiday season, Adela herself will be well seasoned in her new job.

The Conejo Valley has been and continues to be well served by Pat and Adela. Experience, hard work and



Adela Clayburg has a passion to help those in need.

**Catholic Charities  
Ventura County Region  
Board and Staff 2009-10**

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Pat Esseff, *Community Services & OASIS Coord.*  
John Rak, *Resource Development*

**Regional Staff Community Service Centers**  
Patricia Calderon, Moorpark  
Janet DePrima, Oxnard  
Frans Reijerse, Ventura  
Adela Clayburg, Thousand Oaks

**OASIS**  
Monica Arevalo, Moorpark  
Sr. Dolores Bray, CSC, Ventura  
Linda Esparza, Camarillo  
Teresa Griffin, Camarillo  
Anita Weber, Camarillo

**Office Phone Numbers**

Regional Director	643-4784
Development	643-4694 x309
Client Services	496-7061

**Community Service Centers**

Moorpark	529-0720
Oxnard	486-2900
Thousand Oaks	496-1113
Ventura	643-4694

**OASIS**

Camarillo	987-2083
Moorpark	794-5929
Ventura	794-4617

**ADESTE**

Regional Coordinator	643-4760
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**Handicapped**

Coordinator	643-4784
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**Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.**  
Msgr. Gregory A. Cox, *Executive Director*

commitment remain the hallmark of the Thousand Oaks Community Service Center. ❖

# Charitable Gifts Can Generate Income For You

The benefits of planning a gift for charity increase when you utilize one of a number of strategies that generate income for you as well as providing for the charity.

The Charitable Gift Annuity is a great example of how a gift generates income for the donor. This is actually a contract between a donor and a charity that is part charitable gift and part annuity payment to the donor. In addition to the annuity payment, the donor receives a charitable income tax deduction and a portion of each annuity payment may be tax-free. It is generally possible to earn much more from a Charitable Gift Annuity than a bank money market account or CD.

Call John at 805-643-4694 x309 for information on how you can benefit Catholic Charities Ventura County and yourself through a Charitable Gift Annuity. ❖



Catholic Charities of Ventura County  
303 N. Ventura Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93001



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## Coming Events

- November**  
November Mailing Appeal  
Planned Giving
- November 7, 10 am to 3 pm**  
Rummage Sale at Ventura Center
- November 14, 7pm**  
"Late Night Catechism"  
Holy Cross Moorpark K of C,  
Call 529-1397 for Info
- November/December**  
Christmas Adopt a Family & Toy Drive
- December 6th -**  
Third Annual Celebrity Roast with Baseball Hall of Famer, **George "Sparky" Anderson**
- January 31, 2010**  
Ninth Annual Partners in Service Dinner

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# At Home and Independent, With a Little Help

by John Rak

"Honor your father and your mother" was etched in stone during Moses' time as the Fourth Commandment. This commandment has stood as a reminder to all of us to provide love and care for the elderly so that they may enjoy a long life. The OASIS program of Catholic Charities serves about 750 seniors each year with its main goal of keeping them independent and in their homes as long as possible. A recent national survey found that the majority of aged are as happy now as when they were younger. Being in their own home contributes to their well being. Sure, physical strength, lung capacity, the five senses diminish with age but the majority of older people are not senile and are able to engage in their normal activities.

OASIS clients tend to be financially strapped and female. Recently, I visited with a mother and daughter, Elena aged 94 and Helen aged 68, who are living alone with little family support. Elena is blind and confined mostly to her bed while Helen is disabled and deals with a painful malady.

The on-going maintenance around their 60 year old home is a major issue for them. With few financial resources, the cost of repairing or replacing essential things around the home

is a problem. Here is where OASIS staff and volunteers have provided assistance by being an advocate for them. When the roof began to leak and needed repair, Helen appealed to several non-profit and government agencies. She showed me several letters requesting



Helen embraces her 94 year old mother, Elena with love and care. Above right: Keeping Helen and Elena in their home contributes to their well being.

help and said, "OASIS was the only agency that responded and helped get the roof repaired for us". She added, "OASIS arranged for a volunteer to fix the plumbing and sink by my washer. He worked so hard, I was afraid he might hurt himself. But everything works fine now." An

earlier estimated cost from a plumber to do the repair was \$2500.

Elena who spends much of her time in bed was provided a new good quality hospital bed through OASIS' efforts. The birthday and holiday greetings and gifts along with the dependable friendly visits keeps this warm and gentle mother-daughter team in bright spirits. They made me feel more alive just being with them for a few hours. ❖

# 'Lifeline' Brings Peace of Mind and Thanks

Dear Mrs. Griffin,  
Thank you. Thank You. Thank You!  
I am overwhelmed. I am not accustomed to being spoiled. My life was tough. And now look at me! I am really and truly at a loss of words. A while before you had come by, I had this here OASIS assessment call. Do you have enough money to buy food? Can you chew your food? Do you need help dressing yourself? Do you need help with light housework?—or such—

being able to answer with NO to all the questions made me realize how blessed I am indeed.

I explained that my major concern had been that I might die and perhaps be lying dead in the house without anyone knowing it, since all my relatives are thousands of miles away. So the lifeline (you provided) had given me great peace of mind... once more many thanks!

Much Love,  
*an OASIS Client* ❖



Margaret Nixon Pre-Schoolers learn to give.

## Age Does Not Diminish the Heart

by John Rak

It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon as groups of people in twos, threes and fours arrived at the home of Gloria Friedrich-Reed and Jerry Reed in Camarillo. They kept coming, parking their cars along the Camarillo street about a mile above St. Mary Magdalen Church, driven up to the house from their parking spaces in a golf cart or SUV. Most were over 50-years-old and some well over. They were there to celebrate with Bishop Thomas Curry the age old Catholic Mass and enjoy an outdoor meal of barbecue ribs while honoring a very special retired priest, Monsignor John Hughes.

with a resounding "C" while focusing their gaze on the auspicious and inspirational Monsignor John Hughes. Catholic Charities was blessed with the opportunity to honor Monsignor Hughes for his 25 years of support of the OASIS Senior Assistance Program. He expressed his thanks to Frank Donovan's family for Frank's passionate work during the early years of the OASIS Program; and to Gloria Friedrich-Reed for Joseph and Gloria Friedrich's staunch support. Monsignor stressed the need for everyone to find generosity in their hearts to volunteer and become involved. He believes we can all strengthen our own faith by giving of ourselves to others. Please call our OASIS office if you would like to be an OASIS volunteer. Thanks to all who donated or attended the Mass and dinner. ✚



Bishop Curry and Gloria Friedrich-Reed



Monsignor Hughes enjoys the afternoon with some guests.

Let's pose the question: When I see an elderly priest in the church or on the street:

- A. I think the Church is on the decline.
- B. I hope he says the Mass quickly.
- C. I thank God for his fidelity and for all the good he might have done.

I expect that all 120 guests would have responded

## News Flashes

### Board Members

Ed and Mary Ann Decaen are leaving the Board after many years of service. Thanks to Maryann for serving as Board Secretary and spending many volunteer hours at the Saticoy and Cabrillo Village food pantries. Thanks to Ed for his dedication and assistance in our Parish Appeals.

Congratulations to our newly elected Board Members Richard and Janet Maulhardt, Jr.. We are excited to have them join the Board. Anyone interested in learning about what it takes to be a Board Member contact Michael Perry or any current Board Member listed in this Newsletter.

### Thanks to Our Loyal Supporters

Sisters of the Holy Cross, Notre Dame, IN, have approved a \$6,000 grant from their Ministry With the Poor Fund. This supportive order of nuns has contributed to OASIS for over four years with grants. Our senior program has also benefited from the services of two Holy Cross nuns, Sr. Gloria Valdovinos (retired) and Sr. Dolores Bray. Trader Joe's of Ventura continues to provide produce, meats, and groceries to our center twice a month to

supplement our food supplies for the homeless. Cheesecake Factory Restaurant of Thousand Oaks donated over 3,000 cans of soup from a recent collection program to our Thousand Oaks Center. Loaves and Fishes of St. Jude Parish continues to donate grocery and gasoline gift cards. Pentair recently donated \$2,500 to our Moorpark Center and continues to be a generous corporate supporter with a long history of contributions. The Moorpark Acorn Newspaper donated over \$1,500 while the EVFree Church sponsored a booth for the Moorpark Center at the "Country Days" celebration.

### Needs

Thanksgiving/Christmas Food and Toy Programs desperately need donations. If you can donate or adopt a family, call any center for information.

**Do you have a truck or SUV?** Volunteers are needed to pick up donated food and other items in Moorpark and Ventura. Call our centers. Look for our phone number in this Newsletter.

The poor will always be with us, never a more prophetic statement. The Ventura Region provided about 60% more services in fiscal year 2009 versus fiscal year 2008—115,000 services versus 72,000 services. Can you help us?

*One man gives freely,  
yet gains even more;  
another withholds  
unduly, but comes to  
poverty. A generous  
man will prosper; he  
who refreshes others  
will himself  
be refreshed.*  
Proverbs 11:24-25

# Help OASIS Stay Strong

Rosa didn't want help....she just wanted her grandchildren around her bedside when she died. Rosa's Client Resources Coordinator, Monica, had to remind Rosa that she was not dying, she had a terrible tooth ache and a lot of unpaid bills—but she was not dying. Monica rallied Rosa's family and her son took her to his dentist. Monica explained some of Rosa's worries to her adult children and Rosa's family adjusted their schedule to visit with Rosa each week and help with some of her expenses.



Getting to the Doctor and the grocery store became a huge production for Alma. Being in a wheelchair allowed Alma some independence but getting in and out of the house was exhausting work. Sr. Dolores, Alma's Client Resources Coordinator, contacted her trusty ramp-builder volunteer and OASIS paid for the materials. Alma now can visit her friends in the mobile home park, make her Doctor appointments and go to Church.

Hank is a former Marine and very independent. When he could no longer drive, Hank became depressed. Anita, the Volunteer Coordinator, found a Friendly Visitor who enjoys playing cards as much as Hank does. Although OASIS has made arrangements for Hank to have home delivered meals and a grocery shopping service, his Friendly Visitor has restored Hank's energy.



Alice has been attached to her long oxygen cord for almost 2 years. She can move around her apartment and take care of her bathroom needs with no assistance.

OASIS arranged for Alice to have an in-home support worker who cleans her apartment and washes her clothes twice a month. OASIS also provides her Ensure and adult incontinence supplies when her money is low. Alice is 74 and has been an OASIS client for about 4 years.

Gertrude is an 83 year old widow. Her SSI has gone from \$870 to \$850. She is reasonably healthy but has a lot of dental problems. OASIS used \$500.00 of donation money to repair and realign her dentures. Gertrude now enjoys her own cooking and the Many Meals Monday dinner at Saint Mary Magdalen. Gertrude has had an OASIS Friendly Visitor for the past 2 years.



## Community Scrapbook



- Photo descriptions (from top left):
1. Eight women of the Esseff Family gather at the Angels of Charity Luncheon where Pat Esseff was honored for her dedicated service to Catholic Charities.
  2. Bishop Thomas Curry presides at an outdoor mass with co-celebrants Msgr. John Hughes, Fr. Jarlath Dolan and Fr. Leon Hutton.
  3. Volunteers prepare food basket for clients at the Moorpark Food Pantry.
  4. Two volunteers, and Hal Fulkerson and Frans Riejerse pick up food donated through the USPS food drive.
  5. Two young girls come with mom to the Thousand Oaks Center to pick up a school backpack.
  6. John & Jackie Treuting of St. Jude Parish join Patricia Calderon at Kohl's to contribute and enjoy the "Shoes for Kids" program.
  7. Younger brother carries two school backpacks; one for his handicap brother and the other for himself.