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 A new backpack brings a smile to children may have to

an appreciative young teen. 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



Trying on shoes can be fun for any girl.

Jackie and John Treuting have led the "Loaves and Fishes" backto-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.

Conejo Valley Bids Farewell to Pat... and Hello to Adela by Pat Esseff

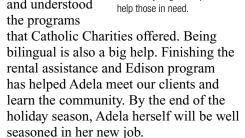
Tt was a sad good-bye for clients and **L**colleagues alike. Pat Steiner was the Client Resource Coordinator at the Thousand Oaks office of Catholic Charities for six years. She started as a volunteer in the Ventura office the previous year and found that she liked responding to the various problems that



Pat Steiner will be spending more time with her grandchil-

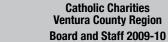
job as the new Client Resources Coordinator in Thousand Oaks. Adela, too, had volunteer in the Ventura office and understood

started as a the programs



Adela Clayburg has a passion to

But Pat knew The Conejo Valley has been and that Adela Clayburg continues to be well served by Pat and would do a fine Adela. Experience, hard work and



Ventura County Regional Board

Dan Peate, President Maria Peate Michael Perry, Regional Director / Executive V.P.

George Esseff Jr., Vice President Sherrie Esseff Dr. Mary Ellen Cosenza

Scott Daily Deacon Dick and Franca Dornan Michael Ford, Esq.

Brian and Diana Hill Gordon and Deena Huckestein Ron and Kateri Lawson James and Cynthia Lloyd-Butler Richard and Janet Maulhardt, Jr.

Ralph and Judi Roussey

Fr. Dave Heney

Regional Management Team

Michael Perry, M.A., Director Frances Miramontez, ADESTE Coordinator 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

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

Office Phone Numbers

643-4784
643-4694 x309
496-7061

Community Service Centers

Moorpark	529-07/20
Oxnard	486-2900
Thousand Oaks	496-1113
Ventura	643-4694

987-2083 794-5929 Moorpark Ventura 794-4617

ADESTE

643-4760 Regional Coordinator

Coordinator 643-4784

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

Msgr. Gregory A. Cox, Executive Director

commitment remain the hallmark of the Thousand Oaks Community Service Center. 4

Charitable Gifts Catholic Charities of Ventura County 303 N. Ventura Avenue Ventura, CA 93001 **Can Generate Income For You**

The benefits of planning a gift for **I** 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.

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"To give alms is a work greater than miracles. To feed the hungry in the name of Christ is a work greater than raising the dead in Christ's name. When you work miracles, you are God's debtor: when you give alms, God is your debtor. St. John Chrysostom



Margaret Nixon Pre-Schoolers learn to give.

Non-Profit Ora. **U.S. Postage** PAID Permit No. 423 Oxnard, CA



The Miracle of Faith From the Desk of the Director, Michael Perry

Twas sitting at my desk pondering the **■** details of my musings, remembering the story of the "Stone Soup." A story about a man with nothing but a shiny stone in his pocket; walking into a village on a cold evening. He found a place off of a cobblestone street that led into town, near a stream to build a small fire. As others gathered to share the warmth of the fire, he saw a large pot. He rinsed the pot, filled it with water and sat it on the fire. Taking the stone from his pocket, another man asked what he intended to do with the stone. "I am going to make stone soup," he said. Then he dropped the stone into the simmering water. The man continued, "It is all I have." An older woman, who had stopped to be warmed by the growing fire, disappeared and soon returned with three small potatoes, dropping them into the boiling water. Soon others walked up to the pot, dropping in more vegetables and meat.

Drawing the parallel of this story to our food pantries and the growing

demand to do more with less, I began to wonder how much longer we

can rely on our stones to turn into soup for our neighbors. In mid thought, I glanced to the door of my office that leads to the front of the building and saw a row of small children sitting outside leaning against the door and windows. As I walked to the door to investigate, I noticed that each child was sitting with a can of food between their knees. The children were obviously patiently waiting for instructions from an adult

Within minutes, the children paraded single file into the building and over to the pantry shelves, each placing their can of food proudly. On this particular day, we can place the stones back into our pockets thanks to the donations from the local Margaret Nixon Pre-School in West Ventura, led by their teacher Denise. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you who continue to be our miracle of faith. 4



Coming Events

November November Mailing Appeal Planned Giving

November 7, 10 am to 3 pm Rummage Sale at Ventura

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

Inside

Age Does Not Diminish the

News Flashes

Help OASIS Stay Strong Community Scrapbook Backpacks and Shoes Conejo Valley Changes Charitiable Gifts Generate Income Miracle of Faith

At Home and Independent, With a Little Help **66T** Tonor your father and your mother" was

Tetched 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.

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

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 vear 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



requesting 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! 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 suchbeing able to answer with NO to all the questions made me realize how blessed I am indeed

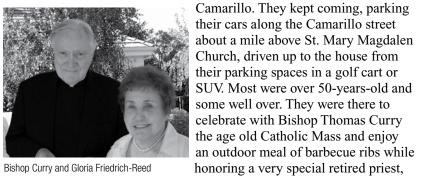
I explained that my major concern had been that I might die and perhaps be lying dead in the house without anyone knowing it, since all my relatives are thousands of miles away. So the lifeline (you provided) had given me great peace of mind... once more many thanks!

Much Love, an OASIS Client №

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



Monsignor John Hughes.

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 or attended the Mass and dinner. &

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



to Gloria Friedrich-Reed for Joseph and Gloria Wonsignor Hughes enjoys the afternoon with some guests.

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. \$\mathscr{P}\$

Help OASIS Stay Strong

Rosa didn't want help....she just wanted her grandchildren around her bedside when she died. grandchildren Resources Coordinator, Monica, had Rosa's Client Resources

Rosa's Client Resources of Rosa's Client Resources to remind Rosa that she was not dying, she had a terrible tooth ache and a lot of unpaid tooth ache and Rosa's family and Monica rallied Rosa's family and her son took her to his dentist. Her son took her to his dentist her son took her to his dentist. Honica explained some of 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 box 5

park, make her Doctor appointments and go to Church.

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 prophetical 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?

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. have an in-home support attached to the support and washes her

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 incontinent 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.



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.
- Bisnop Thomas Curry presides at an outdoor mass with co-celebrants Msgr. John Hughes, Fr. Janath Dolan and Fr. Leol
 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.

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

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