



**Catholic Charities**  
of Los Angeles, Inc.

# The Sage

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## Gary Krauss Honored for his Service to Others

**G**ary Krauss has taken many turns on the road of life leading him to a fulfilling vocation and unexpected place to call home.

After serving in Vietnam, Mr. Krauss “took the right turn” and found a job at Frazee Paint Company where he rose through the ranks to become vice president of sales. There, he also met Marjorie, who would become his wife and spiritual inspiration.

“Marjorie was an active Catholic and I followed her to church,” said Mr. Krauss. After becoming Catholic in the early 1980s, Mr. Krauss was involved in his parish community and served on the Archdiocesan stewardship committee. “I really began to understand what sharing time, treasure and talent meant,” he reflected.

In the early 1990s, the Krausses made a U turn. Dedicated to serving the community, the couple decided that one of them would work, while the other volunteered. “Living in a large house with a big income and no children didn’t make sense,” Mr. Krauss explained.

The Krausses sold their suburban home and moved into a condominium in Claremont, where Mrs. Krauss volunteered while Mr. Krauss continued at Frazee. Then, in 1991, Mr. Krauss left his employment and sought a vocation in the community while Mrs. Krauss returned to nursing.

Mr. Krauss founded the Ascending Lights Leadership Network, a charity focused on encouraging youth from poor parishes and congregations in the greater Los Angeles area to become skilled Christian leaders. At that point, Mr. and Mrs. Krauss made another move, this time to a Los Angeles barrio near Dodger Stadium.



*Gary Krauss is the founder and President of the Ascending Lights Leadership Network and an advisory board member of Catholic Charities’ San Gabriel Region.*

“The right thing to do to serve this program was to move to the inner city,” explained Mr. Krauss. “Now we live in the environment we serve, and that’s important.”

For his unwavering efforts to share his time, treasure and talent with the community, Mr. Krauss will be honored at this year’s San Gabriel Region Awards Night to be held on Monday, May 17 at the Quiet Canon in Montebello. Mr. Krauss serves on the San Gabriel Region advisory board in addition to supporting some of Catholic Charities’ special events, such as the agency’s annual golf tournament.

For more information about the San Gabriel Region’s Awards Night, please contact Mary Romero, Regional Director, at (323) 266-3130. ❀

## CYO Basketball Championships Held at Staples Center

**I**n front of 900 enthusiastic fans in two exciting games, the top CYO Girls’ and Boys’ Basketball teams battled for the championship at Staples Center in Los Angeles.

In the girls’ game, St. Charles Borromeo of North Hollywood rode a strong second half performance to a victory over Beatitudes of Our Lord of La Mirada. Leading 18-15 at halftime, St. Charles expanded their lead with an effective fast break offense.

On the boys’ side, St. Jane Frances of North Hollywood outlasted St. Benedict of Montebello 62-56 in overtime. Both teams entered the game undefeated and mostly unchallenged but it was clear from early on that this game would be different. A seesaw battle throughout, St. Benedict tied the game on two late free throws forcing the extra period. St. Jane Frances scored the first two baskets in overtime to take control, and hung on with clutch free throws in the closing minute. Both teams played excellent games.

In the third place games, the girls of Sacred Heart of Covina defeated St. Jerome of Westchester and the boys of American Martyrs of Manhattan Beach topped St. Raymond of Downey. ❀

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# Message from the Executive Director

Rev. Monsignor Gregory A. Cox

In 1960, 5% of children were born out of wedlock in the United States. Recent statistics indicate that nearly 40% of children born annually are delivered out of wedlock according to data released by the National Center for Health Statistic. The 1.7 million out-of-wedlock births, of 4.3 million total births, marked a more than 25% increase from the five years before.

Statistics such as these, which include, for the second year in a row, an increase in teen pregnancies, after a 14 year decline, leave many people concerned. Society has to wonder about the children born to unwed parents – about the disadvantage they often face, including increased likelihood of poverty and greater high school dropout rates.

As a country, we need to focus on issues like education, employment, health care, immigration, fiscal responsibility, poverty, crime, national defense and terrorism. A subject that is often forgotten in our discussions is children in family life. We need systems in place that support a husband and wife in their relationship to each other and their children.

Catholic Charities provides programs for children who, through no fault of their own, have encountered difficulties in their lives. Our Angel's Flight program provides a safe sanctuary for runaway youth under the age of 18. The goal of the program is to reunite youth with their families or to refer them to a licensed group home or foster care setting. Adeste is another Catholic Charities program that serves children. This program provides quality, low cost before- and after-school care for children of working parents. These services enhance their social-emotional, physical, cognitive and language developmental skills.

Catholic Charities is grateful to our donors who enable us to reach out to families with services that support their efforts to address the many challenges of every day life. ❖

## Santa Barbara Region Helps Many with Emergency Assistance

The Santa Barbara Region of Catholic Charities serves the cities of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Lompoc and Santa Maria with food pantries, financial assistance, case management, counseling and services for the elderly. There is much poverty, little industry and few jobs in these communities.

In Lompoc, for instance, "Diana," a single mother of three young children, recently had her work hours at the school district reduced by 35% because of budget cuts. Last year, her child support had been reduced because of her income from her job; but with reduced hours, she needed more income to make ends meet.

Diana found her way to Catholic Charities' Lompoc Community Services Center where her case manager was able to obtain a court date to reinstate a higher level of child support. Her case manager is also helping Diana with emergency rental assistance until the child support is reinstated. Diana is grateful, and much relieved, to receive this support at this dire time. She can now relax and enjoy life with her children, knowing they have food and a roof over their heads.

The community centers throughout the Santa Barbara Region rely on both private and public funding to meet the basic needs of community residents. Diana and her family were helped by funding from the Santa Barbara Foundation, a private funder that invests in Santa Barbara and surrounding communities. ❖



Fourteenth Annual  
Catholic Charities Golf Tournament

Monday, June 14, 2010



Register Today!  
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(Herlita)

# St. Mary Medical Center Offers Healthcare to the Homeless

Vital signs, blood pressure, insulin and weight are just a few health indicators that will be monitored for individuals and families, who are now or were formerly homeless, at Catholic Charities' Oasis Community Center in Long Beach.

The Emergency Department/Trauma Services and the Disaster Resource Center of St. Mary Medical Center in Long Beach have partnered with Catholic Charities' Oasis to offer monthly exams to Oasis clients. St. Mary's will also present educational seminars on topics such as child health, injury prevention and teen safety.

"We are delighted to have this collaboration with St. Mary Medical Center," said Anna Totta, San Pedro Regional Director. "It is a well-known fact that children and adults who are homeless are more at risk for medical problems than the typical population. This partnership gives our clients access to quality medical care, at no charge."

Oasis Community Center, a program of Catholic Charities' San Pedro Region, is part of the Villages at Cabrillo, a community in Long Beach that is home to more than 1,000 individuals and families who live there with various agencies providing humanitarian services for the homeless. Those who live at the Villages now have one more ally on their side. ❖



Employees of St. Mary Medical Center provide monthly exams for homeless clients at Oasis.

## Students Take Action to Alleviate Hunger and Homelessness

The students of St. Rita School in Sierra Madre are serious about helping individuals in need. When the school received a letter from Catholic Charities' San Gabriel Region explaining the severity of hunger and homelessness in Los Angeles, the students responded with an outpouring of generosity.



Students accept award for school's efforts to help Catholic Charities serve its clients.

Sara Landis, who leads Religious Education at the school and has been emphasizing the reality of poverty on the students' home turf, helped the student body organize an activity for every day of National Hunger and Homelessness Week. After Moola Monday, T-Shirt Tuesday, Warm-Up Wednesday, Toiletry Thursday and Footsie Friday, the students donated a truckload of goods and over \$700 to Catholic Charities for distribution in the San Gabriel Region.

These resources helped families living in their vehicles, chronically homeless individuals and job-seekers. Mary Romero, San Gabriel Regional Director, stated, "This winter was far less bleak than it could have been for hundreds of individuals in need, thanks to the compassionate efforts of St. Rita's students and staff." ❖

### YOU CAN MAKE YOUR GENEROSITY PERMANENT

The good work that your giving does for Catholic Charities can live on beyond your lifetime.

**You can endow your annual gifts through a bequest.**

Invested prudently in our Fund for the Future endowment, your bequest will earn income every year that we will use to continue the support that you are providing us now.

Then, every year - permanently! - a gift will be made in your name to Catholic Charities.

It's a satisfying, foresighted gift, and it's easy to set up. We'll be happy to give you more information. Please contact Alexandria (Sandi) Arnold, Director of Resource Development, at [sarnold@CatholicCharitiesLA.org](mailto:sarnold@CatholicCharitiesLA.org) or (213) 251-3495.



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For more information on making significant gifts that don't affect your cashflow now, visit our easy-to-use Web site at [www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org/plannedgiving](http://www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org/plannedgiving).

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*Mahar House Community Center, in Wilmington, helps families get back on their feet.*



## Guadalupe Center Dedicates Garden to an Unforgettable Volunteer

Catholic Charities' Guadalupe Community Center recently dedicated a garden in memory of tireless volunteer Diane Casey, a vibrant woman who brought laughter wherever she went.

Diane was an active advisory board member of the center, in addition to happily bagging groceries for clients at the Loaves & Fishes food pantry and engaging with the children in Guadalupe's recreation program. Diane's belief in the inherent dignity of every person was evident in the way she treated others. As a mother of three boys, she brought her sons and their friends from St. Mel's parish in Woodland Hills to play basketball with the young clients at Guadalupe Center every week. Margaret Pontius, longtime program manager at Guadalupe, said that it was wonderful to see children from such disparate backgrounds talking, laughing, sharing and playing together.

As part of the dedication, Diane's sons and her husband Ed planted a tree among the white roses and other flowers in the new garden. With a mixture of joy and sadness, many family members, friends, staff and volunteers attended the dedication. Diane's parents, Jane and William Twomey, and her sisters, Jennifer and Gail, were present, too. That so many people gathered in the garden for the moving ceremony is a testimony to Diane's lovely heart and infectious happiness.

The garden will remind all who visit, work and volunteer at the Guadalupe Center of Diane Casey, a woman who gave of herself with love, laughter and sincerity. ❖



*The Casey family, with San Fernando Regional Director Moeed Khan (left), holds a plaque in memory of Diane.*