



“Color Care Across America” Provides Transformation for Project Achieve

Project Achieve, a Catholic Charities’ emergency homeless shelter in Long Beach, was recently selected to receive an interior painting of the shelter from the “Color Care Across America” program.



Second year apprentice painters with Los Angeles Painting & Finishing Contractors Association, under the direction of Jesus Fernandez, donated their time to “spruce up” the Project Achieve shelter.

“Color Care Across America” is a partnership between Benjamin Moore paint company and the United States Conference of Mayors. This 50-day undertaking, launched on September 21, made its way to Project Achieve on October 7 and 8. The program’s goal is to paint 51 shelters in 50 states, in 50 days, using color to brighten people’s spirits. The power of color can be transformative and Benjamin Moore Paint Company understands how to use color to elicit positive emotions.

The transformation at Project Achieve is remarkable. “This is a great boon for us and has saved us thousands of dollars,” said Tricia Mora, Project Achieve Manager. ❀

OASIS Program Offers Companionship to Seniors

Catholic Charities’ Older Adult Services and Intervention System (OASIS) clients in Ventura County consider themselves fortunate to know Sister Dolores Bray, Client Resource Coordinator, and her array of enthusiastic volunteers. Sister Dolores inspires everyone with her compassionate, caring manner in dealing with her lonely senior clients.



Sr. Dolores Bray leads her OASIS volunteers with enthusiasm and grace.

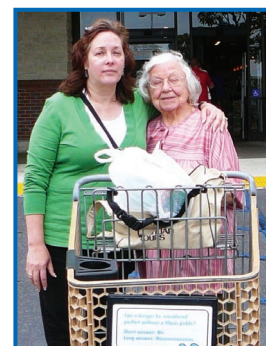
With over 40 years of active service for her religious community, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Sister Dolores continues her ministry today by serving the elderly and motivating her volunteers.

Mary Szabo is one such volunteer. Mary is married and lives in Ventura. She achieves her sense of living the Gospel by

working with Sister Dolores and being a “friendly helper” to several OASIS clients. Mary recently spoke of her 91 year old client Rita. Rita, who is legally blind, has several children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, but none of her family lives near her.

In spite of her difficulties, Rita has an upbeat, positive attitude. Rita and Mary spend their time together doing simple things like reading the mail, shopping for groceries, getting out to pay the water bill and visiting the bank.

One of Rita’s favorite things to do is to stop for donuts on the trek out of her house. Mary’s visits stave off loneliness, bring happiness, and help Rita take care of practical living matters. OASIS helps its elderly clients, like Rita, to enjoy life in the moment and maintain their independence. ❀



Mary Szabo, volunteer, takes Rita shopping for weekly groceries.

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Message from the Executive Director, Monsignor Gregory A. Cox

The brilliant Augustine was born in North Africa. His father gave him the best possible education; but, unfortunately, his youthful years were marked by licentious living. He was baptized in 384 at Milan and eventually met Saint Ambrose, bishop of Milan. Under his tutorage Augustine became one of the great leaders of the Church.

Augustine's late conversion provided him the opportunity to grow in his love for God and others. His faith gave new meaning to his life. God's outreach to him was an example for him to reach out to others. He once said, "I have read in Plato and Cicero sayings that are very wise and very beautiful; but I never read in either of them: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Catholic Charities, during these difficult economic times, has eased the emotional burden of individuals and families by offering 1,248,000 services to 289,000 clients in the past year. The assistance given to our clients included food, shelter, job placement, child day care, computer training and case management. Over 14,000 bed nights were furnished to individuals and families who needed housing and approximately 30,000 jobs were provided to those who were unemployed.

The Board, staff and volunteers continue to serve those in greatest need during these challenging times. What inspired St. Augustine, many years ago, is what drives Catholic Charities today, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." ❖



Support the annual Christmas Parties hosted by Catholic Charities' community centers to benefit needy children and families in the most impoverished neighborhoods of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Please check **"Christmas Parties"** on the enclosed remit envelope and include your contribution, if you would like to support the parties.

Your kindness will positively impact the lives of the children who have so little. Thank you!

Gifts of Stock and Appreciated Assets

Have your stocks gone up this year? Or down?

(Either way, you can use them to make a gift to Catholic Charities of Los Angeles)

Time for a year-end review of your portfolio? Remember the benefits of using securities to make a gift to Catholic Charities.

- If you use appreciated stock instead of cash to fund your gift to us, you'll get a charitable deduction for the stock's full, current market value and you'll face no liability for capital gains. *You'll buy low and give high!*
- If you hold stock that declined in value this year, we suggest a two-step process to ease the pain. First, sell the stock and claim the resulting tax loss; then donate the proceeds to Catholic Charities for an additional tax deduction.
- You can freeze the value of stocks you fear may decline in the new year by contributing them in return for a charitable gift annuity. Your annuity will be based on the value of the securities at the time you donate them. And, you'll gain assurance of stable, lifetime payments in return for your gift.

To learn more, visit: www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org/How You Can Help/Plan Your Gift/Gifts Anyone Can Afford/ then click on "appreciated securities."



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Children at Mahar House Hold Art Exhibit

Mahar House is one of Catholic Charities' 13 community centers in Los Angeles County. Daniel Perez, an artist living in Wilmington, and his wife Lissette recently came to Catholic Charities' Mahar House to "give back" to their community by teaching the children of Mahar about art.



The artists of Mahar House pose by their creations.

"Light and dark, light and dark," Daniel emphasized to the children. They practiced with the light and they practiced with the dark. The children had fun experimenting with light and dark, shading and lines, depth and perception, and discovering their own styles. The children, in fact, enjoyed their art lessons so much that they decided to hold an art exhibit to display their best work.

The staff and budding artists of Mahar House worked hard to set up the art so that visitors could walk by and reflect on each piece. When the day of the exhibit arrived, the children gracefully gave tours to the guests, including Ricardo Hong, from Mayor Villaraigosa's office, Estrella Cantazarite-Sepulveda, from the Community Development Department of the City of Los Angeles; and Jose Bernal, a Mahar House alumnus and advisory board Member. Parents and volunteers brought some tasty treats to top off the reception. The children not only learned lessons in art, but also discovered how to share their work with the public.



Anna Totta, Regional Director, and Violeta Unzueta, former employee, stand by the children's art.

Charities' job at Mahar House for another life adventure, said, "The children did a great job. I love these children. My heart will always be here." ❖

Teen artist at Mahar House looks forward to college via Dream Act

A client of Catholic Charities' Mahar House in the San Pedro Region, Luis Flores, 17, does not know how he inherited his artistic talent. No one in his family has shown a talent for art, but Luis is a natural. Prior to joining the Urban Arts Center, a local arts education collaborative, he had taken only one art class and he had only done sketches before painting a mural for Mahar House.



Luis Flores stands by his first mural, which he painted at Mahar House. The mural reflects his neighborhood near the Vincent Thomas Bridge by the Port of Los Angeles.

Luis and his family came to the United States when he was six. Their undocumented citizenship status has been a burden and Luis was not sure what kind of life he could lead in the future.

Luis realizes he is artistically talented and wants to pursue his passion for art. "My dream," he says, "is to become a muralist or an art teacher." He knows that he needs to attend college or art school to achieve this goal and it is looking like his aspiration will become a reality soon. With the recent passage of the Dream Act in California, Luis will qualify for private scholarships and loans because the Dream Act allows students who are not legal citizens to receive public grants and loans.

Meanwhile, Luis is studying hard in high school and working on his art. He said recently, "I believe that dreams can come true." ❖

DONATE THAT OLD CAR! IT CAN WORK MIRACLES!



It's Easy! Catholic Charities will arrange to sell your car and the proceeds will help those in need.

Call toll free: (855) 370-4483 or visit www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org and click on the car icon on the Home Page.

Intern Credits Youth Employment Program for Work Skills

Galia Alba joined Catholic Charities' Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services' (AYE) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program two years after the Alba family had moved from Bolivia in search of a better future for their children. While in Bolivia, Galia had learned the English language, allowing her to smoothly transition to the new environment and culture and subsequently earn a high school diploma.

While enrolled in the AYE internship program, her mentor, Dinessa Herrera, a program coordinator, recognized Galia's strong interpersonal skills and assigned her to Barragan's Restaurant so she could further sharpen her ability to interact with others. Galia enjoyed her internship and learned a lot about the food service industry. The reciprocity that exists in the AYE program between the interns and the participating business community enables interns to gain valuable employment skills while supplementing the workforce at no cost to the business.

The work experience prepared Galia for her future job search, taught her how to earn income, and begin a modest savings plan for college. She is confident in her search for a part-time job to support her as she starts college at Cal Poly Pomona to pursue an Industrial Engineering degree.

About the AYE-WIA Internship Program Galia says, "I recommend AYE to all youth who want to gain work experience and need economic help. The AYE Internship changed my life." ❖



Young woman interns at Barragan's Restaurant.



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