



San Gabriel Region Provides Hope for Pomona Family

Having your whole family at the brink of homelessness is devastating. This was true for a Pomona household that included six children, two of whom were disabled. The father had hernia surgery. After he was cleared to return to work as an LVN, he discovered that his position had been filled. He had also been placed on inactive status. His employer offered him minimal hours, but would not lay him off. As a result, he could not apply for unemployment benefits. Their household income consisted of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) for his disabled children.

The family fell behind with the rent and utility bills. But Catholic Charities' San Gabriel Region provided them with three months' rental assistance through a special program with the City of Pomona. Through case management, they also helped the family to pay their utility bills through Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas programs.

At a follow-up visit, Catholic Charities' staff were happy to learn that the father's hours were back to 40 hours per week, and that the family was thriving. The family was deeply grateful for Catholic Charities' assistance in their time of need.

For more information about services provided in the San Gabriel Region, contact Mary Romero, Regional Director at (323) 266-3130. ❀

Client Receives Help from Gatekeeper Project

Anne Tibbe, a Catholic Charities' Gatekeeper Project client since 1992, has benefited greatly from the San Pedro Region. The Gatekeeper Project, a friendly visitor program, brings food, utility assistance and taxi vouchers to the frail elderly, and offers case management services for clients with special needs.



Client Anne Tibbe speaks with Gatekeeper Project caseworker about her application.

After the death of her husband and with five children to raise, Anne moved to Long Beach in 1992 and worked as a part-time sales representative, doing food demonstrations in stores. She was unable to provide adequately for her family, but was aided by Catholic Charities' Long Beach Community Services Center's Gatekeeper Project.

Anne developed a disability that gradually progressed over the years from the physical challenges of her jobs. She applied for disability benefits that ended in January 1993, underwent surgery and retired in 1995.

After retiring, Anne's only income was from Social Security benefits, which was not enough to pay for her medication and other bills. While she was in the hospital she was advised of other services that Catholic Charities provides.

With Catholic Charities' support, Anne applied and received her Supplemental Security Income (SSI), moved to affordable housing, was assisted with medical expenses, and received monthly food services. In 2008, her SSI benefits ended and her only source of income was from Social Security. The Gatekeeper Project of Catholic Charities currently supplies her with monthly food deliveries. At 86 years old, Anne appreciates those benefits more than ever.

"Catholic Charities treated me like a human being. Because of the services I received from Catholic Charities in the most difficult time of my life, I felt my family was cared for, especially my children. My hope was renewed," said Anne. For more information about programs in the San Pedro Region, call (562) 591-1641. ❀

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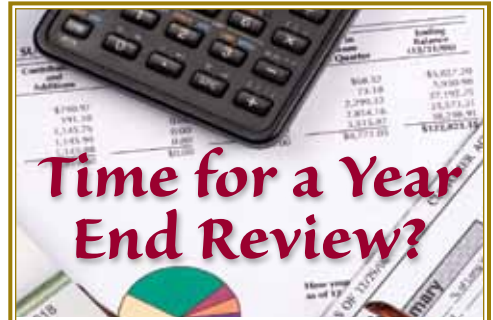
Message from the Executive Director, Monsignor Gregory A. Cox

Thomas à Kempis, a medieval Christian writer, is best remembered for his devotional classic *Imitation of Christ*. He entered the Augustinian monastery of Mount St. Agnes, near Zwolle in the Netherlands, about 1400. In 1425, he became a superior there. He once said, "He who loves with purity considers not the gift of the lover, but the love of the giver."

During these challenging economic times, Catholic Charities is fortunate to have managers, staff, volunteers and benefactors who serve the unemployed and underemployed in our Archdiocese. With the unemployment rate in our communities hovering at 10.7%, we need to reach out to those suffering by giving them food, clothing and housing assistance. Our generous benefactors provide the resources for us to meet the overwhelming needs of our clients.

Struggling families and individuals not only seek the services of Catholic Charities but also our encouragement. We are privileged to be the hands and heart of God to those we serve. Kindness and respect for the suffering are part of the culture at our community centers. Last year, we served 258,000 clients with over 980,000 services. I salute all involved in assisting others during this economic earthquake in which, the foundations of people's lives have been shaken. I especially commend the thoughtful spirit in which individuals are treated at our facilities.

May those who come through the doors of Catholic Charities experience the words of Thomas à Kempis, "He who loves with purity considers not the gift of the lover, but the love of the giver." ❖



Include Us in Your Planning.

As we approach year-end, remember that there's still time to lower your tax bill through a gift to Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

Your tax deduction will equal the full value of your gift to us. If you give appreciated securities, you'll get the additional benefit of using an asset that costs less than the deduction it will return, with no capital gains liability.

This is also a good time to review your estate planning. If you update your will, remember the benefits of a bequest to Catholic Charities. You'll be building our future financial strength without affecting your current assets or cash flow.

To learn more, please contact Alexandria "Sandi" Arnold, Chief Development and Communications Officer, at sarnold@CatholicCharitiesLA.org or (213) 251-3495.

(Not intended as legal, tax, or investment advice.)

Save This Date

Catholic Charities' annual City of Angels Christmas Gala will be held on Friday, December 7, 2012 at The California Club in downtown Los Angeles. The Gala will honor the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Investees of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, and the Order of St. Gregory the Great. Highlights of the evening will include a special vocal performance by the Norbertine Fathers of St. Michael's Abbey. Proceeds will benefit the poor children and families served by the community centers of Catholic Charities.

For more information about the Gala, please contact Alexandria "Sandi" Arnold, Chief Development and Communications Officer, at sarnold@CatholicCharitiesLA.org or (213) 251-3495.



DONATE THAT OLD CAR!

It's Easy! Help Catholic Charities to end hunger and homelessness by donating your old car. In return, you get a tax benefit for your contribution and your gift will help us in caring for thousands of needy people.

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

Brownson House Offers New Summer Program

Through the generous grant from the Dan Murphy Foundation and the Estate of Emelia Marie Kimball, Catholic Charities' Brownson House offered a new summer program for boys and girls that focused on theatre, arts/crafts and science. Currently, Brownson House, a San Gabriel Region Community Center in East Los Angeles, provides food, clothing and temporary shelter to low income families, and also conducts summer programs for children, ages 7-12.

The five-week program was held from 12:00 to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with one field trip every week. The curriculum included theatre genres such as



Photos of Star Performers at Brownson House's summer youth program are displayed.

puppetry, Readers' Theatre, and Musical Theatre. The boys and girls engaged in improvisational games and exercises that stimulated their imaginations and created for them a greater passion for the arts.

Field trips were a highlight of the summer program. The children attended Bob Baker's Puppet Theatre. They explored space and gazed at the stars at the Griffith Observatory.

They also learned about science at the Discovery Science Museum in Santa Ana and enjoyed a barbecue at the Santa Fe Dam, in conjunction with the Park School, Alhambra, summer program. A trip to Knott's Berry Farm concluded the field trips.

At the end of the five-week program, the children presented a variety show and held an open house for their families and friends. The show included six performances that promoted love, peace, and faith. The children sang and interpreted the songs, *Day by Day* and *Imagine*, using American Sign Language. There was also a hip hop number and ribbon dance, as well as solos and duets. In the skit, the *Parable of the Good Samaritan*, the children pretended to be teachers, robbers, and donkeys. The children transformed the stage and room with paintings, drawings, origami bugs, and a six-foot paper tree.



Children perform for parents and friends at the variety show.

"The 2012 youth summer program would not have been possible without the generosity and kindness of private grants and the hard work of Catholic Charities' Brownson House staff," stated Mary Romero, San Gabriel Regional Director. ❖

Catholic Charities in Santa Barbara Provides Relief to Family of Seven

A local Santa Barbara family (mother, father and five children, ages 5-15) recently experienced economic hardships and poor health. The father lost his small business, having filed for bankruptcy in early 2012. The mother, who also derived a small income from her special event consultancy, witnessed a severe slow down in her business, not having seen any revenue for the past 11 months. In addition, one of the children developed a serious illness.

Hearing about Catholic Charities' programs from a neighbor, the father came to Santa Barbara Community Services, seeking immediate aid and hoping to qualify for the food distribution program. In addition to the weekly food pantry, Catholic Charities negotiated rental financial assistance directly with the landlord and arranged for referrals to two other agencies with specific expertise in bankruptcy and eviction issues. Family counseling was also available to the mother and her two daughters on a sliding-scale fee basis.

As a result, the family was able to remain intact. The parents reviewed and revised their now, drastically reduced budget. The weekly food pantry resource, generously supported by Trader Joe's and Albertson's in-kind donations, the one-time rental assistance, and therapy, helped stabilize the immediate crisis and reduced stress levels. For more information on these programs, contact Catholic Charities in Santa Barbara County at (805) 965-7045. ❖

Santa Barbara County Addresses Clients' Need for Food

Lack of food is an issue that affects 83 percent of families and individuals served by Catholic Charities in Santa Barbara County, which is committed to addressing the impact of county-wide poverty levels, specifically providing food to the local communities.

The goals are to keep households intact, healthy and less stressed, given the current 7.9 percent county unemployment rate, higher than 17.3 percent in many surrounding communities. Food is available from Catholic Charities' pantries in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Lompoc, and Santa Maria, with mobile food deliveries to Guadalupe, New Cuyama, and Sisquoc.

Catholic Charities in Santa Barbara County receives help from the county's FoodBank, participating grocery stores (Vons, Albertsons, Ralph's, Whole Foods, Fresh Foods, and Trader Joes), and also from families and friends who give directly.

To assist with this issue, Catholic Charities in Santa Barbara County has developed the Silent Angel Match Campaign, in which a generous benefactor will match dollar-for-dollar donations made by December 31, 2012. Please contact the main office for Catholic Charities in Santa Barbara County at (805) 965-7045 if you want to donate. ❖

Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project Helps Detained Immigrants

Since 2008, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles' Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project has given free immigration law classes at the Mira Loma Immigration Detention Center in Lancaster, California. Immigrants do not have the legal right to a public defender in Immigration Court and must either pay for a lawyer or represent themselves to remain in the United States.



Esperanza's Attorneys Assist Immigrants at the Mira Loma Immigration Detention Center

Esperanza's attorneys provide detained individuals with critical information, at no cost, about their rights in Immigration Court and how to fight their cases. In 2011, Esperanza attorneys instructed over 8,000 individuals detained at Mira Loma.

"Fernando" met an Esperanza attorney at a class in Mira Loma. Fernando was brought across the border by his parents when he was two years old and has lived in the United States his entire life. As a child, he witnessed his father violently abusing his mother and was also assaulted himself. Fernando was a teenager when his father died in a car crash, and his mother succumbed to alcohol poisoning.

Following the deaths of his parents and the dispersion of his

siblings among distant relatives, Fernando turned to drugs to cope with his painful past. Fernando had difficulty supporting himself, because as an undocumented young person he could not work in the United States legally, even though he grew up and went to school in Los Angeles. To make matters worse, the police pulled him over, found drug paraphernalia in his car and arrested him. He was then turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement and taken to Mira Loma.

After speaking with Fernando, the Esperanza attorney quickly realized he was eligible for a U-Visa, a type of Visa for victims of violent crimes in the United States. Because of the physical abuse Fernando sustained as a child and his cooperation with the authorities, he was eligible to remain in the United States.

Due to the hard work of Esperanza attorneys, Fernando will be reunited with his family, is now on the path to sobriety, and will have another chance to live a peaceful and rewarding life in the United States. For more information about Esperanza's services, contact Caitlin Williams, Esq. at (213) 251-3505. ❀



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Children's artwork is featured at Brownson House's Summer Program.

