



Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

The Sage

www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org • ISSN 1551-9112

Santa Barbara's Partnership with Food Bank Benefits Clients

Collaborations are important in the social service world because they strengthen agencies and allow for better service delivery to clients. In the Santa Barbara County area of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, a strategic relationship with the Food Bank of Santa Barbara County has led to a strong partnership between the two agencies.



Antonio Fernandez and Lorenzo Martinez, Santa Barbara Region staff members, are frequent "shoppers" at the Food Bank.

Catholic Charities is the Food Bank's largest member agency in Santa Barbara County, receiving over 1 million pounds of food annually. More than half of that food consists of fresh produce. A recent news story in Santa Barbara featured Catholic Charities' staffers Antonio Fernandez and Lorenzo Martinez, who combine over 30 years of experience with food distribution, as two of the Food Bank's most frequent shoppers.

With pantries in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Lompoc and Santa Maria, and with mobile food distribution targeting the communities of Isla Vista, Sisquoc, Guadalupe and New Cuyama, Catholic Charities strives to meet and enhance the nutritional needs of its clients. Last year, over 16,000 families received supplemental food from Catholic Charities' pantries in Santa Barbara County. ❖

St. Michael's Parish Collaborates in Food Program

In a consolidated effort, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles and St. Michael's Catholic Church recently joined forces to provide supplemental food to the underserved and needy residents of the troubled area of South Los Angeles around the parish.

Monsignor David O'Connell, Pastor of St. Michael's Church, has expressed a desire that, in the near future, Catholic Charities and his parish would soon expand this modest food program to add the furnishing of more social services for the low-income families and individuals of the community surrounding the parish.

Under the present agreement, Catholic Charities provides an allocation of food purchased with the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) funds. The agency also monitors the program. St. Michael's Parish, on the other hand,

operates all phases of food distribution. In December, approximately 125 families received supplemental food through the program.

The community of St. Michael's, founded over 100 years ago, is located in the heart



Some volunteers from St. Michael's Church help with the parish's "Matthew 25 Food Program," which is a collaboration with Catholic Charities.

of South Los Angeles. Nearly 25 volunteers, many of whom are employed, eagerly give of their time to assist in the program. They receive and store food from the vendors, screen and register participants, fill food bags and distribute food to the recipients. Most of those served expressed sincere appreciation for the assistance they have received from this collaborative.

The hope is to inspire similar joint ventures between other parishes and Catholic Charities. For more information, contact Hector Briones, Our Lady of the Angels Regional Director, at (310) 392-8701. ❖

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Message from the Executive Director, Rev. Monsignor Gregory A. Cox

Catholic Charities is in the process of moving to a new location for our Elizabeth Ann Seton emergency shelter. The new facilities will replace the existing residence which has operated at the Century Villages of Cabrillo campus since 1998. The new buildings will provide more space for the provision of shelter and supportive services.

Focusing on the unique needs of homeless families, the new facilities have been designed to assist residents in developing life skills as well as help them to find and maintain stable employment. The new complex features safe and secure family dwellings along with shared recreational play space, a community room, counseling offices, a commercial kitchen, and a dining area. The Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence will accommodate a maximum of 20,440 nights of shelter per year and serve as many as 448 homeless individuals each year.

A special component of this project is the collaboration with our partners. Catholic Charities of Los Angeles has worked closely with the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Fourth Supervisorial District, Weingart Foundation, Ahmanson Foundation, Dan Murphy Foundation and Century Villages of Cabrillo. We are grateful for caring partners who have made this dream a reality. ❀



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Catholic Charities



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CATHOLIC CHARITIES
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MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2012
OAKMONT COUNTRY CLUB,
GLENDALE

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WHO ARE POOR AND HOMELESS.

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Insurance



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It's easier than you think to make a gift that makes a difference.

We'll be happy to give you details. Just contact Alexandria (Sandi) Arnold, at sarnold@ccharities.org or at (213) 251-3495.

Rapid Re-housing in San Gabriel Provides a Home for the Holidays

Lucy, a single mother of three young children, was recently helped by Catholic Charities' San Gabriel Region. As a successful saleswoman, Lucy lived with and helped support her parents, Francisco and Ruth. Early last year, Ruth became terminally ill and Lucy left her job to care for her Mom. Shortly thereafter, Ruth died. Francisco became depressed and could not stay in the home that housed so many memories, so he moved in with Lucy's sister, who had just enough room to take in their father. But Lucy did not have enough income to stay in her parents' home and she did not know where she and her children could go.



Lucy received food, toys, furniture and financial assistance at a San Gabriel Region center in El Monte.

After trying to navigate the confusing process of applying for public benefits, Lucy was eventually referred to Catholic Charities' San Gabriel Region. There, she learned about the United Way Rapid Re-housing Program, which provides move-in assistance and case management for families transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing. Within a day of her intake appointment, Catholic Charities provided food, toys for Christmas, furniture and the financial assistance she needed to move into an apartment.

Despite all of her losses, Lucy smiles and expresses gratitude. As she reflects on the last year, she explains that, although she has lost much, there is much to be grateful for, especially a home with her children. ❖

Jovenes Para Cristo Organizes Food Drive for San Pedro Region

Anna Totta, Catholic Charities' San Pedro Regional Director, received a phone call from Veronica Menendez who introduced Anna to a young group called "Jovenes Para Cristo" or "Young Adults for Christ." "We are going to do a food drive among many churches," Veronica said, "and we will bring the food to you."

How wonderful, Anna thought, but she certainly did not expect the truck load of food and the three enthusiastic young adults who delivered the food for San Pedro Region's clients.

Jovenes Para Cristo was founded in 1979 in El Monte to attract young Catholic adults to fill the gap in their hearts by returning to their faith and God. The current organization holds local parish Bible study groups, conducts retreats called "Encuentros," visits prisoners, and also provides a wide variety of ministries and outreach. ❖



Young Adults from Jovenes Para Cristo deliver food, collected from a Food Drive, to San Pedro Region's clients.

"Santa's Angels" Bring Christmas to El Santo Nino

Santa came to visit 21 children of the Adeste after-school program at El Santo Nino Community Center in Central Los Angeles for a festive Christmas party. The event, which included lots of food and gifts, even for the staff, was bankrolled by "Santa's Angels," also known as Marta Dabrowska and Alan Harkin.



Santa's Angels, Alan Harkin and Marta Dabrowski (top row, second and third from left), seen with Hector Briones, Regional Director, cheerfully pose at El Santo Nino's Christmas party.

Prior to the party, the children gave wish lists to the staff at the center and Santa did not disappoint. He arrived with the gift of choice for each boy and girl. For many of these children, it was the first time in their lives that they were able to touch or talk to Santa Claus. The joy they were feeling was evident as they opened their presents, showed each other their gifts, and played with their new toys.

Santa's Angels also provided a ping pong table and a monetary donation to the center. Thanks to the generosity of Ms. Dabrowska and Mr. Harkin, it was truly a memorable day and a special Christmas for the children and staff of El Santo Nino. ❖

Holy Family Wins 2011 CYO Flag Football Title

Holy Family of South Pasadena and Beatitudes of La Mirada faced off for the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) flag football championship at Notre Dame High School. Ultimately, Holy Family's remarkable game play knocked-off high seed Beatitudes to win, 20-12.

Heavy rain and cold winds throughout the day did not deter Holy Family from playing a resilient game to clinch the 2011 CYO Championship. Despite the poor weather, the boys had fun and enjoyed the camaraderie throughout the contest.

The win marked Holy Family's first-ever CYO flag football title.



CYO flag football champions, from Holy Family in South Pasadena, proudly hold the championship trophy.

Catholic schools from Los Angeles County, reaching as far as the San Fernando Valley, Riverside and Orange County borders, compete in 16 local leagues. More than 160 middle schools participate in the CYO athletic competition.

CYO, an after-school and weekend athletic program of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc., promotes the development of good sportsman-like qualities including cooperation, self-discipline, increased self esteem, respect and responsibility among the youth participants. For more information about the CYO program, call (213) 251-3454. ❀



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Address Service Requested



With unemployment at about 12% in Los Angeles County, Catholic Charities' food pantries are serving people who have never before needed help with the basics.

