



Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

# The Sage

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## Ensuring High-Quality Care for Children

Photo: Mike Richardson



Children at an Adeste program enjoy after-school activities.

Catholic Charities' Adeste Childcare Quality Assurance (QA) program ensures excellence in its before-and-after school program. Adeste provides low-cost, high-quality child care to working families. Adeste provides nurturing care, nutritious snacks, intellectual and creative stimulation, help with homework, exercise, play, fun and friends in a structured, safe setting.

The QA program comprehensively monitors compliance with program standards, community care licensing rules and regulations of the Council on Accreditation. QA reviews, which are conducted two times per year, include participant satisfaction surveys that are given to parents, guardians, children and staff. Feedback is analyzed to enhance program delivery at all levels. Making sure children receive the highest quality care is Catholic Charities' priority. ❀

## Catholic Charities Helps Family Welcome Baby

In January, staff at Catholic Charities' Brownson House received a call from a woman worried about her niece, Rosa, who was in her second trimester of pregnancy. Rosa's doctor had diagnosed her baby with Down's Syndrome and strongly advised an abortion. Rosa's aunt was very concerned that the doctor's pressure would prevail and was desperate to find a way to save the baby.

A case manager at Brownson House reached out to Rosa. It was clear that the woman and her husband already loved their unborn child but were very worried about bringing her into the world because of financial problems and the poor health of their 4-year-old son. The case manager was able to assure Rosa that Catholic Charities, in partnership with Christ Child Society, would provide everything

worry about future expenses was important for Rosa because of the difficulty she and her husband were having in paying rent and taking care of their son's medical needs.

Catholic Charities helped the couple by providing: utilities, transportation and rent assistance; provision of food, clothing and specialty nutrition products; life-skills training classes; and connection to other community resources.

With the help of Christ Child Society, the family also received a layette filled with clothing and other essential child care items to provide everything they needed to welcome their baby with open arms.

In May, all of Rosa and her husband's hopes and preparation came to fruition. Whether God healed Uva or the doctor was simply wrong, the baby does not have Down's Syndrome. She does, however, have safety,

her parents' love, and the love of hundreds at Catholic Charities and Christ Child Society. ❀



Rosa and her husband are able to care for their newborn, Uva, with the help of Catholic Charities and clothing and child care items from Christ Child Society.

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## A Message from the Executive Director Monsignor Gregory A. Cox

Recent figures from the California Employment Development Department (EDD) report that California's unemployment rate is 11.5%, a new all-time high. They also reported that from April to May the State lost 68,900 nonfarm jobs. Over the year, employment fell by 4.9% or a loss of 739,500 jobs. During these difficult times, the State is faced with a \$26.3 billion debt. When we examine the figures locally, we see that Los Angeles has an unemployment rate of 12.5% and a deficit of \$530 million.

Eventually the economy will pull out of this recession but a number of economists believe this will not occur until later this year. During this time, Catholic Charities and other social service agencies are trying to meet the overwhelming demands of those we serve at our community centers.

Last year at this time, Catholic Charities had served 198,243 clients but this year we have served 267,763 persons. This represents a 35% increase of service this year. Shelter, food, job training, after-school care, case management and emergency assistance are a few of the services provided to our clients. The increase of service is achieved without the benefit of additional staff but with an increase of volunteers. Staff and volunteers have creatively worked together to provide for the basic needs of the long lines of people at the doors of our community centers.

Catholic Charities received \$70 in the mail from a little girl. She raised the money by selling some of her stuffed animals. She asked that the money be given to poor families with children who are suffering during these difficult times. This little girl's spirit represents thousands of people who donate their time or their funds to Catholic Charities so we can serve those struggling during this recession. ❀

## Good Shepherd Center Residents Enjoy Day of Beauty

To help the women living at Good Shepherd Center look and feel their best, Hawkes Transitional Residence was transformed into a beauty salon as part of Big Sunday. The annual service day is the largest regional community service event in America, with 300 sites throughout the Southland.



*A resident at Good Shepherd Center receives a makeover as part of Big Sunday.*

Thanks to the donated talents of hairstylists, make-up artists and wardrobe stylists from in and around Los Angeles, Good Shepherd Center residents received makeovers and a new outfit. Clothing donations from the community and Pool Tradeshow, a traveling fashion tradeshow, created a store where residents could find something special to wear.

Volunteers assisted in facilitating the entire event and watched the residents' children throughout the day. To avoid being all dressed up with no place to go, the day concluded with a tea party where the women could mingle and show off their new looks. ❀

## It's OK to be a little selfish when you make a gift!



We know a way you can make a gift to us and get something back in return.

It's called a Charitable Gift Annuity, and it makes stable, fixed payments to you *for life* in return for your gift supporting Catholic Charities of Los Angeles.

You get a charitable deduction, above-CD yields and favorable tax treatment of your annuity payments.

Let us tell you more about our Gift Annuity – it's the gift that rewards you as well as us. Contact Alexandria (Sandi) Arnold, Director of Resource Development, at [sarnold@ccharities.org](mailto:sarnold@ccharities.org) or (213) 251-3495 for more information.

*Not intended as legal, tax or investment advice.*

# Golf Tournament Raises Funds to Support Community Centers

In an enjoyable day of sportsmanship and support, the Thirteenth Annual Catholic Charities Golf Tournament raised \$150,000 to provide food, clothing, housing and utility assistance for homeless and working poor clients of Catholic Charities. Held in June at Lakeside Golf Club, awards were presented by Master of Ceremonies Harold Greene during a reception.

“The tournament is even more important this year,” said Monsignor Gregory Cox, Catholic Charities’ Executive Director, at the tournament reception, as he reflected on the current hard economic times. As demand from clients continues to rise at Catholic Charities’ community centers, funds raised through the golf tournament will allow the agency to serve the increased number of struggling families and individuals.

Thanks to all those who supported this year’s tournament, including the: \$10,000 Tournament Sponsors – Maude and Richard Ferry, Marcia and Stan Hayden and Family, Kathy and Vincent F. Martin, Jr. and Western Asset Management Company; \$5,000 Gold Sponsors; \$2,500 Silver Sponsors; \$1,250 Bronze Sponsors; Donors; and In-Kind Donors.

To see photos from the golf tournament, visit [www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org) ❖

Photo: Mike Richardson



*From left, Monsignor Cox acknowledges Chuckie and Harold Greene and Diane and Dr. Peter Vogelsang for their help to make the day a success.*

Photo: Mike Richardson



*From left, Mayor Dick Riordan, John Bendheim, Rick Welch and Robert Schult enjoyed their day on the course.*

Photo: Mike Richardson



## Who Has the Sweetest Cupcake in Town?

After a review of area eateries, the *Downtown News*’ July 20, 2009 “Best of” edition declared Catholic Charities’ Village Kitchen as having the “Best Cupcake in Town.” Their red velvet cupcake, full of special ingredients, is a popular delight.

The Village Kitchen, which opened last summer as part of the Women’s Village of Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children, gives real-world culinary job training to women who are transitioning out of homelessness as they work to become independent and self-sustaining. Women learn skills taught in culinary school while they gain experience that can translate into living-wage jobs and promising career paths.

A long-held dream of Good Shepherd Center’s advisory board and of its Program Director, Sister Julia Mary, the Village Kitchen project was lead by the late Sue Campoy, founder of Julienne restaurant in San Marino and a Good Shepherd advisory board member. Sue was able to see her vision come to fruition before she succumbed to cancer in March.

Please stop by for a savory snack or a healthy lunch. The Village Kitchen (1667 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles 90026) is open from 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and is also available for catering events.

For more information, call (213) 235-1487.

## Long Beach Community Services Center Holds Health Fair

Collaborating with nursing students from the American University of Health Sciences, Catholic Charities’ Long Beach Community Services Center recently held a community Health Fair.

The Health Fair provided more than 300 local residents with essential screenings, important seminars and healthy hygiene goody bags. Vision, glucose, blood pressure and Body Mass Index screenings were offered, while information on applying for Medi-Cal, Healthy Families and other services was presented by the City of Long Beach Health Department.

Under the tutelage of Rachel Plotkin, RN, PHN, MSN, of St. Mary Medical Center, these nursing students also perform internships once per week at the Long Beach Community Services Center, providing health education, medical counseling and basic screenings for clients of the center. ❖



*Student Interns from the American University of Health Sciences Offer Medical Screenings to Long Beach Area Residents.*

# Parents Learn Cross-Cultural Childrearing Skills

The Long Beach Community Services Center recently initiated Parenting Across Cultures classes, which explore various cultural aspects of child rearing. The classes are offered in either Spanish or English and the curriculum reflects prevailing parental and familial issues in the communities and cultures surrounding the center.

The class in Spanish addresses the difficulty in navigating the parenting and family differences between Latino culture and mainstream American culture. With their children attending American schools and learning different values, what often results is confusion in terms of roles, attitudes, and communication between children and parents.

Both the English and Spanish classes delve into areas in which parents might be challenged, such as: constructive discipline; providing structure; healthy boundaries; active listening; positive reinforcement; the importance of play; nurturing academics; encouraging creativity; nutrition and health; stress management; conflict resolution; and family dynamics.

Child care is offered separately so that parents can attend the classes. Many social service programs don't offer concurrent child care, which often prevents parents from accessing services.

Parents are so pleased with their classes that they requested a day-long retreat to focus on another curriculum: Family Wellness, which promotes improved support and communication between spouses. "Graduates" of the parenting classes are now organizing an effort to bring this program to other parents in the community via the public schools.

Support for these classes comes from Casey Family Programs. ❖



*Exuberant Graduates of the 1st Parenting Across Cultures Class Get Ready to Share Their Knowledge.*



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*Address Service Requested*



*Through the OASIS program, volunteers help home-bound seniors remain independent and also provide some much needed friendship.*

