

## Donor Spotlight: July 2015 Diocese of Sacramento



Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (SFBFS) greatly appreciates the support from thousands of individuals and families across town, as well as from hundreds of local, philanthropic businesses and like-minded agencies. The Diocese of Sacramento shares a long-time partnership with SFBFS (Father Dan Madigan founded SFBFS in 1976), but a renewed collaboration in services brought the two organizations closer.

In 2014, SFBFS worked closely with the Diocese of Sacramento to evaluate the existing Catholic Charities in the greater Sacramento area. The team identified strengths and weaknesses and provided suggestions to enhance the existing programs. One of the outcomes was to shift Refugee Resettlement Services and Immigration Legal Services to SFBFS. By the start of 2015, SFBFS began working closely with national agencies that would select and relocate families from war-torn and religiously persecuted areas to Sacramento. SFBFS then stepped in to welcome the families and help them transition to life in the United States. Just 4 months later, SFBFS began offering legal services for a greatly reduced cost to families entering the immigration process.

SFBFS' existing array of programs such as Food, Clothing, Adult Education and Parent Education seemed like a perfect next step for families who came to the organization through these two new services.

Many of the families who will come to Sacramento this year may speak little or no English, so SFBFS' Adult Education program, which offers English as a Second Language classes and technology workshops, will help newly arriving and immigrating families acclimate to life in Sacramento. New parents can also avail themselves of Parent Education courses to improve their parenting skills and earn valuable supplies like diapers and clothing.

The Diocese of Sacramento helps provide funding for both Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Legal Services during these early transition years.

Rich Fowler, acting Executive Director of the Diocese of Sacramento, expresses gratitude for the partnership with SFBFS and support of the community. "What SFBFS is doing with the Immigrant Legal Services and Refugee Resettlement Services is what the church does best - welcoming the stranger. I am extremely proud that we are welcoming the stranger in a way that we haven't for a while. If we're not doing this work, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, then we're not the church."



Please visit [www.sacramentofoodbank.org](http://www.sacramentofoodbank.org) for more information on how you can become involved with these two new services. Volunteers are greatly needed as translators, greeting families at the airport and welcoming families to a new life in Sacramento. Donations of gently used furniture are in demand as families often arrive with just one piece of luggage.