Catholic Charities Programs Help Prevent Childhood Poverty

Did you know that 1 in 4 children in California are living in poverty? It’s true. We have the highest child poverty rate in the nation – 23.4%! In Santa Clara County, poverty, especially child poverty, runs deeper than most people think. Would you believe that in the heart of Silicon Valley, one of the wealthiest regions in the nation, we still have so many kids and families struggling to survive?

Statisticians tell us that poverty is generational – that a child raised in poverty will likely grow up to raise their own child impoverished. Lately, the media has reported about how poverty affects the brain and physical development of children. A child raised in poverty is more likely to become an adult with health issues, such as high blood pressure or diabetes.

At Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, our deepest wish is to end all poverty, especially child poverty. Everyday, we do what we can to help prevent poverty for the children in our County. How does Catholic Charities impact and move the needle on child poverty? Through a number of programs at more than 30 locations, with more than 200 employees devoted to helping the youngest and most vulnerable in the County, we coordinate services to children from cradle to college and career.

Our early childhood development programs include Baby Steps, FIRST 5, KidConnections, Children’s Counseling, Kindred Souls supervised visitation, and family wellness workshops.

Our Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning (CORAL) after-school programs at more than 22 sites throughout the County help kids from kindergarten to eighth grade improve their academic achievement through literacy and homework support.

The Franklin McKinley Children’s Initiative (FMCI) is a place-based collaboration of partner organizations and community members working in the Santee neighborhood in east San José. In March Parish Partnerships Responds to the Needs of the Community

As the social services and social justice arm of the Catholic Church, Catholic Charities always strives to be intentional partners with our Catholic Parishes and schools in the work of social justice. We do this through Parish Partnerships, providing programs and services, engaging volunteers, and strengthening parish social ministry efforts.

Led by Director John M. Rinaldo, Parish Partnerships programs include Handicapables, Tax EZ, Catholic Convenings, and Emergency Homeless Shelters at Parishes.

HANDICAPABLES

Handicapables offers social and enrichment programs for adults with disabilities. Bi-monthly gatherings are held at locations throughout the County, giving members the opportunity to socialize, and share common interests and concerns. Gatherings include an optional Mass at a local Parish, lunch, group discussions, entertainment, or speakers. Outings are often planned around attending cultural events, educational programs, and recreational activities.
Dear Friends,

You may have heard the story of how in ancient Rome the Emperor Valerian persecuted the young and growing Christian community. The Prefect of Rome wanted the treasure that he thought the Church had and so ordered a deacon named Lawrence to bring him the treasures of the Church or face torture and death. After three days, Lawrence showed him the Church’s treasure — a crowd of poor, hungry, desperate people. Today, even here in Silicon Valley at Catholic Charities our treasure remains the same — the outcast, the rejected: the hungry and lonely senior, the child struggling to read, the family desperately seeking affordable housing, the former inmate trying to find work, the refugee foster youth hoping for a safe home, the immigrant parent trying to get right with the law, the youth seeking safety from gangs, the person with mental illness seeking healing. At Catholic Charities, we are honored to encounter these treasured human beings every day, and are grateful for the support of so many of our donors in our quest to prevent and reduce poverty here in the valley.

This year, we urgently need your help more than ever. Many of our funders require us to raise matching donations to qualify for funding, or even with our very low overhead rate, grants may not pay for the full cost of operations to provide services. For the programs for which we do charge fees, we use a sliding scale based on the individual’s ability to pay, necessitating finding scholarship funds to help our lower income clients.

I urge you to please be generous and consider an increased gift this year during our Catholic Charities Annual Appeal this May. However you choose to give to Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, know that we deeply appreciate your sharing a portion of your treasure with our treasured ones.

Thank you and God bless you.

All the best,
Gregory Kepferle, CEO

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New Executive Staff Members

We proudly welcome two new staff members who have joined the management team at Catholic Charities.

John M. Rinaldo serves as our Director of Parish Partnerships and works to engage the Catholic community in the work of Catholic Charities. John spent 15 years working in Catholic ministry, 11 of which has been in the Diocese of San José. Through his experience, he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience working with the parish and diocesan community around the issues of justice in our community. He holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in Leadership and Organizational Development, as well as a Master’s in Pastoral Ministry from Santa Clara University.

Dr. Sandy Escobar is the Senior Division Director for our Behavioral Health Division. Sandy is a creative leader and an advocate of community culturally appropriate evidenced-based approaches to treatment. She is committed to uplifting disadvantaged people and has a passion for serving individuals with chronic mental illness, working in resilient, culturally diverse management teams, and contributing to organizational strategic initiatives and changes. Sandy has a BA in Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a doctorate in Psychology from the University of California School of Professional Psychology, San Diego.

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Welcoming New Board Member

Mansoor Safi is one of our newest Board Members at Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. Mansoor brings many talents to our agency. He is the CEO and Co-founder of iFlex Electronics and iFxers.com, which has seen rapid growth and expanded to four stores in less than four years.

An entrepreneur whose goal is to improve people’s lives through technology and service, Mansoor’s expertise includes establishing creative strategies for optimizing internal operations, increasing financial returns, limiting risk, and creating lean teams. He is currently finishing a Computer Science degree from West Valley College and is fluent in four languages: Dari, Pashto, Urdu, and English.

Mansoor first came to Catholic Charities as a client in 2009. Since then, he became a successful entrepreneur who never forgot how helpful our agency was and how instrumental we were in helping him on the road to success.

“I truly believe in Catholic Charities’ spirit of helping people regardless of their race, religion or any other difference,” said Mansoor. “The agency’s mission to help all is what made it the right fit for me. I am happy to help the organization and the community by serving on the Board.”

We are thankful to have Mansoor on our Board and appreciate his expertise and the unique perspective he brings to our organization. His contributions help us better serve our clients and give a hand-up to those in need.
Catholic Charities Teams Up with The Tech Museum for Tech Academies

The Tech Museum recently launched a new initiative called The Tech Academies of Innovation, which will help build model STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programs in schools to nurture the next generation of Silicon Valley innovators. This spring, eight local schools will be selected for a three-year partnership with The Tech, which will facilitate cross-curricular professional development in engineering for educators in grades 4-8.

Catholic Charities is a partner in The Tech Academies at four of our CORAL (Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning) sites in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and Eugene, Oregon. CORAL is a K-8 after-school program that focuses on improving academic achievement through literacy and homework support. In addition, CORAL sports and other enrichment activities are provided at 22 school sites throughout San José. The program seeks to improve the academic achievement of local youth through out-of-school programs such as The Tech Academies that involve students, families, schools, and community-based organizations.

From 2015-2018, The Tech Academies will bridge school-day and after-school instruction by providing public school teachers, after-school staff, principals, and school districts with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Common Core State Standards (CCSS) aligned support to integrate real-world problems into instruction. The Tech Museum will provide resources and professional development in engineering and 21st century skills with the goal of co-creating long-term solutions to sustain model STEM programming in public schools.

This year, the focus of the program is to integrate engineering into instruction. Our participants will attend four Community Practice (CoP) meetings and have the opportunity to try out engineering lessons of their students’ choice. Instructors learn alongside one another by sharing student work samples, best practices, and questions. At least one team from each school may participate in The Tech Challenge. This year, all four of Catholic Charities’ school partners, as well as Kennedy school, participated in the Tech Challenge on Saturday, April 23.

To learn more about The Tech Academies or CORAL, please email América G. Gomez, Program Director, Children, Youth and Family Development at agomez@catholiccharitiesscc.org.

Hack for Humanity Helps Underserved Populations

Santa Clara University hosted its third annual social good hackathon, Hack for Humanity, on February 27 and 28, 2016, with Catholic Charities as a beneficiary of the student designed apps. The event was organized by SCU’s Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) chapter, with support by the School of Engineering and the Frugal Innovation Hub.

“Hack for Humanity was a tremendous success,” said Silvia Figueira, Associate Professor at the SCU Computer Engineering Department and Director of the Frugal Innovation Hub. “The students spent 24 hours developing their apps. Sixty-six students started Saturday morning, 37 students finished Sunday morning, and 11 projects were submitted. We are already excited to do this again next year!”

The winning app was BetterMe, an integrated, innovative app that leverages smart artificial intelligence, social media, and education to combat addiction. The team was inspired to empower individuals struggling with addiction, so that they may reclaim the lost parts of their lives. The app sets goals for the user on their way to sobriety, giving them access to resources and a social media platform where they can talk to people in similar situations.

The code written by the teams is donated to a non-profit organization that helps underserved populations. Apps were developed for Catholic Charities and VillageTech Solutions, an organization that designs technology solutions for people in developing countries.

The winners were: 1st place – BetterMe, 2nd place – DropZone, and 3rd place – DonateMe.

To learn more about all the apps and the student coders behind them, please visit http://bit.ly/hack_for_humanity.

After-School Learning Programs Expand Thanks to SJ Learns Initiative

In December 2015, San José Mayor Sam Liccardo announced the SJ Learns initiative, which will expand after-school learning programs at 16 San José schools in underserved neighborhoods, providing more than 650 K-3 students the opportunity to continue learning after the school day ends.

As a SJ Learns initiative recipient, Catholic Charities partners with the Franklin-McKinley School District, to implement expansion of our CORAL (Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning) after-school program. “CORAL Learns” will help underperforming third grade students at Santee Elementary, Los Arboles Literacy and Technology Academy, and McKinley Elementary, through intensive, small group reading lessons and one-on-one academic support tailored toward individual needs.

“Independent research from the University of Notre Dame’s Lab for Economic Opportunity for our innovative after-school model of balanced literacy shows that our students’ literacy skills increase at twice the rate of students not in the program,” said Gregory R. Kepferle, Catholic Charities CEO.

“We also know that a lower teacher to student ratio makes a difference,” continues Kepferle.

“In the three schools in the Franklin-McKinley School District, we will have one instructor for every 10 students and will better link after-school instruction with teaching during the school day.”

With multiple community partners in the two schools in the San José Unified School District, Catholic Charities will be able to expand the CORAL model with STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) enrichment.

Mayor Liccardo launched his SJ Learns initiative to expand the reach and quality of extended learning programs across the city and reduce the achievement gap. The San José City Council approved allocating $2 million from the city budget to support the initiative.

To learn more, contact América G. Gomez, Program Director, Children, Youth and Family Development Educational and Family Services, at agomez@catholiccharitiesscc.org.
Immigration Legal Service Director Receives Beacon of Lights Award

This year, Catholic Charities’ Immigration Legal Service (ILS) program celebrates 40 years of serving Santa Clara County’s immigrant community. ILS programs have made a difference for nearly 100,000 individuals including immigrant families, refugees, asylees, and survivors of crimes and violence.

In February, Robert Yabes, Program Director at ILS, received the Beacon of Lights Award from the County of Santa Clara for innovation in development of programs and services for immigrants and refugees. For more than 20 years, Robert’s empathy for clients, colleagues, and the community has been seen every day. He is an example of how one person can make a difference.

Established and recognized by the federal Board of Immigration Appeals in 1976, our ILS programs provide legal immigration and citizenship services to moderate to low-income immigrants seeking to improve their immigration status and gain U.S. citizenship. We inform, guide, empower, and assist individuals so they can make informed decisions. We also work with other community-based organizations to expand services to different populations within the community.

Gabriella, a former client, came to Catholic Charities because her abusive husband threatened to deport her. She did not have immigration papers. Robert and the ILS team helped her file a self-petition under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). She renewed her employment authorization annually until she was granted lawful permanent residence. Her self-confidence grew tremendously, her employment skills improved, and she has started a successful housecleaning business.

Clients like Gabriella inspire Robert and the ILS team to give their best for underserved communities so that those who feel powerless can have the best legal services possible.

“I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Catholic Charities family, from leadership to our clients, for the many opportunities that made me who I am,” said Robert. “Every person is a ‘Beacon of Light’ to another, and that’s what makes our world brighter and more hopeful.”

Handicapables Approaches 50 Years Strong

In 1968, Nadine Calliguiri looked at others who, like her, were disabled, and saw not weakness or brokenness, but the immense power and beauty of God. Nadine is the founder of Handicapables, a peer support and enrichment program for adults with disabilities. The program will reach its 50th year in 2018.

Handicapables partners with Catholic parishes and schools, members, volunteers, and the wider civic and religious community, providing engaging opportunities for adults and older adults with disabilities to socialize with peers who share common interests or concerns. Participants enter the program either through referral or word of mouth and enjoy bi-monthly gatherings that can include an optional Mass at a Parish within the Diocese of San José, lunch, group discussions, entertainment, or speakers. Group outings are also planned so that members may attend cultural events, educational programs, and other recreational activities. With a total of 90 members, activities often engage groups of 30-35 at a time.

Saida Nagpurwala has been with Handicapables for a total of 20 years. During her first 10 years, she served as a volunteer and has been a Program Coordinator for Handicapables for the last 10 years. Her vision for the future of Handicapables is to increase the number of participants and to have Parishes or other faith-based organization host more events. She hopes to raise awareness so that young people will especially become more engaged in the program. With only one helper, the program also welcomes volunteers and additional funding to meet the needs of the program.

According to Saida, Handicapables participants are not only a resource for each other during times of need, they consider each other as family and lifelong friends. Thanks to the generous support of an angel donor, Handicapables had been running for nearly five decades.

To learn more about Handicapables, please email Saida Nagpurwala, Program Coordinator at snagpurwala@catholiccharitiessc.org.
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County would like to thank our generous donors, sponsors, committee members, and volunteers for giving back to our community while participating in healthy activities. Catholic Charities promotes several wellness events including the Spring Forward 5K/10K Walk/Run, the Annual Golf Tournament, and the Roll Against Poverty Bocce Tournament.

Starting at Host and Title Sponsor SanDisk’s campus in Milpitas, our third annual Spring Forward 5K/10K attracted close to 2,000 runners, walkers, spectators, volunteers, and vendors. At the Annual Golf Tournament held at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club, 200 golfers teed it up, and 32 teams rolled against poverty at Campo di Bocce. Last year the proceeds from these events totaled more than $350,000 in much-needed unrestricted funds to support Catholic Charities programs and services that help change lives for good.

**Policy and Aging Compendium and Roundtable**

Our aging compendium and roundtable will capture a year of the “Wake Up to Aging” series learnings and present available policy and legislative opportunities to the community. The policy roundtable will give an opportunity for experts in the field of aging (thought leaders and service providers) and policy makers to continue a conversation that can lead towards community synchronization in providing solutions to evolving senior concerns.

**Wake Up to Aging Series Upcoming Event**

**Policy and Aging Compendium and Roundtable**

**About Aging University**

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County’s Aging University (AU) “Wake Up to Aging” series is a year-long sequence of discussions, workshops, and seminars working towards community synchronization in providing solutions to evolving senior concerns. Designed to both learn from experts in the field and serve as a focus group of various constituencies to inform policy that can lead to legislation, AU is a platform to coordinate solutions to community concerns and highlight local efforts on aging.

**WHEN:** July 21, 2016, 9:30-11:30am

**WHERE:** Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, 2625 Zanker Rd., San Jose, CA 95134 (Tomars Conference Room)

To learn more about Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County’s Aging University “Wake Up to Aging” series or register, visit www.daybreakcares.org/aginguniversity or call (408) 831-0440.

**Thank you to our sponsors!**

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**Second Place Women’s:** Sally Jones, Joan Arzino, Mary Granneman, and Mary Sue Albanese

**Heritage Bank of Commerce Executive VP Bill Del Biaggio**

shares why the bank has been a proud sponsor for 17 years.

**Bagpiper Phil Lenihan returned this year to pipe the players in at day’s end.**

**Buddies:** Devcon’s Andy Schatzman and Dogs of War’s Kevin Albanese.

**Bob Allard and Christine Santelli take a break from play for refreshments.**

**Left to Right: Bocce chairman Joe Gentzkow, Greg Staszko, San José Mayor Sam Liccardo and Paul Gentzkow**

**Starting the day on the SanDisk campus.**

**Bob Braham, Spring Forward Chair, calling the runners’ names as they cross the finish line.**

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**Our awesome volunteers taking care of our runners and spectators.**

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Dying Well – What Does It Mean? A Catholic Perspective

Fr. Gerald Coleman spoke to the packed Community Center at St. Joseph of Cupertino on February 18. Fr. Coleman is Past President of St. Patrick’s Seminary, a renowned moral theologian, and a prolific author known to take on the most controversial of moral dilemmas we face today. Fr. Coleman was invited to address end-of-life issues from a Catholic perspective by the Legacy Giving Committee. His talk was provocatively titled: Dying Well, What Does It Mean?

Fr. Coleman stepped right into the fray by dissecting Governor Brown’s recent decision to sign California’s “End of Life Option,” making California the fifth State in the U.S. to legalize physician-assisted suicide (PAS). Fr. Coleman discussed the major factors which influence growing support for PAS across the United States. The number one driving factor being the desire for autonomy and the “right” to make decisions about one’s manner of death.

Fr. Coleman discussed the Catholic moral teachings regarding dying and death, a fundamental issue being the belief in our intrinsic human dignity. We are made in the image of God, “imago Dei.” This informs Catholic tradition about killing versus allowing a person to die naturally. Fr. Coleman introduced a burdens/benefit scale that can be used by an individual or their “agent” in forming judgment about when treatment is burdensome or “disproportionate,” and therefore not obligatory, according to Catholic moral tradition. Criteria for determining when a treatment might be considered disproportionately burdensome are subjective and include: great effort is required to obtain the treatment, causes enormous pain, requires enormous expense, the patient feels severe dread and the risks are high.

Fr. Coleman also pointed to the distinction between care and treatment. Providing comfort care is essential and is not to be stopped even when all medical treatments have been stopped.

Support a Life by Donating a Car to Catholic Charities

For the last 15 years, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County’s Car Donation Program has directly helped families and individuals who struggle to make ends meet. The program significantly helps the Refugee Resettlement Program provide different types of support to newly arriving refugees. Donations help families to attain clothing and household items, individuals to find jobs through employment services, and provide computer, job readiness, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

There is one of these refugees, arriving in Santa Clara County at the age of 18 without any knowledge of English or job skills, but tremendous emotional suffering from the trauma of his childhood. James had a stable family life in Sierra Leone before the local militia destroyed all that he knew. When he was only eight years old, they seized his mother, and then his father six years later. He never saw his parents again. Fearing for his life, James escaped to Uganda but was arrested as an illegal immigrant and sent to the Nakivale refugee camp—a camp known for violence, as well as shortages of food, clean water, and other essentials. After surviving four years in the camp, James was granted refugee status and given an opportunity to come to the United States.

With the help of Catholic Charities supported by the Car Donation Program, James found an apartment and began classes in English, computer training, job training, and life skills. He also received mental health support to help him overcome the emotional wounds of his childhood. Three months after his arrival, James began working at a local hotel while continuing his classes and after five years, has a full-time job in the hospitality industry and is attending community college.

The Car Donation Program not only provides newly arriving refugees with basic needs, but provides them with the dignity and respect that they once lost.

Catholic Charities is grateful to receive donations of working or non-working cars, trucks, trailers, motorcycles, RVs, and boats. To learn more about the Car Donation Program or to donate, visit http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/donate-vehicle.

Dying Well – What Does It Mean? A Catholic Perspective

Finally, Fr. Coleman looked at Health Care Directives and how they function in a person’s overall hopes for dying well and peacefully. Separate from Health Care Directives are POLST documents (physician orders for life-saving treatment). Fr. Coleman pointed out the advantages and complexities of these orders which are meant to be written once a person is determined to be terminally ill.

We are grateful to Fr. Coleman for sharing his wisdom with us about such a complicated yet important topic that affects us all as we care for our loved ones and make our own plans so that when the time comes, we can “Die Well.”

ACTION ITEMS

1. Talk with your estate planning attorney about the four basic estate planning documents:
   - An advance health care directive to name an agent to manage your health care should you become incapacitated, and to state your wishes for end-of-life care;
   - A trust, through which your trustee can manage your assets and pay the bills if you become incapacitated, and which allows your loved ones to avoid probate when you die;
   - A durable power of attorney, to allow for the management of non-trust assets (e.g., your IRA), if you become incapacitated; and
   - A will, to state your wishes for any assets held outside your trust.

2. When you visit your estate planning attorney, please consider discussing making a gift to Catholic Charities in your trust or will.

3. If you are terminally ill, talk with your doctor about a POLST, a physician’s order for life-sustaining treatment.
Catholic Charities Refugee Foster Care Program Helps Children in Need

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County has aided refugees fleeing war, persecution, and violence around the world for over 30 years. Beginning out of a growing need to serve unaccompanied refugee minors, Refugee Foster Care (RFC) finds safe and caring homes for children who have lost their parents, friends, and country. Since 2004, we have served more than 140 refugee children hailing from nations including Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Vietnam, Burma, Nepal, and Syria.

The youth arrive from refugee camps or urban transitional housing units with limited access to basic resources. Some are escaping pasts as victims of human trafficking and must overcome these traumas. But initial feelings of fear and confusion fade as the resilience and hope of the children shine through, guiding them as they embrace their new home.

Experienced Catholic Charities staff support the children by enrolling them in school so that they may catch up on studies, learn English, and adjust to life in the U.S. One child lost her parents in a brutal civil war, but has turned her challenges into successes by pursuing a college education and becoming an active student body association member. This is but one example of the perseverance and adaptability of our refugee youth.

On the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis proclaimed, “[T]he Biblical revelation urges us to welcome the stranger; it tells us that in so doing, we open our doors to God.”

RFC seeks loving parents over the age of 21 without a criminal background and have a room available for the child. Those able to rent rooms may also welcome an older youth who is ready to live independently. We offer ongoing support to children and their foster parent(s), including Family Night, where youth and parents meet with the RFC team for dinner and training, sponsored by the local Catholic Community. We thank the parishes of St. Christopher Church, Saint Lawrence, Saint Simon, and the Church of Resurrection for their kindness.

To learn more, please visit http://catholiccharitiesscc.org/refugee-foster-care. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, contact rfc@catholiccharitiesscc.org or (866) 842-1467.

Young Women Empowerment Program Provides Support and Safe Haven

At 16, Erica is on her way to earning her high school diploma. Her dream? To graduate, and provide a better future for her daughter.

For the past two years, Erica has been a part of the Washington United Youth Center’s Young Women Empowerment Program, a part of the BEST (Bringing Everyone’s Strengths Together) program that provides a safe haven for thousands of young people seeking refuge from the streets. Once a week, a group of about 30 girls discuss topics that range from staying on track in school, relationship problems, domestic abuse, and sexual health. The goal of the program is to empower them and to give them the knowledge necessary to thrive as young women in today’s world.

Erica first joined around the time that she met and began to date a young man who was very active in the gang lifestyle. She turned to BEST to seek help so that he could change his ways. But when their daughter turned one, he died in a shooting. Erica was devastated, but remains focused on providing a better future for her daughter.

BEST has helped Erica to build the resilience and fortitude to continue school, all while taking care of a young child. The Center helps her with housing, supplies for her baby, tutoring, and provides her with the close relationships and support that she needs to face other ongoing challenges. An empowered young woman, Erica has managed to be successful despite obstacles.

For the last three years, the ‘Young Women Empowerment Program has provided a safe space and forum for support for at-risk young women from the age 12 and up. Young men’s groups are also available. Both BEST programs work with at-risk youth who face challenges that may include homelessness or addiction among family members, and offer resources, support, and lasting friendships among counselors and peer youth.

To learn more about BEST, please contact Sois Poumele, BEST Program Manager, at spoumele@catholiccharitiesscc.org.

Catholic Charities Programs Help Prevent Childhood Poverty

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

2016, we proudly celebrated the grand opening of a new Community Center for FMCI.

Our Washington United Youth Center (WUYC) provides youth and their families with the support needed to be successful in school, employment, and in the community. They offer programming for kids ages 12 to 17, and support services for parents and other adults.

Our gang prevention programs are designed to help at-risk youth choose positive alternatives and make better choices. Our bilingual, bicultural staff members, clinicians, and case managers provide outreach, individual and family support, support groups, gang intervention, mediation, and crisis response.

“At Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, we envision a world where no child is hungry and every child has the resources they need to thrive,” said Gregory R. Kepferle, CEO. “By preventing childhood poverty, we are investing in a future where every child in the County has an equal opportunity to live to their fullest potential.”

To learn more about our programs and services that lift children and families out of poverty, or to see how you can also make a difference, please visit http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org.

Parish Partnerships Responds to the Needs of the Community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

TAX EZ

Catholic Charities’ free Tax preparation service, Tax EZ has helped clients prepare nearly 15,000 returns over the past 11 years, generating millions in refunds. For Tax Year 2016, instead of serving clients at our Zanker office, we partnered with St. Athanasius Catholic Church, Our Lady of Guadalupe/Amigos de Guadalupe, and Most Holy Trinity Parishes.

CATHOLIC CONVENINGS

August 2015 marked the first annual convening of Catholic social service and social action organizations. The gathering allowed participants to understand the impact the Catholic community has in Santa Clara County and to learn about what our community is doing in the fields of poverty reduction, social services, and social justice. The next convening is planned for August 2016.

EMERGENCY HOMELESS SHELTERS AT PARSHES

Parish Partnerships has helped with the effort to provide the homeless population in the County with emergency shelter during this past winter, working with local Parishes, the City of San Jose, and the County of Santa Clara’s Office of Supportive Housing. Seven churches opened their doors so that unsheltered people would have a safe place to sleep and be fed.

To learn more about Parish Partnerships, contact John M. Rinaldo, D. Min., Director of Parish Partnerships at jrinaldo@catholiccharitiesscc.org.
DID YOU KNOW?

98% of young adults who came to Catholic Charities’ Immigration Legal Services program to apply for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) obtained legal status and employment authorization documents, finding better jobs and improving their financial situation.

LOCAL CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

In December 2015, our local Washington United Youth Center community gathered together to celebrate the annual Posada de la Comunidad. The traditional Latino event included holiday music, singing, Mexican Folkloric dancing, face painting, arts & crafts, and delicious refreshments. Everyone enjoyed the fun-filled holiday event!