A Lifetime of Serving and Advocating for the Needs of the Community

This year Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County celebrates 60 years of serving the needs of our community. As we look back, we know that our success and longevity were made possible because of the vision, tenacity, and dedication of our founder, Helen Hansen. Helen embodied Catholic Charities’ mission to serve and advocate for families and individuals in need, especially those living in poverty. She led our agency’s efforts for 28 years, retiring in 1983.

In 1955 Helen was hired by Catholic Social Service to head an agency consisting of two social workers, and overseen by Father Harold O’Day, with a focus on family counseling, foster care, and service to the elderly. Helen was a visionary in her response to the changing needs of the community. With the population in the county growing, she knew the importance of helping families stay together, while “maintaining the integrity of the family,” she would say. The agency partnered with another local agency to serve as a resource to the courts on the placement of children.

In the early 60’s, Helen noticed that there were many elderly in downtown that needed a place to go to for meals, activities, and socialization. She increased the agency’s services reaching out to the elderly by establishing the John XXIII program to meet these needs. In just a few years, she raised enough funding to expand the program from once a week to five days a week. The John XXIII multi-service

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Former Washington United Youth Center Member Continues to Stay Involved in the Community

As president of her fifth grade class, Mayra Tostado participated in a brainstorming process for Catholic Charities’ Washington United Youth Center (WUYC) in San Jose. She participated in the Youth Center ground breaking ceremony in 1999, and in high school, she became a member at the Center. “Some of the best and happiest moments of my teenage years were spent at the WUYC,” Mayra said. “I was surrounded by positive role models and was reminded every day that anything is possible.”

After high school Mayra studied broadcast journalism, graduating from San Jose State University in 2010. She joined Telemundo 48 producing newscasts and reporting for the six o’clock news, and in 2014 helped launch the first Spanish morning newscast in the Bay Area.

“Catholic Charities opened the doors to a world that seemed out of reach for me, and I want others to have the same opportunity,” Myra explains. “I found a place where I was respected regardless of my socio-economic status or nationality.” She has spoken at Catholic Charities fundraising events, emceed the WUYC Quinceañera Anniversary Celebration, and was on the WUYC’s Los Padrinos Advisory Board. Mayra is one of the many amazing youth who grew up going to the Youth Center, then went to college, created a successful career, and still finds time to give back.

To learn more about the Washington United Youth Center, contact Elvia Graciano at egraciano@catholiccharitiesscc.org.
Dear Friends,

Imagine a student staying late after school eager to learn how things work and wanting to know why. But the school the child attends doesn’t have the equipment or curriculum. And the apartment the child lives in is overcrowded and the neighborhood is beset with crime and violence. Now imagine Catholic Charities partnering with the school and connecting generous donors to create a lab where students learn the latest advances in science, technology, engineering and math. Imagine Catholic Charities working with the neighbors, apartment owners, police and City government to make sure the neighborhood is safe with space for children to play and grow. This dream is becoming a reality. Thanks to Catholic Charities’ after-school CORAL STEM Lab at Kennedy School and our Franklin McKinley Children’s Initiative, students from poor immigrant families are beginning to overcome the achievement gap not only in reading, but also in science and math.

We would not have achieved this without the support of generous donors who created and responded to a matching gift opportunity. We have many more stories of success, of incubating innovative solutions to poverty and changing the trajectory of the lives of thousands of our neighbors struggling to make ends meet. But we urgently need your help to keep the momentum going.

Catholic Charities creates pathways from poverty to opportunity and hope for 54,000 of our neighbors in Santa Clara County. We do this by preventing poverty through early childhood and after-school education; by alleviating poverty through older adult services, behavioral health services and housing; and by reducing poverty through employment, asset development, refugee resettlement, and immigration legal services. Thanks to a generous 2:1 matching gift from the Sobrato Family Foundation for new and increased donations, we have the opportunity to help even more people move out of poverty.

I invite you to invest in Catholic Charities and see an amazing return on your investment – lives changed for good.

All the best!
Gregory Kepferle, CEO

New Chief Program and Operations Officer

Jacqueline Copeland-Carson, Ph.D., was named the Chief Program and Operations Officer for Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, in November of 2014. As Chief Program and Operations Officer, she provides leadership for the Programs and Operations divisions, and plays a key role in the organization’s strategic plan. “We are very excited to welcome Dr. Copeland-Carson to Catholic Charities, and look forward to her leadership in helping our Programs and Operations divisions to be even more effective in serving people in need in Santa Clara County,” said Greg Kepferle.

Dr. Copeland-Carson has 30 years experience leading complex social service and change programs. She holds masters degrees in urban planning and cultural anthropology, as well as a Ph.D. in Anthropology; all from the University of Pennsylvania, and her undergraduate degrees are from Georgetown University College and School of Foreign Service. She is also a teacher, trainer, blogger, and a published author.

Dr. Copeland-Carson’s leadership acumen was honed through holding positions as Managing Director/Vice President for U.S. Bank Private Client Group, Philanthropic Services, Managing Director of Twin Cities RISE!, a social enterprise, Executive Director of the African Women’s Development Fund USA (AWDF USA), Program Vice President of The Philadelphia Foundation, and most recently as President of Copeland Carson & Associates.

"Joining Catholic Charities in this new role is a great opportunity for me to continue helping all disadvantaged communities in Santa Clara County, especially immigrants, seniors, and the poor. I look forward to leveraging my background in management, program design, administration, and philanthropy towards the reduction of poverty and promotion of social justice. My faith has been the foundation of my social justice career, and I am honored and excited to join an organization that touches the lives of more than 54,000 in the area every year,” said Dr. Copeland-Carson.

First Woman to Lead Catholic Charities USA

Sister Donna Markham OP, Ph.D., president of the Behavioral Health Institute for Mercy Health, has been selected as the new president of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA). Sister Donna, is the first female president to lead CCUSA in the organization’s 105-year history. She succeeds Rev. Larry Snyder, who served as CCUSA’s president since 2005, and will officially be seated as CCUSA’s 10th president on June 1, 2015.

Sister Donna is an Adrian Dominican sister and board certified clinical psychologist. In her current position for Mercy Health she is leading the transformation of the delivery of behavioral healthcare services across seven major geographic regions. Prior to joining Mercy Health, Sister Donna served 10 years as the president of the Southdown Institute in Ontario, Canada and as Prioress of the Adrian Dominican Congregation. She served eight years as a member of CCUSA’s Board of Trustees, including two years as Board Chair, and in February of 2014, she was awarded the prestigious Harold S. Bernard Training Award from the American Group Psychotherapy Association.

“Sister Donna’s appointment promises a seamless transition at the end of ten years of outstanding leadership by Fr Larry Snyder who returns to special ministry in his home Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul in Minnesota,” said Bishop David A. Zubik, Episcopal Liaison to CCUSA’s Board of Trustees.

"There can be no greater call than to serve and advocate on behalf of persons who struggle to get by in a world where they are all-too-frequently relegated to the margins of society and where they long for dignity, hope, and compassion," said Sister Donna Markham, incoming president of CCUSA.
Donors Establish a Living Legacy to Catholic Charities

Bob and Christy Masleid are committed to the tithing tenet of first fruits giving. They share the blessings they have received by contributing a portion of their annual income to their parish and Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. Before choosing which charitable organizations to support, Bob and Christy checked several resources to identify those that effectively served our community. They were impressed with Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County’s long-standing record of good stewardship. Catholic Charities is among the 2% of the organizations to earn Charity Navigator’s highest (4-star) rating. The agency ensures a higher percentage of donation dollars go directly toward supporting programs and services designed to give those in need a hand up.

The Masleids heard about Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County during an Annual Appeal at their parish. They are members of the Caritas Society, founding members of the Domus Council, and Circle of Hope members, which is Catholic Charities’ legacy giving group. Christy has also volunteered as an Annual Appeal speaker at St. Lucy’s parish.

By contributing a portion of their annual income to Catholic Charities, Bob and Christy can determine how and where their support is ministered, rather than hoping their tax dollars are being spent effectively to care for their neighbors in need. Finding and contributing to a discerning ministry provides support for people who want to be helped. “As donors, we have an opportunity to meet the clients and case workers, and visit facilities. We can see first-hand that Catholic Charities genuinely helps people, and that their programs and services are delivered in a compassionate and effective way,” said Bob.

“We chose to put Catholic Charities in our estate plan for the same reasons we give on a regular basis. Catholic Charities does a great job of using funds efficiently. Just as we give a portion of our annual income, we have also included them in our legacy planning,” said Christy.

By including Catholic Charities in their annual budget and estate plan, Bob and Christy are creating the potential to make an even greater difference, today and in the future. This is vital so Catholic Charities can continue its work in perpetuity.

GET INVOLVED
To learn more about how you can support our programs and services through your legacy giving, please contact Sara Johnson at (408) 325-5259 or Alison Poetsch at (408) 325-5288.
The Franklin-McKinley School District has opened its doors to allow Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County to do what it does best—serve the community. Catholic Charities recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the first ever CORAL STEM Lab, which is located at Kennedy Elementary School.

CORAL STEM’s (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) purpose is to help students explore and learn about STEM and related careers through quality instruction and use of the new STEM Lab. The lab is a critical component that will be the center for all STEM learning during regular school hours and during the CORAL after-school program.

“We are all excited about the new STEM lab, from the students, to their parents. The children have shown a lot of interest in learning more about STEM,” said Aldo Estrada, STEM instructor. “This interest helps create better performance at school and can lead to amazing career opportunities when they become older.”

Catholic Charities created a STEM Curriculum based on the current Balanced Literacy Model used in CORAL and the most current California Content Standards. The curriculum uses age-appropriate books and materials to teach students about the various branches of science and engineering.

Additional activities will be added throughout the regular school year. These activities will serve to make connections to the real world of technology and engineering, while using science and math as their main power tools. Some of these activities include but are not limited to design challenge competitions (such as the Tech Challenge), programming, 3D design, and robotics.

Goals of the CORAL STEM lab:

1. Engage students in CORAL STEM learning at Kennedy Elementary;
2. Ensure consistent delivery of curriculum during the school year;
3. Gather, organize, and analyze participating CORAL student data and surveys.

To learn more about CORAL STEM or the new lab, please contact Sara Reyes, Division Director, Children, Youth, and Family Development Division at sreyes@catholiccharitiesscc.org.
Free Tax Preparation Services and Financial Education Workshops Available to the Community

Did you know that Catholic Charities of Santa Clara provides free Tax Preparation Services and Financial Education Workshops to the community at our main office at 2625 Zanker Road in San Jose?

Last year, we provided Tax Preparation Services to 877 households, resulting in more than $1.2 million in tax refunds and over $500,000 in earned income tax credits. Tax Preparation Services are offered to households earning $53,000 or less annually, and help clients get refunds and Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC). These services are available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Appointments are necessary, and please arrive at least 30 minutes before your appointment. To schedule an appointment, email TaxEZ@catholiccharitiesscc.org or call (408) 325-5241.

**A Grandfather Determined to Make A Dream Come True**

When Rizalino learned that his grandson dreamed of coming to the U.S. from the Philippines to go to college, he wanted to do everything he could to help. Having lived in the U.S. for more than 15 years, Rizalino knew that the opportunities here were much better if one has a college degree. Matthew, his grandson, was 17 years old, and too young and unfamiliar with the American culture to live on his own. Rizalino did not know how he was going to do it, but was determined to gain guardianship of his grandson.

Matthew was born in the U.S. and left when he was very young because his parents wanted to return to their province in the Philippines. He finished high school at 16 years old and wanted to return to California to get a higher degree. Rizalino hoped to make this dream possible.

The court told Rizalino that it may be a long process and referred him to Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County’s Kinship Resource Center (KRC), who could help him navigate through the system. “From the beginning, KRC helped me with everything, from filling-out the paperwork to getting ready for the next court appearance,” said Rizalino. “If it wasn’t for Denise Olvarez, our Case Manager at KRC, Matthew would not be here today pursuing a college degree!” It only took two months for Rizalino to gain guardianship of his grandson.

After Matthew arrived, Rizalino had him volunteering at KRC because he believes that it is important to give back to those that have helped you. Matthew was able to better understand the American culture and how to use the public transportation system to get around. Rizalino made sure that Matthew did well in school so that he can get an Associate Degree in Business and transfer to a four year college to get a Bachelor’s Degree.

Rizalino attends a monthly support/empowerment group at KRC for grandparents who have guardianship of their grandchildren. They share dinner together and discuss their experiences raising their grandkids. Rizalino values the advice from fellow grandparents when he asks for input on something. Rizalino is extremely grateful to Catholic Charities, the folks at KRC, and his friends in the support group for helping him make his grandson’s dream of going to college come true.

**GET INVOLVED**

To learn more about the Kinship Resource Center, please contact Saúl González, FIRST 5 Program Manager, at sgonzalez@catholiccharitiesscc.org.

Free financial education workshops are offered for low to moderate income individuals, and teach participants to manage and save money, follow a budget, build and maintain good credit, and avoid predatory lending. “Sometimes people just need to know the basics of money management in order to understand that a few changes can make a big difference,” said Asmir Pinjic, Program Manager, Economic Development. “It is so satisfying for me when helping to change somebody’s financial behavior for the better leads to their financial self-sufficiency.”

Catholic Charities provided financial education workshops to 174 individuals in 2014, and more than 98% reported a better understanding of financial practices after participating in a workshop.

To register for the workshop on May 20, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., email apinjic@catholiccharitiesscc.org or call (408) 325-5236. To learn more about the Financial Education Workshops and Tax Preparation Services, please visit http://catholiccharitiesscc.org/asset-building-program or email Asmir Pinjic, Program Manager, Economic Development Services at apinjic@catholiccharitiesscc.org.

**MAXIMIZE THE POWER OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS**

With careful planning, you can reduce or even eliminate federal capital gains tax while supporting our work. Giving securities or other assets that have appreciated in value can be one of the most tax-efficient ways to make a charitable gift to Catholic Charities.

As stock prices increase, so do the taxes you will owe on the gain when the stock is sold. Giving appreciated, publicly traded stock that has been held for more than one year allows you to donate to Catholic Charities and often qualify for a charitable contribution deduction equal to the fair market value of the stock, up to 30% of your adjusted gross income.

> **As stock prices increase, so do the taxes you will owe on the gain when the stock is sold.**

The benefit to Catholic Charities from a contribution of appreciated stock can exceed the benefit of a donation of the after-tax proceeds from the sale of the stock by up to 51%! Therefore, by choosing to donate appreciated securities, you can make a bigger contribution without additional cost to you.

A gift of appreciated securities can provide you with the following benefits*:

- A charitable income tax deduction of the current fair market value of the contributed securities up to 30% of your adjusted gross income.
- Excess charitable deductions can be carried forward for the next five years.
- Avoid tax of up to a 23.8% federal tax and 13.3 % California tax on that appreciated amount; taxes you would pay if you had sold the securities.
- An opportunity to significantly increase the amount of funds available for charitable giving.
- Also, for those with taxable estates, donating an appreciated asset to Catholic Charities removes the appreciated asset from your taxable estate, thereby reducing potential estate taxes.

So if you are looking to maximize the power of your charitable contributions to Catholic Charities, both today and for the future, consider making a donation of an appreciated asset.

*Check with your tax advisor or attorney to see if this applies to your specific circumstances.
We 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 off at Host Sponsor Microsoft’s campus in Mt. View, the inaugural Spring Forward 5K/10K Walk/Run attracted more than 1,200 walkers, runners and pets. At the Annual Golf Tournament held at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club, 250 golfers teed it up, and 32 teams rolled against poverty at Campo di Bocce. Last year the proceeds from these events totaled more than $400,000 in much-needed unrestricted funds to support Catholic Charities programs and services support programs.

Families Raising a Reader Program develops Early Literacy and a LOVE of Reading

The Families Raising a Reader Program is an early literacy program offered by Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County at the Luther Burbank Family Resource Center in District 4. Funded by FIRST 5 Santa Clara County and The Heising Simmons Foundation, the free bilingual English/Spanish program is available to families with children from birth to 5 years of age. Currently, 25 families participate in the two hour program, which takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Each week kids get to take home a Raising A Reader red book bag that include four high quality, diverse books and a video on how to do an effective read-aloud. The children are always excited to find out what books they get to take home.

“The idea behind the book bags is that the children will want to read more at home with their families and grow up to LOVE reading,” said Charlene Moore, Family Resource Coordinator. “The Families Raising a Reader program helps young children develop oral language and early literacy skills, which will give them a head start in doing well when they go to school or pre-school.”

The Family Resource Center, which is located on the campus of the Luther Burbank school campus, also provides families with trainings related to early literacy and holds family literacy nights at the community library. In addition, they offer caregiver/parent education workshops, wellness programs, developmental and social emotional screenings (ASQ/ASQ:SE), and information and referrals.

To learn more about the Families Raising a Reader Program and the Family Resource Center, please email Charlene Moore, Family Resource Coordinator, at cmoore@catholiccharitiesscc.org.

A JOURNEY TOGETHER

Your generous support of Catholic Charities’ Christmas Appeal creates pathways to self-reliance. The campaign raised $713,000 in unrestricted funds, which are critical because they can be used where most needed to help local families and individuals to become more self-reliant.

Catholic Charities depends on these funds for programs to help seniors stay independent with the assistance of a trained home care companion, to share the love of reading while increasing CORAL after-school students literacy levels so they can succeed in school, to help low-income individuals and families prepare and file tax returns bringing much needed revenue back into the community, and to help refugees to settle into their homes and become self-sufficient.

Your gifts make a difference in so many lives. From the senior who now gets integrated behavioral health and primary care, to empowering the teen to make healthy choices and stay out of gangs, the road to self-reliance becomes a reality.

Thank you for trusting us to change so many lives for good. We are blessed to have such a strong community of supporters.

GET INVOLVED

For more information about the Appeal please contact Linda Pippin at (408) 325-5125 or lpippin@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.
A Lifetime of Serving and Advocating for the Needs of the Community
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Can a Family of Four Survive on $2000 per Month in Silicon Valley?

Raising awareness about poverty is one of the three strategic areas of Step Up Silicon Valley (SUSV), the movement to cut poverty in Santa Clara County. Here in Silicon Valley, one of the richest regions in the world, 18 percent of the population can’t make ends meet. As part of the SUSV Community Action Poverty Simulations (CAPS), participants role-play the day-to-day realities of living in poverty.

The key to understanding the power of the simulation is the personal transformation made possible by the role-playing experience. “The first thing people do is tell the story of the experience in the first person. Once someone says, ‘I could not buy food for my family,’ or ‘I could not work because I was ill,’ even in role-play, awareness of the situation and its consequences becomes personal,” said Facilitator, Liz Lilly.

Liz coordinates a team of 15 to 20 CAPS co-facilitators and resource volunteers, many of whom are from social service agencies and the low-income community. Key partners include Sacred Heart Community Service, Downtown Streets Team, the Presbytery of San Jose, and the Jewish Community Relations Council.

“The simulations have a profound effect on the participants. Afterwards, people feel differently about poverty and those living in poverty,” she said. “In the context of the Step Up movement, people can put this new information to work through advocating for policy changes, supporting innovative programs to cut poverty, and coming together to find new solutions and opportunities.”

“Liz’s commitment to the Step Up movement using the poverty simulations as a tool has made an impact in the lives of everyone who has participated, making the simulation experience personal, while educating people about the issues of poverty both locally and nationally,” said Almaz Negash, Managing Director of Step Up Silicon Valley.

GET INVOLVED
To host a Community Action Poverty Simulation at your organization, or if you would like to attend an upcoming simulation, please contact Adelene Ramos, SUSV Public Affairs Assistant, at aramos@stepupsiliconvalley.org.

Helping the Immigrant Community for 60 Years

Catholic Charities has been helping the immigrant community since we were founded 60 years ago. Recently, we held a series of community information sessions at Parishes throughout the county, in partnership with the Diocese of San Jose and People Acting in Community Together (PACT).

We started conducting these presentations after President Obama announced his Executive Order for “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Plus” and Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) in November 2014. The sessions inform and educate the immigrant community about collecting their documents, saving money, and getting as much information as they can to get to protect themselves from notario fraud and abuse. The other immigration relief under Obama’s Executive Order is DAPA. This immigration relief is for parents of U.S. citizens and Legal Permanent Residents. These executive actions only grant applicants work authorizations on a temporary basis.

We also held information sessions to inform the public about AB 60, which was signed into law in October 2013 and implemented on January 2, 2015. AB 60 requires the DMV to issue a Driver’s License to individuals who cannot prove their legal presence in the U.S. and do not have a social security number. “This law makes our roads safer and makes drivers more responsible,” said Robert Yabes, Program Director for Immigration Legal Services. “A Driver’s License under AB 60 is only good for driving purposes and identification to police during a traffic stop. It cannot be used for any other purposes, such as boarding a plane, entering a federal building, working, etc.”

Catholic Charities is working with other organizations under the Santa Clara County South Bay Legal Immigration Services Network (SBLISN) and the San Mateo County Community Response of Immigration Legal Service Providers (CRISP) to reach out to the community in both Counties to provide accurate information and quality immigration legal assistance to immigrants. Please check this link for information about events happening in the community: http://immigrantinfo.org/events.
STEM Camp 3rd Graders Visit and Learn from Sanmina Engineers

Last Summer, 3rd grade students from the Washington United Youth Center’s Star Wars Jedi Academy Summer Science, Technology, and Math (STEM) Camp were invited to visit the Sanmina Corporate offices in San Jose. They were paired with Sanmina engineers who taught them how to build simple circuit boards and electrical lights. The Sanmina executives and engineers had a lot of fun working with the children and giving them an inside look into a top Silicon Valley company. The students left inspired and enlightened to see the real-life application of STEM.