O n any given night, more than 7,000 people in Santa Clara County are homeless. About 2,500 of these individuals are considered chronically homeless. Many have been living on the streets for years, putting them at serious risk. Studies show that chronically homeless individuals are more vulnerable and succumb to preventable illnesses two to three times more than the general population, according to Housing 1000. Sixty-one people died in the streets of Santa Clara County in 2011.

Catholic Charities recently joined Housing 1000 in its campaign to end chronic homelessness. Using the Housing First model, the nonprofit collaborative aims to house 1,000 chronically homeless individuals in Santa Clara County by the end of this year.

“Catholic Charities is one of 13 nonprofits involved with Housing 1000, and their role in providing intensive case management is critical to Housing 1000’s success and the overall goal of restructuring our homeless system of care to more quickly and effectively reduce homelessness,” says Jennifer Loving, Executive Director of Destination: Home, a Housing 1000 partner and a local leader in the Housing First movement.

Housing First is based on the notion that stable lives require fewer resources and stability begins with a home. When people are housed and receiving the supportive services they need to get back on their feet, it dramatically reduces their risk of needing costly services like emergency medical care.

“The fact is the cost of homelessness is higher than actually solving the problem,” says Dimple Gupta, Catholic Charities’ Division Director for Housing Services. “A recent San Francisco study...”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

The Long Road Home

Daniel had been living on the streets for more than a decade. Like many of the chronically homeless individuals served by Catholic Charities, he faced many challenges and setbacks on his road to recovery. A failed relationship and substance abuse pushed him over the edge. Now Daniel is living in an apartment in San Jose. He has been clean and sober for eight months and is looking forward to a brighter future thanks to the help he received from Catholic Charities and Housing 1000.

“Never give up because you never know what miracles are around the corner,” Daniel says.

“I had gotten to the point where I was so mad at myself. I didn’t feel like I had much to live for. But now I’m feeling a lot more positive.”

He was born and raised in San Jose, where he graduated from Willow Glen High School. Over the years, he worked on and off as a carpenter in the construction industry, but his traumatic upbringing took a toll on Daniel. In 2002, he became homeless after leaving an abusive relationship. For the next 10 years he struggled to get his life back on track, bouncing between substance abuse, jail, and rehabilitation programs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
Social Policy Committee Sets Advocacy Agenda

The underlying causes of poverty can be complex. The reasons people find themselves living in poverty are often a combination of personal choices and systemic conditions that make it very difficult to get ahead. That’s why advocating for public policies that would remove some of these barriers to self-sufficiency is an important part of Catholic Charities’ work.

“Catholic Charities’ support for the minimum wage increase in San Jose is one example of a successful advocacy effort,” says Judy Waitland, Chair of Catholic Charities’ Social Policy Committee. “Many of the people we serve work in minimum-wage jobs and they needed us to take a stand. If hardworking people can’t make enough money, they can’t sustain themselves.”

Judy joined Catholic Charities Board of Directors nearly three years ago because she was impressed by the agency’s focus on giving people a hand up rather than a handout.

The Social Policy Committee sets the advocacy agenda for Catholic Charities. The committee selects priorities to focus on for the year, which include the campaigns to cut poverty, comprehensive immigration reform, and support for the agency’s clients and programs.

There is a number of important political and public policy issues that directly impact the people we serve,” says Judy, who is Senior Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer at O’Connor Hospital. “Affordable housing, access to healthcare, universal preschool, immigration laws, the list goes on.

Advocating for these issues aligns with Catholic Charities’ commitment to social justice.

Immigrants Strive for Permanent Status

Driven by a desire to make the United States their permanent home, more than 1,500 immigrants from all over the world attended Citizenship Day events at San Jose City College and Bob White Community Center. Catholic Charities’ Services in Gilroy last April. The events were sponsored by the Santa Clara County Citizenship Coalition, which includes Catholic Charities, and free informational workshops were held in 14 languages.

“The only true permanent status is citizenship,” says Robert Yehes, Program Director for Catholic Charities’ Immigration Legal Services, who helped organize the events. “It’s very important for immigrants to become citizens so they can fully engage in their communities. It gives them the right to vote and take part in civic activities.”

Participating in Catholic Charities’ Citizenship Day and the events in Gilroy gave participants a taste of what it takes to become a citizen.

Catholic Charities offers a wide range of immigration services and has helped more than 700 young immigrants file applications under the deferred action policy announced by the Obama administration last year. So far, 900 of those have been approved and the others are still waiting to hear back.

Under the new policy, undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States before they turned 16 and are younger than 30 can apply for deferred action on deportation and a work permit as long as they have no criminal history and most other criteria.

“With comprehensive immigration reform on the horizon, a lot of immigrants are waiting to see what will happen,” Robert says. “The current Senate bill suggests that recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals may benefit from streamlined procedures. It’s good news for Catholic Charities. We are working hard to ensure that immigrants know what options are available to help them get on the path to citizenship.” Immigrants are an integral part of this country. We are a nation built on immigrants.

Los Amigos Pitch in for El Toro

When Cecilia Ponzini walked into the Lori Escobar El Toro Youth Center last year, she only intended to drop off a donation. But when she looked around, she realized the center could use her help. After organizing efforts to paint it and fix up the building last November, she is now an active member of the El Toro Community Advisory Board known as Los Amigos del Toro.

“I asked everyone I know to help fix up El Toro,” Cecilia says. “The response was overwhelming. We went in on a Friday and the place was painted by Saturday!”

She now owns Ponzini Community Garage and Towing with her husband Gary, but she remembers a time when she was a single mother struggling to support her kids. Back then they lived near the center on Crest Avenue in Morgan Hill.

Cecilia is one of many local residents who are committed to supporting El Toro Youth Center, operated by Catholic Charities. The center provides educational, recreational and social services to low-income youth and their families.

While the fundamental goal is to ensure academic success, the center also gives children and teens a safe place to go after school where they can play and socialize.

“My heart is definitely with El Toro,” says Morgan Hill Mayor Steve Tate, a longtime supporter and Los Amigos founder. “It helps when you can provide for your kids, so I have made sure the foundation will continue to support El Toro even after I’m gone.”

Junior Giants Teaches Life Lessons

Families excitedly waited in line outside the Family Resource Center on Race Street for a chance to see the San Francisco Giants’ World Champion trophies during a Junior Giants tour of the facility. El Toro Youth Center is part of the San Francisco Giants Junior Giants program made possible by a TOYCC under the leadership of Nancy Lopez since 2000.

Junior Giants, a program created by the San Francisco Giants, provides free educational workshops to youth in California. Cincinnati, Arizona, and Florida.

“Many of these kids wouldn’t be able to participate in organized sports. This program gives them the opportunity to play baseball and learn some important life skills.”

GET INVOLVED

Make sure all children have the opportunity to play ball by donating to Catholic Charities. Despite the Giants’ generous support, there are many families who need your help. You can give online at www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

Los Amigos del Toro

Junior Giants program at El Toro

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Caritas Receptions Inspire

Caritas Society members and their guests gathered together to connect with old friends, meet new ones, and hear how their support has made a significant difference in the lives of real people at two recent Caritas Receptions. On May 9, about 50 people attended the reception at the home of Caritas Society member and St. Rose Parishioner John and Betsy Toole in Silver Creek. They heard from Evan Calabrese, a participant in Catholic Charities’ CORAL after-school program who is now excelling academically. She spoke about the value of the program, and emphasized how CORAL staff encouraged and supported her in her efforts to do well in school. Patrya Samadani talked about the help she received through Catholic Charities’ Refugee Resettlement Program. She now attends West Valley College and is an intern at an architectural firm.

The second Caritas Reception was held on July 18 at the Saratoga home of John and Betsy Toole in Saratoga. Nearly 90 people attended the backyard affair. They learned how Catholic Charities’ Sexton Family Resource Center and Bridge to Kinder program helped Cristina Hernandez and her son prepare for kindergarten. Bridge to Kinder helps children who have never attended preschool get used to the school routine and learn some basic skills. Manzoor Saffi, a refugee from Afghanistan and now a successful businessman, spoke about the help he received through Catholic Charities’ Economic Development Services. Thanks to matching funds he received through an Individual Development Account with Catholic Charities, he was able to start a small business repairing computers and cell phones. The business has been so successful he is looking to open a fourth store soon.

Your Faith in Action Changes Lives

Thanks to you, children and families, frail seniors, homeless veterans, refugees, and others who need a hand up have somewhere to turn. Catholic Charities Annual appeal raised $718,289 for programs and services that are changing lives, cutting poverty, and creating hope. Catholic Charities depends on the support we receive each year through our Annual Appeal. We are truly grateful for the pastors who opened their doors wide and welcomed us in, the volunteers who spoke on our behalf, and the generous donors who put their faith into action.

The Annual Appeal would not be possible without the support of those committed to our mission. Hundreds of volunteers spent countless hours organizing Appeal activities, speaking at their parishes, and passing out brochures and envelopes.

Domus Council Opens Doors

When the Domus Council was formed five years ago, it was the hope that more local people would be able to find a stable home. In that time, the Domus Council has raised more than $805,000, leveraging nearly $7.5 million in government funding for Catholic Charities’ Supportive Housing Program and $56 million to build Archer Studios and Kings Crossing, affordable supportive housing developments that opened last year through Catholic Charities’ partnership with Charities Housing Development Corporation.

These volunteers help to engage parishes in the ongoing work of Catholic Charities. Not everyone can mentor a child or advocate for the elderly, but there are many ways to get involved with Catholic Charities and our campaign to cut poverty.

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GET INVOLVED: You are invited to try your luck at the third Caritas Reception on September 13. You will be able to support Catholic Charities’ work for people in need.

GOLD TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

For a list of the 100 sponsors of the Domus Council’s 12th annual golf tournament, please visit our website at http://www.caritasusa.org.

TITLE SPONSOR

HERITAGE HOCMICK LEGAL PROGRAMS

LUNCH SPONSOR

COACHES SPONSORSHIP

MEDIA SPONSORS

COURSE FLAGE SPONSORS

GOLF CART SPONSOR

RECEPTION SPONSOR

The beautiful course at Cinnabar Hills wasn’t the only green at Catholic Charities’ Golf Tournament in June. The successful event brought in $284,243 for programs and services that are changing lives. The tournament’s Fund-A-Need raised more than $65,000 for supportive housing, which will be used to leverage a 10-to-1 match in government funding. More than 230 golfers and volunteers joined Catholic Charities for a fun-filled day of golf and friendship that included a gourmet dinner and live and silent auctions. In honor of golf’s Scottish origins, bagpiper Phil Lenihan was a big hit as he serenaded golfers off the course.

Prized live auction packages this year included a Day at the Historic Del Mar Race Track with an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the stables, on the water viewing of America’s Cup race aboard the Lexus sporter boat courtesy of Lexus of Stevens Creek, and the Pebble Beach Golf for Four with accommodations at a spectacular Pacific Grove vacation home courtesy of Catholic Charities donors. Country music fans were thrilled with the chance to win two tickets to a Kenny Chesney concert that included a meet-and-greet with the performer.

Foursomes sell out fast, so if you don’t want to miss out on all the fun, be sure to save the date for next year’s Golf Tournament on June 9, 2014.

GOLF TOURNEIO SPONSORS

L-R: Murray Orco, Executive Director of Charities Housing Dan Ma, Steve Dvustant
Volunteers Serve Seniors at John XXIII

John XXIII Multiservice Center in downtown San Jose is a bustling community center where seniors have access to a hot lunch and a variety of social, educational, health, and recreational services. They can learn how to dance, do arts and crafts, or participate in cooking classes. Volunteers at the center provide a wide range of services to seniors, including transportation, help with groceries, and companionship.

Volunteers make a world of difference.

Some of the seniors regularly attend activities at the center, while others come occasionally. The center relies heavily on volunteers to operate successfully. Here are some of the volunteering opportunities available:

- **Sneakers to the Street** Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Senior Zone** Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
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Volunteers Make a World of Difference

Rita Mora, an AGent for Change who lives in the neighborhood and volunteers at the center, says, “We still have a lot of change to make the neighborhood safer, and we need volunteers to help us.”

“Senior Zone” offers a variety of activities for seniors, including art classes, dance lessons, and health workshops. “We’ve been teaching English classes at the center for three years,” says Hoa, an English-as-a-second-language instructor.

“Volunteers bring the community together,” says Milton. “We held community meetings and the seniors were starting to feel empowered, but they knew they needed to make more noise.”

So they took to the streets for Dia de los Muertos last November.

A group of seniors met at the center and decided to do something about it. Eastside Neighborhood Center is located on busy Alum Rock Avenue, where cars often speed down the street. This combined with a culture of jaywalking has made the area very unfriendly to pedestrians, particularly the older adults in the neighborhood.

“Part of the problem was that the bus stop was right across the street, which made it tempting to jaywalk,” says Milton. “So they began advocating for changes that would make the area safer for pedestrians.”

They started meeting with key stakeholders, including their representative at City Hall – San Jose City Councilmember Xavier Campos – as well as the city’s Transportation Department and the Valley Transportation Authority. They took pictures of the area to show the unsafe conditions and presented them to local leaders.

“First we got a visit from a staff member and then Councilmember Campos came to the center,” Milton says. “We held community meetings, and the seniors were starting to feel empowered, but they knew they needed to make more noise.”

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DID YOU KNOW?

Last year, through the support of our Refugee Foster Care program and foster families, 100% of our graduating high school seniors went on to pursue higher education. Of this percentage, 75% went on to major universities.

CORAL STUDENTS DANCING THEIR WAY TO SUCCESS

On May 25, hundreds of CORAL (Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning) students and parents filled the gym of Yerba Buena High School for the 3rd Annual CORAL Dance Off Event. The students, comprised of boys and girls ages Kindergarten to 8th grade, showed off months of practice with creative and unique hip hop and cheerleading routines performed in front of live judges.