Youth Programs Benefit from 1,000 Hearts

Two of Catholic Charities programs aimed at helping young people improve their academic performance are part of a countywide initiative to engage more volunteers in efforts to close the academic achievement gap in Santa Clara County. 1,000 Hearts for 1,000 Minds was launched by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and the City of San Jose last year to recruit volunteers for established tutoring and mentoring programs, including Catholic Charities’ CORAL after-school program and The Lori Escobar El Toro Youth Center.

The academic achievement gap refers to the disparity in academic performance between advantaged and disadvantaged students. The initiative’s goal is to close that gap by matching 1,000 caring adult volunteers with 1,000 elementary and middle school students who need help with literacy, math, and science.

“We approached 1,000 Hearts for 1,000 Minds because it seemed like a great fit for us,” says Sara Reyes, CORAL Program Director. “The initiative aligns with our goal to close the academic achievement gap.”

The CORAL after-school program focuses on improving the literacy skills of children in underprivileged schools who generally don’t have access to extracurricular educational opportunities. CORAL provides intensive three-hour sessions that include a literacy lesson, enrichment activity, and homework support. The CORAL program is offered at 22 San Jose school sites and serves more than 3,500 students.

Marta Turns Her Life Around

Marta is not the woman she once was, and for that she will be forever grateful to Catholic Charities. She was afraid to stand up for herself and suffered through an abusive marriage for eight years. Finally, she pushed back and was arrested for domestic violence. She lost custody of her two precious boys, who were toddlers at the time.

Already dealing with depression, she sunk even lower. She was heartbroken and worried about her children living with her abusive ex-husband, especially since her youngest son is autistic. Fortunately for Marta, she was referred to Catholic Charities through CalWorks, a government-assistance program for families with children.

Marta was treated for her depression and received the support she needed to get back on her feet. Through counseling, she has become more confident and self-reliant. It’s been a hard road, with a few setbacks, but she is doing well despite it all.

When Marta lost custody of her children, she was denied any rights to the assets she and her husband had built while they were married. She and her two daughters from a previous marriage had to start over.

Even though she had never attended school, the agency provides behavioral health services to individuals who are enrolled in CalWorks, a government-assistance program for families with children.

“Youth comes after school to The Lori Escobar El Toro Youth Center in Morgan Hill to get assistance with his homework. The great thing about 1,000 Hearts for 1,000 Minds is that they are finding the volunteers for us,” Sara says. “These volunteers can really help us address the individual needs of our students. They can help to provide the individual attention and adult connection that is missing for many of the youth we serve.”

Continued on page 7

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteer Recognition Breakfast
April 27, 2012
Catholic Charities Appeal
May 19 and 20, 2012
28th Annual Catholic Charities Golf Tournament
June 11, 2012
"Roll Against Poverty" Bocce Ball Tournament
August 23, 2012

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE LIVES

Gene and Barbara Gerwe have been supporting Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County for as long as they can remember. They joined the Caritas Society in 1992 and Gene became a member of the Board of Directors in 1994. So when St. Francis of Assisi opened that same year, becoming the parish’s Team Captains for Catholic Charities’ Appeal seemed like a natural fit.

“Catholic Charities addresses so many needs,” Barbara says. “I’m really impressed by the breadth of services. The money we give stays here in Santa Clara County, and I think that’s important. I always make sure to say that in my presentations.”

Continued on page 7
Dear Friends,

As we begin to recover from the economic crisis, at Catholic Charities our participants are still feeling the aftershocks… loss of homes, loss of jobs, family tensions, struggles in school and ongoing mental health concerns and emotional stresses. In many ways these have been the issues many of our neighbors have faced even before the downturn. And now that the economy appears to be picking up, these same neighbors are in danger of being left behind.

The need is urgent — individuals and families already in poverty have not recovered as much as the rest of us. Yet because of you, they can succeed. We see the results every day. Our participants can get a job, can do better in school, can move to greater health, can feed their bodies and their souls, and can get housing because of their hard work and with the help of staff and volunteers and financial support from donors.

In this issue of Voices of Hope you will read about some of these amazing stories of success and of the creative partnerships and strategies we are working on to help end poverty in Santa Clara County. My thanks to all who have made these success stories possible.

In May, we launch our Catholic Charities Appeal for neighbors in need. This year the Board created a Challenge of $100,000 to match new and increased gifts from our Appeal in May through June 30. All new and increased gifts you and your friends give will be doubled. We hope that you will be especially generous to Catholic Charities in this challenging year. With your help, we can do it.

Many blessings,
Gregory Kepferle, CEO

Cashman is Focused on Raising Funds

Jim Cashman is on a mission to help Catholic Charities find new ways to raise additional unrestricted funds so the organization can help more people overcome poverty. As an estate planning attorney, he understands the ins and outs of charitable giving. That’s why he sees his role as Chair of Catholic Charities’ Development Committee as a natural fit.

“Planned giving is my profession and my wife’s background is in development, so it’s a strong focus of my life,” Jim says. “Development is really about sales and Catholic Charities is an easy sell when you look at the programs and how they benefit people. Even in this tough economy, donors have stepped up. They are passionate in their support of Catholic Charities. But government funding is shrinking and the need continues to grow, so we have to find new revenue streams.”

He has been leading the committee for the past three years and was instrumental in Catholic Charities’ participation in a planned giving incubator project through the Silicon Valley Planned Giving Council. With the help of two estate planning professionals who served as mentors, the group developed a planned giving plan and committee.

“We can continue to build our endowment fund to reduce our dependence on government grants and contracts,” he says.

The Development Committee has also formed three brainstorming subcommittees to focus on three potential areas for additional revenues: events, corporate giving, and the Caritas Society.

“We currently have the Golf and Bocce Tournaments, which are successful events,” he says. “The Bocce Tournament has not only raised funds, but awareness of Catholic Charities among a younger crowd. It brings out a lot of young professionals. So we are exploring other event possibilities.”

These three subcommittees will submit their recommendations to the Development Committee and an implementation plan will be developed. The goal is to raise an additional $1 million a year by the end of five years.

“With more people in need of these types of social services and government giving less, finding new and efficient ways to raise funds is critical,” Jim adds.
Foster Youth are Part of the Family

When Marilyn and Elwood Mills’ seven children were all grown up and out of the house, the couple decided to “try something new.” They became foster parents through Catholic Charities’ Refugee Foster Care program. Now they have four foster youths living with them and they couldn’t be happier.

“It’s been a great experience,” says Marilyn, who read about the program in the local newspaper about four years ago. “When I was younger, I served in the Peace Corps and my husband lived in Mexico for two years helping orphans. But in the last six months, the disease progressed to the point where the driver was concerned about leaving her home alone and Hal agreed.

“It’s a great place for Mary to be during the day and the extended hours have made life much easier for me,” says Hal, who works and lives in Sunnyvale. “I’m not ready to quit working, so this was a good solution.”

GET INVOLVED
To learn more about Day Break Cares and other services for older adults, visit www.DayBreakCares.org.

Day Break Extends Hours to Support Working Caregivers

“We held focus groups with some of the caregivers we serve and learned that extended hours would really help those who work,” says Amy Andonian, Program Director for Catholic Charities’ Day Break Adult Care Services. “There aren’t many programs out there that accommodate working caregivers.”

Day Break provides a range of socialization, recreation, and health promotion activities for older adults, including daily exercise, art and music therapy, reminiscing, games, gardening, and health screenings. Chinese and Vietnamese speakers are also available, making it a comfortable place for older adults and their families who speak those languages.

When the program ended at 3 p.m., Mary used a paratransit service to get home in the afternoon. But in the last six months, the disease progressed to the point where the driver was concerned about leaving her home alone and Hal agreed.

“They were all very scared and nervous when they arrived,” Marilyn says. “But it didn’t take long for them to settle in. They are all doing very well. One graduated from college already and another one will head off to college after he graduates from high school this year. One is studying to be a nurse. I’m very proud of them.”

GET INVOLVED
Help refugee children start a new life by becoming a foster parent. For more information, contact Sergio Medina at (408) 325-5155 or smedina@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

Agency Partners with Daughters of Charity on CalFresh Outreach

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County is partnering with the Daughters of Charity Health System to reach more low-income families and individuals who could benefit from CalFresh. Formerly known as food stamps, CalFresh is a critical anti-poverty program that helps people put food on the table.

The agency launched an intensive effort last year to promote CalFresh to those who might qualify for food assistance and help them apply for the benefit. CalFresh not only helps people get the nutritious food they need, it also brings millions of dollars into the local economy.

“We are reaching out to the people we serve to let them know that help is available,” said Kenny Moeller, CalFresh Outreach Coordinator for Catholic Charities.” Despite the fact that more people are living in poverty, only about half of those who are eligible for CalFresh in Santa Clara County are getting it. Unfortunately, there are a lot of myths and stigma associated with CalFresh that keep people from applying.

Catholic Charities is working with the health system’s O’Connor Hospital in San Jose and Saint Louise Regional Hospital in Gilroy. Both hospitals serve the poor and already have systems in place for helping low-income families and individuals get connected to services they might need.

“We want to let more people know about this important program and I think our efforts will complement each other,” Kenny says. “The Daughters of Charity are really focused on reaching families and we are going to start focusing on seniors, so it will be a good fit.”

Circling Back with a Heartfelt Thanks

Jim Cashman and Bob Masleid, members of Catholic Charities’ Circle of Hope and longtime supporters of the agency, joined other members for the first-ever Circle of Hope reception in February. Jim and his wife Anne hosted the event at their Willow Glen home, which featured an inspiring talk by a young woman who will graduate from high school this year thanks to the support she received from Catholic Charities’ Young Women’s Empowerment program. She told the group how she had been struggling in school before she joined the program. The Circle of Hope honors those who have named Catholic Charities as a beneficiary in their estate plans. These members are helping to ensure that the programs and services that are benefitting youth will continue to be available for years to come. The reception had a Valentine’s Day theme and every member received a heart-shaped cookie, a symbol of Catholic Charities’ heartfelt gratitude.

Heartfelt Thanks

The extended hours came at a time when we really needed to take advantage of that option,” says Hal, who first started taking Mary to Day Break two years ago so she wouldn’t be home alone all day and could take advantage of the social interaction and activities. “I’m very pleased with the way things work there at Day Break and the care Mary gets.”

The Sunnyvale Day Break site is now open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Fees are reasonable, making it an affordable option for many families.

Foster Youth are Part of the Family

Hal Judy feels good knowing his partner of more than 10 years is able to get the care she needs during the day while he is busy at work. Mary, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s about four years ago, attends Catholic Charities’ Day Break Cares Adult Day Care Center in Sunnyvale five days a week. Thanks to the new extended hours, Hal is able to work a full day and still pick Mary up on time.

The Refugee Foster Care program matches unaccompanied refugee children with foster parents. Many of the youth are from war-torn countries or are victims of human trafficking. Their parents are either gone or unable to care for them.

“They are all very scared and nervous when they arrived,” Marilyn says. “But it didn’t take long for them to settle in. They are all doing very well. One graduated from college already and another one will head off to college after he graduates from high school this year. One is studying to be a nurse. I’m very proud of them.”

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New Affordable Housing Brings Hope

Kings Crossing is slated to open this month with an additional 94 units. The development is located on King Road in East San Jose and includes a mix of one, two, and three-bedroom units.

According to a report released in 2007, an additional 90,000 affordable housing units will be required by 2027 to meet our local housing needs. In 2008, Catholic Charities created the Domus Council to help provide funding for more affordable supportive housing. Since then, the Domus Council has raised $654,902 and leveraged $5.75 million in federal funding.

GET INVOLVED
Join the Domus Council and help raise funds for more affordable supportive housing. Contact Magi Young at (408) 325-5225 or myoung@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

English Skills are a ‘Game-Changer’

Every week adults from the surrounding neighborhood arrive at the Santee Community Center ready to improve their English-language skills. With the help of volunteers from St. Mary’s Parish in Los Gatos, Catholic Charities started offering ESL classes at the Santee Community Center earlier this year.

The classes are a collaborative effort between Catholic Charities’ Economic Development Division and the Franklin-McKinley Children’s Initiative, led by Catholic Charities. The initiative aims to cut poverty by providing intensive services to families and children living in the 16-block Santee neighborhood. “When we asked neighborhood residents what services they really needed, ESL classes were at the top of the list,” says Marybeth Affleck-Nacey, Director of the Franklin-McKinley Children’s Initiative. “The lack of English-language skills is a fundamental barrier to self-sufficiency. Learning English is a game-changer.”

Carol Thornton, Director of Pastoral Care and Social Justice Ministry at St. Mary’s, was also hearing that the Santee community was in need of ESL classes through the other work her parish does in the neighborhood. The decision was made to revive the 12-week conversational English class that parish volunteers taught in the Santee neighborhood three years ago.

“There was an overwhelming response to the class, so we decided to bring it back,” Carol says. “Three years ago the thought was to offer the class to help participants feel more confident about their ability to speak and learn English so they would enroll in local ESL programs. But what we discovered is that many ESL programs have been cut and none of them are offered near the Santee neighborhood.”

Marybeth agrees that holding the classes in the neighborhood is important. Also offering childcare during the daytime classes makes it possible for neighborhood mothers to participate. “Thanks to a grant from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Catholic Charities was able to hire an ESL instructor. Two daytime classes are held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and the conversational class is held Monday and Wednesday evenings.”

Lourdes Cortez, who participates in the daytime sessions, is grateful for the classes because they are helping to expand her vocabulary and are close to her home. “I need more practice speaking English,” she says. “I take classes in the morning and my husband attends in the evenings.”

GET INVOLVED
Help people improve their English-language skills by becoming an ESL instructor. Help your fellow citizens find their voice by volunteering to help people register to vote. Contact Juan Gil Garcia at (408) 325-5233 or jgarcia@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

Everyone Should Have a Voice

Catholic Charities is working out in the communities we serve helping local citizens register to vote and learn about the voting process so that everyone has the opportunity to make their voice heard at election time. The outreach effort is funded by a grant from the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters.

“There are a lot of people who are citizens and are eligible to vote, but they are intimidated,” says Juan Gil Garcia, Voter Registration Coordinator at Catholic Charities. “We want to empower people to feel comfortable with the voting process. This is not political. We don’t take sides. It’s about helping people exercise their right to vote.”

The agency offers voter education presentations that explain how the process works and will help anyone who is eligible register to vote.

“We encourage people to educate themselves about the issues and the candidates,” Juan Gil says. “If people want to change things, they need to get involved.”

GET INVOLVED
Help your fellow citizens find their voice by volunteering to help people register to vote. We are also looking to partner with community groups that are interested in hosting these presentations or getting involved in this effort. Contact Juan Gil Garcia at (408) 325-5233 or jgarcia@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.
Catholic Charities’ supporters received a firsthand look at agency operations during two recent Agency Tours. In January, they toured the Day Break Cares Adult Day Care Center in Sunnyvale. The February tour was at the Zanker Road offices, where attendees learned about a number of programs and services, including Focus for Work, refugee services, supportive housing services, Justice Empowerment Services, and the Tax EZ program, which provides free tax preparation services to low-income workers.

Donors learn how the activities at our Day Break Adult Day Care Services benefit older adults with early Alzheimer’s or dementia from CEO, Greg Kepferle, and Director of Caregiver Services, Amy Andonian.

Day Break Program Supervisor, Ching-Ming Hsueh, demonstrates how dancing helps maintain balance and agility.

Christina Ortiz enjoys getting acquainted with one of the participants at Sunnyvale Day Break Center.

Director of Refugee Services, Sergio Medina, and ESL instructor, Tiffany Helene, introduce Catholic Charities supporters to an ESL class comprised of recent refugee clients.

A volunteer at Day Break leads clients, guests and other volunteers in an exercise class.

Megan Daudistel practices what she learned to do in a calligraphy lesson at Day Break.

Visitors on the tour learn about our Job Market program, which finds and places refugee clients in jobs.

Guests learn about our Donation Station, where donated items help Catholic Charities clients start re-building their lives.

Conference Explores Innovative Funding Strategies

As government funding for social programs aimed at reducing poverty continue to dwindle, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County is investigating innovative new ways to fund these critical programs. To help move the dialog forward in Silicon Valley, Step Up Silicon Valley co-sponsored a day long Leadership Conference in March to talk about Human Capital Performance Bonds and other funding strategies with local leaders from the nonprofit, government, and business sectors.

Steve Rothchild, author of “The Non Nonprofit: For-Profit Thinking for Nonprofit Success,” was the keynote speaker. He talked about Human Capital Performance Bonds, which invest in highly effective nonprofits using private investments in public bonds. Through Steve’s efforts, Minnesota was the first state to pass Human Capital Performance Bonds.

Greg Kepferle, CEO of Catholic Charities, facilitated a panel of experts who discussed the benefits and challenges of funding nonprofit programs through these types of alternative funding strategies. Groups formed around the issues of housing, healthcare, employment, and social enterprise to establish priorities and next steps.

“I am encouraged by the depth of community interest in creating alternative financing mechanisms to help people move out of poverty and toward greater economic opportunities,” Greg says. “During the conference, we received notice of a $10,000 planning challenge grant from the City of San Jose’s Housing Department to help jump-start the initiative.”
Donor Fills Her Life with Hope and a Hand Up

Marcia Green has spent her life helping others. The retired nurse made caring for people her profession and she continues to do what she can to make life better for those who are less fortunate. That’s why she named Catholic Charities as a beneficiary in her retirement plan.

“I’ve always had an appreciation for the opportunities I’ve been given,” she says. “My life has been an awesome gift. I’ve been able to work, enjoy a diverse nursing career, and save. I feel so blessed and I can’t think of a better way to pass it on. Besides, I’ve never seen a hearse with a luggage rack.”

Marcia was the oldest of six children and the first one in her family to go to college. While she worked her way through school, she also received a little help along the way, including a small scholarship.

“Everyone needs a little help now and then,” she says.

Marcia started giving to Catholic Charities more than 15 years ago after hearing about the organization at church. Soon after that she joined the Caritas Society and included Catholic Charities in her retirement plan.

“The testimonials from clients were so powerful,” she says. “I could see the good work that Catholic Charities does.”

Now Marcia serves on Catholic Charities’ Planned Giving Committee reaching out to other supporters who might also be interested in joining the Circle of Hope by including Catholic Charities in their estate plans.

“I want to continue to do what I can for Catholic Charities and spread the word of hope. Catholic Charities is all about dignity and hope,” Marcia says. “I have a favorite quote that I live by: ‘Wake up each day with a reason and a purpose beyond yourself and you will live a full life.’ That’s my mantra.”

Your Gifts Lift Spirits

The future looks brighter for the people we serve thanks to your generous support of Catholic Charities’ Christmas Appeal. Perhaps the most important gift your generosity brings is the gift of hope for those working to overcome poverty.

The campaign raised $566,803 in unrestricted funds, the second-highest amount ever. These funds are critical because they can be used where most needed to help local families and individuals get the tools and resources necessary to become more self-reliant.

Catholic Charities depends on these funds for programs that are helping seniors stay independent, children learn to read and succeed in school, parents gain the skills to earn a livable wage and support their families, and refugees to settle into their new homes and become self-sufficient.

Your support is making a difference in so many lives. From the senior who now gets a daily hot meal and companionship to the teen who has successfully broken away from a gang, real lives have been changed because of you.

Thank you for trusting us to be the difference that matters in so many lives. We are truly grateful for your generosity and feel blessed to have such a strong community of supporters. We all know times are tough, but there is a brighter future ahead. With your continued support, we will get there.

GET INVOLVED

Your support is needed all year long to fund programs and services that are changing lives every day. There are a number of ways to give, including automatic monthly payments and online donations. To find out how you can support Catholic Charities, go to www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org or contact Marnie Regen at (408) 325-5248.

Join Others Who Play With a Purpose

Catholic Charities Golf Tournament is a great way to connect with others who care about their community and love golf. The tournament draws participants and sponsors who are active in the business community and actively engaged in making a difference.

“It’s a special day where everyone gets to contribute to eliminating poverty and play one of their favorite sports,” says Mike Blach, a member of the Golf Committee who has participated in the tournament for 10 years. “Being a sponsor is a great way to contribute to the success of the day. It’s gratifying to know you’ve played some part in the success of the best charity golf tournament of the year.”

Held at beautiful Cinnabar Hills Golf Club, this year’s tournament is scheduled for June 11 and includes a gourmet lunch and dinner, hosted reception, and live and silent auctions. All proceeds support Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, providing much-needed unrestricted funds, which allow the agency to serve more people in need.

While the foursomes sell out quickly, other sponsorships are available. New this year is a donation drawing for two spots at the Lexus Champions for Charity Golf Tournament in Pebble Beach. Only 200 will be sold for this once-in-a-lifetime trip for two.

GET INVOLVED

Play with a purpose and help cut poverty by sponsoring the 28th annual Catholic Charities Golf Tournament on June 11. Other ways to get involved include volunteering, purchasing a donation drawing ticket, donating an auction item, and/or attending the dinner. Registration and more information about the event can be found at www.CatholicCharitiesGolf.com. To get involved, contact Karen McQuade at (408) 325-5250 or kmcquade@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

GET INVOLVED

Consider leaving a legacy by joining our Circle of Hope, honoring individuals and families who have named Catholic Charities as a beneficiary in their estate plans. For more information, contact Sara Johnson at (408) 325-5259 or sjohnson@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

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Thank you for trusting us to be the difference that matters in so many lives. We are truly grateful for your generosity and feel blessed to have such a strong community of supporters. We all know times are tough, but there is a brighter future ahead. With your continued support, we will get there.

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Youth Programs Benefit from 1,000 Hearts
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

El Toro Supervisor Alban Diaz is also looking forward to having more volunteers thanks to the initiative. They will provide one-on-one tutoring and mentoring for the children and teens that come to the youth center every afternoon.

The Lori Escobar El Toro Youth Center provides quality educational, recreational and social services to low-income youth and their families in Morgan Hill. The fundamental goal is to ensure academic success for these young people, keeping them on track so college becomes a realistic possibility. The center also gives children and teens a safe place to go after school where they can get the help and support they need.

Corporate Groups Eager to Learn About Poverty

While Santa Clara County is one of the wealthiest counties in the nation, nearly one in four people can’t make ends meet here. They struggle to pay for food, housing, and other basic necessities. Step Up Silicon Valley is helping local corporations and their employees understand what poverty looks like with the help of Community Action Poverty Simulations.

“The experience gave me a glimpse into poverty,” says Cat Pham, Corporate MarCom Manager at Symantec, where a recent Poverty Simulation was held. “You make assumptions about whether poor people are trying hard or not, but now I see it’s not for lack of trying. People are trying their hardest, they just don’t have the same access and conveniences as people who aren’t in poverty.”

Participants are seated in family clusters and community resources are located at tables around the perimeter of the room. “Family” members are given cards explaining their circumstances and a small amount of “money.” The task for each family is to provide for food, shelter and other basic necessities while circumventing obstacles and a small amount of “money.” Step Up Silicon Valley is engaging corporations to reduce poverty in Santa Clara County.

The Poverty Simulations are a great way for local companies to build camaraderie among employees while helping them understand what life is like for those living in poverty. “It is more powerful to experience something firsthand than to hear or read about it,” says Darryl Carson, Learning and Development Manager at Symantec. “The benefit of the Poverty Simulation for corporations is that now you have a shared experience with the people you work with.”

GET INVOLVED
If you are interested in volunteering for the CORAL program, contact Janelle Dumais-Baudron at (408) 283-6150. To volunteer at The Lori Escobar El Toro Youth Center in Morgan Hill, contact Alban Diaz at (408) 779-6002.

Marta Turns Her Life Around
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Marta was able to take classes and get her high school diploma. Then she successfully completed a small business administration program through the Women’s Initiative.

As Marta began to feel more confident, she decided to try to regain custody of her two boys. She was able to secure joint custody and now has them living with her every other week.

Her oldest daughter is graduating from San Jose State University this year and plans to work in the healthcare field. Her other daughter will graduate from high school and has already been accepted to a university.

“My daughters are doing very well and I want to make sure my sons get the care they need,” Marta says. “I believe in myself now. I’d like to get full custody of my boys and start a small business.”

GET INVOLVED
Because of you, people like Marta can turn their lives around. Your support of Catholic Charities Appeal means the agency can continue to help people like Marta get the tools they need to become more self-reliant. You can donate at your parish or online at www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.
DID YOU KNOW?

On March 17, 160 Catholic Charities clients in the south valley attended a Citizenship Day in Gilroy. This is the first step to US Citizenship. Of the 136 people who attended Citizenship Day 2011, 70 signed up to start the process towards their own US citizenship.

FIRST 5 GARDENING CLUB

Parents and children at Luther Burbank School celebrate the garden they built with help from Health Trust AmeriCorps members and part of the Catholic Charities FIRST 5 funded programming. It was designed to help prevent childhood obesity by providing families with young children an opportunity to learn about where their food comes from and to grow it themselves.