Com m unity

Students complete bike drive

St. Mary’s School in Los Gatos connected with Catholic Charities for a project during Lent. The school’s Fourth and Seventh Grade Classes, with help from the parish, collected bicycles and helmets for our clients who need to get to school, work and to their service sites. For one person, the gift of a bicycle allowed him to keep a job, no longer having to wake at 4 a.m. to take buses to get to work, which often got him there late.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May Appeal Weekend
May 14–15, 2011
For more information, contact Marnie Regen at (408) 325-5248 or mregen@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

Golf Tournament
June 13, 2011
For more information, contact Karen McQuade at (408) 325-5250 or kmcquade@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

Bocce Tournament
August 25, 2011
For more information, contact Karen McQuade at (408) 325-5250 or kmcquade@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

Tim O’Donnell was sitting at a Catholic Charities Board Retreat in September 2009 when it hit him. The agency plan he and his fellow Board members were working on to cut poverty wasn’t going to be enough.

“It was a good business plan using the resources we have, it just wasn’t enough to cut poverty in half by 2020,” says Tim, a longtime supporter of Catholic Charities who has been an active volunteer for more than six years. “That’s when I realized we weren’t going to reach our goal doing business the way we are currently doing business.”

Then a few months later, he attended the Centennial Leadership Summit, held in January 2010 at Santa Clara University by Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County to focus on ways to cut poverty in half by 2020.

“Rev. Nicky Santos from Santa Clara University got up and talked about changing from a view of charity as being income redistribution to thinking of charity as wealth creation,” Tim says. “We will never be able to raise enough money to get everyone out of poverty. We need to do more to help people become self-sufficient. We need to create wealth.”

That was the beginning of the Transformation Committee and a new way of thinking about business. The committee will consider transformational changes that would ramp up efforts to cut poverty.

While Catholic Charities is already in the business of giving people a hand up rather than a hand out, Tim contends that the agency needs to make transformational changes that will better position it to give more people a bigger hand up.

Program Helps Homeless Vet Get Housing

After serving her country for eight years in the Army Reserves, Tonya Shipp found herself homeless. She had lost her job at Temple University in Philadelphia and was struggling to get by. She moved to California in 1999 and for 11 years she lived on the streets, with an occasional night in a shelter or motel. But now she has a permanent place to call home thanks to Catholic Charities’ Mission Rebuild.

“Life on the street is very difficult,” Tonya says. “Sleeping on the cold concrete left me with chronic back pain. So I am very grateful for Catholic Charities and Mission Rebuild. I have a place to live and my life is on track.”

Catholic Charities launched Mission Rebuild last summer to provide support to chronically homeless veterans so they can focus on rebuilding their lives. Case managers connect veterans to the services they need like counseling, health care, transportation and job training.

Tonya is currently able to receive unemployment benefits because she worked at a temp agency for a while. In the 11 years she has has a place to call home.

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Stephen Hicken is the new Director of Catholic Charities’ Economic Development Division. He has spent his career working on economic development and social justice issues in the U.S and other parts of the world.

“I am looking forward to engaging staff and community stakeholders, including the business community, in creating more economic opportunities for people in Santa Clara County,” Stephen says. “Helping people get gainful employment is one of the most fundamental ways you can help people help themselves. I am focused on that single compelling vision.”

Previously, he was Director of Programs at Women’s Action to Gain Economic Security in Oakland, where he worked to provide “healthy dignified jobs for low-income women.” Before that, he founded the Con Mi Gente Foundation, where he focused on generating jobs south of the border, connecting migrants to small business projects in Mexico.

Stephen also spent more than 25 years with the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and the Maryknoll Lay Missioners, where he worked to promote justice and alleviate poverty. During part of that time, he lived in Oaxaca, Mexico, developing funding and program initiatives to improve the quality of life among Oaxaca’s indigenous communities.

In addition, he has published three books, including From Men to Roys: Family Rites of Passage, The Other Game: Lessons from How Life is Played in Mexican Villages, and Reading the Signs of the Times: A Seven-Week Small-Group Process for Social Change.

“Catholic Charities has a long history of removing the obstacles to economic self-sufficiency, and I’m excited to be part of it,” Stephen says. “I have learned the joy of committing my life’s energy to enhancing the dignity of all people. When we reach out, we provoke transformation, we drive change.”

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Massive budget cuts being proposed by the City of San Jose would leave Washington United Youth Center and the Eastside Neighborhood Center without city funding to cover operating costs, and could force the closure of Washington United Youth Center. These cuts would require some creative strategizing by Catholic Charities and other community groups to ensure that the neighborhoods surrounding these two centers continue to have access to critical programs that are helping local families and individuals become more self-reliant.

While Catholic Charities owns the building on Alum Rock Avenue that houses the Eastside Neighborhood Center, the city owns the Washington United Youth Center building on South First Street. The youth center has been operated by Catholic Charities through a contract with the city since 1997.

Located in one of San Jose’s most disadvantaged neighborhoods, the youth center is a safe haven for teens and young adults. It serves the surrounding community through a wide range of programs, offering recreational opportunities, gang intervention services, counseling, English and computer classes, youth empowerment programs, and much more.

Catholic Charities has already put together a creative proposal for the youth center that will maintain key programs and even add some additional services. The proposal has been tentatively accepted by the City of San Jose. But pending budget cuts at the city could force the center to close completely.

The plan brings together several of Catholic Charities’ longtime partners, including Sacred Heart Natividad School, Sacred Heart Community Service, Second Harvest Food Bank, Metro Ed adult education, and the Brenda Lopez Dance Company, to offer a continuum of services at Washington United Youth Center.

Volunteer Wants to Improve Seniors’ Health

Dr. Andy Nguyen used to walk past Catholic Charities’ John XXIII Multiservice Center in downtown San Jose nearly every day. Then two years ago, he decided to go inside and see what it was all about. Since then he has become a devoted volunteer, teaching a lively and engaging exercise class twice a week and helping out in any way he can.

“I’m committed to helping seniors stay healthy,” says Dr. Andy, a local chiropractor and martial arts enthusiast. “I want to help people have a better quality of life as they age and be more independent. Exercise can help with balance, mobility, and depression.”

After watching both his elderly stepparents succumb to poor health, he decided he wanted to do something to help seniors in his community. He first started volunteering in the kitchen at John XXIII, serving meals at lunchtime and distributing food for the Brown Bag program. Then he asked how he could get more involved.

His exercise class fits right in with the mission of John XXIII, which is focused on improving the health and well-being of local seniors. In addition to a hot nutritious lunch, the center offers a number of programs and services, including a nurse-managed health clinic, classes, recreational opportunities, and case management.

“Catholic Charities was just a place I walked by,” Dr. Andy says. “But now that I’ve gotten involved, I want to do more.”

GET INVOLVED

Become a volunteer with Catholic Charities. Contact Terrie lacina at (408) 325-5132 or tia@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

Imigration Legal Services Wins Every Time

Every immigration case Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County handled last year ended in a successful resolution. That means thousands of local individuals and families will now benefit from legal status and citizenship.

Catholic Charities’ Immigration Legal Services helps eligible immigrants navigate the often-daunting path to citizenship. With offices in Gilroy and San Jose, the agency offers a number of services to immigrants, including applying for citizenship, obtaining a work permit, and helping relatives come to America.

“It can be a difficult process,” says Robert Yabes, Program Director for Catholic Charities’ Immigration Legal Services. “We work on behalf of our clients and help them every step of the way. Citizenship is extremely important because it opens up the American dream to immigrants, allowing them to become more active in their community, get better jobs, and be stronger advocates for their children.”

He says the key to Catholic Charities’ success is winning the trust of clients so they are completely honest about their situation.

“That way we can thoroughly assess each case before we take it on,” he explains.

Thanks to Catholic Charities, Ali Alsaiddi became a U.S. citizen last year. He fled Iraq in 1993 because of the political turmoil in that country and came to America for a better life.

“I wouldn’t be an American citizen today without Catholic Charities,” he says. “They helped me so much.”

Ali said the citizenship classes he attended at Catholic Charities were the key to passing his test. The classes are offered every Wednesday evening to help immigrants prepare for the citizenship test.

“I’m so happy because I love America. It has been very good to me,” Ali says. “America is a place of freedom.”

The partnership with Sacred Heart Community Service, located a few blocks from the youth center, would actually expand services to reach families with children ages 5 and younger because the agency would offer its FIRST 5 programs at the youth center.

“This is a huge challenge, but it’s also an opportunity to create something wonderful,” says Jane Hills, Director of the Children, Youth and Family Development Division at Catholic Charities. “We are gathering input from the surrounding neighborhood to determine what programs and services they want. This is a time of transition and we’re seeing that government is unable to support a lot of these programs.

It’s up to us to fill the need, as a community in collaboration with parents, families, churches, everyone coming together to make this happen.”

The Eastside Neighborhood Center must also develop a sustainability plan now that city funding cuts are planned. The center serves as a lifeline for local seniors, offering two hot meals a day as well as health and wellness programs, educational classes, and recreational activities.

“We need to find ways to raise revenue and make the building pay for itself,” says Marilou Cristina, Director of Catholic Charities’ Older Adult Services Division.

Already the center is working with Loaves and Fishes to offer an evening meal to local seniors and their families and friends. Catholic Charities also offers other services at the Eastside Neighborhood Center to maximize its use, including Immigration Legal Services and mental health counseling.

“The Eastside neighborhood is one of the highest poverty areas in the city,” Marilou says. “We have to figure out how to make this work because the neighborhood needs these services.”

GET INVOLVED

You can help local families and individuals get the services they need by donating to Catholic Charities at www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org or (408) 325-5248.
Bill Del Biaggio likes to joke that his bank is the title sponsor of the annual Catholic Charities Golf Tournament because he couldn’t say no nearly 12 years ago. But the reality is the longtime supporter of Catholic Charities wouldn’t have it any other way.

“It just made sense to do it. Catholic Charities is extremely important to the community,” says Bill, Executive Vice President and Founding Chairman of Heritage Bank of Commerce. “The Golf Tournament needs to be successful so the agency can do more, and we want to be part of that. Besides, the Golf Tournament is in a class by itself.”

Held at beautiful Cinnabar Hills Golf Club, this year’s tournament is on June 13 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.

Bill was a regular participant in the Golf Tournament before his bank was asked to sponsor it and he has been personally supporting Catholic Charities for as long as he can remember. In addition, Bill has served on the Golf Committee every year since becoming a sponsor.

He says he has enjoyed watching the Golf Tournament evolve over the years. For example, this year Catholic Charities has joined with eBay to offer its auction online. Tournament participants and others can bid on auction items at www.CatholicCharitiesGolf.com.

Those who don’t golf, like Bill’s wife Helen, can still join in the fun by attending the tournament dinner and participating in the auction. The cost for those who want to meet up with golfers at the end of the tournament and take part in the evening’s festivities is $75.

“I’m proud to be associated with the Golf Tournament,” Bill says. “I hope it continues for years to come.”

GET INVOLVED:
Help cut poverty by joining us for the 27th annual Catholic Charities Golf Tournament on June 13. There are plenty of opportunities, including sponsoring a foursome, volunteering, donating an auction item, and/or attending the dinner. Contact Karen McQuade at (408) 325-5250 or kmcquade@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

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Catholic Charities Honors Community Service

To honor the act of giving back to the community and encourage young people to get involved, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County recognizes seniors from the six high schools in the San Jose Diocese each year for their extraordinary commitment to service through its High School Community Service Awards.

“Community service is an important part of the high school experience,” says Jennifer Hanson, Community Service Learning Associate at Notre Dame High School. “At Notre Dame, we connect community service to what students are learning and focusing on in the classroom. For example, sophomores work on projects that serve those in our society who are marginalized or disadvantaged, which ties into their history and humanities curriculum.”

Jennifer and other staff at the six Catholic High Schools nominate seniors for the awards based on their community service activities throughout all their high school years, depth of knowledge of the social needs encountered during their service, and their ability to rally additional resources to improve the lives of their neighbors.

At Notre Dame, seniors are required to design and implement their own senior service project around a local need or global issue. In addition, each senior must volunteer 12 hours of direct service with a chosen agency that specifically works in the need area they have identified.

“These students come up with amazing projects,” says Jennifer, who is a graduate of Notre Dame. “When it comes time to nominate students for Catholic Charities’ service awards, it, can be very difficult because there are so many good projects.”

High School Community Service Award winners are recognized with a celebration at their schools and a donation in their name to the charity of their choice. Each school has a Gold, Silver, and Bronze winner who is awarded $250, $100, and $50 respectively to donate.

“Award winners make their donation to an agency that has made an impact on them and the community,” says Rubén Solorio, Community Relations Manager at Catholic Charities. “The award is a small gift to start students down the path of philanthropy and spark a lifelong commitment to giving.”

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Fourth-Grader Leaps Ahead at School

Selena Le loves reading and math. The fourth-grader is doing exceptionally well at school and at home thanks in part to Catholic Charities’ LEAP program, which helps youth succeed in school and make healthy choices with their peers, their families, and in their community.

“I think it has changed her,” says Selena’s father, Nicholas Le. “She’s doing better at school and she helps out around the house without being asked. A year ago, I had to ask her to do everything. She just wanted to watch television. But now she is proactive, with her schoolwork and at home. Her performance is much better.”

LEAP complements Catholic Charities’ afterschool CORAL literacy program. The two programs work together to improve academic success. Selena attends LEAP for the first two hours after school, where she gets help with homework and other guidance. Then she attends the CORAL afterschool literacy program, where she focuses on reading and enrichment activities.

“The CORAL teacher reads us a story and then we write about it in our journal,” Selena says. “We get vocabulary words and we try to use them.”

LEAP stands for Leadership, Ethnic, and Academic Pride. Selena has become a leader at her school, serving on the student council and taking on extra duties in the classroom.

“School is a lot easier for me now,” she says. “I like it.”

GET INVOLVED:
You can help children succeed at school by financially supporting Catholic Charities. To donate, visit www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.
Guests of Catholic Charities received behind the scenes tours of the agency’s many programs during three special events designed to educate, inform and inspire. The agency tours allowed people to see first-hand the work being done at our Eastside Neighborhood Center, First Five Family Resource Center, El Toro Youth Center, Donation Station and San Antonio Place and to interact with clients from toddlers to seniors.

Six years ago when Arnold Joyal’s son was incarcerated for driving under the influence, he realized that jails are filled with the family members and loved ones of people just like him. He has been volunteering for Friends Outside ever since.

“I wanted to send some books to my son and I saw that Friends Outside could really use some help filling requests,” he says. “It’s important for inmates to stay connected to their families and other people who care about them. They do much better when they are released back into society.”

Arnold works with other volunteers to deliver books and glasses to the two Santa Clara County jails, located in downtown San Jose and Milpitas. Friends Outside, which became a program of Catholic Charities in 2010, is the only way to get these items to inmates. Last year, Friends Outside delivered more than 5,000 books and nearly 250 eye glasses.

Most of the books and glasses are purchased by inmates’ friends and family who then send them to Friends Outside to forward to the jails. The program also purchases reading glasses for inmates who don’t have someone on the outside who can do it.

“Reading is very important for people who are incarcerated,” Arnold says.

The jail program is just one of many services offered through Friends Outside to help local families overcome the immediate and long-term effects of incarceration.

Consider including Catholic Charities in your will, estate or retirement plan and becoming a member of the Circle of Hope.

For more information, contact Chief Development Officer Magi Young myoung@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org or (408) 325-5225

Create a Legacy for the Future
Your Love is Changing Lives

Thanks to your love and generous support of Catholic Charities’ Christmas Appeal, more families and individuals will get the help they need to overcome poverty. Because of you, we raised $647,000 for programs and services that are changing lives for good. With your help, your love, and your action, poverty becomes only a temporary stage rather than a lifelong sentence for more of our neighbors who need a hand up.

Catholic Charities depends on funds raised through our annual Christmas Appeal to help disadvantaged children learn to read and develop the skills to succeed in school, give parents the tools they need to support their children and earn a livable wage, provide refugees and immigrants with services that will help them become full participants in our society, and provide behavioral health services to homeless individuals and others who are struggling to overcome addiction and other issues.

Thanks to your generous donations, these and many other services are helping people turn their lives around and get out of poverty. Your compassion for those less fortunate means more families can hope for a better future.

While the recession may be over, local families are still hurting and the need for our services continues to grow. We know that many of you are also still feeling the effects of the recent recession. That’s why we are even more grateful for your generosity. With love, we can overcome these hard times and help each other through it.

“The proof of love is in the works.”

Major Gift Initiatives Needed to Cut Poverty

Cutting poverty in half by 2020 will take a significant investment of private dollars. While Catholic Charities receives a number of public and private grants to operate specific programs, as well as individual donations, more funding is needed to pay for the types of initiatives that are needed to help people overcome poverty.

“We know what we need to do, but we don’t have enough resources,” says Richard Ajluni, Major Gifts Director at Catholic Charities. “We need more donors who are interested in investing in strategic initiatives that will make a significant impact on cutting poverty for years to come. A major gift is a long-term investment that will produce long-term results.”

The Domus Council is an example of an initiative that is helping Catholic Charities make significant progress in providing more affordable supportive housing. The Domus Council has raised $502,000 so far, which has resulted in nearly $5 million for supportive housing when combined with matching dollars from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

“We need ongoing funding to continue to run our programs, and we are truly grateful for our donors who give what they can to support that effort,” Richard says. “But cutting poverty is a huge undertaking and it will take a significant investment of private dollars. While Catholic Charities receives a number of public and private grants to operate specific programs, as well as individual donations, more funding is needed to pay for the types of initiatives that are needed to help people overcome poverty.

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“The proof of love is in the works.”

GET INVOLVED

Your support is needed all year long to fund programs and services that are changing lives every day. You can give online at www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org or contact Marnie Regen at (408) 325-5248.

GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in investing in strategic initiatives that will make a long-term impact on cutting poverty, contact Richard Ajluni at (408) 325-5288 or rajluni@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

Young Professionals and Longtime Supporters Unite for Bocce

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County is gearing up for another successful Bocce Tournament on August 25. Now in its third year, the past two tournaments have nearly sold out in a matter of days. The evening event at Campo di Bocce in Los Gatos includes all the excitement that comes with a rousing game of bocce while bringing together young professionals just getting to know Catholic Charities and people who have been supporting the agency for many years.

“The Bocce Tournament was one of my first experiences with Catholic Charities,” says Janee DeRose, a 26-year-old Mountain View resident and Relationship Manager for Commercial Banking at Wells Fargo, last year’s title sponsor. She has since volunteered at John XXIII with co-workers and plans to get more involved. “It was inspiring and motivating to talk to people at the tournament who have been connected to the agency for decades.”

There are a number of ways to participate in the Bocce Tournament, including sponsoring a team and volunteering to organize and put on the event. There are also “grazer” spots available for those who want to join in the fun without rolling the ball.

The event includes fabulous food, such as hand-tossed pizzas and other hearty appetizers, as well as wine from local vintners and beer. Everyone who attends can also participate in the donation drawing, which features themed gift baskets that include great getaways, food adventures, and other items.

“It’s an amazing event and a great way for sponsors to reach young professionals,” says 33-year-old Vicki Viso, who serves on the planning committee. “I enjoyed it so much I recruited more people to be part of the committee.”

She heard about the event from her business partner, Ray Tripplett of Tripplett Financial and Insurance Services, who is a longtime supporter of Catholic Charities.

“I knew of Catholic Charities because I went to a Catholic high school,” says Vicki, who lives in San Jose. “But bocce really got me reconnected to the people and values I grew up with. I definitely plan to get more involved.”

GET INVOLVED

To learn more about sponsorships and other ways to join the fun, visit www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org or contact Karen McQuade at (408) 325-5250 or kmcquade@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.
transformational change needed to give a bigger hand up

continued from page 1

“The work that our staff and volunteers are doing is excellent; we are changing lives,” says Greg Kepferle, CEO for Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. “But we need to take it to the next level if we are really serious about helping people get out of poverty.”

The Day Break Home Care Services program recently launched by Catholic Charities is an example of taking it to the next level. The program not only gives people the job skills they need for gainful employment, it also provides job opportunities.

Thanks to a partnership with Foothill College, Catholic Charities offers an eight-week training course that gives people the skills they need to work in the home care industry. Foothill College developed the curriculum for the Geriatric Health Aid course and classes are held at Catholic Charities’ Employment Training Center on Zanker Road. Course graduates are qualified to work for Catholic Charities’ new Day Break Home Care Services program, which fills another need by providing in-home care to local seniors at reasonable rates. The program has already hired 13 graduates.

He points out that home care is a growing industry and once program graduates get job experience working for Catholic Charities, they can take advantage of other job opportunities in the home care industry.

“Maybe teaching people how to fish is not enough,” Tim says. “We may need to provide the pond and maybe even stock it for a while.”

get involved

have ideas that could help transform Catholic Charities into a wealth-creating agency? Are there ways your company could get involved? Contact Almaz Negash at (408) 325-5128 or anegash@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

people you trust caring for people you love

Day break

home care

• personal care & companionship

• light housekeeping

Licensed Adult Day Care

• Three Senior Activity Centers located in Santa Clara County

• Caregiver Support Groups & Education

Providing high-quality elder care services since 1998

Program Helps Homeless Vet Get Housing

continued from page 1

been homeless, Tonya has worked a number of temporary jobs and taken advantage of several job placement services, but stable employment has eluded her.

“Getting a job is very difficult when you are homeless,” she says. “I used to hide my belongings under a bush somewhere while I went to job interviews. I can’t tell you how many times my stuff was either stolen or thrown away.”

She also lost custody of her daughters, 20-year-old Markena and 14-year-old Mariah, when they were ages 9 and 3. She tried to get help over the years, but felt powerless against the bureaucratic red tape that always seemed to keep her away from her children and without assistance. Now she meets with her case manager once a week and is getting the support she needs.

With the help of Catholic Charities, she moved into an apartment in Santa Clara in January. She is also attending a vocational program at De Anza College and will graduate in June.

“I’m continuing to look for work, in fact I’m going to a job fair tomorrow,” she says. “I’m hoping the skills I’m learning in the vocational program will increase my chances of getting a good job.”

Tonya also volunteers about 20 hours a week so she can get experience using her clerical skills. She says it helps her to maintain a routine of getting up and going to work, and it gives her a chance to give back to the community.

“My life is definitely moving in the right direction,” Tonya says.

get involved

to refer a homeless veteran, contact Mission Rebuild at (408) 295-5288.
Did You Know?

If we meet the Sobrato Family Foundation Challenge before June 30, the Foundation will donate another $180,000 next fiscal year, which would result in a total of $540,000 for Catholic Charities' programs and services.

Catholic Charities’ Day Break Senior Activity Centers provide a wide range of recreation, health promotion, socialization, and cognitive stimulation activities to dependent seniors ages 60+ (especially those who are suffering from memory loss or dementia) and their family. Each of our three Day Break centers serve up to 30 seniors per day while offering respite for family caregivers so they can attend to their own needs.