CalWorks Helps Participants Get Their Lives on Track

Marcela didn’t realize she was suffering from major depression until she enrolled in Catholic Charities’ CalWorks program. Once she started receiving treatment for the often debilitating condition, she was able to get her life back on track. The single mother of three is now attending college.

“We work with a lot of single mothers with similar backgrounds,” says Rosa Chan-Astacio, CalWorks Program Manager at Catholic Charities. “Many of them feel isolated. They don’t have a big support network. They may have been victims of domestic violence. Sometimes we discover a lot of traumatic experiences in their past. But with counseling and other support services, they can get their lives reorganized.”

Through the program, Catholic Charities offers behavioral health services to individuals who are enrolled in CalWorks, a government-assistance program for families with children. Catholic Charities’ CalWorks program helps participants find economic and emotional stability.

“Many of the women I work with have never sat down with anyone and talked about their emotional issues, or their own goals or future as an independent person,” Rosa says. “Once they develop some awareness about their own self-worth, and get some guidance and support, they thrive.”

That was the case for Marcela, who had spent years in a verbally abusive marriage and had nowhere to turn. She was estranged from her family and felt completely alone.

“I realize now I was so depressed, but at the time, I didn’t know what was wrong with me,” she says. “Rosa has been such an inspiration to me. She helped me get the strength to go back to school. My own mother never really nurtured me, she only criticized me. I really believe if someone had been there for me when I was young, my life would be different now.”

You can bring joy and hope to a family in need this holiday season by supporting Catholic Charities’ Donation Station. Toys, books, children’s clothes, and gift cards are especially needed during the holidays, when parents are trying to make it a special time for their children while struggling to make ends meet. Your donation will make it possible for more families to enjoy the holidays with their loved ones.

Last year, more than 10,000 gifts were distributed to local families and individuals thanks to your generous donations. Getting your gifts in early makes it easier for volunteers to sort and distribute them.

Volunteers play a big role in running the Donation Station, particularly during the holidays. The Donation Station can accommodate groups of volunteers, making it a great way for co-workers, friends, and families to celebrate the holidays by enjoying a meaningful volunteer opportunity together. You can share a meal together afterward and celebrate the spirit of the season.

Donation drives can help friends, co-workers, and other colleagues get into the holiday spirit, connect school children to the spirit of giving, and offer parishioners a tangible way to help those in need. You can also give your Thanksgiving gathering, Christmas party, or other holiday event more meaning by encouraging guests to bring donations.

Steve Volm, a member of our Development Committee and May Appeal Chairman, has been selected to receive a Distinguished Volunteer Fundraiser Award at Silicon Valley Philanthropy Day, the Association of Fundraising Professionals Silicon Valley Chapter’s annual awards luncheon on November 18.

Michael Gallagher, a donor and volunteer with our El Toro Youth Center, is a finalist for the Philanthropist of the Year award by the Morgan Hill Community Foundation. Michael is a long-time supporter of El Toro and each year sponsors 20 to 25 families from the center to ensure their holidays are bright.

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County recently created a new department that will streamline services to youth and families who are affected by the criminal justice system. Justice Empowerment Services brings together Catholic Charities’ existing Youth Empowerment programs, as well as services that were formerly part of Friends Outside, into one department.

“This will enable us to increase our impact in the community and better serve families who are involved with the criminal justice system,” says Greg Kepferle, CEO for Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. “With all the programs in one department, we can make sure youth and families have easy access to the services they need to stay together and work toward a brighter future.”
Dear Friends,

The other day a woman thanked me for the help and encouragement she got from a Catholic Charities counselor. She had been hesitant to come for help until a friend mentioned that she too had been helped by Catholic Charities. This was the same day that I found out that a young refugee from Africa, who arrived to us suffering from malnutrition, was released from the hospital after successfully receiving treatment. I opened an email that very day to learn about another young man, who seemed destined for gang life and an early death, who turned his life around with our help and was now earning a living wage. And only a few days earlier we received good news that the governor signed several bills we strongly supported that will help ease access to food benefits for seniors and low income families. These are just a few of the Christmas presents I have already received…and I am so grateful.

I am also grateful for each one of you who stand shoulder to shoulder with us – rich and poor alike dedicated to eliminating poverty with each person we touch. We know the challenges still facing our communities and especially our neighbors in need. We have a mighty task before us, but we are strengthened for that labor of love, because we have first been loved. As Bishop McGrath says, “It is in the faces of the poor that we see the face of Christ.”

So what a blessing it is this Christmas and holiday season to be able to put that love into action, whether it is through helping people find work, housing homeless veterans, teaching children and adults how to read, helping seniors stay healthy, counseling people with mental illness, organizing neighborhoods to help families thrive, or welcoming newcomers to our community.

This Christmas season may we each be generous with the blessings we have received. Please join me in making a special gift to Catholic Charities so that we can make this Christmas one of blessing for each person in need that we touch.

Thank you!
Many blessings,
Gregory Kepferle, CEO

Catholic Charities does with refugees and immigrants. “It is in the faces of the poor that we see the face of Christ." The Partnership program helps older adults transition from mental institutions to community living. Low-income seniors with acute mental illness receive treatment, assistance finding a safe and affordable place to live, and other support services to help them adjust. Golden Gateway reaches out to older adults with undiagnosed depression and other mental health issues. These seniors are often physically or culturally isolated, and have nowhere to turn for help. Services include case management, counseling, and medication support by a psychiatrist.

“We are able to identify depression early on in some of these older adults, which may help to avoid more serious problems,” says Kitty Mason, Director of Behavioral Health Services. “Some are dealing with chronic health conditions that add to their depression.”

Many of these clients have a multitude of needs and would benefit from the other services offered at John XXIII. They are encouraged to get more physical activity if possible, socialize, and get involved in activities they enjoy, which they can do at the Multi-Service Center.

“It will be easier to get involved because they will be familiar with the setting and will already be coming to John XXIII,” Kitty says. “At the center they can also see a nurse practitioner, get a hot lunch or weekly bag of groceries, take some classes, participate in social activities, and make friends, all of which help to improve mental health.”

GET INVOLVED
Make sure seniors get the services they need by volunteering at John XXIII Multi-Service Center. To learn about volunteer opportunities at Catholic Charities, visit www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

New Board Member Focuses on Financial Empowerment

Mona Masri knows firsthand how financial empowerment can help families and individuals overcome poverty. The new member of Catholic Charities’ Board of Directors serves in Citis’s Community Development group, where she is focused on building economic capability for low to moderate-income customers.

“I have developed a deep appreciation for the comprehensive and holistic work Catholic Charities does, particularly in the area of Economic Development and asset building,” says Mona, who helped the organization set up its matched savings program. “As I learned more about Catholic Charities and observed the impact of its work on the most vulnerable low-income individuals, I felt compelled to get more involved with the organization.”

As the daughter of Lebanese immigrants, Mona also appreciates the work Catholic Charities does with refugees and immigrants. Prior to joining Citibank eight years ago, Mona worked at the Small Business Administration. Before that, she served in the Peace Corp, where she helped set up microenterprise centers in Bulgaria.
Welcoming the Stranger for 30 Years

For three decades, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County has helped refugees from all over the world settle into their new home and begin to rebuild their lives. The Refugee Resettlement Program turns 30 this year and Catholic Charities is planning to hold a celebration event in the spring to honor those who came to this country with nothing but a dream and those who helped make their dreams a reality.

Catholic Charities’ Refugee Resettlement Program was launched in 1981, two years after President Jimmy Carter signed a declaration allowing “boat people” fleeing Vietnam to take refuge in this country. Since the arrival of the first Vietnamese refugee, Catholic Charities has seen waves of refugees that reflect current events across the globe.

For example, refugees from the Bosnian War began arriving in 1993. Then in 2001, it was the Lost Boys of Sudan who were fleeing the bloodshed that occurred during the Second Sudanese Civil War. More recently, Iraqi and Afghani refugees have come to the U.S. to escape the violence in their countries.

“Refugees from more than 30 countries have come through our program,” says Reza Oadbbee, Director of the Refugee Resettlement Program. “They have been victims of wars, political upheaval, and human trafficking, yet they come here and try their best to start over. We have seen many success stories over the years.”

Catholic Charities helps refugees adjust to the new culture and find a place to live. The program provides case management, English classes, computer and job training, matched savings accounts, and legal assistance. More than 25,000 refugees have been served by the program since it began.

GET INVOLVED
You can help welcome the stranger by donating to Catholic Charities or volunteering to assist newly arrived refugee families. Contact Reza Oadbbee at (408) 325-5170 or reza@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

New Director is a Former Client

Kenneth Bazile knows firsthand what it’s like to be a client of Catholic Charities. The new Director of Catholic Charities’ Children, Youth and Family Development Division arrived in the Bay Area in 2005 after losing his home to Hurricane Katrina. Like thousands of other evacuees, he needed help finding housing, a job, and a new life, so he turned to Catholic Charities of the East Bay.

“Before Katrina, I never thought I would need help from anyone,” he says. “But I did and that experience redelected me to the mission of service.”

Kenneth had been working as Director of Operations for the Boys and Girls Club in New Orleans. Told he was overqualified, Kenneth struggled to find a job in the Bay Area. Eventually Catholic Charities of the East Bay hired him to work as a case manager, helping other evacuees rebuild their lives here.

After that, he worked in the San Francisco Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice followed by a stint at the Inner City Adolescent Network in San Francisco. Just prior to joining Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, Kenneth worked for the Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center in San Francisco.

“I want to help integrate all of our services into the lives of our clients,” he says. “So when a youth comes to us because he’s been labeled as a gang member, we are able to wrap our services around him and his family so they can get the help they need.”

Ombudsmen Program Going Strong Thanks to Volunteers

After facing severe government budget cuts three years ago that nearly closed the program, Catholic Charities’ Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is thriving thanks to the volunteers and staff dedicated to serving the frail elderly who live in licensed nursing homes, assisted-living facilities, and board-and-care homes and depend on the program.

“We had to lay off six staff members when funding was cut,” says Wanda Hale, Program Manager for Catholic Charities’ Ombudsman Program. “It was devastating because the cuts were retroactive. Since then we have focused our efforts on increasing the number of volunteers and now we have 40 active volunteers, more than we have ever had.”

Before the budget cuts, Catholic Charities’ volunteers and staff were visiting 13,000 beds a year. The program is nearly back to that level at about 12,000 beds.

Catholic Charities operates the Ombudsman Program through a mandate from the Older Americans Act under the California Department of Aging. Ombudsmen serve as advocates for those living in long-term care facilities. They are certified and licensed by the state of California after 36 hours of in-class training and 10 hours of hands-on experience.

“Most of the issues I deal with are misunderstandings between the staff and residents at the facility I visit,” says Roger Curry, who has been volunteering for the program since 2009. “It’s been a very positive experience.”

Like most of the volunteers, Roger has been assigned to one facility, which he visits about once a week. He says he works well with the staff there and the residents are always happy to see him.

“The program presents an opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life,” Roger says. “In a very real way, we are making a difference.”

For example, refugees from the Bosnian War began arriving in 1993. Then in 2001, it was the Lost Boys of Sudan who were fleeing the bloodshed that occurred during the Second Sudanese Civil War. More recently, Iraqi and Afghani refugees have come to the U.S. to escape the violence in their countries.

“Refugees from more than 30 countries have come through our program,” says Reza Oadbbee, Director of the Refugee Resettlement Program. “They have been victims of wars, political upheaval, and human trafficking, yet they come here and try their best to start over. We have seen many success stories over the years.”

Catholic Charities helps refugees adjust to the new culture and find a place to live. The program provides case management, English classes, computer and job training, matched savings accounts, and legal assistance. More than 25,000 refugees have been served by the program since it began.

Ombudsmen volunteers are the eyes, ears and voices for thousands of seniors in long-term care facilities throughout the county.

GET INVOLVED
You can help frail seniors get the care they deserve by volunteering for the Ombudsman Program.
Contact Wanda Hale at (408) 325-5269 or whale@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

For three decades, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County has helped refugees from all over the world settle into their new home and begin to rebuild their lives. The Refugee Resettlement Program turns 30 this year and Catholic Charities is planning to hold a celebration event in the spring to honor those who came to this country with nothing but a dream and those who helped make their dreams a reality.

Catholic Charities’ Refugee Resettlement Program was launched in 1981, two years after President Jimmy Carter signed a declaration allowing “boat people” fleeing Vietnam to take refuge in this country. Since the arrival of the first Vietnamese refugee, Catholic Charities has seen waves of refugees that reflect current events across the globe.

For example, refugees from the Bosnian War began arriving in 1993. Then in 2001, it was the Lost Boys of Sudan who were fleeing the bloodshed that occurred during the Second Sudanese Civil War. More recently, Iraqi and Afghani refugees have come to the U.S. to escape the violence in their countries.

“Refugees from more than 30 countries have come through our program,” says Reza Oadbbee, Director of the Refugee Resettlement Program. “They have been victims of wars, political upheaval, and human trafficking, yet they come here and try their best to start over. We have seen many success stories over the years.”

Catholic Charities helps refugees adjust to the new culture and find a place to live. The program provides case management, English classes, computer and job training, matched savings accounts, and legal assistance. More than 25,000 refugees have been served by the program since it began.

GET INVOLVED
You can help welcome the stranger by donating to Catholic Charities or volunteering to assist newly arrived refugee families. Contact Reza Oadbbee at (408) 325-5170 or reza@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

For three decades, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County has helped refugees from all over the world settle into their new home and begin to rebuild their lives. The Refugee Resettlement Program turns 30 this year and Catholic Charities is planning to hold a celebration event in the spring to honor those who came to this country with nothing but a dream and those who helped make their dreams a reality.

Catholic Charities’ Refugee Resettlement Program was launched in 1981, two years after President Jimmy Carter signed a declaration allowing “boat people” fleeing Vietnam to take refuge in this country. Since the arrival of the first Vietnamese refugee, Catholic Charities has seen waves of refugees that reflect current events across the globe.

For example, refugees from the Bosnian War began arriving in 1993. Then in 2001, it was the Lost Boys of Sudan who were fleeing the bloodshed that occurred during the Second Sudanese Civil War. More recently, Iraqi and Afghani refugees have come to the U.S. to escape the violence in their countries.

“Refugees from more than 30 countries have come through our program,” says Reza Oadbbee, Director of the Refugee Resettlement Program. “They have been victims of wars, political upheaval, and human trafficking, yet they come here and try their best to start over. We have seen many success stories over the years.”

Catholic Charities helps refugees adjust to the new culture and find a place to live. The program provides case management, English classes, computer and job training, matched savings accounts, and legal assistance. More than 25,000 refugees have been served by the program since it began.

GET INVOLVED
You can help welcome the stranger by donating to Catholic Charities or volunteering to assist newly arrived refugee families. Contact Reza Oadbbee at (408) 325-5170 or reza@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.
**Former Gang Member Turns His Life Around**

At age 21, Edgar had already been in jail twice and was living the gang life. But he knew he was heading nowhere fast, so when his probation officer suggested he join Catholic Charities' Vocational Education Services program, he decided to give it a try. That was more than two years ago; today Edgar has a steady welding job and recently became the proud father of a baby girl.

"I've received a lot of help from the program," Edgar says. "It kept me busy and off the streets. I got my anger under control. Once I got involved in the program, everything changed for me."
BOCCE TOURNAMENT

A rollicking good time and an evening of friendly competition highlighted the third annual Catholic Charities Annual Bocce Tournament. Nearly 250 guests of Catholic Charities came together to Roll Against Poverty® at Campo di Bocce in Los Gatos on August 26 which included delicious Italian fare, a prize-packed donation drawing and premium wine bar. This sold out event set a new record, raising $33,028 to support the programs and services of Catholic Charities that help people living in poverty. A new champion was crowned from the 32 teams that started the tournament (Team Fish). Special thanks to Wells Fargo for being the Title sponsor of the event for the second year in a row and to our Tournament sponsors Joseph J. Albanese, Inc., University Art, and Andrea and Joe Thomas.

In order to make this wonderful gathering a reality, a terrific team of volunteers made up the Bocce Tournament Committee, chaired by Mary Sue Albanese, and donated many hours of hard work to the cause. “The event has great energy and is a wonderful way for people to have a great time while helping others in need,” says Betsy Kais, Bocce committee member. “Even the volunteers join in the fun and can’t wait for next year.” For more information about next year’s Bocce Tournament, please contact Karen McQuade at (408) 325-5250 or kmcquade@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

The largest team contingent at the Bocce Tournament was team Calabria Squadra de Bocce. (back row L–R) Art Carmichael, Mike Shafran, Bill Snyder, Kristen Snyder, and Ted Cribari. (front row L–R) Jean Carmichael, Daryl Shafran, Patricia Colter.

Mike Maguire, Todd Ayers, Cornelia Pendleton, Charlie Affrunti

David DeRosa, Eric House, Steve White, Paul Normandin

Renee and Tony Delfino, Michael and Katie Boennighausen

Chris and Kelly Bovone, Gynne Rolla, Barry and Jenny McBay

Marte and Linda Formico, Mike and Jen Felice

Bob Wirkelman, Ken Dickens, Brittni Dickens, Aldo Giordano

The new champions show their first place smiles and trophies after winning the final match of the evening at the third annual Catholic Charities Bocce Tournament.

Team Fish, made up of (L–R) Brian Howell, Matt Bernal, Mark Ivie and Mike Federwisch, advanced from the round-robin competition to win the elimination round. Team Fish upset the two-time defending champion Joseph J. Albanese, Inc. foursome to end the evening and were crowned the winners.

The new champions show their first place smiles and trophies after winning the final match of the evening at the third annual Catholic Charities Bocce Tournament.

The new champions show their first place smiles and trophies after winning the final match of the evening at the third annual Catholic Charities Bocce Tournament.

The new champions show their first place smiles and trophies after winning the final match of the evening at the third annual Catholic Charities Bocce Tournament.

The new champions show their first place smiles and trophies after winning the final match of the evening at the third annual Catholic Charities Bocce Tournament.

2011 BOCCE TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

Special thanks to our generous tournament sponsors who have partnered with us to “Roll Against Poverty.”

Title Sponsor

Wells Fargo

Tournament Sponsors

Joseph J. Albanese
Andrea and Joe Thomas
University Art Center

Court Sponsors

Berlin Cohen Attorneys at Law
Caputo Associates
The Gentzlow and Melehan Families
Toledo and Thersci Kristen
Jim and Kristin Fulton
Archaic Insurance Brokers – Ron Sortino
Kevin and Claudia DeNuccio
Robson Homes – Mark and Julie Robson

Sponsors

Brent and Paula Larson
Mike and Cate Denzel
Dave Beninc
Genevieve Rolla
Casiglia, McMahon & Allard
John and Kimberly Bovone
Michael and Katie Boennighausen
Marte and Linda Formico
Demi/Lipscomb/Pane/Powers
Dick Rolla
Mike and Anne Federwisch
The Housing Trust

Teams

Theresa lacino
Ted Cribari and Patricia Calter
Robin and Ria Reynolds
Ken and Kristin Dickens
Tom and Adrianna Glascott
The Hernandez and Fontana Families
Chris and Kelly Bovone
The Larrenega and Martig Families

WHAT CAN ONE PERSON DO?

By including Catholic Charities in your estate plans, one person can inspire generations.

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

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
Catholic Charities’ volunteers were the marshals at hole number three for the Frys.com Open at CordeValle Golf Course in San Martin. Among the Catholic Charities’ volunteers who supported the October stop on the PGA Tour were (l-r) Gerardo Aguilar, Greg Staszko, Drew Haaser, Jeffrey Mitchell, Michael Pitkin, and Mike Blach. Catholic Charities is receiving 20 percent of all ticket sales made by the agency as well as additional proceeds from the tournament. To reserve a foursome for the 2012 Catholic Charities Golf Tournament, please contact Karen McQuade at (408) 325-5250 or kmcquade@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

We Remember... We Celebrate... We Believe...

More than 230 members and guests enjoyed the 25th Anniversary Caritas Annual Celebration. Mary Quilici Aumack was honored for her 13 years of leadership for the Caritas events.

The prayer service was presided over by Bishop McGrath with Bishop Daly leading the Oscar Romero prayer, Archbishop Mitty High School’s performance band, Exodus, provided musical accompaniment for the prayer service. The procession to the reception was guided by the uplifting sounds of bells rung by children from St. Martin of Tours parish.

We were delighted the event was hosted by St. Martin of Tours. A special thanks goes out to Fr. Chris Bransfield for welcoming us to his parish. Thanks also to the many volunteers from St. Martin of Tours and the Caritas Celebration Committee, under the leadership of Anne Cashman, for making this wonderful gathering a reality.

Catholic Charities’ volunteers were the marshals at hole number three for the Frys.com Open at CordeValle Golf Course in San Martin. Among the Catholic Charities’ volunteers who supported the October stop on the PGA Tour were (l-r) Gerardo Aguilar, Greg Staszko, Drew Haaser, Jeffrey Mitchell, Michael Pitkin, and Mike Blach. Catholic Charities is receiving 20 percent of all ticket sales made by the agency as well as additional proceeds from the tournament. To reserve a foursome for the 2012 Catholic Charities Golf Tournament, please contact Karen McQuade at (408) 325-5250 or kmcquade@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.

Caritas Service Projects Highlight Compassion

Caritas Society members have the opportunity to join together in service and celebrate the spirit of giving during Catholic Charities’ “Caritas Compassion at Christmas.” The week of service offers three rewarding volunteer opportunities that will give Caritas members the chance to get more involved in the work they so generously support.

The first opportunity is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on December 2 at San Antonio Place in Mountain View. Caritas members will bring a dish to serve and a gift for a holiday party at the supportive housing complex. Members will serve food and organize some fun holiday activities for the formerly homeless individuals and families who live at San Antonio Place.

On December 7, Caritas members can volunteer for the Brown Bag program at John XXIII Multi-Service Center in downtown San Jose. Members will distribute bags of groceries to seniors from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. John XXIII offers a wide range of health and wellness services to older adults, including the weekly Brown Bag program. Participants are also asked to bring a scarf or a pair of gloves as a gift for seniors.

The final service opportunity is from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on December 7 at one of Catholic Charities’ CORAL sites. The afterschool program focuses on improving literacy skills in a fun, interactive, and supportive environment. Members will work on an ornament project with the middle school children during this holiday gathering that will include festive music. Members are asked to bring a book or magazine for the children.

The Caritas Society was founded in 1985 to support Catholic Charities’ work, with members generously donating $1,000 to $50,000 each year to programs that help people of all cultures and beliefs overcome poverty.

Get Involved

If you are a Caritas Society member and want to join with others in this week of service, contact Karen McQuade at (408) 325-5250 or kmcquade@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org. For more information about joining the Caritas Society, contact Sara Johnson at (408) 325-5259 or sjohnson@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org.
CalWorks Helps Participants Get Their Lives on Track

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Marcela is taking classes at De Anza College. She hopes to transfer to San Jose State University, where she will complete her education in behavioral science so she can counsel children someday. She is looking for part-time work so she can support her three children while she attends school.

“We help to motivate participants to become economically self-sufficient,” Rosa says. “Every participant has a therapist and a case manager who can connect them to resources and make sure they get the help they need. These women get a lot of support from our team, and they support each other.”

Patricia is grateful for the help she is receiving from Catholic Charities’ CalWorks program. Like Marcela, she suffers from depression, which was keeping her from getting ahead.

“All about a year ago I lost my job as a nursing assistant,” says Patricia, a single mother with three children. “I had just separated from my husband and I was feeling really low. After I lost my job, I couldn’t pay for my apartment. Rosa helped me find supportive housing.”

Patricia is receiving treatment for her depression and now lives in an apartment in Sunnyvale with her three children. She was able to get another full-time job as a nursing assistant and is also attending Mission College. When she has enough credits, she hopes to transfer to San Jose State University, where she will enroll in the nursing program so she can become a registered nurse.

“I’ve received so much help I feel obligated to work hard and do my part,” Patricia says. “Education is everything, so I am pushing my children to study so they can get a good job.”

Catholic Charities’ CalWorks program has helped hundreds of participants turn their lives around in the 10 years it has been operating.

“All of the women I work with want the same thing,” Rosa says. “They want to take good care of their children and develop their careers so they can provide for their children. They just need some encouragement.”

Gifts to the Donation Station Light Up the Holidays

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Located on the first floor of Catholic Charities’ Zanker Road building, the Donation Station has become a critical resource for families and individuals who are working to overcome poverty. It is a welcoming place where clients can “shop” for clothes, furniture, household appliances, and other items they need at no cost. It also offers a practical way for clients who need job experience to learn how to work in a retail setting and communicate with customers.

“As we help people find customer-service and retail jobs, it often helps to be able to see how they perform in an actual customer-service setting,” says Stephen Hicken, Catholic Charities’ Director of Economic Development Services. “We’re able to assign people to work in the Donation Station and see how they really do. Then we can coach them in their job-seeking and job-interviewing work.”

Donations can be delivered to the Donation Station during operating hours. The Donation Station is open Tuesday through Saturday.

GET INVOLVED

Light up the holidays for those in need by giving to Catholic Charities’ Donation Station. You can also help by volunteering to sort donated items or assist shoppers.

To donate home furnishings, toys, gift cards, and other items, visit the Donation Station or contact us at DonationStation@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org or (408) 325-5278.

Agency Tour Offers Look at Life-Changing Services

Every day Catholic Charities helps families and individuals overcome poverty and change their lives for good. You can get an inside look at these life-changing services during the upcoming Agency Tour scheduled for November 17. The half-day tour will not only give participants a chance to see Catholic Charities’ programs and services in action, but also interact with some of the people we serve.

The tour starts at Catholic Charities’ headquarters on Zanker Road at 9 a.m., where participants will learn more about the agency and some of the programs housed there, including the Donation Station, Supportive Housing, and Inmate Support Services. Then participants will board a chartered bus and head over to one of Catholic Charities’ Family Resource Centers, where parents get the help and support they need to prepare their children for kindergarten. Programs are focused on early childhood development and participants will have the opportunity to get involved in some of the activities, including reading, arts and crafts, and a music class.

From there the tour will move to the Eastside Neighborhood Center, which offers educational, recreational, wellness, nutritional, and social services to low-income older adults in East San Jose. Participants will first serve lunch and then will sit down and enjoy the meal with the seniors.

GET INVOLVED

To sign up for the Agency Tour on November 17, contact Linda Pippin at lpippin@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org or (408) 325-5125.

Justice Empowerment Article

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Programs that were formerly part of Catholic Charities’ Youth Empowerment Services include Washington United and El Toro youth centers, probation services, vocational services, and other programs designed to keep young people on the right side of the law and on the path to success.

Former Friends Outside programs include Inmate Support Services, Steps Ahead Home Visitation, the Kinship Support Program (See Kinship Support story on page 4), and a number of other programs designed to help families overcome the immediate and long-term effects of incarceration.

“It just makes sense having these programs under one department,” says Melissa Santos, Justice Empowerment Services Director. “Many of the youth and families we work with have a variety of needs, and this way we can seamlessly offer a continuum of services no matter what issues they are facing.”
DID YOU KNOW?

More than 850 people received housing services from Catholic Charities to obtain and keep affordable housing last year.

Volunteers Make a Difference at Catholic Charities

A key to Catholic Charities’ success rests in our volunteers, who embody the compassion and mission of our agency. We hope you will consider sharing your time and talents with those in need this holiday season. Catholic Charities has a variety of programs to suit your schedule and interests – from short-term commitments, completed in a few hours, to long-term commitments providing ongoing assistance to help our clients achieve self-sufficiency. Special arrangements will be made for business offices wishing to complete a group volunteer project, such as the 30 Bank of America staffers that volunteered at three of our sites (pictured above). For more information, contact us at volunteers@CatholicCharitiesScc.org.