



Santa Barbara County Develops Client Voucher System for Thrift Stores

Catholic Charities' Santa Barbara County's two Thrifty Shopper stores have instituted a client voucher system which provides free clothing and household items to the community services program's clients in the county. The client vouchers often make a difference in reducing an immediate crisis, usually faced by individuals and families most in need.



Voucher client finds what she needs for a job interview at Santa Barbara's Thrifty Shopper.

The Santa Maria Thrifty Shopper is primarily focused on accepting select donated soft goods, which can quickly be turned around and offered free to the voucher clients. Seventeen generous volunteers are charged with merchandising and selling.

The Santa Barbara Thrifty Shopper, managed by paid staff, has cultivated a significant retail trade. The clothing and some selected donations are made available, at no cost, to the voucher clients, as well as to several other non-profit and faith-based organizations.

Last year, both Thrifty Shoppers provided \$114,178 worth of free retail merchandise to over 5,650 clients.

For information about Catholic Charities' Thrifty Shopper stores in Santa Barbara County, please call (805) 965-7045. ❀

OASIS Helps Senior Age with Grace

In 2004, Etta, who was 80 years old, became a client of Catholic Charities' Older Adult Services and Intervention System (OASIS) when her dwindling income made it necessary for her to get help, and to move in with her daughter, in order to survive.

While living with her daughter, Etta became frail and weak. She needed a walker to be able to stand and move around. OASIS stepped in, initially, and provided a walker with a seat, grab bars and an extender. Today, OASIS staff and volunteers continue to provide Etta with a variety of support services and friendly visits which help keep her safe and healthy and enable her to maintain her positive outlook on life.

With the support of her six children and the assistance of OASIS, Etta, now 90 years old, is able to keep her strong sense of humor and her love of life, in spite of her failing health. Her kindness extends to other seniors, whom she refers to the OASIS program, if they have a need of walkers or senior hygiene products.

Etta's circumstance reinforces OASIS' belief that seniors are happier, healthier



Etta has been a client of the OASIS program for almost ten years.

and more productive when they live in their own homes, instead of being prematurely placed in nursing/assisted living facilities.

OASIS is a program that provides aging and case management services in the Ventura County area of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles. Last year, over 4,500 senior clients were served by the program. For more information, call (805) 987-2083. ❀

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Message from the Executive Director, Rev. Monsignor Gregory A. Cox

The *Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain is the story of two boys who lived three hundred years ago in England. Not only were they good friends, they looked so much alike that could be taken for identical twins. One of the boys was Edward, the Prince of Wales; the other was Tom Canty, a pauper, a poor boy.

One day, for some fun, they decided to switch places. They changed clothes. Tom put on the rags of a poor boy and wandered through the slums of London, rubbing elbows with beggars and the underprivileged.

After a time, both lads tired of their game. In his ragged shirt and trousers, Edward tried to tell the police that he was the prince. He was thrown into jail. Just as Tom was about to be crowned king, Edward showed up and convinced the officials that he was the true prince. As a result of his experience, he became a kind and just ruler.

We do not have to travel far to see poverty in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Los Angeles County's poverty rate of 22% is the highest of any city in the United States. Approximately 60,000 Angelinos are homeless.

Catholic Charities encourages volunteers, in programs that aid clients of shelters and community service centers, to change your role from Prince to Pauper to better serve the poor in our communities. As a result of your experience, you will become a more kind and just person. ❖



GOLF FOR OUR COMMUNITY CENTERS AT THE 18TH ANNUAL CATHOLIC CHARITIES' GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014
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GLENDALE

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WHO ARE POOR AND HOMELESS.

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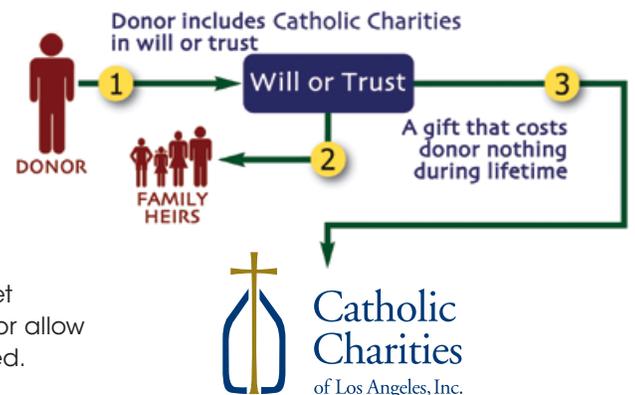
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Just contact Alexandria (Sandi) Arnold at
sarnold@CatholicCharitiesLA.org or at (213) 251-3495.



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Annual “Footprints” Held to Help Neighbors in Need

Almost 300 people, of all ages, came together to learn about poverty in the San Gabriel Valley and to do something to help people in their communities. “Footprints: Making Tracks for Neighbors in Need,” a Catholic Charities’ San Gabriel Region event, is held each year to raise prayer, awareness, and funds for disadvantaged persons in the San Gabriel Pastoral Region of the Archdiocese.

Participants gathered pledges of prayer or funds and then walked laps around the Bishop Amat High School track to honor those pledges. Walkers learned about poverty in the local neighborhoods from the photos, facts, and statistics on signs posted around the track. It further provided a service hour opportunity for youth, who received credit for the time they spent at the event by completing a questionnaire on Catholic Social Teaching and local poverty with answers from the posted signs.

“Footprints” also offers families the opportunity to share time outdoors together. The event featured a tiny tot’s 50-meter dash, face-painting, Zumba, dizzy bat, and door prize drawings. This year’s runner with the most laps completed 40 laps – ten miles. The crowd included former and current clients, business and nonprofit partners in the community, and many individuals from parishes and schools throughout the region. The event



Participants enjoy Zumba at the “Footprints” event of San Gabriel Region.

raised innumerable prayers and over \$6,000 for the poor in the San Gabriel Valley communities.

Catholic Charities’ San Gabriel Region serves about 40,000 people each year, nearly 18,000 of whom are children. If you would like to help or learn more about Catholic Charities’ San Gabriel Region, please contact Mary Romero, Regional Director, at 323-266-3130 or Anne Wrotniewski at 323-264-8701. ❖

Intern Reflects on Her Work at Brownson House

“My time at Brownson House Community Center, in the San Gabriel Region of Catholic Charities, was very rewarding for me, as an individual and as a Social Work Intern. It was a great learning experience; one of the biggest lessons I learned was to treat everyone with dignity and respect. Seeing the whole staff value and empower low-income, chronically homeless individuals to believe in themselves was a wonderful lesson. I started to look beyond the physical appearance and focus on the great persons the clients truly are.

“While at the center, I became aware of the power of listening. As I received calls from people seeking help and resources, I found that they often opened up to tell me about their problems. At times, I did not have to say anything; all I needed to do was listen to them and validate their feelings and their resilience, in order to encourage them to move forward. The best part, for me, was when they simply would say ‘Thank you. Now I feel like I can keep going on.’

“My assignment included micro, some mezzo, and macro social work and I enjoyed every single task. Everything I learned, I



Anne Wrotniewski, MSW, was the Intern’s supervisor.

am able to apply in my new internship and employment. I am grateful to Anne Wrotniewski for being very patient and supportive and, also, to all the staff and volunteers who made me feel part of the Brownson House family. It was a privilege to work for Catholic Charities, an organization that truly values its staff and the people it serves. Again, thank you to everyone at Brownson House!” ~ Yadira ❖

CCLA Guides Senior Refugees in Adjusting to Life in the U.S.

Refugees who arrive in the United States as seniors often need extra help to become accustomed to their new communities and the services available to them. To facilitate this, Catholic Charities (CCLA), through its Central Intake Unit program, has developed a specialized service to provide acculturation classes and senior networking activities to refugees age 60 and older.

Senior participants are Armenian and Farsi speakers and have lived in the U.S. for less than five years. Services provided monthly to those clients include: mental exercise activities; blood pressure, heart rate and weight monitoring; English conversation practice; case management; information and referral services; transportation assistance; field trips; and workshops on a variety of acculturation topics.

For information about the Central Intake Unit program, contact Brenda Thomas, director, at bthomas@ccharities.org. ❀



Recently, fire safety and fire extinguisher training was conducted by the Glendale Fire Department at CCLA's Glendale Community Center. As part of the training, seniors had an opportunity to practice putting out a fire. Each of the seniors was also provided with a fire extinguisher at the end of the training.



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Catholic Charities' food pantries allow senior clients to obtain healthy, nutritious food.

