



Suzanna Guzman and 4th Grade String Quartet to Perform at Christmas Gala

Catholic Charities' 2015 City of Angels Christmas Gala will be held on Friday, December 4 at The California Club in downtown Los Angeles. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles Investees of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, the Order of Malta, and the Order of St. Gregory the Great will be honored.

Back by popular demand will be Suzanna Guzman, accomplished mezzo-soprano. Guzman, best known for her title role in Bizet's Carmen, has been honored by People magazine in Español as an outstanding Latino in Music, and was the first recipient of the Plácido Domingo Award.

Joining Ms. Guzman in performing Christmas favorites will be a string quartet of talented 4th graders who attend an afterschool program brought to the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts by Gustavo Dudamel.

Proceeds will benefit the poor children and families served by the community centers of Catholic Charities. For more information, please call (213) 251-3495. ❖

San Pedro Region Grateful to Its Giving Communities

The San Pedro Region of Catholic Charities has recently been blessed with donations which have enabled their programs to provide more services to clients, reports Regional Director, Bruce Hackman.

Catholic Charities Community Center in Long Beach received a donation of formal gowns from a dress store in the San Pedro Region. The dresses and jewelry were then donated to St. Anthony High School for disadvantaged teenage girls to wear to their prom.

Staff members in the San Pedro Region volunteered their time to pick up donated food from the Stamp out Hunger program sponsored by the Post Office. Staff helped to collect over 7,800 pounds of food in Pico Rivera and over 2,200 pounds of food in Long Beach. The food was taken to the Catholic Charities' food banks and handed out to individuals across the region.

Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence has donations coming in daily. However, keeping so many things organized can be a task in itself. The Eagle Scouts built a Donation Station at Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence. The large cubby hole shelving has heavy duty plastic bins that are labeled and can efficiently and neatly store clothing and other donations.



Catholic Charities Community Center helped prepare the girls for one of the most memorable times of their lives.

Project Achieve, a 60-90 day emergency shelter for adult men and women in Long Beach, received a face lift. The shelter was given over 70 lockers for clients and new carpeting for the staff offices. A donation of 86 new Tempur Sealy mattresses also improved the shelter.

Valerie Martinez, a junior high school student at Our Lady of Refuge School, had a yard sale and donated the money she raised to the San Pedro Region.

The Zeta Phi Rho fraternity at Cal State University Long Beach had a fundraising event called "Zeta Night Live" and donated all of the proceeds to the Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence.

And, last but not least, the women's group at St. Rose of Lima in Maywood donated homemade blankets. ❖

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

Count Leo Tolstoy was one of Russia's greatest writers of fiction. He was also considered an important moral thinker and social reformer, especially in the latter half of his life. As a young man, he joined the Russian army and was involved in the Crimean War in 1855. Tolstoy's two most famous novels, *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*, were written between 1863 and 1877. Following a religious experience in 1880, Tolstoy's life was largely devoted to religious, moral and social issues.

Later in Count Tolstoy's life, he was asked by a friend about the meaning of life. He said, "The simplest and shortest ethical precept is to be served by others as little as possible and to serve others as much as possible."

Our faith continually challenges us to serve people in need. Catholic Charities is one vehicle of the Church in which we are able to respond to God's message on Sundays by reaching out to those who are suffering from loneliness, poverty and abandonment.

On May 29, Catholic Charities celebrated Staff Appreciation Day. Every year we gather to recognize staff who served the poor throughout the counties of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and Ventura. We started the day with a video of Pope Francis addressing the staff and volunteers of Catholic Charities in the United States. Then, we enjoyed a lunch and presented gifts and certificates to 37 staff who have worked at Catholic Charities for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 40 years. One of the blessings of our work is being able to work with people whose "ethical precept is to be served by others as little as possible and to serve others as much as possible." ❀

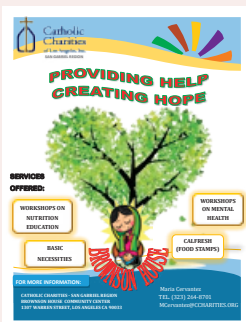
IN APPRECIATION OF
YOUR SERVICE



Loc Nam Nguyen, Catholic Charities' Director of the Immigration and Refugee program, retires this year after 40 years of service. Thank you, Loc, for your hard work and dedication!

Catholic Charities Partners with Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, El Monte

The San Juan Diego Community Center in El Monte brought Catholic Charities' services to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in El Monte. Integrating education with its basic needs program, Catholic Charities has made a range of programs available on Mondays for the parishioners.



Targeting primarily the Latino population, workshops cover nutrition under the SNAP-Ed program and also promote physical activity. Key messages focus on increasing consumption of fruits and vegetables, choosing healthy beverages and limiting foods with sugars and high sodium.

With funding from the Los Angeles Department of Mental Health, Catholic Charities also will provide workshops focused on promoting mental wellness.



Sister Marj shows the poster she created to publicize the workshops.

A Catholic Charities' San Gabriel Region staff member is assigned to help those eligible to complete applications for CalFresh (food stamps) and also to provide utility assistance, as funding allows.

This project is headed by Sister Marjorie Guingona, the SNAP-Ed program Nutrition Educator, who earned Masters degrees in Education and Pastoral Ministry and who is also tri-lingual. Sister Marj may be reached at mguingona@ccharities.org. ❀

19th Annual Golf Tournament Honors Memory of Stan Hayden and Benefits Catholic Charities' Programs for the Poor and Homeless

Held at the exclusive Oakmont Country Club in Glendale on June 15, the 19th Annual Catholic Charities Golf Tournament was a big success, and benefitted programs to feed, house and assist the poor and homeless who come to the agency for assistance in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties.

More photos of the tournament can be viewed on the agency website at www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org under News and Events.



Bill and David Hayden stand at a poster in memory of their Dad, Stan Hayden, who supported the annual Catholic Charities' Golf Tournament for all of its 19 years as a Tournament Sponsor through the William R. and Virginia Hayden Foundation.

The success of this fundraising event was made possible by the generosity of the Sponsors and the assistance of the Golf Tournament Committee, which was comprised of Monsignor Gregory Cox - Chair, Susan and Richard D'Amico, Gary Darnell, Harold Greene, Gary D. Krauss, Vincent F. Martin, Jr., Michael D. O'Brien, Paul D. Tosetti, Esq., and Peter J. Vogelsang, M.D. ❖



Latham & Watkins LLP and Paul D. Tosetti, Esq. provided two Gold Sponsorships. Their foursome included, left to right: Michael Perry; Paul D. Tosetti, Esq., President of Catholic Charities' Board of Trustees; Gary A. Darnell; and Harlan Thompson.



Tournament Sponsor, Stephanie and Peter Nolan Foundation's foursome included, left to right, Tom Morley, Sam Prouty, Dan Feist, and Jeff Rich.



Tournament Sponsor, Vera Campbell Foundation's foursome included, left to right, Carl Matteo, Jay Mangel, Mark Resiner, and Martin Bakst.



Gold Sponsor, Mutual of America's foursome included, left to right, Todd Dixon, Jim Gober, Lee Ratleff, and Marc Basanez.

Thank you to the Golf Tournament Sponsors: \$10,000 Tournament Sponsors

- The Ferry Family Charitable Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Vincent F. Martin Jr.
- Stephanie and Peter Nolan Foundation
- Vera R. Campbell Foundation
- William R. and Virginia Hayden Foundation

\$5,000 Gold Sponsors

- Anonymous (4)
- Bill and Helen Close Charitable Fund "B" at the Catholic Community Foundation of Los Angeles
- Christ the King Catholic Church
- The Ferry Family Charitable Foundation
- Latham & Watkins LLP and Paul D. Tosetti, Esq. (2)
- Judith and Stephen McDonald
- Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP and William M. Wardlaw, Esq.
- Mutual of America
- The Riordan Foundation/Rx for Reading
- The Sage Group, LLC
- St. Brendan Catholic Church
- UBS Financial Services, Inc. and Thomas Podmajersky

Guadalupe Community Services Center Provides Guidance for Clients

Recently, Guadalupe Community Services Center held its 16th Annual Mary Logan Orcutt dinner where the Center recognized those who supported its work and listened to the testimonies of its clients.

Joel Baez, a 14-year old boy, was a key speaker at the event. He, along with his family, has participated in the center's activities for the past seven years where they received guidance and encouragement.



Sergeant Trevion Stokes congratulates Joel on his graduation from LAPD's Cadet program.

Joel and his two sisters received scholarships to attend Our Lady of the Valley (OLV) school. He graduated from OLV this year and has been accepted at LAUSD's blue ribbon El Camino Real Magnet High School in Woodland Hills.

Joel was the first Guadalupe Community Center client to graduate from the LAPD's Cadet Program where he learned the importance of taking responsibility for his life choices and for his community. His example has encouraged many more youngsters from Guadalupe Center to join the cadets.

"Joel is a stellar young man. He is a product of a beautiful partnership in community building," stated Skip Wrightson, Community Outreach Worker at the center. ❖

Catholic Charities' Immigration Services Program Keeps Family Together

Recently, the Immigration Services program was approached by the "Alvarados" family who wanted to apply for a waiver so that they would remain together. "Pablo," a U.S. Marine Veteran, wanted to petition for his undocumented wife, "Gabriela." She was sent to the U.S.



at a young age because her parents feared that, if she remained in Central America, she would be another victim of assault, kidnapping, and rape.

After long hours of research, gathering documents and support from dedicated Immigration Services program staff, the waiver was finally approved so that Gabriela would not have to wait ten years before returning to the U.S.

Gabriela went to Central America for the consular interview, was approved, and then returned to the U.S. as a legal permanent resident. In a few years, Gabriela will come, again, to the Immigration Services program to apply for citizenship and will be able to continue her life in the U.S., along with her husband and their two-year old daughter. ❖



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photo: Mike Richardson

Catholic Charities' 22 community centers offer rent and utilities assistance, monthly or bi-weekly gifts of groceries, and other homeless prevention programs, to those in need.



Please, like us on the CCLA Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Catholic.Charities.LA>