

Catholic Charities Earns Coveted 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator



Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.'s sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and

transparency have, again, earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. This is the sixth time that Catholic Charities of Los Angeles has earned this top distinction.

"Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.'s coveted 4-star rating puts it in a very select group of high-performing charities," according to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. "Out of the thousands of nonprofits Charity Navigator evaluates, only one out of four earns 4 stars – a rating that demands rigor, responsibility and commitment to openness. Catholic Charities of Los Angeles' supporters should feel much more confident that their hard-earned dollars are being used efficiently and responsibly when it acquires such a high rating."

"It is important our donors trust that we're using our funding wisely to accomplish Catholic Charities' mission," said Rev. Monsignor Gregory A. Cox, Executive Director. "Our 4-star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our supporters that we take our fiduciary and governance responsibilities very seriously."

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles' rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge on <http://www.charitynavigator.org/>. ❖

Mahar House-MY CLUB Opens in Wilmington

After two long years of construction work, remodeling and dealing with city and county permits, Mahar House, a community services center of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, located in the Wilmington community of Catholic Charities' San Pedro Region, is reopening as a M.Y. C.L.U.B. (Modeling for Youth Cooperation, Leadership, Unity and Bridges).

As a result of the high student to teacher ratio in the schools, and the high percentage of monolingual Spanish-speaking adults in Wilmington, it becomes challenging for students to seek and receive help outside the classroom. MY CLUB aims to overcome that challenge and also to prepare students for their transition to Middle School/Junior High. The focus is on assessing every child and identifying his/her academic needs so as to offer the extra help necessary for him/her to succeed in school.

During the summer, MY CLUB at Mahar House is offering a Summer Program for children in fourth and fifth grades. The program runs Mondays through Fridays, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., and provides academic and enrichment activities.

A typical day at Mahar-MY CLUB Summer Program includes a complete lunch meal when the students arrive, math time, outdoor games and sports, reading/writing time, snacks, and a full hour of creative activities.



Fourth and fifth graders enjoy the Summer Program at Mahar-MY CLUB. Photo by Don Milici

The purpose of the Summer Program is to provide a safe haven for the children to hang out during the summer and also to offer bi-lingual academic support to help the students succeed in the upcoming school year.

When students return to school, Mahar-MY CLUB will continue to provide after school services for fourth and fifth graders. The Afterschool Program will run from 3:00-6:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, and will offer bi-lingual homework help and tutoring, as well as recreational activities, including computer programs, arts and crafts, dance and music, cultural awareness, performing arts, motivational speakers, sports leagues and snacks.

Mahar House Community Center is located at 1115 Mahar Avenue, Wilmington, CA 90744. Please direct any questions to the Program Manager, Mayra Vargas, at 213-251-3458. ❖

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

During the last year, the media have highlighted the growing concerns about homelessness in California. The City and County of Los Angeles are discussing ways to address the 44,000 homeless people in Los Angeles County. The State and County have the responsibility of providing mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and job training, which are all critical in assisting the homeless to move forward with their lives. The City is directing its attention to subsidizing existing housing units or constructing new ones.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) recently published the 2016 homeless count. The City experienced an 11% increase in homelessness from the previous year, while the County saw a 5.7% increase. The number of homeless persons living in tents had doubled in three years.

An additional surprising statistic is that, since 2013, there has been a 55% increase of homeless women in the County of Los Angeles. LASHA reports that there are approximately 14,500 homeless women on the streets every day. Of that number, 1,500 of them live on Skid Row and in Downtown. These women are susceptible to verbal, physical and sexual abuse.

As government officials propose solutions to move the homeless into housing and self-sufficiency, we also see the need to examine the reasons why people become homeless. Drug abuse, alcoholism, unemployment, mental health disorders and lack of family support are a few of the reasons why individuals end up on Skid Row. Unless we address the core causes for homelessness, the numbers will continue to increase and those who are on the streets, especially women, will continue to be abused.

Catholic Charities has seven emergency shelters and transitional and long-term residences that serve the homeless population, including runaway youth, mothers and children, families and individuals. Our goal is to move them from the streets to shelters and self-sufficiency. If you would like more information about our services to the homeless, I invite you to explore our website at www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org. ❖

CCLA Helps Immigrants Achieve Dream of Becoming U.S. Citizens

America is a land of hope and opportunity to the many immigrants who dream of the day they will become U.S. citizens. Citizenship boasts countless benefits, including the right to vote, the ability to bring family members to the U.S., and the opportunity to more fully integrate in American life. However, only 8%, of the eight million eligible citizenship applicants naturalize annually. This is due to a number of barriers including costly legal fees, and lack of information about the process.

Through a partnership with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and with funding from the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Catholic Charities works to overcome these barriers by hosting citizenship clinics in parishes across Los Angeles. As many as 100 applicants leave each workshop with a completed naturalization application. Catholic Charities also provides ESL and civics classes to prepare applicants for the naturalization



Catholic Charities' staff help immigrants complete their citizenship applications at a parish clinic.

exam. Over the last year, Catholic Charities provided citizenship services to over 3,127 individuals, giving them the help they needed to move closer to their American dream. ❖

The Director of Catholic Charities' Immigration and Refugee Services is Sara Tompkins, stompkins@ccharities.org.



Catholic Charities' 2016 City of Angels Christmas Gala

will be held on
Friday, December 2 at
The California Club
in downtown Los Angeles.

Proceeds will benefit the poor children and families served by the community centers of Catholic Charities. For more information, please email Alexandria Arnold at sarnold@ccharities.org or call her at (213) 251-3495.



20th Annual Catholic Charities' Golf Tournament is Sponsored by The Ferry Family Charitable Foundation

Held at the exclusive Annandale Golf Club in Pasadena on June 13, 2016, the 20th Annual Catholic Charities Golf Tournament was a big success and benefitted programs to house and assist the poor and homeless who come to the agency for help in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. The Ferry Family Charitable Foundation was a generous 20th Anniversary Sponsor.

The success of this fundraising event was made possible by the generosity of all the Sponsors and the assistance of the Golf Tournament Committee, consisting of: Monsignor Gregory A. Cox, Chair; Susan and Richard D'Amico; Gary A. Darnell; Harold T. Greene; Gary D. Krauss; Vincent F. Martin, Jr.; Michael D. O'Brien; Paul D. Tosetti, Esq.; and Peter J. Vogelsang, M.D. ♣

Thank you to the Golf Tournament Sponsors:

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Latham & Watkins LLP and Paul D. Tosetti, Esq. provided two \$5,000 Gold Sponsorships. Left to right are: Joe Boskovich; Paul Tosetti; and Ben Dalby.



Kathy and Vincent F. Martin, Jr. were \$10,000 Tournament Sponsors. Left to right are: Chuck Cale, Bronze Sponsor; Trey Martin; Vince Martin; and Msgr. Greg Cox.



William R. and Virginia Hayden Foundation was a \$10,000 Tournament Sponsor. Left to right are: Willy Marsh; Kurt Richards; Chris Billig; and Jeff Moe.



Community Bank, Partnership Banking, was a new \$5,000 Gold Sponsor. Left to right are: Cal Naulls; Jeff Boyer; Tom Bardos; and Rick Bevilacqua.



Vera Campbell Foundation was a \$10,000 Tournament Sponsor. Golfers are, left to right: Stu Luner; Mark Reisner; Mike Weiss; and Allan Kass.

Photos by Tom Wilmshurst



Christ the King Catholic Church was a \$5,000 Gold Sponsor. Golfers are, left to right: Msgr. Joseph Greeley; Msgr. Paul Montoya; and Rev. Richard Kennedy.



Pence Hathorn Silver / PHS Luxury Properties was a new \$5,000 Gold Sponsor. Left to right are: Jeff Nowinski; Rebecca Hornberger; Lindsey Tamblyn; and Bishop Sylvester Ryan.



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photo: Don Milici

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. provides after-school child care, tutoring and mentoring for youth, outreach for runaway teens and job services for young adults.



Please, like us on the CCLA Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Catholic.Charities.LA>

A Star Shines at the Guadalupe Community Center

Diana started coming to Catholic Charities' Guadalupe Community Center at the same time her mother enrolled her in public school in Canoga Park. As a new immigrant from Guatemala, her academics were below grade level, but her mother, Pasuala, was determined that her daughter would succeed, even though the family had to struggle for survival in a new country.

The Guadalupe Community Center offered Pasuala and her family groceries, clothing, and scholastic guidance. Diana started her journey through the center by enrolling in the tutoring program where she not only improved her academic level to above average but where she also gained a great deal of self-confidence in her own abilities. She had her mom enroll her in nearly everything the Center had to offer: writing camp, storytelling time, art, theatre, dance, music, and sports.

Diana was determined to learn to play basketball, a sport she knew very little about. She also had to endure the boys, who were very competitive and were all about winning. Her skills improved and, in five years, she never missed a game or practice.

When Diana graduated from middle school and attended Canoga Park High School, the junior varsity coach observed her and her great passion for basketball. He invited her to be on the

team in her freshman year. This year, as a sophomore, the coach asked her to be a team captain.

Diana is a success not only academically and athletically but also socially and emotionally, through lessons her mother has instilled, through her own perseverance, and through the help of programs at the Guadalupe Community Center. She attributes much of her success to her tutors, Elaine Noll and Amanda Cortez, and her Basketball Coach, Kevin Holmes, all of Guadalupe Community Center. Her ultimate goal is to attend college and to be of service in her community.

For more information about the programs of Guadalupe Community Center, contact Sandra Yanez, Catholic Charities' San Fernando Regional Director, syanez@ccharities.org. ❖



Diana appreciates her basketball coach, Kevin Holmes, at Guadalupe Community Center.