



Emily shows off her newborn son.

McGill House Resident Has Special Christmas Delivery

Emily and her sons, six and eight years old, moved into Catholic Charities San Gabriel Region's McGill House, a seven-bed transitional shelter for homeless women with children, in August of 2015. Emily has been employed at Walmart and her sons have been receiving tutoring services from School on Wheels.

Working at Walmart until her delivery, Emily gave birth, on December 19, to a healthy baby, her third son. They stayed overnight in the hospital and returned the next morning to McGill House.

Emily is thankful for being in the McGill House program; she and her two older sons have made good progress toward their goals. They were blessed to be adopted by many generous donors, making their Christmas Day "one of the best ones...so far!" The older boys even had a visit from Santa at McGill House.

Emily would like to move into permanent housing, but is afraid that her eviction in 2015 will hurt her chances. The case manager at McGill House will be working with Emily to ensure she reaches her goals. ❖

Christmas Love Abundant in San Gabriel Region Community Centers

Forty families with young children, in the Adopt a Family Christmas program at Catholic Charities Pomona Community Services Center, were blessed with food, toys and warm clothing from generous families of St. Denis Catholic parish in Diamond Bar. In addition, another 100 families received ham, grocery gift cards and toys for their children.

At Catholic Charities San Juan Diego Community Services Center in El Monte, 100 families were provided with food from St. Lorenzo Ruiz

Catholic parish in Walnut, and Macy's Partners adopted six families with young children, who were overwhelmed with the presents they received.

At Catholic Charities Brownson House Community Center in East Los Angeles, food, new clothing, books, household items and blankets were given to 125 families. The employees of Forever XXI held a Christmas party for 50 children, complete with a Santa, arts and crafts, snacks and toys.

Catholic Charities' staff were so pleased with the unexpected donations that came from various sources: blankets and warm jackets from Immaculate Conception Catholic parish in Monrovia; clothing, shoes, hygiene



Macy's Partners adopted families from San Juan Diego Center.

products, and cash for bus tokens from St. Rita's Catholic School in Sierra Madre; and handmade fleece blankets from the students of SS Felicitas and Perpetua Catholic School in San Marino. Floyd Baker collected over 600 stuffed toys and teddy bears that were given out to many delighted children.

The San Gabriel Region is deeply grateful for the simple acts of kindness from our parish communities especially as we usher in the Year of Mercy. ❖

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

The homeless have gained media attention throughout the country and in Los Angeles. There are 3.5 million homeless Americans each year. Of these, more than 1 million are children and, on any given evening, more than 300,000 of them are homeless. Recent statistics show that homelessness in Los Angeles County has increased by 12% from 2013 to 2015. This means that approximately 44,000 people are sleeping on the streets every night. Unfortunately, this figure is expected to increase in the coming months.

The City and County of Los Angeles have each committed \$100 million to address the homeless issue. Some of the City's funds are set aside for emergency relief for those who will suffer in the coming months from the El Nino storms. It is a good step forward taken by Los Angeles to invest in rapid re-housing for veterans and those suffering from mental illness.

When we examine the issue of homelessness in our country, we tend to have the impression that they are primarily the chronic and episodic, those individuals we see living on the streets in the downtown areas of our major cities. The sad fact is that more than half of the homeless are families with children. The majority of these individuals are homeless because of tragic unexpected events in their lives. For those living in poverty or on the borderline, an unexpected issue of a broken down vehicle, a cut in pay or a divorce can be enough to make one homeless.

It is good that society is examining solutions to assist the homeless with housing, social services and job training. In addition to addressing the needs of the homeless, we need to look at the causes of homelessness. Early detection and prevention are important factors in decreasing the growing amount of homelessness on our streets. ❖

Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project Organizes La Fiesta de Los Reyes Magos for Minors

Recently, Catholic Charities' Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project hosted La Fiesta de Los Reyes Magos for 60 unaccompanied minors. Esperanza's staff secured gifts, clothes, and food from local companies and private donors in order to make the minors' first holiday in the United States special.

La Fiesta de Los Reyes Magos had different stations with food, activities, clothes, games, raffles, and piñatas. At the clothes' station, each of the unaccompanied minors was able to select an outfit.

Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project thanks CLUE LA, Curacao, Forrey Films, Quetzal Graphics, Niky's Sports, Pollo Campero, Sabor Colombiano, Guatemalan Bakery, Guatemala Restaurant, Rodeo Mexican Grill, Ponce Bakery, El Venado Restaurant, Joker Party Supply, Laser Tag Ultrazone, Ana Magallanes, Rev. David Farley, and Catholic Charities' staff for supporting this event. ❖



Esperanza's staff and volunteers serve a hot meal to the minors.



The clothes' station offers outfits to the event's participants.



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Catholic Charities' City of Angels Christmas Gala Honors Investees of Orders

The California Club in downtown Los Angeles was, again, the venue for the annual City of Angels Christmas Gala which honored the 2015 Archdiocese of Los Angeles Investees of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta.

Archbishop José H. Gomez gave welcome remarks and offered a prayer before dinner. Paul D. Tosetti, Esq., President of Catholic Charities' Board of Trustees, was Master of Ceremonies and introduced the Investees. He also thanked the Chairs of the event, Julie and Tom Condon.

Highlights of the evening included a special vocal performance of Christmas music by Jamie Chamberlin, who recently starred as Marilyn Monroe in the U.S. Premiere of Gavin Bryars' "Marilyn Forever" at Long Beach Opera, for which Opera News praised her "shimmering tones" and "star-struck vulnerability." Attendees enjoyed exquisite food as well as listening and dancing to the wonderful music of the Jay Sterling Orchestra. Proceeds from



Archbishop Gomez welcomed Larry and Jane McNeil. Larry McNeil was a long term, beloved member of Catholic Charities Board of Trustees. He passed away on January 3, 2016.

the annual event are used to help the poor children and families served by the critical case management programs of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles. ❀



Archbishop Gomez congratulated Michael T. Psomas, member of Catholic Charities Board of Trustees and Investee of the Order of Malta.



Paul D. Tosetti, Esq., President of Catholic Charities Board of Trustees and Master of Ceremonies, and Cathy Tosetti, paid their respects to Archbishop Gomez.



Archbishop José H. Gomez greeted Gary Amaral, a member of Catholic Charities Board of Trustees, and Eliza Amaral.



Viktor and Mery Beth Rzeteljski, members of Catholic Charities Board of Trustees, met Archbishop Gomez before the dinner.



Jamie Chamberlin's beautiful vocal performance was a highlight of the evening.



A young client is truly thankful for the food she and her family receive.

Santa Barbara's Food Pantry Aids Families in Need

Every week, hundreds of individuals and families walk through the doors of the food pantry located at Catholic Charities' Santa Barbara Community Services Center. These people come from various paths of life and backgrounds. However, they all rely on the supplemental food they receive from the food pantry.

The "Villa" family (not their real surname) is one example of clients who receive this service. Because of the generosity of donors, this working mother is

able to make sure that her children have nutritious food and that they do not go to bed hungry. With smiling faces, the small children accompany their mother to help her pick from fresh fruit, vegetables, grains, meat, and other staples, which ensure that they receive the proper nutrients that they need to be healthy.

The positive impact on food pantry clients' lives is seen on a weekly basis, thanks to the generosity of those who support the work of Catholic Charities. ❀

St. Mary's Community Services Center Receives a New Van

Catholic Charities' Our Lady of the Angels Regional advisory board held its annual Spirit of Giving Celebration fundraising event at the Riviera Country Club. A live cash auction was held to raise funds to acquire a cargo van to replace the old converted passenger van at St. Mary's Community Services Center.



The new van will pick up supplemental groceries and donations for low income clients at St. Mary's Community Services Center.

An anonymous contributor gave a donation as a match, and the attendees were asked to contribute an equal amount. In addition, a donor, who wished to remain unidentified, offered to pay for a new van, independently of the funds that were raised in the cash auction.

Within a few days, St. Mary's Community Services Center had a beautiful new 2015 Ford cargo van. This vehicle will allow the center to be able to transport more USDA food from the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and other miscellaneous donations. ❀

Confirmation Class Donates Christmas Gifts to Adeste Program

Recently, the Confirmation class at St. Timothy's Catholic parish in West Los Angeles, consisting of 30 youth, adopted the El Santo Niño Community Services Center Adeste program's clients for their 2015 Christmas Project. Adeste provides quality, low cost before-and-after-school care for children.



The class donated 40 Christmas presents and 30 hand-made cards which were distributed at the Christmas party to 28 students in the Adeste program.

The children enjoyed a Christmas meal and each received three gifts contributed by the Confirmation class and other donors. The Adeste program's students wrote thank you notes to the contributors. It was a great opportunity for the Confirmation candidates to manifest the true Christmas spirit by allowing them to bring joy to less fortunate children in the El Santo Niño Adeste program. ❀



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Address Service Requested



Last year, San Pedro Region's community centers and shelters provided 188,763 services to 6,540 clients.



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