



Catholic Charities in Long Beach Offers Shelter to Clients

“Pablo,” a single father of a two-year old boy, with tattoos covering his face and entire body, entered into Catholic Charities’ San Pedro Region’s crisis housing program after living in his car for over a month. Pablo was new to fatherhood since he recently received custody of his son.

He had overcome his earlier days of substance abuse and gang activity. Now, he was ready to change his life for his son.

Pablo attended life skills and employment preparation classes and also volunteered at Homeboy Industries where he spoke with young individuals about the bad choices he made in life. He even had his gang tattoos removed there.

Pablo found a full time job at a warehouse. Eventually, his mother, who was homeless, moved into Catholic Charities’ Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence in Long Beach with him and his son. Pablo’s goal was to make things better for his family and he found a permanent place for them to stay.



photo: Catholic Charities USA

Pablo is now licensed as his mother’s care giver and is working part time at the warehouse. Despite all the obstacles Pablo had, he was able to achieve his goal to make a better life for his son and mother, with the help of Catholic Charities. ❀



Ali shows a pre-school student how to paint hand prints on the mural.

Guadalupe Center’s Mural Symbolizes Positive Attitude

Recently, Ali Austin earned her Girl Scout Gold Award for painting a mural at Catholic Charities’ Guadalupe Community Services Center in Canoga Park.

The painting was the culmination of a year-long planning and approval process, taking over 125 hours to complete. With the help of Skip Wrightson, Guadalupe Center’s Community Outreach Worker, Ali was able to bring the L.A.P.D., the Girl Scouts of America, and the Guadalupe Community Center together, along with 50 children from the center’s pre-school programs. Ali, who is now a student at Harvard University, is grateful to the dedicated team.

Ali intended her project at Guadalupe Center to inspire others and to lift spirits with the words “Miracles Happen Here.” The mural depicts silhouettes of children reading under a tree, to serve as a reminder of the

importance of child literacy. Her project also acted as a bridge between families in lower income areas and local police departments by bringing them to work together on a project that will benefit the community.

The mural itself features a tree, modeled after the Tree of Life, on a foundation of 156 handprints of children, parents, teachers, volunteers, LAPD officers, Girl Scouts, and retired volunteers who have given many years of service to Guadalupe Center. Above the tree is a banner that reads “Miracles Happen Here,” reminiscent of Snow White’s blue birds which demonstrate that a positive, resilient attitude can carry anyone through the toughest of times.

For more information about Guadalupe Community Center, contact Sandra Yanez, Catholic Charities’ San Fernando Regional Director, at syanez@ccharities.org. ❀

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

On November 4, 1956, a large Soviet force invaded Budapest and other regions of Hungary. Approximately 2,500 Hungarians and 700 Soviet troops were killed in the conflict, and 200,000 Hungarians fled as refugees.

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles began our Refugee Resettlement Program in the mid-1950s to assist Hungarian refugees.

On April 30, 1975, the fall of Saigon led to the United States sponsored evacuation of approximately 130,000 Vietnamese refugees. They were military personnel and educated professionals whose association with the U.S. military and South Vietnam government made them targets of Communist military forces. In the late 1970s, more than one-half of a second group of Vietnamese refugees, known as the “boat people” and numbering almost 800,000, settled in the United States.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles served refugees from Vietnam.

Over the last four years, we have seen horrific images from the Middle East of beheadings, innocent individuals mercilessly gunned down, family members separated from one another and their homes burned down for no other reason than the faith of the residents. More than 7 million people of different beliefs have fled violence caused by groups of the Islamic State. This includes more than 4 million refugees of the Syrian Civil War.

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles is committed to serving people fleeing from the Middle East due to political and religious persecution. We have been helping refugees from Iran and Iraq and are ready to assist Syrian refugees.

Pope Francis urges the world to respond to meet the needs of the refugees: “The blood of our Christian brothers and sisters is a testimony which cries out to make itself heard by all those who still know to distinguish between good and evil.” ❀



Catholic Charities Welcomes New Regional Director

Sandra M. Yanez has been hired as the new Catholic Charities’ San Fernando Regional Director. She is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara with a B.A. in Psychology. Sandra worked for the Santa Barbara Police Department in community relations and was also employed at the Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles. Two causes she cares deeply about are social services and poverty alleviation. She may be reached at syanez@ccharities.org. ❀

Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence Aids Single, Homeless Mother

“Martha,” a 19 year old single mother, along with her young son, came to Catholic Charities’ Long Beach Community Services Center in the San Pedro Region, accompanied by a social worker from the Department of Children and Family Services extended foster care, to look for assistance.

Unfortunately, Martha had been evicted from her last apartment, did not have any family to help her, and did not know what steps to take next. Although being homeless as an adult was a new experience for Martha, homelessness was not new for her. Martha had spent most of her youth being homeless, residing in shelters, or being in transitional situations, while she was under her biological mother’s care.

Martha was 12 years old when she was taken into the foster care system. She moved from one placement to another and, later, into a group home where she spent most of her teen years.

When Martha became pregnant, she left the group home and participated in the extended foster care youth program. At that time, Martha lived in her own place with her son. After her

landlord was evicted, Martha lost her housing. While she was waiting for her social worker to return her call, Martha did not have any options but to stay in a local park at night.

With the guidance of Catholic Charities’ Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence staff, Martha enrolled her son in childcare, completed her life skills courses, and even signed up for GED classes. Martha found housing at the Cabrillo Gateway Apartments in the Long Beach Cabrillo Villages, a housing project for homeless families where Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence is also located.

Now, Martha is not just surviving but is thriving in her own apartment. She still maintains contact with Catholic Charities’ staff and can’t thank them enough for their support. ❀



photo: Catholic Charities USA



Miguel Zuniga, Nippon Kempo instructor (top row, middle right), is proud of his students at the Nippon Kempo Belt Ceremony at Brownson House.

Brownson House Hosts Nippon Kempo Belt Ceremony

Miguel Zuniga, head instructor of the Nippon Kempo Academy, teaches Nippon Kempo classes to young clients of Catholic Charities' Brownson House Community Services Center in East Los Angeles. His goal is to bring the mental, physical and spiritual benefits of the traditional martial arts to the low-income community. Zuniga believes that Nippon Kempo is a path to personal growth, harmony and strength, not only physical, but spiritual.

Zuniga, who is also a Vice-President and Co-Founder of the American Nippon Kempo Association, says, "It has been very rewarding to work with this group of children who are always striving to do their

best. I see the need of this program in our community. Parents and I noticed the positive changes in each student. I am very proud of the youngsters and I believe they will become an example of what the Nippon Kempo Academy is trying to accomplish. Our goals are: to build our students into excellent black belts holders; to make our students more successful in life through the practice of Nippon Kempo; to always influence them in a positive manner; and to make our students productive members of society."

Please contact Mary Romero, Catholic Charities' San Gabriel Regional Director, at mromero@ccharities.org for more information about this and other programs at Brownson House. ❖

Pomona Community Center Assists Homeless Client

When "Linda," a 59 year old woman, came to Catholic Charities' San Gabriel Region's Pomona Community Services Center, she had been sleeping in her car for two years. During the day, she visited the Urban League in Pomona and used their resources to look for a full-time job. She also volunteered at one of the Tri-City Mental Health offices in Pomona.

Linda's road to becoming homeless started in 2003. She was living in San Diego, was the wife of a Navy officer, and had earned a Master's degree. Linda had a well-paid job as a case manager at a social service organization.

Linda sustained a back injury that required a major surgery followed by physical therapy. She was disabled and unable to work and had a difficult and long recovery. Linda's medical insurance did not cover all the medical bills and she was going deeper into debt. To make matters worse, she lost her house and most of her possessions to a house fire. When she was discharged from the hospital, she was homeless.

For the next 10 years, Linda struggled with her health, inability to work, low income (SSI), depression, suicidal thoughts, and a failed marriage. However, she did not give up. Linda continued to work toward her recovery even harder, especially after staff at the Pomona Community Services Center gave Linda hope when she came for assistance.

Currently, Linda has a part-time job. Staff at Catholic Charities' Pomona Community Services Center helped Linda rent a room in a house and paid for two more months.

Linda wrote to the Pomona Center's staff: "God bless you for your kindness! Because of you and Catholic Charities, I was able to have a home once again, after living in my car for two years." ❖



photo: Mike Richardson



Catholic Charities' 2015 City of Angels Christmas Gala will be held on Friday, December 4 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 sarnold@ccharities.org or call (213) 251-3495.

SAVE THE DATE!
20th Annual Catholic Charities Golf Tournament
 Monday, June 13, 2016
 Annandale Golf Club, Pasadena

Proceeds from this event feed, house and assist our clients who are poor and homeless. For more information, call (213) 251-3495 or email sarnold@ccharities.org.

Time for a Year-End Review?

Include Us in Your Planning.

As we approach year-end, remember that there's still time to lower your tax bill through a gift to Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

Your tax deduction will equal the full value of your gift to us. If you give appreciated securities, you'll get the additional benefit of using an asset that cost less than the deduction it will return, with no capital gains liability.

(Not intended as legal, tax, or investment advice.)

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Address Service Requested



Every December, Catholic Charities hosts festive Christmas parties for disadvantaged families at some of our community centers.



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