



## Director Named For Intra-Agency Programs

**M**oisés Carrillo is the new Director of Intra-Agency Programs at Catholic Charities. Born and raised in Northeast Los Angeles, he attended Los Angeles public schools. After receiving a B.A. in Urban Studies from California State University, Northridge, and an M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning from UCLA, he gained 30 years of experience administering human services, housing and homeless programs with the City of Glendale.

Moises worked professionally with Catholic Charities throughout his career by supporting the Day Labor Center, Loaves and Fishes, and Students Training as Role Models (STAR), all programs operated by Catholic Charities in Glendale.

With the support of his parish, St. Didacus Catholic Church, he developed the Sylmar Youth Task Force in 2007 which was later an early model for the City of Los Angeles' Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) program. Moises currently serves on the Finance Committee of St. Didacus.

Moises and his wife, Graciela, have two adult children, Erik and Ariana. ❀

## Ashes Settle, But Flames Of Charity Burn Brightly

**A**n outpouring of generosity from across our Archdiocese and nation is helping Catholic Charities provide food, clothing, supplies and financial assistance to persons impacted by the Thomas fire, which burned a huge swath of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, the biggest fire in California history. News stories and websites have alerted people everywhere to the seriousness of the disaster.

"Help in many forms has come from as far as New England and Florida," said Daniel Grimm, JD, MA, MFT, Regional Director of Catholic Charities for Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. "Staff and volunteers worked for 16 days straight to process, store and distribute clothing, food, water, blankets, sleeping bags and toiletries."

Many staff members and volunteers were evacuated. One staffer and her brother actually lost their home, along with just about everything inherited from their recently deceased parents.

Rick Raine, Manager of Catholic Charities' Ventura Community Services Center and



*A family, recently evacuated themselves, helps other fire victims with water, blankets and additional essential items.*

Food Pantry, noted: "It was inspiring to see families who had been evacuated or deprived of their homes, working cheerfully to help others." He added: "We have been forced to turn away further clothing and supplies donations because we are out of room." ❀

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

As cities and counties are addressing the homeless issue, they need to include those who leave the foster care system. Foster care is a program in which a minor is placed in a group home or private home of a state-certified caregiver, referred to as a “foster parent.” The placement of the child is normally arranged through the government or a social service agency. The institution, group home or foster parent is compensated for expenses. Individuals in California are able to receive assistance through the foster care system up to the age of 21.

Los Angeles County has 21,000 children in foster care, the most in the country. Many of the organizations and families who are entrusted with foster care children provide heroic care to them at vulnerable times in their lives. Unfortunately, too many of the foster care children have experienced abuse and neglect in their families, as well as instability, since they are moved frequently in the foster care system. As children age out of foster care without a family, a third will become homeless, a fifth will be incarcerated and, most surprisingly, 70% of trafficked youth come from the foster care system. Only 1 in 10 foster youth will go to college.

Too many foster care children, through no fault of their own, become vulnerable when they leave the foster care system. Social service agencies and government need to provide options of affordable housing and social services to assist these youth in their transition to independent living. ❀



*Catholic Charities' staff greet arriving immigrant community members and assist them with registration.*

## Event Provides Guidance For End of DACA

The end of DACA brought many of our immigrant communities in Los Angeles even more uncertainty and fear. Evenson “Steve” Lee, Director of Catholic Charities’ Immigration Services and Refugee Resettlement program, reports that, in response to the end of the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program, Immigration and Refugee Resettlement’s Legal Services Program held a free consultation event to help provide legal guidance for immigrants who may be losing their legal status.

In partnership with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Pomona Catholic High School and countless volunteers and organizers from parishes in the area, the program was able to serve over 100 community members. This occasion brought together neighbors, friends, parish leaders, Catholic Charities’ staff and volunteer attorneys to create a space of community, prayer and support alongside high quality legal consultations.

Lee states that the program is planning to provide five more consultation events in 2018. ❀



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*Catholic Charities*



*Golf Tournament*

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ANNANDALE GOLF CLUB, PASADENA

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PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT FEED,  
HOUSE AND ASSIST OUR CLIENTS  
WHO ARE POOR AND HOMELESS.



## Founder of Good Shepherd Center Remembered for Accomplishments

Sister Julia Mary Farley, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, passed away on December 2 at the age of 91. In 1984, she became the founding director of Catholic Charities' Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children, which began with Languille emergency shelter, soon adding a van for outreach.

Hawkes transitional residence for single, homeless women was the next program of the center. It was followed by Angel Guardian Home, long-term, affordable housing for disabled mothers and their minor children. In 2008, Farley House transitional residence for single homeless women and their minor children was added, making four



*Sister Julia Mary Farley,  
1926 – 2017*

adjacent buildings for Good Shepherd programs in the Echo Park area of Los Angeles. Support services include case management, counseling, Life Skills and educational programs, and vocational services.

Sister Julia Mary retired from Good Shepherd Center in 2010 and was honored in 2014 on the 30th Anniversary of Good Shepherd Center. Msgr. Gregory Cox, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, thanked Sister “for her genius, leadership, and devotion to homeless women and for insuring that the center was a home where all were welcomed and acknowledged as part of the family.” ❖

## San Gabriel Region Assists Client with Leprosy

Homeless, unemployed and despondent, Mario had felt hopeless for so long as a victim of Hansen's Disease (leprosy). Businesses were hesitant to employ him once he disclosed that he had the disease.

Mario worked with Maria Cervantez, Adult Client Worker at Catholic Charities' Brownson House Community Services Center in East Los Angeles, and slowly improved his outlook and lifestyle. Resources were identified to address his multiple needs: gas cards to help with transportation; special shoes appropriate for walking and working; food; and assistance for his prescription drugs since, with proper medication, the disease can be contained. Maria also helped him secure a telephone that enabled him to follow up with his medical appointments and employment interviews.

A clothing retail company in East Los Angeles hired Mario and, recently, he completed the immigration workshops offered at Brownson House and obtained his citizenship papers, reports Mary Romero, Catholic Charities' San Gabriel Regional Director.

“I am very grateful to Maria Cervantez and Catholic Charities. With the help and support I received, I now have the desire to live. My faith is restored. I know that God is with Catholic Charities,” Mario testifies. ❖



*Mario is proud to have recently  
obtained his citizenship papers.*

## San Fernando Residents Support Fire Victims

In December, the Creek Fire, burning above the San Fernando Valley, forced hundreds of families to evacuate their homes. In an area wrought with financial insecurity, the fires, and their ashen wake, proved a nightmare for many residents.

But in the face of unprecedented destruction, local Valley neighbors came together to support those in need. Within days of the first burn, unsolicited donations began pouring into Catholic Charities' Guadalupe Community Center in Canoga Park. Blankets, water bottles, food supplies, and clothing filled the center's storage closets and conference rooms. Donations appeared from local parishes, radio stations, and even a car dealership in Knoxville, Tennessee.

“As Catholic Charities distributed aid to those in need, the material gifts were a boon, but it was the sense of emotional support that truly lifted the affected families. This unexpected groundswell of relief witnessed the living spirit of charity in our local communities,” reports Sandra Yanez, MA, Catholic Charities' San Fernando Regional Director. ❖



*A child at Guadalupe Center  
is happy with a wooden truck  
donated by San Fernando  
Valley Woodworkers.*

# A Modern Day Christmas Story

**B**ruce Hackman, MDiv, MS, MSW, Catholic Charities' San Pedro Regional Director, reports that, one week before Christmas, an undocumented family arrived in Long Beach from Peru. Their youngest child had a heart condition and they took her to the children's hospital in Long Beach. The family had no place to stay.

The Ronald McDonald House would not accept the family and they were living in their youngest child's hospital room. Nurses were giving them food. Each member of the family had one change of clothes; they had sold all of their possessions for food and spending money. To make matters worse, they did not speak English and were afraid they would have to leave their youngest in the hospital and be deported. No one would help them.

The head Nurse called Catholic Charities' Long Beach Community Services Center. One room had just become available at Catholic Charities' Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence in Long Beach and the family was welcomed there. The family had beds to sleep on, two bags of clothes and hygiene boxes!

The Teamsters hosted a huge party at Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence a few days before Christmas with a roasted turkey dinner with all the trimmings, and a Santa Claus and toys for the children. The family from Peru was happy to have their youngest child discharged from the hospital and joined with them at the Catholic Charities' residence/shelter. Hackman relays that the family has a Spanish-speaking Case Manager and that staff in the San Pedro Region are looking for long-term housing for the family.

Because of Catholic Charities, there was room at the inn. ❀



*The two children of the family from Peru received handmade wooden toys from the San Fernando Valley Woodworkers at Christmas.*



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*Address Service Requested*



Photo: Don Mici

*The Adeste Child Care program prepares children for Kindergarten by teaching cognitive, language and social skills.*



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