

Guadalupe Center Offers After-School Tutoring

Guadalupe Community Services Center, located in Canoga Park in Catholic Charities' San Fernando Region, boasts a wonderful after-school tutoring program which has helped many youngsters succeed in school.



Rosa Chan and her sons, Anthony and Christopher Gramajo, are grateful for the services provided at Guadalupe Community Center.

At age 17, Rosa Chan came to the United States from Guatemala to finish high school and also to find work. She earned money in a sewing factory and at a computer job with AT&T so that she could return to her country to start a business. She had some success with her business and also found a husband. After her marriage ended, she returned to the U.S. with her two sons.

The boys were behind in school in both countries, and Rosa's English was not fluent enough to help them. The Hart Street School referred the family to Catholic Charities' Guadalupe Center for tutoring. Both boys are now A students and Anthony is in Advanced Algebra. Rosa says, "This Center makes a big difference in our lives with so many services that I could not find anywhere else in the community." ❖

Board of Supervisors Commends Immigration Services

At a March meeting of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles' (CCLA) Immigration Services' program received a commendation for providing dedicated service to the immigrant community. The recognition was recommended by Hilda Solis, Supervisor of the First District, and signed by the entire Board.

The honor was greatly appreciated by Catholic Charities' Executive Director, Monsignor Gregory Cox, as well as by Carol Meylan, Director of Intra-Agency Programs, who oversees Catholic Charities' Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project and Immigration Services program.

Over the past three years, Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project represented 1,400 adult and child immigrants in removal proceedings. The program conducts twice-weekly Legal Orientation trainings for immigrants in federal detention. Esperanza teaches about immigrant rights and possible forms of relief to unaccompanied minors and their legal custodians and also staffs a Legal Help Desk at Immigration Court. The program connects unaccompanied children to mental health, social service and education resources.



Los Angeles Supervisor Hilda Solis, far right, commends Catholic Charities' Carol Meylan, Director of Intra-Agency Programs; Gabriel Castro, Directing Attorney for Immigration Services; Rev. Monsignor Gregory Cox, Executive Director; and Claudia Leon, Community Education Manager.

In 2016, the CCLA's Immigration program's "Safe Release" services reunited 2,000 unaccompanied children with parents or legal custodians. The program also submitted over 1,000 successful citizenship applications, conducted 32 citizenship information sessions and 29 citizenship workshops, serving over 1,720 individuals. Immigration Services also sponsored 12 citizenship classes serving 167 immigrants applying for naturalization and completed 220 DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) applications. ❖

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

The *King of Kings* is the title of a film produced by Cecil B. DeMille. It tells the inspiring story of our Lord. It has been called the mightiest movie of all time, since it has been seen by over a billion people all over the world. The main reason for the movie's popularity can be expressed in the words of Will Rogers to De Mille: "You will never make a greater picture, because you will never find a greater subject than Jesus."

Of all the tributes De Mille received for producing the film, he treasured most highly a letter he received from a woman who had only a few days left to live. Her nurses wheeled her to a hall to see the movie. Afterwards she wrote: "Thank you, thank you for the *King of Kings*. It has changed what is about to happen from a terror to a glorious anticipation."

The driving force behind the work of Catholic Charities is found in our mission: "Catholic Charities is committed to manifesting Christ's spirit through collaboration with diverse communities by providing services to the poor and vulnerable, by promoting human dignity, and by advocating for social change."

The dying woman who wrote to DeMille saw only a movie about Jesus. Yet, it brought her hope, a new life. The clients of Catholic Charities, the poor and abandoned, experience, through our staff, not only shelter, food and job training but also the love of our Lord who brings them hope, a new life. ❖

Immigration Services Hosts Citizenship Information Sessions

To meet the increasing interest in naturalization, Catholic Charities' (CCLA) Immigration Services is hosting citizenship information classes every month in 2017. Through parish-based workshops and in-house services, CCLA carefully screens applicants for eligibility and assists them in preparing documents. These two people are typical of the immigrants CCLA has assisted at workshops:

Rita arrived in the U.S. in 1973. She has worked in a variety of jobs over the last 44 years, most recently as a private duty nurse. She wants to become a citizen in order to ensure that she can continue living close to her children and grandchildren.

Alberto came to the U.S. in 1970. He worked as a cement stacker and a garment factory worker in the beginning, then eventually built his own business as a contractor, married a U.S. citizen and raised three children. After 47 years in Los Angeles, he is eager to become a U.S. citizen. ❖



Catholic Charities hosts workshops to help immigrants from all nations on their journey to citizenship.



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OUR CLIENTS WHO ARE
POOR AND HOMELESS.**

CFO Served Agency for 25 Years

James ("Jim") Bathker, who served as Catholic Charities' Chief Financial Officer since 1992, passed away on February 19 after 25 years of service to the agency.

A graduate of Loyola High School, he held a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Loyola Marymount University of Los Angeles, and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of California at Los Angeles. Bathker had extensive experience in both the not-for-profit world and for-profit enterprises, having worked in hospital administration with a local chain of non-profit hospitals, and for three New York Stock Exchange companies. Before coming to Catholic Charities, he served as divisional Vice President of Financial Planning



Catholic Charities is grateful for the dedicated service of Jim Bathker.

for the Marriott Corporation.

As CFO at Catholic Charities, Bathker established and directed accounting practices, relationships with lending institutions, banks, and the Archdiocese. He was instrumental in the development of Catholic Charities' Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence for homeless families in Long Beach, for expansion of the agency's Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children in Echo Park, and for renovation of Mahar House Community Center in Wilmington and Guadalupe Community Center in Canoga Park.

Catholic Charities offers sincere condolences to his wife, Marlene, and three daughters, Kim, Karen and Laurie. ❖

Los Angeles Region Greets New Director

Lorri Perreault, the new Catholic Charities' Our Lady of the Angels Regional Director, works closely with program managers and directors to improve and expand services to poor and vulnerable communities throughout Los Angeles. She admires her team and their committed service at the homeless shelters, food pantries, after-school programs and community centers.

Originally from the Midwest, Lorri attended Southern Illinois University and then Arizona State University, where she completed a BS degree in psychology, an MBA degree and a Master of Health Services Administration degree. After relocating to Los Angeles, she worked in various medical group management and corporate leadership roles. She also assisted with the start-up of a nonprofit organization that serves the poor who live in the Guatemala city dump, ghettos and orphanages, and she supports the work of Hope Renewed International as Treasurer of their Board of Directors.

Her parish of over 25 years is American Martyrs, where she serves as a catechist for elementary school children, a Eucharistic Minister, and a participant of the Matthew 25 outreach ministry to the poor. Lorri is the proud mother of a son (13) and a daughter (10) and cherishes all the activities, teachings, adventure, chaos and joy they bring to her life. ❖



The office of Lorri Perreault, the new Director of Our Lady of the Angels Region, is at St. Robert's Community Center in Venice.

St. Mary's Center Welcomes Program Director

Claudia Chaparro began her position as Program Director for Catholic Charities of Los Angeles' Our Lady of the Angels Region on January 3, 2017. She is responsible for expanding services and managing the programs within the Metro area of the region.

After obtaining a BA degree in Sociology from UC Berkeley and an MBA in Leadership and Managing Organization Change from Pepperdine University, Claudia worked for over 15 years in the healthcare, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry in strategic planning, forecasting, management and leadership.

Claudia grew up in the Los Angeles area where she has been an active volunteer for non-profit organizations and schools and has spent many years serving her local parish. Claudia decided to pursue a career in the nonprofit sector and found Catholic Charities. Born and raised a devout Catholic, Claudia believed her mission was to serve the community and has found her home.

Claudia is the eldest of three children of immigrant parents, who are also devout Catholics. Her father, Damian, was a loyal worker and family provider. Her mother, Eva, is a dedicated homemaker who now spends her time with her grandson. Claudia has one son, Aidan Matthew who is in the third grade. ❖



The office of Program Director Claudia Chaparro is at St. Mary's Community Center, adjacent to Los Angeles City College.

Archdiocesan Youth Employment Partners with Gap

Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services (AYE), a program of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, has established a key partnership with Gap Inc. and College of the Canyons (COC) to launch This Way Ahead-Los Angeles (TWA-LA), providing a targeted recruitment strategy, customized onboarding process, leadership development, and certified customer service certification through COC for underserved youth, ages 16-24 years. Gap Inc. believes in career growth opportunities and promotes advancement within the company. TWA-LA represents a real opportunity for young people to not only obtain their first job, but also create a career pathway toward management in the retail sector.

In TWA-LA's inaugural year, AYE placed 58 interns in 15 Gap Inc. stores across the Los Angeles Metropolitan area, with 44 obtaining offers for long-term employment upon completing the 10-week internship. AYE was recognized at Gap Inc.'s Partner Summit, held in Austin this January, for having the highest percentage of interns to receive job offers across the 10 participating cities in the United States and Canada. This year, AYE will place 133 interns in 32 stores in the Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley metropolitan areas. ❀



AYE interns, from the This Way Ahead-LA (TWA) program, participate in a store tour at the Gap – Grove at Farmers Market.

Susett Mendoza, AYE student, celebrates completion of her TWA internship program.



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Photo: Peggy Daniels

A young Catholic Charities' client gets some rest.

