



Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

The Sage

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Agency Welcomes New CFO

On May 22, 2017, Dan O'Brien assumed the role of Chief Financial Officer of Catholic Charities. While working in public accounting, Dan audited both for-profit and non-profit organizations. Since leaving public accounting, Dan has served as the CFO of a variety of manufacturing companies.

Dan is the third of six children and was raised in Southern California. Dan's family attended Holy Trinity Parish in San Pedro. In 1987, he graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in Public Administration. Dan went on to receive a certificate in Computer Programming from USC. He also earned an Award in Accounting from UCLA's Extension Program.

Dan and his wife, Caragh, have been members of Saint Lawrence Martyr Parish since they were married in 1992. They live with their three sons in the South Bay. ❖

St. Robert's Center to be Repurposed for TAY Housing

Constructed and dedicated in 1927, St. Clement's Convent in Venice was occupied by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, who taught at St. Clement's Parish School from 1927 until June of 1969. After that time, the convent was used by various communities of Catholic Sisters who had ministries outside of St. Clement's Parish.



Original occupants of St. Clement's Convent in 1927, which has been Catholic Charities' St. Robert's Center since 1987, were Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

When Monsignor Gregory Cox, Catholic Charities' Executive Director since 1993, was Director of Our Lady of the Angels Region of Catholic Charities, he looked for an Archdiocesan property that he could rent as the Regional office and community services center. With the help of officials at the Archdiocese, St. Clement's Convent was identified in 1985.

In the fall of 1987, after some renovations and seismic retrofitting were completed, Msgr. Cox had the building dedicated and named St. Robert's Center. The site initially housed psychological and other social services' professionals, and later added a weekend food program with lunches, hygiene items and groceries for low income individuals and families, as well as referrals to community resources.

In the beginning of 2017, a new Director was appointed for Our Lady of the Angels Region of Catholic Charities. Lorri Perreault realized that St. Robert's Center was underutilized and she conducted a survey of the needs of the Venice community. She realized that homelessness is a major problem in Venice and that many youth who had aged out of foster care were part of the homeless population. Thinking "outside of the box," Lorri proposed a new purpose for the 7,200 square foot St. Robert's Center: housing for nine to ten Transitional Aged Youth (TAY), ages 18-24. So far, Dan Murphy Foundation and Google are "on board" in financial and moral support of the TAY Housing project. ❖

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

Whistler was a famous artist known to many for his painting of a calm, old woman in a rocking chair, entitled: "Whistler's Mother." One day, a friend asked Whistler's help in hanging a beautiful picture. After several minutes of thought, the great artist declared: "You're beginning at the wrong end. You can't make that painting fit the room. You will have to make the room fit the painting."

The County of Los Angeles recently approved a spending plan for millions of dollars from a sales tax to fight homelessness. This is a good first step in addressing homelessness in Los Angeles County. How the money is spent to move the homeless into self-sufficiency is a critical next step. This is a golden opportunity to change peoples' lives by providing them with housing.

Housing is an important step to assist the homeless in leaving the streets. Self-sufficiency is more than four walls and roof. Housing without case management is not providing a sufficient environment for the homeless to change their lives. Case managers would assess the needs of the homeless and then direct them to the appropriate services. Poor mental health and drug/alcohol addiction are some of the issues that are barriers to self-sufficiency. Mental health and drug/alcohol recovery services would provide the foundation for the reentry of many homeless into society.

If we try to make our homeless fit the housing and not the housing fit the homeless, I'm afraid that we are going to miss another chance to change their lives. "You can't make the painting fit the room. You will have to make the room fit the painting." We can't make the homeless fit a room. We will have to make the housing fit the homeless. ❖



Nick Palance to Perform at Christmas Gala

Catholic Charities' 2017 City of Angels Christmas Gala will be held on Friday, December 1 at The California Club in downtown Los Angeles.

Tenor Nick Palance, hailed by critics as "Brilliant! The American Bocelli," will be the musical performer. He has the unique vocal ability to blend the power and intensity of opera with the lyric appeal of pop music. His commanding stage presence and warm personality will be a bonus during the elegant evening.

Proceeds will benefit the poor children and families served by the community service centers of Catholic Charities. For more information, please email SArnold@CCharities.org or phone (213) 251-3495.



21st Annual Catholic Charities Golf Tournament Benefits Programs for Poor and Homeless

Held at the exclusive Annandale Golf Club in Pasadena on June 19, 2017, the 21st 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 success of this fundraising event was made possible by the support of the \$10,000 Tournament Sponsors and the \$5,000 Gold Sponsors and the assistance of the Committee, consisting of: Monsignor Gregory A. Cox Chair; Susan and Richard D'Amico; Gary A. Darnell; Gary D. Krauss; Vincent F. Martin, Jr.; Michael D. O'Brien; Paul D. Tosetti, Esq.; and Peter J. Vogelsang, M.D.



William R. and Virginia Hayden Foundation's foursome, won trophies for First Place, Low Gross. Left to right, Murray Marsh, Willy Marsh, David Hayden and Bill Hayden, who also was Low Gross Individual Champion.



Latham & Watkins LLP and Paul D. Tosetti, Esq.'s foursome won Second Place, Low Gross. On the far left, presented trophies to, left to right, Gary Darnell, Harlan Thompson and Dave Hasbrouck.

Tournament Sponsors:

- Bill and Helen Close Charitable Fund "B," Catholic Community Foundation
- The Ferry Family Charitable Foundation
- Kathy and Vincent F. Martin, Jr.
- Vera R. Campbell Foundation
- William R. and Virginia Hayden Foundation

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- Stephanie and Peter Nolan Foundation
- The Ferry Family Charitable Foundation (5)
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- UBS Financial Services and Tom Podmajersky

Guadalupe Learning Center Serves Community

Located in the San Fernando Region of Catholic Charities, Guadalupe Community Services Center in Canoga Park provides a wide range of community-building activities and programs that support families in the surrounding neighborhoods by providing at-risk youth services, pre-school, sports and cultural activities, after-school tutoring, a senior citizen program, food pantry and clothing store. Families have raised their children with the help of the many programs offered at Guadalupe Center.

Learning Center educator Noreen Valdes was surprised to learn about the amazing education program Apple provides at no cost to the community of neighboring schools. She partners with the Topanga Canyon Apple Store to offer a monthly field trip experience for Guadalupe Learning Center students to combine technology and standard-based educational themes. These field trips offer a unique experience for students who may not have access to technology at home or in the classroom. Working with Apple staff, she creates interactive storytelling lesson plan goals and objectives for 15 students ranging from First to Fifth Graders. Students record their stories using multimedia Apple products, culminating in a language arts lesson.

Noreen also works with neighboring schools to provide a line of communication between parents, students and teachers. ❖



Noreen Valdes, with Ehsan and Sabar Aliyar, states: "The Learning Center has proven to be an amazing support system, not only for the students but for the families as well."

Did you know you can make a gift to Catholic Charities that costs you nothing during your lifetime?

Putting a bequest to Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. in your will builds our long-term financial strength and is the easiest major gift you can make. Why?

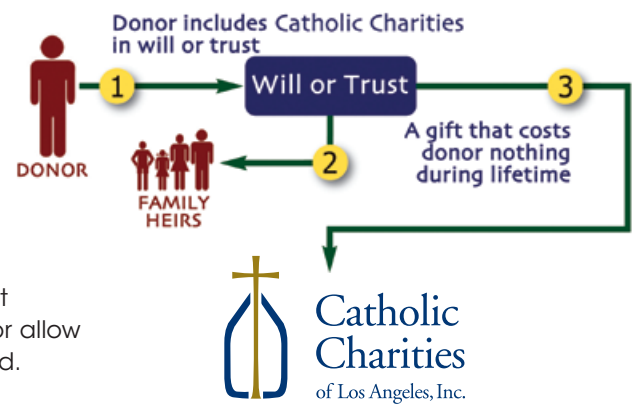
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It's Simple: One paragraph in your will can set up your gift.

And it's Flexible: You can give us a specific asset or a share in the net residue of your estate. Your bequest can support a particular program, or allow us to use it for the needs that are most relevant when your gift is received.

We can help you take the next steps to plan a bequest.

Just contact Alexandria (Sandi) Arnold at SArnold@CCharities.org or at (213) 251-3495.



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San Gabriel Region's CCPaL Helps Clients

The San Gabriel Region of Catholic Charities, directed by Mary Romero, has a wonderful Parish Liason program (CCPaL) that helps to coordinate services for needy individuals and families.

After Daniel Qunitana's wife, Dianne, who was a social Worker at Los Angeles County's DCFS, had major spinal surgery in 2015, she was unable to care for herself and Daniel was forced to leave his teaching/coaching position with LAUSD to care for her 24/7 and be there for their son, Brandon, who is now 17. When Dianne's disability ran out in April of 2016, and their savings were gone in July of 2016, the family became homeless in September of 2016 and were sleeping in their car.

Finally, after a very long recovery, Dianne was able to return to work at DCFS in April of this year and Daniel was hired by Workman High School as a head varsity baseball coach. When they started looking for an apartment in May, they sought help from Darlene Vega, Activities Coordinator at Catholic Charities' Pomona Community Center. Darlene was able to utilize the CCPaL program with Catholic Charities, St. John Vianney Catholic Church and Christ Church of the Valley for Daniel and his family. Daniel said "a special thank you and gratitude to Darlene from Catholic Charities for coordinating the assistance we got from the three agencies." ❖



Darlene Vega, of Catholic Charities' Pomona Community Center, was able to help Daniel Quintana and his family, who had been homeless, move into an apartment.

MY CLUB Youth and Volunteers Paint El Santo Nino Center

Fr. John Grace, Director of Campus Ministry and University Chaplain at Siena Heights University in Michigan, and a group of Siena Heights' students, visited Catholic Charities' El Santo Nino Community Center two years in a row during their spring break.

Fr. John's goal is to provide his students different experiences within communities and encourage them to help others. Visiting El Santo Nino and its MY CLUB youth in 2016 was such a great experience for Fr. John and the Siena Heights' students that they chose to revisit again this past spring. For three days in March, Siena Heights' students and MY CLUB youth painted the community center benches and drew and painted a large mural emphasizing education and sports.

Fernando Sarabia, Program Coordinator at El Santo Nino, said "the projects combined everyone's creativity, skills and ideas. It was an exciting experience for the MY CLUB youth, as well as the college students. The visit had such an



A large mural emphasizing education and sports is drawn in preparation for painting.

impact on the youth at El Santo Nino Center that it has opened their minds for new paintings and projects to do at the center." ❖



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A young boy enjoys the playground at Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence in Catholic Charities' San Pedro Region.



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