



Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

The Sage

www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org • ISSN 1551-9112

Approaching Our Centennial



Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

CELEBRATING
100
YEARS

1919-2019



Check out our new website:

www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org

San Gabriel Regional Director to Retire After 25 Years at Catholic Charities

In 1987, Mary Romero joined Catholic Charities of Los Angeles in the Human Resources Department. She left in 1989 to work in human resources at Maryvale. But, in 1993, she returned to Catholic Charities as Director of the San Gabriel Region, which has been blessed with Mary's faith, commitment and compassion for 25 years.



Raised in the Philippines with a Catholic education, Mary worked with the Archdiocese of Manila as a community organizer after graduating from Maryknoll College. Within this grassroots movement, she lived with the urban poor in Tondo and worked toward empowering them to be economically stable and self-sufficient. Thus began Mary's personal and professional vocation to work with vulnerable communities. Maryknoll College invited her to join their Social Development Program where Mary prepared and taught a curriculum for college students focused on increasing their awareness of social problems.

Later, while studying at Ateneo de Manila University, Mary joined the Philippine American Investments Corporation where she held several personnel management positions. In the 11 years of her tenure, employees increased from an initial 50 to 1,200. Mary left the company as Vice President for Human Resources to move with her husband and three children to Hong Kong and, later, in 1987, to the United States.

In an effort to serve the poor in the San Gabriel Region more efficiently, Mary created the Parish Liaison Program ("CCPAL"), which coordinates the efforts of Catholic Charities with Catholic schools and parishes in the region. She initiated the CCPAL Footprints: Making Tracks for Neighbors in Need event, an annual fundraising walk at the Bishop Amat High School track to raise awareness of poverty and homelessness. Mary is a founding member of the San Gabriel Valley Consortium to End Homelessness and has served, for over a decade, on the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP).

This year, Mary was awarded the Monsignor Thomas A. Kiefer Humanitarian Award at Bishop Amat Memorial High School's 25th Annual Lancer Classic Dinner. At Catholic Charities, Mary's colleagues and staff join in wishing her a well-deserved, blessed, happy retirement. ❀

In This Issue...

El Santo Nino Summer Camp	page 2
22nd Annual Golf Tournament	page 3
Rental Assistance Program	page 3
Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project	page 4

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

The phenomenon of human trafficking is complex and can take numerous forms. It falls into two main categories: forced labor and sexual exploitation. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) defines trafficking as the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud or coercion. Traffickers often recruit women through false promises, exploiting vulnerabilities such as debt, education, children or language.

In 2017, a report written by “World without Exploitation” shared their research in the United States which revealed a number of insights about sex trafficking. The victims of sex trafficking are usually women and children. The majority of traffickers are male, but a significant minority (22%) are female. Large percentages of victims enter the sex trade before the age of 18. There is a relationship between childhood sexual assault, homelessness and sex trade involvement.

One of the primary reasons for the growth of human trafficking is the website. The National Center on Missing and Exploited Children has reported that 73% of all child sex trafficking cases it has handled involve the website. Parents of school-aged children need to work with school administrators and teachers to present appropriate materials on the harms of pornography and the dangers of trafficking. Children are accessing pornography at younger and younger ages, so schools can be helpful in teaching the harms of sexual exploitation and respect for the dignity of all human beings. ❖



Catholic Charities' 2018 City of Angels Christmas Gala

will be held on
Friday, December 7 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 Alexandria Arnold at sarnold@ccharities.org or call her at (213) 251-3495.

Children Learn and Have Summer Fun At El Santo Niño Community Center

Catholic Charities' Adeste Child Care Program offers affordable, high quality, licensed after-school and summer care for children at El Santo Niño Community Services Center in South Los Angeles. This year's summer program for elementary-aged children has the theme of nature, and the youngsters have weekly outings to museums and special places where nature can be explored firsthand.

The Adeste program offers a safe, educational and nurturing place for children to grow and develop while parents in the low-income, South Los Angeles community are busy at work. At one of their field trips this summer, the youth walked five miles around El Dorado Nature Center in Long Beach and explored the hands-on exhibits, having fun and learning at the same time.

El Santo Niño Community Services Center began as a settlement house (neighborhood center) of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in 1944. It now offers: information and referral for needed resources; clothing; court referred community services; food referrals; My Club after-school tutoring and mentoring for middle and senior high school youth; Youth Employment Support Services; community meetings; cultural and recreational activities; and programs for Seniors. It is open to the neighboring community on Mondays through Fridays, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ❖



Adeste summer camp youth enjoy exhibits at the El Dorado Nature Center in Long Beach.



22nd Annual Catholic Charities Golf Tournament Benefits Programs for Poor and Homeless

Held at the exclusive Annandale Golf Club in Pasadena on June 18, 2018, the 22nd Annual Catholic Charities Golf Tournament was a big success and benefitted programs to assist vulnerable persons 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: Msgr. Gregory Cox, Chair; Susan and Richard D'Amico; Gary Darnell; Gary Krauss; Vince Martin; Michael O'Brien; Paul Tosetti; and Peter Vogelsang. ❖

Tournament Sponsors:

Bill and Helen Close Charitable Fund "B," Catholic Community Foundation
The Ferry Family Charitable Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent F. Martin, Jr.
Stephanie and Peter Nolan Foundation
Vera R. Campbell Foundation
William R. and Virginia Hayden Foundation

Winners:

Putting Contest, Second Place – Steve Matilla
Putting Contest, First Place – Tom Hood
Longest Drive – Patrick Houghton
Lowest Net Team, Second Place – Dave Donnelly, Jim Krause, Pete Sullivan, George Winn
Lowest Net Team, First Place – Todd Frelinger, Alex Galvan, Tom Hood, Alison Johnson
Lowest Gross Team, Second Place – Walter Cale, Joseph Kilifer, Trey Martin, Patrick O'Connor
Lowest Gross Team, First Place – Brian Arnold, Sr., Brian Arnold, Jr., Matt Develle, Luke Henderson
Individual Lowest Gross - Brian Arnold, Jr.

Gold Sponsors:

Deloitte & Touche, LLP
The Ferry Family Charitable Foundation (5)
Latham & Watkins LLP and Paul D. Tosetti, Esq. (2)
Judith and Stephen McDonald
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP and William M. Wardlaw, Esq.
Mutual of America
O'Brien Investment Management
St. Brendan Stipend and Charity Fund/Msgr. Terrance Fleming
The Sage Group, LLC
UBS Financial Services and Thomas E. Podmajersky



First Place, Low Gross foursome winners were, left to right, Luke Henderson, Brian Arnold, Jr., who also was Low Gross Individual Champion, (with Msgr. Gregory Cox), Brian Arnold, Sr., and Matt Develle. Photo credit: Tom Wilmshurst.



Foursome which won Second Place, Low Gross were, left to right, Joseph Kilifer, Patrick O'Connor, Walter Cale and Trey Martin. Photo credit: Tom Wilmshurst.

Rental Assistance Program Helps Father of Four

"Michael," a father of four children, was homeless when he was referred to Catholic Charities through the Long Beach Resource Center. Michael previously had an apartment but was evicted, so he and his children had nowhere to go. "I have a job; we just don't have a place to stay," he shared with staff at San Pedro Region's Long Beach Community Services Center.

When Michael found another place to live, Catholic Charities paid for his first month's rent and paid for half of his rent for the next four months. "It was a big help," he stated thankfully.

Catholic Charities also provided all the household things that he and his children needed, such as bedding and kitchen items. "All around, it was a great experience. I don't know where my children and I would be without the help I received from Catholic Charities in the San Pedro Region," Michael said, grateful to the center staff for helping him and his children put homelessness behind them. ❖



Michael and one of his four children thank Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities' Program Featured in Media

Patricia Ortiz, an attorney who is Director of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles' Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project, reports that the program has been in the news lately in regard to their work with immigrant children who have been separated from their parents at the border as a result of the administration's family separation policy.

Esperanza has represented unaccompanied minors in deportation proceedings for many years now. They assist an average of 1,900 immigrant youth per year through either direct representation, intakes, pro bono referrals, or pro se assistance.

Traditionally, the immigrant youth clients they served have entered the United States without their parents. However, in the last month, the population has shifted to also include very young children who entered with their parents and were separated from them at the border. These children have now been released to the care of sponsors who are living in the Los Angeles community and have come to Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project for assistance.

Working with young immigrant children, who have faced the trauma of being separated from their parents on top of the original trauma from which they were fleeing their home



Media included Univision's KMEX-TV Channel 34 Spanish language station in Los Angeles.

country, poses a new set of challenges to which Esperanza staff members are having to adapt.

As the country has become more aware of the ongoing issue of family separation, many of the local and national media outlets have reached out to Catholic Charities of Los Angeles to ask what we are doing to help. As a result, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles' Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project has been featured on stations such as CBS, NBC, Univision, Azteca TV and PBS to talk about their work. ❖



1531 James M. Wood Blvd.
Post Office Box 15095
Los Angeles, CA 90015-0095
www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org

Address Service Requested



Photo: Don Miceli

Children enjoy the summer months at El Santo Niño Community Center in South Los Angeles.



Please, like us on the CCLA Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Catholic.Charities.LA>