



Success Stories from Good Shepherd Center, Farley House

Tati became homeless after fleeing domestic violence, which she had experienced for many years. She knew she wanted a change for herself and for her son so she made the tough decision to leave her abuser and turn to the streets.

After a year of living on the streets and, on a better night, at the nearest available motel, Tati moved into Farley House of Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children (GSC) with her 14 year old son.

Upon their arrival at GSC, Tati and her son began counseling, therapy, and case management, which assisted with permanent housing and employment. During the program at GSC, Tati had the opportunity to save money and learn life skills. The Family Services Program at GSC assisted her with enrolling her son in high school, in sports, and in a tutoring program. After a few months of stability, peace, and productive routines, Tati felt ready and self-sufficient. Tati and her son got permanent housing in May of this year.

Joan, who lost her four children to the foster system after continuous domestic violence reports and incidents, decided to leave her abuser after she was put in a coma.

She was homeless for two years, sleeping on the streets and couch surfing, until she entered Languille Shelter of GSC, which offers emergency shelter for single women. While at Languille, Joan fought for the custody of her two older children. She received a referral to Farley House



Farley House of Good Shepherd Center is an oasis of healing for mothers and up to two of their children.

of GSC where she obtained a unit and, within a few weeks, gained full custody of her two older children.

At Farley, Joan received help with school reenrollment for her children, and counseling, parental classes, domestic violence classes, college enrollment and employment for herself.

After she showed progress to the court,

Joan applied for partial to full custody of her two younger children. The GSC team managed to place her into her own permanent housing in May of this year. Joan is employed, reunified with her two older children, and possibly reunifying with her two younger children at her next court date, thanks to the help she received from GSC. ❖

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

In the Great Depression years of the 1930s, millions of Americans were out of work and many thousands were hungry. In a number of cities, faith-based groups worked with government agencies and other organizations to address families' needs. One of these was the Franciscan Monastery in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Every day, sandwiches of bread and meat were given to hundreds of hungry men and women, who lined up before the distributing hour, 5:00 p.m. All day, two of the Franciscan brothers and several lay helpers made the sandwiches and wrapped them.

Many accepted the sandwiches with a smile and a thank you. Others, with head hanging, snatched the little bag and shuffled off. Some tore the bag open at once and started eating as they hurried away. Some sat on a curb nearby, while others took their meal around the corner to an alley to feed their children. Almost everyone ate every crumb, while some wrapped and saved a part of the sandwich. Occasionally, some would say a brief prayer of thanksgiving and many would take the food home and give it to their homebound parents.

Approximately 90 years since the Great Depression, faith-based groups, government and non-profits are still working together to feed the unhoused and the working poor. For over 100 years, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles has been serving the poor in the three counties of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and Ventura.

Catholic Charities sends volunteers and staff in vans to alleys, bridge encampments and parks to provide a cup of coffee and a bagged lunch. Our community centers provide food on weekdays and weekends. St. Robert's Center in Venice is supported by five neighboring parishes - American Martyrs, Corpus Christi, St. Anastasia, St. Monica and St. Paul the Apostle. Each parish is assigned a weekend at which their volunteers provide the unhoused with sack lunches, groceries, clothing, toiletries and other needed items.

Times change, but the needs, in many cases, remain the same. Catholic Charities is grateful to our donors who provide us with the financial and human resources to meet the basic needs of those who are going through difficult times in their lives. ❖

A Good Shepherd Shelter "Full Circle" Story

In January of 2020, Marina H. and her son escaped an abusive household and found safety at Good Shepherd Shelter (GSS), a program of Catholic Charities since 2019. During their time at GSS, Marina worked hard to heal from the trauma, save money, and rebuild her and her son's futures.

She enrolled her son into the GSS onsite elementary school at the fourth-grade level. Due to the trauma he had experienced, Marina's son was below grade level in both reading and math. Thanks to the individualized attention available to him in the school, as well as the support of his mom with homework, he not only rose to grade level but surpassed it in reading.

Marina remained focused and successfully completed all the required classes in the GSS



Marina was a former resident and is now a part-time Child Watch aide at Good Shepherd Shelter.

Adult Learning Center, which included domestic violence and parenting. After a ten-month stay in the shelter's program, they moved into a nice apartment and Marina's son received a scholarship to attend a local Catholic school. They always stayed in touch with GSS and attended a variety of events there.

In July of 2022, Marina began to volunteer at the shelter in the Child Watch program. She stated, "Good Shepherd Shelter saved my life. It saved my son's life. Now, I want to give back."

Marina's dedication to the shelter was clear and, in December 2022, she was hired by GSS as a part-time Child Watch aide. Through happy tears she said, "I am so grateful for this full circle moment." ❖

Immigration and Refugee Resettlement Program Provides Staff Development

Catholic Charities' Immigration and Refugee Resettlement program (IRR) serves thousands of immigrants and refugees annually by providing low or no cost affirmative immigration support. In addition to experienced Immigration Counselors and Attorneys who typically handle complex cases, IRR also has more than twenty Application Assistants who play an important role in the program by processing simple applications for Citizenship, DACA, and Green Card renewal.

To ensure Application Assistants develop the knowledge required to process immigration applications accurately, IRR provides a six-month training course to increase knowledge of basic immigration law. The focused training and introduction of more complex scenarios during the training enables Immigration Assistants to build their base of knowledge as well as their ability to handle a wider variety of issues faced while processing applications. The opportunity to develop skills and knowledge through detailed program training provides a path to advancement for IRR staff and improves service delivery to the local community.

To learn more about the work of IRR or to donate, please contact Steve Lee, Immigration Director, at slee@ccharities.org and/or visit the Immigration Services webpage at www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org/IRR-immigration-and-refugee-services. ❖



Jose Luis Quintero, Senior Immigration Consultant, facilitates an immigration services' training session for IRR staff.

Jobe Celebrates its Graduates

The Jobe Transitional Living Program of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles had four graduates for the Class of 2023. They are: Aaron with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from CSUN; Xina with a Bachelor of Arts in Entertainment Media Management from CSUN; Edwin with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from CSUN; and Alex with a high school diploma from Chatsworth High School.



Jobe honors its graduates from the class of 2023, left to right, Aaron, Xina, Edwin and Alex.

All graduates entered Jobe due to having insecure housing and, once accepted, they all thrived. Jobe believes that all youth can succeed with the right support, direction, and encouragement.

The graduates overcame many obstacles and earned their degrees and diploma.

As graduates, they join a distinguished network of Jobe alumni who have gone on to make many positive contributions to society. Jobe will remain committed to their continued growth and success and its doors will always be open to provide guidance, mentorship, and any assistance they may need as they navigate the next phase of their journey.

Jobe is immensely proud of all its graduates and looks forward to witnessing the positive impact they all will make in society. ❖

Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project Receives Recognition from L.A. County Supervisor

Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project, a legal service program of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, provides community education and legal representation to individuals in removal proceedings.

In March of this year, Esperanza was recognized for outstanding service and commitment to Los Angeles County's Immigrant Community at an event honoring the legacy of Cesar Chavez. Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis presented a certificate of recognition to Esperanza, one of nine groups recognized for excellent service to the community during the event.

For more information on the work of Esperanza, to volunteer or to make a donation, contact Kimberley Plotnik, Program Director, at kplotnik@ccharities.org, or visit the Esperanza website at www.esperanza-la.org. ❖



Esperanza staff receive well-deserved recognition from Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis for excellent service to the community.

CalFresh Healthy Living Team Receives National Recognition

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles' (CCLA's) CalFresh Healthy Living program serves communities throughout the four CCLA regions in Los Angeles County. A core strategy of the program focuses on improving access to healthy foods by increasing the availability of minimally processed foods and fresh produce in communities, including through distributions, at food pantries, and by creating gardens in schools and parishes, as well as supporting those who want to grow their own food at home.

The program aligns with the ethical and spiritual values espoused by many leaders of the Catholic Church, including Blessed Pope Paul VI, Saint John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and, most recently, Pope Francis, in his Encyclical Laudato Si.

CalFresh Healthy Living advocates for, and delivers programming to address, the elimination of structural dysfunctions of our economy and respect for the environment



The CalFresh Healthy Living team of CCLA isn't afraid to get their hands dirty – in fact, they love to, and it shows!

– the care of our Common Home.

Regenerative and organic growing methods are utilized throughout the gardens and growing spaces the program supports. They are coupled with education regarding the environmental impact of the choices we make with regard to the food we consume, including ways to reduce waste at every step of the process.

Recently, the USDA, from which CalFresh Healthy Living (known as SNAP-Ed in other states) originates, recognized CCLA's team for their teaching of an ancient method of seed dispersal to students in their garden-based program at two Catholic schools, St. Frances

X. Cabrini School, in northeast Los Angeles, and St. Ignatius of Loyola School, in south Los Angeles. This method, known as "seed balls," embeds seeds in a mixture of clay and worm castings, eliminating the need for starting seeds in containers of any kind, particularly the commonly used plastic pots. ❖



**Catholic
Charities**

of Los Angeles, Inc.

1531 James M. Wood Blvd.

Post Office Box 15095

Los Angeles, CA 90015-0095

www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org

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Guadalupe Community Center's after-school program offers free specialized tutoring to elementary school-aged children from low-income families.



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