



St. Robert's Center Remodeled for New Program



Director Named For San Gabriel Region

Priya Tharayil is the new Director of the San Gabriel Region of Catholic Charities.

As a mental health supervisor for the Centralized Children's Intensive Case Management unit within the Department of Behavioral Health of San Bernardino County, Priya was responsible for providing clinical supervision and managing a team of approximately 40 staff, and also for the oversight and monitoring of some highly intensive mental health programs for at-risk youth.

Originally from Kerala, India, Priya's family moved to eastern Canada and, when Priya was 18, relocated in Arcadia. Priya attended Loyola Marymount University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Later, Priya attended Loma Linda University, earning a Master's degree in Social Work. She then progressed, as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, from being a Clinical Therapist to Mental Health Clinic Supervisor.

Priya is a member of St. Rita Parish in Sierra Madre and volunteers there and at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center in Young Adult Ministry. ❖



St. Clement's Convent, circa 1927



American Martyrs Church parishioners Jaqueline and Vanessa Steib and Mia Perreault volunteered to set up beds for the resting rooms.

Catholic Charities' St. Robert's Community Services Center in Venice is starting a new chapter in its history! After undergoing an internal renovation, the 90-year-old former convent of St. Clement's Catholic Church opened its doors on February 1 as a wellness and respite center for homeless and at-risk pregnant and parenting youth, ages 14-24, and their children. The new program, The Landing, offers a no-cost, safe, home-like environment with: food; showers; clothing; daytime resting rooms; individual and group therapy; children's play therapy; parenting classes and support; laundry facilities; early childhood reading room; work space with computers and internet; yoga and meditation.

This truly unique, one-of-a-kind trauma-informed center, will support positive

parent/child attachments and parenting skills, healthy living and lifestyle choices, stress reduction and emotional well-being, and guidance with healing past trauma, all in a nurturing environment of mentoring and peer community building. All genders, races, ethnicities, and religious beliefs are welcome.

We are grateful to the Dan Murphy Foundation, Google, Drollinger Family Charitable Foundation, Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation, American Martyrs Catholic Church, Partner Engineering and Science, Jeffrey Cappo, Allan Markin, Chris and Debbi Drewry, Franklin Azar, and the Stewart J Rahr Foundation for supporting the capital improvements made to St. Robert's Center. ❖

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

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles begins 2019 with gratitude to God for the past 100 years in which we have served as the social services' arm of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

In 1919, Archbishop John J. Cantwell established the Bureau of Catholic Charities and appointed Monsignor William E. Corr as its first Executive Director. In the ensuing years, the agency's staff and volunteers started resettlement houses for the poor in the 1920s, services for youth in the 1930s and 40s, refugee resettlement and immigration services in the 1950s and 60s, and mental health services, after-school care and shelters in the 1970s and 80s. The name of the agency was changed to Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. in 1986. Additional community service centers and job training services were added in the 1990s and 2000s.

Catholic Charities has a number of events planned to celebrate our Centennial. One of the activities was a retreat in January, led by Archbishop Gomez, at which Catholic Charities' Board and staff discussed with Archbishop Gomez his pastoral letter entitled *For Greater Things You Were Born* and how we can apply it to our ministry in the next 100 years.

A Catholic Charities' Centennial Gala this coming October will highlight our century of service in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. We will be celebrating the event at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels and the festive evening will include a reception, dinner, awards, music and dancing.

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles has been the vehicle of providing hope and creating hope for the poor and vulnerable of the Archdiocese over the last century. With God's grace, we look forward to continuing this service in the counties of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara in the next 100 years. ❀



Paul Tosetti,, President of Catholic Charities' Board of Trustees, greeted Archbishop José Gomez at the reception.

David and Monica Miller Walsh enjoyed the guests at one of their two tables. Dave is seated at front left and Monica is fourth from the left.

City of Angels Christmas Gala Honored Investees of Orders

The California Club in downtown Los Angeles was, again, the venue for Catholic Charities' annual City of Angels Christmas Gala which honored the 2018 Archdiocese of Los Angeles Investees of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta.

Archbishop José H. Gomez gave welcome remarks and reflections before offering a prayer before dinner. Paul D. Tosetti, Esq., President of Catholic Charities' Board of

Trustees, was Master of Ceremonies and introduced the Investees. He also thanked the Chairs of the event, Julie and Tom Condon, as well as the members of the Committee.

Highlights of the evening included a special vocal performance of Christmas music by Juliana Polanskaya. Attendees enjoyed exquisite food as well as listening and dancing to the wonderful music of the Jay Sterling Orchestra. Proceeds from the annual event are used to help the poor children and families served by the critical case management programs of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles. ❀

OASIS Program Receives Top Score

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles (CCLA) was re-accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA), a nonprofit accreditor of human services since 1977. Catholic Charities' Santa Barbara Region's Older Adult Services and Intervention System (OASIS) program in Ventura County was given the highest score out of all CCLA's programs. OASIS received a perfect score according to the standards for counseling, support, and education services.



Alice Romero is a volunteer nurse at OASIS.

COA's evaluation standards ensure that nonprofits are providing high-quality services to their clients, and enable both clients and donors to put their trust in the effectiveness of an organization.

Congratulations to Lisa Nagy and the staff and volunteers of OASIS for their dedication and service to the elderly. ❖

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Homeless Woman-Turned Catholic Charities' Employee Retires

Suddenly homeless after working and raising her children, Anastacia Rosales was referred to Catholic Charities in Santa Barbara by a program for homeless seniors. Because of her skills, she was quickly hired as receptionist: "Serving people in the same situation as I was is very touching. Struggling with PTSD and depression, this job gave me a reason to get up every day and do something worthwhile! I loved working in an environment where I could pray for the people in front of me who were struggling. God is good!" ❖



After eight years as the smiling face and voice of Catholic Charities' Santa Barbara Community Center, Anastacia has retired and her happy presence will be missed.

Esperanza Hosts La Fiesta De Los Reyes Magos

In January, the fifth annual *Fiesta De Los Reyes Magos (Three Kings Day)*, sponsored by Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project, a program of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, celebrated refugee children and their custodians and families, alongside volunteers, donors, and staff.

Honoring the *Reyes Magos* tradition, staff and volunteers hosted play activities including piñatas. In the spirit of the holiday season, Esperanza staff strive to make refugee minors' first holiday season in the United States special as they begin their journeys to resolve their immigration cases.

During the event, staff member Mercedes Nuñez-Roldan stated: "It was a true blessing to see the faces of these children and their families filled with appreciation and joy as they ate food, laughed, played games, won raffle prizes, and received gifts. For many refugees, it was their first holiday season in the U.S."

Esperanza staff thank the hard working volunteers and event sponsors for their invaluable contributions: Holy Family Church, South Pasadena; CLUE-L.A.; National Immigration Law Center (NILC); L.A. Barber College; Pollo Campero; Curacao; Nicky Sports; LA Plaza United Methodist Church; Zulu Dance Group; Quetzal Graphics; Joker Party Supply; Piñatas Place; The Grammy Museum; The Broad Museum; Guadalupe Radio; and individual donors who each purchased a gift from the Amazon Wish List. Esperanza also gives a special thanks to Jim and Carmen Ward for providing the food for this event. ❖



A young boy is thrilled with the bicycle he was given at Esperanza's Three Kings party.

Christmas Celebrations, a “Slam Dunk” in Canoga Park

“He looks like me,” said three year old Jordan, a Canoga Park resident and weekly attendee at Catholic Charities’ Guadalupe Community Center. The object of his awe was the larger-than-life-size African American Santa Claus, a character invented by The Black Santa Company in the hope of bringing inclusion and representation to the Christmas season. With more than 90% of Guadalupe Center clients being low-income people of color, the message delivered by this seven foot Santa was as important as the gifts.

The event, sponsored by Juice Budz and ex-Los Angeles Lakers All-Star Caron Butler, represents one of many Christmas celebrations held at Guadalupe Center this past December. During a three-week run of Christmas carnivals, dinners and gift giveaways, Catholic Charities distributed more than 500 presents to low-income children.

A week after the Black Santa event, the San Fernando Valley Woodworkers arrived at the center to act as elves for the center’s annual Christmas Festival and Gift Giveaway. Loaded with gifts, and bolstered by donations from the Los Angeles Sanitation Department and Danny’s Shoes Foundation, the volunteers served more than 200 children.

The Adopt-a-Family program offered food and gift cards to high-needs families throughout December. As always, St. Mel’s Catholic Church in Woodland Hills provided both funding and supplies for the program.

Next December, stop by Guadalupe Center and you will notice that the smiles on children’s faces, like that of young Jordan, tell a much bigger story. Of all the presents distributed by Catholic Charities this Christmas, the greatest may have been the gift of self-worth. ❖



A young boy is very happy with his gift of a handmade wooden truck.

Catholic Charities Earns GuideStar Gold Seal of Transparency



Catholic Charities of Los Angeles was recently recognized for its transparency with a 2018 Gold Seal on its GuideStar Nonprofit Profile. GuideStar is the world’s largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. More than nine million visitors per year and a network of 200+ partners use GuideStar data to grow support for nonprofits. Donors explore charities and issues they want to support. Funders research grantees.

In order to get the 2018 Gold Seal, Catholic Charities shared important information with the public using our profile on www.guidestar.org. Now our community members and potential donors can find in-depth information about our goals, strategies, capabilities and progress.



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Catholic Charities of Los Angeles marks 100 years of Providing Help and Creating Hope for the poor and vulnerable.



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