



**Catholic  
Charities**  
of Los Angeles, Inc.

February 2020

# The Sage

www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org • ISSN 1551-9112



## Director Named For San Gabriel Region

**X**ochitl Hernandez is the new Director of the San Gabriel Region of Catholic Charities.

A native of Oaxaca, Mexico, who was raised in Los Angeles, Xochitl graduated from the University of San Diego in 1998 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She also earned an MBA from Loyola Marymount University in 2003.

Xochitl has worked within the nonprofit industry over the last 10 years and has led organizations focusing on prevention and recovery of substance abuse, workforce development, homeless prevention and crisis housing.

Xochitl is a parishioner of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Whittier and participates with Christus Young Adult Ministry. ❖

## Creative Programs Enhance San Pedro Region Shelters



*In the "Guest Chefs" program, Scouts host dinner for Project Achieve residents.*



*A mother and her daughter enjoy the "Kids in the Kitchen" program at Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence.*

**T**he Project Achieve shelter in Long Beach was recently the recipient of San Pedro Region's "Guest Chefs" program. Scouts BSA Troop 25 of the Long Beach Area Council treated the residents to a dinner of spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread and cookies, all prepared by the Scouts.

Ana Guillen, Data and Contract Specialist of Catholic Charities' San Pedro Region Programs, recalled, "it was one of the best experiences I had ever witnessed." The Scouts walked around the tables and talked to the residents. Each of the clients had a smile on his or her face and they all loved talking with the youth.

Project Achieve provides: 60-90 days of Bridge Housing and 24-hour shelter for

adult men and women; case management services; basic skills' workshops; and job and housing linkages.

The Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence in Long Beach has an innovative "Kids in the Kitchen" program hosted by Heather Blagaich, Chair of the program, and her fellow volunteers. They go to the shelter to help the mothers and children prepare food and cook together.

Ana Guillen shared, "it was great to see all the little ones and families cooking together and having a great time."

Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence offers: 45-days of Bridge Housing and 24-hour shelter services for homeless families, disabled and older adults; case management; and family life skills' classes. ❖

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**Catholic  
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of Los Angeles, Inc.

1919 **Launching our Second  
Century of Service** 2020

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

On January 1, 2020, Catholic Charities officially ended our centennial year. We celebrated the past and we now anticipate the future. An American lawyer, William Jennings Bryan, once said, "Destiny is no matter of chance. It is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved."

Catholic Charities will continue to improve our existing services to the poor. According to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, in 2019, approximately 60,000 persons were found homeless on any given night in Los Angeles County. Youth, from minors through age 24, make up 8,915 of the county's homeless population. Catholic Charities provides critical services to assist the homeless with food, job training and housing,

We are also exploring ways to prevent homelessness by addressing its causes. For example, some youth who are aging out of the state's foster care system just want to be done with it and voluntarily move out of their foster family placements, leading to many cases of homelessness. We have developed a model to house these youth before they fall over the cliff to homelessness.

Catholic Charities begins our second century by building on the past so we can creatively resolve the social issues of the future. We are grateful to our donors who assist us in bringing hope and dignity to those we serve. ❀

## SAVE THE DATE!

### 24<sup>th</sup> Annual

### Catholic Charities



### Golf Tournament

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020

ANNANDALE GOLF CLUB, PASADENA

FOR MORE INFORMATION,

CALL (213) 251-3495 OR VISIT

[WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESLA.ORG](http://WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESLA.ORG)

PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT FEED,  
HOUSE AND ASSIST OUR CLIENTS  
WHO ARE POOR AND HOMELESS.

## City of Angels Christmas Gala Honored Investees of Orders



*Investee of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (EOHSJ) in 2019, Kristin Van Cleve, front center, is seated with, clockwise, left to right: Dennis Branconier; Kathy Branconier; Franklin McKown, another EOHSJ Investee; Viktor and Mary Beth Rzelitski, table hosts; Louise Tamberg; Tod M. Tamberg; Dennis Mulhaupt, another EOHSJ Investee; and Mark Van Cleve.*



*Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artists' Program, left to right, pianist, Brendon Shapiro, and tenors, Anthony Ciaramitaro and Robert Stahley, gave a soul-stirring musical performance at the annual event, held at The California Club.*



*Investees of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta in 2019, who attended Catholic Charities' City of Angels Christmas Gala in December, shown here enjoying the music of the Jay Sterling Dance Band, are Katyadela Calderon and Stephen Erigero.*



## CCLA Named Outstanding Nonprofit Agency

At the 2019 National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon, hosted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Los Angeles Chapter in November, 2019, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles (CCLA) was honored as the Outstanding Nonprofit Organization. It was an especially timely recognition since CCLA celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 2019.

Archbishop José Gómez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, Chairman of the Board of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, presented the award to Monsignor Gregory Cox, CCLA Executive Director. ❖



*Archbishop José Gomez, on the right, presents the award to Monsignor Gregory Cox.*

## Good Shepherd Shelter Celebrates 42 Years

Good Shepherd Shelter, the long-term treatment and education-based shelter for women and their children who are healing from domestic violence, celebrated its 42nd Anniversary on October 26, 2019. The wonderful program was founded by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in 1977 and came into the Catholic Charities of Los Angeles (CCLA) “family” on October 1, 2019.

Monsignor Gregory Cox, CCLA Executive Director, joined Sisters of the Good Shepherd, from left to right, Sister Mary Carolyn, Sister Madeleine, Sister Anne, Sister Regina, Sister Barbara and Sister Donna, at the festive event. Sisters Regina, Barbara and Donna remain as part-time staff members of Good Shepherd Shelter. ❖



## Esperanza Hosts La Fiesta De Los Reyes Magos

More than 100 refugee children, along with their families or sponsors, gathered at lunch tables in the Immaculate Conception Church parking lot on January 4, 2020, for the sixth annual “Fiesta De Los Reyes Magos” (“Three Kings Day”). The event, sponsored by Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project, a program of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, celebrates refugee children and their sponsors and families alongside volunteers, donors, and staff. Honoring the “Reyes Magos” tradition of welcoming refugees, Esperanza staff and volunteers hosted play activities, broke a piñata, handed out gifts to children, raffled bicycles, offered delicious tacos and shared the traditional *Rosca de Reyes* (Three Kings’ Bread). “In the spirit of the holiday season and giving to those in challenging circumstances, Esperanza staff strive to make refugee minors’ first holiday season in the U.S. a memorable one,” stated Stephanie Lomeli of Esperanza. ❖



# Christmas Arrives at the Community Centers

**S**an Fernando Region helped 350 families through their Adopt-A-Family program. At Guadalupe Community Services Center in Canoga Park, all parents and live-in grandparents were given Walmart gift cards and all the children received toys. John Ford, a long-time Food Pantry volunteer at the center, served as Santa and food was provided at the party.

The Adopt-a-Family program in **San Gabriel Region** benefitted 45 families. The Navidad Con Obispo celebration distributed food baskets and toys to 144 families. Brownson House in East Los Angeles gave food baskets and toys to 126 families. San Juan Diego Community Center in El Monte provided food baskets and toys to 96 families. Pomona Community Center gave 100 families food and toy donations. McGill Street House hosted a party for nine families.

Long Beach Community Center, in **San Pedro Region**, gave 60 families food baskets and coats. Elizabeth Ann



*Children at San Gabriel Region's Brownson House Christmas party are happy with their gifts.*

Seton Residence was treated to two Christmas parties, one hosted by Our Lady of Refuge Catholic parish, which donated toys and coats to all the families. The second party featured Santa with lots of toys for the children.

The staff and volunteers of The Landing program at **Our Lady of the Angels Region's** St. Robert's Center in Venice cooked and served a Christmas feast of turkey, stuffing etc. at their Christmas party, which treated 19 adults and 16 children to a meal and a toy giveaway.

The Ventura County area of the **Santa Barbara Region** distributed 404 food baskets and 100 gift cards to families, and

toys to 592 children. St. Jude Catholic parish in Westlake Village adopted 49 of those families. St. Peter Claver Catholic parish in Simi Valley adopted 40 of the families and 91 of the children at the Moorpark Service Center, where Santa was present. ❖



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*Catholic Charities' food programs and services at the community centers help food pantry clients make healthy food choices and receive balanced and nutritious meals.*



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