



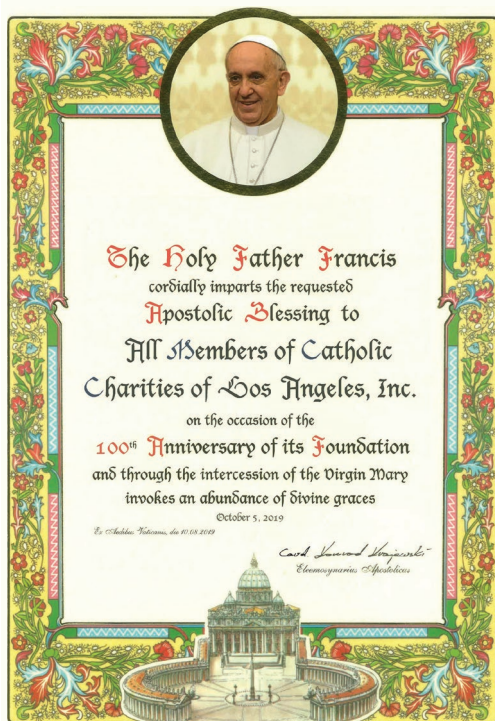
**Catholic  
Charities**  
of Los Angeles, Inc.

November 2019

# The Sage

www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org • ISSN 1551-9112

## An Apostolic Blessing



Pope Francis sent a beautiful Apostolic Blessing to Catholic Charities of Los Angeles on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

## Resolution by Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors



Chair of the Board, Supervisor, Fourth District, Janice Hahn, presented a Resolution by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, commending and congratulating Catholic Charities of Los Angeles on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary, to Monsignor Cox, Executive Director, on October 1, 2019. (Photo: County of Los Angeles)

## Union Village: A New Program for the Next Century



These are progress sketches from Paul Robich, AIA, architect for Catholic Charities' future Union Village.

In November of 2018, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. announced its purchase of land immediately adjacent to the corporate offices in downtown Los Angeles in order to offer additional programs and services. The 58,485 square foot, 1.34 acre property is located at 830-846 South Union Avenue and James M. Wood Boulevard.

The existing 1924 three story, brick building will soon be demolished. The vision for the new construction is a "village" to include two critical need programs: an Angel's Flight Shelter for homeless, runaway and at-risk boys, ages 10 through 17; and also housing for Transition Age Youth (TAY), young men, ages 21 through 24, who have aged out of the foster care system. The "village" will include a gym and athletic field on the site. ❀

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

On October 5, Catholic Charities celebrated our Centennial year at the Cathedral Center. Archbishop Gomez began the evening with reflections on the value of Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He then recited a prayer, asking God's blessings on the evening and the next hundred years of Catholic Charities.

Paul Tosetti, Board President of Catholic Charities, was the Master of Ceremonies for the event. He shared some remarks about the ministry of Catholic Charities in the three counties of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and Ventura. Then, we listened to welcoming remarks from Mayor Garcetti and Vin Scully. During the delicious dinner, two Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artists' Program tenors and a pianist, as well as the Jay Sterling Dance Band, uplifted and entertained the guests. The formal program concluded with a video about Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities is now embarking on our next 100 years. We will continue to strengthen our existing programs and will expand our services to meet the changing needs of society.

The future belongs to those who are willing to make their dreams a reality. This year, two new programs joined the Catholic Charities' family. One program provides housing for young men and women as they transition from the foster care system to self-sufficiency. The other newly-acquired program, Good Shepherd Shelter, offers housing and education to mothers and children who are victims of domestic violence.

In addition, in November of 2018, Catholic Charities purchased property that will enable us to build a "Village" with a shelter for runaway and homeless children under the age of 18 and a home for Transition Age Youth who have aged out of foster care and are homeless. A gym and soccer field will be a part of the "Village" and will also serve the youth of the area. These dreams have become a reality for future generations to build upon. ❀

## Good Shepherd Shelter: Another New Program for the Next Century

In 2018, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd approached Monsignor Cox in regard to taking over their Good Shepherd Shelter program, which serves mothers and children, victims of domestic violence. This was due, not only to the financial impact of the lack of vocations in the Sisters' community, but also to Catholic Charities' reputation as a well-run, credible human services' agency.

The Convent of the Good Shepherd began in Los Angeles in 1904 to serve delinquent girls between the ages of 12 and 21 who were referred by Juvenile Courts, welfare agencies, parents and guardians. The original convent, on 14 acres, had a capacity for 225 girls in residence.

In 1977, the Sisters looked for new ways to help children from violent, dysfunctional homes and to assist their mothers to provide a safe, secure home and stability for their future; thus, Good Shepherd Shelter was born. The former convent was demolished and some of the property sold. A new, smaller convent was built on the remaining property, as the first domestic violence shelter in the City of Los Angeles. It is a secret compound, located in one of the roughest neighborhoods in Los Angeles.

In 1979, a 12-unit apartment building, adjacent to the convent, was purchased and a preschool, Pre-K to 6th grade classrooms and Adult Learning Center were added. In 2010, a house adjacent to the 12-unit apartment building was acquired.

On October 3, 2019, in Catholic Charities' Centennial year, the agency closed escrow on the purchase of the property from the Good Shepherd Sisters. This provides Catholic Charities with a unique opportunity to serve this growing and vulnerable group of women and children well into the next 100 years. ❀



*The peaceful, spacious grounds of Good Shepherd Shelter provide room for future growth and complimentary programs.*





# Catholic Charities Highlights Centennial Celebration

Since 1919, Catholic Charities has served as the human services' arm of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The agency is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year and the highlight of the activities was Catholic Charities' Centennial Celebration at the Center at Cathedral Plaza on Saturday, October 5, 2019.

Archbishop José Gomez, Chairman of the Board of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, offered a prayer and remarks and Msgr. Greg Cox, Executive Director, addressed the guests, describing the past 100 years of the agency's social ministry and the three new programs that will help to usher in the next century of service.

Videos of Vin Scully and Mayor Eric Garcetti congratulating Catholic Charities on its 100th Anniversary and a Visionaries' documentary of Catholic Charities for PBS stations nationwide were shown. (Photos: Tom Wilmshurst)



Guests at the Centennial Celebration included left to right around table: Chris Irwin, Paul Robich, Gary Darnell, Katie Darnell, Paul Tosetti, President of Catholic Charities' Board of Trustees, Cathy Tosetti, Archbishop José Gomez, Chairman of the Board of Catholic Charities, Joe Sanders and Ann Sanders.



Veronica Falzone's table included, left to right around table: Connie Ocampo, Phillip Bailey, Linda MacKenzie, Celeste Anlauff, Mary Healy-Hambric, Sr. Edna Creegan, D.M.J., Veronica, Julie Shipley and David Yun.



Msgr. Albert Bahhuth's table included, left to right around table: Doug Farruggia, Robin Farrugia, Randy Steiner, Eileen Steiner, Msgr. Bahhuth, Paul Escala, Noel Escala, Cindy Galindo, Oscar Galindo and Marge Graf.



The Catholic Community Foundation of Los Angeles' table included, left to right around table: Howard Anderson, Fr. John O'Brien, Mary Pat Cooper, Linda Beaven, Ellen Holton, Elena Murdock, Lara Duncan, Dana Valenzuela and Kathy Anderson.



Msgr. Greg Cox's table included, standing left to right: Christine Vinluan, Ted Barry, Msgr. Cox, Msgr. Terry Fleming, Msgr. Paul Montoya, and Msgr. Jim Gehl; seated, from left to right, are: Mary Romero, Alexandria (Sandi) Arnold and Julia Scalise.



The table of Lovers of the Holy Cross Sisters included, standing, left to right: Sr. Mary Pham, Sr. Anne Tran, Sr. Mai Tran, Sr. Lan Ngo, Sr. Rosaline Vu and Sr. Miriam Vu; seated, from left to right, are: Sr. Ann Mai Phan, Sr. Grace Duc Le and Sr. ToNga Nguyen.



# Disaster Case Management Program Begins

In November 2018, the Woolsey Fire ravaged nearly 100,000 acres of Los Angeles and Ventura counties, destroying 400 homes and leaving hundreds of victims with an arduous journey to recovery. Today, many of these victims are still struggling to rebuild their lives. When one has lost home, belongings, cars, even documented identity, what does the road to recovery look like?

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and Catholic Charities of California, the Ventura County area of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles (CCLA)'s Santa Barbara Region has established a new "Disaster Case Management Program" to help fire victims put together the missing pieces to rebuild a "normal" life. Under the FEMA model, after the federal declaration of a disaster, U.S. and State governments contract with a managing agency, in this case, Catholic



Charities of California (CCC) and one or more local provider agencies (e.g. Ventura County area of CCLA). Drawing on CCC's long experience with disaster case management, local case managers are trained to identify, screen, inform, and advocate for fire victims. Since the program began in September, program manager Shaun McCarty and case managers Scott, Liz and Nicholas have reached out to dozens of fire victims who have applied to FEMA for assistance.

The team conducts an in-depth assessment of the victims' needs and then works together with the victims to prepare a step-by-step plan to move forward. Meeting with the victims on a regular basis, offering supportive advice and referrals to sources of funding and assistance, and advocating for clients provides compassionate support as they gradually establish a "new normal" following the devastating disruption of their lives. ❖

## Guadalupe Community Center Collaborates with Faculty of Local High School

In addition to planning the upcoming school year's curriculum, in August, the faculty at Notre Dame Catholic High School in Sherman Oaks decided to take on an additional task. As part of their annual retreat activities, the faculty, led by Claudia Alvarez, Director of Campus Ministry, wanted to ensure that the retreat theme, "Hope", would be more than just a snappy catch phrase. The high school faculty wanted to provide "Hope" to a portion of the homeless population in their community.

Claudia and her team collaborated with Catholic Charities of Los Angeles (CCLA)'s Guadalupe Community Services Center in Canoga Park, led by CCLA San Fernando Regional Director, Sandra Yanez, and her staff members, David Resendiz, and Carina Alvarado. Yanez and her team delivered a beautiful presentation, which not only brought awareness to homelessness in the San Fernando Valley, but also provided information about the services offered at Guadalupe



*Catholic Charities of Los Angeles' San Fernando Regional Director, Sandra Yanez, with Carina Alvarado, Programs Coordinator, and David Resendiz, Guadalupe Community Center Coordinator, were invited by Notre Dame High School faculty to talk about homelessness in the San Fernando Valley, resulting in wonderful collaboration.*

Community Services Center, which directly targets the homeless population in that area. After the presentation, the CCLA Regional Director and her staff entertained questions and responded to several faculty members who offered to volunteer.

As part of their retreat exercises, the Notre Dame High School faculty solicited, collected, assembled items to include in over 100 Hygiene Kits, and presented the kits to Guadalupe Community Services Center for distribution to the center's homeless clients. This is an example of the wonderful and heartwarming collaboration that often occurs between

Catholic parishes and schools of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the five Regions of CCLA to provide a little "Hope" to those in need.

To volunteer in CCLA programs, please contact James Batiste, Volunteer Services Director, at [jbatisite@ccharities.org](mailto:jbatisite@ccharities.org). ❖

# Help and Hope for Young Survivors of Trafficking

“Vanessa,” a 16 year-old client in Catholic Charities of Los Angeles’ (CCLA) human trafficking service program, was taken from her home in El Salvador by gang members who threatened to kill her and her family if she did not come with them to the U.S. to work in the commercial sex industry. As they neared the U.S. border, Vanessa saw a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) vehicle and ran to the officer who assisted her in escaping her traffickers. Vanessa was placed in an immigration detention center and later was released into the custody of her brother.

“Javier,” 13 years old, is also receiving trafficking services from CCLA. At age 10, in Honduras, he was forced by a family member to stop attending school and to work in the fields for many hours each day. He did not receive any pay for his work, and was beaten if he complained. After a



*Catholic Charities' Client Resource Coordinator, Shaheen Khan, talks with a trafficking survivor client.*

year in forced labor, Javier escaped the fields and traveled to the U.S. border where he was placed in detention by CBP. After 8 months, Javier was given into the custody of his mother, whom he had not seen since he was 8 years old.

Catholic Charities is one of several local agencies working to assure a safe transition to a new life in the U.S. for foreign-born trafficked minors and adults. Six months after starting services, both Vanessa and Javier are slowly acclimating to a

new life in the U.S. Both are safe, living with loving family members, attending school, and receiving needed services for legal assistance and basic needs. Each is starting to express hopes and dreams for the future.

To inquire about Catholic Charities' trafficking service, contact Brenda Thomas at [bthomas@ccharities.org](mailto:bthomas@ccharities.org) or (213) 318-5718. ❖

## Mahar House Collaborates in Wilmington

**M**ahar House-MY CLUB, a program of Catholic Charities' Angel's Flight Runaway and Youth Services, located in Wilmington, provides bi-lingual after-school tutoring and mentoring, sports and recreational activities for youth in 4th and 5th grades. It also offers a summer program that includes fun activities, lunches and snacks.

In April, Ms. Brissa Sotelo, who has a long-standing history of helping Mahar House and is one of the unsung leaders of Wilmington, began to organize groups to hand out or install fire alarms, free of charge, in homes in Wilmington. She coordinated with Catholic Charities' San Pedro Regional Director, Bruce Hackman, the fire department, the Red Cross, and the Rotary Club. On a Saturday in June, Ms. Sotelo and Catholic Charities walked eight blocks to install fire alarms for residents living near Mahar House.

In a collaborative “Sound the Alarm” event in Wilmington, on a Saturday in August, Mahar House was used as a basecamp for parking, registration and lunches for American Red Cross volunteers who installed 106 smoke alarm systems to make homes safer in the city. For that event, Regional Director, Bruce Hackman, joined Veronica Garcia Davalos, Executive Director of American Red Cross – Greater Long Beach, Rio Hondo, South Bay Chapter, to help make the Wilmington community more disaster resistant. The Kiwanis Club of Long Beach, headed by President Pat Paris Appleby, raised funds to pay for the smoke alarms.

Ms Sotelo is planning another event this fall, this time installing video doorbells. She is also in charge of planning Christmas parties and special events for clients of Mahar House. ❖



*Catholic Charities' Mahar House in Wilmington was the site of a collaborative effort with American Red Cross to install smoke alarms in that city.*







1531 James M. Wood Blvd.  
Post Office Box 15095  
Los Angeles, CA 90015-0095  
[www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org)

*Address Service Requested*



*Throughout its 100 years of service, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles has guided the poor toward healing and pathways out of poverty.*



Please, like us on the CCLA Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Catholic.Charities.LA>

## JOBE: Another New Program for the Next Century

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. has a new program that provides transitional living for homeless individuals who were formerly foster care youth. The new program is called JOBE and it falls under Angel's Flight. The mission of JOBE Transitional Living Program is to create a trauma-informed, culturally aware, safe and stable environment for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) while they pursue their educational and vocational dreams to utilize their individual strengths to end the cycle of poverty. ❖



*The JOBE program owns this house in Northridge which houses 10 TAY young men. Five TAY young women reside in a nearby apartment building.*

