



Catholic Charities Earns Coveted Perfect 100 4-Star Rating

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles is one of only 60 charities in the nation to recently get a perfect score in Charity Navigator's Star Rating System for Financial Health, Accountability and Transparency.

Less than one percent of the thousands of charities rated by Charity Navigator have earned perfect scores of 100. With this exceptional rating, donors can "Give with Confidence" to Catholic Charities.

In 2022, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles also earned a 2022 Gold Seal of Transparency from GuideStar (now Candid). ❖

Little Miracles at Good Shepherd Shelter

Good Shepherd Shelter (GSS) welcomed the "Smith" family in mid-August. They are a family of seven with mom and six children ranging in ages from six months to 10 years. Four of the six children attend GSS's elementary school, while the two youngest are cared for in GSS's Child Watch program.

Two-year old, "Sarah," entered GSS non-verbal and exhibited no expression whatsoever. Ms. Sally, the coordinator in GSS's Child Watch program, worked with her very slowly, offering her options to play on the playground, engage in art and other craft activities, play with toys, etc. "Sarah" did not respond initially. She sat in a chair with a blank, stoic expression. The GSS staff worked with Sarah patiently and with a great deal of care, love and compassion.

On September 20, 2022, less than six weeks since "Sarah" arrived at GSS, Program Director, Deana Payne, was leading a campus tour with a prospective donor. When the tour group passed the playground, "Sarah" appeared from behind the slide with a wide-eyed smile. She waved and called out, "Hi, Ms.



In less than six weeks at Good Shepherd Shelter, six-year-old "Sarah" went from being nonverbal and expressionless to talking, laughing and smiling.

Deana!" She then went on to giggle and play with the other children.

The hearts of GSS staff overflow with warmth and gratitude, on a regular basis, while witnessing little miracles such as this. ❖

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Message from the Executive Director,

Rev. Monsignor Gregory A. Cox

Catholic Charities is guided by our mission statement which states that we are “committed to manifesting Christ’s spirit through collaboration with diverse communities, by providing services to the poor and vulnerable, by promoting human dignity, and by advocating for social justice.”

“Putting first things first,” means organizing and executing around our most important priorities. It is living by and being driven by the principles we value most. Catholic Charities is driven to serve the most vulnerable in our society.

Charity Navigator is a charity assessment organization that evaluates hundreds of thousands of charitable organizations based in the United States, operating as free 501 (c)(3) organizations. It provides insights into a non-profit’s financial stability, adherence to best practices for accountability and transparency, and results reporting. It is the largest and most utilized evaluator of charities in the country.

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. (CCLA) is on the Exceptional Charities’ perfect score list because we execute our mission in a fiscally responsible way while adhering to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities.

CCLA has earned perfect scores in Charity Navigator’s four-star rating system for our Financial Health and our Accountability & Transparency. Those two scores then translate into a perfect 100 point overall score. Less than one percent of the thousands of charities rated by Charity Navigator have earned perfect scores.

Because of the Board, staff, volunteers and donors, Catholic Charities has been able to maintain high standards as an agency. Having a healthy agency enables us to fulfill our mission of serving the poor and vulnerable in our society. ❖

Food from the Heart Drive Helps Long Beach Community Center

Members of St. Joseph Church in Long Beach held a two-day Food from the Heart donation drive for Catholic Charities’ Long Beach Community Center.

The lead organizer of the event, Tim Clark, who has generously donated to Catholic Charities’ San Pedro Region for years, wanted to help the region in a big way by ensuring that local individuals in need would receive nutritious food. He hoped to ease Catholic Charities’ clients’ financial hardship, which has been due, in part, to the inflation in food prices.

Clark and his Food from the Heart volunteers encouraged those who were unable to donate canned food to contribute cash for the Long Beach Community Center, in order that staff there would be able to provide more resources to low income and homeless clients.

San Pedro Regional Director, Bruce Hackman, shared that “St. Joseph Church has been a God send.” The Food from the Heart Drive of St. Joseph Church raised \$780 in cash and delivered 160 shopping bags of groceries to Catholic Charities in Long Beach for its clients. ❖



Jonah Holt, the grandson of Food from the Heart organizer, Tim Clark, rests after helping with the food drive.

Former Foster Youth Becomes U.S. Citizen

Maya is a nineteen-year-old former foster youth who joined the Jobe Transitional Living Program in 2021 and recently obtained U.S. citizenship. Maya was born in Germany and immigrated to the United States when she was two years old.

Maya was placed in the foster care system at thirteen years old and she aged out at eighteen. She was referred to the Jobe program by her older brother, Aaron, who is also a current resident of Jobe.

Maya has never let being a former foster youth define her. Since joining the program, Maya secured employment at a local restaurant, obtained a driver's license, and purchased her first car.

When asked what becoming a U.S. citizen means to her, Maya replied, "being an American Citizen allows me the privilege to vote and be involved in my community."

Maya is a sophomore at CSUN, majoring in Psychology. She aspires to become a social worker to give back to her community and advocate for youth in need.

We are all very proud of Maya's accomplishments and look forward to watching her continue to succeed. ❀



Maya and her brother, Aaron, are both current residents of Jobe.

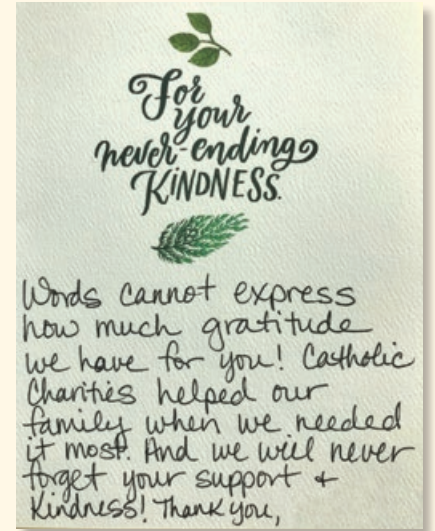
Family Grateful for Rent and Utilities' Assistance

A family of four recently came to Catholic Charities' Community Service Center in Santa Barbara, in need of help to pay rent and utility bills. As happens frequently, one disruption in income flow during the course of a month can lead to falling behind and playing catch up over multiple months. Such was the case with this family, even with the older son working and contributing to the household income.

A review of their finances showed a working family with the ability to regularly meet their obligations, but reeling from an unexpected interruption of income, and falling behind in utility payments, with the next month's rent due and a three-day eviction notice.

With federal EFSP (Emergency Food and Shelter Program) funds, the center was able to cover the entire cost of the family's August rent, as well as three months of utility payments. The family could then breathe easier and maintain the household without interruption, especially for the sake of their younger son, still in high school.

Brian Clark, Client Services Regional Coordinator, shared, "Although the family prefers to remain anonymous, their words in a card speak volumes and echo a refrain frequently heard." ❀



Financial Education Summer Camp at Brownson House Community Center

In collaboration with Chase Bank, Catholic Charities' San Gabriel Region provided over 30 youth with a five-part series Financial Education Summer Camp. The youth, from different grade levels, learned about "Needs vs Wants," "Budget," "Paying Yourself First," and "Spending Limits," and the differences between "Debit and Credit Cards."

The financial education camp was very engaging. Students asked many questions and had the opportunity to break into groups and give presentations on the topics discussed. The fifth session included a visit to the Chase East LA Community Branch where students listened to Chase employees talk about their career journeys and the work that they do at the bank. The youth also had the opportunity to tour the bank, where they visited the safe deposit box room, ATM room, and the bank's vault.

At the conclusion of the summer camp, the children's parents were provided with a summary presentation of the entire curriculum that was covered during the various sessions. ❀



The camp was led by a Catholic Charities' San Gabriel Region Advisory Board Member, Benny Sanchez, and was attended by youth from the East LA and Boyle Heights' communities.

New Program Director of Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children

Sister Jennifer Nguyen, LHC, was appointed the new Program Director for Good Shepherd Center for Homeless Women and Children (GSC) in July. She succeeds Sister Anne Lanh Tran, LHC, who served as Director since 2010 and was the successor of Sister Julia Mary Farley, who founded GSC in 1984. Like her predecessor, Sister Jennifer is a fellow member of the Lovers of the Holy Cross Sisters and is no stranger to GSC. She served as Co-Director of Languille, GSC's first residential facility, from 2002 to 2009, then briefly in 2011. Prior to 2011, Sister Jennifer was the Residence Supervisor from 1991 to 1992 and volunteered with the Outreach Program from 1999 to 2000. Before returning to GSC, Sister Jennifer served as Director of the



Office of Asian Pacific Ministry in the Diocese of San Bernardino from 2011 to 2022.

Sister Jennifer received her BA in Social Work from Cal State Long Beach and her MSW from Cal State Los Angeles. She has earned the support, admiration, and respect of GSC's staff and those volunteers and clients who have had the opportunity to meet her. With Sister Jennifer's blend of professional and spiritual work

experience, coupled with her enthusiasm and engaging disposition, there is little doubt that, under her leadership, GSC will continue fulfilling its mission of empowering women and their children to move from homelessness to self-sufficiency with dignity and love. ❀



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Every December, Catholic Charities hosts joyful events for underprivileged children and families at some of our community centers.



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