



Employment Support Partnership Aids Afghan Parolees



The Afghan Newcomers Support Program, (ANSP) Case Manager is Lutfullah Mangal.

The Employment Support Partnership (ESP) program of Catholic Charities has provided case management and employment services to immigrants and refugee communities since 1983. With funds from the State, ESP has recently started a new program for Afghan parolees who arrived in the U.S. between August 2021 and September 2023 during the Afghan airlift.

Afghan Newcomers Support Program (ANSP) services include: community orientation; comprehensive case management; intake and eligibility determinations for public benefits; referral services; application assistance; development of a family self-sufficiency plan; employment readiness services; and access to immigration legal services. Assistance with translation/interpretation and access to clothing, food, furniture, and other essentials are also made available to program participants.

To learn more about the work of ESP, the ANSP program, or to donate or volunteer, contact James DeRose, Program Director at jderose@ccharities.org. ❀

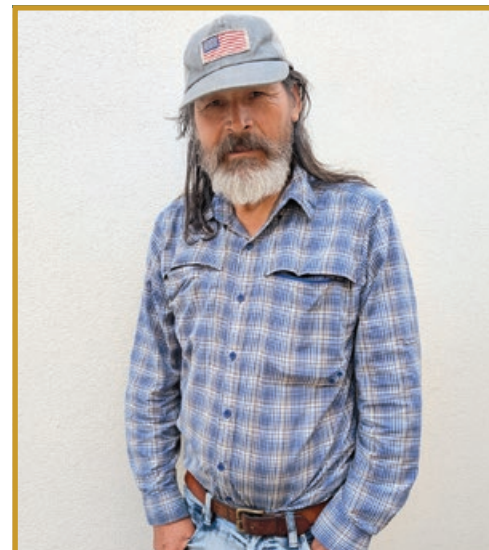
Santa Barbara Community Center Helps Enrique Support His Family

When Enrique walks through the doors of Catholic Charities' Santa Barbara Community Center, he doesn't feel like a client. He feels like he's coming home. "When I come here, I feel closer to Jesus because of the spirit of how we are treated."

A devoted husband of 40 years and a father of four, Enrique has always worked hard to support his family, alongside his wife, Griselda. Two of his sons are currently in college, and his daughter recently became a lawyer - a moment of immense pride for him and his wife. However, like so many families today, Enrique has faced challenges that made it difficult to make ends meet.

Over the years, Enrique has received assistance from Santa Barbara Community Center with food, clothing, utility bills, and rental support - lifelines that allowed him to focus on what matters most: raising and providing for his family.

Enrique's family is one of 1,952 households that received services through the Santa Barbara Community Center in the past year. Enrique and Griselda are still supporting sons through college to build



"I know a lot of people that come here, like me, who get their needs met," Enrique shared. "And for people who live alone, coming here builds their spirit."

a better life for the next generation. It is a thought heard frequently when vendors come to the community center to do work. They remember coming here as a kid with their parents. For generations, the center has supported families in moving forward and, with your support, Catholic Charities' Santa Barbara Community Center hopes to continue for more generations. ❀

In This Issue...

San Gabriel Region Supports Wildfire Victims	page 2
Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence Helps a Father	page 3
Workshop Empowers AYES Participants	page 3
The Landing Assists Families With Housing	page 3
CYO Provides Inter-Scholastic Sports	page 4

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

On October 9 and 10, I attended a gathering entitled “Pilgrims of Hope: Serving the Vulnerable,” a statewide conference celebrating California’s Catholic Health Care and Social Services” ministries. The agencies participating in the conference represented doctors, nurses, administrators, architects, contractors, volunteers, social workers, case aides, board members, bishops, priests, deacons, women and men religious. The primary organizations participating in this conference were the Alliance of Catholic Health Care, Mercy Housing, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Knights of Columbus, and Catholic Charities.

California has 58 Counties. The California Catholic Community has 1,046 parishes, 3,600 priests, 1,357 Deacons, and 2,685 women religious. We have 49 Catholic hospitals and healthcare systems, and 589 schools (grammar, high school and college). Last year (2024), the Catholic hospitals and healthcare systems served 9,905,705 individuals. The Catholic social services (welfare) served 14,515,795 clients. The total number served by hospitals and social services was 24,421,500. The population of California is 39.2 million people. This means that the Catholic Community served 62% of the population of California last year. We provided a delivery of human services to people of all cultures and beliefs throughout the state.

The conference provided the opportunity for some of the organizations to give brief presentations of their mission and work. For example, Catholic Health Care shared that they seek just and equitable health care for Californians, together with members Dignity Health and Providence. They work to develop relationships between safety-net hospitals, and providers and community organizations to develop social factors to impact everyone’s health. Mercy Housing shared that they enhance communities and people’s lives by building affordable homes and providing programs that enrich housing for families, seniors, and people with special needs. Catholic Charities of California also highlighted some of their services. Through the twelve dioceses of California, Catholic Charities provides shelters and housing for the unhoused, disaster case management, free legal assistance and representation for immigration, food and clothing to struggling families, and benefit outreach and enrollment for households eligible for Medi-Cal and Cal-fresh.

The “Pilgrims of Hope; Serving the Vulnerable” conference provided excellent presentations concerning Catholic health care, immigration, nutrition, social services, disaster and emergency services, housing and homelessness. However, the most inspiring aspect of the conference were the people who attended. They are truly the “pilgrims of hope.” ❖

San Gabriel Region Supports Wildfire Victims

Catholic Charities’ San Gabriel Region continues to stand beside the survivors of the Eaton Fire as a second-phase responder, providing essential short-term recovery support. Thanks to the financial and in-kind generosity of Catholic Charities USA, weekly relief events are held at Sacred Heart Parish in Altadena. Through these efforts, more than 400 households have received much-needed assistance, including \$2,000 in Home Depot credits to help replace home goods lost in the fire.

In June 2025, Catholic Charities launched the Disaster Aid for Host Families (DAHF) Program, a unique initiative offering monthly stipends to families who open their homes to wildfire survivors for up to six months. One of these participants, Diane Rivas, lost her own home in the Eaton Fire and is now renting a house while hosting



*Diane Rivas, her mother, and mother-in-law,
all lost their homes in the Eaton fire.*

her mother and mother-in-law, both of whom also lost their homes. Diane shares that the tragedy has strengthened the bonds within Altadena, creating a more resilient and united community. Alongside her family, she now volunteers with Catholic Charities to help reach and support additional families in need.

On August 23, 2025, the DAHF Program hosted a Disaster Relief Event, serving 275 households with back-to-school supplies, groceries, clothing, and access to vital community resources.

Through programs like DAHF, Catholic Charities’ San Gabriel Region remains dedicated to empowering the Altadena community as it rebuilds, offering compassion, stability, and hope on the road to long-term recovery. ❖

Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence Gives Father a Fresh Start

Meet Tyler Harris, a devoted single father of two beautiful children who are currently residing at Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence in Long Beach. After recently gaining custody of his children, Tyler has worked tirelessly to rebuild stability and a sense of family.

Since arriving at the shelter, the Harris family has found not only a safe place to call home but also the support and compassion needed to begin healing and reunifying as a family. The Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence has provided wraparound services, from case management and counseling to parenting support, ensuring that Tyler and his children have every opportunity to thrive.

With renewed hope, the family is now preparing for their next step: transitioning into permanent housing with the continued guidance and advocacy of the Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence team.

As one of the few shelters in Los Angeles County that accepts single fathers with children, the Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence remains committed to ensuring that all families, regardless of gender, background, or circumstance, have a pathway to stability, dignity, and long-term success. ❀



Tyler Harris, with his daughter, Imani, and son, Jeremiah, receives support and services from the shelter.

Archdiocesan Youth Employment Hosts Public Speaking Workshop

Through the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Career Associates Program, Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services (AYES) hosted a Public Speaking Workshop on September 24, 2025, designed to help youth strengthen their communication, confidence, and leadership skills. Participants explored the fundamentals of rhetoric, learned to connect with their audience, and gained strategies to manage public speaking anxiety, all while putting their new skills into practice through engaging elevator pitch exercises.

AYE Instructor Edward Kunkle, MA, drew from his extensive background as a collegiate Speech and Debate Coach to create a supportive, hands-on learning environment at which participants felt inspired to share their stories. His thoughtful approach helped youth transform nervous energy into presence, purpose, and poise, skills that will serve them far beyond the workshop.

For many participants, this experience marked a breakthrough moment—an opportunity to be heard, supported, and celebrated for their unique voices. By combining professional training with personal growth, AYE continues to empower young people across Los Angeles to step forward with confidence, lead with authenticity, and shape their future with purpose. ❀



Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services (AYES) participants gained personal growth from the workshop.

St. Robert's Center's The Landing Assists Families

Sequoia and Devonte, parents of three children - a 14 year old, a four year old, and a two year old - came to St. Robert's Center's The Landing looking for assistance in finding housing. When they arrived, they had been sleeping on the beach with their children in the early 2025 cold and rainy winter season.

At The Landing, the family was able to find a warm and welcoming atmosphere where they could tend to their most pressing physical needs. They could shower, cook a warm meal, wash their clothes free of charge, and find clothing for each member of the family in The Landing's clothing boutique. They also were able to receive diapers, pull-ups, and wipes for their two youngest children.

The Landing's case manager advocated on the family's behalf and helped them link to resources for housing. Within a few days, the family connected with St. Joseph Center in Venice, which obtained a motel room for them.

The family is now in transitional housing and about to move into an apartment of their own. With the help of The Landing's staff, Sequoia was able to sign herself and her family up for Medi-Cal, enroll the children in school and childcare, and obtain gainful employment. ❀



This is Catholic Charities' St. Robert's Center in Venice, which houses The Landing program.

CYO-LA Provides Fall Sports



CYO of Los Angeles, a service of Catholic Charities, provides interscholastic sports to 170 Catholic Elementary Schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

CYO began Fall Sports with Girls' Volleyball and Co-Ed Flag Football for boys and girls in 3rd through 8th grades. Over 150 Girls' Volleyball and 130 Co-Ed Flag Football teams were engaged in conference play. Playoffs for A level teams (7th and 8th grades) get underway on Sunday, November 16, to determine CYO Champions.

CYO hosted a Fall Golf Tournament at Arroyo Seco Golf Course on Saturday, October 11, with 141 golfers competing for individual and team awards and a Hole-In-One and a tie-breaker for the Boys' A title.

On Sunday, October 12, the CYO Cross Country team hosted the Jamie DeRose Invitational at Crescenta Valley Park, which attracted nearly 600 participants. Runners were tested with challenging courses for each age group. It was a spirited event with all 35 schools represented.

Several Catholic High Schools generously support the CYO Cross Country season and presented students on that day with a Snack Bar, PA Announcer and on-course help. CYO is grateful to Sacred Heart, St. Francis, Bishop Amat, Cathedral and Bishop Montgomery High Schools, as well as the Run With Us store in Pasadena, for their partnership. ❖



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

1531 James M. Wood Blvd.
Post Office Box 15095
Los Angeles, CA 90015-0095
www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org

Address Service Requested



Catholic Charities distributes bags of nutritious food to the poor and homeless at our community centers and serves hot Thanksgiving meals at our shelters.



Please, like us on the CCLA Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Catholic.Charities.LA>