

Voices of Hope

FALL 2021



Volunteers Help Distribute 17 Million Meals and Counting in Pandemic Relief

Third Community Market Opens at St. Leo's

Celebrating Refugee Foster Care Families, Graduates

Welcome to New Chief Program & Strategy Officer

FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

Recently I've had the opportunity to visit some of Catholic Charities' services at different parishes. I witnessed generous parish and community volunteers working alongside Catholic Charities' team members responding to the urgent needs of our neighbors. Hundreds of hungry neighbors continue to drive through parish parking lots to pick up groceries to feed their families, even as they struggle to find work and to pay off debts incurred to pay the rent.



I witnessed people seeking advice and support in how to apply for assistance to cover their back rents getting help through our Emergency Programs and Housing Services, and those seeking legal advice on immigration getting help from our experienced Immigration Legal Services team. I've witnessed the strong partnerships of Catholic Charities with Gardner Family Health, Second Harvest Silicon Valley and Martha's Kitchen.

From the mustard seed beginning of Parish Engagement two years ago at Our Lady of Refuge, to the branching tree today of Catholic Charities' collaboration with parishes from Gilroy to Mountain View, Catholic Charities' banners now fly at multiple parish sites letting people know that help is here.

Many thanks to the pastors, parish staff, and parish and community volunteers for responding to their neighbors' urgent immediate needs for food, housing and vaccinations, and for accompanying them to navigate the benefits and services to address issues of poverty, mental illness, past due rent, hunger, unemployment, and the pandemic.

It truly "takes a village" to address poverty.

It takes a multi-strand approach to alleviate, reduce and ultimately prevent poverty — from food, housing, education, healthcare, legal assistance, jobs and economic security to a sense of self-agency and belonging to a community with the power to change its future. All of these are possible through our work with parishes and local communities even in the midst of the pandemic as Catholic Charities continues to change lives for good.

We are so grateful for our donors and volunteers for what you have made possible.

We invite new friends to join us in our work by investing through Catholic Charities into our local communities by donating, volunteering, and advocating.

Stay tuned for some exciting updates on our community-based programs that work to disrupt poverty.

All the best,

Gregory R. Kepferle
CEO, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

To learn more about becoming a Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County volunteer for food distribution, accompaniment and advocacy, visit: bit.ly/volunteerccsc

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Food distribution reaches 17 million meals and counting

Pandemic relief still critical to families, individuals and seniors in our community

In late July, CEO of Catholic Charities Greg Kepferle addressed a crowd gathered at St. Lucy's Parish in Campbell, one of six drive-through food distribution sites to help families and individuals impacted by the pandemic. The event recognized the agency's volunteers, nonprofit partners and corporate supporters in achieving an amazing milestone: Food distribution had reached almost 17 million meals since the effort began in March 2020.

But behind Greg as he stood at the podium, long lines of cars were cued up and waiting to get groceries — a grim reminder that the need for pandemic relief efforts are far from over.

"As we extend our sincere thanks to all of the individuals and groups who have made this amazing food distribution network possible, I want to make sure



we understand that we are still in a disaster," Greg said. "In fact, our staff and partners are continuing to register an increase in first-time seekers of food and services at our sites — even these many months into the pandemic."

The pandemic caused increasing demand week-over-week with not only more people needing food, but



also living in areas of the county with previously low demand for these basic services. As a disaster first-responder covering the gaps in basic services, Catholic Charities pivoted staff and resources to meet these demands, working with our incredible staff, volunteers and community partners including Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Martha's Kitchen, and Loaves & Fishes.

As the recovery continues, Catholic Charities will continue to be here for the community with our food distribution sites located currently in San Jose, Campbell, and Mountain View, and will expand services based on demand. Additionally, the agency will continue food services for seniors, support for housing resources, rental assistance, and services to those in the process of rebuilding their lives due to the devastation of the pandemic. ■

Food Distribution Schedule and Locations

All are welcome to come and receive free groceries.

Weekly Locations

EVERY TUESDAY: 5–7 p.m.
Our Lady of Refuge, 2165 Lucretia Ave, San Jose

EVERY WEDNESDAY: 2–4 p.m.
St. John Vianney, 4600 Hyland Ave, San Jose

EVERY FRIDAY: 10 a.m.–Noon
St. Lucy, 2350 S Winchester Blvd, Campbell

EVERY SATURDAY: Noon–2 p.m.
Santa Teresa Parish, 794 Calero Ave, San Jose

Bi-Weekly Locations

EVERY 2ND & 4TH FRIDAY: 2–4 p.m.
St. Maria Goretti Parish, 2980 Senter Rd, San Jose

EVERY 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY: 10 a.m.–Noon
St. Athanasius, 160 North Rengstorff Ave,
Mountain View

For information, please call
Catholic Charities,
(408) 468-0100.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Inmate Support Volunteer delivers more than 2,000 books a month

Ken Mullen laughs when he recalls his wife, Pat Mullen, asking if he would volunteer “just a few hours a week” with the program she works for, Inmate Supportive Services.

It turned out to be few more hours than that.

In his 10 years volunteering to deliver books to inmates, Ken has given more than 10,000 volunteer hours to the program and was recently recognized at the highest Gold Level of the President’s Volunteer Service Awards.

But he clearly says that he does not do it for the recognition and explains: “I do it for Catholic Charities and to help out the officers and the inmates. It’s kind of like Christmas for the inmates when I deliver a book – and that gives me a great deal of satisfaction.”

Each week, he follows a busy routine: On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays,

he does data entry on the computer to keep track of the books – non-fiction and fiction on all subjects – that are purchased by inmates’ family members. On Fridays and Saturdays, he delivers the books to the inmates at the Santa Clara County Jail in downtown San Jose. On Sundays and Mondays, he delivers books to the inmates at Elwood Correctional Facility in Milpitas.

He spends five hours a day each time he goes to the facilities and delivers between 2,000 and 2,500 books a month. Since he started volunteering, he has delivered more than 100,000 books.

The book delivery is a part of the assistance offered through Inmate Supportive Services which provides eye glasses, notary services, probation-required legal documents, requests for family contacts, family requests for information or items for the inmates, information from community/other



Volunteer Ken Mullen (with his wife, Pat) has given more than 10,000 hours to the Inmate Supportive Services program.

legal services and resource information. The staff members, including Program Manager Kent Wanke, have regular schedules at the jail sites to respond to inmate and Corrections Officers requests. ■

For more information, please visit ccscc.org/justice-empowerment.

Refugee Foster Care Celebrates Families, Graduates



Through the determination and hard work of the youth, our Refugee Foster Care (RFC) program proudly celebrated 15 graduates this year from all educational levels: elementary school, middle school, high school, community college, vocational programs, and four-year universities. Pictured at left

is an RFC graduate who received his undergraduate degree this spring from California State University Monterey Bay.

For the youth in the RFC Program, graduation is more than a milestone in their academic pursuits; it represents hope and the sentiment that a bright future is possible. Please join us in congratulating these young men and women, especially as many of them join the workforce helping our shared Bay Area community to thrive! ■



“When you are a foster parent, sometimes the most rewarding moments are experiencing the small successes and milestones — like when they learn how to cook a new favorite dish. I’ve learned in my role that trust takes time but always

make sure they understand you are there for them. It’s about being a family and knowing they are the people who love you, support you, and call you out when needed. Family — however you define it — are the people who will always be there, through thick and thin, good times and bad.”

~ Elizabeth, one of our dedicated Refugee Foster Care parents, who has provided care over the years for five of our refugee youth.

For information, visit ccscc.org/refugee-foster-care.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Third Community Market Opens at St. Leo's

Community Markets expand to a third location to offer support in the downtown neighborhood

The Parish Engagement Program continues to expand services with the opening of the newest location at St. Leo the Great in June. It is the third parish site where Catholic Charities operates a weekly community outdoor market and service fair that is open to all who are seeking food and support to meet critical needs.

St. Leo's is modeled after the two other San Jose community markets at Our Lady of Refuge and Christ the King Parishes. Any family or individual can receive a warm meal provided by Loaves & Fishes, groceries from Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, and medical and mental health support from Gardner Health Services. Catholic Charities' program staff is on site to provide immigration legal services, and guidance on rent assistance and accessing public benefits. Volunteers assist market visitors, and

help set up and stock food.

"After surveying almost 200 households in this community, it is clear that there is a great need in downtown San Jose and the Sunol Midtown Neighborhood," said Fr. Jon Pedigo, Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement. "The pandemic heightened economic disparities in developing neighborhoods and we are determined to support those who are most in need so that they can stay in the neighborhoods that they know and love."

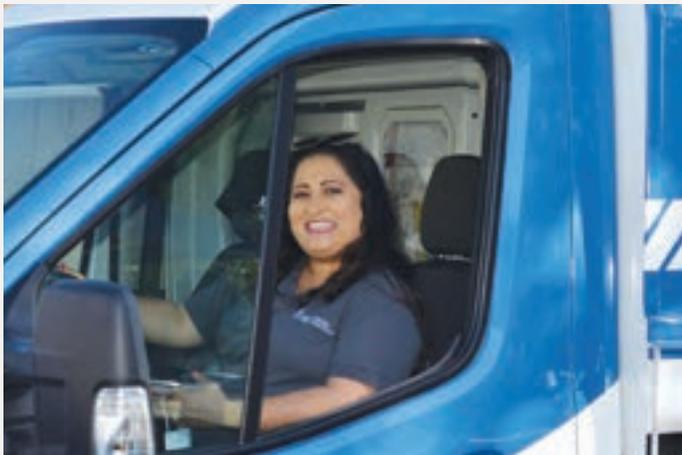


Volunteers help setting up food at our newest community market at St. Leo's Parish.

St. Leo's community market is open Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 88 Race Street. To volunteer, please visit bit.ly/volunteercsc. ■

Araceli Gonzales

In March 2020, Araceli Gonzales started getting urgent calls from her Catholic Charities' co-workers and partner agencies like Second Harvest Food Bank. They were overwhelmed with skyrocketing requests for food due to the pandemic, including a parish-based community market that went from the usual 300 people to 1,000 people in a two-hour



Araceli Gonzales is the Program Director for Catholic Charities' Disaster Services in the Emergency Programs and Housing Services Division.

window. And many requests came from areas of the county where demand for critical services was low prior to the government-ordered shutdown. Clearly, the need was wide and deep — *and unfolding fast*. How would Catholic Charities help to get food safely and efficiently to thousands of people in need while securing multiple food distribution locations, a fleet of delivery vans, and PPE for staff and volunteers?

Araceli's team — with agency leadership, staff, volunteers, other disaster relief agencies and professionals — sprang into action to coordinate what would become the largest disaster relief operation in the 65-year history of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. This summer, she was one of several speakers at the announcement that Catholic Charities — with its partners — had distributed food for almost 17 million meals since March 2020. An amazing milestone that was due in great part to Araceli's leadership! ■

"I was raised and went to school in East San Jose and have always been a part of this community," according to Araceli who has a deep personal connection to her work. "Helping people is just who I am – to me, it's normal."

SPOTLIGHT

Catholic Charities welcomes Lisa Christian

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County welcomes Lisa Christian as the new Chief Program and Strategy Officer. She joined the organization's senior management team in August, bringing more than 25 years of professional and nonprofit leadership experience to her role.

In this newly created position, Lisa will direct the "big picture vision" and strategic oversight for Catholic Charities' anti-poverty and racial justice strategies. She will oversee management of all teams, programs and services within the agency's \$39 million operations at 90+ sites in Santa Clara County.

"We believe Lisa will be a great asset in implementing our vision for the future as we continue to meet the emerging needs in our community," Greg Kepferle, CEO of Catholic Charities, said. "In addition to her extensive background in nonprofit leadership, she is an ideal fit for the position due to her reputation as a relationship-builder who engages a wide array of partners, staff and volunteers with energy and enthusiasm."

Lisa's most recent position was Chief Development Officer for the Community Housing Partnership in San Francisco. Her career highlights include 20 years working in operations and management for YMCA organizations in four U.S. cities, including as President/CEO of the YMCA in Middletown, New Jersey. She also served as the Executive Director of Aquamaids, the internationally known nonprofit bringing youth development /synchronized swimming programming to the South Bay region.

Since 2011, Lisa has consulted with a wide range of nonprofit organizations — including serving in interim C-suite roles — providing them with expertise and leadership in strategic planning, and workforce and organizational development.

She also coached teams to build impact and drive organizational results and outcomes.

At Catholic Charities, a key role in her new position will be to assess program design and lead an organizational design process to more effectively integrate services based on client needs.

This includes transforming effective but siloed services into integrated services, and delivering systems that integrate service quality, funding streams, reimbursement, compliance, analysis and client self-service capabilities, and producing data that can be analyzed and used to inform advocacy and policy positions.

"The new vision of Catholic Charities speaks strongly to me as I have spent my career as a cause-driven leader focused on helping everyone to be the best they can be, serving great nonprofits and living their mission every day," Lisa said. "I look forward to showcasing the passion that the Catholic Charities' team and volunteers bring to the programs and families they serve every day. With this new direction, Catholic Charities is poised to build on their already successful programs and services to have a greater impact on intergenerational poverty and the growing number of families struggling everyday across Santa Clara County."

Lisa holds a Bachelor's Degree from Shepherd University, and is a 14-year Rotarian, serving as an Officer, Committee Member and Speaker. As part of the Schwab Executive Leadership Program, Lisa is an Organizational Leader and Senior Director. ■



Lisa Christian, Chief Program & Strategy Officer

Foundation Partner: Safeway Foundation



"We're always looking for the best ways to fight hunger in the communities we serve. We are proud to support the work of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County and local food banks to nourish our neighbors," said Wendy Gutshall of the Safeway Foundation.

Through community support and partnerships, emergency food distribution in July reached almost 17 million meals since the pandemic relief efforts began in March 2020 at Catholic Charities' sites and programs. "We commend their efforts to achieve this milestone and increase food distribution in our neighborhoods at this critical time," Wendy said.

Thank you, Safeway Foundation!



Corporate Partner: Heritage Bank of Commerce



What's your true Legacy?

For more than 14 years, I've had the privilege of guiding families in implementing their legacies.

The early part of my career focused on the efficient use of assets to meet philanthropic goals while reducing tax and maximizing inheritance. This was — and remains — the “how” of the legacy conversation. Now in the middle of my second decade of working with families, I've come to understand that the “why” is far more important.

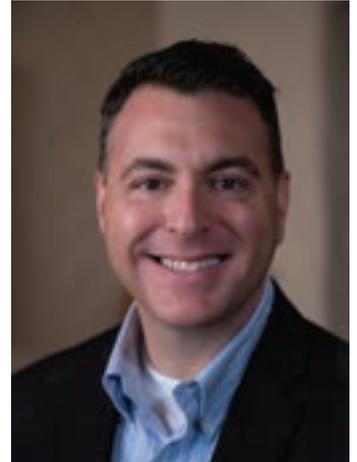
Identifying your “why” is a deeply personal and lofty question. What would you like the world to remember about you? Which of your values and priorities should live on after you? Big questions indeed. In exploring these questions, I have found the following helpful to contemplate and discuss with your spouse and family:

- What are our family assets? Beyond financial, do we have human, intellectual and social capital?
- What are our family stories? Do our children know them?
- What was the most influential moment, person, or decision of my life?
- What are my values and my family's values? How are they alike and different?

These self-exploratory questions help to identify your values and what's truly important in your life. Next, ask yourself if assets should be used to perpetuate these values in the form of legacy. While most people see their legacy perpetuated through their family and children, I challenge you to think of the following:

- What am I accountable for? As I have been blessed with a level of comfort and perhaps fortune, do I feel an obligation to give back to my community?
- How much of my success and comfort are attributable to my actions and decisions as compared to what I was blessed with?
- What does my faith call me to do?
- What would a successful legacy look like? My name on a building? Helping just one person in a significant way?

Once we have the “whys,” the “hows” become simpler and clearer. ■



David Russo is Senior Director of Planned Giving & Corporate Relations and is the co-chair of the American Institute's Certified Advisor In Philanthropy National Study Group Two.

If you would like to explore the “whys” of your life, family and legacy, I encourage you to contact me at drusso@catholiccharitiesscc.org or 408-325-5248. Together, we can explore how a legacy gift to Catholic Charities can be a means to perpetuate your values, strengthen your faith, and be a part of your “why.”

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

13th Annual

'Roll Against Poverty'

BOCCCE!

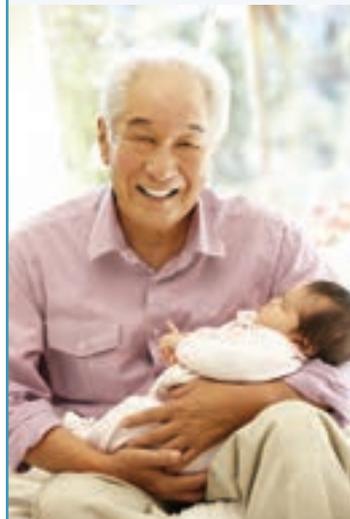
tournament

Thursday, October 7
Campo di Bocce in Los Gatos

Get the latest updates
on our Bocce Tournament



Create a Powerful Legacy for Our Most Vulnerable



A gift in your will, trust, or other plans ensure that the most vulnerable members of our community can have help and hope for years to come.

Start your will or trust today and create your plans in 20 minutes or less. This free and easy-to-use tool is available at: FreeWill.com/CCSCC

FREEWILL



Making a difference throughout Santa Clara County



Our Handicapables program for adults & older adults with disabilities resumed their regular monthly gatherings this summer after a long break due to the pandemic. Barbara, one of the attendees at the July meeting at St. William's parish, posed with a sweet note from Juliana, granddaughter of Handicapables volunteer Marcos Herrera. To learn more, visit ccsc.org/handicapables-program.



Congratulations to the graduates of the first Washington United Youth Center Robotics program. Five individuals ages 11 to 22 completed the 10-week course in building a movable robot from scratch with an online instructor. Thanks to our partners, The Valerio Foundation and Overflow Sports, who made this exciting learning experience possible for our youth.