

Voices of Hope

SPRING 2024

New Blossom Valley Senior Apartments provide a supportive community for residents

Stephanie's journey from client to volunteer to employee

Board Member Profile: Laura Garcia

May Appeal highlights the importance of parish partnerships

FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

In this Easter season, as we celebrate the Resurrection, we also go out into our neighborhoods and put our faith into action, neighbors helping neighbors. The Beatitudes both console and challenge us to a radical trust in God rather than things, and a trust in God's consoling grace in the face of adversity, loss, and rejection.

At Catholic Charities every day we see children and families struggling to survive. Young children and their parents come to us hungry for food to nourish their bodies and hungry for knowledge to nourish their minds and their souls. Thanks to generous donors and amazing volunteers and staff we are able to feed thousands of children, seniors, and families each week through our Emergency Food Distribution and Senior Nutrition. But the numbers keep rising.

Young parents come to us eager to learn how to help their children grow healthy and strong, but a major longtime funder is reducing funding by 75%. How will those parents find help?

Many working families come to us for help staying in housing. While we are amazingly successful in building hundreds of new affordable homes through Charities Housing, we can't build fast enough. Without one-time rental assistance, more families are facing homelessness.

Thanks to several generous donors, through our new family-centered community change strategy called "Footsteps: Pathways to Self-sufficiency" we are helping reduce and prevent poverty. Neighbors are helping neighbors and we are guiding families along their path to wellness and self-sufficiency.

With these challenges and opportunities, we need your help. Help us feed the hungry children and their families. Help us reduce poverty. Help us keep families housed. Help us strengthen families so that neighbors can help their neighbors.

I invite you to invest generously through Catholic Charities as together we break the cycle of poverty in our community. Thank you!

Many blessings,



Gregory R. Kepferle



*"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.*

*Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.*

*Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.*

*Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man."*

(Luke 6:20-22)

Calendar

MAY

18-19, Annual Appeal
25-26 Weekends in
Diocesan Parishes

JUNE

10 40th Annual Catholic
Charities Invitational
Golf Tournament
Silver Creek Valley
Country Club

JUNE

30 Last day of the
LaScola Challenge
Match

OCTOBER

3 16th Annual Bocce
Tournament
Campo di Bocce

Visit ccsc.org/events
for more information

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Family Resource Centers: Stephanie's Story

Stephanie's personal journey with Catholic Charities began in 2019. A dedicated mother of three young children, she was diagnosed with depression and her daughter diagnosed with autism. She started as a participant in a variety of programs through our Family Resource Centers -- positive parenting, life skills, digital literacy, and how to support her children's academic success in school. Through meetings and sharing at Parent Café, she became part of a supportive community of other parents. It was a place she describes as "everybody is welcome and belongs." Stephanie became a volunteer in 2020 and joined the staff of Catholic Charities in 2023 as a program coordinator to help other families on their journeys.

"The major difference for me is I feel empowered and I have more options for my life," Stephanie says. "With the help of Catholic Charities staff, my participation and learning has brought peace and stability for me, my family, and my mental health. And our economic stability has improved because now I have a job. My husband tells

me how much he appreciates me and that he admires the woman I've become. It was always in me – I just needed an opportunity." ■



Stephanie and her husband with their three children



Birthday celebrations are one of many milestones celebrated by Kellie and her foster son (whose face is not shown due to confidentiality of minors in the Refugee Foster Care program.)

Refugee Foster Care Parent: Kellie's Story

Kellie Stafford is proud to say that she recently became a Catholic Charities Refugee Foster Care parent, providing a safe and loving home to an unaccompanied refugee minor. Raising a child takes a village, and Catholic Charities is that village. The program goes beyond just providing homes for refugee boys and girls; it fosters a supportive community, guiding resilient youth as they navigate their challenging transition while also offering unwavering support to foster parents.

"Eight months into fostering an Afghan teenage boy, I am so glad he's safe in my home and that I took the leap to become a foster parent which has given me great joy," Kellie says. "Some days are really hard – for both of us. I see the sadness and separation anxiety he feels, torn away from his home country and unable to hug his parents and siblings. Adapting to life in America has been challenging for him. Yet, every single morning, he wakes up, goes to school, sits through classes in a foreign language, goes to tutoring afterward, and then comes home. He will persevere." ■

**Learn more about becoming a foster parent for
our Refugee Foster Care program**

May is National Foster Care Month

Claire Collins (408) 325-5107
ccsc.org/refugee-foster-care

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Blossom Valley Grand Opening held for affordable senior apartments

A family services center is coming soon to the property to support critical needs

The grand opening of Blossom Valley Senior Apartments in late March launched the first phase of a multi-service hub that combines affordable housing for low-income elderly residents and critical services for neighborhood children and families in need. The new development is operated and funded through private and public partnerships along with local non-profits, led by Charities Housing and Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County.

The Blossom Valley Family Center will occupy the ground floor of the newly opened Blossom Valley Senior Apartments. Located at 399 Blossom Hill Road in San Jose, this state-of-the-art facility expands Catholic Charities reach to disrupt poverty in neighborhoods throughout Santa Clara County. Through our Strategic Plan's recently launched initiative, "Footsteps: Pathways to Self-Sufficiency," the Blossom Valley development becomes part of a network of neighborhood-based service locations, which are expanding in a phased approach of piloting and testing, to address the multiple needs of entire families on their journeys out of poverty.

During his remarks at the Blossom Valley grand opening, Catholic Charities CEO Greg Kepferle put the spotlight on the complex's residents – low-income seniors – who clapped and cheered loudly as he thanked them for "welcoming us into their new home." In addition to the residents, others attending the ceremony included Mark Mikl, Executive Director of Charities Housing; San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan; and representatives of local government, businesses and other non-profits.

Blossom Valley Senior Apartments

This new development has 147 apartments for low-income individuals over the age of 62, and two apartments for the property's staff.

One-third of the apartments will be set aside for Permanent Supportive Housing residents who will be referred by the County of Santa Clara with additional supportive services from Abode Services. Resident



Community leaders, residents and others attended the Grand Opening of the Blossom Valley Senior Apartments on March 21.

services will be provided through a combination of providers whose expertise is focused on senior health, socialization, and support, with the goal of prolonging senior independence. Catholic Charities will provide staff to perform Service Coordination for all the residents. Service Coordination involves linking residents with existing services within the community.

The building is all electric with sustainable features including: GreenPoint Rated Certification, Energy-Star appliances, energy-efficient light fixtures, low-flow water fixtures, low VOC emitting paint & sealants, non-formaldehyde insulation, energy-efficient windows, drought tolerant planting, solar thermal hot water, and photovoltaic solar panels (common areas).

These newest Blossom Valley units are part of more than 1,500 apartment homes in Santa Clara County currently operated by Charities Housing. With the help of Charities Housing's public and private partners, more 2,000 additional apartment homes under various stages of development or predevelopment that will be delivered into the community over the next few years. This includes a property under construction at 1265 Montecito Ave. in Mountain View where groundbreaking was held in February.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Blossom Valley Family Center

To provide outreach in the ground-floor commercial space of the development, Charities Housing has identified two nonprofit organizations, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County and Martha's Kitchen, who will provide services for the building's residents and families in the surrounding community.

The Blossom Valley Family Center will be a 5,000-square-foot community space operated by Catholic Charities. It will include multiple small offices, conference rooms, and large community gathering rooms to help guide families and community members through Catholic Charities and partner services. Catholic Charities anticipates our behavioral health services, senior programming, public benefits enrollment, employment and other family supports will operate out of the new location. Services will be provided in partnership with Santa Theresa Parish, located nearby the property; Charities Housing; and several neighborhood associations.

Charities Housing welcomes the surrounding neighborhood associations to use the community room space as neighborhood meeting spaces as well as a gateway to connect with residents.

Martha's Kitchen intends to build an 11,000-square-foot commercial kitchen on the ground floor to prepare meals that will be delivered to those in need throughout the community. They will also operate a food pantry on the premises.



Blossom Valley Senior Apartments occupy the upper levels of the new development at 399 Blossom Hill Road where the ground floor will soon be operating as the Blossom Valley Family Center.

About Charities Housing

Catholic Charities established the Division of Housing Development and Services in 1990 and formed Charities Housing Development Corporation of Santa Clara County (Charities Housing) in 1993 to address the lack of safe and affordable housing opportunities in the community. Current residents of Charities Housing's more than 30 facilities include low-income families, single adults and seniors, and those with disabilities. All properties are professionally managed to compassionately assist residents with their needs. The organization, which currently employs 70 staff members, maintains a reputation in the community for quality construction with limited resources while still achieving attractive modern designs. ■

Blossom Valley making an impact on the lives of formerly homeless seniors

Blossom Valley residents David and Chris (pictured here and on the cover photo in front of the property) are now stably housed after experiencing homelessness and health challenges.

"I feel like a person again," David said of moving into his own apartment after years of living in his car.

View the videos of their amazing stories here:
ccsc.org/bvresidents



SPOTLIGHT

Board Member Profile: Laura Garcia



Laura Garcia, an Emmy-award winning journalist, community volunteer and mom of three, joined the Board of Directors for Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County in 2023 and currently serves on the Development Committee of the Board. She co-anchors weekday mornings, "Today in the Bay" and NBC Bay Area's midday show. Laura is pictured with her triplets.

What was your initial connection to Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County?

Being in the TV news business for years in Silicon Valley, I've covered many stories about Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, from distributing meals, to providing housing, to working tirelessly in servicing those most in need.

Catholic Charities has always been at the forefront of positive news stories. Last year I was approached by Chief Development Officer Susan Lucas Taylor to actually BE involved in Catholic Charities. I was humbled, I was honored, and I jumped at the chance! I wasn't going to just be telling stories about Catholic Charities, I was going to be able to be involved in making a difference!

Is there one area of Catholic Charities community programming that is most meaningful to you?

Catholic Charities is disrupting poverty in Silicon Valley, creating pathways to hope and opportunity for many. I love to learn about the transformative programs that Catholic Charities works on – day in and day out – in our community. I especially love the programs that aid families and children. This Christmas I helped to organize a toy drive for children served through numerous Catholic Charities programs. It started with a biker group with a surplus of toys they didn't know where to take, and I connected them with Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. Thousands and thousands of children received toys, bikes and gifts they would have never received. It brought joy to all involved and now it's going to be a yearly tradition!

What is your personal mission of giving back and what issues are you passionate about?

I was recently visiting my 89-year-old father in the Central Valley. I found myself in his home office, which my mom decorated, looking at the countless plaques that adorned

his walls. I stepped back and really took note of all the accolades of involvement he had in his community throughout the years: hospital boards, church financial boards, volunteer activities, charity events and more. His wall was filled with recognition for his non-profit work! Then I stopped to realize, I am who I am because of him. He never boasted about his involvement, he just acted, and as a child I grew up learning this through his example. I now give my time because he gave his. He set up a pattern of serving in his life and leading by example. I'm happy to follow in his footsteps, and I'm thrilled to be working with Catholic Charities. I hope to lead by example for my own children. In giving, you truly receive.

"I hope to lead by example for my own children. In giving, you truly receive."

Why would you encourage others to support Catholic Charities and get involved in our mission?

I can't sing the praises enough of the good works Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County offers to our community. We have a lot of wealth in this valley and there are so many ways to give: time, talent, charity. Imagine being a part of breaking the cycle of poverty for others and truly giving them a pathway to self-sufficiency. I guarantee if you do, you too will find the greatest joy that you've made a difference to others. ■



Laura was instrumental in organizing a Christmas toy drive, connecting a local bike group to provide thousands of toys for children and youth served through Catholic Charities. Pictured: A group of students in our CORAL After-School Program show their excitement over the toys.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Highest Rates in 16 Years: The Amazing Benefits of the Charitable Gift Annuity

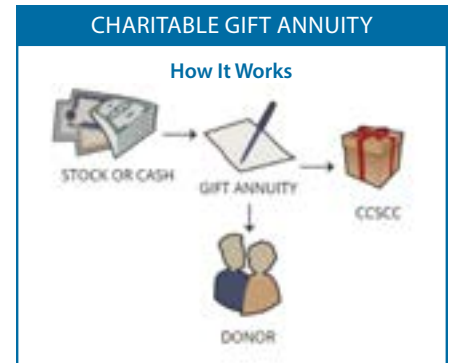
It's a great time to consider the gift that pays you: a charitable gift annuity.

Payout rates are higher than they have been in more than a decade, making now a great time to consider this gift that benefits you and Catholic Charities.

This amazing gift provides you with stable, regular income — regardless of the economy. After your lifetime, the remaining amount becomes part of your legacy at Catholic Charities, allowing us to thrive far into the future.

Why should you consider a charitable gift annuity in 2024?

- With a gift annuity, you make a donation using cash, appreciated assets, such as securities and we, in turn, pay you a fixed amount for life.
- You'll also enjoy a partial income tax charitable deduction for your gift when you itemize.
- Part of each payment is tax-free income for your estimated life expectancy.
- If you don't need income now, deferring your annuity payment increases these rates. (A 70-year-old deferring payments to age 75 is entitled to 8.7% annuity for life!) ■



Connect With Us

PHILANTHROPIC STRATEGIES & PLANNED GIVING
Contact Cecilia Bynum
408-325-5248 cbynum@ccscc.org
CCSCC.org/CGA

A Legacy of Hope: The Babarczy Family's Enduring Impact

In a remarkable act of philanthropy, the late Elmer J. Babarczy leaves a lasting legacy that underscores the profound impact one individual can have for generations. His visionary decision to include Catholic Charities among the five distinguished beneficiaries of the family's estate provides substantial support to serve those in need following his wife Sara's passing in May 2023.

Positioned in the heart of Los Gatos, the Babarczy family home has symbolized hope and generosity for many. The sale of this beloved property for \$2.8 million not only underscores the Babarczys' connection to their

"This act of generosity serves as a powerful testament to how thoughtful estate planning can amplify one's impact beyond their lifetime."

community but also their unwavering commitment to charity. This considerable contribution bolsters the efforts of Catholic Charities, among others, enabling the expansion of vital community services and support.

The sale was expertly managed by Roy Moses and his son Joe of the Moses Team, long-time friends of

Elmer and Sara, who were honored to represent the Babarczy legacy. "It was a privilege to handle the sale of the Babarczy residence. Elmer and Sara's decision to support charities through this sale reflects a remarkable commitment to giving back. We are proud to have played a part in ensuring their legacy will continue to impact lives positively," Roy Moses remarked.

This act of generosity serves as a powerful testament to how thoughtful estate planning can amplify one's impact beyond their lifetime. By choosing to donate their home, Elmer and Sara Babarczy have provided substantial support to various causes, including Catholic Charities, inspiring others to consider how they too can create a lasting legacy of philanthropy.

A Call to Join in Legacy Giving

If you have generously included Catholic Charities in your estate plans, we warmly invite you to share this incredible decision with us. Your legacy gift is a profound expression of your values and compassion, offering vital support that enables us to pursue our mission into the future. Informing us of your plans allows us to express our gratitude personally and understand your intentions, ensuring that your vision is honored. Email Cecilia Bynum, Sr. Director of Planned Giving, at cbynum@ccscc.org. ■

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Parish Partnerships recognized at Annual Caritas Celebration

Diocesan clergy members and parishes were among those recognized during Catholic Charities Annual Caritas Celebration held in February at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Los Gatos. Bishop Oscar Cantú (second from right) presided during Mass and presented plaques at the celebration to recognize individuals and parishes for their support of Catholic Charities mission and services. Parish representatives receiving plaques included (left to right): Fr. Hugo Rojas, Our Lady of Refuge, San Jose; Fr. Joe Kim, St. John Vianney, San Jose; Fr. John Poncini, St. Leo the Great, San Jose; Christy Masleid, St. Lucy, Campbell; Deacon Anthony Pham, St. Maria Goretti, San Jose; Fr. George Aranha, Santa Teresa, San Jose; Bishop Cantú; and Fr. Walter Suarez, Saint Athanasius, Mountain View.



Program Coordinator Jocelyn Sanchez DeNardo works with a client through Catholic Charities Employment Network, one of several of our services recently certified through CARF.

Did you know?

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County has received a Platinum Transparency seal from Candid through their GuideStar online directory of non-profit profiles. Platinum is the highest of their four seals of transparency and was earned by CCSCC contributing information about mission, staff and leadership, programs, goals, and more.



Additionally, CARF International renewed Catholic Charities' accreditation for another three years in late 2023. Congratulations to our teams in Behavioral Health Services, Refugee Foster Care, Employment Network and Administration. CARF International is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services. Through accreditation, CARF assists service providers in demonstrating value by the quality of their services and meeting internationally recognized organizational and program standards.

Foundation Spotlight: Albertson's/Safeway Foundation's Nourishing Neighbors Program



Thank you to the Albertson's/Safeway Foundation's Nourishing Neighbors Program for their support of our Food Distribution and Cal-Fresh Enrollment services since 2020. We greatly appreciate their partnership as we work together to address food insecurity for children and families living in poverty throughout Santa Clara County. Our Foundation partners, like Albertson's/Safeway, truly help us change lives for good – one family at a time!



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Catholic Charities 2024 Annual Parish Appeal

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, through its initiatives and compassionate outreach, is the social justice arm of the Diocese of San Jose. Our volunteers and parish ambassadors will share the good news of our work together during Catholic Charities Annual Appeal, May 18-19 and May 25-26, in parishes throughout the Diocese.

Parish partnerships and collaboration are key to our success in “changing lives for good” in our Diocese. We look forward to this annual event when parishioners can learn more about supporting our outreach and ways that they may put their faith into action.

Your support – at every dollar level - makes an impact on disrupting poverty. Last year, more than 86,000 children, adults and seniors accessed critical services through our 90+ sites in Santa Clara County, from Palo Alto to Gilroy.

More than \$160,000 was raised for Catholic Charities programs through the parish collections during the 2023 Annual Appeal. On behalf of those we serve, we are grateful to every family and individual who made donations last year to support our mission.

This year, contributors at the Caritas Society level can make an even greater impact with our LaScola Challenge Match. Caritas Society members provide the foundational support for the work of Catholic Charities throughout Santa Clara County. To join, Caritas members make an annual donation of \$84 a month/\$1,000 a year or more.

Visit ccsc.org/caritas-society to learn more about membership and the LaScola Challenge.

We welcome your help with the Catholic Charities Appeal. If you can volunteer, please contact Nick Ingoglia at ningoglia@ccsc.org or 408-325-5250.

Visit CCSCC.org/annualappeal. ■



Catholic Charities is grateful for the support of diocesan parishes in our work together to support our neighbors in need. Our Lady of Refuge (pictured above) is one of our many parish partners providing weekly food and grocery distribution, and community markets for parishioners and neighbors to access critical services and resources.



Play with A Purpose

40th Annual Catholic Charities Invitational Golf Tournament

Monday, June 10, 2024

Silver Creek Valley Golf Club

Don't miss this premium golf experience!

Learn more and register at
ccsc.org/golf-tournament

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Celebrations bring joy and community at Catholic Charities service sites



Lunar New Year Celebrations were held at several Catholic Charities service sites throughout the county, including John XXIII Multi-Services Center in Downtown San Jose with resources, meals, and activities for seniors; and Educare Family Resource Center in the Santee community where children, parents, and caregivers can learn and grow together.