



Voices of Hope

AUGUST 2018 VOLUME 14, ISSUE 54 SERVING PEOPLE OF ALL CULTURES AND BELIEFS

Handicapables Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County joyfully celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Handicapables program on June 23, 2018 at St. William Parish in Los Altos. Hosted by Bishop Patrick J. McGrath, in attendance were more than 80 guests comprised of current and past participants, supporters, and volunteers. Founder Nadine Calliguri was honored at the celebration.

Founded in 1968 during the era of civil rights movements, the Handicapables program brought together people of faith to celebrate their spirituality, to socialize, and to create a community. Outings provided a fun, light-

hearted way to get together with friends and make new ones. "You are not handicapped, you are handicapable," was Calliguri's motto that inspired the Handicapables name.

"For those who have had the privilege of meeting Nadine, you are immediately drawn to her spirit of joy, compassion, and persistence. She is a groundbreaking pioneer in the world of disability rights, especially in the Catholic Church," said Gregory R. Kepferle, CEO of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara



L-R: Sister Sintan, Nadine Calliguri, and Bishop McGrath



L-R: Nadine Calliguri, Pat Bortle, Albert Azizian, Saida Nagpurwala, and Marcos Herrera

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Catholic Charities' After-school Kids Compete and Win at The Tech Challenge 2018

And the award goes to...Catholic Charities' after-school kids who participated in The Tech Challenge 2018!

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County proudly congratulates the after-school students from our Communities Organizing Resources to Advance Learning (CORAL) program, who recently participated in the The Tech Challenge 2018: Drop & Dash. Our teams were comprised of 39 students who came from five elementary schools: Washington, Kennedy, Dahl, Dan Lairon, and Franklin. More than 3,000 students participated in the challenge.

This year our schools received two awards:

- **Best Team Safety Award** went to Franklin School's **Tech The Elephant Team**
- **Outstanding Engineering Design Process Award** went to Kennedy School's **Team Arceus**



Catholic Charities' after-school students from Kennedy Elementary can't wait to present their design at The Tech Challenge 2018.

"I have seen students change drastically once they participate in the Tech Challenge," said Aldo Estrada, CORAL STEM Coordinator at Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. "The engineering design process is not a straightforward path, but once mastered gives those who learn it the ability to overcome any problem and not give up. The students also learn the importance of teamwork and that no solution is held by one person. These are invaluable lifelong skills that make a difference for the youth."

Catholic Charities' CORAL kids have been participating in the Tech Challenge for more than 10 years. Each year, more students sign-up and are excited to see where their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOU'RE INVITED

BISHOP'S TEA
Thursday, September 20

CELEBRATING
CIRCLE OF HOPE MEMBERS



If you have made a bequest to Catholic Charities in your will or trust, the Bishop wants to celebrate you!

To receive an invite, contact David Russo at (408) 325-5248.

2018 'Roll Against Poverty'™

BOCCE!
tournament

Thursday, September 27, 2018
Campo di Bocce, Los Gatos

10 Year Anniversary!

Register today at www.catholiccharitiesbocce.com.



Caritas Society
Catholic Charities
of Santa Clara County

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Caritas Celebration Mass & Reception
Thursday, November 8, 2018



**CHANGE LIVES
FOR GOOD**

Catholic Charities' Greg Kepferle dialogs with community changemakers fighting poverty in Silicon Valley.

CreaTV streaming: <http://bit.ly/ChangeLivesForGood>

FOOD, HOUSING, HEALING, AND HOPE



On behalf of the thousands of individuals and families struggling to make better lives for themselves and their families, we THANK YOU for supporting the 2018 Catholic Charities Appeal! Read more on page 5.



Message From the CEO
GREG KEPFERLE

An Abundance of Mercy

Dear Friends,

Have you ever been overwhelmed, not by the challenges we all have to face, but by all the good that is pouring out into the world? Last month, I accidentally received an abundance of mercy. It all started innocently enough with an email inquiring how volunteers could help the young children and their parents who were being separated at the border as they sought safety from violence in their home countries. Somehow my name got attached to an email request for volunteer attorneys and therapists to help out. Then another kind soul turned it into a Facebook post and encouraged others to copy and send. Before I knew it, I was inundated with kind offers via phone calls and emails from across the country. Attorneys were ready to jump on planes. Therapists were ready to close their practices for days to help. A day care center operator was ready to temporarily close down to provide early childhood help. Donors offered to pay for travel costs. An abundance of mercy!

While we are trying to help our sister Catholic Charities agencies assist the families at the border, I am also encouraging volunteers to support their own local Catholic Charities that already do so much for children and families facing crisis due to their immigration status, homelessness, mental illness, disabilities, incarceration, or poverty.

We celebrate an abundance of mercy here at home. I am thrilled that we celebrated 50 years of Handicapables providing spiritual and social support to capable individuals who happen to have a disability. We are also continuing to build new affordable housing through our Charities Housing Development Corporation. Our CORAL summer school provides a safe place for children to learn throughout the summer while our senior services continue to provide opportunities for wellness and socialization. Meanwhile, we continue to respond to the needs of immigrants and refugee foster youth, as well as the families displaced by last year's flood. We provide healing to individuals and families affected by mental illness even as we prepare to launch our new House Sharing program.

Thank you to all of our generous donors, funders, volunteers, and supporters as we provide an abundance of mercy by changing lives for good. I invite those new to Catholic Charities to come and see mercy in action.

Many blessings,
Greg

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN

Most Reverend Patrick J. McGrath

CEO

Gregory R. Kepferle

PRESIDENT

Veronica Duluk

VICE PRESIDENT

Agnieszka Winkler

SECRETARY

Brian Baer

PAST PRESIDENT

Khanh Duy Russo

Minda Cutcher

Ray Davilla

Nancy Erba

Fran Harvey

James C. Lyons

Judy Marcus

Mark J. Mikl

Michael Pope

Sandra Sepulveda

Michael Van Every

EX OFFICIO

Most Reverend Patrick J. McGrath

Gregory R. Kepferle

Rev. Brendan McGuire

Brian Mooney

EMERITUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Sue Albanese

Mary Quilici Aumack

Lucile Bianco

Mike Blach

Frank Boitano

Jim Cashman

Thomas Crotty

Jennifer DiNapoli

Mary Ellen Fox

Paul Gentzkow

Gene Gerwe

Drew Haaser

Marcos Herrera

Hugh Isola

Philip A. Mahoney

Joseph Melehan

Lon Normandin

Timothy O'Donnell

Cathy Parker

Ronald Pelzel

Robert Peters

Steven Pirota

Michael Schall

John M. Sobrato

Diane Speno

Greg Staszko

Joseph Thomas

Ray Triplett

Patrick Waite

Kenneth Wang

Mike Yutzenka

VOICES OF HOPE PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

Tel: (408) 468-0100

Fax: (408) 944-0275

Web: www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org

Managing Editor: Adelene Gallego Ramos

Design: M tier Marketing Communications, Inc.

Photos: Jose Uribe

Writing: Debra Tisoy Pacio, Adelene Gallego Ramos, David Russo, Christi Shaw

Printing: ChaseVP

ENVIRONMENTAL SAVINGS STATEMENT

Trees – 19 fully grown Solid Waste – 914 pounds

Water – 8,504 gallons Energy – 12 million BTU

Greenhouse Gases – 2,030 pounds

Thank You Outgoing Board President, Khanh Duy Russo

Thank you to Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County's outgoing Board President Khanh Duy Russo for his many years of service and dedication to Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. He completed his two-year term in June. And congratulations to Khanh for his recognition in July as one of the *Silicon Valley Business Journal's* "Top 40 Under 40."

Khanh will be staying on as Past President to welcome incoming Board President Veronica Duluk.



Outgoing Board President Khanh Duy Russo

Catholic Charities Named 2018 Non-Profit of the Year

Catholic Charities received the Silicon Valley Organization's 2018 Non-Profit of the Year Award during a ceremony on April 5, 2018 that also recognized outstanding leaders and organizations in the business community. Catholic Charities' Board President Khanh Russo and Vice President Veronica Duluk received the award on behalf of the agency, along with Division Director of Emergency Programs & Housing Services Lindsey Caldwell and CEO Gregory R. Kepferle.

Specifically, it was Catholic Charities' outstanding efforts in helping the vulnerable in our community—especially the survivors of the devastating Coyote Creek Flood in early 2017—that brought the agency recognition. Focusing on the holistic approach of servicing all aspects affected by the flood, Catholic Charities provided survivors with disaster case management, financial assistance, car purchasing assistance, and mental and spiritual support in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

"It is gratifying that the business community recognizes the importance of the ministry of the Catholic Church in helping people of all cultures and beliefs through the great work of Catholic Charities, including our response to disasters," said Kepferle.

Whether during times of a community disaster or the individual crises that affect so many families, older adults, and children in our community, Catholic Charities is there to provide services in five critical areas: food, housing, health, education, and economic security. For over 62 years, the organization has worked to build a just and compassionate community by alleviating, preventing, and reducing poverty.



Lindsey Caldwell, Khanh Duy Russo, Gregory R. Kepferle, Veronica Duluk, and SVO President Matthew Mahood during the awards ceremony in April.

Charities Housing Breaks Ground for Senior Housing

For seniors living in the Bay Area, the comfort of home can often feel scarce as housing costs continue to rise. Through community partnerships, Bay Area organizations are coming together to build permanent homes and create spaces of community for our senior population.

On April 19, award-winning nonprofit Charities Housing celebrated the groundbreaking of The Veranda, its newest affordable housing development for seniors 62 years and above. Featuring 18-studio apartments and a two-bedroom staff unit, The Veranda is designed with seniors in mind. Each studio supplies energy-efficient kitchen appliances, ADA accessible bathrooms, heating and air conditioning, and a private patio or balcony.

The community-oriented development offers amenities such as an outdoor terrace, events room with a kitchen, shared laundry room, and a spacious lobby. The location is prime, set right across from Main Street Cupertino with access to public transit, groceries, a health clinic, parks, and numerous retail stores and restaurants.



L-R: Charities Housing Board Chair Mark Mikl, Charities Housing Director of Development Kathy Robinson, Cupertino Vice Mayor Rod Sinks, Cupertino Councilmember Savita Vaidhyanathan, District 5 County Supervisor Joe Simitian, Cupertino Councilmember Steven Scharf, Wells Fargo Bank - Lori Saito, Charities Housing Executive Director Dan Wu, Housing Trust Silicon Valley Chief Lending Officer Jim Mather

Present at the groundbreaking ceremony were representatives of Charities Housing, County of Santa Clara Board of

Supervisors, City of Cupertino, Assemblymember Evan Low's office, Assembly member Ash Kalra's office, Wells Fargo, and Housing Trust Silicon Valley.

The goal of the project is to achieve 100% occupancy by May 2019. Through the 2016 Measure A Affordable Housing Bond in Santa Clara County, six of the apartments will be reserved as permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless/special needs seniors. The Veranda is one of the first projects in the County to have been awarded the funds.

"Charities Housing recognizes that affordable housing is essential to fostering and maintaining an equitable, diverse, and inclusive community," said Dan Wu, Executive Director of Charities Housing. "We are thankful for the opportunity and support from our public and private partners."

Established in 1993 by Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, Charities Housing's mission is to develop, manage, provide, and preserve high quality affordable housing for low-income individuals and families. Through enhanced property management and structured resident involvement, Charities Housing contributes to the highest standards of human dignity and participation in our community.

For more information on The Veranda, visit www.charitieshousing.org or email Jennifer Lopes, Project Manager, Charities Housing, at jlopes@charitieshousing.org.



Charities Housing Executive Director Dan Wu and Teresa Yolotl Gomez of Assemblymember Ash Kalra's office

One World Cup Unites Local Refugee and High School Youth

While much of the world closes its doors to refugees, Catholics across the globe continue to welcome them with open arms, or in this case, soccer fields. On April 28, 2018, five South Bay Catholic high schools partnered with Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County to host the second annual "One World Cup" at Archbishop Mitty High School in San Jose, CA. The game benefits refugee foster youth living in the Bay Area and brings together youth of different backgrounds through the universal language of soccer.

Refugee youth from as far as Eritrea to Afghanistan to India marched alongside student athletes representing Archbishop Mitty, Bellarmine, St. Francis, Notre Dame, and Presentation high schools in a show of solidarity before kicking off the match. The audience



cheered and roared, holding up colorful signs that read "One Love," as the players donning white and blue tees scattered across the field.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to stand with refugees, to let refugees in our community know that they are welcomed and valued," says Angela Albright, Division Director of Refugee Foster Care. "There is still a lot of uncertainty in our country's climate on the overall view of the

refugee crisis, and now it is more important than ever to stand in solidarity and show our support through unifying events like this."

One World Cup began in 2017 by Archbishop Mitty students who were inspired to rise to action to fight for the rights of refugees in response to legislative policies banning refugee migration to the United States. The inaugural game gathered over 100 community members and has since expanded to involve athletes and audience members representing five South Bay high schools.

Catholic Charities' Refugee Foster Care program is the only program in Northern California that serves orphaned refugee children fleeing terror, poverty, and oppression. Learn more at www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/refugee-foster-care, call (866) 842-1467, or email rhc@catholiccharitiesscc.org.

Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together at Youth Center

What's best for our youth? According to the City of San Jose's latest evaluation report, the Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together (BEST) program has made significant strides in positively impacting local youth through gang prevention programming.

The BEST Final Evaluation Report for the 2016-2017 program year reflects the City's commitment to deliver services to youth who are most vulnerable to gang involvement. Key findings show youth reporting higher rates of change compared to the previous year across every measurement. This year, 77% of youth expressed an increased ability to connect with adult allies because of their involvement in BEST programming, an increase of 17% from the previous cycle. In addition, 77% of youth said that they feel prepared to succeed in the community because of BEST services.

In fiscal year 2016-2017, Catholic Charities served a total of 953 unduplicated program participants. Of those 953 clients, 96% expressed that their ability to stay safe was better, and 99% expressed being more successful at school or at their job due to BEST programming. According to the agency score card, Catholic Charities earned a high satisfaction score, with children

and youth rating the program between excellent and good, and reported feeling that they had benefited from the program.

"BEST makes a difference for our youth every day," says So'o Poumele, BEST Program Manager. "Youth are getting re-connected to their school, adults, and their peers. We support them to feel prepared to succeed, and thrive with and in their community."

In partnership with the City of San Jose, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County provides truancy, gang prevention, and intervention services to at-risk youth through BEST programming offered at the Washington United Youth Center (WUYC). WUYC provides a safe haven for thousands of youth seeking refuge from the streets. Our programs work with at-risk youth who face challenges that may include homelessness or addiction among family members, and offer resources, support, and lasting friendships among counselors and peer youth.

To learn more about BEST, please contact So'o Poumele at spoumele@catholiccharitiesscc.org.

CARITAS SOCIETY SPRING GATHERINGS HONOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES' AFTER-SCHOOL CHILDREN AND REFUGEES

Caritas Society members, loyal and newly-joined, gathered in Willow Glen and Los Gatos last spring to learn firsthand about the impact Catholic Charities has on the lives of children in the CORAL after-school program and refugees resettled in the Valley after fleeing persecution in their home countries. For information on becoming a Caritas member, please contact Alison Poetsch, apoetsch@catholiccharitiesscc.org or (408) 325-5288.



Michele and Terence Fox with Raul and Gabriela Contreras



Jim and Maryann DiBona with Adele and Ben Collins



Mike, Barbara, Joe and Paul Gentzkow



L-R: Jill Martig, Mike and Leslie Wood, Bishop McGrath, Loren and Dan Huddleston, Jill and George Montanari



Dan and Charmaine Warmenhoven with Host Les Shiefelbein



Hostess Linda Shiefelbein with Molly and Greg Rhine



Donna and Scott Leahy



Helen and Andy Pavocich, Susan Lucas Taylor, and Sandra Sepulveda

CURRENT TAX LAWS CAN BENEFIT YOU AND THE COMMUNITY

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act ("The Act") that took effect this year has inspired many questions about giving, specifically as it relates to the charitable deduction on your income tax returns. Charitable deduction limits increased, which is nice, but so did the federal standard deduction, resulting in less tax incentive to give. This is especially true for taxpayers who pay little or no mortgage interest and don't have significant medical expense deductions. Without one of these, most taxpayers will be claiming the standard deduction instead of itemizing.

To maximize the income tax benefit of charitable donations, donors can make significant gifts in one year and small-to-no gifts in other years. In the years they make the donation, they would itemize deductions. In alternating years, they would claim the standard deduction. While this tax strategy works for income tax purposes, it puts a tremendous strain on Catholic Charities, since the people who rely on our services need help daily, not every other year.

So how can you maximize the tax benefits of your charitable deductions, keep tax filings simple, and continue to support Catholic Charities and other causes you care about annually?

The solution could be a donor advised fund. Donor advised funds are like charitable checking accounts with donations that:

- Act like irrevocable deposits,
- Are fully deductible at the time you make the gift, up to the deduction limits,
- And allow you to make distributions to nonprofits as you wish.

We recommend consulting your tax and financial advisors to determine a giving amount that makes sense for you and creates optimal tax deduction opportunities. Then using that budget, open a donor advised fund like those offered by the Catholic Community Foundation of Santa Clara County. Once established, you can make gifts like your annual Caritas membership renewal from your donor advised fund to Catholic Charities, or any other charitable organization of your choosing.

This is a win-win: you take advantage of The Act's increased standard deduction while still helping your neighbors fight poverty every day.

For questions about tax-wise giving, contact David Russo, Senior Director of Planned Giving at Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County at (408) 325-5248 or drusso@catholiccharitiesscc.org.

Plaque of Gratitude Presented by Flood Survivors to Disaster Recovery Services



Flood survivor Sang Trang (left) presents Catholic Charities' Case Manager Nga Nguyen (right) with a plaque of gratitude.

Sang Trang and Ngoc Pham present a plaque of gratitude to the Disaster Recovery Services (DRS) team at Catholic Charities for supporting survivors of the Coyote Creek flood in the Rock Spring neighborhood.

In 2017, the couple received support from DRS at the Seven Trees shelter after evacuating their apartment by boat with just a backpack full of important documents, medication, and a jacket. Sharing this gift of appreciation, Sang and Ngoc reflect upon how far their family has come, stating they would not have gotten through the last year without the help of Catholic Charities' Disaster Relief Services program.



Ngoc Pham (left) thanks Catholic Charities' Case Manager Nga Nguyen (right) with a plaque of gratitude.

Volunteers Needed to Help Distribute Food to Low-Income Seniors and Families

Catholic Charities Supportive Housing Services needs volunteers to help with monthly food distribution to low income seniors and families.

"Through this program, extremely low-income residents have access to free, fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables to maintain as healthy a diet as possible," said Consuelo Collard, Program Manager for Supportive Housing Services. "It allows individuals and families to meet their financial obligations without having to decide between buying food and paying rent."

In partnership with the Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB), the "farmer's market" takes place monthly at two facilities—San Antonio Place in Mountain View and Kings Crossing Apartments in San Jose—which are operated by Charities Housing. Residents of these facilities and two other facilities receive food through this effort. Thousands of pounds of produce have been distributed since the program began four years ago.

"The residents who benefit from the SHFB fresh produce mobile rely on it to help them get through the month and stretch their food budgets, and are very grateful to have access to the food," Consuelo explained.

However, a lack of staff with the physical strength to unload and handle the heavy boxes of produce has limited the expansion and scope of distribution. Previously, food pantries were operated at four Charities Housing locations stocked with food that was picked up twice monthly from the Food Bank. But a lack of manpower forced this service to be stopped.

If your group or company would like to volunteer to help with the food distribution, please contact Consuelo Collard at ccollard@catholiccharitiesscc.org or (408) 325-5100 x5325.



Tuyet Vo, a resident of Kings Crossing, picks up produce at a recent monthly distribution day.

YOUR HELP IS THEIR HOPE: 2018 Catholic Charities Annual Appeal

On behalf of those served by Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, we want to thank our donors, the hundreds of volunteers, Parish staff, deacons, and priests for their support of our 2018 Catholic Charities Annual Appeal. We also extend our thanks to the Joseph Harold LaScola Family Foundation for their generous challenge match of donations this year.

Your compassion gives Catholic Charities staff and volunteers the power to continue the important work of changing lives for good. For more than a decade, Catholic Charities' Annual Appeal has called our community to a true expression of Caritas toward the poor and vulnerable struggling in our community.

This year's Appeal raised \$674,000 to help Catholic Charities be the Good Samaritan in our community with programs providing food, housing, health, education, and economic security. This amount includes contributions collected during Appeal weekend, as well as gifts mailed by Parish members during the Appeal.

The church responds with compassion to the poor and vulnerable through Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, the social justice arm of the church. Our mission is rooted in the Gospel to serve people in need, especially those in poverty, and to address the causes that undermine the dignity of the person. These are not just numbers. These are real lives that have been changed forever through your support.

On behalf of the thousands of individuals and families struggling to make better lives for themselves and their families, we thank you!

'PLAY WITH A PURPOSE' GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES FUNDS FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SERVICES



Golfers enjoyed the great weather and beautiful course at Almaden Golf and Country Club.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers, sponsors, and more than 100 golfers who made our 34th Annual 'Play With A Purpose' Golf Tournament so successful!

This year's tournament, held on June 25, 2018 at the Almaden Golf and Country Club, raised \$215,000 to support the many programs and services provided by Catholic Charities. This includes the live-auction "Fund-a-Need" which raised nearly \$30,000 specifically targeted for our Supportive Housing Services Community Impact Fund.

Additional live auction highlights included a trip for two to Hong Kong, golfing trips to The Olympic Club and Monterey Peninsula Country Club, and sports memorabilia items from the Golden State Warriors and San Francisco 49ers.



Honorary Grand Marshall Ron Pelzel and Catholic Charities CEO Gregory R. Kepferle kick off the start of the tournament.

"A special thank you to our Title Sponsor, Heritage Bank of Commerce, for its leadership in this event for the past 19 years," said Gregory R. Kepferle, CEO of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. "In addition, we deeply appreciate the time and efforts of our dedicated volunteer Golf Committee, chaired by Drew Haaser."

Stay tuned for details on the 35th Annual Golf Tournament next year! And meanwhile, sign up for our 10th Annual 'Roll Against Poverty' Bocce Tournament at Campo di Bocce on Thursday, September 27, 2018. For more information, please call (408) 325-5248.



Molly Rhine and Diana Olveira



Joe Melehan (right), winner of this year's Lexus Champions for Charity drawing, on the green with Nick Speno.



Tournament winners (L-R) Mike Blach, Sean Talmadge, Trevor Thompson, and Matt Murray.



Marsh Risk & Insurance Services foursome included Brian Casey, Bonnie Larsen, Dan Fairfax, and Tournament Chair Drew Haaser.



Laura Duganne

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING ON REUNIFYING FAMILIES



*Father Jon Pedigo,
Director of Advocacy &
Community Engagement*

All social, economic, and political rights and responsibilities flow from the central affirmation that all beings on the planet, including the planet itself, has the fundamental right not simply to live, but rather, flourish—in Catholic social doctrine—the Right to Life. The right to life is inseparably tied to the quality of living, or dignity of life. We believe that to be human is to be a member of a family and community. Thus, the administration's policy of separating families was seen by the Bishops and leaders of other faith communities as immoral.

Human beings are formed, nurtured, educated, and socialized by belonging to families, specifically one's parents. The administration's policy of separating children from their parents was in clear violation of the fundamental human right to participate in family. At the time of writing this article, the administration has been very slow in re-uniting parents with their children. Respected human rights organizations have criticized the administration for making the return of the children separated from parents conditional upon parents signing a "Parent's Separated Removal Form." By signing this form, parents in effect forfeit their asylum claims. They can either return to their country with their children or leave their children in the United States and forfeit parental rights.

The Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities USA, clergy and women's religious orders have taken a strong position not only against the president's policy of separating families, but also in the treatment of children currently held in detention centers, the dubious practice of trying toddlers in immigration court, the narrowing of restrictions of asylum seekers that target refugees from Latin America, for coercing asylum seekers to forfeit their right to seek asylum as a condition for family unity, and the inexcusable delay in reuniting children to their parents.

If you would like to get involved in advocating for immigrants and refugees, contact Fr. Jon Pedigo, Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement at (408) 325-5196.

Microsoft Technology Grant Helps Catholic Charities Fight Poverty in Silicon Valley

Finding long-term, successful solutions to poverty in Silicon Valley requires a complex approach to an age-old problem. Catholic Charities' success depends on flexibility in providing services that are constantly changing with the community's needs and according to best practices in our nonprofit sector. We are delighted to announce that Microsoft will help us reach our goals of responding to this changing environment with a \$1,083,196.00 software grant to improve our IT infrastructure. This software grant will support an agency-wide Cloud migration, comprehensive data reporting, and software refresh.

"Our agency has a huge responsibility as one of the key social service providers in Santa Clara County. Over 40,000 people depend on us each year. This grant will make a tremendous impact on the way we provide services through our 40 plus programs," said Will Bailey, Director of IT at Catholic Charities. "We simply would not be able to do this work without Microsoft."

More than 500 staff and 1,000 volunteers will benefit from improved processes, system capacity, and reporting capability. Dozens of funding partners requiring impact reports will benefit from our improved reporting, which will inform their community initiatives. And dozens more community partners will also benefit from shared data and best practices discerned from improved reporting.

Most importantly, the vulnerable individuals and families who rely on Catholic Charities will be the greatest beneficiaries of the grant. The improvement will be seen in our programs, such as:

- Supporting grandparents who are raising their young grandchildren
- Teaching reading skills to youth, preparing them for college and beyond
- Providing afterschool programs to keep kids off the streets
- Helping adults find jobs, or get right by the law and work legally
- Providing immediate and long-term support to disaster victims
- Resettling refugees from war-torn countries
- Providing isolated seniors with nutritious meals and a friendly community

To learn how you or your organization can help Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County change more lives for good, please contact David Russo at (408) 325-5248 or drusso@catholiccharitiesscc.org.



Step Up Silicon Valley Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary and Launch of New Initiative

The affluence of Silicon Valley often hides the reality of poverty among us. Step Up Silicon Valley, the poverty-fighting arm of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, has left its mark as a social innovation network that ignites ideas and turn them into action. On May 16, 2018 Step Up Silicon Valley celebrated its 10-year anniversary at Santa Clara University with the launch of the Nonprofit Data Integration Technology project.

Across the span of a decade, Step Up has worked to learn about the complex issue of poverty and the barriers that organizations face to serving the most vulnerable members of the County of Santa Clara. Collaborative initiatives such as 1,000 Out of Poverty brought to light the challenge of data intake and collection—clients seeking help from multiple agencies must share their information multiple times to receive various services, while service providers must enter data twice on different systems to get funded or cannot share client data because of incompatible software.

With seeding funding from Cisco Systems, Step Up worked closely with technology vendor ThingLogix and its agency partners Next Door

Solutions to Domestic Violence, The Bill Wilson Center, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, and The Stride Center to complete the development and implementation of a Data Integration System that addresses this ongoing problem.

Built on ThingLogix Foundry Platform, the innovative technology will provide a collaborative system permitting nonprofit agencies to work together with shared clients.

Step Up received a commendation from Santa Clara County for its 10 years of innovation and impact. The event also honored exiting Senior Managing Director, Almaz Negash for her eight years of service with Step Up Silicon Valley.

"Challenging poverty itself can seem like jousting at windmills," says Negash. "But even a small team of passionate, smart, committed partners and unlikely allies can make an incredible difference in changing social policy and finding new approaches to tackling poverty."

To learn more about the Data Integration Project, contact Len Hanlock at lhanlock@catholiccharitiesscc.org.



Greg Kepferle thanks Almaz Negash for eight years of service with Step Up Silicon Valley.



L-R: Frances Bencik, Kelsey Coplin, Almaz Negash, Claire Collins

Catholic Charities and Santa Clara County Launch New House Sharing Program

Catholic Charities recently launched a new House Sharing program with the County of Santa Clara. The agency matches people willing to rent a room in their home with people seeking affordable housing. Catholic Charities is the trusted match-maker to ensure the room providers and renters are screened and compatible.

The pilot program has a goal of matching 100 households (renters with providers) each year over the next two and a half years. The Board of Supervisors approved a contract of \$1.5 million with Catholic Charities to launch the new House Sharing Program on April 3, 2018.

Priority for rooms will be given to County residents with incomes below the area median income. In particular, young adults and seniors may find this a helpful solution to their housing costs. Seniors who are "house rich but cash poor," who own their own homes but have vacant rooms, may find this option not just an attractive source of revenue, but also an opportunity for creating new friendships.

Catholic Charities will conduct marketing, outreach, facilitate the housing agreements, screen the providers and the renters through background checks, and will provide advice and support to the participants. House Sharing is a County program administered by Catholic Charities.

Individuals interested in the new House Sharing program should email HousesharingSCC@catholiccharitiesscc.org or call (408) 325-5134.

WHAT IS HOUSE SHARING?

House Sharing is when two or more unrelated people share a home. This could be a homeowner or renter (House Provider) renting out vacant bedrooms to a person (or persons) seeking housing (House Seeker). It could also include two or more people renting a home together. Each resident typically has his or her own bedroom, but shares the home's common living areas (bathrooms may be private or shared, depending on the property).



Handicapables Celebrates 50th Anniversary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



County. "Handicapables focuses attention on an individual's possibilities, independence, mutual interdependence, strengths, and resiliency through shared spirituality and community. We thank Nadine for her contribution to society and are honored to be a part of the Handicapables story."

Bi-monthly gatherings are held at locations throughout Santa Clara County and are planned around cultural events, educational programs, and recreational activities. Parishes throughout Santa Clara County help host many of the events. Some participants have been involved with the program for more than 20 years.

"My mother participated in Handicapables for many years, which is how I got involved," said Saida Nagpurwala, Handicapables Program Coordinator. "I am honored to serve this wonderful community and am always amazed when I see how compassionate people are when they work with us, from Parish coordinators, to student helpers, to volunteers, to donors, and Catholic Charities staff. We always walk away happier after we spend time together. That is the true spirit of Handicapables."

To learn more about Handicapables, please contact Saida Nagpurwala, Handicapables Program Coordinator, at snagpurwala@catholiccharitiesscc.org or (408) 325-5257.

GRAND OPENING THIS FALL!

Catholic Charities' Adult Day Care New Sunnyvale Location

Limited availability! Reserve a spot for your loved one today.

If you are responsible for a dependent adult age 55+, Catholic Charities' Adult Day Care at our new Sunnyvale location offers much needed respite so you can work, take care of personal business, or rest. Your older loved one will receive excellent care in a comfortable, safe environment.

Our friendly, professional staff provides:

- ◆ Fun, stimulating activities including music, games, & art
- ◆ Opportunities for socializing
- ◆ Gentle physical exercise
- ◆ Memory Care
- ◆ Personal care as needed
- ◆ Nutritious snacks



CALL US FOR A TOUR!

LOCATION

Fair Oaks Plaza
907 E. Duane Ave., Suite 1
Sunnyvale, CA 9408

CONTACT

Call (408) 530-8734
or email hnguyen@catholiccharitiesscc.org

CA LICENSE

#435202607

Catholic Charities' After-school Kids Compete and Win at The Tech Challenge 2018

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

imagination combined with some practical engineering skills can take them. By participating in this friendly competition, the students learn that it is possible for them to become future leaders in the STEM field, and some students have gone on to college to study in STEM-related fields.

The CORAL students are already super excited for next year's challenge. Watch out Tech Challenge 2019!

To find out more about Catholic Charities' CORAL after-school program that focuses on improving academic achievement through literacy and homework support for local low-income students, please visit www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/coral-after-school-program.

Address Service Requested

DID YOU KNOW?

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County provides Immigration Legal Services at satellite offices at Most Holy Trinity parish in east San Jose, and at St. Mary's parish in Gilroy. We also provide financial education and job training at another Gilroy office: 1215 First Street. To learn more, please call (408) 468-0100.



Catholic Charities Voices of Hope Newsletter

50 YEARS (AND COUNTING) WITH HANDICAPABLES



Current and past Handicapables participants, supporters, and volunteers came together on June 23, 2018 at St. William Parish for a festive celebration of Handicapables' 50th Anniversary. Founder Nadine Calliguri traveled from her retirement home in the north Bay to join the merrymakers and was the guest of honor. Founded in 1968 during the era of civil rights movements, the Handicapables program brought together people of faith to celebrate their spirituality, to socialize, and to create a community. "You are not handicapped, you are handicapable," was Calliguri's motto that inspired the Handicapables name.