

# Voices of Hope

SPRING 2019



Agilent Catapults CORAL's STEM Lessons

Building School Readiness

Cathedral Social Ministry

Accompaniment Ministry

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Calendar

### APRIL

25 "Living Well,  
Leaving Well"  
with Coadjutor  
Bishop Oscar Cantú  
St. Francis of Assisi  
Parish

### MAY

18–19 Annual Appeal  
Weekend

### JUNE

24 Catholic Charities  
Invitational,  
35th Annual  
Golf Tournament  
Silver Creek Valley  
Country Club

### OCTOBER

3 11th Annual Bocce  
Tournament  
Campo di Bocce

### NOVEMBER

5 Annual Caritas Mass  
and Celebration  
St. Christopher Parish

Dear Friends,

“**W**hat return can I  
make to the Lord  
for all the good God  
has done for me?” I will choose first  
to care for those who are poor and  
rejected – to bring God’s love to  
those who are in need of comfort  
and healing.

Have you ever tried to help  
someone who didn’t want your  
help even though you thought  
they needed it? I seem to remember ages ago learning how to fish as a child,  
saying to an older sibling, “Let me try it! I can do it myself!” as I dangerously  
swung the pole with the dangling hook. And the same dynamic happened  
when I tried to help younger siblings. I would hear cries of: “Let me! I can  
do it!” That drive toward independence and responsibility is actually quite  
encouraging. Today at Catholic Charities we see some of that same dynamic  
with the families we help become self-sufficient. We offer coaching and  
multiple support services as we accompany them on their journey, but they  
are the ones making the decisions whether to follow through with a job  
interview, stay in school, attend a group counseling session or a parenting  
class, eat a healthy meal, apply for a work permit, become a guardian for their  
grandchild, organize their neighborhood, or share their home with someone  
needing housing. We need to respect our guests’ God-given dignity as  
human beings who struggle, stumble and start anew.

At Catholic Charities we know we need your help. And we want your help.  
On behalf of the 40,000 of our neighbors in need we serve each year, I ask  
that you invest in our families who have the courage to seek our help. As  
income inequality and the housing crisis continue to deepen, they need us  
more than ever. Together, with your help, we can care for those most in need  
right here in our valley.

May God bless you for your generosity.



Blessings,

Gregory R. Kepferle, CEO

P.S. Through the Sobrato Family Foundation 2 for 1 Challenge Match, you can make an even  
greater impact with your gift today. Learn more at [CatholicCharitiesSCC.org/donate](https://CatholicCharitiesSCC.org/donate).



Want More Details?

Visit  
[CatholicCharitiesSCC.org/events](https://CatholicCharitiesSCC.org/events)  
to learn more!

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## *“Agilent After School” Brings Science to Life*

**O**n a warm fall afternoon, the CORAL after-school students at Robert J. Kennedy Elementary built and tested catapults, bringing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) lessons to life in the classroom. Agilent Technologies Inc. employee volunteers helped the students build and test their creations as part of the “Agilent After School” community engagement program.

“These opportunities are life-changing for our kids. With tight budgets both at home and in the classrooms, activities that help bring STEM concepts to life are invaluable for us,” said Sara Reyes, Senior Division Director for Catholic Charities Children, Youth, and Families Division. The Catholic Charities CORAL program – focusing on improving academic achievement through literacy and help with homework – supports families in our community and inspires students to pursue their dreams.

The heart of the “Agilent After School” program is a series of 24 science experiment kits intended for hands-on use by children ages 9-13. The kits help students learn physics, biology, earth sciences, chemistry, and more, and have been designed as a complete “program in a box.” The kits also include measurement elements and biographies of key inventors or scientists to add context to the activity.

“Agilent is proud to bring STEM concepts to classrooms through fun build-and-play activities,” said

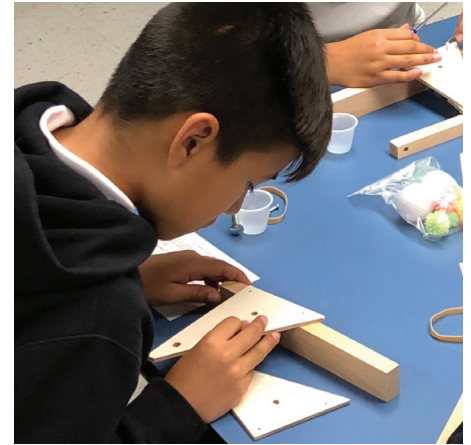
Terry Lincoln, Agilent’s Global Signature Program Manager. “We are committed to engaging students in STEM in fun and exciting ways through our ‘Agilent After School’ initiative. It also allows our employee partners to have hands-on engagement experiences with the community.”

The first of a series of Agilent volunteer activities that deploy their Science-In-A-Box kits, CORAL students will move from catapults to rocket cars and lighthouses, then



*“These opportunities are life-changing for our kids. With tight budgets both at home and in the classrooms, activities that help bring STEM concepts to life are invaluable for us.”*

on to learning about solar power, generating clean water and the science involved in cleaning up oil spills.



The high quality catapults were put to the test by 30 student scientists. Facilitated by their Agilent employee volunteer coaches, students tested how powerful and accurate their catapults were. Giggles and smiles were followed by questions about the history of catapults, how they worked and ways to improve them. The kits became the centerpiece of a week’s worth of curriculum expanding history, math, and science lessons both during and after the school day.

“It was a smashing day for both our volunteers and the students,” quipped Lincoln. ■

Agilent Technologies Inc. is a global leader in life sciences, diagnostics, and applied chemical markets. The CORAL program operates at 23 school sites and serves 2,500 children each day. If you or your company would like to volunteer at one of our CORAL locations across San Jose, please contact David Russo, Senior Director of Corporate Relations at 408-325-5248 or [drusso@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org](mailto:drusso@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org).

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## *Building School Readiness Where It Starts – The Home*

**P**arentChild+ is coming to San Jose! Through this exciting educational collaborative for families with preschool age children, Catholic Charities will be able to enhance its impact in preventing generational poverty in San Jose.

ParentChild+ is an educational model focusing on the home environment as the key to promoting school readiness and academic success.

Catholic Charities and our early education partner, First 5 Santa Clara County, were selected by the GreenLight Fund to lead the first local pilot of ParentChild+ in California. The pilot will be offered in the Franklin McKinley School Initiative neighborhoods where Catholic Charities already offers early literacy, as well as social-emotional learning through our Family Resource Centers.

Implementation of the ParentChild+ program allows Catholic Charities to deepen our preschool age language and literacy programming by adding bi-weekly home visits for parents with young children. Home Educators will be hired from the local community and trained to



Catholic Charities CEO Greg Kepferle (far right) joined representatives from FIRST 5, SOMOS Mayfair, GreenLight Fund Bay Area and ParentChild+ at a press conference in February to announce the new collaborative.

model reading, conversation, and play activities. The ParentChild+ model has been proven to not only improve kindergarten readiness, but also decrease the need for special education, and significantly improve high school graduation rates among participants.

The program will be supported through grants from the Green Light Fund and First 5, each contributing

\$600,000 over four years. Catholic Charities is thrilled to have been selected to partner with these national leaders who envision a world where every child enters school ready to succeed because every parent has the knowledge, skills, and resources to build school readiness where it starts: the home. ■

## Did you know?

# 3,450

Seniors receive wellness and care services through Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County annually

# Cathedral Social Ministry Joins Catholic Charities at John XXIII

After 36 years serving the most vulnerable in our community, the Cathedral Office of Social Ministry is now a program of Catholic Charities and recently moved its service delivery to John XXIII Multi-Service Center in downtown San Jose.

The Cathedral Office of Social Ministry is dedicated to serving those who are homeless, those released from incarceration, and other vulnerable residents of San Jose. Two-hundred individuals are served daily by volunteers and 11 staff members.

“We help improve the quality of their lives, integrating health and social services with the belief that every human being is blessed with God-given dignity,” according to Sharon Miller, who has served as director of the program since 1988. A registered nurse and faithful volunteer, she worked with the Jesuit pastor at St. Joseph’s establishing advocacy and services to this vulnerable population since 1983. Sharon also



Community Worker Yaritza Cordova and Presentation High School Student Volunteer Kiana Martin sort mail at “The Window.”

Community Worker Bryan Knapp greets a visitor to “The Window.”



continues to be a voice in our county regarding homelessness, unraveling the tangled strands of cause, effect, and need for supportive affordable housing.

Social Ministry’s services are delivered through three programs. **Bridges of Hope** is a Faith Based Resource Center focusing on the provision of reentry services and case-management to individuals and families healing from the effects of incarceration in local jail or state prison.

A drop-in **Health Care Clinic** provides free primary healthcare to those who are homeless, migrant workers, and those with no health insurance. Perhaps the most visible of their services is “**The Window**,” named by the clients who access it. It provides “walk-up” services including free sandwiches, referrals to service providers, toiletries, and a post office. An annex of the Postal Service, it is a safe place where the homeless and those released from incarceration can receive mail while they are in transition and rebuilding their lives. “The Window” is central to a large population in need of services by creating linkages and referral to shelter, recovery homes, immigration resources, mental health providers, substance abuse counseling, employment, county benefits, Social Security, Veteran’s Administration, PG&E, legal aid connections, and healthcare.

“The tremendous work of the Cathedral Office of Social Ministry will help Catholic Charities make an even greater impact on providing solutions for those who struggle with finding and staying in affordable housing in our community,” according to Catholic Charities CEO Greg Kepferle.

With its relocation in February, the Cathedral Social Ministry program joins other Catholic Charities initiatives at John XXIII critical to social integration and strengthening our community. These include a lunch program providing nutritious meals for seniors; daily recreational activities for seniors; English as a Second Language (ESL) and U.S. Citizenship Classes; Behavioral Health Services for older adults; and the Responsible Landlord Engagement Initiative (RLEI), a community initiative that helps communities stay safe and vibrant.

“This is an exciting transition for this program,” Sharon said. “We anticipate it will lead to greater integration of services to our clients, as well as future sustainability with the potential to expand our program to more people who need our help.” ■

To learn more about the Cathedral Office of Social Ministry, please visit [CatholicCharitiesSCC.org/cathedralsocialministry](https://CatholicCharitiesSCC.org/cathedralsocialministry).

# SPOTLIGHT

## Mike Pope Board

### Involvement with Catholic Charities

Joining the Catholic Charities Board of Directors in 2017, Mike serves on the agency's Development Committee, Distinguished Giving Committee and Golf Tournament Committee.

### Professional Background

Mike has over 30 years of executive-level technical and marketing management experience in both start-up and established companies. In 2014, he co-founded HealthLens, a multi-specialty telemedicine platform that connects patients with their doctor, providing diagnosis and treatments without ever visiting the office.

### Community Involvement

He was formerly Chair of the Board of Directors for HomeFirst and Sacred Heart Community Services.

### Personal/Family

He and his wife, Vicki, live in Willow Glen and have two adult children, Chris and Katie.

### What is your mission of philanthropy?

"Our philanthropy is centered around providing educational opportunities and supporting organizations

whose services are aimed at alleviating and preventing homelessness and poverty in our local community. We are active in sharing our time, talent and treasure to help make a difference. We find that Catholic Charities' mission matches our philanthropy goals."



Mike and Vicki Pope

### Which Catholic Charities program is the most meaningful to you?

"The CORAL afterschool programs. Education initiatives, like CORAL, are the cornerstone to preventing poverty and homelessness. Both Vicki and I see that CORAL not only encourages and enhances children's primary education, but also supports working parents and creates role models for the students. It helps families, struggling to make ends meet, ensure that their children will prosper in the future." ■

## Catholic Charities 2019 Annual Appeal: May 18-19

More than 100 enthusiastic volunteers and staff will speak in parishes throughout the Diocese on May 18-19 for Catholic Charities Annual Appeal.

With parish collaboration a key to our success in "changing lives for good" in Santa Clara County, we look forward to sharing the good news of our work and ways for parishioners to support our outreach. More than \$300,000 was raised for Catholic Charities programs through the parish collections during the 2018 Annual Appeal. Together, we are putting our faith in action to help to alleviate, prevent and reduce poverty

among our community's most vulnerable families and individuals. Last year, Catholic Charities served over 40,000 people in need through 38 programs.

Catholic Charities 2019 Annual Appeal  
"Hope for the Journey"  
May 18-19, 2019  
[CatholicCharitiesSCC.org/annualappeal](http://CatholicCharitiesSCC.org/annualappeal)

On behalf of those we serve, we are grateful to every family and individual who made donations last year to support our work. **This year, your generosity will be rewarded two-fold during the Sobrato Challenge. Every new or**

**increased dollar you give will be matched through a 2 to 1 Challenge Grant from the Sobrato Family Foundation.**

Our theme for this year's Appeal is "Hope for the Journey," as we raise funds for Catholic Charities' seven Community Impact Funds: Food, Housing, Economic Development, Health, Education, along with the Good Samaritan Fund and the Innkeeper Fund.

To volunteer for Annual Appeal or make your gift, please visit [CatholicCharitiesSCC.org/annualappeal](http://CatholicCharitiesSCC.org/annualappeal). ■

# DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## *Meet the Sorcis: A Legacy of Family and Values*

For John and Mary Ann Sorci, a legacy gift to Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County was an extension of their lifelong commitment to their family traditions and values.

"We have been blessed to be in a position to give back and thus feel obligated to share our good fortune," the couple said.

The Sorcis were married in their early 20s and raised four kids on one income – but were able to put all four through college. John, a military veteran, worked his way through college while Mary Ann supported the family at home. John did well working in high tech and was fortunate enough to make some money on stock options. "We think sharing that with others is what Jesus would want us to do."

Their original involvement with Catholic Charities started many years ago. Lifelong Catholics, the couple were moved by the stories of the Vietnamese "boat people" who came to the U.S. following the war in the 1970s. They felt compelled to help them, as well as give money to an organization that reflected their Catholic values. They began giving annual donations to Catholic Charities and made their legacy decision many years ago when they created their Living Trust.

Of particular appeal to John and Mary Ann are programs that give individuals the training and tools to help them become self-sufficient. Thus, they are particularly impressed with Catholic Charities CORAL after-school program that focuses on education, and work-training programs to support employment. "We made a legacy gift to Catholic Charities because we believe they provide a hand up, rather than a hand out. Self-



sufficiency is valued in our family and we wanted to share it with others."

While the couple raised their children in San Jose, they are now settled in Morgan Hill. They attend St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish in Morgan Hill and spend time with family, including their eight grandchildren, ages 17 to nine months. Part of their support of Catholic Charities is also to create a tradition of giving for their family and demonstrate their values to their children.

"We want to be sure the money is used wisely and to get the best value for the work intended," according to the Sorcis. "We have every confidence that Catholic Charities will do this with our legacy gift." ■

For more information on how you can make your impact with a legacy gift for Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, contact David Russo, [drusso@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org](mailto:drusso@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org) or (408) 325-5248.

### **LIVING WELL, LEAVING WELL**

Thursday, April 25, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

St. Francis of Assisi, San Jose



Coadjutor Bishop Oscar Cantú will share his thoughts about providing for our community now and into the future.

David Russo 408-325-5248 or  
[www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org/Decisions](http://www.CatholicCharitiesSCC.org/Decisions)

### **Catholic Charities Invitational 35th Annual Golf Tournament**

Monday, June 24, 2019

Silver Creek Valley Golf Club

Don't miss this premium golf experience!

Enter the drawing to win a chance to play in the Lexus Champions for Charity Golf Tournament at Pebble Beach.

Learn more and register at [www.catholiccharitiesgolf.com](http://www.catholiccharitiesgolf.com)



# ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## *“Accompaniment Ministry” Pilot Launches at Our Lady of Refuge Parish*

by Fr. Jon Pedigo, Director, Advocacy & Community Engagement

**T**ake a moment and suspend your notion of “Church.” Do not think of Church as a building or an institution with rules and doctrines. Think of Church as people walking together on a journey. When Christianity emerged from a renegade Jewish sect and evolved into a distinct religion, it was known as “The Way.” Christians saw themselves as being on a journey with other people; they understood that their faith was inextricably tied to being “in relationship with others.”

Pope Francis recalled this earliest notion of Church when he said, “[We] need a church capable of walking at people’s side, of doing more than simply listening to them; a church that *accompanies* them on their journey ...”

Catholic Charities is now piloting a volunteer program at Our Lady of Refuge parish built on Pope Francis’ vision of accompaniment and service to others. The objective is to support individuals who come to the parish seeking help, who lack resources to build personal economic, social and emotional stability. Volunteers will be trained to connect those in need with vital service programs at Catholic Charities, county agencies and other informal support systems in the community. More importantly, volunteers will learn interpersonal skills - to provide peer support, to be good listeners and to provide witness to the challenges and successes experienced by each individual on their journey. Volunteers will walk alongside those they help until each individual



Fr. Jon Pedigo received a Beacon of Light Award earlier this year from Santa Clara County’s Office of Immigrant Relations.

becomes self-sufficient enough to access support themselves.

Through this very personalized “accompaniment” program, we hope to validate the self-dignity of all individuals and in doing so, help reweave and strengthen the torn fabric of our community, a long term goal of Catholic Charities and the Diocese of San Jose.

If your parish or organization would like to know more about this exciting new ministry, contact me at [jpedito@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org](mailto:jpedito@CatholicCharitiesSCC.org).