

Voices of Hope

FALL 2022



Celebrating 60 Years of Serving Gilroy/South County

“SCC Prepared” Gives Communities Accessible Response Training

Bocce, Golf & Cornhole Events Promote Engagement & Provide Support

Learning and Fun at CORAL Summer Programs

FROM THE CEO

Calendar

OCTOBER

6 14th Annual Bocce
Tournament
Campo di Bocce

NOVEMBER

29 #Giving Tuesday
Join us on this
international day of
online charitable giving

NOV-DEC

Season of Sharing
Christmas Gift
Donation Drive

FEBRUARY

9 Annual Caritas Mass
and Celebration
Santa Teresa Parish

Visit ccsc.org/events
for more information

Dear Friends,

I hope you and your family have enjoyed a safe, healthy and restful summer.

Even as the pace of work seems to ease a bit over the summer, we continue to work to change lives for good.

The number of families seeking help continues to climb and our response has expanded. More families are seeking help with food and rent as inflation eats away at their earnings, and as the pandemic continues. And parents look for safe places for their children to learn and recreate over the summer.

In response, our food distribution is able to reach more people thanks to parish and community volunteers pitching in. Our CORAL summer school programs have been serving more than 1,300 students at eight school sites and a community center. Thanks to SJ Learns, we were able to hire 20 high school students as Activity Assistants to help the elementary school students with enhanced learning over the summer. Hopefully once the high school students graduate they will join us as after-school instructors. Our services in Gilroy continue to expand and are poised for growth with a new Strong Communities grant from the state. And our SCC Prepared workshops help communities prepare for natural disasters such as pandemics, wildfires, floods, heat emergencies and earthquakes.

Catholic Charities is committed to always being there for our communities and families who need us during difficult times. We need your help to respond to this need. During this difficult economic time, your gift of any size makes a difference especially to low-income seniors on fixed income and families in poverty who are most affected by rising prices of food, gas, and rent. Thank you. And God bless you for helping change lives for good.

All the best,



Gregory R. Kepferle, CEO



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

“SCC Prepared” brings disaster training in a community-based setting

Participants in Catholic Charities “SCC Prepared” workshops receive more than disaster training and an emergency preparedness go-bag.

“Our goal is to build community and relationships among the individuals who come to these workshops,” according to Monica Abundis, Disaster Program Lead who is conducting and organizing the trainings throughout the county.

“We encourage people to get to know their neighbors and make a disaster plan together. Those connections can be as important as having the right preparedness tools and knowledge,” said Abundis who began working at Catholic Charities in 2019 in a role of continuing support to the survivors of the devastating 2017 Coyote Creek Flood in San Jose.

In 2021, the agency began holding the “SCC Prepared” workshops in Spanish, Vietnamese, and English to residents of under-resourced neighborhoods in Santa Clara County’s East San Jose, Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and Mountain View. These areas are diverse, home to thousands of low-income residents living in high-density housing, and at high risk for power outages, house fires, and wildfires. Funding for the trainings is provided through



Community members attend a recent “SCC Prepared” workshop in San Jose.

California Fire Foundation Wildfire Safety & Preparedness Grants. So far, almost 150 households have been represented at the trainings. Eight sessions were scheduled for August through September.

Workshops are held at CCSCC’s Family Resource Centers, food distribution sites, and parish-based Community Markets. Topics include:

- house fire and wildfire safety
- home safety and equipment
- family emergency planning
- emergency alert systems
- managing poor air quality
- evacuation plans

Participants watch instructional videos on a flat screen mounted to the side of the Catholic Charities “Big Blue” disaster services van (donated

by San Jose Rotary) and engage in hands-on activities. Attendees are encouraged to make a plan, build a kit, and be informed. They are also provided with an emergency preparedness go-bag.

“Our workshops are designed to overcome the language barriers, lack of technology or connectivity, and transportation accessibility,” Abundis said. “By going to the people in the neighborhoods where they live, we are working to ensure that our trainings are available and convenient.

“Since disasters affect everyone, regardless of culture or income, we want to make sure all families are prepared.” ■

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Catholic Charities celebrates 60 years of serving Gilroy and South County



Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County is celebrating 60 years of ongoing services in Gilroy this year.

Our programs and initiatives in South County play a key role in our vision for the future and ongoing outreach to people in need throughout the county. And our presence there is a vital part of our agency's beginnings.

On July 1, 1955, Helen Hansen was hired as Executive Secretary for Santa Clara County by Catholic Social Services of San Jose, a branch of Catholic Social Services of San Francisco. This visionary and energetic social worker from Chicago led the agency until 1983 and championed its causes until her death in 2005. During her 28 years, Hansen oversaw the expansion of Catholic Charities services, building on a long history of diocesan and parish social justice initiatives in the Bay Area.



Helen Hansen

Hansen's arrival coincided with the start of the region's transformation from the orchard-rich 'Valley of Heart's Delight' to what would become 'Silicon Valley,' a global center for innovation and technology. She observed the challenges of Santa Clara County's rapidly growing population – and its impact on the entire community. Early in her tenure, she recognized the gaps families were experiencing in available social services and what Catholic Charities could do to respond. Based on emerging needs, the work of Catholic Charities was expanded throughout the county from San Jose and North County to Gilroy and South County.

She realized the agency needed to provide services for older adults and that those services were lacking in other areas of the county beyond San Jose. In 1962, Catholic Social Services started a senior club at St. Mary's Parish in Gilroy. With the assistance of the pastor, Monsignor John Dwyer, and parishioners, the senior club was a huge success.

In 1963, Catholic Social Services opened an office at St. Mary's in Gilroy so people wouldn't have to travel as far for services. Hansen worked at that office one day a week to establish a counseling program there. An outreach worker provided counseling and skill-building for Latinas while Helen taught a workforce re-entry class for women at Gavilan Community College. By the 1970s Catholic Social Services was also providing immigration legal services. In order to better align with Catholic Charities USA and its network of agencies, Catholic Social Services became Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County late in 1986.

Today, our South County services are among our more than 35 programs at over 90 sites throughout Santa Clara County. Our history inspires us to build on our expertise, portfolio of services and existing team of caring professionals.

Our vision for the future calls for us to implement new solutions to the root causes of poverty and engage with our communities and partners. We are transforming through innovation as we continue to walk with families and individuals on their unique journeys of hope and opportunity. ■



Catholic Charities' program staff were joined by elected officials and other guests at the ribbon cutting celebration of the opening of the Focus For Work Gilroy branch office in 1994. (Archival photo, CCSCC)

OUR CURRENT OUTREACH IN GILROY/SOUTH COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

In 1994, the Focus for Work program held its grand opening in Gilroy, a satellite office of our main employment services in San Jose. Pre-employment preparation and job placement support for individuals referred through mental health providers continued in South County, eventually expanding in 2016 to include the Santa Clara County Re-entry Center. The Re-Entry program, also operating in San Jose, serves individuals impacted by the justice system. Additionally, our new Pathfinder program is accessible to all individuals seeking employment support.

PARISH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Continuing our longtime relationship with St. Mary's Parish in Gilroy, Catholic Charities' Parish Engagement staff began working earlier this year with the St. Joseph's Center located at St. Mary's to support the social needs of individuals and families in the Gilroy community. St. Mary's is one of five parishes throughout Santa Clara County partnering with our Parish Engagement Program to support and meet the unique needs of each parish community and the surrounding neighborhoods.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Our 12th Family Resource Center opened in Gilroy in April 2022, joining our existing network of "FRCs" throughout the county that serve as community-based hubs. Families of all income levels and backgrounds are welcome and appointments are not required. Based on unique community needs, Gilroy services continue to expand, including literacy and digital literacy, college and career prep, supporting leadership development, and connecting clients to available resources.

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

While our Immigration Legal Services program has served South County residents through Catholic Charities' San Jose office since its accreditation in 1976, a Gilroy branch was opened and accredited in 1988 plus a second location in 2019. Catholic Charities' staff help individuals understand immigration laws and their rights under the law. We assist clients on a sliding-scale fee basis in residency documentation, applying for family reunification, applying for citizenship and other legal processes.



Catholic Charities joined other organizations at the Ohana Health Fair, Glen View Elementary in Gilroy in August.

Our vision for the future

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County is embarking on a five-year strategic initiative, **Footsteps: Pathways to Self-Sufficiency**, to more effectively lead families out of poverty long-term by harnessing the agency's united expertise and experience. The initiative will engage and connect through Catholic Charities existing programs and expand our staff and community partnerships.

Started in Gilroy in early 2022, Footsteps is a highly strategic, hyper-local approach that will change the trajectory not only of the lives of families, but also empower entire communities and upend the model for Catholic Charities operations and expansion into the future.

The Footsteps initiative emerged from an intensive assessment of current poverty levels in Santa Clara County; and based on this data, we are developing a strategic approach to what tools families need to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency.

"The challenges facing someone in poverty are not one-dimensional—it's not just about food or housing or a job or education or healthcare. It's a combination of all those things and the approach to addressing it is often unique to each individual or family.

"Hence we need to take a client-centric approach where we optimize on helping to achieve the client's success rather than the service-centric approach that dominates our industry," said Catholic Charities Board President Paul Sanchirico, who led the agency's Strategic Long-Range Plan for 2021–2024. The strategic plan informed and provided the foundation for Catholic Charities' Footsteps initiative.

Through Footsteps, we will scale the impact of the model through data-informed advocacy, an integrated technology platform to support clients, expanded sites, and operational efficacy improvement. Over the next five years, we plan to reach 9,250 families in 18 neighborhoods starting with 250 in each neighborhood each year. ■

To learn more about our history and our the future, visit ccscc.org/long-range-plan

SPOTLIGHT

Paul Sanchirico Board

On July 1, Paul Sanchirico began his two-year term as President of Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County's Board of Directors. Paul is a longtime agency supporter and advisor, joining the Board of Directors in 2019. Guided by his Catholic faith and commitment to lasting change for those living in poverty, he also brings the experience of an executive in the tech sector and expertise in complex systems development to his role at Catholic Charities.

When and how did you get involved in Catholic Charities?

After retiring in 2013, I started providing Catholic Charities with pro bono management consulting on business and operations plans for numerous programs including Immigration Legal Services, Adult Daycare and In-home Care, Parish Engagement, and the Responsible Landlord Engagement Initiative.

After joining the board, one of my contributions was researching, writing and producing a series of in-depth reports to inform and educate Board members and other stakeholders on challenges facing many Santa Clara County residents—especially those living in poverty, at-risk youth and seniors—and the services Catholic Charities offers to support them.

More recently, as Chair of the Board's Long Range Planning Committee, I convened the Board and agency team that developed the strategic plan. I'm particularly proud of the partnership that formed between agency staff and board members in the development of the plan. I'm excited about the long-range strategic plan and its ability to impact our clients, change the way the agency operates and be a beacon for how the humanitarian industry operates in the valley.

What is your personal mission of philanthropy?

I've always resonated with the Jesuit maxim "Men (and women) for others." I try to use the skills, talents and insights I developed over my career in the tech sector to help others.



Is there one current issue facing our community that is most important to you?

While Silicon Valley is an economic and innovation engine admired around the world, poverty runs deep. According to the California Poverty Measure, about 300,000 residents in Santa Clara County live in poverty. I am passionate about finding ways to actually enable people to get out of poverty and stay there. I see it as a complex systems problem that requires the agency (and, indeed, the humanitarian industry) to move to a client-centric model of support rather than continuing with the current service-centric model.

Further we need to be data-driven in how we mold our support and in how we prove our efficacy. This requires that we do a better job at collecting and analyzing real client data. I'm energized by the Long Range Strategic Plan, known as 'Footsteps', as it is the agency's initiative to deliver a systematic, scalable and measurable program that actually enables people to get out of poverty and to stay there. Among the non-profits working in Santa Clara County, Catholic Charities has the broadest portfolio of capabilities and is in the best position to deliver on this vision.

Foundation Spotlight: Applied Materials Foundation



Applied Materials turns its values into action by investing

in the communities in which their employees live and work. A key priority for the Applied Materials Foundation is increasing academic outcomes in predominantly low-income communities. Empowered by funding from the Applied Materials Foundation, the Franklin-McKinley School District (FMSD) has been able to extend the learning day for more students in this East San Jose elementary school district, where 70% of students

qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch. "At the Applied Materials Foundation, we believe education inspires young minds, opens new doors and paves the way to more promising futures. By funding Catholic Charities' CORAL after-school program, we increase students' access to a high-quality education," said Julie Lata, Program Manager Applied Materials Foundation.



Julie Lata

CORAL provides extended day learning, homework support, literacy coaching, STEAM curriculum and healthy activities to over 2,400 students annually in 22 school sites, 17 of them within FMSD. "Equipping kids with the academic and socio-emotional support they deserve is a priority for us, and CORAL does just that," continued Lata.

To learn more about CORAL visit ccscc.org/coral-after-school-program. To learn more about Applied's commitment to the community, visit appliedmaterials.com/company/corporate-responsibility/purpose.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Cornhole, Golf and Bocce Tournaments provide support and engagement

Catholic Charities' three annual events offer sponsors community engagement, networking opportunities and a fun way to support our mission.

The long-running Golf and Bocce Tournaments are now joined by a new Cornhole Tournament held for the first time in April. More than \$200,000 is raised annually from the events and directly supports the families and individuals who are served throughout Santa Clara County.

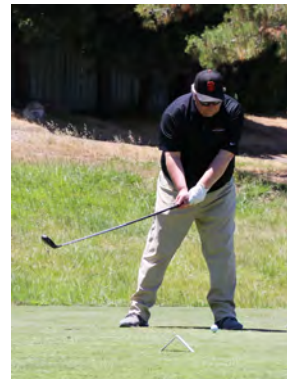
This year we will celebrate the **14th Annual "Roll Against Poverty" Bocce Tournament to be held once again at the spectacular Campo di Bocce in Los Gatos on Thursday, October 6.** This tremendously fun event sells out every year and is a great opportunity to network and celebrate the amazing spirit of philanthropy in our community. The evening is filled with friendly competition, a spirited ring toss and a unique silent auction with amazing prizes. Registration is now open.

Our longest running event, the **38th Golf Invitational Tournament** took place on Monday, June 13th at the Silver

Creek Valley Country Club in South San Jose. Along with breathtaking views and exceptional golfing, 72 golfers enjoyed a day filled with friendly competition and fun in the sun. The event's Title Sponsor Heritage Bank of Commerce also provided volunteers for the tournament. The Tournament's Grand Marshall Toby Cordone, who works for Heritage Bank of Commerce, has served on our Golf Committee for nearly 20 consecutive years and helped to establish our tournament as one of the best fundraisers in the valley. Under Toby's guidance and leadership, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County has raised over \$2,000,000 in funds through the golf tournament.

This year's inaugural **"Toss for a Cause" Cornhole Tournament** was held in April at PayPal Park, the home of the San Jose Earthquakes and included live music, a children's activities area, food trucks, silent auction and a Beerfest featuring local breweries. The event provided an introduction to many donors and community members who were new to the agency's mission. "Toss for a Cause" was a great success and we hope you can join us next year!

For information on sponsorship opportunities for our upcoming Bocce Tournament or other Catholic Charities' events, please contact Deanna Sisneros, dsisneros@catholiccharitiesscc.org or (408) 325-5191.



The Catholic Charities Inaugural "Toss for a Cause" Cornhole Tournament was held in April at PayPal Park. Toby Cordone, Grand Marshall of our 38th Annual Invitational Golf Tournament, tees up his shot at this year's event held in June at Silver Creek Valley Country Club.

Please visit the Bocce website to learn more about sponsorships and tickets are available now for purchase!
ccscc.org/bocce-tournament

Congratulations to our winners!

Golf Tournament Winning Foursome: Dan Huddleston, Steve Milligan, Ben Musolf and JD Testa

Cornhole Tournament Winning Team: John Culberson and Ryan Tinker from Silicon Valley Cornhole

Check out photos and information on our events held earlier this year:

ccscc.org/cornhole-tournament

ccscc.org/golf-tournament

Thank you to our generous event supporters!

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 Catholic Charities
of Santa Clara County

 @CatholicCharSCC
@GregKepferle

CORAL summer programs offer fun and learning



Our CORAL summer programs served more than 1,300 students at eight school sites and a community center, including these students at G.W. Hellyer Elementary in the Franklin-McKinley School District. Thanks to SJ Learns, 20 high school students were hired as Activity Assistants to help the elementary school students with enhanced learning over the summer.

Catholic Charities is hiring
part-time staff for our afterschool
CORAL programs.
Visit bit.ly/CORALjobs