

### CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST NETWORK OF SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Catholic Charities of California represents the twelve Local Catholic Charities Organizations in California.

Every year, these organizations provide more than 1.5 million professional social services to Californians who need help and hope. Catholic Charities of California is the single point of access to this statewide network.



Photo of Andrew, with permissions.

### FEATURED

#### CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

## Journey out of the Jungle



Catholic Charities has been serving Santa Clara County for more than 60 years, where more than 54,000 individuals of all cultures and beliefs through 40 programs in more than 80 sites, are served. Program areas include behavioral health, youth, family, and older adult services, in-home and long-term care, economic development, employment, financial education, housing, immigration legal services, refugee resettlement, refugee foster care, and more.

### FAST FACTS

- 123, 624 Hot Meals were served to Seniors
- 743 Participants were housed in affordable housing
- 495 Below basic English language learners now read at grade level
- 2,813 Participants were involved in wellness and physical activity
- 1,506 Green cards or Work Authorizations were obtained

All data from July 2014-June 2015

Some people call him the Mayor of the Jungle. Even though it has been more than two years since he left, Andrew still goes back once a week to help his old neighbors – homeless people trying to survive in a patch of rough terrain near Coyote Creek.

Andrew tried to avoid living there. He lost his job at Safeway and could not pay the rent or the bills. "It was very scary," he says. "I gathered all my stuff and went down the street to a homeless encampment."

A Veteran who survived four tours in Vietnam, Andrew knew how to survive in the jungle. So he summoned all his survival skills, held his head high, and moved in.

After four years, one day Andrew looked up from his campsite and saw a group of people. They asked, "Are you Andrew? This is Catholic Charities, you've just been housed." Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County provided Andrew with an apartment, helped him get counseling for his post-traumatic stress disorder, and connected him to other services.

A San Jose State Radio and Film alum, he documented his experiences and wrote a book with the working title, "The Invisible Jungle." He tells people that there is hope, they can get housing, they just need to ask for help...and have faith that someday someone will come along, call out your name, and tell you, "You've been housed!"

Catholic Charities in Santa Clara is working to reduce poverty with social change goals that target the alleviation, prevention, and reduction of poverty in our communities. Learn more at [www.catholiccharitiesscc.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org)

