

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.



After years of homelessness, 110 people celebrated the holidays in a home of their own at The Palms. Photo credit: Elvin Gines

FEATURED

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA

Catholic Charities in Santa Rosa is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving people of all faiths in the six counties of the Diocese of Santa Rosa – Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt, and Del Norte. This agency touches the lives of over 76,000 men, women, and children from Sonoma to the Oregon border with more than 20 different programs of service.

Learn More at: www.srcharities.org

THE PALMS RESIDENT SUCCESS STORY

Susan endured 23 years of homelessness and addiction before entering The Palms in February 2016. Just two months later, she came to the front desk crying and shared amazing news that her terminal liver cancer had gone into remission. Susan is making miraculous progress. She has remained clean and sober, and volunteers at a local senior center every Friday night for bingo. Every morning when she wakes up, Susan waters the two fruit trees planted outside her front door and says she is reminded of the miracle of life.

Innovative Permanent Supportive Housing



One year ago, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa (CCSR) began a groundbreaking pilot program to bring innovative permanent supportive housing to Sonoma County. As project lead, CCSR developed partnerships with a private hotel owner, the county, and other non-profit service providers to convert a 104-unit hotel--The Palms Inn--into permanent supportive housing for some of the area's most vulnerable residents: homeless veterans and other chronically homeless adults. The program operates under the Housing First philosophies of very low barriers to entry and a focus on serving those with highest need.

These "single room occupancy" units are permanent homes – and a dream come true for residents, many of whom were living in cars, on the streets, or in shelters before they moved to their own private unit at The Palms. Services provided on-site include ongoing case management and resource assistance, sobriety support groups, job placement, financial management assistance, music workshops, and health offerings such as nutrition education and yoga classes.

Catholic Charities at The Palms has made a huge difference in the lives of residents as well as the community. In the first six months of operation, the program reduced residents':

- Interactions with law enforcement by 77%;
- Emergency room admittances and in-patient hospitalizations by 45%;
- Ambulance transportations reduced by 56%; and
- Usage of crisis service interventions such as suicide hotlines by 98%.

For more information, contact Jennielynn Holmes, Senior Director of Shelter and Housing for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, at 707-800-2372.



Catholic Charities Statewide Immigration Network

UPDATES

HIGHLIGHT ON CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA'S IMMIGRATION SERVICES:

Since 1979, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa (CCSR) has provided crucial immigration services to immigrants in the agency's six-county Diocese, along the coast from Petaluma in Southern Sonoma County to the Oregon border, and the inland counties of Napa and Lake. CCSR has an established reputation as one of the largest and most trusted providers of immigration legal services in Northern California, serving thousands of immigrants each year. CCSR employs seven federally-accredited Bureau of Immigration Appeals legal representatives to counsel immigrants. CCSR's robust volunteer program also contributes 20,000 hours to immigration services each year.

As new federal immigration policies are taking shape, education and outreach work is more important than ever before. CCSR is offering "Know Your Rights" seminars so that immigrants are aware of any policy changes that might impact their legal status and other important developments. CCSR is collaborating with community partners to extend the reach of these critical and time-sensitive communications.

Thanks to recent grants from the Catholic Charities statewide network contract with California Department of Social Services and the Zellerbach Foundation, CCSR is expanding its immigration programs in underserved areas of its region, particularly in more rural communities. CCSR's immigration program provides family reunification, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and specialized immigration assistance for victims of violent crime. Services also include citizenship classes to help students learn English and prepare for the naturalization interview which includes extensive questions about United States history and civics.



Catholic Charities of California

UPDATE ON STATEWIDE ACTIVITIES

The Catholic Charities statewide network of agencies has been awarded additional funds by the California Department of Social Services for the FY16-17 Immigration Services Program in the amount of \$825,400. The initial award for FY16-17 was \$5,136,350, the single largest award in the state. The total funding for this year is now \$5,961,750.

Services funded by the CDSS Immigration Services Program, and delivered by Catholic Charities with this funding, include: DACA Simple Cases, DACA Complex Cases, Naturalization Simple Cases, Naturalization Complex Cases, and Other Immigration Remedy Cases. We are privileged and honored to continue to expand these services to those in need, here in California.

Check out our website to learn more about our network of Catholic Charities agencies and the areas we serve.

Learn More at: www.CatholicCharitiesCA.org

