

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 Ralph, with permissions.

FEATURED

CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO AND IMPERIAL COUNTY

Homeless Veteran Finds Housing



Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego, established in 1919, provides services that are designed to help the poor at over 25 sites in San Diego and Imperial County. Major Service areas include Homeless Women's and Men's Services, Counseling, Food Resource Centers, Emergency shelter for Immigrant women, Refugee Resettlement Services, Immigration Services, Case Management Services, Pregnancy and Adoption Services, Senior Nutrition, Foster Grandparent Program, Covered CA, A Social Enterprise Project for homeless women and a Thrift Store.

FAST FACTS

- 3,260 Counseling Sessions provided
- 535 Refugees who achieved stable housing
- 97,000 Hot, nutritious meals served to seniors
- 418,624 Pounds of food distributed to families and seniors
- 6,143 Immigrants assisted to seek citizenship

Ralph is a 75 year-old homeless veteran with a beard akin to Santa Claus and eyes that glint just the same. Although his physical disability confines him to a motorized wheelchair, he maintains a positive attitude and an easy going spirit.

While serving his country, Ralph made an unfortunate choice, which landed him in jail. He was discharged from the military with no VA benefits. He has since experienced extreme difficulty finding housing.

Ralph found a shared living opportunity that allowed him to get by. When this situation broke down, Ralph arrived at Catholic Charities disheartened, unkempt, and sleep deprived. Once again, Ralph found himself homeless with no family help.

A Catholic Charities case manager assisted him with a senior loan to pay for a hotel the next three weeks. During his stay he was introduced to the Senior Center where he received meals and engaged in social activities. Catholic Charities soon found him all-inclusive transitional housing through an independent living facility and he was also waitlisted for a veteran program to find permanent housing.

Ralph's transition over these past several weeks have been phenomenal. He went from sleeping on the streets in his wheelchair, to residing in a safe place and is a month away from securing permanent housing. He recently returned to Catholic Charities to begin paying off his senior loan. He spent time with staff and says he is grateful for Catholic Charities and its programs and plans to do his very best to pay off his loan in a timely manner so other homeless seniors can be assisted through Catholic Charities. [Learn more by visiting www.ccdsd.org](http://www.ccdsd.org)

