

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.



Job Corp volunteers and Catholic Charities staff and volunteers working in the garden

FEATURED

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
OF SAN BERNARDINO &
RIVERSIDE COUNTIES

Community Garden Celebrates a Decade



Over the past 35 years, Catholic Charities of San Bernardino & Riverside Counties (CCSBR) has distinguished itself as one of the most flexible, competent, and tireless providers of social services in the two-county area.

For more information about CCSBR, please visit www.ccsbriv.org or call (909) 388-1239.

FAST FACTS

Households Served last year:

- 439 families averted homelessness;
- 1,990 families avoided utility shut-offs;
- 5,451 families received emergency food assistance;
- 1,656 immigrant families counseled with accurate USCIS information;
- 1,101 families received crisis intervention-based counseling services; and
- 1,141 students received counseling services on their school campus.

This year the community garden at Hope in the City, the San Bernardino office of Catholic Charities San Bernardino & Riverside Counties celebrates its tenth anniversary and participants are marking the milestone year with the project's first winter garden.

"The garden is in an area designated as a 'food desert' by the Department of Public Health," according to Beverly Earl, the Director of Family and Community Services for Catholic Charities in San Bernardino. With one of the highest poverty rates in the State, the area also lacks sufficient retail outlets for purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables. The impact is clear: Research shows that Latino and African-American residents suffer health issues at twice the rate of Caucasians when these foods are difficult to obtain. Catholic Charities created the community garden to help address this issue.

In November, Master Gardener Maggie O'Neill led a dozen workers from Job Corps, employees, and volunteers in planting winter vegetables: mustard greens, collard greens, radishes, bell peppers, tomatoes and several other varieties of fruits and vegetables.

The two-acre community garden sits adjacent to the offices of Hope in the City. Community support helps to keep garden costs low: Catholic Charities uses the land free of charge and nearby San Bernardino Community Hospital supplies the water for irrigation. "Hundreds of families rely on the Community Garden for produce," says Beverly Earl. "The garden also provides an opportunity for physical activity and a meeting place for the community. It has become a fixture of this neighborhood."



Catholic Charities of California

UPDATES

Providing Food Security

At least 4 million low income Californians struggle with food insecurity. This means that, on a regular basis, they don't have access to enough nutritious food to meet their basic nutritional needs.

Increasing food security for all Californians is a priority for Catholic Charities of California. Since 2009, Catholic Charities of California has led a statewide effort to enroll eligible individuals into CalFresh, California's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. CalFresh is a nutrition program designed to assist low-income households in purchasing the food they need to sustain health.

Through CCC's CalFresh Outreach Program, Local Catholic Charities Organizations have assisted more than 29,000 households in 23 counties to apply for CalFresh benefits. Local Catholic Charities Organizations provide information on CalFresh to clients at intake and to community members through outreach at events and partner sites. These agencies also provide eligibility screenings, application assistance, advocate for CalFresh applicants and recipients with county eligibility workers, and assist recipients to complete required reporting to maintain benefits.

Local Catholic Charities Organizations participating in the CalFresh program include Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa, Catholic Charities of Monterey, Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton, Catholic Charities of Fresno, Catholic Charities of Orange County, Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Catholic Charities of Sacramento (Solano), and St. Francis Medical Center.



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Catholic Charities Statewide Immigration Network

UPDATES

Catholic Charities of San Bernardino and Riverside County's Immigration & Refugee Services division provides low- and no-cost immigration legal services to non-citizens. Clients receive information, assistance, and BIA-accredited legal representation to help them navigate the processes for naturalization, adjustment of status, work permits, fiancé visas, green card replacement, and other immigration remedies. In addition, trained volunteers provide citizenship classes designed to assist prospective citizens in preparing for the USCIS naturalization interview and exam. CCSBR is also a Refugee Resettlement Agency authorized by the federal Department of State. CCSBR staff provide a range of supportive services to successfully resettle refugee families from around the globe into the Inland Empire.

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