

Catholic Charities

CHANGING LIVES

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THE FREEDOM OF STABILITY



Mariella is a 28-year-old mother who came to **Catholic Charities Star Community Home** with her three children, 5-year-old son Peter, 3-year-old son Sam, and one-and-a-half-year-old daughter Olivia. Before finding sanctuary and support at “Star”, Mariella’s life had been marked by violence and oppression. She escaped the gang violence that destroyed most of her family in El Salvador when she fled to the United States five years earlier. After arriving in the U.S., she got married and found herself financially dependent on her new husband, and the victim

of his physical abuse. Once again fearing for their safety, Mariella took her three children and left; even though she had no place to go.

Mariella lived at an emergency shelter for those in domestic violence situations for as long as she was allowed to stay. Many shelters limit the number of weeks or months a person can stay, no matter how dire their circumstances. Fortunately for Mariella, because **Star Community Home** is supported through private donations, she was able to find a safe haven there, and she wouldn’t be pushed out until she and her children had a secure place to live and a steady source of income.

Star Community Home provided Mariella with immediate stability and access to resources. She was approved for a rental subsidy and received her legal right to work through the Violence Against Women’s Act (VAWA). From this solid foundation, she returned to work cleaning houses, saving money, and continuing her housing search. Mariella’s independent search for housing was supported by her case manager at Star Community Home and Catholic Charities Homelessness Prevention.

A few months ago, Mariella and her children moved in to a two-bedroom apartment in the East Bay. Mariella now has the freedom to pursue her path toward becoming a U.S. citizen while continuing to work and support her family. “I am so thankful for all the support my children and I received from Catholic Charities,” said Mariella. ■

“ I am very grateful to have a safe place for my children. I can finally see the possibility of a bright future for all of us. ”





CHEF VICTORIA LEACH INSPIRES HEALTHY HABITS

My name is **Victoria Leach** and I am the Head Chef and Culinary Arts and Nutrition Educator at **Catholic Charities CYO Physical Education**. Like most chefs attending culinary arts school, I dreamed of owning my own restaurant. Attending The Culinary Institute of America in New York was challenging in many ways, but my focus on baking and pastries kept my hopes alive for becoming a well-known pastry chef.

After I graduated, I worked in a few kitchens, but the experience wasn't quite as I imagined so I wondered if other environments might be a better fit for me. In early 2015, I applied for an unusual opportunity to teach young children about nutrition at CYO Physical Education. I accepted the job and have enjoyed every minute since.

The thing I enjoy most about working with youth is their openness to try new things. I try to keep classes light, fun and relatable and the result is real change in the way kids think about their diet. The hands-on experience gives them ownership over the cooking process which translates into better choices for them and their families. The ripple effect is extraordinary. ■

SILICON VALLEY GIVES --- CROWDFUNDING FOR YOUTH IN EAST PALO ALTO

Take part in our annual "SV Gives" crowdfunding campaign for **Catholic Charities programs in Silicon Valley**. This year, the campaign will focus on needs at Catholic Charities Youth Club at St. Francis of Assisi, located in East Palo Alto. To participate, simply go to svgives.razoo.com/us/story/Catholic-Charities-Sf on May 3, 2016 and donate online. ■

Donate
Online
May 3, 2016



JOIN THE CIRCLE OF ANGELS

Become a monthly donor and be part of our **Circle of Angels**. For as little as \$10 per month, your recurring gift will **show love and compassion** for our most vulnerable neighbors. It's easy to sign up and your donations are tax deductible. Plus, you will benefit from special recognition and discounts on events.

To become a Circle of Angels member, please contact **Caroline De Bie** at 415 972 1276 or cdebie@CatholicCharitiesSF.org. ■



STABILITY FOSTERS DIGNITY



Transition can be difficult for anyone. Most of us reference a change in a job or residence as a high point of stress, but what if almost everything in your life was unknown all at the same time?

As I read **Mariella's** story on the front cover, I realized that, unfortunately, it is not an uncommon story. We see many individuals and families who live in the fear and hopelessness that instability presents in a number of areas that are often related --- navigating a new culture and legal system, attempting to find stable housing, seeking therapy for traumatic experiences, and finding a safe place for kids to thrive.

Through Catholic Charities, all of us have the opportunity to provide **dignity** to those who are experiencing truly difficult life transitions. It is up to those of us who enjoy comfort and stability to share avenues of hope with those who need a next step.

Sincerely and with gratitude,

Jeff Bialik
Executive Director

“ **When individuals and communities are guaranteed the effective exercise of their rights, they are not only freed to realize their potential, they also contribute to the welfare and enrichment of society.** ”

Pope Francis

JOIN THE LEGACY CIRCLE

Did you know that Catholic Charities offers a number of ways to leave a legacy for those who need your help? **Here are some options for you to consider:**

- **ESTATE PLANNING** --- Update your will or living trust by completing the free Estate Plan Organizer that is now available on the Catholic Charities website.
- **BEQUESTS** --- Add an addendum to your will or living trust that includes a gift to Catholic Charities
- **RETIREMENT GIFTS** --- A designation to your IRA or other retirement plan may be a cost-effective way to make a gift to Catholic Charities
- **CHARITABLE TRUST** --- An opportunity to bypass capital gains tax on stock or real estate and reduce taxes while giving to Catholic Charities.
- **GIVING A HOME WHILE KEEPING IT** --- Enjoy the full use of your home while getting a tax deduction by giving to Catholic Charities.

Learn more by contacting **Kathy Brown, Director of Advancement**, at 0415 972 1291 or email kbrown@CatholicCharitiesSF.org ■

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IS HIRING!

Catholic Charities currently has a variety of job openings around the Bay Area. **Here are a few examples:**

- **Bus Driver**
- **Bilingual Counselor**
- **Certified Nursing Assistant**
- **Gym Director**
- **Food Service Worker**

For a complete list of all Catholic Charities job opportunities, visit CatholicCharitiesSF.org/careers. ■





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CYO camp

SIGN UP FOR CYO CAMP!

Located 60 miles north of San Francisco and set among 216 acres of awe-inspiring coastal redwoods, Catholic Charities CYO Summer Camp offers an environment where youth can explore the world around them and develop powerful friendships that will last a lifetime. For 70 years, CYO Summer Camp has been a tradition for generations of families.

Sessions are available from June 26 through August 11, 2016.



Register at www.CYOCamp.org or call 707 874 0240 for more information.

