



Moorpark Pantry Plus Program Coordinator, Patricia Calderon, surrounded by staff and volunteers.

WORK ANNIVERSARY: 25 YEARS!



A volunteer luncheon was held on September 8th, which included a surprise celebration of Patricia Calderon's 25 year anniversary with Catholic Charities! Patricia works diligently to meet needs in her community with love. This past August, she spearheaded a Back-to-School Program that provided backpacks, school supplies, and shoes for 339 children and a total 164 families. Congratulations Patricia!

NEW HIRE: SHIRLEY KELLY FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR Ventura Community Center

Shirley has a heart for volunteerism and serves as a Confirmation Catechist and docent at her home parish, Mission Basilica San Buenaventura. She has three boys, ages 31, 18, and 16. Hailing originally from Columbus, Nebraska, she enjoys traveling and going on road trips. She has been a resident of Ventura for 49 years. Shirley will manage food pantry operations at the Ventura Community Center. Welcome to the team Shirley!



In October, the Moorpark Women's Club wrapped up a 3-week food drive and delivered 757lbs of food to Moorpark Pantry Plus. They then volunteered at the pantry to mark the items with expiration dates and shelve all the donations. Thanks to club members and the community for helping us fill the pantry and special thanks to Coffee a la Mode - Moorpark, CA for hosting the food drive! ❤️



Catholic Carities of Ventura County welcomes new Program Director, Gabriel Rivera



"I'm excited to join Catholic Charities and be a part of what God is doing in the lives of the underserved in our community."

Gabriel comes to Catholic Charities with over 20 years of teams and logistics management experience having formerly worked in the entertainment industry. He is also a bilingual Catholic speaker, praise & worship leader, and lay evangelist with over two decades of ministry experience having served in both the Diocese of El Paso, TX, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and abroad. He has traveled internationally proclaiming the Gospel in 13 different countries.

Gabriel will oversee programs at the Ventura Community Center, Moorpark Pantry Plus, and OASIS in Camarillo. He resides in Ventura with his wife and children.

SEMINARIAN VOLUNTEERS



Catholic Charities of Ventura County is extremely grateful for our partnership with St. John's Seminary in Camarillo. As a part of their pastoral formation and a Field Education class, Seminarian volunteers assist at both the Ventura Community Center and Moorpark Food Pantries to gain real-world experiences that align with the Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.

Ventura Community Center Assists Client*

Unfortunately, for Catholic Charities' Ventura Community Center client Mariana Deleon, she was recently diagnosed with cancer. Now, the mother of four, with children ages 16, 11, 8, and 4, finds herself undergoing radiation treatment five days a week in Ventura, forty-five minutes away from her home in Piru. To say that Mariana has fallen on hard times is an understatement. Her eldest child was diagnosed with Autism, and her husband is disabled and unable to work. Getting to and from appointments has been a challenge. However, Mariana is hopeful and has found stability at the Ventura Community Center.

Mariana utilizes the Ventura Community Center Food Pantry to keep her family fed and has used the social services provided there in the past. "A couple of years ago," she shared, "Catholic Charities helped me with utility assistance, and for that I was extremely grateful." Currently, she is scheduled for a rental assistance appointment. As Mariana battles her disease, Ventura Community Center will try to provide temporal, spiritual, and emotional support for her and her family. She commented, "It is good that a place like this exists, where one can go in difficult moments to get help." ❖

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Mariana and her daughter like the Ventura Community Center Food Pantry



Earlier this year, thanks to the estate planning of a generous donor, CCVC was able to purchase a new cargo van to assist in Food Pantry pickups and operations! It is a tremendous asset to feeding those in deepest need. We are extremely grateful!

The Ventura Community Center welcomes Development Director, Greg Cornell, who will oversee fundraising efforts for both Ventura & Santa Barbara. If you are interested in providing a planned gift to Catholic Charities of Ventura County, please contact him at extension x312. ❖



On behalf of the Catholic Charities of Ventura County staff and volunteers, we'd like to wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving and a holiday season filled with an abundance of blessing! **Would you prayerfully consider making a charitable donation to Catholic Charities - Ventura County as a part of Giving Tuesday on November 28, 2023?** Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to make a donation online today!



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