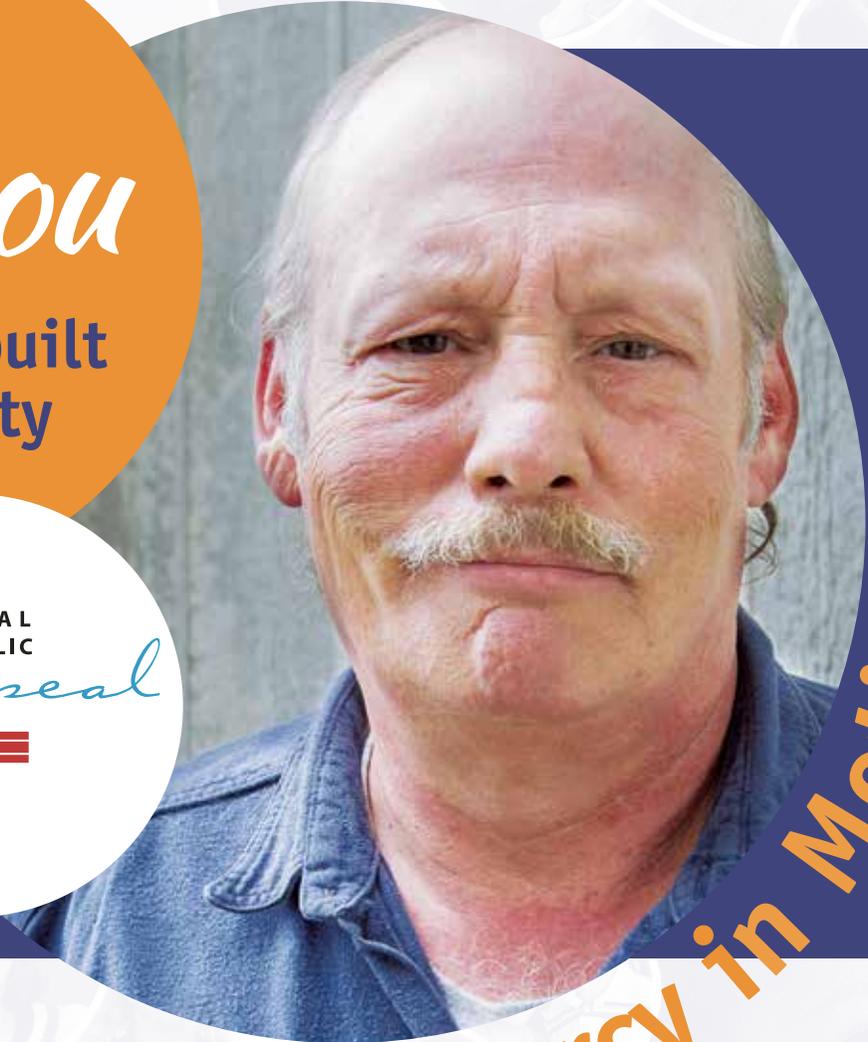


Because

*of you*

lives are rebuilt  
with dignity



*Mercy in Motion*

2017 REPORT OF GRATITUDE

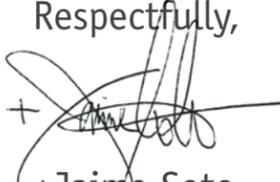
“Your kindness has brought hope and  
the tender mercy of Jesus  
to our neighbors in need.”

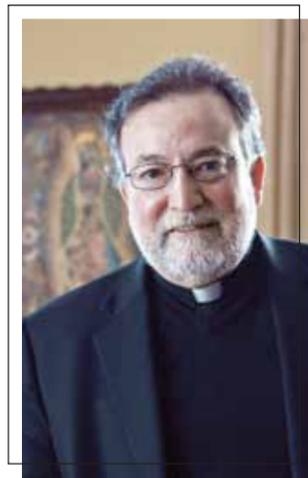
## DEAR CO-WORKERS IN CHRIST:

EACH YEAR I appeal to your generosity on behalf of tens of thousands of individuals and families throughout our Northern California diocese. Each year you faithfully respond. Thank you.

In 2017 more than 25,000 of the Catholic Faithful contributed nearly \$3.7 million. Fifty percent of funds collected went to charitable organizations helping people to overcome poverty and rebuild lives with dignity. Twenty-five percent went back to your parishes to serve the needs of families in your neighborhoods. Twenty-five percent helped seminarians with their education and assisted children in at-risk communities with the cost of Catholic school education.

God’s abundant mercy enables us to bring His tender care to so many of our neighbors in need. To Him be all the glory and praise. Be assured of my prayers. May the joy and peace of the Lord Jesus abide always with you and yours.

Respectfully,  
  
+Jaime Soto  
Bishop of Sacramento



Every time  
...someone found stability



Wayne and Jessica have each faced tragic circumstances in their lives — and have each found their way to Valley View in Chico, an independent living complex devoted to homeless individuals who struggle with mental illness. Unlike shelters or transitional housing, this program of *Northern Valley Catholic Social Service* gives residents a path to independence and support in coping with mental illness.

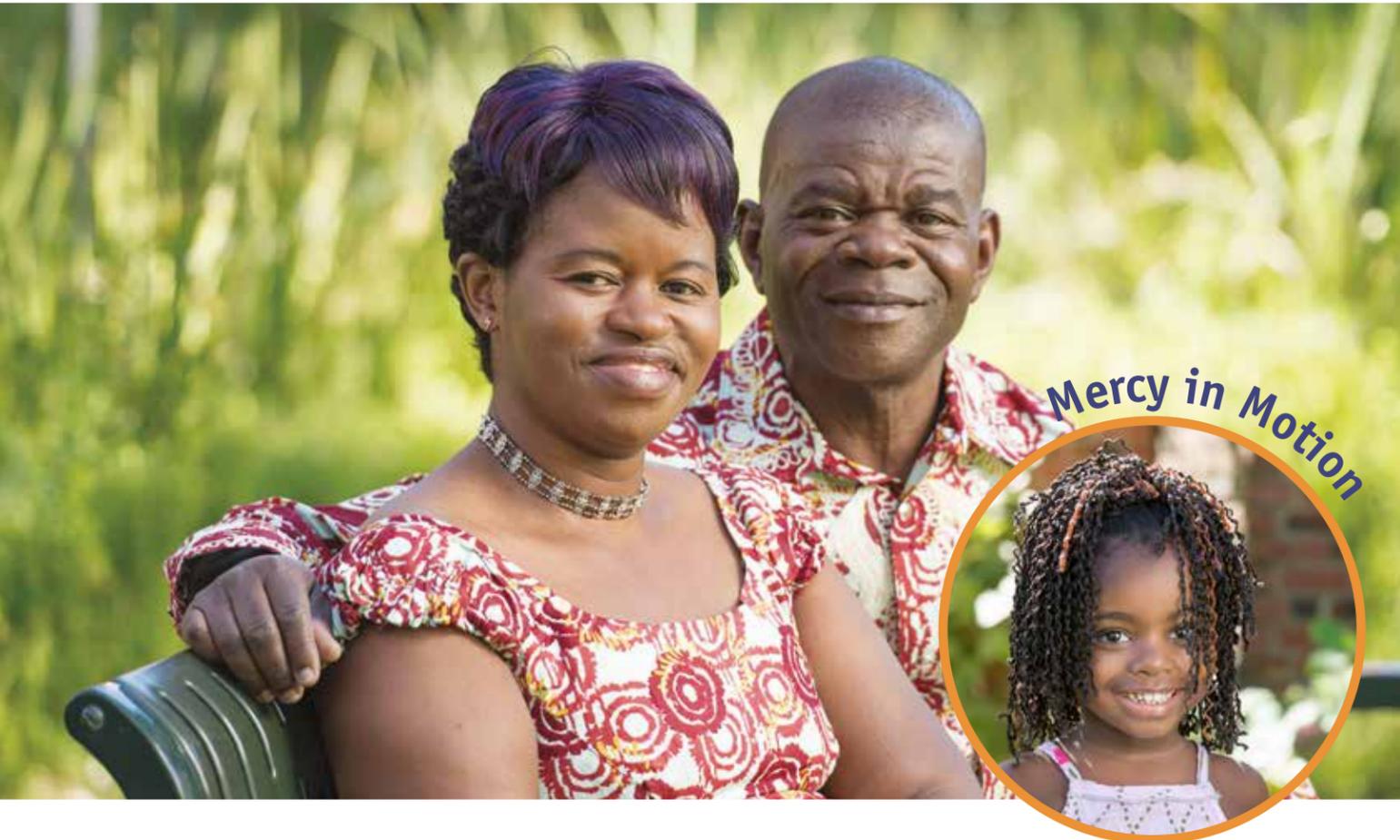
...you made the difference.

**15,000** people

received hope and help through programs  
of Northern Valley Catholic Social Service

*Every time*

...a family recovered from great loss



She was nurse. He was a doctor. Until civil war drove them from their home in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Pregnant and nearly homeless, Neema was guided to the *Sacramento Life Center* where life-sustaining services, medical care and a vast network of support led to job training, housing and the resources to bring her husband to Sacramento. Today they are an independent and thriving family.

*...you made the difference.*

**1,789** people

received help and a path to a better future through Sacramento Life Center

DEAR FRIENDS:

IT IS A GREAT BLESSING TO SEE THE DIGNITY AND HOPE made possible by the good works of Catholic charity programs and ministries supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Every day, while working alongside other men and women of good will, Catholics go out to preach the Gospel of Joy through concrete actions of love: housing the homeless, feeding the hungry, protecting the unborn, and welcoming the stranger. It has been a true blessing for me to experience the efforts of staff and volunteers engaged in service to those on the margins, witnessing to them with joy.

On any given day, hundreds of thousands of people in the 20 counties of our diocese need help. By living the Gospel message of service to others, your continued and faithful support make it possible for this life-saving work to continue.

With gratitude,

John Watkins

Director

Office of Catholic Charities and Social Concerns



*Every time*

...a teen found courage and strength



In today's society, students and families are more vulnerable than ever to overwhelming stress. Teri is part of a team of school counselors working through *Catholic Charities of Yolo-Solano* to help students and families to cope with difficult circumstances and to avoid crisis in their lives.

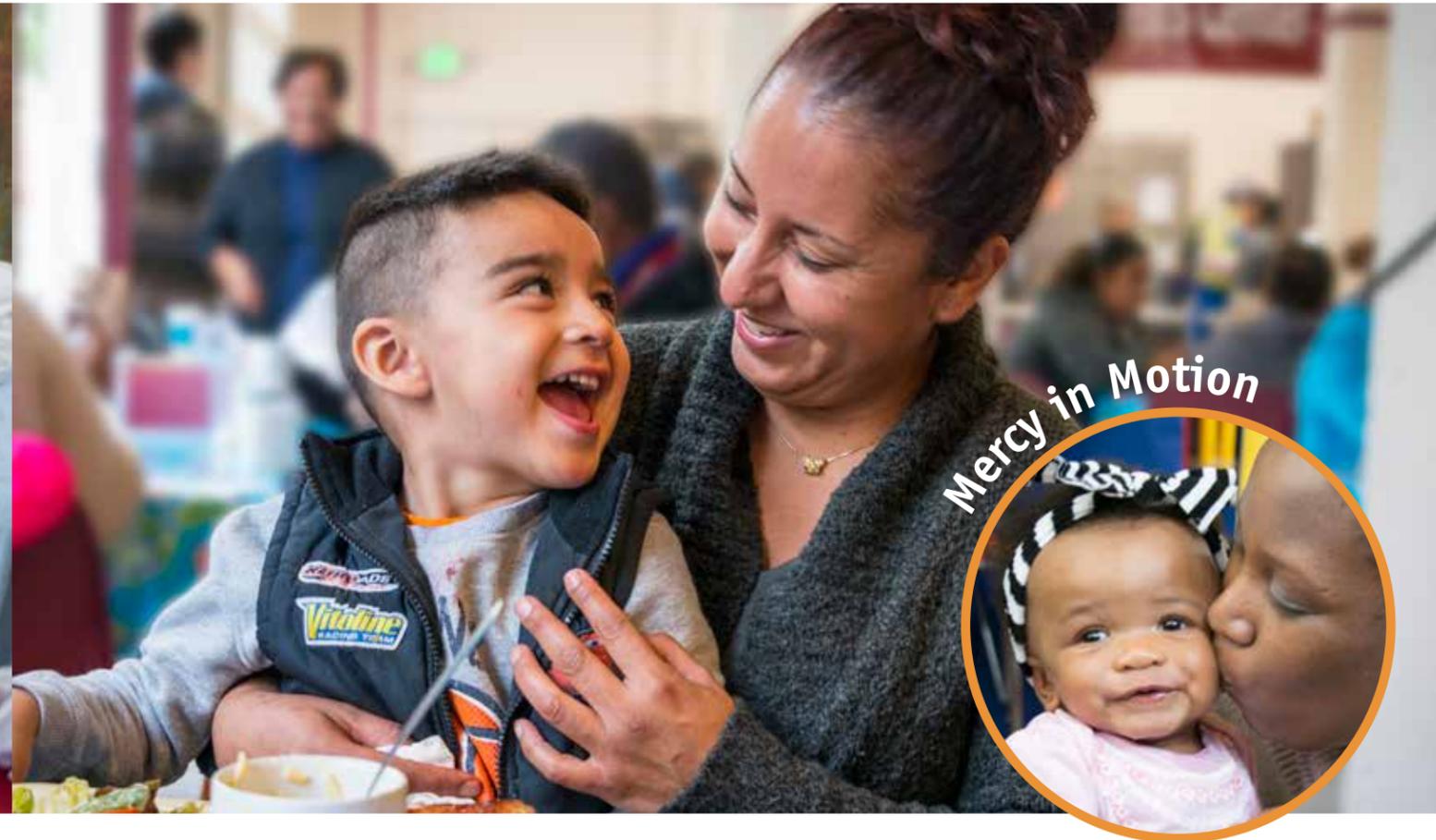
*...you made the difference.*

**4,000** students

have access to school counselors through Catholic Charities of Yolo-Solano

*Every time*

...a mother and child found love and support



Women in the isolation and loneliness of poverty drop in for a nutritious breakfast and unconditional support at *Wellspring Women's Center*. With access to children's programming, women's wellness and safety-net services, the innate goodness of every woman and child is nurtured in an atmosphere of hospitality, dignity and love.

*...you made the difference.*

**600** women

received love, hope and help last year at Wellspring Women's Center in Sacramento

*Every time*

...a child could stay in Catholic school



*St. Vincent Ferrer School* in Vallejo is one of several Catholic schools that provide faith-based values and innovative education in our most economically-challenged neighborhoods. The need for tuition assistance is great. Access to funds is challenging. Appeal funds helped bridge the gap for families in need.

*...you made the difference.*

**\$538,000** helped

families in our most economically-challenged communities to thrive in Catholic school.

DEAR FRIENDS:

CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS THE CHURCH'S MOST VALUABLE MINISTRY IN PREPARING OUR YOUTH for continued participation in the sacraments and in service, especially in our most vulnerable communities.

Your generosity in 2017 has made a specific and significant difference to schools that cannot raise enough funds for tuition-assistance on their own.

We are committed to the formation of children in the Diocese of Sacramento in the understanding that they, too, are called to serve. The future of our Church and our country relies on our ability to effectively educate Catholic youth in an environment where our children learn and grow with Christ. Your generosity supports this most important endeavor.

I thank God for the opportunity to share in this mission with you, and remain always,

Your fellow servant in Christ,

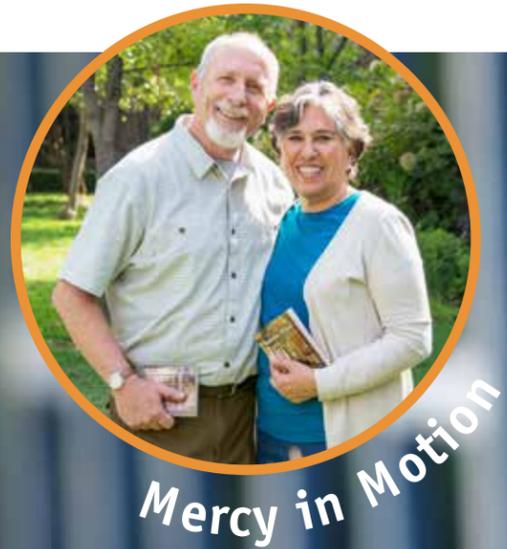
*LINCOLN SNYDER*

Lincoln Snyder  
*Executive Director of Catholic Schools*



## Every time

...a parish helped someone in need



On Sundays, trained volunteers from Fairfield, Vallejo and Benicia parishes visit the local jails. *St. Vincent de Paul* is working hard to address this under-served work of mercy, bringing hope to men and women inmates who yearn for God's presence and a sense of worth as human beings. Brian and Ana oversee this mission with love and compassion.

*...you made the difference.*

**102** parishes

have a 25% share of the Appeal to support local efforts

## Every time

...parents and caregivers found respite



Summer camp means many things. At *Camp ReCreation* it means fun, friendship, social interaction and spiritual growth for people with developmental disabilities — and much-needed respite for parents and caregivers. The need is great and applications each year exceed capacity. Funds from the Annual Catholic Appeal make a difference.

*...you made the difference.*

**140** individuals

with developmental and physical disabilities enjoy Camp ReCreation each year

*Every time*

...a seminarian moves closer to ordination

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST:

EVERY YEAR, WE FEEL THE BLESSING of new priests being ordained to serve in our parishes.

The journey towards priesthood starts with the calling, that is, when an unmarried man feels in his heart the invitation from God to be a priest of Christ. Formation includes four years of college focused in philosophy, two years of theology, a pastoral year (the experience of living in a parish for a school year), and another two years of theology.

Your support has allowed us to once again ensure the preservation of a supportive community for those who have committed themselves to this journey in service to Christ.

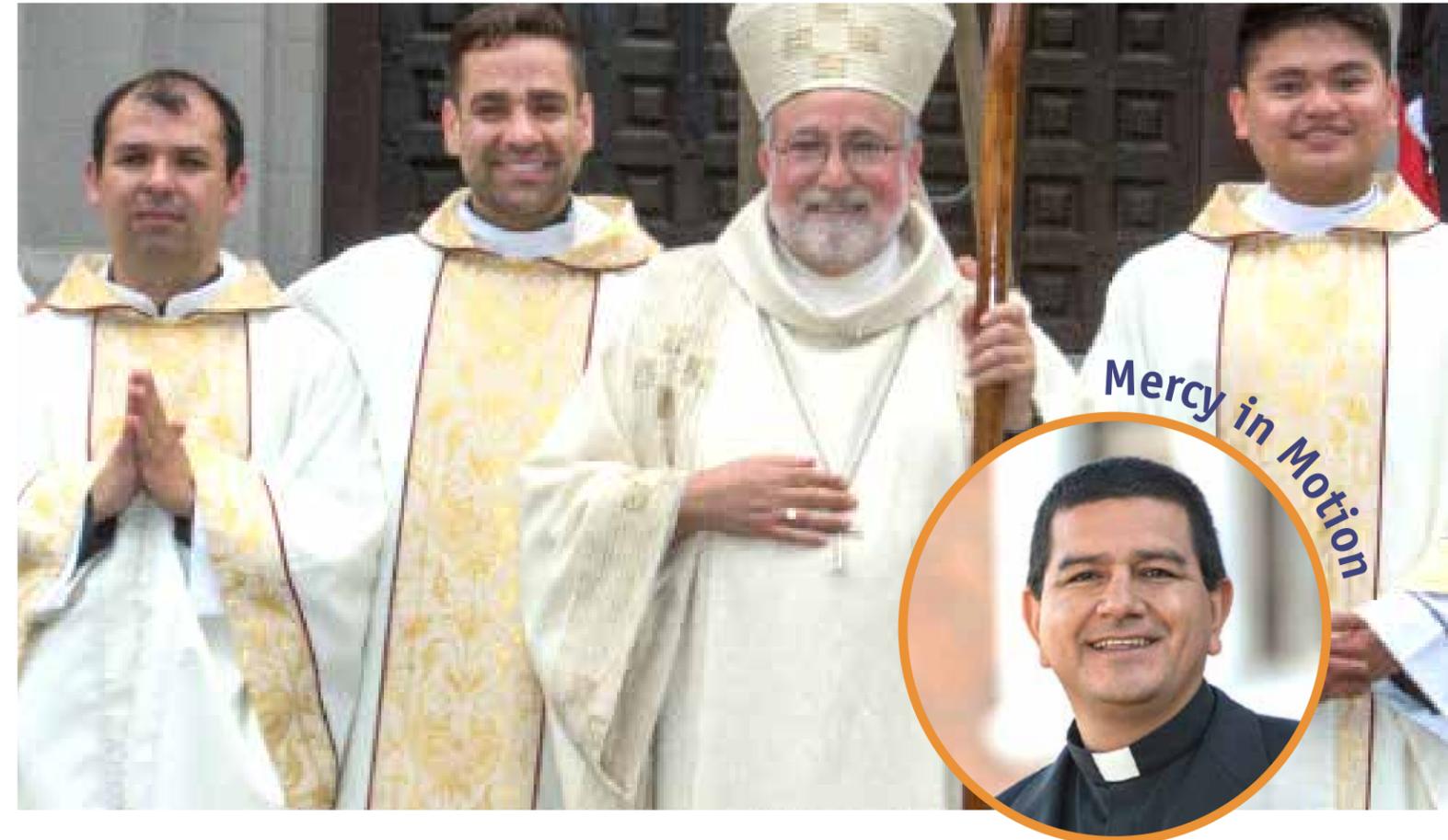
I am grateful for the difference you have made to the one candidate in English studies, five who are at college and pre-theology level, the two in pastoral year and twelve at theology level, who, after success in their preparation, will have the opportunity to be ordained to the priesthood and to serve the people in our Diocese.

We are all humbled by your generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Jovito Rata  
Director, Office of Vocations



"Our diocese paid for most of my seminary education. My parents are farmers. Without financial help they could not have paid for my education. Thanks to you, men like me graduate and are ordained as priests for our diocese. Here I am now, serving you the best way I can." - Fr. Guillermo Ramirez, ordained in 2013

*...you made the difference.*

**3** new priests

were ordained this year. Nineteen seminarians are currently in formation

*Every time*

...a family is now safe



In Afghanistan, Mohibullah put his life on the line as an interpreter and medic for the U.S. Army. Now in Sacramento through the *Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services Resettlement Program*, he and his family feel safe and truly welcome with housing, work and support from Rocio and her dedicated staff.

*...you made the difference.*

**208** newcomers

were welcomed and cared for by Sacramento  
Food Bank & Family Services

THANK YOU

*You made the difference.*

“Together you are providing food for the hungry, hope for the hopeless, and a future for the lost. Thank you for being the hands and feet in this community.”

— *Loaves & Fishes, Sacramento*

“Thank you for being a partner in our work with the poor in our community!”

— *Catholic Ladies Relief Society, Chico*

“Wellspring is grateful to the Catholic community for its generosity by stewarding resources carefully and providing programs for every woman and child with hospitality, dignity and love.”

— *Wellspring Women’s Center, Sacramento*

“Without the Appeal, more than 2,500 family households would go hungry for months or more.”

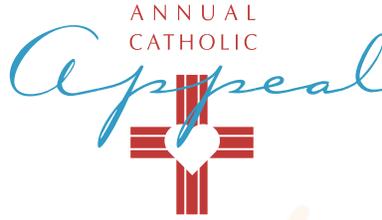
— *Anderson Cottonwood Christian Assistance*

“A heartfelt thank you for your generous donations, which we use to continue to provide food for at-risk families.”

— *Salvation Army, Susanville*

“One of our sayings is ‘Help Us Help Others.’ In your giving, your prayers and your support, you join with us to be the Hands of Christ, as we try as our founder said ‘to do a little good.’”

— *St. Vincent de Paul*



*“The Annual Catholic Appeal*  
**is our annual tradition** that connects us  
to those who need our help every day.”

The Annual Catholic Appeal assists nearly 100 social service programs, seminarians training for the priesthood, Catholic school families in our most economically-challenged communities and local parish ministries to people in need.

— A PROGRAM OF —

*The Catholic Foundation*  
of the DIOCESE of SACRAMENTO, INC.

