



Catholic
Charities

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2015 MAY -4 PM 1:39

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

For ninety years, Catholic Charities of Santa Barbara has provided crucial safety-net services for families, and has worked alongside agencies throughout the county to assure that these services are available to families most in need.

In 2012, the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors recognized the non-profit network contributions to the quality of life in the county and voted to include funding support for non-profit organizations within the county budget for the foreseeable future. This action assured the continued partnership between Santa Barbara County and the non-profit sector to provide high impact, high leveraged, cost efficient and effective programs that assure that families throughout the county would have food on the table, a roof overhead, and warmth to sustain them throughout the coldest months.

As board members for the agency, we are stunned by the recent funding recommendations proposed by county Human Services. Although we understand the desire to fund programs that can demonstrate outcome measurement, we do not believe that it is worth the cost of eliminating safety net services, which help to serve the basic needs of our community and to keep families intact. Although mainstream media may paint a picture that show that the state of the economy has improved, what we see with our clients on a daily basis would lead us to believe otherwise. Families throughout the county continue the struggle to survive, and still have critical needs for food, rental and utility assistance, and other safety net services that people need access to in order to live.

The proposal by the Human Services Commission eliminates support for almost half of the agencies historically funded by the county and virtually 80% of programs – the same high impact, highly leveraged programs to which the supervisors in 2012 had committed to fund since they are vital to the quality of life in Santa Barbara County. This has affected us specifically in Isla Vista where in previous years, with funding from Santa Barbara County, Catholic Charities has been able to serve the people of Isla Vista with a weekly mobile food distribution service. As the sole provider of mobile food services to this area that is not specifically for service to the elderly, we have had the opportunity to serve 3,609 clients over the past five years and those clients have utilized the service 72,032 times. Without the funding from Santa Barbara County we are at risk of being unable to continue to serve this population that so heavily relies on our weekly food distribution.

We ask that you recognize that the Human Services proposal is dramatically opposed to the Board of Supervisors commitment of 2012 and if instated, these cutbacks will set a precedent that will inflict serious damage to non-profit organizations throughout the county whom you have partnered with to provide highly leveraged, cost efficient services to the people of Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,

Dr. Frank C. Bognar, Regional Director of Catholic Charities of Santa Barbara County



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Isla Vista Mobile Food Distribution Stats:

- New, Unduplicated clients served over the last 5 years: 3,609
- Client Utilization of Services: 72,032
- Year cost of program: \$31,792 (not including several thousand dollars of in-kind donations from community partnerships and relationships)