

About Catholic Charities

In 1954, Catholic Charities established its first program in Santa Rosa and, today, provides an extensive range of human services to the neediest and most vulnerable individuals. Services are available to all in need, regardless of religion or ability to pay. Annually Catholic Charities serves nearly 50,000 people in six Redwood Empire counties: Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt, and Del Norte. Catholic Charities serves the homeless and hungry, children at risk and their families, elders and their caregivers, and immigrants and new citizens through 23 programs.



Homeless Services

The opening of the Family Support Center in 1989 marked the beginning of Catholic Charities' service to the homeless in Sonoma County. In 1992, the Homeless Services Center opened to address daytime needs of the homeless. In 2002, Catholic Charities was awarded the contract to provide shelter services at the City of Santa Rosa's Brookwood Center for families and single adults; in 2003, it opened Sonoma County's new shelter on Russell Avenue, and in 2005 began managing Santa Rosa's 80-bed Samuel L. Jones Hall, for a total of **305 beds** managed by Catholic Charities.

Children: A Celebration

Sales Benefit the shelter

Children: a Celebration is an exuberant exhibit of 60 color photographs of children from thirteen countries. Thanks to the generosity of photographer Dr. Phil Rasori, profits from the sale of the photographs help children and their families at the shelter.

You may view the exhibit on permanent display at the shelter by appointment or view online, please visit Catholic Charities' web site at www.srcharities.org/children or call (707) 528-8712 ext. 161.

Catholic Charities

of the Diocese of Santa Rosa

Administrative Services Center

987 Airway Court

PO Box 4900

Santa Rosa, CA 95402

(707) 528-8712

www.srcharities.org

Family Support Center

465 A Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

(707) 542-5426

We are an equal opportunity provider.

Art in this brochure was created by children at FSC under the direction of Ursuline High School seniors. Photo is of Ursuline student volunteer with FSC resident.

July 2006

Providing Help ✨ Creating Hope

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER



A Multi-service Shelter for
Children and their Families

Serves 130 People Daily

A Program of Catholic Charities
Serving Sonoma County



Catholic Charities **Family Support Center** is the largest homeless shelter for families between the Golden Gate Bridge and the Oregon border. Located in Santa Rosa, it serves as a safe, temporary home for children and their families. Up to 130 people are served each day.

To address the issues that cause homelessness due to “crisis” poverty, shelter residents are offered a **comprehensive approach to help change their lives: assessment, goal setting, counseling, and a set of critical services and supportive activities.**

Critical Services

Critical services address health, housing, employment, and educational needs.

- Up to 90 days of shelter in family-specific rooms
- Three meals and two snacks each day
- Health screening and healthcare at an on-site clinic, staffed by volunteer physicians and nurses
- An on-site public school liaison for school-aged children
- Mentors and computer training for job-seekers through Coach 2 Career
- Weekly meetings with advisors to set goals, locate community resources, and check progress in finding training or gainful employment
- Housing counseling and advocacy to secure stable housing
- Savings programs

Supportive Activities

Catholic Charities’ staff work in partnership with local agencies and government to provide **supportive activities** designed to help clients live fulfilling lives while working toward their goals.

- Workshops on housing and living skills
- Classes on financial management and parenting
- Counseling and support groups
- Twelve-step programs for alcohol and drug addiction
- Year-round youth activities such as art, gardening, and more
- Summer camps, birthday parties, and special events, often coordinated by community members



It takes a community to run an effective shelter program. Catholic Charities collaborates with local agencies and non-profit agencies.

Collaborators (partial list): Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Sonoma County; local physicians and nurses; Sonoma County Department of Health Services; Clinical Services; Women United; Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous; Drawbridge; Girl Scouts; Santa Rosa Junior College Department of Education; City of Santa Rosa Parks and Recreation; Sonoma County Child Protective Services; and Redwood Empire Food Bank.

Funding for the Family Support Center comes from a wide array of sources, all of which play a vital role. These include corporate and individual donors; churches and hospitals; private foundations; city, state and federal sources; United Way and proceeds from the sale of photographs from Children: a Celebration photography exhibit (see back panel).

On-site Services

Resource advocates, assigned to specific clients, work as case managers to encourage and assist with job readiness, employment searches, housing applications, training programs, saving accounts, and a variety of linkages to community services.

Evening childcare for residents is provided at Sister Teresita Children’s Center, so parents can pursue classes, training and support groups.

Coach 2 Career is a job development and life skills program for homeless adults. After the program coordinator assesses job readiness and facilitates computer training, volunteer mentors guide self-motivated clients during their difficult quest to launch a career path with good pay and benefits.

The on-site **health clinic**, open every Wednesday, is available to the public as well as residents. Given the high incidence of communicable diseases among homeless people, this resource is vital to protect the health of residents and the community.

Sunflower Gardens, a community garden, thrives through the care and labor of residents, neighbors, and the Santa Rosa Recreation and Parks. The garden provides seedlings to parks throughout Santa Rosa, a source of pride for shelter residents. Food and flowers are donated to the shelter and other homeless programs.

