



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Solidarity with Immigrant, Refugee, and Migrant Community**

*Executive Actions fail our nation, values, and shared immigrant heritage*

Catholic Charities of the East Bay stands with the immigrant, refugee, and migrant community. We oppose actions that promote fear and hostility towards people of all faiths and nationalities. We remain committed to our mission of welcoming the stranger through legal services, refugee resettlement, education, and community outreach. Toward this end, our legal team is resolved to continue filing applications for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) as long as the program exists.

Our country has welcomed people fleeing religious or political persecution, war, poverty or violence since its founding. The spirit and tenacity of our shared immigrant ancestry has shaped and defined our nation. As a faith community, the Catholic Church is an immigrant church with a long history of embracing newcomers and caring for migrants.

We know the stories of persecution, violence, and oppression that drive people – including children -- from their homelands seeking safe haven in the United States. Despite the rhetoric of fear, we believe that people of good will and conscience understand that for many this is a life or death situation, and choose to be on the side of life.

We will continue to provide our services and seek justice for immigrants, refugees and migrants.

As an experienced leader with a long history serving the immigrant, refugee and migrant community in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, we join the US Conference of Catholic Bishops in supporting comprehensive and compassionate Congressional reform and repair of our broken immigration system. This includes providing a path to permanent legal status for youth eligible for the Department of Homeland Security's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

This is a time where our solidarity with one another becomes more important than ever. Most important, we stand together to Act Justly, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly with God (Micah 6:6-8).

Since 1935, Catholic Charities of the East Bay has provided hope and healing to the vulnerable through compassionate services that transform lives. Ever responsive to evolving social needs, our services have progressed through the decades. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit and service people in need regardless of religion, race, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation.

Last year, Catholic Charities of the East Bay served over 26,113 residents in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and helped close to 1000 people enter the pathway to citizenship. We resettled 63 refugee families (total 173 people) from around the world.

We also provide school and community-based behavioral health programs that improve educational outcomes; grief counseling and case management services to families and friends of homicide victims and victims of crime; literacy programs that promote self-sufficiency; and rental/utilities assistance for families facing eviction.

Catholic Charities of the East Bay was recognized by Congress for its response to Hurricane Katrina, offering housing and employment services to people displaced by the disaster.