**Proposed Charities for Council Donations**

**California Columbian Charities (submitted by Chuck Bellavia****) ($1,000)**

The California Columbian Charities provides assistance to Brothers including their widows who are suffering financial hardship. Since 1955, this program has worked to implement the first principle of our Order…Charity. During the past six decades we have responded to over 2200 requests for assistance from Brother Knights in California and have given more than $3,200,000 in relief. In the last year and prior years Our Council 4588 has received funds for an in-need brother. This is handled very quietly. Even though there is a small amount budgeted for this fund it is not enough to meet what we withdraw. We have brothers throughout the state who have used this fund after natural disasters. As an example, Brother Knights in last year’s fires received money to replace their tools and get back to work.

Charity begins with – BROTHER HELPING BROTHER. The Charity Committee recommends $1,000 above the $1,00 already in our approved budget.

**Catholic Daughters of America (submitted by Laura McQuoid) ($1,000)**

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas is one of the oldest and largest organizations of women in America. They strive to be helping hands where there is pain, poverty, sorrow and sickness.

There are seven points called the Circle of Love that indicate the needs of the church; youth, education, leadership, legislation, quality of life and spiritual enhancement .

As we make the choices of how we can best serve we will need seed money to begin until we can incorporate fund raising events of our own. While so many of these points tie in with the Knights Of Columbus, such as student scholarships, Walk for Life, youth activities and family I am sure we can agree that the Catholic Daughters will be an asset to our community and is so important for our spiritual growth. We will continue our membership drives and bulletin announcements to build a strong and loving program. A donation will allow us to have a great start to recruit, recruit, recruit and of course get our programs rolling. The Charity Committee recommends $1,000.

**Coats for Kids (submitted by Chuck Bellavia)** **($2,000)**

Since 2009, 0ver 100,000 coats have been distributed by Knights throughout the world. A $2,000 donation represents 100 new quality warm coats for in need children. Why give coats? A child who does not have a coat does not go to school, out to play or to Mass in a chilly church. Coats to a child say we care. All donations for coats stay within Livermore first and the Oakland diocese second.

Last year, Council 4588 distributed 70 coats in Livermore and 30 to St. Leo’s School in Oakland. In December of 2016 Sister Barbara, former Superintend of Oakland Catholic Schools, was contemplating shutting down a school due to a boiler breakdown. A little girl came up to her and said, “Sister Barbara, please don’t shut the school down. It is warmer here than at home.” This year, a 1st grader at St. Leo’s asked, “When do I have to return the coat?” His eyes lit up when told it was his. Coats are a direct donation to school children of our diocese.

St Martin de Porres Oakland

**California Columbian Retirement Home, Services (submitted by Chuck Bellavia) ($2,000)**

The California Knights of Columbus have a well-kept secret. Although discussed at the State Convention, it does not filter to our brother knights. We have a retirement home in Marysville, north of Sacramento. It was established to assist our brothers in their retirement. One of the current residents is our Past Grand Knight, Tony Marisal.

Besides, the retirement home we have available to us, and our families the Columbian Senior Advisory Service. Any knight or his family member can call (800) 273-0068 at no cost to receive advice or be directed to appropriate services. (I used the services for my mother five years ago).

Last year five Council 4588 brothers donated to this charity. This year we have the ability to make a major impact with a donation. A few months ago, a knight was homeless and living in his car. He was brought to the retirement home where he currently resides. His social security does not cover the monthly cost of his stay. The donation will be used to supplement knights like him and Tony.

**Christian Relief Fund (Knights of Columbus) (submitted by Wesley Arnold) ($2,000)**

The K of C Christian Relief Fund is a part of the Culture of Life Program and we are highly encouraged to participate as a council by supporting this worthy program to help our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East who are suffering unacceptable persecution.  Some background:

In 2016, the Knights of Columbus led a major advocacy and publicity campaign in support of the U.S. congressional and state department declarations of genocide, producing a nearly 300-page report on ISIS’ genocide against Christians and gathering 140,000 signatures for a petition calling for the declaration of the genocide. The Knights of Columbus has also advocated for U.S. government relief funds to be directed to those communities targeted for genocide by ISIS.

Among the projects to which K of C funding has been committed are:

* Resettlement of the town of Karamles in Nineveh (Iraq)
* General relief in Syria
* New housing units in Iraq
* Assistance for Christians targeted by ISIS in Egypt
* Assistance for Christian refugee programs in Lebanon and Jordan
* Food programs in Iraq
* Rental assistance for displaced Christians in Iraq
* Support for catechetical and educational programs for displaced families

K of C support for persecuted religious minorities in the Middle East is consistent with the Order’s tradition of standing for religious liberty and diversity since its founding more than a century ago.

**Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose High-Low Bed for Infirmary (submitted by Chuck Bellavia) ($2,000)**

The Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose were established on November 11, 1976. They have been educators in California. At one time, they assisted in St. Michael’s CCD program. Many of the Sisters are aging and need long term care in their Fremont Motherhouse’s Infirmary. The Infirmary has a High-Low bed which eases strain on the caregivers. The Low position is used for Sisters with Alzheimer’s. By allowing the bed to go as low as 12 inches from the floor, the risk of the Alzheimer’s patient leaving their bed and having a serious fall is prevented. The cost of a High-Low bed is over $2000. The Dominican Sisters have a need for six High-Low beds over the next few years. This is classified as the Infirmary’s highest priority long term expenditure. Our donation allows them to accelerate the program. Last year, our Council donated to this program. The Sisters have invited us for a tour and lunch to see their work. More information about the Dominican Sisters is at <http://www.msjdominicans.org/>.

**Livermore Homeless Refuge (submitted by Dennis Lundbom) ($2,000)**

The Livermore Homeless Refuge started after several deaths of homeless people here in Livermore, it started 11 years ago. It is a mainstay for helping homeless people during cold and rainy weather conditions and helping with financial needs all year with Food Gift Cards, Bus & BART Passes, Gas Cards and more. It is attached to Abode Non-Profit out of Fremont, CA. and it is managed by Bob & Donna McKenzie in their retirement. The LHR stores food, clothing, bed linens, and sleeping bags needed to feed and bathe the homeless. They must rent storage facilities that cost over $200 per month since the city of Livermore took away access to a free facility. The LHR depends on cash donations for all these expenses which sometimes come from the McKenzie’s personal funds.

The Livermore Homeless Refuge was established eleven years ago to provide a warm, safe and dry place for the homeless to sleep.  Though we are not open in the summer months, we support our homeless all year long.  Summer is brutal on them and their needs are just as demanding as their winter needs.

**Open Heart Kitchen (submitted by Dennis Lundbom) ($2,000)**

Open Heart Kitchen’s Weekend Bag Lunch Program addresses the nutritional gap of children who receive free/reduced school lunches during the week but lack a secure source of nutrition over the weekend. Bag lunches are distributed to 10 schools in Pleasanton, 5 schools in Livermore, and 7 schools in Dublin. Each bag contains two healthy meals including two pieces of fresh fruit, milk, fruit juice, small bag of carrots, high fiber muffins, protein bars, crackers and cheese. This specialized program provides the only weekend hunger relief geared specifically for at-risk children. Every Friday children pick up bag lunches at a convenient location within the school with no need to rely on an adult to assist them with this service. This year they added 250 more children to the Program.

Open Heart Kitchen's Hot Meal Program welcomes anyone in need.  Anyone who is struggling to make ends meet can rely on OHK for a source of nutrition throughout the week for their families.  We serve homeless, senior citizens on a fixed income, and mostly the working poor.  Low-income single-parent families, children and multi-generational families, disabled, and veterans can find a free, healthy meal in an environment that upholds their dignity at our serving sites.  Meals can be eaten in our dining room or taken to-go.  Many working mothers and fathers pick up meals for their families on their way home from work.  They find it much easier than going home, packing up small children, and then traveling back to a meal site.  We make every effort to make our meal service convenient to those who struggle with time, child care, and transportation.

**Refund Support Vocations Program (Knights of Columbus) (submitted by Charity Committee) ($1,500)**

RSVP allows councils and assemblies to “adopt” one or more seminarians or postulants and provide them with financial assistance and moral support. The intent of RSVP is to demonstrate support for individual seminarians. RSVP support is not solely financial aid, and councils are asked not to base their support on the financial needs of the seminarian. All seminarians are worthy of support through RSVP by virtue of the fact that they are discerning a religious vocation, not because of their financial situation.

Our council has already budgeted $500 for each of three local Seminarians, each of whom comes from St. Michael Parish. We are seeking an additional $1500. This will allow us to increase the donation for each Seminarian to $750. It will also allow us to support a fourth seminarian with the same amount.

These funds are greatly needed and appreciated. They are given directly to the Seminarian with the expectation that he will use it to help cover the numerous expenses associated with his education. The current recipients are all members of our council. Each of them joined the Knights last year right before going off to the Seminary. It is our fraternal and religious duty to support them in their vocations.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (submitted by Ray Miranda) ($1,000)**

The St. Michael’s Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) is an important parish ministry that is very deserving of our support. R.C.I.A. does the weekly work of bringing in new Catholics to our Church. Every Tuesday night, the volunteer team in R.C.I.A.’s Inquiry program assist anyone who is interested in exploring the Catholic faith. The Inquiry program gives the participants the information and support to aid in their decision to possibly take the next step. Then, the Sponsors and the Initiation team work closely with the catechumens and candidates, helping them with their journey into the Church.

Many of us have gone through the process of becoming Catholic through the R.C.I.A. program, have volunteered our time to the program, or both. This worthy ministry has prompted many new converts to join us in the Knights of Columbus. This year, R.C.I.A. would like to use the funds to cover the cost of books and materials to aid in the education of the catechumens and candidates. They would also like to purchase training for team members from the Diocese of Oakland. I believe that this would be a fruitful use of our funds.

The Charity Committee recommends $1,000.

**Shepherd’s Gate (submitted by Mike Enos) ($2,000)**

Shepherd’s Gate is a Christian nonprofit on a mission to free women and children from the destructive cycles of homelessness, addiction and abuse. It takes more than a few nights of food and shelter to truly change a life. In order to help women and children find lasting change, Shepherd’s Gate cares for the whole person. A $2,000 grant from the Knights of Columbus would provide 130 days of food and shelter for one homeless woman. Shepherd’s Gate addresses the underlying causes of residents’ desperation over the course of 12- to 18-month programs. Through case management, counseling, life-skills, addiction recovery, economic development, and job-training services, residents are able to revive their self-esteem and begin productive, new lives. A full 90% of women who complete the program are able to maintain employment and housing 12 months after graduation.

**St. Mary’s Center in Oakland (submitted by Tom McCaffrey) ($2,000)**

St. Mary’s Center (SMC) is located in one of Oakland’s worst neighborhoods. Its walls are pocked by bullets and its sidewalks stained by blood. Drugs and sex are peddled within 50 feet of its doors. In this sea of despair SMC stands as a beacon of hope for homeless elderly people with no place to go. SMC gets them off the park benches and away from cardboard boxes under the highway. They provide health services and substance abuse counseling. They provide free meals every day. In cold months they provide a place to sleep in barracks like accommodations. And, best of all, SMC provides real housing (rooms, apartments) for those seniors willing to get clean and sober.

SMC recently acquired a shelter for battered women. They also run a pre-school for poor families that are desperate for a safe place to leave the kids during work hours. The children receive treatment for various developmental disorders that can be expected among the broken families of that area. Much needed donations go directly into general funds that support their programs.

**St. Michael School Tuition Assistance for K of C Member’s Children (submitted by Charity Committee) ($2,000)**

Tuition is expensive at our parish school. Some Knights are fortunate to be able to afford it for their children. Others lack the necessary funds. We’d like to help.

We are proposing that the council donate $2,000 to St. Michael School for the express purpose of providing tuition assistance on a need basis for the children of Knights in grades K – 8. The school will manage the funds and determine their distribution subject to the above criteria. Our council will not participate in the process for selecting students to receive tuition assistance.

**Tri Valley Haven (submitted by Frank Cambra) ($2,000)**

We are a non-profit tax-exempt organization that serves the in the whole Tri-Valley area.  We own and operate a domestic violence shelter and a homeless shelter, as well as a volunteer run food pantry and thrift store.  We have an office in Pleasanton for counseling and operate a mobile food pantry in Dublin.  Tri-Valley Haven is also supported by surrounding municipalities such as Pleasanton and Dublin.

**Our Mission:** Tri-Valley Haven creates homes safe from abuse, contributes to a more peaceful society one person, one family, one community at a time. Together, we build a world without violence.

**Our History:**

1977     Tri-Valley Haven started as a crisis line, run from the home of a founder.

1978     Temporary shelter opened.

1979     Childcare provided to all residents.

1981     Legal services provided; rape crisis center program started.

1983     House to shelter 18 women and children purchased.

1991     Addiction group counseling added to the shelter program.

1993-95Second shelter building constructed.

1996     Community service building constructed.

1999     Legal service clinic started.

2000     Support group for children and teens started.

2001     Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) services started.

2002     Food pantry and homeless services program started.

2017     40th Anniversary of service to the Tri-Valley Community.

 Any support and donations are appreciated. [www.trivalleyhaven.org](http://www.trivalleyhaven.org)

**Ultrasound Machine for Support Circle Pregnancy Clinic (submitted by Nick Libby and Wesley Arnold) ($2,000)**

The Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative, a very well-known and very effective program, places ultrasound machines in Pregnancy Resource Centers so that couples in a crisis pregnancy situation see very clearly the living baby that has been created. Ultrasound imaging is one of the most successful ways to strengthen a woman to choose life for her baby. If a council or district can raise enough money to cover 50% of the cost of an ultrasound machine, the Knights of Columbus Supreme organization will contribute the other 50%. It is often a challenge is to locate a center that has human and financial resources to support the instrument. Through a recent development, we have an opportunity to participate in the Ultrasound Initiative.

Support Circle is a pro-life pregnancy clinic. They provide many essential services to pregnant women in crisis. Currently they are using an older, failing ultrasound machine at their clinic in Oakland. If awarded, the funds provided to them will go towards the purchase of a replacement ultrasound machine. They already have a doctor on staff and are in line with the Church and the mission of the Knights.

Given the high-profile nature of the K of C Ultrasound Initiative, we have the option to leverage the $2000 donation very effectively. We propose using this amount as a matching fund for the two parishes. We should easily double the amount through this effort. We will further leverage this amount to reach the 50% target quickly - our neighboring Pleasanton K of C Council is willing to partner on this effort to make it happen.

**Veterans Scholarships at Las Positas Community College (submitted by Charity Committee) ($750)**

Our council established the Sir Knight Ken Logsdon Memorial Scholarship in 2013 to provide financial assistance to honorably discharged Veterans enrolled in full time degree programs at Las Positas Community College. Our current budget includes funding for three $500 scholarships.

Given the high cost of books and living expenses, and given the success of our fundraising activities, we wish to increase the scholarship awards by $250 each or a total of $750.

We have a wonderful relationship with the Las Positas Veterans. They help us with various community service events and fundraisers. We are happy to provide financial support that allows them to pursue their dreams of new and exciting careers upon completion of their dedicated military service.

The director of the Veterans Program at Las Positas is a member of our council, Brother Todd Steffan. He joined in the past year.