FINAL CHARITY NOMINEES 2019-2020

**Catholic Charities of the East Bay**

Catholic Charities of the East Bay (CCEB) supports people in need throughout the diocese of Oakland. Donations go into their general fund to directly support programs that help keep families in their homes, that offer grief support to victims of violence, that teach youth to resolve conflicts, that provide safe shelter for victims of human trafficking, and much more. The general fund pays the caseworkers, maintains facilities, provides critical program materials, and pays occasional living expenses for people struggling to avoid homelessness.

**California Columbian Charities**

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, after last year’s Paradise fire, this fund assisted 69 brothers who had lost their homes and brothers who had lost their work tools.  $100,000 was distributed to the Paradise Council.

Charity begins with – BROTHER HELPING BROTHER

**California Columbian Retirement Home, Services**

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.

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.

**Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose High-Low Bed for Infirmary**

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 in May 2019 hosted our Council’s annual retreat. More information about the Dominican Sisters is at <http://www.msjdominicans.org/>.

**Livermore Homeless Refuge**

The Livermore Homeless Refuge started after several deaths of homeless people here in Livermore, it started 12 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 and 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 to store donations and sort them. The LHR depends on cash donations for all these expenses which sometimes come from the McKenzie’s personal funds. **They continue to see more young people and women**.

This year has been tough with the Summer Heat; the demands for the Homeless have been just as demanding in needs as the winter months**.**

**Knights of Columbus Military Chaplain Scholarships**

Under the motto “Keep the Faith Alive,” the Order’s vocations initiative has a number of programs based on prayer and designed to reach the hearts and minds of young people, as well as to provide financial support during their years of seminary training or religious formation as a chaplain.

The Knights of Columbus administers two scholarship programs for men in the first four years of theology studying for the Catholic priesthood.

 An applicant with appropriate ecclesiastical approval, having been accepted at a major seminary, and studying for a diocese, an archdiocese or religious institute in the United States, its territories, or Canada, is eligible. Preference is given, although not exclusively, to applicants who are members of the Knights of Columbus or whose fathers are members.

 Each scholarship of $2,500 is for tuition, room and board. Once awarded, the scholarship is renewable each succeeding year up to a maximum of four years upon certification of continuing enrollment. The scholarship is not available during any year of pastoral internship.

**Livermore K-9 Foundation**

Promoting training, safety and the health of law enforcement K9s throughout their career and retirement. Raising funds for replacement K9s, community education, purchasing protective K9 equipment, attending specialized K9 schools, payment of medical expenses for retired K9s and defraying K9 burial or cremation expenses.

**Open Heart Kitchen**

Open Heart Kitchen's Mission is to serve prepared, nutritious meals free of charge to hungry people. It is the only hot meal program of its kind in the Tri-Valley Area. They feed people every weekday at multiple locations in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, CA. Founded in 1995 as an interfaith effort, Open Heart Kitchen served 400,000 plus meals a year. Open Heart Kitchen continues their Weekend Bag Lunch Program to fill the nutritional gap of children on free / reduced lunches during the week. They service schools in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin. With cost of housing going up, family food needs and good meals are in high demand. Open Heart Kitchen serves low-income, single-parent families, homeless, senior citizens on fixed incomes, disabled and veterans and many working mothers and fathers that can barely make enough to feed their families.

**Shepherd’s Gate**

Shepherd’s Gate is Christ-centered non-profit specializing in providing safe places where women and their children can discover healing and freedom life controlling trauma issues through the power of Jesus Christ. Shepherd’s Gate exists to meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of women and children suffering homelessness, addiction and domestic violence through the love of Jesus Christ, equipping them to lead lives of faith, hope and love and to reach out to others. In this process they use a SUV to transport children to school at local grade school, middle school and high school. This can be over 20 kids a day. The SUV is used to transport kids to activities like movies, the zoo, library and swimming. They need a grant to keep the SUV in running condition, cover oil and gas**.**

**St. Mary’s Center in Oakland**

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’s Cub Scout Pack 903**

Pack 903 a.k.a. Gnarly 903 is the only Catholic Cub Scout Pack in Livermore.  Our mission is to provide a Catholic Scouting experience for youth from Kindergarten through 5th grade.  Gnarly 903 is made of of St. Micheal School students as well as Catholic and non-catholic youth from Livermore.

This year due to funding constraints the District Council has unfortunately had to increase the payment the pack has to make to cover the insurance and other programs that they provide at that level.  The pack has raised about $1000 ourselves to help with this assessment, but are in need of approximately another $1500 this fall.

**St. Michael School Tuition Assistance for K of C Member’s Children**

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.

**Sunflower Hill ID Programs**

Sunflower Hill, a non-profit located in the Tri-Valley creates places and spaces where adults who identify as intellectually and developmentally disabled (IDD) thrive. The organization, which was created by a group of concerned parents, strives to develop residential communities and programs for IDD individuals. Through its two programs; Sunflower Hill Gardens located in Livermore, and Sunflower Hill at the Stable Cafe located in Pleasanton, Sunflower Hill provides vocational, life skills and work experience opportunities. We serve approximately 50 IDD individuals each week through the garden program. Our dedicated team of coaches work alongside each rancher to hone fine and large motor skills, develop life skills, communication and create curriculum that provides opportunities for growth for people of all abilities. Our goal is that we provide environments where people are successful and have meaningful opportunities for growth. Our Ranchers at the Sunflower Hill Gardens plant, grow and harvest all of the produce which is donated to our partners in the community who serve low-income individuals. In 2018 we donated over 75% of our produce, a bit over 7,000 pounds, to partners like Tri-Valley Haven, Culinary Angels and Open Heart Kitchen.

Sunflower Hill is committed to creating independent living residential communities for the local population. We recently broke ground on Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch in Pleasanton and are eager to have additional residential communities come to fruition. The need for supported living services for adults with developmental disabilities is great. In Alameda County, 20,000 individual’s identity as IDD. 80% of IDD adults live with their families, many of whom have parents over the age of 65. The concern for many of these parents is what will happen to their loved one when they pass on, Sunflower Hill is working tirelessly to provide life-long solutions so that everyone may live their best lives.

**Support Circle Pregnancy Clinic of Oakland/Ultrasound Training**

Support Circle Pregnancy Clinic of Oakland is a pro-life, non-profit, pregnancy clinic that offers free services to pregnant women. The clinic is in the process of becoming recognized as a primarily medical services clinic. They are in need of funding to train a new nurse/ultrasound technician. This training is essential in utilizing the new technology used in their new ultrasound machine. Ultrasound imaging helps to diagnose medical conditions, estimate gestational age and, most importantly, it provides a high quality image of the unborn child. This “window to the womb” is one of the most common reasons women choose life for their child. Proper training is essential to maximizing the potential of the technology in the ultrasound machine.

**Vets Helping Vets Program**

I would like to propose to the council that we make a donation to one of our brothers, Ronnie Forbes, for $1000 for his ministry in support of Vets Helping Vets Program. I know we do things for our veterans but I think what Ronnie does goes far and beyond. He gives so much of his time and energy to help others. Let give him a helping hand with these deserving veterans who need support.