**Coats for Kids (submitted by Chuck Bellavia)**

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 100 coats in Livermore.  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.

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

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.

**California Columbian Charities (submitted by Chuck Bellavia)**

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

**Knights of Columbus Military Chaplain Scholarships**

Imagine that you too, must move and start learning the ropes of a new place, and that you are the only priest in the area. That constant change is part of the every day life and work of Catholic chaplains in the military. Unlike a priest in a civilian parish, chaplains in the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard must work with a constantly changing group of people. It is a personal ministry of presence, caring for the needs of Catholic military personnel and their families.

Founded by a parish priest, the Knights of Columbus has always worked hard to encourage young men and women to consider God’s call to service in the priesthood or religious life, **especially in the life of military chaplains**.

 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.

 A list with picture of all the military seminarians is available at: <https://www.milarch.org/meet-our-seminarians/>

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

**Submitted by Chuck Bellavia**

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 (submitted by Dennis Lundbom)**

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 & 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**. Request is for $2,000.00**

**Open Heart Kitchen (submitted by Dennis Lundbom)**

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. **Request is for $2,000.00**

**Shepherd’s Gate (Submitted by Dennis Lundbom)**

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**. Request is $2000**.

**Catholic Charities of the East Bay (submitted by Tom McCaffrey****) ($2,000)**

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 case workers, maintains facilities, provides critical program materials, and pays occasional living expenses for people struggling to avoid homelessness.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Vets Helping Vets Program (nominated by Ron Pasch) ($1000)**

(GK’s note: This nomination was submitted by paper at the July business meeting)

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.

Please see flyer attached.

Thank you for your consideration.

(GK’s note #2. The text from the flyer is shown below)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| A groundbreaking program designed to uplift those veterans who have served their active duty time domestically and abroad and have made it back to the United States alive.  Focusing on the enhancement of veteran’s life skills through programs which provide: housing, nutritional education and vocational/job training. | Many veterans who have served their country honorably have come home to experience conditions that are unbefitting and undeserving of them. As a result, many veterans are disenfranchised and disenchanted with their situation. For some veterans the decision to end their own lives is the direction taken, because the US system of targeted rejection and isolation has them feeling unwanted. | Veterans are being victimized by the lack of resources, deserving of them and for some are dying in a political war with no resources.  Please help to prevent another veteran from committing suicide.  Join with us through your contributions, your volunteer efforts and or your time. It’s an investment deserving and absolutely worth making. |

**Support Circle Pregnancy Clinic of Oakland/Ultrasound Training-** (Submitted by Nick Libby)

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 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. The request is for $2000.

**Charity Donation St. Michaels Cub Scout Pack 903. (submitted by Jason Seberger)**

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 another $1500/aprx. this fall.