



CATHOLIC *Diocese of Fresno* CHARITIES

Dear Friend,

For many of us, the 4th of July means a backyard BBQ, a trip to the lake or to the Central Coast, or some other celebration with family and friends. These things seem like a real possibility this year now that COVID-related restrictions are loosening up. Unfortunately, there are many families that are still struggling just to keep a roof over their heads or food on the table.

In our great country, we will soon celebrate America's Independence Day and the freedom so many have fought for. Freedom to believe what we want, freedom to speak what we feel, and freedom to worship as we choose.

But for many who walk through our doors, pursuing what makes them happy feels impossible as they strive to find balance between trust in God and fear of the unknown - wondering how they'll feed their children their next meal or where they'll sleep tonight.

With the summer months upon us, the Catholic Charities buildings are abuzz with loving moms and restless children, elderly and heat exhausted clients who have walked from several blocks away, and so many more facing their own life circumstances. Our Rural Outreach events are packed with hundreds of farm workers and their families waiting in their cars in line for hours - all in need of someone to trust and a box of food just to get them through the next week.

It's because of you that they have someone to walk that journey with, somewhere to turn and somewhere to go where they're met with open arms. That they're able to stay in their homes and keep their children fed, and that they still have hope in tomorrow and faith in the goodness of others.

Though it might look like handing over a bag of food, paying a bill or furnishing a home - it's so much more. Through every mouth we feed, body we clothe, and shelter we provide, we are building bridges of hope and trust in God for a better tomorrow.

Our hope and prayer is that there will always be those in our community willing to support our neighbors in crisis. To treat every man, woman and child with human dignity and to always reflect the love of one nation under God. Thank you for walking our journey with us and thank you for your unwavering support of Catholic Charities.

Happy Independence Day and may God bless you always.

Jeff Negrete, Executive Director

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love." Galatians 5:13

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

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