

CATHOLIC



CHARITIES

Dear Friend,

The American Dream is rooted in the Declaration of Independence that proclaims "all men are created equal" with the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." For some, the American Dream feels further and further away as we hear constant news of a continued virus, political turmoil, countries at war, refugees at our border, a drought that is destined to get worse, and rising inflation.

At times I toss and turn at night thinking about what life must be like for those who come seeking help from Catholic Charities. The pregnant single mother seeking local shelter and staring into a life on the street. The family of farm workers whose trailer caught fire in the middle of the night, leaving their child badly burned and without health insurance. The dad of four children who recently lost his job and is wondering how he'll put food on the table. And finally, the family of Ukrainian refugees who found their way to the San Joaquin Valley... lost, scared and alone.

Still, through these stories of adversity, the American people prevail and continue to make this the greatest country in the world.

Through every mouth we feed, wound we heal, and shelter we provide, we continue to do the work God has called us to do – but it's only because of your support.

Instead of just handing over a bag of food or a box of diapers, we provide love, a smile, encouraging words, and most of all understanding. We have a responsibility to those we serve to provide something so much more than material assistance... but to create hope as they search for a better future for themselves and their families.

We will soon celebrate America's Independence Day and those who fought to establish and protect this great United States of America. This Independence Day, it is my hope and prayer 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.

Please consider sending a donation in the enclosed envelope so that we may continue to serve those who have been left out to know and experience the tremendous and abundant love of God. So that here at Catholic Charities, we may continue to build bridges of hope, mercy and justice toward the creation of a culture of care responsive to the cries of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thank you for your unwavering support of Catholic Charities and for your continued prayers for our staff, volunteers, and all those who walk through our doors needing help.

May God bless you always and may God bless America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Negrete". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jeff Negrete
Executive Director

Providing Help. Creating Hope.

Merced • Fresno • Bakersfield

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