



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES WORKING TO IMPROVE PHONE SERVICE
FOR DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS (DRAI)**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, May 19, 2020 – Catholic Charities of the East Bay, San Francisco, and Santa Clara are working in partnership to improve their phone service for applicants of the Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants (DRAI), a program of the State of California providing one-time financial assistance to undocumented immigrants affected by the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the state.

In response to the challenges undocumented immigrants are experiencing trying to get through the phone line to apply for the DRAI, the partners have secured a **new phone number, 415-324-1011, effective immediately**.

In a joint statement, **Gregory Kepferle**, Chief Executive Officer, [Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County](#), **Jilma Meneses**, Chief Executive Officer, [Catholic Charities San Francisco](#), and **Margaret Peterson**, Chief Executive Officer, [Catholic Charities East Bay](#) have said, “We understand the challenges, concerns, and frustrations immigrant community members are experiencing as a result of COVID-19. As we are every day, we are with you during this pandemic and working hard through the State’s DRAI project to provide you with vital assistance. We are committed to helping as many of you as possible through the next six weeks and ask for patience as we work to address the high demand.”

Catholic Charities is a network of independent, non-profit social services agencies who serve all in need through a number of programs, including homelessness prevention, housing, immigration, and other programs.

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About Catholic Charities East Bay

Since 1935, Catholic Charities East Bay has helped people in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, regardless of faith, who face with poverty and other complex issues. The multi-service agency has continually evolved to meet the most pressing needs of the community, and its work preventing homelessness, promoting mental health, and reducing violence is expanding. The agency also is well known for immigration legal services. For more information on Catholic Charities Easy Bay, visit CCEB.org.

About Catholic Charities San Francisco

Founded in 1907 and rooted in our faith traditions of charity and justice, Catholic Charities is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening families and reducing poverty in the three counties of the Archdiocese of San Francisco (San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo). Catholic Charities plays a pivotal role keeping our neighborhoods diverse, safe, productive, and healthy through our more than 30 programs and social justice advocacy. We serve everyone, regardless of race, religion, color, sex, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, sexual orientation, or any other basis covered by local law. For more information on Catholic Charities, visit CatholicCharitiesSF.org.

About Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, named the Silicon Valley Organization's Nonprofit of the Year in 2018, creates pathways of hope and opportunity for those living in poverty. Last year, almost 500 employees and 1,000 volunteers served more than 40,000 individuals of all cultures and beliefs through a broad base of programs. Specifically, Catholic Charities is making an impact in alleviating, reducing and preventing poverty by providing food, housing, health, education and economic security. For more information, please visit CatholicCharitiesSCC.org and www.facebook.com/WorkingToEndPoverty.

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