

July Edition 2022



Newsletter

Casa De Clara Catholic Worker House



A Message from the Editor

Welcome to our updated newsletter!
Here you will learn more about the
amazing ministry and updates
regarding Casa and its guests,
workers and volunteers!

contact us!

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Meet the Workers



Tom Johnson

I am Tom Johnson, who comes to you after 14 years in Dubuque, IA, a small college town on the Mississippi River, bordering both Illinois and Wisconsin. For most of them, I offered Catholic Worker hospitality there.

I was raised in Minneapolis, the eighth child of a "good Catholic family," and studied at seminaries in St Paul, just across the river. I felt the call to marriage, however, and served as a lay minister in several parishes for most of my career, about 14 years at parishes without a resident priest in rural Minnesota.

Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker movement then beckoned. I am very attracted to its emphasis on personalism and the Works of Mercy. The people we serve, fellow sisters and brothers in Christ, have been marginalized by most of our society, but their dignity comes not from the state or some economic system, but from the hand of God.

I want to thank all the wonderfully kind people I have already met since coming to Casa de Clara, and I look forward to meeting more – like you! Together, let's do our best to show Christ's love to those who need it so desperately.

Haley Hanstad



Hello! My name is Haley and I am so excited to be a part of Casa de Clara! I was born and raised in Massachusetts and made my way out to California a year ago to work for Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. I love it here in San Jose and feel so blessed and privileged to call this city home.

I graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 2021 with a degree in Art History and French. I thought a job in a museum was what I wanted but God and JVC guided me toward a different path. I still love art and all things French, but I also love accompanying people on their journeys, learning about theology through everyday life experiences and engaging in transformative relationships with people in the pursuit of social justice.

Ever since I first learned about Dorothy Day it has been a dream of mine to be a Catholic Worker. I'm inspired by her radical hospitality, humility, and commitment to living out the gospels. I hope to help create a space at Casa de Clara that can carry on her legacy and truly serve the community of San Jose.

I also want to acknowledge that I am a white cis woman who will be helping organize and lead ministries for and with people of color and other marginalized identities so there is much for me to learn and unlearn in this process. I plan to engage in more antiracism work and the unpacking of my own privileged identities and the way they will interact with Casa de Clara, our ministries, and the San Jose community as a whole. I hope this can be a larger and continued discussion with the community and I'm open to hearing anything you'd like to share on the topic.

Daniel Martinez (Summer Intern)



Greetings! my name is Daniel Martinez and I am Casa de Clara's Summer Intern! I am here from San Jose and am a rising Junior at Santa Clara University studying Religious Studies with a pre-law track!

I serve my campus community as the Co-Chair of SCU's Undocumented Students and Allies Association, Vice Chair of the Inclusive Excellence Student Advisory Committee, Student Ambassador, Community Facilitator for UNITY RLC, and finally as an Arrupe & Jean Donovan Fellow with the Ignatian Center

I am extremely blessed to have heard about Casa from the one and only Dr. Sarita Tamayo-Moraga as I have found the ministry that Casa provides to be truly unique and crucial to St. Ignatius' call to be people for and with others.

I would like to take this moment to recognize you the reader for all the love you have shown Casa throughout the years and I am excited to embark on this new chapter with all of you by our side!

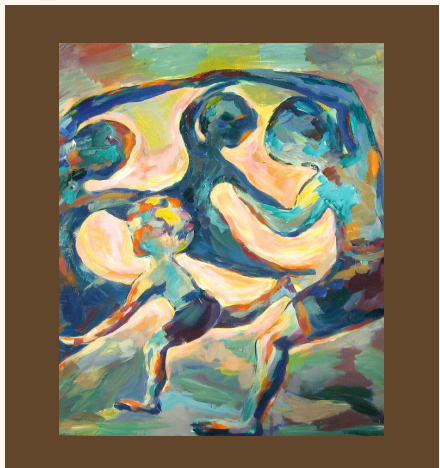


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Updates!



New Family

Casa welcomed a refugee guest family in July, as a referral from Catholic Charities, providing a temporary place for them to allow them to focus on securing employment and a place to live on their own. The Family consists of a husband, wife, an 8-year-old-girl, and an 18-month baby boy.

House Renovations

The Casa de Clara house has been heavily renovated since we closed in 2021: new flooring, new kitchen counters, appliances, new hot water heater, refinishing of all the kitchen cabinets, painting throughout, repairs to windows/doors, and landscaping work. Much of this effort was done by volunteers from a dozen parishes, other organizations, and generous individuals. We are so blessed to have such support in the community. However there is still work that must get done, more updates on that coming soon.



Showers to the People

We have started the process of re-establishing Showers to the People, our shower ministry for the homeless; getting the van and shower trailer running and cleaned out is our first step. Next, we will set up a schedule of locations to extend this ministry to the public. Especially now, we will need volunteers from the parishes to get that ministry up and running again.



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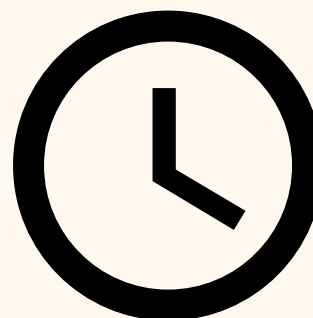
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How to Help

01 Time

- We need volunteers interested in supporting our Showers to the People, who would be available to volunteer for a few hours each week. **Contact: Tom @ 408-352-5260 or tomj@sjcw.org**
- We would also like to find volunteers who could help us fundraise and/or help with special events. You don't need any experience—just a willingness to share our work with the community. **Contact Karen Guldán @ (408) 410-3222 or kguldán@gmail.com**

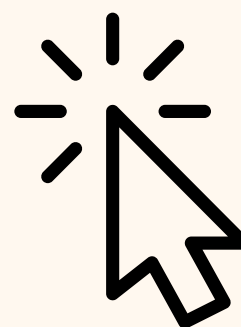


02 Talent

We are in desperate need of talented and experienced folks who could help us with Bookkeeping (helping us manage our financial records) and Website design (our website needs an overhaul!)

We anticipate that after initial set-up, these positions would only require a few hours per week. Both positions could be done at flexible hours that work best for you.

CONTACT: Patrick O'Meara @ meandpj@sjcw.org or info@sjcw.org



03 Treasure

Over the past year, the work required on the house depleted much of our resources. The last of the renovations to the house will be expensive—a new roof, repair to exterior siding, and new paint.

We estimate that we will need about \$50,000 to complete the work that is needed for the house.



Click the dollar sign to donate

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Casa De Clara

OPEN HOUSE



Saturday, September 17th

We would like to make sure everyone who supports Casa de Clara saves the date for an open house—to see all of the beautiful work done on the home, to meet our Catholic Workers and volunteers, and share our gratitude with you for your support. We would also ask that each guest brings a friend who may like to learn more about Casa de Clara! We would love to get the word out in our community and introduce our work to those who may not be familiar.



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A Brief History of Casa De Clara as accounted by Norma

The dates may not be exact, but my memories and Casa's history are still nonetheless true and inspiring!

Norma and Peter first opened Casa de Clara at 318 N Sixth Street around the year 1978 as a response to the growing needs of homeless women and children in San Jose. A few years prior, in around 1974, Peter had started a Catholic Worker House on Second Street, which provided hospitality for unhoused men living on the street. However, as challenges arose on the Second Street house and the need grew for ministries that centered on women and children, Casa de Clara was born.

To purchase the house Norma and Peter reached out to many outside organizations, churches, temples and individuals to raise \$50,000. It was purchased for \$38,500 and the rest of the funds were used to rebuild and renovate the house. The county had left the house completely bare and as Norma described it there was "a hole where the toilet was supposed to

go". Donatelli and Sons Construction donated their labor to help with the physical renovations and with the help of many volunteers (whose names we wish we could name) the house was furnished and ready to open its doors. It was here, at 318 N Sixth Street, that Norma and Peter would serve as the first Casa de Clara Catholic Workers providing hospitality for women and children for four years. After that, Sister Monica May took over their ministry of hospitality. Sister was in search for a ministry in the Bay Area.

Since then, Casa has welcomed countless women, children, workers and volunteers who have helped make this house into a home . . . some might even say a Casa! We thank all of you who read this newsletter, and/or who have assisted our endeavors in the past here at Casa in more ways than one! We hope to continue this decent, honest work with all of you by our side!

San Jose Catholic Worker
318 N. Sixth Street
San Jose, CA 95112

Adress Correction Requested