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For Immediate Release

News Release

Guma San Jose Emergency Homeless Shelter Celebrates 34th Anniversary With MLK Day of Service January 17, 2022.

Catholic Social Service (CSS) Guam announces the 34th anniversary of the establishment of the Guma San Jose Emergency Homeless Shelter on this month of January 2022. CSS, in partnership with AmeriCorps Guahan Sustainable Culture, will recognize Guma San Jose Shelter on Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service on Monday, January 17, 2022 1:30-5:00pm by volunteering to build community gardens at the main shelter in Dededo.

Guma San Jose opened its doors in 1988 and has expanded to two locations, providing up to 22 beds for families at their main shelter and 6 beds at their men's shelter. They continue to provide 24-hour emergency shelter, case management services, and support services for up to 60 days to homeless families and individuals admitted to the shelters. Walk-in food pantry assistance, laundry and shower services are available for homeless on the wait list, but on a limited basis due to COVID restrictions.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines homeless as a "person whose nighttime residence is a public or private place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus and other sites."

As of January 2020, the documented number of homeless individuals in Guam was 682 with an additional 108 living in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs. Compared to 2019, homelessness decreased in Guam by 9.7% (GHURA - Guam Homeless Point In Time Count 2020). Homelessness has been an ongoing issue in Guam for many years and Guma San Jose has been instrumental in helping those homeless to obtain safe and stable housing.

On Monday, January 17, 2022, on MLK Day of Service, new fruit and vegetable gardens will be constructed by volunteers from AmeriCorps and Guahan Sustainable Culture. The purpose is to



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encourage activity, skill building, and food stability for the clients while they are living in the shelters. Guahan Sustainable Culture, whose mission is to “cultivate strategies for sustainability through practical education, social engagement, and collaborative partnerships,” will be providing seedlings and manpower of about 30 volunteers to participate in this MLK Day of Service.

“The Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is a defining moment each year when Americans across the country step up to make our communities more equitable and take action to create the Beloved Community of Dr. King’s dream. MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.”

- Americorps.gov

CSS Guam has been serving Guam since 1979 and continues to serve the needy in our community. We ask for your prayers and community support.

For more information, please contact:

Catholic Social Service

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