

Among the nation's largest social service providers, Catholic Charities USA traces its roots back 275 years. Today, through innovative programs like the Pio Decimo Center, 1,700 Catholic Charities member agencies and institutions fulfill a mission of providing help and creating hope for more than 7.1 million people annually, regardless of religious, social or economic backgrounds. According to Rev. Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, "these remarkable programs are successful because they create strong partnerships with vulnerable families and organizations in the neighborhoods where they live. Equally important, the programs work to increase the families' economic assets with education, jobs and savings."



PIO DECIMO CENTER

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA, INC.

Award-winning Program: Pio Decimo Center

Joyce Walker, Director

Pio Decimo Center

848 South Seventh Ave.

Tucson AZ 85701-2698

520-622-2801 x125

<http://www.ccs-soaz.org>

CHILDREN DO WELL WHEN THEIR FAMILIES
DO WELL, AND FAMILIES DO BETTER WHEN
THEY LIVE IN SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

2005 FAMILY STRENGTHENING AWARDS

A COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE

For 60 years, Pio Decimo Center has been a source of strength for families in the Barrio Santa Rosa neighborhood of Tucson, Arizona. As the community's needs have changed, Pio Decimo has changed with it, always evolving to help parents raise children across two cultures. Symbolic of Pio Decimo's connection to the community are its periodic "walk-arounds," when staff take to the streets to keep in contact with family members of all ages.

Pio Decimo's determined outreach dates to the Center's founding by nuns who traveled from New Orleans to serve a burgeoning Latino community and saw the need to help families succeed in their new homeland. "Our relationship with this community ties directly to family success stories," says director Joyce Walker. "It's what allows us to be an effective one-stop family center, so parents can realize long-term goals like finding economic stability."



PIO DECIMO REPRESENTS A BASTION OF
STRENGTH TO THIS COMMUNITY BECAUSE
WE PARTNER WITH FAMILIES TO BUILD THEIR
STRENGTH.

—Joyce Walker, Director, Pio Decimo Center

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

In 1966, an affiliation with Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona, Inc. enabled Pio Decimo to diversify and broaden the programs that help parents realize their dreams for their children. Today, Asset Building for Families is among the new initiatives that epitomize this goal with classes that build parents' expertise in money management and help them take advantage of often underutilized opportunities, such as Earned Income Tax Credits.

All Pio Decimo programs aim toward one ultimate goal: bright futures for children. Subsidized day care and preschool programs, structured around a ready-to-learn philosophy, prepare young children to succeed in school. A range of activities help school-age children develop skills and confidence that will expand their choices for education and employment. Pio Decimo classes in parenting skills, English mastery and GED preparation support adults who are working to put their families on solid footing. Families that face homelessness can call on Pio Decimo's transitional housing shelter. Here, the staff help these families find independence again, while assisting them with food, clothing and links to job training opportunities.

Of all these programs, Walker sees the most hope in Asset Building for Families because of its lasting impact. "Parents begin to recognize their family's strengths and resources," Walker says. "You can reach a child individually, but that child's future is truly secure when you see his parents open their first bank account or set up an Individual Development Account."

FAMILIES COUNT FAMILY STRENGTHENING AWARDS

Through a joint venture of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Catholic Charities USA, the FAMILIES COUNT Family Strengthening Awards recognize Catholic Charities with outstanding programs that work to give children what they need most—strong, capable and economically successful families. Responding to the varied needs of the families they serve, these organizations improve the economic prospects of working men and women and create the services and networks of support that all families need to realize their aspirations for themselves and their children.