



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Catholic Charities Diocese of Fresno Appoints New Executive Director

(FRESNO, CA) – Catholic Charities Diocese of Fresno announces Jeff Negrete as the Community Benefit Organization’s new executive director. Kelly Lilles will be leaving her role as the organization’s current Executive Director after having served the agency for 11 years.

“We can’t thank Kelly enough for her years of devotion to Catholic Charities as she fully committed herself to our mission and changing the lives of individuals and families in crisis,” said Catholic Charities Board Chair John A. Ferdinandi. “Kelly entered the organization when it was in great need and thanks to her collective body of work, she is leaving it in a much better position than when she arrived over a decade ago.”

“Change is not always easy, but now is the perfect time for this type of transition,” said Lilles. “Catholic Charities continues to address systematic poverty, while inventing new and creative ways to get families out of crisis situations and on the road to self-sufficiency. Catholic Charities has and always will hold a special place in my heart, and I will continue to be involved as a donor and volunteer in years to come.”

To prepare for Lilles’ departure, Catholic Charities’ board developed a search committee to actively explore and vet potential candidates for the executive director position.

“After evaluating many qualified candidates to lead our organization forward with the kind of compassion, leadership and experience we were seeking, we couldn’t be happier to welcome Jeff Negrete to the Catholic Charities family,” said Ferdinandi.

Negrete has served on numerous CBO boards in the community – helping those with the greatest needs in many capacities. Most recently, Negrete was employed as the Director of Fund Development at Poverello House.

“I have always admired Catholic Charities’ commitment to helping those less fortunate in the Valley and throughout the world,” said Negrete. “I’m honored to join such a dynamic leadership team, and I can’t thank Bishop Ochoa and the Board of Directors for putting their faith in me to lead this great and giving organization. It’s a great responsibility that I fully embrace.”

Negrete will begin his new role as Executive Director of Catholic Charities Diocese of Fresno on November 13, 2018.

About Catholic Charities Diocese of Fresno:

Catholic Charities Diocese of Fresno is a Community Benefit Organization serving the needs of those in crisis with sites in Fresno, Merced and Bakersfield. Services provided by the organization include food, clothing and other basic necessities, regardless of age, race or beliefs. Families who are experiencing difficult economic times can come to Catholic Charities to ease the burden of caring for their families as they lend a helping hand.

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