



CATHOLIC
Diocese of Fresno
CHARITIES

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Children’s Book Fair & Literacy Event to be Held During Catholic Charities’ Healthy Neighborhood Market on June 28

(FRESNO, CA) – On Thursday, June 28th, Dora Westerlund, Liz Spencer and a group of Latinas from throughout the community will come together during Catholic Charities’ monthly Healthy Neighborhood Market to encourage reading and a healthy lifestyle. The Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation, Harris Construction and Valley PBS will be reading and distributing books for children to take home, handing out bookmarks, coloring sheets and crayons, and hosting special appearances from Clifford the Big Red Dog.

Catholic Charities’ Healthy Neighborhood Markets, held in partnership with Community Food Bank, are held on the fourth Thursday of every month and feed approximately 1,400 people within just a few hours with 20,000 to 40,000 pounds of healthy fruits and vegetables.

“Through this special literacy event, we hope to provide a brief escape for kids to discover the joy in reading and learning while their parents receive the food assistance they need to feed their families at home,” said Dora Westerlund, CEO of the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation.

The event will take place in the Catholic Charities parking lot at 149 N. Fulton Street, Fresno, CA 93701. Catholic Charities is a Community Benefit Organization serving the needs of those in crisis regardless of race, age or religious beliefs. Families experiencing difficult economic times are invited to seek assistance year-round in the form of food, clothing and other basic necessities. In addition to food and clothing services, the organization also operates a Thrift Store, a Career and Education Center, a Senior Companion Program and a Representative Payee Assistance Program.

“Catholic Charities works diligently to provide its clients with the tools they need to get back on their feet and become self-sufficient,” said Kelly Lilles, Executive Director of Catholic Charities Diocese of Fresno. “By promoting early childhood literacy and reading at home through events such as this, we hope to break the cycle of multi-generational poverty and expose children and their parents to the joy of reading and the many positive outcomes it can lead towards.”

Annually, Catholic Charities provides services to over 140,000 clients through sites in Fresno, Bakersfield and Merced. Catholic Charities holds highly coveted ratings on Charity Navigator and GuideStar for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency and \$0.90 of every dollar goes directly to programs and services.