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Press Release

For immediate release

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Father Joe Carroll Retires as CEO of Father Joe's Villages

As Father Joe turns 70 on April 12, 2011, he has announced that he has decided to retire from his position as CEO of Father Joe Villages and its partner agencies (St. Vincent de Paul Village, Martha's Village & Kitchen, and Toussaint Youth Villages). He will assume the role of President Emeritus. This will allow him to spend more time focused on fundraising for all of Father Joe's Villages.

The need for the services of Father Joe's Villages has increased dramatically over the years, yet with the downturn of the economy, donations have decreased. Fundraising is crucial this year, and Father Joe has been successful at it for over 30 years. With Father Joe's retirement, Father Joe's Villages' Board Chair, Steve Francis, and St. Vincent de Paul Village Board Chair, Vince Kasperick, will be acting as interim co-CEOs. A search for a permanent replacement CEO has begun.

"I am most proud of the lives the Villages have impacted. In the last 30 years we have grown from one building and limited services to six Villages with comprehensive medical, dental and psychiatric services and life-changing services for over 15,000 adults and children annually," said Father Joe Carroll.

"Father Joe realized a meal was only the first step; there needed to be a more substantial collection of programs and services in place to positively impact the lives of San Diego's homeless. With that in mind, he devised the idea of an urban oasis, organizing a board of prominent San Diegans who joined him in putting into action his visionary plans of building a Village within a city," said Steve Francis, chair of the Father Joe's Villages board of directors. "Father Joe developed a model that is so much more than just housing or feeding homeless individuals and families. His innovative 'one-stop-shopping' approach to rehabilitation has profoundly impacted the entire country's philosophy of care by placing clients in a respectful and dignified environment, while facilitating easy access to a comprehensive list of

services.”

In 1982, Bishop Leo T. Maher appointed Father Joe to create a “preferential option for the poor.” Father Joe took on that task with dedication and passion. Three short years later he and the Villages gained the first of many national accolades by being featured on CBS’s “60 Minutes.” In 1987, the first St. Vincent de Paul Village facility was built, the Joan Kroc Center, and Father Joe was highlighted on ABC News as the “Person of the Week.” Two U.S. Presidents have also recognized Father Joe’s work: President George H. W. Bush recognized St. Vincent de Paul Village as the 42nd “Point of Light” and President Bill Clinton bestowed upon Father Joe the President’s Service Award.

As St. Vincent de Paul Village Chairman Vince Kasperick expressed, “Father Joe has accomplished so much for the underserved in San Diego. He has become an iconic figure. One could only dream of creating even half of the living legacy of Father Joe. I am glad he will never fully retire. He is the best fundraiser I know! And we really need him now.”

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Father Joe’s Villages® is a San Diego-based nonprofit that helps homeless neighbors in need regain their self-sufficiency through a unique life-changing program that is nationally recognized and modeled for its effectiveness. Our groundbreaking approach to rehabilitation, known as the “University of the Human Spirit,” addresses the underlying causes of homelessness to break the cycle and help thousands of people become responsible, self-sufficient, productive citizens and pass their newfound independence and life skills on to their children and families. When we help one person, we help generations of families and communities.

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