



# LA CASA Newsletter

## Hello All,

Some stats from the home; Orangewood provides care for an average of 64 kids a day. Ninety percent are ages 6 & above. Neglect makes up 46% of the referrals with the rest made up of abandonment, physical and sexual abuse. Thanks to the amazing

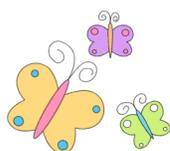
support from all of you. Every month we meet and are able to provide the kids with whatever modest request they may have, whether it be some flag football gear or a field trip to a local spot, like the Aquarium and/or a restaurant.

## LA CASA/Auxiliary's Contributions to the Children

LaCasa with the major support from it's Chapters, Las Amigas and La Familia, has already begun a new year with money for programs and needs that will have a direct effect on the children.

LaCasa has approved a budget that will include:

- On Site Special Programs
- Valentine's Party
- Cinco de Mayo Celebration
- Fourth of July Parade
- Beach Day Newport Dunes
- Halloween Dance and Party
- Field Trips for the School and the Cottages
- Books for the children and the Library
- Special Author visitors with book signings
- Filled Diaper Bags for the very smallest ones.
- And Special Cottage Funds to bring



new life and excitement to the cottages which has allowed each cottage discretionary funds to provide unique and appropriate entertainment for each child/children in the cottage.

LaCasa is also providing funds for a 'Healthy Snack Bar' for the children and their families during visitation, helping the children recognize and choose healthy snacks.

Recently LaCasa has provided funds for renovation and improving areas in and around the cottages. Including new patio furniture, BBQ's, and reward areas used for those children and teens going the extra mile and remaining positive in a not always so positive time in their lives. Providing money for exciting, adventurous fieldtrips to Disneyland, SeaWorld, Long Beach Aquarium, Knotts, as well as K-1 Racing and providing unique cultural experiences to enhance tolerance.

**A huge thanks to our wonderful auxiliary La Familia & Las Amigas for all the hard work you do for the kids!**



## Upcoming Calendar of Events

- ☺ Memorial Day
- ☺ 4th of July Celebration
- ☺ Luau
- ☺ Beach Day

**A special thanks to one of our esteemed Board Members Detlef Herrmann for bringing over a shed and dropping it off at the Adolescent Girls cottage providing some very needed storage for all of things we have given**

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## Our Focus

Our focus is to provide the children that come through the doors of Orangewood with as comfortable a stay as possible. We want to make the traumatic experience of being taken away from your guardians a little less painful. To do this we at La Casa

work closely with the staff to plan events, develop activities and anything else we can provide the children to make their stay better. Whether that is a field trip to the Zoo, music devices, or a cooking class, the children appreciate it.

## Changes Taking Place Around Orangewood

With new court rulings and changes in the childcare laws, more and more of the little ones are being placed in alternative care. When the little ones first come into the home, their first stop is First Step. Every effort has always been to place children with family and close friends first, followed by placement in Foster Care, then Orangewood. However, there are many children that are not easily placed into Foster Care, those children (usually older) come with

a multitude of issues, many with special needs that require one-on-one or sometimes two-on-one care. Orangewood has stepped up to the challenge and these special needs children are thriving and doing well.



## LA CASA Yesterday and Today

**LaCasa** is an all-volunteer organization, funded 100% by donations, brought together to support abandoned, neglected and abused children in Orange County. Founded in 1980 as an auxiliary to support the Albert Sitton Home, replaced by Orangewood Children's Home in August 1985. In 2010, Orangewood changed their name to Orangewood Children and Family Center. **LaCasa** will continue to focus on and support abandoned, neglected and abused children in Orange County at Orangewood.

**LaCasa's** main objective is to enhance the environment of the children undergoing this difficult transition with memories of love and caring while providing positive activities and adventures to nurture and to remember.

**LaCasa** is committed to making special memories for the children while they are in residence at Orangewood. Through **LaCasa's** activities, Orangewood's children are able to forget their troubled past, if even for just a few hours. These activities also allow the children to enjoy the simple pleasures of being a child.

Additionally, members of **LaCasa's Las Amigas** and **La Familia Chapters** have been involved with the children of Orange County for over 50 years, supplying the necessary fundraising activities to help support these programs.

In 2015 so far we have continued on the success of last year. We are continuing to fund activities that promote, education and well being. Some of these special activities include focusing on the health and wellbeing of the children and teaching them life lessons including planting a Herb Garden with the children maintaining it as well as focusing on physical fitness. With Food and Exercise as the focus, the children will become more focused on a healthy body for living and learning.

## Holiday Recap

The Christmas Tree Wonderland event this past December was a complete success! With over 400 guests in attendance, \$29,000 was raised!



## New Website!

It is still in its preliminary phase but come take a look at [www.ochlacasa.org](http://www.ochlacasa.org).

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## Highlights From The Home:

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La Casa takes pride and is always excited when we can make the children have an easier time with their situation. If we can put a smile on their faces and enrich their lives while they are here at the home we are doing our job. Below are just a few things that your contributions have accomplished in the past 6 months.



- There is nothing like looking your best for the holidays so during this past holiday season, the kids were given new dressy clothes making them feel so special!

- The Adolescent Boys sure are active and with the recent purchase of flag football equipment, they will be able to let their energy out in a fun and healthy way!
- The Valentine's Day party was a real hit! The chil-



dren had a fun day of arts and crafts including t-shirt decorating.

- The kids also got into the Irish spirit with their St. Patrick's Day celebration. They enjoyed a Pot o' Gold search and feasted on Shepard's Pie.

- Easter was a blast at the home! The children loved the Easter egg hunt and crafts.



- All the children had a real jumpin' time at the trampoline park!
- The Boys were ecstatic to find a new Xbox One in their cottage.

- The Intermediate Girls enjoyed a cooking class and, of course, loved eating their delicious creations!



- Several of the girls also spent a great day out having Tea and Donuts! Yum!
- Everyone loves a good book, the kids enjoyed a story read to them by a storyteller!
- The juniors got to spend the day having fun and learning at the Discovery Science Center.

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## Getting Involved...

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### Fighting Child Abuse

When LaCasa transitioned from the Albert Sitton Home to Orangewood Children's Home in 1984 it was the beginning of a new day at Orangewood. Through the benefits of volunteers and donations, LaCasa has been able to impact the lives of these children on an almost daily basis with exceptional educational and recreational activities. Times have changed, but life for an abused child has not... with your continued support through LaCasa we have been able to meet these changing needs with Enthusiasm and Love.

### How Each Dollar is Spent

LaCasa has a proven track record of making good use of the gifts entrusted to us. Nearly One Hundred percent of every dollar is used directly to benefit the children.

### We Need YOUR Help!

Without your donations and continued membership we are not able to continue the work that we so love to do... And that these children so need and appreciate. Please take a moment and consider us in your donation dollars for this year. And put a smile on a child's face that might otherwise only remember the abuse and neglect that brought him to Orangewood in the first place.

### What do I need to do?

Please complete the form on the back page and send it to LaCasa, PO Box 4425, Huntington Beach, CA, 92605-4425. Make your check payable to **LaCasa** and remember all donations are tax deductible (tax id # 95-3681176).

### On behalf of the children...

Thank you for your continued support.

Bill Wheeler, President

### Contact us

E-mail: [och.lacasa@gmail.com](mailto:och.lacasa@gmail.com)

Website: [www.ochlacasa.org](http://www.ochlacasa.org)



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 Huntington Beach, CA 92605-4425

<b>* La Casa CONTRIBUTION / MEMBERSHIP FORM</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Dual Membership \$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Membership \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Membership \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Contribution \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Contribution \$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation of \$_____	
Street:	
City:	Zip:
*E-Mail:	

*Miracles happen every day!*

(\*Please be assured that your information will not be sold or shared. All information will be used for internal purposes only.)