



# LA CASA Newsletter

## What's Happening at Orangewood

Since our last writing lots of things have been happening:

- All the children's cottages have been reorganized. Junior Boys and Girls are the stars right now.
- The Pool is OPEN... a fun time for all
- Yoga & Pilates Classes are continuing

- The new healthy menus are a Hit!
- And the Video Games have been repaired!! Keeping the kids cool in the heat of the summer.

## 3rd Quarter Calendar of Events

- ☺ Summer Luau
- ☺ Earth Day Celebrations
- ☺ 4th of July Parade
- ☺ LaCasa's Beach Day at Newport Dunes

## 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
- Super Bowl Party
- Cinco de Mayo Celebration
- Fourth of July Parade
- Teen Beach Day
- 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, as well as K-1 Racing and providing unique cultural experiences to enhance tolerance



## A Special Thank you to :

C & L Custom Varsity Letterman Jackets for helping provide a lifetime memory for a special young lady

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Special Thanks to Don & Ellen Goodwin For a very generous Cash donation



## LA CASA 2013

### From the President

My current focus is to work closely with the Orangewood Management and Staff to develop more positive events and activities for the children residing at OCFC.

My goal is to increase membership, support the Las Amigas and La Familia Chapters in their efforts to raise funds, which will in turn; support the events and activities for the children residing at OCFC.

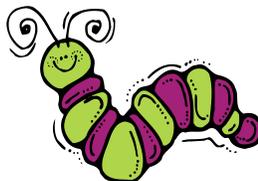
I am also excited about all the sup-

port we receive from the Community with their in-kind as well as cash donations, such as Diamond Bar High School for donating lots and lots of items for our Diaper Bag Program. You all help make it possible!

## 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. While 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 and 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 'fun'draising activities to help support these programs.

In 2013, 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

## Chapter Corner

Orangewood and **LaCasa** are so blessed to have two amazing Chapters that not only fundraise to help support the programs that we offer, but also have GREAT FUN in the process. Recently **Jim & Judy Fleming** hosted an incredible party... furnished all the goods and donated all the proceeds to LaCasa... Whoo hoo!!

In February, Malarkey's hosted a special fund raising dinner and LaCasa was the beneficiary to a great donation... special thanks to everyone that participated and to Malarkey's for making it happen!!

And Joyce Brown has been busy 'going to meetings' and coming home with more \$\$\$\$ to help support LaCasa's programs for Orangewood. Thank you Joyce and to the **Newport Beach Elks** for their generous donation to LaCasa!!

## Highlights From The Home:

- Since January, the population has remained lower than previous years, usually less than 80 everyday. This has been attributed to less children being admitted and more being placed with relatives, Foster Care and Group Homes,
- First Step, is the first stop when children arrive at OCF. Many of these children are being placed with family, friends and others quicker than we have seen in the past. However, they are still experiencing about 90 children a month walking through their doors.
- The Juniors Cottage is a great place. (currently under construction) There is lots of positive energy coming from there and they are very active... getting out and going places and doing things that kids should be doing :)
- The Adolescent Boys are planning some fun events. One of their goals is to go K-! Racing... definitely not for the faint of heart... but then these are Teen Boys we are talking about !!
- The Intermediate Girls are looking forward to a fun day at the Pirate Show in Buena Park where they will be treated to dinner and an exciting evening of fighting... well, they are teenage girls :)

- The Adolescent Girls are wanting to redo their Honor Room and make it new again with new bed linens and a new Television... and because they have so many great girls they want to make a second Honor room and do it up right too!! In fact, all the girls are getting new bed linens and comforters to spruce their rooms up... looking pretty good girls!!!



## Getting Involved...

### 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.  
Sally Keller, President

Contact us  
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<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 \$ _____	
Name:	
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.)