

HEARTLINES 2023



"Casa Pacifica has helped me climb this steep hill."

– Gabriel, 19

STORY ON PAGE 9



CASA PACIFICA
CENTERS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES



IN THIS ISSUE

Our Impact

PAGE 4

Together for a Cause

PAGE 5

A Place to Call Home

PAGE 9

Our Community

PAGE 11

Our Volunteers

PAGE 12

Ways to Give

PAGE 13

Corporate Leaders

PAGE 18



From Our CEO and Board President

For nearly 30 years, Casa Pacifica has been building a team and developing a culture to support our mission and the needs of our communities.

Our founding commitment to help children and families thrive provides the foundation for every program and service we offer. From our prevention and early intervention efforts to our life-changing mental health programs and services, Casa Pacifica is committed to building resilience to help our youth achieve stability, safety and well-being.

We continue to partner with our counties around the evolving needs of our communities – and that puts us at the forefront of changing lives.

As part of our mission, Casa Pacifica is increasing services to transitional age youth, who often face a perilous transition to adulthood. The threat of homelessness and the fear of isolation, along with financial insecurity, can impact their ability to build a healthy future. Our Transitional Youth Services (TYS) program ensures that vulnerable young adults

have access to the tools and opportunities they need to work toward healthy and enriching lives, drawing on our history of helping system-involved youth transition into independent and sustainable adulthood.

Today, we continue to innovate our TYS program to make lasting change and help break the cycle of homelessness among vulnerable young adults. We know all too well the dire statistics and realities they face. Casa Pacifica aims to positively respond to the challenges transitional age youth experience once they age out of the system.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to our mission, our team, our funding partners, donors and volunteers. Standing on the same belief that has been our foundation for nearly 30 years, our strength is in what we know is true: that every youth deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential.

As we move forward, we will continue to meet the moment – advocating, collaborating and ensuring families are strong, and that our youth thrive in them.

Shawna Morris, MPA
Chief Executive Officer

Robert E. Wynner
Board President



Board of Directors

Robert E. Wynner
PRESIDENT

Heidi Whitcomb
VICE PRESIDENT

Eric Shain
TREASURER

John S. Broome, Jr.
ASSISTANT TREASURER

Melissa Livingston
SECRETARY

Rosalind C. Warner, M.D.
PAST PRESIDENT

Brenda Allison

Bill Ayub

Marni Brook

Michael W. Case, Esq.

Keets Cassar

Charles W. Cohen, Esq.

Brick Conners

Beth deHamel

Daniel Friedlander, Esq.

Richard Hernandez

Ayla Kalani

John Kearney

Sean L. Leonard

Richard MacLennan, Ed.D.

Patrick Nygren

Terri Parks

Adam Thunell

Celina L. Zacarias



Casa Pacifica helps more than 2,000 at-risk youth and families every year. Our exceptional mental health programs and services provide strengths-based, trauma-responsive and individualized services to help youth heal from anxiety, depression and other mental health challenges.

We work with youth and families from **every community** in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.



Every **4.1 hours** we admit a child into one of our programs, on **average, six youth a day**



Nearly **50,000 children** have been admitted to one of our programs since opening in 1994



93% of youth discharged from residential programs moved to lower levels of care



91% of children and youth across all programs successfully met their treatment goals



We handled an average of **189 crisis calls a month** in Santa Barbara County

OUR KIDS FIND SUCCESS AFTER LEAVING CASA PACIFICA:

94%
ARE IN SCHOOL

99%
ARE LIVING IN A HOME ENVIRONMENT

93%
ARE NOT PSYCHIATRICALY HOSPITALIZED

96%
HAVE NO CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

Together for A Cause

Casa Pacifica supporters came out in force for at-risk children and young adults during the **10th Annual Top Chef Yummie Dinner**, held May 5 at Rancho de Las Palmas in Moorpark. A delectable **seven-course meal** prepared by the region's top chefs, a high-energy **live auction** and a **heartwarming speech** from a Casa Pacifica youth were among the highlights of the benefit dinner, hosted for the ninth year by the Cassar family.



THANK YOU TO OUR CHEFS

Chef Alex Castillo
LATITUDE 34

Chef Alex Montoya
WATER'S EDGE, HONEY CUP
COFFEEHOUSE & CREAMERY

Chef Damien Giliberti
OX & OCEAN

Chef Ali Kenis
SUGAR LAB BAKE SHOP

Chef Nic Manocchio
UNIVERSITY AUXILIARY SERVICES, CSUCI

Chef Julia San Bartolome
SWEET ARLEEN'S

Sky Sunner
HAPPY PLACE EATERY

FEATURED WINES & BREWERY:



Top Chef Yummie Dinner chefs



Hosts Hugh and Keets Cassar

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 WINNERS

YUMMIE CULINARY COMPETITION:

SAVORY

1ST PLACE:

CHEF ALEX MONTOYA
Water's Edge

2ND PLACE:

PHIL ADLER
Freda's Pizza & Woodfired Kitchen

3RD PLACE:

CHEF DANIELLE SALEH
Onyx Bistro

SWEET

1ST PLACE:

CHEF ALEX MONTOYA
Honey Cup Coffeehouse & Creamery

2ND PLACE:

CHEF DAMIEN GILIBERTI
Ox & Ocean

3RD PLACE:

JACKIE ROME
Cocoa Rome Chocolate Company

BEST IN FEST BREW:

1ST PLACE:

CENTRAL COAST BREWING

2ND PLACE:

TARANTULA HILL BREWING CO.

3RD PLACE:

MADEWEST BREWING CO.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR HOSTS:

The Van Huisen Family



Nevers, Palazzo, Packard,
Wildermuth & Wynner, PC

Save The Date!



CASA PACIFICA ANGELS *Wine, Food & Brew* FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND, 2024

Ventura County's premiere wine, food and brew event returned on Sunday, June 4, at California State University Channel Islands. More than 3,500 guests attended the Angels Wine, Food & Brew Festival, indulging in a diverse selection of mouth-watering eats, premium wines and unique craft brews and IPAs from more than 150 area restaurants, caterers, wineries, breweries, bakeries and specialty shops. We wish to thank our incredible hosts, sponsors, guests, chefs, vendors and volunteers whose generosity powers our mission. **We look forward to seeing you at next year's event!**

Visit our website for a full list of participating sponsors and vendors!
cpwinefoodbrewfest.com







A Place to Call Home

CASA PACIFICA HELPS GIVE AT-RISK YOUNG ADULTS A TANGIBLE FUTURE

Nineteen-year-old Gabriel knows what it's like to be hungry and homeless on the streets.

“You want to sleep but you can't because of the weather and how scared you are. You don't know what to expect when you close your eyes,” he says.

Gabriel entered foster care when he was 15 after years of conflict with an emotionally abusive parent. He came to Casa Pacifica with “a gash on my heart, and little hope for my future.” For the last seven months, his team has helped him adjust to his new environment, get his education back on track and support him in what he calls the basics: writing a daily schedule, making lists and grocery shopping.

As part of its mission to improve the lives of the community's most vulnerable youth and young adults, Casa Pacifica will soon convert three of its campus cottages into 27 units of supportive housing for young adults, aged 18-25, who are at risk of homelessness. Each suite will have its own bedroom and shared kitchen, laundry and common areas. Casa Pacifica youth are contributing ideas for the design, including color schemes, flooring and amenities.

The expanded housing is part of the agency's Stepping Stones program, launched in 2012, to help young people who lack support from family

members or other trusted adults. Along with life skills training, the program provides an array of supportive services including mental health services, educational assistance, financial literacy training, parenting skills and health care.

The innovative collaboration involves Casa Pacifica, California's Project Homekey, community philanthropy and the County of Ventura.

“This population is growing out of adolescence and into adulthood and trying to navigate the developmental challenges associated with this period of life, including attaining self-sufficiency and gaining responsibility for themselves,” says Christian Perez, director of Casa Pacifica's Transitional Youth Services. “We want to help them create a vision for the future that is filled with possibility.”



AFTER AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE,

1 in 4

CALIFORNIA FOSTER YOUTH
EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS.

1 in 5

HOMELESS YOUTH REPORT
HAVING A MENTAL ILLNESS.

Kara, an 18-year-old resident, entered the Stepping Stones program in 2021.

She says Casa Pacifica helped her get through mental health struggles that included depression and suicidal ideation by teaching her how to come to terms with her turbulent past.

“A big part of my story was coming here and just opening up to people about difficulties growing up in an unstable and sometimes violent home. Ultimately I was able to let go of my resentment and learn to trust other people,” Kara says.

Kara hopes to one day become a social worker and is currently enrolled at a community college.

“Prolonged instability and a lack of strong family and community connections can leave many young people struggling to find their footing as adults. We walk side by side with them so they can overcome challenges, build resilience and embrace their potential,” says Shawna Morris, MPA, CEO, Casa Pacifica.

Casa Pacifica’s renovation project is supported by a mix of county funding, state Homekey funds and private support.

“Casa Pacifica is serving a great need as one of the first nonprofits in the region with housing specifically for young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Young people who face challenges, particularly those who have touched the foster or juvenile justice systems, deserve access to housing and a continuum of services to help them thrive and enjoy productive,

satisfying lives. A safe and stable place to call home opens doors to the future for young people, and Casa Pacifica is giving at-risk youth the opportunity for a brighter future,” said Dr. Sevet Johnson, CEO, County of Ventura.

Jared, 22, was couch surfing and battling undiagnosed depression for two years before coming to Casa Pacifica.

“I felt broken,” he said.

His mother struggled with substance abuse for much of Jared’s young life. By the age of 16 he was moving between various family members’ homes or sleeping on friends’ couches. He entered the foster care system and eventually had no place to live once he turned 18.

Jared is now in his sixth month at Casa Pacifica. His goals are to continue his education and one day pursue a business degree.

“Being in this program is helping me get back on my feet. The connection I have with the staff feels real, like they actually care what happens to me, and that’s not something I’m used to having,” he says.

Morris is optimistic that stable housing and high-quality supportive services will help struggling young adults build resilience and embrace their potential.

“The opportunity to expand our program and accommodate even more youth is a privilege and a true affirmation of the incredible work Casa Pacifica has done over the last 29 years to build strong communities. We are grateful for the thoughtful investment in this important population, and we are excited to welcome the young people who will call this program home.”





Summit Wealth Management setting up for the sold-out Angels Wine, Food & Brew Festival

Making a Difference in Our Communities

Throughout the year, our Casa Pacifica family finds unique and meaningful ways to support our youth. We appreciate all of these efforts – big and small – which ultimately help us carry out our mission of building bright futures for at-risk children, families and young adults.



BrightView Landscape donating their time to making our campus beautiful



Staff from JP Morgan spreading Christmas cheer on campus



Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters – Local 805, winners of Casa Pacifica's 2023 Community Volunteer of the Year Award

Our Volunteers Have Heart!

“

“Volunteering for Casa Pacifica gives me a feeling of fulfillment and gratitude knowing that I am making a difference in the lives of at-risk children and youth.

As a volunteer Angel for more than 20 years, I’ve made incredible memories and friends while helping Casa Pacifica give vulnerable young people the essential support they need and deserve. I am so proud to be associated with an organization filled with so many dedicated employees and volunteers who help give hope and a better future to children and youth in need.”

– Terri Parks, 2023 Volunteer of the Year

Volunteers are the heart of Casa Pacifica and help to carry our mission forward. Whether it’s pitching in at an event, serving on an event committee or collecting much-needed items for our young people, the passionate commitment of our volunteers is priceless and greatly impacts our youth and communities. We are immeasurably grateful!



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Join the Angels or Amigos and help bring joy to the children and youth of Casa Pacifica! **Our dedicated volunteers:**

- Help with our annual children’s parties
- Plan fundraising events
- Volunteer on campus

NO TIME TO VOLUNTEER?

You can still join. **An annual membership of \$50** helps the Angels and Amigos provide fun activities and is an investment in a child’s future. A membership also makes a great gift for friends and family!

Angels Board

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the Development Department at **805-366-4023** or sign up online at www.casapacifica.org.

Tamiann Cook | PRESIDENT
Susan Burgos
Christine Crawford-Yorihiro
Kathy Fiscalini
Letti Fisher
Cindi Fredrick
Maria Godinez

Karen Hoffmann
Deborah Meyer-Morris, Esq.
Dawn Norkewicz
Terri Parks
Lori Silvey
Masha Smirnova
Van Stephenson

Michele Sturt
Maureen Turley-Gutierrez
Patty Turnage
Christina Zins
Oksana Zussman

Holiday Giving Opportunities

Opening presents during the holidays is a tradition that many people, especially young people, look forward to. But not every youth is that fortunate.

You can help make the holidays bright for the children and young adults of Casa Pacifica by participating in our annual Dove Wishes gift-giving program. Every year, gifts and contributions from people in the community have ensured the

most vulnerable in our community can partake in the warmth and joy of the holiday season.

Consider participating in the **Dove Wishes program** by purchasing gifts, hosting a gift card drive or making a monetary donation to support the ongoing needs of the young adults in our care. Your generosity makes an impact for those who need it most. ***Thank you for your support!***



TOP 20 KIDS WISHES

- Gift cards
- SanDisk Clip Jam MP3 player
- Nintendo Switch games (teen rated and under)
- Wired headphones
- DVD's (PG-13 and under)
- Sporting goods
- Board games
- Journals
- Art supplies including acrylic paints, brushes and canvas
- Items to decorate rooms (battery-operated lights, rugs, posters of popular movies and TV shows)
- Bed-in-a bag (twin sizes)
- Vans or Converse (adult sizes)
- Sephora make-up
- Bath and Body Works body care products, including lotion and body scrubs
- Women's electric razors
- Cologne/perfume
- Shampoo and conditioner sets (Pantene and Herbal Essence preferred)



MOST REQUESTED GIFT CARDS



Domino's



SEPHORA



FOREVER 21



HOT TOPIC



Adopt a Family

For many of the families we work with, the holidays can be an especially difficult time. **You can help spread the gift of hope through our Adopt a Family program**, which helps parents choose gifts for their children, obtain household items and purchase groceries to keep their pantries stocked.

Gift cards to grocery stores, family restaurants, gas stations and retail stores are a wonderful way to support the needs of our families at this time of year!

YEAR-ROUND GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

➤ SHOP CASA PACIFICA'S REGISTRIES!

You can support Casa Pacifica's mission and help us meet the daily needs of the young people in our care by shopping our Amazon and Target wish lists. Your purchase helps Casa Pacifica provide for the children and young adults in our care every year and sends a powerful message of support.



- **DONATE A GIFT CARD OR HOST A GIFT CARD DRIVE.** Gift cards are one of the most popular requests of our youth, especially teens. Gift cards allow our kids to purchase needed items like clothes as well as snacks or meals during outings with our staff. See above for most requested list!



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DOVES OR ADOPT A FAMILY:

VISIT: casapacificakidswishes.org

EMAIL: wishes@casapacificica.org

CALL: +1 (877) 445-WISH (9474)

Your Legacy Now and Forever

At Casa Pacifica we create opportunities for a brighter future for children, young adults and families in need. **When you leave a legacy gift to Casa Pacifica, you make a significant impact and an investment to ensure we can continue our work for the children, young adults and families we serve.**

THERE ARE A VARIETY OF WAYS TO MAKE A PLANNED GIFT:

➤ Include a gift to Casa Pacifica in your trust or will

- ▶ A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. With the help of an advisor, you can include language in your trust or will specifying a gift be made to Casa Pacifica as part of your estate plan.
 - Please use our legal name and federal tax ID.
 - Legal Name: **Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families**
 - Address: **Camarillo, CA**
 - Federal Tax ID Number: **77-0195022**

➤ Name Casa Pacifica as a beneficiary of your IRA

- ▶ If you are 70^{1/2} or older, you can contact your IRA administrator to transfer any amount up to \$100,000 per year directly from your IRA to Casa Pacifica. Along with an immediate impact at Casa Pacifica, your IRA charitable rollover gift (also referred to as a qualified charitable deduction or QCD) benefits you as well.
 - You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
 - Beginning in the year you turn 73, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution.

➤ Transfer appreciated securities to Casa Pacifica

- ▶ Through your gift of appreciated stocks, mutual funds or bonds directly to Casa Pacifica, you receive an income tax deduction and avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated assets.



Through your investment in Casa Pacifica, you inspire hope and nurture the mental health and well-being of our youth to realize their full potential, now and for years to come. Contact Madeline Serrano Sattler at msattler@casapacifica.org or **(805) 366-4422** for additional information.

The information in this publication is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your attorney or tax advisor. References to tax rates include federal taxes only and are subject to change. State law may further impact your individual results.



Do you know a family whose son or daughter is struggling with emotional or behavioral issues?



CAMINO A CASA®
BY
CASA PACIFICA
The Way Home

The Camino a Casa program serves children and adolescents, ages 12 to 18, struggling with depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts and destructive behaviors. We can help them find *The Way Home*.

Most major insurances accepted | (805) 366-4000 | admissions@casapacifica.org

caminoacasa.org |   

Our Corporate Leaders

CORPORATE LEADERS

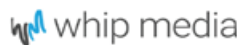
PLATINUM



GOLD



BRONZE



Our Corporate Leaders contribute to Casa Pacifica through annual sponsorship of the agency's major fundraising events. These events are essential in helping fill the annual gap between revenue and actual costs of our mental health programs, which serve more than 2,000 at-risk children, families and young adults every year.

Casa Pacifica gratefully acknowledges the dedication of our Corporate Leaders and their commitment to our mission.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Email Chief Development Officer, Carrie Hughes, at chughes@casapacifica.org



CASA PACIFICA

CENTERS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

CONTACT US!



(805) 366-4040

info@casapacifica.org

1722 S. Lewis Rd., Camarillo, CA 93012

casapacifica.org | caminoacasa.org

SATELLITE OFFICES

751 E. Daily Dr., Suite 320
Camarillo, CA 93010

120 Cremona Lane, Suite 220
Goleta, CA 93117

2615 S. Miller St., Suite 106
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Our Mission:

A Life Worth Living – Casa Pacifica inspires hope and nurtures mental health and well-being of children, young adults and families to realize their full potential.

Mark Your Calender!

22nd Annual Angels Spotlight on Style Fashion Show

Saturday, November 11, 2023
Four Seasons Westlake Village

10th Anniversary Top Chef Yummie Dinner

Friday, May 3, 2024
Rancho de Las Palmas

30th Anniversary Angels Wine, Food & Brew Festival

Sunday, June 2, 2024
Cal State University Channel Islands

