

HEARTLINES

2024



CASA PACIFICA®
CENTERS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Bree D.

FORMER FOSTER YOUTH, 30TH
ANNIVERSARY KEYNOTE SPEAKER

A New HOME
FOR TRANSITIONAL AGE YOUTH

30 YEARS
of Hope & Healing

HISTORIC PICTURES FROM THE PAST 30 YEARS

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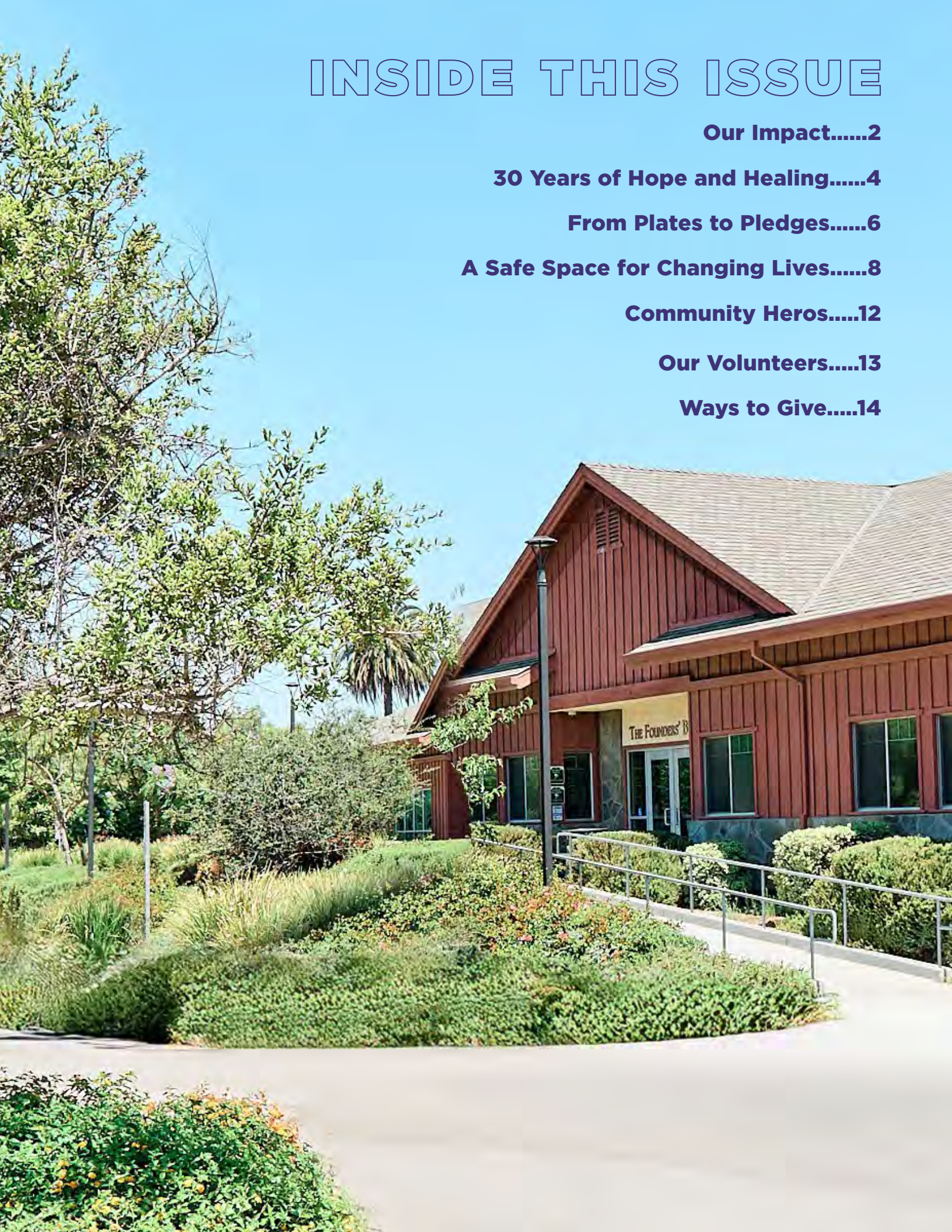
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From Our CEO and Board President

As we commemorate Casa Pacifica's 30th anniversary, we are filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering support of our donors and volunteers. Your dedication has been the cornerstone of our mission to provide hope and healing to the children and youth of our community.

Over the past three decades, Casa Pacifica has evolved and grown, continuously adapting to meet the needs of our community. Our journey began with a vision to create a haven for children in crisis, offering them a safe space to heal and grow. With your support, we have transformed countless lives, offering comprehensive care and services that address the multifaceted needs of our youth.

This milestone year is especially significant as we have intensified our focus on one of our community's most vulnerable populations: transitional age youth. These young people often face daunting challenges as they strive for independence. Recognizing their unique needs, Casa Pacifica has expanded our programs to include stable housing and supportive services specifically tailored to aid in their transition to adulthood. These initiatives are crucial in providing the stability and resources necessary for these young adults to thrive.

Your generosity has been instrumental in making this progress possible. Thanks to you, we can offer vulnerable youth not only a place to live but access to education, employment training, mental health services and life skills development. Your contributions help ensure that these young individuals are equipped with the tools they need to overcome obstacles and build successful, independent lives.

As we look ahead to the future, we remain committed to our mission and are excited about the new opportunities to deepen our impact. Your continued support is vital as we embark on the next chapter of Casa Pacifica's story.

Thank you for standing with us over the past 30 years. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and look forward to celebrating many more milestones with you by our side.

With gratitude,



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert E. Wynner - *President*

Heidi Whitcomb - *Vice President*

Eric Shain - *Treasurer*

Melissa Livingston - *Secretary*

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OUR IMPACT

As the largest non-profit provider of children's and adolescent mental health services in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, Casa Pacifica works with more than 2,000 at-risk children, young adults and families every year.

WE ARE CREATING A FUTURE WHERE EVERY CHILD AND YOUTH WHO FACE A MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGE CAN THRIVE:

Every
4.1 HOURS
we admit a child
into one of
OUR PROGRAMS,
on average 6 youth
a day



Nearly
52,250
children have been
admitted to one of
our programs since
OPENING IN 1994



We handled an
average of
172
CRISIS CALLS
a month in Santa
Barbara County



90% of youth
discharged from
residential programs
moved to
LOWER LEVELS
OF CARE



92% of children
and youth across
all programs
SUCCESSFULLY
met their
treatment goals

**OUR RESULTS ARE UNDENIABLE.
AFTER LEAVING CASA PACIFICA:**



96%
of youth
attend school



100%
are living
in a home
environment



99.5% of
youth are not
psychiatrically
hospitalized



99.5% of youth
have no contact
with law
enforcement





More than 200 community and government leaders, advocates, donors and volunteers came together to celebrate Casa Pacifica's 30th anniversary and to mark the culmination of an innovative collaboration nearly three years in the making -- the opening of our new supportive housing for transitional age youth.

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support that made this transformative project possible, helping to secure brighter futures for the most vulnerable in our community.



30 YEARS of Hope & Healing

For 30 years, Casa Pacifica has stood as a beacon of hope for our community. Since our founding in 1994, we have worked tirelessly to serve at risk children, young adults and families through mental health programs that uplift and empower.

Our 30th anniversary is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our dedicated staff, caring donors, compassionate volunteers and supportive community who have worked alongside us to fulfill our mission. Together we have transformed lives, offering support and a path towards a bright future. As we commemorate this significant moment, we renew our pledge to continue our vital work, fueled by the collective spirit of compassion and dedication that defines Casa Pacifica.



From Plates to Pledges:

Wine and Food Events Unite Supporters

Helping at-risk youth and families was on the menu at the 10th Anniversary Top Chef Yummie Dinner, held May 3 at Rancho de Las Palmas in Moorpark. The region's top chefs were out in full force, creating a delectable seven-course meal served by loyal volunteers and Casa Pacifica staff. A high-energy live auction and a heartwarming speech from a Casa Pacifica family were among the highlights of the successful benefit dinner, hosted for the tenth year by the Cassar family.



Thank You TO OUR CHEFS

- Chef Phil Adler**
Freda's Kitchen & Woodfire Grill
- Chef Alex Castillo**
Latitude 34
- Chef Damien Giliberti**
Ox & Ocean
- Chef Nic Manocchio**
University Auxiliary Services, CSUCI
- Chef Alex Montoya**
Water's Edge, Honey Cup Coffeehouse & Creamery
- Chef Danielle Saleh**
Onyx Bistro
- Chef Ali Kenis**
Sugar Lab Bake Shop
- Chef Jackie Rome**
Cocoa Rome Chocolate Company

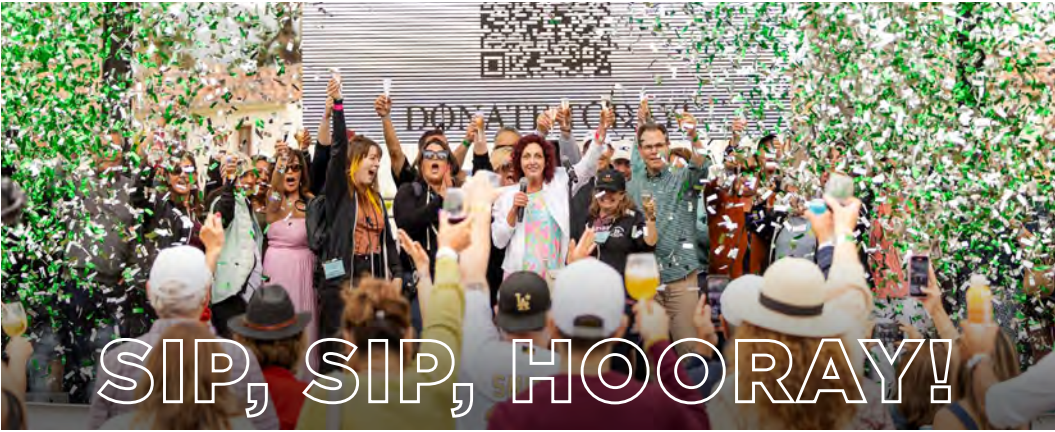
Featured WINES & BREWERY



SAVE THE DATE!



CASA PACIFICA ANGELS
Wine, Food & Brew
FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST, 2025



More than 3,000 attendees flocked to Cal State Channel Islands on June 2nd to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Ventura County's premiere wine and food extravaganza - the Angels Wine, Food & Brew Festival!

Both loyal and first-time Festival go-ers indulged 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 and bakeries. Casa Pacifica's dedicated volunteers were on hand to help ensure an unforgettable day for attendees, including setting up the VIP tent, checking in guests and assisting with our silent auction.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our event committee and to our generous hosts, sponsors, Angels, chefs, vendors, volunteers and guests who helped make "brew-tiful" memories of our 30th anniversary bash!

We can't wait for next year's Festival. Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 1, 2025!

Special thank you to our hosts!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 WINNERS!

YUMMIE CULINARY COMPETITION:

Savory:

- 1st Place:**
Chef Alex Montoya - Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar
- 2nd Place:**
Chef Damien Giliberti - Ox & Ocean
- 3rd Place:**
Chef Carlos Ortiz - Limon y Sal

Sweet:

- 1st Place:**
Chef Martin Ledesma - El Encanto
- 2nd Place:**
Chef Gina Stymacher - Camarillo Cupcake
- 3rd Place:**
Chef Julia San Bartolome - Sweet Arleen's

BEST IN FEST BREW:

- 1st Place:** Leashless Brewing, "Coconut Hazy IPA"
- 2nd Place:** Institution Ale, "Vienna Lager"
- 3rd Place:** Central Coast Brewing, "Juicebox Hero"

Please support the restaurants, wineries and breweries who support Casa Pacifica!
Visit cpwinefoodbrewfest.com for our full list of Festival exhibitors.





A SAFE SPACE *for Changing Lives*

Casa Pacifica helps anchor young adults with integrated housing and therapeutic services

Nineteen-year-old Sophia straightens a plush purple throw blanket on her bed. “This is my favorite thing in here,” she says, gesturing to her bedroom which features a twin-sized bed, a blonde wood desk and two wood dressers. Framed photos of the ocean dot the soft white walls. A denim jacket hangs from the corner of the armoire.

The 19-year-old, who has lived between foster and residential care homes since she was seven years old, is one of the first residents of Casa Pacifica’s newly renovated suites for transitional age youth. The agency recently completed a six-month renovation of three of its campus cottages to create 27 units specifically designed for at-risk young adults, ages 18-25, who have touched the foster care/probation system or are at a high risk of homelessness.

The new suites evoke the warm and communal atmosphere of a college dormitory and can accommodate both individuals and single parents and families, nearly tripling the number of young adults that Casa Pacifica can support. The fully furnished cottages feature nine bedrooms along with a shared kitchen, laundry and common areas. Several of the bedrooms are designed to house young adults with children.

In addition to secure housing, transitional age residents receive crucial support services including case management, mental health services, educational assistance, life skills training and connections to valuable community resources through Casa Pacifica’s Transitional Youth Services (TYS) program. Staff are trained in the Transition to Independence Process (TIP) model, an evidence-based practice for providing transitional age youth with developmentally appropriate services as they prepare for greater self-sufficiency and goal achievement.



Nationally, approximately...

29% of youth without housing between the ages of 13 and 25 have spent time in foster care.

Of the youth who age out of foster care an estimated **25%** will be involved in the justice system.

In California, close to **31%** of transition-age foster youth experience homelessness.

“The space is great and the support is more than I could hope for. I wake up every day and feel that I have direction and that’s not something I’m used to,” Sophia says.

Sophia said her teenage years were filled with chaos and uncertainty, and she often felt unsafe at home. She frequently stayed with friends and partners but never for more than a month at a time.

“I went wherever the wind took me. Sometimes I had no idea where I was going to lay my head and that made me want to give up even more,” she says.

Christan Schuyler is the Director of Casa Pacifica’s Transitional Youth Services (TYS) program, which aims to help young people identify and understand their feelings, learn effective coping skills and begin to heal from life’s challenges.

“The transition between being a youth and being a young adult is an extremely challenging time,” Schuyler explains. “Many of our youth don’t have a steady person to help guide them. They struggle with decisions about where to live, whether to attend college or how they will support themselves. Our job is to walk next to them and help them acquire critical thinking, planning and decision-making skills so they can take that step to greater independence.”

When 21-year-old Troy first entered foster care at 12 years old, he was certain he would be adopted. But, in what felt like no time at all, foster care swallowed his teenage years. The system moved him across Southern California. Each time he moved, he hoped the next house would hold adoptive parents. But it never did.

“Our expanded housing will be a game-changer for our community in terms of improving the quality of life for its most vulnerable citizens – young people who face challenges and have no place to call home,” explains Shawna Morris, MPA, Casa Pacifica’s Chief Executive Officer. “This milestone achievement allows Casa Pacifica

and our partners in the county and community to ensure at-risk young adults have what they need to be happier, safer and on the path to a bright future.”

When Troy first came to Casa Pacifica, he was embarrassed to ask staff how to cook an egg.

“I’ve always wanted to learn to cook. At Casa Pacifica I learned how to prepare more nutritious meals and I’m much better in the kitchen now,” he says.

In addition to working part-time and building his credit, Troy is on the wait list for the Casa Pacifica Culinary

Continued on Page 10

“Casa Pacifica has been the anchor that kept me from drifting to another couch.” – Troy



“Casa Pacifica has brought me so much relief.”

In addition to working part-time and building his credit, Troy is on the wait list for the Casa Pacifica Culinary Vocational Education Program, where he will learn various skills such as dishwashing, food preparation and food service. Once Troy completes the culinary vocational program he will obtain his food handler’s card, and train for job placement opportunity in a commercial kitchen.

Casa Pacifica’s campus conversion is the result of an innovative collaboration between the County of Ventura and Project Homekey, a statewide investment initiative for affordable housing.

“Addressing homelessness among transitional aged youth requires a multifaceted approach that combines stable housing solutions with supportive services, educational and employment support and mental health services,”

said Dr. Sevet Johnson, CEO, County of Ventura. “Casa Pacifica is providing opportunities for vulnerable young people that will help set them on a path toward stability and self-sufficiency. Addressing youth homelessness is not just a moral imperative; it’s an investment in the future, ensuring that our society’s most vulnerable have the opportunity to become its strongest pillars.”

For young adults like Sophia and Troy, Casa Pacifica stands as a cornerstone, offering not simply stable housing but a pathway to essential services that will pave the way for a bright future.

“When you’re on your own, it’s really overwhelming,” Sophia says. “Casa Pacifica has brought me so much relief. I have a team of people who care about me and my future. I don’t feel like it’s just me on my own anymore.”



Create Your Legacy

Why do you give? Do you want to make a real difference? Is your generosity a reflection of your values, or a way to inspire others to give? Through your investment at Casa Pacifica, you create life-changing opportunities for children, young adults and families in need now and for years to come.

You can continue your generosity through a variety of ways:

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 70½ or older, you can contact your IRA administrator to transfer any amount (up to a maximum of \$105,000) per year from your IRA directly 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.

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.

Contact Carrie Hughes at **chughes@casapacifica.org** or **(805) 366-4011** for additional information.

Explore more planned giving options at
casapacificalegacy.org

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.

Community Heroes

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 help fulfill our mission of building bright futures for at-risk children, young adults and families.



Starbucks volunteers giving our campus some TLC!



Our generous Avalon Bay team prepping tables for our kids' annual Thanksgiving dinner celebration!



Steve Wiley, longtime volunteer music educator and Casa Pacifica's 2023 On Campus Volunteer of the Year



Saluting the Spirit of Service: Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are essential to our mission. From enhancing our campus with their hard work and creativity to helping organize our annual Angels Wine, Food & Brew Festival, the contributions of our volunteers are simply invaluable. Every day they play a crucial role in enriching the lives of the youth and families we serve. Thank you for being the heart and soul of Casa Pacifica!

"For more than 25 years I've had the pleasure of volunteering in various capacities for Casa Pacifica. My husband, Sonny, and I believe strongly in Casa Pacifica's mission and have devoted our time to supporting the agency's vital work with at-risk children and youth. It has been incredible to be part of Casa Pacifica's growth and know that our commitment is changing lives. I am so very honored to be part of their mission."



Angels & Volunteers



The Casa Pacifica Angels Wine, Food & Brew Festival Volunteer Karen Ferguson



Angels celebrating the 2024 Prom



Chef Alex Montoya, Water's Edge, (left), Community Volunteer of the Year



Volunteer Angels filling Easter Baskets

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!

2024-2025 Angels Board

Christina Zins - President

Vivian Bolden Jackson

Susan Burgos

Tamiann Cook

Natalee Coot

Christine Crawford-Yorihiro

Cindi Fredrick

Letti Fisher

Karen Hoffmann

Dawn Norkewicz

Terri Parks

Michele Sturt

Masha Smirnova

Van Stephenson

Maureen Turley-Gutierrez

Oksana Zussman

For more information, contact the Development Department at **805-366-4023** or sign up at **casapacifica.org**.



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 youth in our care. Your generosity makes an impact for those who need it most. Thank you for your support!

MOST REQUESTED GIFT CARDS



Top 20 KIDS WISHES

- ♥ Gift cards
- ♥ San Disk Clip Jam MP3 player
- ♥ Nintendo Switch games (teen rated and under)
- ♥ DVDs (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
- ♥ Press-on nails
- ♥ Women's electric razors
- ♥ Cologne
- ♥ Shampoo and conditioner sets (Pantene and Herbal Essence preferred)

Spread Holiday Cheer to a Family in Need!

The holidays can be a particularly stressful time for many of the families we serve. You can help brighten the season for those in need by participating in our Adopt a Family program, which helps families obtain gifts for their children and purchase necessities like household items and groceries.

Gift cards to grocery stores, family restaurants, gas stations and retail stores are a wonderful way to provide a bit of extra joy during the holiday season!

- **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.



For more information about Doves or Adopt A Family:
casapacificakidswishes.org | wishes@casapacifica.org | (877) 445-WISH (9474)





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



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@casapacificica.org
caminoacasa.org |

With thanks to our
CORPORATE LEADERS!

Our Corporate Leaders advance Casa Pacifica's mission through annual sponsorship of our major fundraising events. These events are critical to closing the annual gap between revenue and actual costs of our mental health programs, ensuring that we can continue to provide essential services to more than 2,000 at-risk children and families 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@casapacificica.org.

PLATINUM			
<div>CONICO OIL MacValley Oil Co</div> <div>SDI ELEMENT LOGIC</div> <div>Mission</div> <div>Driscoll's Only the Finest Berries™</div> <div>TRANS-PRO LOGISTICS EST. 1989</div> <div>N P W Nevers, Palazzo, Packard, Wildermuth & Wynner, PC</div> <div>BANK OF AMERICA</div>			
GOLD		SILVER	
<div>P&G Procter & Gamble</div> <div>Fence Factory We Make Good Neighbors</div>		<div>SoCal IP Law Group LLP</div> <div>Winters Financial Group</div> <div>PODS Moving & Storage</div> <div>SL & S.L. Leonard & Associates, Inc. 20 YEARS</div> <div>MERRILL A BANK OF AMERICA COMPANY The Miller Asher Group Merrill Private Wealth Management</div> <div>Ventura Rental PARTY & EVENTS</div> <div>Porta-Stor</div> <div>FIVE STAR BOOKKEEPING</div>	
BRONZE			
<div>AAA PROPRANE SERVICE, INC. Locality Owned Since 1991</div> <div>compulink</div> <div>DEX</div> <div>BB & H benefit designs</div> <div>IPA COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE SERVICES</div> <div>Monarch PHOTOGRAPHY</div> <div>VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION</div> <div>Harrison</div> <div>CHUY & SONS D.B.</div> <div>GENE HAAS FOUNDATION</div> <div>Santa Rosa Berry Farms</div> <div>ALL IT TAKES</div> <div>ITO BROS. FARMS</div> <div>CAMBER WEALTH</div> <div>PACIFIC SWIMMER PHYSICIANS</div> <div>STAPLES CONSTRUCTION</div>			



Our Mission:

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

Mark Your Calendar!

23rd Annual Spotlight on Style Fashion Show

Sunday, November 17, 2024 | Four Seasons Westlake Village

12th Annual Top Chef Yummie Dinner

Friday, May 2, 2025 | Rancho de Las Palmas

32nd Annual Angels Wine, Food & Brew Festival

Sunday, June 1, 2025 | Cal State University Channel Islands

CONTACT US

(805) 366-4040

info@casapacifica.org

1722 S. Lewis Road
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

