

# RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

Boys Home, Inc.

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Winter 2016

## *Happy Holidays*

*Wishing you and your family the very best during  
the holiday season. May you have a happy and safe  
New Year.*



*From the youth and staff*

*at*

*Rancho San Antonio*





### A LETTER FROM BROTHER JOHN CROWE

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

In this Year of Mercy we continue to be called by Pope Francis to love, to be kind, and to show unbound generosity,

It is important that we remember that we are also called to mercy. God asks that we see the presence of Jesus in those to whom we have been called to minister the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

We are well into this Jubilee Year of Mercy, and discovering daily the many ways God extends His mercy to and through us. When I re-read the parable of the merciful father I am always struck with his patience, love, hope, and mercy. He had never stopped thinking about his wayward son, and as he sees him he runs out to meet him and embrace him with tenderness, without a word of reproach.

God repeatedly shows us mercy in spite of our weaknesses. Shouldn't we also be patient and forgiving?? Mercy is the force that installs in us the courage to look to the future with hope.

The joy of God's abundant blessings are not for us alone, but to be shared with others in His name. Thank you to all of you who have supported Rancho San Antonio this year with your prayers and gifts.

Each of you, and your families, will be remembered in a Novena of Masses by Rancho San Antonio.

Brother John Crowe, C.S.C.



### RANCHO'S JOB AND CAREER CENTER

The objective of Rancho's career program is to provide our youth with the essential guidance, knowledge, and skills needed for pursuing a career, seeking employment, and enrolling in post-secondary education. The program content includes assessments, career exploration, college exploration and enrollment, financial aid, job search skills, interview skills, and resume writing. Through this program, our youth are given the opportunity to attend seminars and/or workshops off campus to obtain further education and career information. Los Angeles County Probation Department YDS College Summit and 100,000 Opportunities Initiative Job Fair in Los Angeles are two of the events Rancho youth have attended this year. Most recently, residents attended Survival Saturday, hosted by the Alliance for Children's Rights, Life Lock, and Children's Law Center of California.



### CULTURAL COMPETENCY

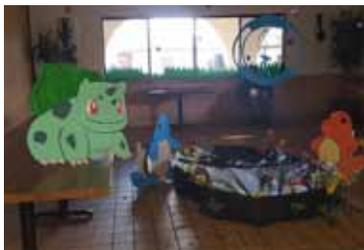
Rancho has developed a Cultural Competency Committee to ensure that its membership and leadership reflect Rancho's diversity, and to infuse culturally competent and sensitive practices in all of the daily practices. RSA's Cultural Competency Committee is comprised of a diverse group of staff and includes input received from youth. In the month of September we celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month. Our theme was Carnival which is a celebration with colorful costumes and masks. Boys and staff decorated the dining hall like a big colorful fiesta with flags of all the Latin American

countries. A few of our youth researched and presented the history of why people celebrate Hispanic Heritage and the history of Carnival and fiestas. The night ended with a fun concert with Folkloric dancers, modern Latino Hip Hop dancers, and a band playing Latin inspired music. We look forward to providing positive and educational experiences for our youth with the many upcoming holidays and culturally inspired activities.



### OUR FANG-TASTIC HALLOWEEN EX-FEAR-IENCE

Halloween gives us all permission to have a little fun by being someone or something we are not. This was no different for our youth this year for our Halloween celebration. The fun began with the youth and staff decorating our dining hall and turning it into a circus tent, Pokemon center, and a haunted graveyard. One of our favorite traditions is the costume and skit competition where our youth dressed up as funny clowns, Pokemon characters, silly monsters, and Spongebob. The day was filled with smiles and laughter. Events like this remind us that joy and laughter exists everywhere, just waiting for us to seize it.



### TAKING A R.I.S.C.

Rancho's Intensive Search for Christ or Change (R.I.S.C.) is a program where our youth attend a two day retreat at the Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center in Sierra Madre. We take five annual trips for individual dorm units to attend this retreat. The program involves intensive group sessions and individual



written exercises focus on family dynamics, the need for change, values clarification and forgiveness. The purpose of the retreat is to supplement the principles the youth are already learning in the dorms while focusing more on the individual and his past. This program has proven to be a successful tool for our youth to take risks, to make a change and grow.

### A SUCCESS STORY

We all enjoy hearing success stories, sweetened by the struggles it took for people to achieve such success. Here is a little story we would like to share with you that made all of us proud.

Raul became a resident at Rancho San Antonio at the age of 16, 4 months shy of 17. Before arriving at Rancho, Raul was placed in two different foster homes and another group home like ours. Raul has always had a tough life, mostly struggling with building a relationship with his family, among many other personal issues.



Raul successfully graduated our program in November of 2015 at the age of 18 and transferred to our Transitional Housing Program (THP) with many scholarships accumulating to over a couple thousand dollars. While staying at our THP, he attended Pierce College full-time and maintained a full-time job. He has since moved to Bakersfield after landing a job as an electrical apprentice. In December 2016, he will go back to school to obtain a Bachelor's Degree at Bakersfield Community College while continuing his involvement in the Union Program to become a Journeyman for the Electrical Union.

Raul has always been ambitious and hardworking so it is no surprise that he is finding such successes. When asked, "What have you learned while at Rancho?" He replies with confidence and pride, "I learned how to grow up and become mature. I also learned to be more independent and most importantly, I learned to look ahead to the future." Raul is just one of the many success stories we have here at Rancho San Antonio. It's the stories like these that help us remember why we do what we do daily.

## Rancho San Antonio Benefactors List

Rancho is grateful to our friends who contributed from August 18, 2016 through November 1, 2016.  
All donations are greatly appreciated, our mission would not be possible without your continued support.

*Please excuse our mistake if your name was omitted and contact us so that we may correct our error.*

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*We thank you and wish you Season's Greetings.*

