

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

Boys Home, Inc.

21000 Plummer Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311, (818) 882-6400

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Summer 2017

Congratulations



Rancho San Antonio is honored to announce one of its largest graduating classes to date. 21 of our young men graduated this year. 11 current residents graduated from Aggeler High School along with 9 former residents. The ceremony was held at East Los Angeles College with both family and staff celebrating the exciting day. In addition, 2 students graduated from Chatsworth High School. We are so proud of these young men, many of whom have gone on to attend college.

Rancho's outstanding youth also participated in Success Is Our Future this year. It is a banquet held every year to recognize the achievements of youth throughout Los Angeles County. Many of our young men were acknowledged for outstanding achievement in placement. 2 young men won Excellence in Athletic Awards. Our youth also received 1st and 2nd place in performing arts and poetry. In addition, current and former Rancho youth won 7 scholarships given to those furthering their education.

Celebration was held at the Disney Concert Hall on June 27, 2017. This program acknowledges 175 foster and probation youth who have a great academic career with plans to attend college in the future. Our 2 young men each received a \$3,000 dollar scholarship and were acknowledged in a ceremony hosted by Channel 5 news anchor Chris Shauble.

Finally we would like to thank Chatsworth Women's Club for their scholarships to 3 of our young men. We truly appreciate the club and their continued support of the young men of Rancho San Antonio.

Congratulations Class of 2017!

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." – Winston Churchill



Graduation ceremony at ELAC



A REFLECTION FROM BROTHER JOHN

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

I have spent over fifty years in serving families and children at Rancho San Antonio. Through these years there have been many changes in the field of children's services, both in the issues that resulted in placement at Rancho and the resulting treatment needs. However, Rancho is proud of increasing our services through the past eighty-five years, to meet the needs of each new generation of youth entrusted to our care.

People ask "How do you stay motivated for over fifty years?" After much reflection, in the final analysis, at the end of the day, this work is more an effort of the heart than the head. It's a matter of passion and compassion more than the intellectual or technical knowledge one possesses. What Rancho San Antonio as an organization brings to all of us is an opportunity to have meaning, to make a contribution, to have experiences every day that gives us sustenance and a continuous reminder of validity.

Rancho's Mission Statement and value system provides hope for those children entrusted to our care. I am both privileged and proud to have served the children and families through these years. I thank the staff and you, our benefactors, who support Rancho's Mission.

Sincerely,

Brother John Crowe, C.S.C.

DRESS TO IMPRESS

The clothing we wear not only affects how other people view us, it also changes how we view ourselves, or how we view the world. In particular, there is something empowering about wearing formal clothing.



It doesn't surprise us anymore when our youth claim to have never owned or even worn a suit in their life time. On April 2017, fifteen of our youth were given a free suit, tie and accessories as part of the annual Glamour Gowns and Suit Up event. Each suit was tailored to each individual. The event was a self-esteem builder for every foster youth who attended.

Please help us be a part of teaching our youth the importance of image and manhood by donating your unwanted formal clothing, ties, shoes or hats.

You may drop off any donations at:

Rancho San Antonio
21000 Plummer St, Chatsworth, CA 91311,
818-882-6400 x110 for further information

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Our youth continue to volunteer their services throughout the community. This year alone they have managed to help feed the homeless, pack boxes for families in need of food, set-up for carnivals and fairs, move heavy items and gardening for different organizations in our community. Our youth continue to



volunteer their services with no questions asked. At the end of the day, it is not what you have. It's about who you've lifted up, who you've made better. It's about what you've given back.

TWO TESTIMONIALS

I am writing this to talk about my experience here at Rancho. At first I wasn't that open to change and I had plenty of ups and downs due to me thinking I have no control of my life anymore. After a couple of weeks at the Ranch, I felt welcomed by not only my peers, but my staff as well. I never had a real support system in my life and to be honest, it feels amazing to have one. Thanks to Rancho I have developed pretty amazing social skills after being socially awkward my whole life. I will never be able to thank you guys enough. There are no words to express my appreciation and gratefulness.

-Current resident

At first, I was the person who didn't participate in any of the programs at the Ranch. I cared only about myself and hung around with the bad crowd. At one point, I didn't think I would make it to 15 years old. This program helped me realize I was being selfish and was hurting my family. Thanks to the Ranch, I opened up to my family about stuff I would have only wished to but was afraid of. I now think about my future and plan to graduate high school, go to college and become a Doctor. I am truly grateful for the support they have given me and I am thankful for my experiences here at Rancho San Antonio.

-Current resident



PARTY IN THE SUN

Sometimes taking a break from your routine is the very thing you need. On July 12th, our campus enjoyed a fun filled day in the sun. Our "Moana" themed water event included snow cones, soda, popcorn, music, water challenges, and a 63-foot-long inflatable water obstacle course for the campus to enjoy. The day ended with a BBQ rib dinner on our beautiful field.

FAREWELL TO A RANCHO ICON

The church pews and lobby were "standing room only," as Rancho San Antonio staff, both former and current alike, gathered with others at Cornerstone Christian Church to bid farewell to an iconic former staff member, Michelle Pacifici. A woman that truly was larger than life, Michelle worked at Rancho from 1994 to 2010 in a variety of positions, most notably, Activities Director. She left Rancho to pursue an administrative role at her daughter's charter school, Ivy Bound Academy, where she was the Acting Director at the time of her death. Michelle's heart and presence never left Rancho. Michelle continued to work at Rancho during her "off" time, serving BBQ lunches at Rancho's annual car show and wrapping gifts to put under the tree at



Christmas for the boys. Michelle had a heart and an understanding for the youth at Rancho and she never stopped giving. Watch the video on Rancho's website and you will hear Michelle's interpretation of the courageous work of the youth at Rancho. At the service, people spoke of Michelle's infectious laugh, loud voice, emotions and tears, all qualities that are uniquely Michelle. She is survived by her parents, three sisters and their families, and her beautiful daughter, Lauryn. Lauryn was the love of her life and in addition to all the hats Michelle wore professionally and personally, first and foremost, was her role of mom. She embraced motherhood with the same zest, selflessness and vigor that she embraced life. Michelle lives on in Lauryn, as well as in every youth and staff at Rancho, every student, parent and faculty at Ivy Bound, and every person which whom her generous and compassionate soul came into contact. Michelle, we will miss you in the larger than life way that you are remembered.

(The picture above: Michelle's daughter Lauryn and Michelle Pacifici to the right)

Lauryn's family has set up a scholarship account for Lauryn. The link is indicated below if you are interested in donating.

https://www.gofundme.com/education-fund-for-lauryn-pacifici?utm_source=internal&utm_medium=email&utm_content=campaign_title&utm_campaign=donation_receiptv5

Rancho San Antonio Benefactors List

Rancho is grateful to our friends who contributed from March 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017.
 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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