

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

Boys Home, Inc.

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

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Happy Holidays

*H*olidays are opportunities for friends and relatives to get together and celebrate life. It is imperative that we use this time and spend it with our loved ones. Unfortunately, many of our youth do not have the opportunity to do just that. Therefore, we need to function as a community and be each other's support system, especially during this time of year. Our goals for this holiday season are to bring the following to Rancho and our youth:

Giving back and preserving the spirit year-round:

We see devastation around us every day, and many of us feel powerless. But the true holiday spirit encourages us to do good whenever the opportunity arises. This is the perfect time to give to people in need. Our youth and staff will be selecting hands-on ways to pay it forward. Some of the giving back projects our youth will partake in are: creating and sending care packages to deployed troops, cook for those in need, and assist senior citizens. Rancho takes pride in continually contributing to our community throughout the year.

Being Thankful/Gratitude:

We continually search for ways our youth can strengthen their ability to recognize gifts in life. This is usually induced by positive experiences in our memories. Rancho does this by creating strength-based curriculum, saying a prayer before mealtime, and monthly town hall meetings with resident acknowledgment.

Joy:

We will show each other respect, encourage and share hope, and go the extra mile to be caring and kind. We have fun activities planned for our residents and their families throughout the month which includes a family picnic, Christmas dinner, gifts for our youth and their siblings, holiday tournaments and more!



A LETTER FROM BROTHER JOHN

Dear Friends,

I thank you for your support of Rancho San Antonio. I hope you had a happy Thanksgiving with family and friends, and are preparing for a joyful Christmas.

Countless youth who walk through the gates of Rancho have experienced the trauma of abuse, neglect, and street violence. They have adopted gangs as their families and the streets as their homes; drug use becomes a way of numbing the pain. Rancho provides a safe zone and haven to begin the healing and the process of change. Rancho gives hope and restores a vision of a better future for our youth and families in need.

Together, Rancho San Antonio and our supporters have helped to mend the lives of thousands of young men. We are confident that with our experience and expanded staff of trained people, Rancho San Antonio will be able to provide these youngsters the opportunity to heal, become loving, well-adjusted adults, and enable each individual to realize their potential. We request your prayers of support and encouragement, lest we fail to recognize Christ in each of these hurt young boys.

Yours in Christ's Love,

Brother John Crowe, C.S.C.
Chief Financial Officer

We will be celebrating a Novena of Masses in heartfelt gratitude to all of our supporters during the holy season of Christmas. If you would like to share in the positive growth of these boys, please participate by returning the enclosed envelope. Your gift to our Annual Giving Program will be warmly accepted and appreciated.



THANKSGIVING

Each Thanksgiving, Rancho hosts a formal dinner. The event was a resounding success, well attended by staff and youth, filled with delicious food for all. The theme for the night was to embrace the importance of family and making the best of the situation despite being away from home. The best part of the night is looking at all the youth dressed in full formal attire. We are excited to announce that all of our youth were looking and feeling great that evening as we received just enough suit donations to dress every youth on campus for this occasion, thanks to our successful suit drive. We are sincerely grateful to everyone who donated.



CAREER GEAR

Thank you to all our generous contributors to our suit drive, led by Board of Director, Melissa Cerny. Through the help of all those who donated, we are blessed to have been able to receive 45 full suits, 125 collared shirts, 55 slacks, 9 pairs of shoes and 50+ miscellaneous formal wear accessories for our youth at Rancho San Antonio. We will continue collecting formal wear and accessories throughout the year in hopes that every youth who asks for a suit will receive one. We are dedicated to providing professional clothing, mentoring and life-skills to help our residents become stronger contributors to their families and communities.

**ACHSA INSPIRATION AWARD WINNER
RSA ALUMNI RUDY CASTRO**

*Remarkable Courage, Character, and Achievement in
The Face of Adversity*

On Thursday, October 19, 2017, a group of Rancho staff were present at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles as Rancho alumni, Rudy Castro was presented with ACHSA's 2017 Inspiration Award. Despite the tremendous adversity and considerable personal hardships that Rudy has experienced during his lifetime, he has exhibited immense resilience and perseverance in overcoming his significant life challenges, while at the same time helping others facing similar challenges.

Rudy was fifteen when he was referred through the delinquency court to Rancho San Antonio. According to Rudy, the tremendous support and love he received from Rancho were instrumental in his recovery. Rudy spoke to the audience and shared what Rancho San Antonio has meant to him, his ability to heal, and his journey to recovery. Rudy's message was one of being a survivor, proud of his story. His motivational words led to a standing ovation.



Some of Rudy's impressive accomplishments include returning "home" to Rancho San Antonio as a Child Care Worker and eventually as the agency's Drug Treatment Coordinator, where his work with the youth was invaluable. Rudy returned to graduate school to receive his Master's degree in Social Work. In addition to working in the field of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment, Rudy is a political activist, an actor, and an author. Rudy wrote the book, *Guardian of A Gangster*, the moving story of a boy growing up in gang life in Los Angeles entering group home placement, which is based on his own life story and experiences.

Today, Rudy is proud of his 24 years of sobriety, his marriage to his beautiful wife, and his role as the father to three beautiful children. Just as important to Rudy is the fact that he is a walking, living example to the "street kids" of Los Angeles that they

too can succeed. Rudy Castro clearly embodies all of the qualities befitting the recipient of ACHSA's Inspiration Award -- resilience, determination, perseverance and ultimate success in overcoming tremendous odds.

Rancho is in the process of editing the video of his speech to place on the Rancho San Antonio website.



SPOOKY TIME AT THE RANCH

Halloween is always great fun at Rancho San Antonio. Not only do the young men get into the spirit but the staff participate too. It starts with the dining hall being decorated by each dorm. This year there was Scooby Doo, a spooky graveyard and a freak show circus. The group home even joined in the fun by creating a haunted house with each room having a different theme. The evening was capped off by a pizza party followed by skits and a costume



judging contest. It was the perfect kick off to the holiday season at the Ranch.



<http://www.facebook.com/RSAorg/>

Rancho San Antonio Benefactors List

Rancho is grateful to our friends who contributed from July 01, 2017 through November 15, 2017.

All donations are greatly appreciated. Our mission would not be possible without your continued support.

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