

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

Boys Home, Inc.

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Winter 2019



Tree decorated by the youth in
Saint Anthony's Home

IT'S NOT
WHAT'S UNDER THE
TREE
that
MATTERS
IT'S WHO'S
gathered
AROUND IT

From our tree to yours!



ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 “Magic of the Holidays”

Many describe the holidays as a “magical” time. In my last staff talk, I actually described Rancho as a “magical” place. Witnessing the transformation and achievement of our youth as they graduate and transition back to their communities, equipped with skills to cope with past trauma, is truly magical. Staff members that work directly with the youth are often on the receiving end of the youth’s acting out behavior. To watch staff members remain calm, counsel, and live forgiveness day after day is truly magical.

In the last newsletter, we launched a campaign to have our stakeholders adopt a dresser/desk/closet combination honoring the donor with a commemorative plaque on each piece of furniture. As a new director, the feeling state to have so many people come forward and support this cause has been magical. We are about half way to the goal of having every dresser donated. I challenged our staff to donate on behalf of the dedicated staff of Rancho. The support was incredible. We had an internal fundraiser to “skip the Starbucks line” and have a cup of coffee on Rancho in exchange for a donation. The turnout was successful and the camaraderie in the front office provided more buzz than the cold brew caffeinated coffee!

During the holiday season at Rancho, we will do all we can to provide a magical season for our youth



your season is truly magical.

Rancho has created our own traditions over the years, many that are possible only because of our supporters. To all who read this, our youth, their families, our alumni, our staff, our donors and all stakeholders, thank you for your support and from the bottom of my heart, I hope



A HOWLIN’ GOOD TIME

Halloween was a success as many of our youth dressed up for a costume contest. Our winner dressed up as the Joker from the 2019 movie “Joker.” The room filled with laughter as the young man imitated the Joker’s dance moves. Our Halloween festivities also included the youth decorating the dining hall, making Halloween cupcakes and carving pumpkins. As the grand finale, the youth were able to Trick-or-Treat all around the campus! They were given clues to different locations where they were “treated” to some



delicious goodies, fun socks, and special toiletries.



A RANCHO HOLIDAY TRADITION

The “Giving Back Project” is a long-standing tradition during the holiday season for our Rancho youth and staff. We understand that young people can grow from an understanding of how they fit into society, and believe that they can help solve societal problems. This developmental process grows empathy and fosters childrens’ identities as engaged citizens. Our youth and staff have pledged to volunteer at the following charities during the winter break: M.E.N.D (Meet each Need with Dignity), Operation Gratitude, Animal Shelter, and Valley Rescue Mission.



WHY I AM GRATEFUL A THANKSGIVING ESSAY

In the spirit of the holidays, our youth wrote essays on what they were thankful for this Thanksgiving. This is one written by a youth, who wanted us to share it.

When I first got here to Rancho I was beyond shy. I was downright antisocial. I would spend my days reading books, by myself. Rarely did I interact with others, with the exception of a peer who I dubbed my “clone” on account that we were so alike. Needless to say, my staff and therapist were unhappy with my behaviors. I would have to write essays and deliver them, speak in groups, sometimes to the point of leading groups, and always bringing it up to my mom and treatment team that I was antisocial. Strangely enough, this combination of tough love and guidance helped me break through my shell, to the point where I was getting in trouble for speaking too much with others, and at inappropriate times. I cannot put into words how grateful I am for Rancho and my treatment team for helping me to become more social, and in turn, a bit happier.

If you asked me what kind of person I was when I first got here, I would have said I was sad, lonely, and worthless. I had a tough childhood, and I still carry most of those scars with me. I haven't yet been able to fully forgive myself and my parents, but I would like to believe that I am working toward achieving that goal. If you asked me what kind of person I am now, I would say: Funny, witty, compassionate, moderately happy, and modest. I will never be able to put in words how I feel about growing up here as a person and feeling a little less sad each day. It may seem cheesy to say but I will never forget what a positive influence Rancho San Antonio has on me. I'm not going to say that my time here is over, but I'm also not going to say that my time here was a waste. Happy holidays and thank you so much for caring enough to work with us. You are deeply appreciated.

- Manny



A LETTER FROM BROTHER JOHN

Dear Benefactors,

Christmas! Jesus' gift to us is His love for all of us; we may ask ourselves “Have I made a difference in the life of someone less fortunate than I? Have I eased the burden of a friend, a family, a child?” In our busy lives, we too often fail to recognize God's gift of love. I share this story for your personal reflection.

Two brothers shared a field and a mill. Each night they divided evenly the grain they had ground together during the day. Now as it happened, one of the brothers lived alone; the other had a wife and a large family. One day, the single brother thought to himself: “It isn't fair that we divide the grain evenly. I have only myself to care for, but my brother has children to feed.” So each night, he secretly took some of his grain to his brother's granary to see that he was never without.

But the married brother said to himself one day, “It isn't really fair that we divide the grain evenly because I have children to provide for me in my old age, but my brother has not one. What will he do when he is old?” So every night, he secretly took some of his grain to his brother's granary. As a result, both of them always found their supply of grain mysteriously replenished each morning. Then one night, the brothers met each other halfway between their two homes, suddenly realized what was happening, and embraced each other in love. The story is that God witnessed their meeting and proclaimed, “This is a holy place – a place of love – and here it is that my Son shall be born.” And so it was. The holy place, where God is made known, is the place where human beings discover each other in love.

We at Rancho San Antonio thank you for your gift of love.

Brother John Crowe, C.S.C.

Rancho San Antonio Benefactors List

Rancho is grateful to our friends who contributed from August 18, 2019 through November 18, 2019.

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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*Happy holidays from the youth and staff of
Rancho San Antonio*

