

# RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

Boys Home, Inc.

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[www.ranchosanantonio.org](http://www.ranchosanantonio.org)

Summer 2020



*Take a* **RISK**

*To make a* **CHANGE**

*and* **GROW**



## HOW COVID-19 HAS IMPACTED OUR RANCHO WORLD

**D**uring the course of the past six months, the world has gone through an experience like many of us never have before. We are being challenged financially, socially, physically and emotionally. Crises affect us all differently, including the staff, youth, and our Rancho supporters.

Rancho's youth are adept at knowing how to deal with crises. Many have been homeless, come from impoverished homes or been separated from their family members for extended periods of time. While some of us were focused on hoarding toilet paper and food, sadly, this fear was not a new experience for many of our youth. Rancho thankfully had supplies on hand in case of an emergency and was able to let the youth know that they were in good hands and would be cared for during this time of limited resources. The youth learned to visit and have sessions with their family and loved ones via tele-visiting and tele-health. Our graduates had a virtual graduation with their High School. If we could not bring the graduates to a graduation ceremony, St. Anthony's House (our on-site emancipation program) decided to bring the graduation to them! They hosted a ceremony in the front yard, with chairs set six feet apart, had guest speakers, and played Pomp and Circumstance on a loud speaker as they walked up to receive their temporary diploma. After 22 years of attending graduations, I must say this was the most personal and unique experience. The students will no doubt remember it forever.

A local church group called Mosaic, that a staff member belongs to, asked how they could support our essential workers. They donated 200 gift bags filled with various goodies (snacks, hand sanitizer, etc.) with a handwritten note of appreciation. Several staff members, their family members and our local Ladies Guild from Our Lady of Lourdes made

beautiful handmade masks for the staff and youth. Our youth at Rancho have taught us that there is no crisis that we cannot recover from and grow up to be stronger as a result. As we navigate uncharted waters, we continue to learn from them. Like our vision statement says, as an agency, we will all **RISK CHANGE** and **GROW**.

Aubree Sweeney, Executive Director



## CONGRATS TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES

**W**e are proud to announce that 15 of our youth graduated from Aggeler High School this past June while at Rancho. They attended a virtual graduation with hundreds of other LAUSD community schools. Rancho also hosted a graduation ceremony and celebration to further show our pride for their hard work and accomplishments. In addition, Saint Anthony's House organized Prom 2020 for our seniors who would not get to experience the event otherwise. Congratulations to our very special and unprecedented class of 2020!



## SUMMER FUN IN THE BLAZIN' SUN

**M**ove over sun, we want to have some (distanced) fun! We have had to become very creative with ways for our youth to beat the heat and stay active. Each week, the dorms have been able to enjoy several activities and projects to keep them busy and cool! They have painted "kindness rocks" and placed them around campus. They participated in a sidewalk chalk contest, as well as some good old fashion tie dying of shirts (and masks!). They

have been enjoying a water obstacle course and 100ft slip and slide. On warm evenings, we blow up our 15ft movie screen and watch a movie on the field under the stars. We are so thankful for our beautiful campus, as it allows us to socially distance and spread the fun around to different areas.



### RANCHO ALL-STARS



**R**ancho is blessed to receive occasional updates and visits from our former residents. These young men contacted us to give an update on their lives, which we are happy to share.

**Arnold** graduated from Rancho in 2015. Arnold is currently 22 years old and is a certified Electrician, installing power lines. He was also a volunteer firefighter for about a year after graduating from Rancho and before becoming an Electrician. He continues to take classes to further his knowledge.

**Samuel** graduated Rancho in 2017. After graduating from high school and Rancho in the same year, he attended college while maintaining a job. He was proud to earn a 4.0 as he studied Business and Audio Production. While Samuel was at Rancho, he participated in our music program where he recorded two songs in our music studio. His passion for music has now led him to record a rap song with a professional music engineer and even made a music video. He is looking forward to starting school again in hopes of one day owning his own business and engineering and producing his own music.

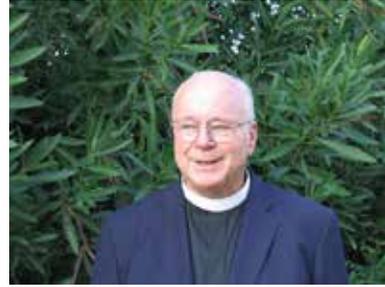
**Ali** graduated Rancho 2018. He continues to do well. His latest news is that he received a full ride scholarship to CSU Fullerton where he will study Accounting. He has given back to Rancho by speaking to our current youth about his experiences while in the program.

We couldn't be prouder of all our Rancho all-stars!

### ! OPEN HOUSE & CAR SHOW ! CANCELLED

**U**nfortunately, we will not be able to have our car show this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. We intend for the show to resume in 2021. For updates on our campus and ways to help support Rancho, please visit our website at

<http://www.ranchosanantonio.org>



### A REFLECTION FROM BROTHER JOHN

**I**try to keep up with the issues in our society today and thought I knew how many people are full of hate and anger.

Over the first weekend in June, some vandals destroyed the statues on the front of Rancho's campus. The heads were knocked off the statues of St. Anthony, patron of lost youth; the child Jesus; and the boy carrying his suitcase and looking for a place to stay. These were our identification of Rancho San Antonio since 1953, when the Brothers of Holy Cross assumed the leadership of Rancho, with the help of the Knights of Columbus in funding the buildings. They have been on the Plummer Street entrance for 67 years, with only some weather aging.



Rancho has moved the remains onto the campus for safe keeping; the heads have been sent to Italy to be resculptured and hopefully replaced on the bodies and placed by the front entrance to the Administration building.

Let us pray for those who have lost peace in their lives. May God's love transcend their problems of hate and anger and help them to love their neighbors.

If you can assist us in the repair and resetting of the statues on campus, we will be most grateful. Please mark your check for statue repairs.

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

## Rancho San Antonio Benefactors List

Rancho is grateful to our friends who contributed from March 2, 2020 through September 1, 2020.  
All donations are greatly appreciated. Our mission would not be possible without your continued support.

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*Thank you for your support*

*We are incredibly grateful for our on-going donations and support from our benefactors and our community. We are also thankful to all those who have supported us through this pandemic by sending care packages and so graciously making masks for our youth and staff to wear. Such generosity keeps our staff and youth positive and hopeful.*