

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

Boys Home, Inc.

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Volume 38 No. 3

www.ranchosanantonio.org

Winter 2020



We are like
Snowflakes



All different in our own



Beautiful Way!



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE SUNRISE AND THE GALAXY

This holiday season, more than ever, we are being called upon to be untraditionally traditional. How do we carry on our family and Rancho traditions in a way that honors our history and respects our new way of living? Our youth celebrated Thanksgiving “family style” in their respective units instead of the dining hall; that was untraditional, but the thankfulness essay contest and formal attire honored our tradition. Our annual benefactor dinner was moved to a virtual event. This too was untraditional, but we did not want the moment to pass without appreciating the people that allow Rancho to provide our youth with what they need most.



What do we do when the traditions that bring us comfort are not accessible? Life is challenging all of us to figure out how to have human connection. I was so honored to receive a gift of the two paintings featured in this article from one of our youth at Rancho. It was accompanied by a letter of gratefulness for being placed at Rancho and he indicated that the act of painting represented a distraction from his challenging day and made him feel happy. He said, “I made the sunrise because God has a plan for me. No matter how dark my night gets, there will always be a brighter day. I made the galaxy because space is a big place. Rancho has shown me a home. Now I’m part of a beautiful galaxy.” Like this youth taught me, we must take time to do what brings us joy and we all must remember that there is a plan for all of us and we are all part of a beautiful galaxy. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all for being a part of the Rancho galaxy.

Aubree Sweeney,

Executive Director



“WE KNOW AN ANGEL WHEN WE SEE ONE”

Rancho honors Toni Nothacker’s retirement after 53 Years of dedicated service

After 53 Years of dedication, Rancho’s own angel, Toni Nothacker retired in September. Toni always wears an angel pin on her shoulder and is commonly heard saying “I know an angel when I see one,” as part of her greeting to others. Toni worked side by side with her late husband, Richard, for many years in the accounting department. Toni is also a longtime benefactor of Rancho, donating to the Religion fund to help support our church services and retreat program. She has been Rancho’s angel since she came to Rancho January of 1967. In her honor, Rancho would like to name the religion fund “The Nothacker Religion Fund” to continue the programming that she has helped support for many years. If you are interested in donating specifically to this fund, please indicate so on your donation. Rancho offered staff an angel pin to commemorate her. If anyone would like a guardian angel pin, please stop by the front office and pick one up (until supplies last). Just like the movie, “It’s a Wonderful Life,” thank you to Toni for dedicating much of her wonderful life to Rancho. She truly is an angel!

WE THANK YOU!

Thank you to our faithful donors who continue to bless us throughout the year. Your continued support helps us sustain our mission and makes all the difference especially during these trying times. We also thank all new donors who have chosen to be part of our Rancho family. Without your support we would not be able to make a meaningful difference in our youth’s lives.

THE MUSIC IN ME

This year Rancho developed and implemented a revolutionary music program by reimagining the use of creative art and culture to achieve therapeutic treatment goals. What began as a think tank exploration of effective treatment engagement quickly grew into a burgeoning creative arts program. Pioneered and curated by Rancho's Creative Arts and Skills Coordinator (and accomplished sound engineer), Tyrell Blanche, this method of service delivery creatively connects our clients' interest in music with Rancho's dedication to teaching youth how to self-regulate and to respond more successfully to challenging situations. We use recording, production, music theory, and creative writing to address the treatment needs of our clients. Every resident has a weekly opportunity to write music or poetry, to learn to play an instrument, to learn advanced electronic music production, to record original content at a professional grade quality, and to produce their own music onsite. Creative interventions are implemented in conjunction with each youth's primary treatment providers, giving youth innovative opportunities to open up and record personal, meaningful projects. These finished projects then permeate throughout a client's treatment and are utilized in individual, group, and family therapy. We are excited to witness the continued growth of this program heading into the new year.



WHAT I AM THANKFUL FOR IN 2020

“One person I am thankful for is my Dad. Ever since my mom left me when I was 2, my Dad was always there for me. Even through my dad having financial problems, he always made sure I had a roof over my head. He does the best that he can do so I can succeed in life and become somebody. To be honest, I don't think I can make a list of reasons why I am thankful for my dad because there is just too many. If I make it to the NBA, I want to bless my dad with anything he wants: a house, a car and money to make up for all the years he held me in his arms when I was depressed.

-A Current youth



A REFLECTION FROM BROTHER JOHN

My favorite quote: “I’ve learned that what we have done for ourselves alone dies with us. What we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.” -- Unknown

Richard Cardinal Cushing was a great defender of children around 1966; the following is from one of his reflections.

“Children should know that they are loved now, which is forever, and that someone was there to comfort them in their huge sorrow and in the hungers and fears of their days and nights. This is why I believe that to be able to remember the gift of love in one's childhood is the greatest gift any man shall have received in his life – because from the gift of love and good memory of love, a man can become the whole person he was meant to become in the sight of God.”



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. A novena of masses will be offered for all our benefactors living and deceased.

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

Rancho San Antonio Benefactors List

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

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A CALL TO ACTION

In the last newsletter, we shared that the beloved statue of “St. Anthony and the Boy” that welcomed visitors at our gates had been vandalized. We recently found an article announcing when the iconic statue moved from its original 1956 landmark on Plummer and DeSoto (before Rancho sold that part of the property) to the center island at the front gates. The article noted that the white Italian marble statue was donated by Louis Niemeyer in memory of her son, Major Francis Millson.

The community support to repair the statue, including the Knights of Columbus campaign to fundraise for this project, has been incredible. Since our last newsletter, the heads of the statues traveled to Italy to be repaired, where they were deemed unrepairable and will be traveling back to the US to be replicated by a local artisan. As the Saint of lost boys, it is only fitting that once completed, the statue will be relocated to its third and hopefully final destination, within the safety of our property. The cost of repair is significant, and we are so grateful to everyone that has already participated in this venture. Rancho is continuing to accept donations in honor of this project.