

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

Boys Home, Inc.

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Winter 2021



*May this season
bring you the gifts of
Hope, Strength
Peace & Joy!*

RANCHO STRONG



A Note from the Executive Director

When people say this has been a year like no other, most are referring to a pandemic, political unrest, inflation, workforce and resource shortages, the list could go on. But when we say that at Rancho, we are referring to legislative changes that are forcing the reduction in the amount of youth in “congregate care” and all that encompasses. While no youth belongs out of their home a day longer than they should be, for some, it is the safest or most necessary short-term intervention.

There are some places that cannot be understood unless you have been there. If you have ever visited a baby in the NICU, that is one of those places. One just cannot fully understand its gravity unless you have stepped foot in those walls. I believe Rancho is the same way. Everyone who steps foot on our campus remarks at the calm and beautiful grounds. It is a magical place where growth and change are mastered. Despite many outsiders not understanding the work we do, this year, Rancho has continued to be blessed by our long-term stakeholders, new volunteers and many of our state, local and federal representatives.

As this difficult year comes to an end, I am called to acknowledge all the supporters who understand the incredible work that happens at Rancho. Many of you have walked on our campus and personally felt the magic. Your support this year has meant more to us than we can ever explain. From letters of support to Congress to ongoing donations, and bringing on two new Board of Directors, Rancho continues to thrive amidst the challenges. We have applied for several new programs to augment residential care and are excited about diversification opportunities that will continue to fulfill our mission to serve youth and their way in their families. As a community, we are **RANCHO STRONG**. Thank each of you for keeping us **RANCHO STRONG**. -Aubree Sweeney

WELCOME TO RANCHO

We are proud to introduce two of the newest members of Rancho’s Board of Directors, Thomas Ferguson and Dorsey Kleger-Heine.



Thomas Ferguson

Thomas has an impressive background in both the medical field and the military including direct service for trauma victims and extensive management experience. He is an organ transplant coordinator and brings with him life experience, enthusiasm and a heart to serve disenfranchised youth.



Dorsey Kleger-Heine

Dorsey is an attorney, the CEO of her firm, and has experience as a Public Defender and Deputy Inspector General as well as was the Chief of Operations and legal counsel for a non-profit. She has board experience, has worked with underserved populations, is bilingual and has a true passion and commitment to serve foster youth.

WHAT I AM THANKFUL FOR IN 2021

My mom is the person that I am most grateful for this Thanksgiving. Throughout my life my mom has been there for me through thick and thin. When I was six, I was in a car accident, and she was by my side for 40 days while I was in the hospital, sleeping uncomfortably on a couch by my side, helping me with everything. I am thankful to have a mother like her. I have been thinking about how I can repay her for all that she has done for me and the only thing worthy enough for her is for me to successfully finish my program at Rancho. This is where I can start repaying the sacrifices that my

mom has made for me. I can prove that her sacrifices were worth it and that they made a change in my life. But most of all, I want to make my mom proud. -Ben, a former Rancho youth

THE ANGELS IN OUR COMMUNITY

At Rancho San Antonio, we have always appreciated the love and support of our community. Just when we think our supporters have gone above and beyond, a new gift surfaces to remind us of the kind thoughts and generosity we continually receive. Earlier this year, Lisa Kodimer showed up



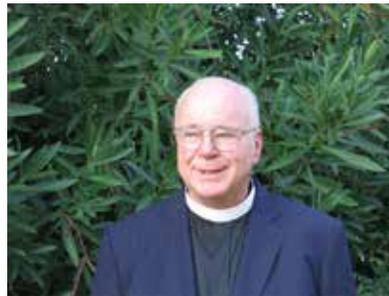
at Rancho's doorstep and offered a helping hand. Lisa is the co-founder of Connecting a Caring Community which is a non-profit organization, "that mobilizes the community to raise funds and

provide relief to those in our community who are most in need." They believe that "this formula will exponentially affect both recipient and the giver, which in turn will enable our community to give, love and grow." This group of men, women, and teens that make up Connecting a Caring Community, came together to make Halloween a special day for our youth. They received numerous goodies while trick-or-treating on our campus. "This is the best Halloween I've ever had," said one youth. The community pulled through to lift our spirits and help us remember that it truly takes a village.

We were again blessed this year when Jo Pessin from For Goodness Cakes contacted us to offer services to our youth. For Goodness Cakes is a non-profit organization that "gives underprivileged youth the chance to have a special birthday by matching volunteers to bake special cakes and deliver them to each youth for their birthday." Our youth get to select what flavors, fillings, and even the colors and decorations for their cakes. Many of our youth never had their own birthday cake and it is wonderful to see their excitement when their special, very own cake arrives on their birthday.



We would not exist without the support of the many angels in our community, as well as our newly discovered angels who go above and beyond to help lift up Rancho. Rancho is blessed.



BROTHER JOHN'S REFLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS 2021

"How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given. So God imparts to human hearts the wonders of His heaven."

"No matter how deep we have fallen, how hopeless we may feel, or how dark it is.....

There is no "bottom" we can hit where we will not find

this manger

holding the child

with the promise of new life.

And to all those who welcome Him, He shares this new life and fills them with peace."

"Love seeketh not itself to please nor for itself has any care but for another gives its ease and builds a heaven in hell's despair."

-William Blake



Rancho San Antonio Benefactors List

Rancho is grateful to our friends who contributed from July 1, 2021 through December 1, 2021.
All donations are greatly appreciated. Our mission would not be possible without your continued support.

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We thank all the KofC councils who donated in the annual sale of tickets this year



Original location



New location

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you so much to all those that contributed to the renovation of the statues of St. Anthony (the patron saint of lost things) that found their way back home to Rancho San Antonio. As many of you saw at the car show & BBQ on October 3rd when the statues were blessed by Fr. Mike Wakefield, their new home is inside our gates where they can be protected and enjoyed by all that encounter their presence.