

Spring 2024



www.ranchosanantonio.org

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

Newsletter

Volume 42 No. 1

JOIN EVENT

We are thrilled to invite you to our 41st annual car show, where we pay tribute to classic automotive craftsmanship and community spirit! This exciting event will feature a stunning display of over 100 classic and restored cars and trucks, showcased on our beautiful field for your enjoyment.

Indulge in our World-Famous Rancho BBQ dinners and sandwiches, alongside popular traditional Latin dishes available for purchase and guaranteed to delight your taste buds. If you have a sweet tooth, be sure to visit our bakery booth and explore other delectable treats. Additionally, Rancho apparel will be available for purchase, with proceeds supporting our valuable programs.

Join us at Rancho San Antonio from 9am - 4pm on 5/5/24 for an unforgettable experience. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information please
call (818) 882-6400 x 110

Rancho San Antonio
21000 Plummer Street
Chatsworth, CA 91311

*Double Reason
to Celebrate!*

This year our car show lands on

CINCO
DE
MAYO!



NAMASTE BROTHER JOHN

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | AUBREE SWEENEY, LMFT

At the start of any yoga class, they ask you to set an intention, which is a word, phrase, or mantra that brings you back to the goal of your practice. If you don't have one of your own, the instructor often offers an intention that they have chosen for the class. As I dealt with the news of Brother John's departure, I was offered the intention of "embracing change." The intention is meant to focus on yoga poses, to invite a deeper hold or increased balance challenge, but the suggestion is always applicable to life outside of the studio. Change is the second word in Rancho's vision statement, RISK CHANGE GROW. Change is not something most of us seek, especially when life feels comfortable, but often the most satisfying growth comes from change.

This intention was particularly powerful to me because Rancho was about to embark on one of the biggest changes in our current history. Brother John Crowe had just made the decision to move to Brother Vincent Pieau Residence in Austin, TX, a retirement home for the Brothers of Holy Cross. Our community supports this decision for Brother John's health and wellbeing, but we don't know Rancho without Brother John. Rancho is Brother John!

Six years ago, when I was appointed Executive Director, I promised Brother John that I would lead our organization with the respect, dedication, and care that he established for decades. I had the luxury of his mentorship and tutelage by my side every day. It has been six years of sharing decades of knowledge and experience. He shared stories, history, articles, documents, and financial acumen. Rancho is a spiritual place and I feel so blessed to have been guided by my elders on this journey. Like all good teachers, Brother John was also willing to learn from me and open up his mind and heart to new ideas, concepts, and innovations. My job is going to be different now, but my commitment has not changed. I will continue to work hard to carry on the teachings of my mentor and make him proud of Rancho for many years to come.

At the end of a yoga class, the teacher often says, *Namaste*, meaning "The light and teacher in me honors the light and teacher in you". We are all teachers, and we are all students. Brother John, you've been an amazing teacher to thousands of young people and staff, and I am so honored to be one of them. Namaste.



Aubree Sweeney

BROTHER JOHN'S *Prayer Corner*



A DAILY REFLECTION

Dear Lord,

Thank You, my Lord and God, for guiding me and leading me as I adjust to my new surroundings. Please bless us with Your presence while we worship You and strive to follow Your will in our lives. Bless the labors of our hands as we work for Your kingdom in Jesus' name. Amen.

Good news! Brother John will remain on the Board of Directors and continue enlightening us with his spiritual words and guidance from Texas!

RANCHO ALL-STAR

My name is Stephen. I came from a difficult home environment and got involved in the gang lifestyle. In 1998, when I was 16, the court sent me to RSA. Upon arrival, my plan was to just do the time and get back to my gang life. I had no idea that RSA was truly a rehabilitative environment. While at RSA, I saw other opportunities that life presented to me. Through the great treatment in a caring and supportive environment, I started to change my outlook on life and my behavior. I started to excel in my academic work and graduated high school with a 3.7 GPA, while also receiving an excellence award in math and English. I was even offered a job at my high school as a teacher's assistant. Later, I joined the Marines and completed 3 combat tours in the Middle East, where I received a Certificate of Commendation as a Lance Corporal in the Marine Corps.

Upon discharge from the Marines I worked for the post office for 20 years, and later became a trucker. Now, I'm studying at West Los Angeles Community College, hoping to work in the entertainment industry as a card-carrying member when I finish. I'm proud to say I've been on the Dean's List with a 4.0 GPA.

I am a proud and active father of 2 children, aged 15 and 7. RSA taught me the skills to become a caring, loving, and understanding parent. I try to teach my kids the values of accountability, responsibility, and the importance of education. RSA also taught me the value of patience and discipline. I often come back to RSA to visit and talk with the staff and youth. I hope that by sharing my story, I can inspire them to make positive changes in their lives.



Left to the right: Andre (RSA Staff), Joan (RSA Therapist), Stephen's son, Stephen, Eric (RSA Staff)

THANK YOU!

The holiday celebrations and festivities are now over, and the new year has begun. We want to, once again, thank all of those who contributed to making the holidays so very merry and bright. The youth made ornaments to decorate their Christmas trees in the dorms and were blessed with so much cheer as well many goodies and gifts that had them overjoyed and thrilled with excitement. We wish you all a very happy and healthy year ahead.



CREATIVE HEALING ARTS



To acknowledge Black History Month, the Creative Healing Arts Program explored the history of the African American people in America and their influence on music. Hip Hop turned 50 this year, and the youth visited a pop-up museum in Hollywood that featured exhibits highlighting the birth and growth of hip hop music and culture. In addition to the field trip, group therapy in CHA focused on tracing the origins of Hip Hop music through the history and experiences of African American people in the United States, including providing opportunities for youth to reflect on their own experiences with, and reactions to generational trauma.

SHADE AND SERENITY



Connecting a Caring Community's generosity shines through once again as they graciously donated a gazebo for our Saint Anthony's House. Not stopping there, they offered to assemble it alongside our youth, fostering teamwork and community spirit. Now, both youth and staff relish in the shade it provides, enhancing our space for relaxation and connection. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Connecting a Caring Community for their unwavering support and commitment to our mission of providing a nurturing environment for our youth.



RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

Benefactors List

Rancho is grateful to our friends who contributed from November 1, 2023 through March 1, 2024. All donations are greatly appreciated. Our mission would not be possible without your continued support.

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Please note: there will be no benefactor dinner in June. Based on feedback received this year we will honor all of our benefactors as we historically have on the first Saturday of December (12/7/2024). Stay tuned as we plan exciting new events for our organization in lieu of the mid-year dinner.



SCAN ME

Rancho's "merch" is now live and for sale on our website! Check out our signature T-shirts Sweatshirts and hats! All proceeds will go back into the program for the youth at Rancho.

