

Manny's full article is featured on our website please visit www.RanchoSanAntonio.org and visit the "News" section to read his full commentary.

"Rancho San Antonio was the lifeline I desperately needed," writes Manny Perez in an op-ed in the Sacramento Bee. His heartfelt article details his personal journey and the transformative impact of Rancho San Antonio on his life while shedding light on the critical services required by at-risk youth. His journey from adversity to advocacy exemplifies the profound impact of Rancho San Antonio and what happens when we risk, change, grow.



Youth Advocacy

A dedicated group of young advocates journeyed to Sacramento to make their voices heard in the halls of the Capitol. The visit was both exhilarating and educational, as participants, including Nati from our Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Housing, navigated the historic corridors of California's government, sharing personal stories of how the program has transformed their lives.

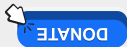


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Your generosity fuels our mission and helps transform lives. There are many ways to support us: make a one-time donation, become a monthly donor, or contribute in honor of a loved one. Simply scan the QR code to access our secure donation portal. Every gift, big or small, makes a difference. Thank you for being a part of our community and making a positive impact!



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

September 30, 2024
Don't forget that we are still selling raffle tickets from our 2024 Car Show! Winner need NOT be present and we will be streaming a LIVE DRAWING on



Volume 42 No. 2

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

Newsletters

Summer 2024

Days We Will Never Forget

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | AUBREE SWEENEY, LMFT

We all probably have our top 10 list of best days of our lives, and if we are lucky, top 10 best days of our career. The most memorable days for me usually involve alumni and hearing success stories from former youth who come back to let us know how their time at Rancho positively impacted their lives and changed their trajectories to lead meaningful and satisfying lives. In the past couple months, I am so proud to share that I experienced three very different but powerful days that I will never forget.

The first was getting to spend an afternoon in our Creative Healing Arts state-of-the-art sound studio, and experience recording the chorus of a song for the use in training on Complex Trauma. I sat in awe and emotion that something so professional, powerful and meaningful for both the artist and the team could be created at Rancho.

On the second occasion, an alumni named Phil from 1945 brought his daughter and grandson to Rancho to show them where he grew up and the place that helped mold him into the man he is today. As a token of his time at Rancho, we presented Phil with the original tackle football trophy, he earned at Rancho, and has referenced to his family for decades.

The final experience that is burned in my memory bank forever is June 26, 2024, when I had the pleasure of being surrounded at City Hall by staff, alumni, and Rancho supporters as Councilmember John Lee honored Brother John for over 60 years of service to our community. Councilman Lee officially declared the date as "Brother John Day" in the city of Los Angeles. Brother was presented with a scroll acknowledging his lifetime achievements and a portion of Plummer Street in front of Rancho will be named "Brother John Way." For those that know Brother John, the street name is befitting as he often did things the "Brother John Way." Brother John proudly watched the livestream from Austin, Texas.

On all three occasions, I felt like the luckiest person to get to experience such meaningful demonstrations of mission and service in the work that we do. I never take that for granted and I truly feel honored to lead this organization and hope you feel honored to be a part of the experience.



Aubree Sweeney



Brother John Way

JOHN LEE

You can view the LA City Council Honoring of Brother John at www.ranchosanantonio.org

Stay tuned as there will be a formal street naming ceremony and signage added in the next few months. More details will be available on our website.



BROTHER JOHN'S Prayer Corner

Sometimes we face the hardest of times. Sometimes we feel like we are put to the test. Sometimes we feel we are alone in the darkest night. And that God is not with us. But even in the darkest of times, God is there. He is able to carry, to protect, to guide, to shield us through life. We hear God and his word that says, "Fear Not." The question we might ask then is, "But how?" How do we "fear not" when everything around us makes us question? The answer is found in focusing on what is true about God's promises. God promises to be with us. God promises to give us strength. He is reaching out his hand to lift us up, hold us, and make sure we will be ok. He is there. In the middle of the darkest night, with comfort, with you.



THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BROTHER JOHN CROWE

RANCHO ALL-STAR



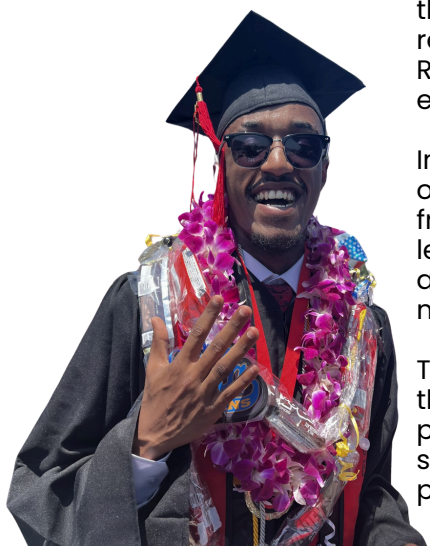
Marriage marks not the final step in a couple's journey, but the beginning of a lifelong adventure. In 1999, Rancho Alumni Victor embarked on such an adventure when he vowed to spend his life with his bride. Surrounded by family and friends, they celebrated their love and exchanged vows, choosing Rancho's beautiful grounds for their reception—a place that held special significance for their new chapter together. Rancho had provided Victor with a fresh start in his youth, making it a fitting venue for their joyful occasion.

Now, 25 years later, for their 25th wedding anniversary, they sought to reaffirm their commitment and chose Rancho once more as the meaningful setting to renew their vows. They revisited many of the same ceremonial elements used in 1999, adding to the sentimentality of the occasion.

Beyond its picturesque settings, Rancho continues to be a place where memories are made and cherished. Whether it's a couple returning to where their journey began or new families creating their own special moments, Rancho offers a timeless backdrop for life's most important celebrations. We look forward to being a part of your story and helping you create unforgettable experiences for years to come.

Rancho's dining hall is available for rent to the community, providing a perfect venue not only for celebrating love and anniversaries but also for hosting events such as birthdays and other milestones. Please contact us at 818-882-6400 x110 to learn more.

Celebrating Success



We are thrilled to announce the incredible achievements of our youth at Rancho San Antonio! This year, we witnessed the graduation of three current high school students and three former students from Aggeler High School, marking significant milestones in their educational journeys. Our current high school graduates have demonstrated resilience, dedication, and hard work, embodying the spirit of perseverance that Rancho fosters. Their successes are a testament to the supportive and nurturing environment Rancho strives to create.

In addition to our high school graduates, we are proud to highlight the achievements of Rancho All-Star, Nati. Nati's journey has been nothing short of inspiring. Graduating from Pierce College, Nati served as the college treasurer, showcasing exceptional leadership and commitment to excellence. We are excited to share that Nati will begin as a student at UCLA in the Fall, where we are confident, he will continue to excel and make a positive impact.

These accomplishments reflect the strength and determination of our youth, as well as the unwavering support of our dedicated staff and community. We are immensely proud of each graduate and look forward to seeing them achieve even greater success in the future. **Congratulations to all our graduates!** Your hard work and perseverance have paid off, and we are excited to see what the future holds for you.

CREATIVE HEALING ARTS

The Creative Healing Arts (CHA) program had an opportunity to support our youth productively during this year's Juneteenth celebration. Juneteenth (short for June 19th) marks the day in 1865 when federal troops freed the last enslaved people in Texas, after the Emancipation Proclamation had been signed in 1863. Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery in the U.S. and is a celebration of African American freedom and heritage.

Freedom and new beginnings are often themes we tackle within treatment. In addition to a wonderful block party style celebration, activities included a water slide bounce house, popcorn, shaved ice and jewelry making. CHA set up the turntables and provided music for the entire event! Our very own talented employees Marcus Johnson, playing his saxophone, and DeAndre Hagler, on the drums, added live instrumentation in company with the DJ music. Everyone watched the music come to life.

Two youth from Brother John's House put on a performance featuring their recent work. Each performed a quick solo song, and then ended the set with a duo supporting each other. The music they shared was from writing prompts provided by their therapist, and with Juneteenth in mind. The songs touched on forgiveness, loneliness and fear of repeating the past, while searching for the courage to embrace a future life that is more reflective of their true and healed self.





Benefactors List

Rancho is grateful to our friends who contributed from March 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024. All donations are greatly appreciated. Our mission would not be possible without your continued support.
Includes monthly sustainers and donations of \$25 and above.

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Shop our amazon wishlist

You can support our youth directly with purchases from Amazon, providing games, toiletries, and resources for our residents. Simply scan the QR code to shop from Rancho's Wish List, select the items you wish to donate, and check out like normal. The items will ship directly to Rancho. Your gift is just a click away!



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.



The following donations were made to Rancho as tributes

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