



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Rancho Youth Achievements

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible accomplishments of our Rancho youth! This June, six current and former participants proudly graduated from Aggeler High School—a remarkable milestone that reflects their perseverance, dedication, and strength.

Our Transitional Age Youth (TAY) program continues to empower young adults as they pursue higher education and shape promising futures. Several TAY participants are thriving at Pierce College, while four are currently enrolled at California State University, Northridge (CSUN), pursuing degrees in Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, and Business Marketing. One outstanding student is making strides at UCLA, where he is double majoring in Economics and Sociology.

We are also proud to share that three students were awarded academic scholarships in recognition of their academic excellence and meaningful community involvement.

These inspiring achievements highlight the limitless potential of our youth. We couldn't be more proud—and we look forward to seeing all they accomplish in the future!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
ranchosanantonio.org

CONGRATULATIONS

**2025
GRADS!**



CULMINATION... AN END AND A BEGINNING

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | AUBREE SWEENEY, LMFT

In sixth grade, I had the pleasure of making the culmination speech at my graduation, marking what I viewed as the end of an era, a celebration of all we learned to take into the next chapter of our lives. I remember the principal's speech that same day explaining that culmination is not an end, but a beginning, and thinking I misunderstood the definition.

It's graduation season again and many of us will be attending graduation ceremonies, including six youth at Rancho who will be graduating from Aggeler High School. With a history of school challenges, many of the youth at Rancho never thought this day would come in their lives. Graduation at Aggeler is one of the highlights of the year. The ceremony is small and intimate; youth are invited to present a flower to someone who helped them achieve this milestone. It no doubt marks the end of achieving what many told them could not be achieved, but it also marks the beginning of a new life with more opportunities with a diploma.

This year has also marked one of the biggest culminations in Rancho's history, the end of an over 60-year era with Brother John Crowe. While he has physically left our earth, this is by no means the end. I feel him on campus and hear his bellowing voice in my mind every day. And we are now called to begin the era of memorializing his legacy. We mourned his death and celebrated his life with hundreds of his supporters at St. John Eudes on March 1 and we are excited to announce that we will host our first formal gala on October 23, called Legacy of Hope: A Tribute to Brother John Crowe.

Decades after my elementary school graduation, I reflect on my principal's wisdom. Culmination is the end point or final stage of something you have been working toward or something that has been building up, but she was right, it is not just an ending, it is a new beginning. So, this Spring, I congratulate all of our Rancho graduates, both from our program and High School, and all they will go on to achieve, continuing to beat odds and achieve great things. And I invite you to celebrate with our Rancho family to keep Brother John's legacy alive at our upcoming gala this fall. Congratulations to all graduates and families of graduates, from elementary school and beyond. May each of these moments be the beginning of another.



Aubree Sweeney

IN LOVING MEMORY...

BROTHER JOHN'S PRAYER CORNER



Hope is not wishful thinking. Hope is not merely a desire. Hope is a confident belief—a certainty—that God will do what He has said. It is trusting fully in God's promises. Hope is what motivates you to keep believing, even when circumstances seem impossible. One of the greatest gifts God has given us is hope. In fact, His promises are designed to instill that very hope within us. Look at every situation with assurance, knowing that without fail—and regardless of how things may appear—God will come through. Trust His promises. Have hope today. Face this day with confidence and assurance, believing that your prayers have been heard. You can place your full hope in that truth.

RANCHO ALL-STAR

LOCAL YOUTH USES MUSIC AND VOLUNTEERING TO UPLIFT AND INSPIRE

Thomas, a high school junior from Camarillo, is a young man with a mission—to use his gifts to make a difference. While many teens are still discovering their passions, Thomas has already merged two: a love for music and a deep commitment to giving back. His story is a compelling example of how creativity, empathy, and initiative can come together to heal and inspire others.

Thomas's journey into volunteering began with the nonprofit "For Goodness Cakes," which matches volunteers to make and hand-deliver birthday and graduation cakes to children in foster care and youth overcoming adversity. With a close family member who was a graduate of the foster care system, Thomas understands the importance of bringing a little light to them on their special day. One of his deliveries brought him to the Rancho San Antonio campus, a pivotal moment for both Thomas and ultimately Rancho.

"It felt different," Thomas said. "Like a safe, welcoming space. When I learned about the Creative Healing Arts program, I saw a real connection to what I care about—how music can be a therapeutic outlet."

Inspired to do more and motivated by his visit to Rancho, Thomas decided to take action in a big way. He organized a benefit show with performances by his singer/songwriter duo, The Four and a Half, a local jazz ensemble, and the rock band SPAM—all in support of Rancho's Creative Healing Arts Program.

Despite his humble nature, Thomas exudes what he calls a "quiet confidence." This blend of introspection and leadership has allowed him to mobilize support for a cause close to his heart while growing his own skills and sense of purpose.



Photo of the cake Thomas baked and delivered to Rancho San Antonio in April 2024



His decorating skills have definitely gotten better! (1 year after)

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Even with all he's accomplished, Thomas keeps his eyes on the future. He will be interning this summer with an affordable housing developer focused on projects that include housing youth aging out of foster care. Musically, he will continue to write and record with his various musical partnerships, and Black Moon Lilith is scheduled to release a five-track EP all while contemplating how to balance a budding music career with his academic aspirations. Of course, his plans for the future include college as well.

Thomas is proof that age doesn't define impact. Through his music, volunteer work, and thoughtful action, he's giving others a voice—and creating spaces where healing and hope can thrive. Whether performing on stage or quietly composing a new song, he exemplifies how art and service can change lives, including his own. Thank you for your example, Thomas. We're all inspired by your heart and commitment.

BENEFACTORS LIST

Rancho is grateful to our friends who contributed from July 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025.
All donations are greatly appreciated. Our mission would not be possible without your continued support.

Includes monthly sustainers and in-kind donations.

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Your support ensures his legacy continues.

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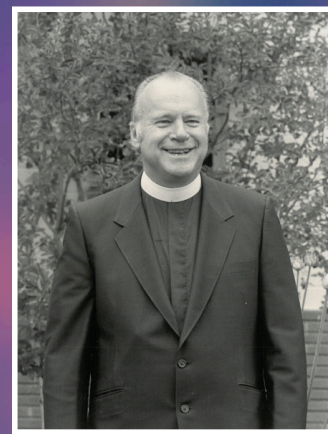
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Rancho San Antonio's LEGACY OF HOPE GALA

A Tribute to Brother John Crowe



Our inaugural Gala is a heartfelt tribute to Brother John, whose legacy of compassion, service, and transformation continues to inspire all that we do at Rancho San Antonio. We are proud to honor two remarkable individuals—Councilmember John Lee and Terrance Turner—for carrying his legacy forward in powerful ways.

Councilmember John Lee has spent his life serving the City of Los Angeles, where he was raised and now represents Council District 12. A dedicated public servant, he is known for his commitment to public safety, support for local organizations, and efforts to improve quality of life across the city. His leadership embodies the values Brother John stood for.



Terrance Turner arrived at Rancho at age 17, carrying the weight of trauma and uncertainty. Through Rancho's support, he discovered his passion for the culinary arts and transformed his life. Today, Terrance is a successful chef with an international career—and a shining example of what is possible when a young person is given the opportunity to thrive.

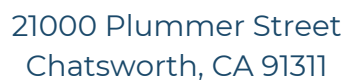
Join us in celebrating these two outstanding honorees whose lives reflect the enduring spirit of Brother John and the mission of Rancho San Antonio.

Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 6 PM
Taglyan Complex in Hollywood

This special evening will raise funds for our youth programs—and honor the remarkable legacy of Brother John Crowe.



Details can be found here:
<https://ranchosanantonio.org/2025gala>



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