



NEW BUILDING COMING SOON FOR YOUTH OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

This project marks a significant step toward building a healthier, more resilient future for youth and families in our local community.



Rancho was awarded \$4,197,699 through the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) Round 4: Children and Youth. The grant supports the construction of a Youth Outpatient Center on our campus in the Northwest San Fernando Valley, where additional youth-focused mental health and substance use services are critically needed.

The center will expand our current substance use treatment services by providing a space for integrated behavioral health services, including mental health care, substance use treatment, case management, and linkage to additional resources for youth and their families. This initiative responds to urgent community needs, including rising suicide rates and fentanyl overdoses among youth.

Currently, Rancho is awaiting final clearance from the City of Los Angeles to secure the necessary permit to begin construction. Demolition is anticipated in the coming months, with groundbreaking expected by the end of 2025. Construction is projected to take 12–18 months to complete.



SEASONS OF CHANGE

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | AUBREE SWEENEY, LMFT

One of my favorite songs from the musical RENT is “Seasons of Love.” The chorus asks how we measure a year—“Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes”—and answers: we measure it in love. Brother John taught us that same lesson: to measure time not in milestones or minutes, but in love. As we enter the fall season, a time of reflection and transformation, we also prepare for our upcoming gala honoring Brother John Crowe. It feels fitting—this season of change, this celebration of legacy.

Like clockwork, just before each newsletter is due, an alumnus seems to appear—calling, visiting, or simply reminding us why we do what we do. This time, it was Isaac, a young man I met at Rancho in 2004. Now a devoted father and a man of faith, Isaac shared how Rancho has been a guiding light throughout his life. He recited scripture, spoke of memories, and of a card he once made after losing his father. It read: “Seasons may come and go, but a father will never be forgotten.” Isaac carries that truth with him still—and he carries Brother John’s inspiration too.

He also shared the heartbreak of watching loved ones struggle with addiction. But Isaac chose a different path. He now speaks at his church, offering hope and wisdom to others. He told me that when he feels nervous, he remembers speaking to benefactors as a youth at Rancho—and if he could do that then, he can do anything now. So I invited him to come full circle- to be our alumni speaker at the very dinner where it all began. Please join us on **Saturday, December 6, 2025**, as we celebrate the holiday season and honor Isaac’s journey at the annual Benefactor Dinner.

Later, standing beneath a tree with staff—some who knew him then, some meeting him for the first time—Isaac quoted Proverbs 22:6: “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” The seasons may change, but our mission remains constant: to guide young men back onto a path of purpose and possibility. Isaac is living proof of this.



Aubree Sweeney

BROTHER JOHN’S

Prayer Corner

THE LOVE FOR equals is a human thing—of friend for friend, brother for brother. It *is* to love what is loving and lovely. The world smiles.

The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing—the love for those who suffer, for those who are poor, the sick, the failures, the unlovely. This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world.

The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing—to love those who succeed where we fail, to rejoice without envy with those who rejoice, the love of the poor for the rich, of the black man for the white man. The world is always bewildered by its saints.

And then there is the love for the enemy—love for the one who does not love you but mocks, threatens, and inflicts pain. The tortured's love for the torturer. This is God's love. It conquers the world.

-Originally published in *The Magnificent Defeat* by Frederick Buechner

RANCHO ALL-STAR

SEASONS OF CHANGE: ISAAC'S RANCHO STORY

When Isaac first arrived at Rancho San Antonio as a teenager, life felt uncertain. Growing up in East Los Angeles, he had faced challenges that left him restless, wounded, and searching for something more. What he found at Rancho was not just a place of care, but a community that opened his mind, encouraged healing, and planted seeds of hope that would guide him long after he left.

Isaac recalls how Rancho helped him learn to think differently, to pause, reflect, and analyze why people act the way they do. "Rancho opened my mind to think outside the box," he shared. "It gave me the tools to understand that there's always a reason behind behavior and that healing comes from being open and transparent."

While he witnessed both triumphs and tragedies during his time in the program, Rancho gave him a safe space to process grief and learn that transparency and vulnerability are powerful steps toward healing.

During his stay, life took an unexpected turn when a relative recognized his name on a pharmacy medication list. This chance discovery connected Isaac with an extended family member who temporarily took him in. Although that chapter came with its own hardships, Isaac reflects with resilience: "There was a lot of healing that took place here [at Rancho]. I learned that even when people let you down, you can keep moving forward." Ultimately, Rancho remained a constant, a place he could return to and feel supported through challenges.

One of the most impactful experiences for Isaac was his time in the chapel with Brother John. There, he first encountered the message of grace, forgiveness, and redemption. "So many people carry shame for what they've done or what was done to them," Isaac reflected. "At Rancho, I learned the power of letting go of that shame. That changed everything for me." This newfound faith shaped how Isaac saw himself and his future. It became a cornerstone of his healing and growth as a leader, father, and mentor.

Today, Isaac is a husband and father of three. He embraces fatherhood as both a responsibility and a calling: "I try to teach my kids to always be open, to share, to let things out instead of keeping them inside." Isaac also uses his experiences to inspire others. He has volunteered as a youth leader in his church and often shares his story publicly. "I tell people, I'm no different than you. If I made it through, so can you. There's always hope."

His story is a powerful reminder that healing is not a straight line. It's a journey of resilience, faith, and community, and Rancho remains a place where lives are transformed and futures are reimagined.



Photo of Isaac as a youth; playing baseball at Rancho San Antonio



Isaac Now: Photographed with his Certificate of Completion and trophy

BACK TO SCHOOL

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Rancho's Back-to-School Drive raised \$599.60, surpassing our \$500 goal! These funds provided essential supplies like pencils, notebooks, and highlighters, ensuring our youth started the school year prepared, confident, and ready to succeed. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this effort.

*Albert De La Pena
Catherine McMinn
Laura Braunstein
Marisa Capra-Cunningham
Princess Cazzaly
Robert Plassmeyer
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Veronica Ortiz-Zarate
Victor Luke*

BENEFACTORS LIST

Rancho is grateful to our friends who contributed from April 1, 2025 through July 31, 2025.

All donations are greatly appreciated. Any omissions are not intentional.

Includes monthly sustainers and in-kind donations.

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The following donations were made to Rancho as tributes

In honor/memory of
Lucy Guido
Antonio Mastroianni

In honor/memory of
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Saul and Jackie Rodriguez
Sheila Spence

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS... RANCHO YOUTH CREATE HOPE

On August 27, the Creative Healing Arts program hosted a **Heal and Be Heard** event centered on the theme *When Life Gives*

You Lemons. In the weeks leading up to the event, youth explored the deeper meaning of the phrase, reflecting on the “lemons” they’ve faced and how they’ve transformed struggle into strength. We kicked things off with a “*Strengths Draft*,” where youth selected personal strengths – like perseverance or leadership – and shared how those qualities were shaped through adversity. All youth crafted “*Sour to Power*” keychains as symbols of resilience and transformation. At the showcase, youth presented personal clothing brands designed to inspire positive change and original songs that gave voice to lived experiences.

Each dorm also took part in a T-shirt design contest, using fashion and storytelling to bring the theme to life. With strong participation from both youth and staff, the event was a moving celebration of courage, creativity, and community.



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Additional Underwriting by: American Building Comfort Services, Inc.,
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Rancho San Antonio's LEGACY OF HOPE GALA

A Tribute to Brother John Crowe



Rancho's guiding leader for more than 60 years, Brother John Crowe.

Michaela Pereira
Emcee



A beloved broadcaster and storyteller, Michaela has spent more than three decades on national and local television, including CNN and KTLA.

Champion for Youth Award



John Lee
Councilmember, District 12

Tickets \$300

Table and sponsorship opportunities available

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

Funds raised will support
Brother John's most treasured programs

No-Host Bar

Complimentary Wine Service with Dinner
Hosted Valet Parking

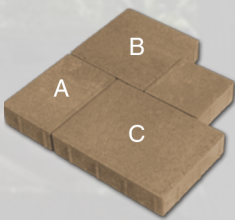
Legacy of Hope Award



Terrance Turner
Rancho Alumni

Music by Three and a Half
Live & Silent Auctions

<https://ranchosanantonio.org/2025gala>



Buy-A-Brick Campaign



Courtyard Stone(s)

- A. Standard 6" x 9" - \$250
- B. Square 9" x 9" - \$500
- C. Premium 9" x 12" - \$1,000

For questions, please contact the Rancho San Antonio Development Department at (818) 882-6400 or send an email to donations@ranchosanantonio.org.

Rancho San Antonio is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

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Brick Selection:

- ☐ Standard (6" x 9") Up to 3 lines
- ☐ Square (9" x 9") Up to 4 lines
- ☐ Premium (9" x 12") Up to 5 lines

Message Selection:

Brick can be engraved with three to five lines of text (up to 16 characters on each line, including spaces). Please print (with capital letters) the name or message you wish to see on your engraved brick in the boxes below.
 Rancho San Antonio reserves the right to arrange words to maintain balance and improve legibility.

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