

Spring 2018

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Honor Home opens in March 2018



Visionary Leader Spotlight:
Todd & Christine Close



Billy & Jennifer Zuruka of Wedgewood
with Champions Luncheon Highlights

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
Charity Golf Tournament
June 11, 2018

Empowerment Village Opens

"I need a little bit of help getting back on my feet to give my son a better life and childhood than I had growing up,"

said Molly, a former foster youth and mother of a 15 month old boy. Molly is the first mom entering Rancho Damacitas' new program – **Empowerment Village**, which opened in January 2018.

Empowerment Village targets single mothers with young children exhibiting risk factors that could lead to homelessness or child abuse. The program will provide the mother and her children, all under the age of 7 years, with a stable home, mentorship, and the opportunity to develop skills essential for independent adulthood and raising a healthy family. Rancho Damacitas believes working with struggling mothers to make them healthier and stronger is about preventing children from entering the foster care system in the first place, and the best way to break the cycle of child abuse.

The Empowerment Village program is not a hand-out, but a hand-up. Moms receive a lot of support, but there are expectations placed on them as well. Residents are expected to maintain employment and contribute to financial responsibilities including housing contributions, utilities, childcare, food, or extra-curricular activities. Moms will also be expected to complete workshops and courses on financial management and parenting. It is anticipated that most moms will be able to meet the program milestones within two years. When they leave **Empowerment Village**, moms will be employed, financially secure, and a stronger, healthier parent.

Utilizing the beautiful 12-acre property in wine country once used to house children and teens living in foster care, Rancho Damacitas transformed the property late last year into the **Empowerment Village**. The property consists of five large homes, a Serenity Garden, a playground, and many acres to explore and let their developing imaginations grow. There will be two moms and their children living within each home for a total of eight families. The fifth home will serve as the Caretaker Residence where Erik and Alexis Romero will live to supervise the property and work with the young families.



"I am here, you are safe."

Anxiety has a way of making things look worse and feel more scary than they may actually be.

These words may offer comfort and safety to someone feeling out of control.

CAL'S CORNER

An update from the CEO, Cal Winslow



*A*s I am sitting at my desk this warm winter afternoon, I have been alerted to the noises of toddlers in our office. The halls are filled with enquiring questions and happy voices.

After 35 years of working to make a difference in the lives of troubled youth, Rancho Damacitas has made a strategic decision to refocus our efforts toward helping Moms and their Tots. Recent government reforms have implemented significant changes that impacted the quality of our care and the impact of our family-based program. Consequently, we have turned our campus program to focus on young families.

As of today we have two children who are age 6, two who are age 4, two who are age 2, and one 15-week old child. The three mothers are busy and actively entering into our program to become better moms and raise their children to be happy successful children.

All moms are required to be working or going to college and to participate in our "Five Fingers of Care Program" (Faith, Family, Friends, Fitness, Financial management).

Honor Home Near Completion



Thank You to all the following companies, individuals, and families who contributed to the new Honor Home opening in March 2018!

- American Landscape
- Anaheim Stone Works
- Blake Roofing, Inc.
- Brad & Kelli Neet
- Builder's Termite
- Champion Windows
- De Luz Women's Club
- Exit Alliance Realty
- Fenceworks
- Fiber Care Baths
- Firesprinklers
- Flatwork
- GE Appliances
- Good News Charitable Foundation
- Greg & Cynthia McGuff
- Grove Lumber
- HomeAid Inland Empire
- Masonry
- In Memory of Jamie Lynn Fullmer
- In-N-Out Burger Foundation
- JBS Plastering
- JC Concrete
- Jerry Konchar & Julie Ngo
- Joseph Holt Plastering
- Larry Methvin Installation
- Lennar
- Leonard Roofing Inc
- Murrieta Development, Inc.
- Next Level
- OC Hills
- Ortega Construction
- Pacific Production Plumbing
- PCS Professional Cabinet Solutions
- Pechanga Resort & Casino
- Preferred Telecom
- Prestige Construction
- Reliable Wholesale Lumber
- Schamber Electric
- So Cal Framing
- So Cal West Coast Electric
- South Coast Stairs
- Southwest Healthcare System Auxiliary
- True Air Mechanical
- TruTeam
- Up on the Roof, Inc.
- Valley Pacific Concrete
- Verengo Solar Plus
- Vintage Design
- Walters Wholesale Lighting
- West Coast Drywall & Paint
- Weyrick Companies
- Xtreme Cleanup

A Challenge Ponte Family Estate Gift Leads to \$14,500

In December, **Ponte Family Estate** offered Rancho Damacitas an opportunity we couldn't pass up. Together with Rancho's Board of Directors, Ponte led a challenge match for the end of the year gifts with a goal to raise \$10,000 to support programs helping struggling young adults get on their feet. Thanks to Ponte, the Board of Directors, Murrieta Development, and our many other generous supporters, we were able to receive the matching funds raising \$14,500 for the programs.



Community Support is Strong

Our community has been extremely supportive in launching the Empowerment Village program and meeting the needs of our young adults. Eagle Scouts, Neighbors, Community Groups, Bible Study groups, and individuals have been sharing their time, talent and treasure. Recently, two local artists shared their time and talent with these two beautiful, unique murals for our homes.



Jill Roberts created a beautiful tree honoring all those who have helped us complete the new Honor Home in Murrieta for Project Independence.



Gayle Johnston Arlich created a Noah's Ark theme for the kids playroom in one of the homes at Empowerment Village.



Thank You

Our 2017 Holiday Helpers



Lennar Homes held a collection drive for Empowerment Village with employees

Thank you to all the following individuals, companies and groups who collected gifts for our young adults in Project Independence and Scholarship programs, and those who helped prepare us for the opening of Empowerment Village.



Azusa Pacific Students held a gift drive for new moms and tots

We really appreciate your support!

- Abbott Vascular
- Azusa Pacific, Murrieta campus
- Betty Lou
- Boombbox CrossFit
- Carol Giampolo
- Encouragers
- Elizabeth Sidall & Bible Study Group
- EMD MILLIPORE
- Erin & Andrew Ek
- Fusion Christian Church
- Later Day Saint's Church
- Lions Club
- Leo's Club
- Lennar
- Maui Wowi
- Murrieta Development, Inc.
- Oak Park Executive Suites
- Oak Springs Community Church
- Refuge Brewery
- Rose Again Foundation

Left: We were thrilled to host the leadership team from supervisor Washington's office in March. They came for a tour to learn more about Empowerment Village and our needs.

Left to Right: (Jeff Comerchero, Claudia Maunz-McLellan, Olivia Balderrama, Opal Hellweg, Supervisor Chuck Washington, Sundae Sayles)

Country Music and Wine for a Great Cause



Wilson Creek Winery has been an valued and generous supporter of Rancho Damacitas for many years. Last year, Wilson Creek helped raised over \$25,000 through their concerts to support the campus and Project Independence. Thank you Wilson Creek for being a partner in breaking the cycle of child abuse in our community!



Michael and Susan Hastings, winners of one of the autographed guitars

Visionary Leader Spotlight

Todd & Christene Close, Murrieta Development, Inc.

Todd and Christine Close have been involved with Rancho Damacitas since 2006. Since that time, Chris has involved her friends, employees, family and neighbors in supporting those with a history of child abuse and neglect. She joined the Board of Directors in 2017 and over the years, Chris has helped raise over \$150,000 for Rancho Damacitas! Most recently, Chris is the interior designer behind the beautifully decorated Honor Home opening in March for young adults.



Home Depot



Before bathroom remodel



After bathroom remodel

Home Depot coordinated a regional project to fix up two of the cottages on campus. Volunteers painted, installed new appliances and carpet over the 7 day project. It was an amazing opportunity for Rancho Damacitas and a very generous gift from Home Depot and their employees.



Before kitchen remodel



After kitchen remodel

Want to Volunteer?

Volunteers needed in many different ways.

Please contact:

(951) 302-2317

Cowboys & Cars 4 Kids Rounded Up \$55,000

DeLuz Women's Club Fundraiser Supports
Honor Home



On October 7, 2017 the **DeLuz Women's Club** held their signature event raising over \$55,000 to support the new Honor Home opening this March for Project Independence. The event featured a classic car show, casino, live music, and local beer, food and wine vendors. The DeLuz Women's Club was founded in 2006 and currently has over 50 members from all over the DeLuz and Temecula area. The Club raises funds to support scholarships for young girls and help meet the needs of the community through fundraising efforts.



On behalf of the young adults whose lives are forever impacted through your support, thank you to the DeLuz Women's Club for their generous support.

Champion's Luncheon Highlights Lennar & Honor Home



Honor Home Vendors



Left to Right: Cal Winslow, Rancho Damacitas CEO; Anne Meyers Drysdale, Celebrity Speaker; Kermit Alexander, 2014 Celebrity Speaker and his wife Tami

The 4th Annual Champion's Luncheon brought together over 350 individuals, business leaders, and community groups to celebrate the completion of the Honor Home. Both the celebrity speaker, Anne Meyers Drysdale and youth speaker, Maria, warmed hearts with their stories about staying positive and overcoming the odds.

Together the community raised over \$100,000 to support all of Rancho Damacitas' programs. Funds designated to the greatest need were crucial in helping Rancho Damacitas transition the residential campus into the new Empowerment Village serving single mothers and their young children.



US Bank, 2017 Presenting Sponsors

Meet Stephanie—

A New Heights Scholarship Student



Stephanie, a former foster youth through the Riverside County system, has been attending Golden West College in Westminster, California since 2015. She is studying Kinesiology and is planning to transfer to Cal State Fullerton to obtain her Bachelor's Degree. This fall, Stephanie took 12 credits and enrolled in a program at the Beta Institute of Technology to learn how to build mobile apps as a way to support herself through college.

The **New Heights Scholarship**, funded through generous Rancho Damacitas donors, provided Stephanie with financial assistance to help pay for rent and bills, allowing her to focus on her education and her future career.

100% Employed

Project Independence Youth Thrive

100%

Project Independence, Rancho Damacitas' transitional program for former foster youth and disadvantaged young adults, saw 100% of the residents employed this past quarter. Project Independence currently has two homes and will soon add another home with the opening of the Honor Home in March. The program, started in 2012, serves as a safety net for struggling young adults with a history of foster care, homelessness, or poverty. Project Independence breaks the cycle of abuse and poverty by offering safe, secure housing with strict program guidelines to ensure youth are moving towards self-sufficiency. Residents are required to find and maintain employment and/or attend school full time to pursue a career, and abide by the Code of Conduct which includes no overnight guests, no drugs, no alcohol.

The program continues to see youth thrive! Project Independence residents are currently employed within a variety of careers fields including medical, food service, car dealership service, and retail.

STAT: 2 years following foster care 50% of former foster youth typically remain unemployed

Southwest Healthcare presents the 21st Annual...
Scott Crane Memorial Charity Golf Tournament
 The Scott Crane Memorial Charity Golf Tournament will take place on Monday, June 11, 2018, at Bear Creek Golf Club
 Check-in starts 8am—Shotgun start at 10am
 Benefiting the following charities...

ALL NEW VENUE FOR 2018!

SOUTHWEST HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
 INLAND VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER
 RANCHO SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER

Partial List of Past & Present Sponsors:

Abbott, MISSION AMBULANCE, ALEGIS, PROHEADE, Southland Industries, RANCHO DAMACITAS CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES, TTP Trauma Intervention Programs Inc.

Event	Date & Time	Location
Honor Home Dedication & Bus Tour	Friday, March 23rd at 10:00 AM	Murrieta
Intimate Evening in the Vines	May 2018	Wine Country
SWHC Scott Crane Memorial Charity Golf Tournament	Monday, June 11, 2018	Bear Creek Golf Club
5th Annual Champion's Luncheon	September 2018	TBD

Thank You! Rancho Damacitas Champions 2017/2018

Rancho Damacitas Champions are caring individuals and organizations who understand the importance of our programs for foster children. Their contributions of \$1000 or more annually are the foundation of our organization. In addition to their financial support, they serve as powerful advocates in the community.

\$50,000 +

DeLuz Women's Club
Weingart Foundation

\$25,000 +

Fullmer, Jim and Joan in Memory of Jamie Lynn
God's Gift Charitable Foundation
In-N-Out Burger Foundation
Kaiser Foundation
Pechanga Resort & Casino
Wilson Creek Winery

\$10,000 +

Anonymous
Gray, Joseph & Patty
Lennar
Ponte Family Estate Winery
Southwest Healthcare Sys. Auxiliary
The Community Foundation
US Bank

\$5,000 +

Bennett & Bennett Family Law
Brewer, Michael
City of Temecula
McGuff, Greg & Cynthia
Murrieta Development, Inc.
Paradise Chevrolet Cadillac Buick GMC
Pymm, Ken & Jenni - The Truck Shop
Rancho Christian Schools
Shea, Marty & Reshmie
Stone, Bob & Lien

\$2,500 +

Abbott Vascular
Atwood, Dan & Kathryn
Fencel, Mike & Jami
Low, Ken & Mary Callahan
Mythos Technology
Riverside 3rd District, Supervisor Chuck Washington
Rose Again Foundation
Sorensen, Rob & Shawn
Temecula Creek Dental Care
Winslow, Cal & Karyl
Zaruka, Bill & Jennifer

\$1,000 +

Abney, Lois A.
Aki, John & Crystal
Alexander, Kermet & Tami
Anderson, Mark & Susie
Appice, Frank
Arlich, Dave & Gayle
Bergfalk, Joe & Nancy
Burke, Dan & Paula
Bundy, Jack & Barbara
Brandywood, Inc.
Carlson, Ed & Beverly
Cerwin, Lori
Connolly, Patty
CR&R
Dodson, Stephen
Exit Alliance Realty
Fitzpatrick, Ivy
Glass Doctor
Greenberg, Roger & Sylvia
Holder, Jade
Holloway, Fredric & Helga
Hunter, Daniel
Johnson, Susan
Julie Ngo State Farm
Langlois, Betty Lou
Low, Ken & Mary Callahan
Mansir, Dan -
Encore Glass
McCann, Robin
McClellan, Ken & Susan
Myatt, Todd & Karen
Neet, Brad & Kelly
O'Bryant, Morgan -
ROI Executive Search
Puma, Craig & Christy
Ricci, Jeremy - DJ Pros
Richards, Tim
Rosingana, John & Carol
Sirag, David & Luanne
South Coast Winery
Spates Fabricators
Taylor, Alan & Denise
Temecula Sunrise Rotary
The Humanity of Justice
Foundation
Treadway, Scott & Jenny
Van Herpe, Steve & Scotti
White, Robert & Roseanne
Wilson, Bill & Jennifer
Young, Becky





RANCHO DAMACITAS
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

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*Empowerment Village
is Now Open!*

OUR PROGRAMS:

Empowerment Village

Helping young mothers with children to obtain stability through employment and education. Goals include keeping their own children out of the foster care system and holding families intact.

New Heights Educational Scholarship

Helping hard working, deserving young adults, formerly in the foster system, to pursue and achieve their career goals. Educational support scholarships and academic counseling are offered to eligible students each school year to attend accredited community colleges, universities and vocational/trade schools.

Project Independence

Project Independence offers young adults with a history of foster care ages 18 – 25 with transitional housing, employment readiness, financial management, life skills coaching, mentoring, and a place to call home. The program holds residents accountable through weekly coaching meetings, paying a portion of rent and utilities, and community service.



www.4kidsfirst.org