

A MINISTRY FOUNDED IN 1856 BY THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY

## OUR MISSION

Maryvale's Mission, inspired by the compassionate service of our Vincentian Founders, faithful to Catholic Social Teaching rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the charism of the Daughters of Charity, is to heal, empower and educate children and families in order to instill hope for a more fulfilling future. We do this by providing residential, educational, mental health and community-based services in an environment of dignity, love and respect.

## IN THIS ISSUES

Protecting and Healing More Children . . . . .	1
A Message from Steve . . . . .	2
The Gift of Volunteers. . . . .	2
Family Resource Center . . . . .	3
Kids in the Spotlight . . . . .	3
Rite Aid Kids Cents. . . . .	3
Sr. Martha's Treasures . . . . .	3
Heart to Heart Gala . . . . .	4
Restoring Hope Golf Classic Raises \$27,000! . . . . .	4
Overflowing Generosity . . . . .	4

## OUR CORE VALUES

- Respect
- Compassionate Service
- Simplicity
- Advocacy for the Poor
- Inventiveness to Infinity



Oscar Olivares Osher, an artist who lives in Mexico, donated four days of his time to paint this mural in the Emergency Placement Center so the children who come through its doors experience joy and inspiration.

## PROTECTING AND HEALING MORE CHILDREN

In May 2013, eight-year-old Gabriel Fernandez was beaten to death by his mother and her boyfriend. In spite of repeated reports of suspected abuse made by teachers and neighbors alike, the system designed to protect this child failed. His subsequent death served as the catalyst for intense scrutiny of a child welfare system in crisis, where resources and training are insufficient and caseloads overwhelming.

In response, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors established The Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection which found that County agencies must, first and foremost, keep children safe. One key barrier to effectively protecting children, as identified by the commission, is that there are insufficient placement options for children who may be in imminent threat of physical or emotional harm or neglect.

According to the Children's Law Center of California, 100 children are placed into foster care in California each day, with 30,000 children falling under the jurisdiction of Los Angeles County Department of Child and Family Services every year. A significant number of these children enter care under emergency circumstances due to the imminent threat of permanent physical or emotional harm.

In the wake of Gabriel's death, County officials have—justifiably—begun removing children more quickly to prevent another tragedy, placing an even heavier burden on the few placement options that are available.

Maryvale, the oldest child welfare organization in Los Angeles, moved quickly to create the new Emergency Placement Center for Children which opened in February 2014. The Center provides immediate shelter, keeping children safe while helping them to begin the healing process. Children stay at the Center for a period of up to 30 days. Their experience while in Maryvale's care undoubtedly colors their perception of what kind of treatment they can expect from the child welfare system and—for many—the world at large.

Upon arrival, children receive medical attention, clean clothing and a bed of their own. The Center helps children reconcile their conflicting emotions about being removed from their home, begin the process of working through the effects of trauma, and lays the foundation for future success.

---

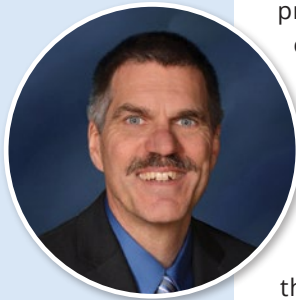
<sup>1</sup>Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection. "The Road to Safety for Our Children." April, 2014.

*continued on next page*

# A Message from Steve

Dear Friends,

Activity and blessings filled 2014. As described in the cover story, we launched our new Emergency Placement Center for Children in February allowing us to now serve 72 children on our campus. In June we received national accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA), a process which has strengthened our organization.



This Fall, we began a renovation project in our Rosemead Early Education Center which will provide a long-overdue facelift, allow our enrollment to expand, and increase daily learning time. Thanks to the incredible efforts of the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild, we will soon open a new fitness center on campus to improve the health of children we serve and our Associates.

We will continue to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us to "heal, empower and educate children and families in order to instill hope for a more fulfilling future."

You have been by our side this year in bringing healing and hope to more children and families and I thank you for your support. I hope you will consider a gift to Maryvale this season knowing your contribution will make a life-long impact in the lives of children and families who desperately need us.

May you experience Peace and Joy this Christmas season!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Gunther".

**Steve Gunther**  
*President & Executive Director*

## PROTECTING AND HEALING MORE CHILDREN (CONT.)

*continued from front page*

Using Trauma-Informed Care, Maryvale provides assessments, stability and care and creates an environment that fosters a sense of hopefulness for the future. Once assessed, each child receives appropriate educational support, mental health counseling, psychiatric intervention, and a variety of other support. Ultimately, the information gleaned through the assessment process will help Child Protective Services and the dependency court more appropriately plan for the child's future care.

The Center's original 12 bed capacity was expanded to 14 in June, and recently

expanded again to 20 beds at the request of the County due to their continued need. Maryvale is the only organization in Los Angeles County that provides an Emergency Placement Program for boys between the ages of 6 and 12, and is one of only two such programs in the County for girls of the same age.

Maryvale is grateful to the Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation who provided funding for the building's improvements and transition from an all-girls facility to one that now houses up to 14 boys. Your support helps provide these children with a safe, loving and healing home.

## THE GIFT OF VOLUNTEERS

The children who come to Maryvale have experienced the brokenness and ills of our society through their own parents and family, so taking the risk to trust other caring adults is difficult, yet building such relationships is an important part of their healing.

Volunteers give our girls the opportunity to build healthy friendships with a caring adult mentor. Roberta Lara is one such volunteer who has made a real difference in the life of a Maryvale girl.



Roberta was matched as a Special Friend to a young lady at Maryvale in March of 2012. Over the past twenty-two months they have experienced many great times together, as well as times of heartaches and struggles.

When Roberta's resident moved on from Maryvale this past July, Roberta decided to follow her and continue to be her Special Friend. Today, Roberta continues to stand by the side of her Special Friend and provides unconditional love and support.

The friendship is not always easy because of the trauma her Special Friend has endured, but Roberta is determined to continue standing by the side of her Special Friend until she achieves full stability, and if possible, she hopes they will be friends for the rest of their lives.

At Maryvale, we encourage our volunteers to follow their Special Friends after they leave Maryvale because an on-going relationship with a caring adult is so important to their healing and learning to build healthy relationships. This focus on permanency for our girls requires a higher volume of volunteers, but we are willing to endure more work in order to achieve what is best for the children we serve.

To learn more about our volunteer opportunities, visit the "Get Involved" section of our website.





Maryvale's Family Resource Center provides outpatient mental health services to children 0-20 and their families within Duarte and its surrounding communities. The program has continued to thrive and currently services over 90 at-risk and emotionally challenged families on a regular basis.

In collaboration with Montebello Unified School District and Probation's Prevention and Early Intervention Unit, to name a few, the Center offers an array of cutting edge groups and services including a support group for bereaved parents and siblings offered in partnership with City of Hope. To learn more, visit the Family Resource section of our website.

Save the date for Maryvale's **3rd Annual Family Summit** scheduled for **Saturday, April 11, 2015**.




Kids in the Spotlight is an organization that trains foster youth to write, cast and star in their own short films. 2014 was the second year Maryvale has worked with Kids in the Spotlight to provide our girls with this valuable experience.

The 2014 Film Festival and Awards event was held at the at the Writer's Guild Theater in Beverly Hills on November 1. The event was hosted by Ty Burrell from the television show "Modern Family" and several other celebrities served as judges and presenters.

Our girls represented Maryvale well, and when the awards were announced our girls took home awards for Best Screenplay for "I Wish I Had Your Life" by Andrea J. and Destinee P.; Best Actor – Ashley G. for her role in "Another Way Out"; and Best Film for "Heavens Hard Pitches" by Carissa J. and Kera D.



Here's an easy way you can support the work of Maryvale. 

We are pleased to partner with the Rite Aid Foundation and be a part of their KidCents Program.

Maryvale recently received a \$10,000 check from the KidCents program which will be used to heal and bring hope to the children who need us every day.

You can participate in KidCents and support Maryvale's life-changing work every time you make a purchase at Rite Aid. Just go online to <https://kidcents.riteaid.com/charityprofile?charity=220> and click on "Enroll or sign in" at the top of the page.

Once enrolled, every purchase you make can be rounded up to the nearest dollar (i.e. a \$33.49 purchase is rounded up to \$34.00) and the rounded up portion (\$0.51) is donated to Maryvale. Sign up today!



## Sr. Martha's Treasures

On January 6, 2015, Maryvale will celebrate 159 years of service to Southern California. It all started back before the Civil War when Bishop Amat, the first Bishop of the Monterey/Los Angeles Diocese, petitioned the Daughters of Charity to come to California to provide a caring solution to the growing number of children who were orphaned or abandoned and found roaming the streets of the city then known as Pueblo de Los Angeles.

With a commitment to serving the poorest of the poor, five Daughters of Charity arrived in Los Angeles on January 6, 1856 by boat from their American Provincial House in Maryland to open Los Angeles' first orphanage and hospital



*Wilson House occupied by Maryvale from 1856-1891*

in the small wood-frame Wilson House on the site where Union Station stands today.

Over the years, Maryvale has evolved from an orphanage to an agency that provides healing and stability for foster youth, educates young children to provide the foundation for life-long academic success, and strengthens and empowers families by providing guidance, support and hope.

Thank you for being a part of Maryvale's history; past, present and future!

## Save the Date!

THE LOS ANGELES  
ORPHANAGE GUILD

*Heart to Heart*



GALA

*Friday March 6, 2015*

MONTAGE HOTEL, BEVERLY HILLS

HONORING

SUE ELLEN WATERS



## RESTORING HOPE GOLF CLASSIC RAISES \$27,000!

On September 22, 2014, Maryvale held it's Restoring Hope Golf Classic at Porter Valley Country Club. The day was a great success filled with friendship, comradery and fun. As one player noted, "My rating for the Tournament is 10's across the board - Maryvale nailed it. I can't wait to play again next year."

Through the generosity of our sponsors, donors and players, the tournament raised over \$27,000.

We extend our sincere appreciation to...

### GOLF COMMITTEE

Rob Shilling - Golf Chair  
Tony Johansing  
Mike Amerio

### GOLD SPONSORS

LE Waters Construction  
Wells Fargo

### SILVER SPONSORS

Cass and Johansing  
Mike Rezinias Insurance Services  
Muir & Chase Plumbing  
GPS painting  
Grifols  
Doortek Systems, Inc.  
Trendez

### BRONZE SPONSORS

Cintas  
Mutual of America

### AWARDS LUNCHEON SPONSOR

St. Vincent's

## DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

Have an old car taking up space in your driveway? Get a tax deduction and support Maryvale! We'll tow it and make the process easy. Call toll-free at 855-502-4483 or visit [www.maryvale-cardonations.org](http://www.maryvale-cardonations.org)

## ESTATE PLANNING

There are many ways to provide for your loved ones in your will and continue to make a meaningful impact in our community. There are benefits and tax advantages to charitable gift planning, but most importantly, you will be able to transform the lives of children and families in Southern California who need Maryvale. For more information, visit the "Support Us" section of our website or call Paul Pulver at (626) 537-3364.

## OVERFLOWING GENEROSITY

With Christmas just behind us, we reflect on the generous outpouring of love shown to the children of Maryvale by individuals and organizations. A special thank you to all who went above and beyond to create happy memories by generously donating toys, clothes, gift cards, shoes, and more to help make Christmas full of love and warmth for the children and families served by Maryvale.



Two annual Christmas events kept the girls at Maryvale active and full of Christmas joy during the holiday season including a Christmas Party sponsored by the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild

Juniors held at the Porter Valley Country Club, and the Maryvale Christmas Angels Party hosted by Amy Barksy and friends. Both parties were filled with food, dancing, and presents from Santa.

### Main Campus

7600 East Graves Avenue  
Rosemead, California 91770

Main: (626) 280-6510

Early Education: (626) 537-3311



[www.maryvale.org](http://www.maryvale.org)

### Family Resource & Early Education Center

2502 East Huntington Drive  
Duarte, California 91010

Family Resource: (626) 263-9133

Early Education: (626) 357-1514