# CARE line May 2014







# OUR MISSION is to help each child achieve

fulfillment, dignity, and selfesteem in an environment of stability, love, and respect.

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#### OUR CORE VALUES

Respect Compassionate Service Simplicity Advocacy for the Poor Inventiveness to Infinity

# The Blessing of Knowing I'm Loved

My older sister and I attended Maryvale's Early Education Center in Rosemead in the early 1970s. In 1973, Mother Teresa visited Maryvale and I was selected to present flowers to her. This was a special blessing during a very difficult time of my life.

You see, my life has had its share of challenges. My father, who was black, was murdered in 1970. I was the first child of color in my mother's family, so some of my mother's family wanted nothing to do with me because of the color of my skin.

After my father died, my mother was a single parent working hard to raise her two young daughters. Thank goodness the Sisters at Maryvale were sensitive to the childcare needs of low-income families and single parents and offered affordable childcare.

My mother remarried and my stepfather was violent and abusive. Our lives were in constant turmoil. I believe my stepfather destroyed in anger the only photos we had of our encounter with Mother Teresa. One day while we were at Maryvale, my stepfather came and angrily removed us from school. Sr. Estela kept telling my stepfather, "You can't take the girls," but he took us anyway. As he drove out the driveway, Sister ran alongside the car, knocking on the window saying, "You can't take the girls". She was not afraid of him and she loved us.

I was recently inspired to try to get a copy of the photos of my encounter with Mother Teresa, so I contacted Maryvale. After some investigating, it turned out that Sr. Estela had some photos, so I was invited to visit Maryvale to view them.

I arrived at Maryvale with my mother and we were able to tour the grounds including the Early Education Center. I learned that the center is now able to care for children as young as six weeks old and is preparing for its first renovation since I was there over forty years ago.

I also learned about Maryvale's programs for foster children and how they are designed to "help them start healing."

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# A Message from Steve

Dear Friends,

I took a short walk across campus last week and I was surrounded by joy and energy as I visited one of our early education centers. Each time I visit

the schools, I am reminded of the incredible potential each child's life promises, and how important our efforts are as we strive to instill a love of learning for the 300 children who attend one of our early education centers each year.

Carmen's story on the cover is about more than just her encounter with Mother Teresa, it demonstrates the long-term impact our caring and inspiring teachers have upon each child.

In the article to the right, you will learn about the major renovation project for our Rosemead Early Education Center we will begin this summer. We hope to bring the center up-to-date and elevate the learning environment to be on par with the high quality care our Associates provide every day.

We still need to raise \$200,000 in order to complete the project, so I hope you will respond with a gift knowing your contribution will make a life-long impact in the lives of thousands of children for years to come.

May God bless you all this Easter season!

Fish

*Steve Gunther President & Executive Director* 

# The Blessing of Knowing I'm Loved (cont.)

#### continued from front page

Those words struck something in me — to know that Maryvale understands that these children need to heal and experience love and care simply because they are a creation of God.

I was then shown the photos, and sure enough, there was one of Mother Teresa as she embraced me. I began to cry. The photo really blessed me and everything I knew about Mother Teresa came to mind, especially how she LOVED THE



UNWANTED. I knew then that I was loved and truly blessed no matter what color my skin is or who my father was.

Today I am a wife, a mother and a successful business owner. I have a very strong work ethic for which I thank my mother.

I am blessed to be a part of Maryvale's long history of serving children and making a difference in the lives of families. My encounter with Mother Teresa was truly special, but the love, care and protection I received from Sr. Estela and the staff at Maryvale has shaped who I am today. Thank you Maryvale! *Carmen Theresa* 

# **Renovations Planned This Summer**

Opened in 1968, the Rosemead Early Education Center provides quality care and early learning to children of the local community, many of whom are from low-income or marginalized families. The center has not undergone a major renovation since its opening, so a significant renovation is planned this summer.

The goal of the renovation is to improve the comfort, safety, and learning environment for the children. The project includes:

- 1. Adding a restroom to each classroom to increase instruction time.
- 2. Install an ADA approved ramp which will serve the dual purpose of allowing wheelchair access to the school and play area, and allowing access to the play area without going through the centralized restroom.
- 3. Installing ducts and vents for air conditioning.



- 4. New interior ceiling tiles, flooring, paint and light fixtures.
- Installing new play yard shade structures and replacing outdated playground equipment and outdoor toys.

Thanks to commitments from the Dan Murphy Foundation (\$75,000) and the Ronald McDonald House Charities (\$10,000), the renovation will begin in July 2014. An additional \$200,000 in funding is needed to complete the project this summer.

Careline

# **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**



#### CHILDREN'S ASSESSMENT CENTER SR. B

Maryvale opened its new St. Vincent de Paul Children's Assessment Center on February 4, 2014 and immediately began serving both boys and girls ages 6 to 12 years old in need of short-term care. In its first 60 days of operation, the Center has served 27 children. The family-style environment creates a safe, warm, and loving environment for each child.



#### SR. BARBARA MEMORIAL

Last year, we honored the twenty-one years Sr. Barbara served at Maryvale through the Sr. Barbara Memorial Campaign. One of the special projects that donations from the campaign funded was the installation of a shade covering for the infant and toddler outdoor play area at the Duarte Early Education Center. Thanks to the generosity of our Associates and contributors, our young children are now able to play without the sun bearing down on them.



#### **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Back by Popular Demand! Maryvale is pleased to announce the return of its golf tournament which has been named the Restoring Hope Golf Classic that will be held on Monday September 22, 2014 at the beautiful Porter Valley Country Club in Porter Ranch, California. Don't miss the opportunity to spend a fun filled-day of golf, food and prizes! For more information, please contact Dawn Peri, Development Manager at (626) 537-3361

# Sr. Martha's Treasures

"Consider yourself happy that God has given you charge of these little children" St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, who founded the Daughters of Charity, often reminded the Sisters back in the 17th century of the characteristics of the "little schools": to welcome children from more disadvantaged backgrounds; to work for the promotion of the individual; and to reveal to the young that God loves them.

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The Foundress of the Catholic Schools in the United States, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, also followed St. Vincent's teachings. She was a loving, compassionate teacher who brought children to her school who were poor and could not pay.



St. Vincent de Paul

Since opening in 1968, the Associates in our Early Education Centers strive to emulate the love that St. Vincent, St. Louise, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton had for the education of children. The centers provide education to all children, especially welcoming those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Teachers provide for the spiritual, physical, psychological, and social development of their students with age-appropriate instruction, care, and guidance.

Our Early Education Centers are a treasure we continue to enhance, embrace, and enrich!

#### **Children and Families Served**

 Total	1,170
Family Resource Center	700
Transitional Housing	3
Early Education Program (Rosemead & Duarte)	333
Residential Treatment Program	134

#### 2012-2013 Summary of Revenue



#### 2012-2013 Use of Funds



# MARYVALE ANNUAL REPORT October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013

## **Major Initiatives**

Maryvale undertook the following two agency-wide initiatives during the 2012-2013 fiscal year:

- Trauma Informed Care. Desiring a more compassionate approach to our care, Maryvale began a profound transformation from a culture of crisis intervention to a culture of Trauma Informed Care. Our commitment is that all 250+ Maryvale Associates will receive the initial 3-day training so a culture of Trauma Informed Care permeates the entire organization, and all direct-care Associates will receive additional in-depth training.
- 2. National Accreditation. Maryvale began the process to achieve national accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA). This has been a valuable exercise across all departments of the organization and has only been possible because of the dedication and hard work of many Associates. Our site visit is scheduled for June 2014.

# Accomplishments

www.maryvale.org

- 74% of Maryvale Associates received the initial 3-day Risking Connection™ training as part of our Trauma Informed Care initiative.
- In two years after opening, the Family Resource Center served approximately 700 families this year through community events, workshops, and providing a multitude of support and therapy groups.
- The Early Education Centers had a 23% increase in enrollment.
- Due to increased efforts by staff, girls in the Residential Treatment program had a 91% reduction in the number of school suspensions.
- The High Risk Division of the County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) gave Maryvale accolades for the care we provided to one of their most challenging girls. This volatile girl had failed out of multiple group homes and was so challenging that she was held at juvenile hall before coming to Maryvale because the County had nowhere else to place her. Through an unwavering commitment to compassionate service and healing, this young lady has become such a model of success that DCFS recently discussed having her as a spokesperson in addressing other foster care children. She earned a 4.0 GPA for the last two semesters.

Main Campus 7600 East Graves Avenue Rosemead, California 91770

Main: (626) 280-6510 Early Education: (626) 537-3311 Family Resource & Early Education Center 2502 East Huntington Drive Duarte, California 91010

> Family Resource: (626) 263-9133 Early Education: (626) 357-1514