



## OUR MISSION

is to help each child achieve fulfillment, dignity, and self-esteem 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

## A ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

Mareny was 16 years old when the Department of Children and Family Services removed her from her parents' care. Placed immediately with a qualified foster family, Mareny — like many children in the system — internalized her history of abuse. She began to hurt herself and have suicidal thoughts. Recognizing that Mareny was in danger, her foster family contacted county personnel and she was immediately hospitalized. After 30 days, Mareny was discharged. Stable but extremely vulnerable, Mareny's feelings of uncertainty were heightened when she was told that returning to her original foster family was not an option because they were not trained to deal with her level of trauma. Mareny was told that she needed to be placed in a residential treatment facility, but she had no idea what that meant.

Arriving at Maryvale, Mareny felt alone. But, over time, Mareny began to form the relationships that would shift her view of the world from a volatile place where she was in danger, to a stable place where she was loved and accepted. Mareny began to see Maryvale as her home; the staff and other girls became her family.

When Mareny turned 18, she — like 65% of youth released from foster care — “aged-out” of the Foster Care system with nowhere to go. Moving Mareny into its Transitional Housing and After Care program, Maryvale ensured that Mareny would be given all the tools she needed for a peaceful transition to independence.

For the past year, Mareny has paid rent for a furnished apartment. Mareny's rent is deposited into a savings account and will be given to her when she successfully



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# A Message from Steve

Dear Friends,

Walking on campus this morning, "Christina" ran over to tell me she will be leaving in January after 3 ½ years at Maryvale. She was clearly excited as she will be living with family - her beaming smile was evidence that she is ready.

The goal of our work, to the greatest extent possible, is to heal each girl and foster reunification with family. As we embrace our new trauma informed treatment philosophy, I believe we will be even more successful in accomplishing our goal and fulfilling our mission.

Christina won't be home for Christmas, but she has a great gift in knowing she will be home soon.

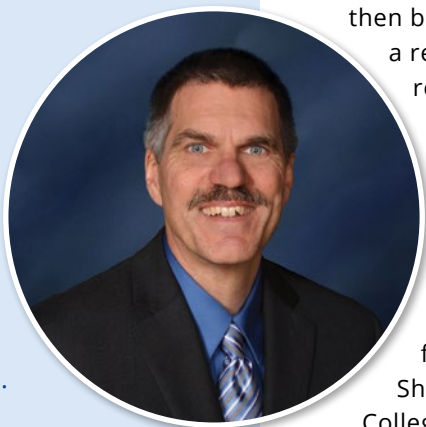
Thank you for your continued support in helping us give hope to Christina and all the girls on campus.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Blessings,



**Steve Gunther**  
President &  
Executive Director



## A ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE (CONT.)

*continued from front page*

completes the program; the money can then be used to make a deposit on a real-world apartment. Marenly receives Mental Health services, life-skills training, and guidance and support from counselors and peers.

Today, Marenly's smile lights up a room. She laughs easily and often, and looks forward to a bright future.

She attends Pasadena City College, studies child development, works as a teacher's aide at Maryvale's Early Education Center, and recently purchased her first car. Marenly credits Maryvale with helping her become the stable and independent adult she is today.



## EMERGENCY SHELTER CARE

For a child, being removed from their parents – regardless of the presence of abuse or neglect – is an exceptionally frightening experience. Maryvale recently responded to a crisis in Los Angeles County by agreeing to open an emergency shelter care program for children 6-12 just removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or other traumatic experiences. This temporary, short-term (typically 30 days) shelter will meet the therapeutic needs of children



including immediate medical attention and educational and social-emotional assessments. These assessments help Child Protective Services and the dependency court make optimum decisions for the child's future care, ensuring each child is matched with a nurturing setting that has the capacity to provide care that meets their unique needs.

Maryvale is blessed to have the facilities and experience necessary to meet this critical need. We ask that you keep our efforts in your prayers as we work to bring God's healing power to these vulnerable children.



# PROGRAM ACTIVITIES



## EARLY EDUCATION

After 45 years of serving the community, our Early Education Center in Rosemead is embarking on a campaign for much needed renovations including adding restrooms in the classrooms, creating a ramp for access to the playground, and new furniture that meets the developmental needs of the 85 children we serve daily.

In support of this campaign, our Family Council is hosting a silent auction at our annual Christmas program, so please join us on December 13th at 6:00pm in the Maryvale gym. For more information contact Christina Recendez at (626) 537-3315.

## FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Several groups for both children and parents are slated to begin in October, November and January:

- Angry Birds
- Grandparents as Parents
- Incredible Years (Social Skills Building for children)
- Mommy & Me
- Teen Talk
- Single Parent Warriors
- English as a Second Language (one-on-one tutoring)

For more information about our services and/or group participation, please contact us at (626) 263-9133.

## KIDS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This summer our residents had the unique opportunity to write, cast and produce their own short films. The 10 week program offered by Kids in the Spotlight allowed our girls to develop the skills, vision and discipline required to complete a short film. It culminated in a "Red Carpet" Film Festival at Sony Pictures Entertainment's Holden Theater on October 26th.



## Sister Martha's Treasurers

Ah, Christmas—the season for family, celebration, and gifts. As we celebrate Jesus' birth and unfailing love, we share our joy through cards, time with family, and the gift giving that has become synonymous with Christmas...for some of us.

For many girls at Maryvale, Christmas doesn't necessarily conjure up warm feeling and memories. For 157 years, Maryvale has helped wounded girls reclaim

the joy of Christmas by making Jesus the center of our celebrations; creating an atmosphere of love, giving and gratitude.



*Christmas 1930's at Maryvale*

With your help—our "angels"—we can continue to bring joy to the world of these young ladies as they work to heal from the trauma and difficulties they have endured. We can help our girls learn – or remember – that Jesus is the "Reason for the Season" and through his love all things are possible.

If you are already one of our "angels" – thank you! If not, please become a giving angel to our girls during this holy season!



## Christmas Wishlist

Christmas is coming to Maryvale. Each year we strive to provide our girls with items from their Christmas wish list. Below is a list of items that can be donated:

- Xbox Systems, Accessories & Games
- Wii Systems, Accessories & Games
- PS3 Systems, Accessories & Games
- Digital Alarm Clocks/Radios
- Portable DVD Players
- Gardening Equipment & Supplies
- Scrap Booking Supplies
- Art Supplies
- Sketching Kits, Art Portfolios
- MP3 Players & Accessories
- Digital Camera & Accessories
- Hooded Sweaters & Sweat Pants All Sizes
- Zumba/Exercise Wear All Sizes
- Vampire Diaries Series DVD and/or Book
- Large Stuff Animals
- Bibles
- Anime Books
- Teen Wolf DVD
- Disney DVD's
- Volleyballs
- Curling Irons
- Blow Dryers
- Make-Up Sets
- Hello Kitty Items



## NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON

We have been working on a new much-expanded website that will keep you better informed and connected to the healing and transformational work of Maryvale. Stay tuned and keep checking in at [www.Maryvale.org](http://www.Maryvale.org)

### 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)

## MARYVALE HOSTS FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE

On July 29th, Maryvale hosted over 200 attendees for the "Improving Outcomes for Foster Youth in California" conference convened by GRACE (a ministry of the Daughters of Charity) and the National Foster Youth Institute. Speakers included U.S. Congress members Karen Bass, Judy Chu, Jim McDermott, and Adam Schiff, as well as, Senator John Burton, California Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell, Former



*U.S. Congresswoman Karen Bass and Retired Senator John Burton*

## LOS ANGELES ORPHANAGE GUILD



*Current President, Patty McVerry, Past President, Lisa Sheedy, Sister Martha, and Steve Gunther*

For 63 years, a group of generous and caring women called the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild have been dedicated advocates of the girls served by Maryvale with the sole purpose of raising financial support for Maryvale's Residential Treatment program.

On October 15, 2013 the Guild presented Maryvale with a check for \$140,450 representing the fruits of their work over the past year. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for the faithful commitment, love and support the girls at Maryvale receive each year from the Guild members.



*Maryvale President and Executive Director Steve Gunther and U.S. Congressman Adam Schiff*

Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, Judge Michael Nash, former foster youth and other key leaders from the California foster care system.

The conference focused upon the latest research and programs, as well as, recommendations to improve the recruitment, training and support for foster parents; identifying and supporting at-risk families prior to intervention; and improving comprehensive care for foster youth requiring intensive residential-based services.

## Save the Date!

THE LOS ANGELES  
ORPHANAGE GUILD  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO  
A GALA BENEFITING  
THE GIRLS OF MARYVALE

## HEART TO HEART

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2014

MONTAGE HOTEL  
BEVERLY HILLS

HONOREE  
BUNNY MAY

### Family Resource & Early Education Center

2502 East Huntington Drive  
Duarte, California 91010

Family Resource: (626) 263-9133

Early Education: (626) 357-1514