



Recent high school graduate and Maryvale resident Haley has a dream, and it involves helping children less fortunate. "I want to be a social worker," she said. "When you've been through the system, and you know how it works, you'll be a great social worker. I can give them advice, and they'll know I've been there."

Her troubles began as a child, when she, her mother and brother, lived for a time with her uncle and aunt. That's when her uncle tried to molest her.

She remained silent about the episode, but internally she experienced rage and defiance. Her path toward self-destruction surfaced during high school when she repeatedly tried to get expelled. In desperation, she overdosed on drugs, which

It was the beginning of nine months of abuse, as 16-year-old Haley was imprisoned and repeatedly beaten; she was forced to take drugs and, as a result, became addicted to methamphetamine.

"I couldn't go to school; he wouldn't let me out. I was malnourished," Haley said. "He would threaten me, hit me. He would try to brainwash me. He would tell me 'you have no one else. There is only me.'"

Though she tried to escape, he would catch and hurt her. Haley was a victim of Stockholm syndrome.

One day, her body covered in bruises, she saw an opportunity and finally escaped. She ran to a friend's house where she stayed until a detective located her with the help of her family. She filed a police report, and was transferred to Maryvale. She wasn't done testing boundaries, however, and her distrust of others was damaging. She was still having

nightmares and flashbacks.

"When she arrived here, she assaulted staff. She was on the verge of being sent away to a rehab facility to face her meth addiction," said Isau Graves, Maryvale Group Supervisor. "But then she turned it around. She is a real leader now."

Her turning point happened during a

frightening AWOL episode. She left Maryvale and ended up at a house with drug addicts. What she didn't expect to see, however, were two toddlers playing in the midst of adults who were taking drugs.

"When I saw those babies with their mom right next to them getting high, I said what's going to happen to them? Those children deserve a better life," Haley said. "After I came back to Maryvale, I reported to staff what I saw, and changed my life."

Haley was intent on staying at Maryvale, and she made the most of every program offered, including chemical dependency, college prep, and life skills workshops.

That shift in attitude enabled her to graduate early from high school. "Even after a year of not going to school, I was able to catch up quickly," she said. "I learned I was smart." Her efforts resulted in a much deserved Alhambra Latino Association Scholarship. It was life-changing.

At 18, Haley is eager to begin the next chapter in her life. She has enrolled in college with the goal of graduating with a sociology degree so she can help foster children just like her.

Not long ago, this would have seemed impossible. "Only we can stop ourselves from achieving our goals," Haley said. "And I will succeed."



Long day's *Journey* into light

landed her in the hospital. When she finally shared her secret with a social worker, she was placed in a group home.

Unfortunately, that group home proved unsafe and she ran away. In three years, her life included five failed foster care placements and a life-threatening period of being held in captivity by a man.

THE **02**
ODYSSEY
SR. TRANG'S VOYAGE OF HOPE

Calling all alums!

Attention all Maryvale alums attending college: the \$1,000 Riggio-Babin Scholarship provides assistance for tuition and fees at any college or vocational school (culinary, beauty, community college, etc.)

See if you qualify for a possible scholarship by calling Carole Tremblay at 626/537-3364!

The scholarship was established in 2016 by a former Maryvale resident, Virginia Riggio, who honors her childhood experiences by providing an annual scholarship fund to support post-high school education and career training of Maryvale residents and alumnae.

Virginia hopes the annual scholarship will positively impact the lives of young women by encouraging and supporting higher education.

core
values

respect

compassionate
service



simplicity

inventiveness
to infinity

advocacy for
the poor

Maryvale means healing hearts



STEVE GUNTHER
President & Executive Director



Welcome to our latest issue of Careline! As I read the compelling stories in this issue about some of the children and families we serve, I was struck by the humanity that connects us all. No matter where we are on this journey of life, committed relationships are the foundation for healing, empowerment, and growth.

One of our children recently created a card that closely describes Maryvale's mission. Her drawing of a broken heart held together by a bandage has the words, "Maryvale Means Healing Hearts." Our children recognize the "heart" of Maryvale and our reason for being. It is messages such as this one that bolster us in the face of challenges and remind us of the importance of our work.

Healing starts the moment people feel heard. This concept is at the center of Maryvale's Trauma Informed Care approach. When children arrive at Maryvale, it's often at the end of a tumultuous journey. When families seek support from our community-based services team, they are frequently in the midst of a crisis. A history of trauma is the common factor, and being able to share

their experiences represents the beginning of healing and change.

At all levels of our Agency, we have fully transitioned to a philosophy of Trauma Informed Care. This approach allows us to build every relationship on a foundation of trust with a clear understanding of the effects of trauma on recovery.

We wish to welcome Sr. Trang, who recently joined us as Campus Minister. When Sr. Trang escaped from Vietnam as a child, she didn't realize that the trauma she experienced would end up forming her life's mission: helping others to heal from a painful past. Every day we witness her passion as she works with our children.

We hope you will join Sr. Trang and all of the Maryvale supporters in our mission to Heal, Empower and Educate. You can do so by making a donation, volunteering, sharing our message on social media and sharing our work with friends, family, and colleagues. Together we can keep hope alive.

THE pilgrimage

In 1977, two years after the fall of Saigon, in a nation still emerging from decades of brutal warfare – a small fishing boat carefully maneuvered out into the open sea.

Sister Trang, 10, and three of her siblings were hidden in onboard containers, huddled under layers of rice husks and ice to avoid detection by communist authorities. "We thought we were going to die," she said.

Her oldest sister and brother-in-law had planned this escape for months, working to secure false papers as fishermen so the small group could flee, leaving their mother, father and seven other siblings behind.

"When I looked into my mom's eyes on that day when we left Vietnam, when I saw her give me a hug, call a cab and give us an extra set of clothes, I knew in my heart I would never see her again," said Sr. Trang.

Despite her young age, she had been exposed to all forms of abuse and traumatic events; she still remembers seeing the machine guns and grenades outside of her home and watching the massacres of children on TV. Her father, a colonel in the army in South Vietnam, had been forced into a "re-education camp" by the North Vietnamese communist regime in 1975. Sr. Trang would not see him again for 16 years.

The group of travelers escaped to Malaysia, where they spent seven months in a refugee camp, eventually making their way to the United States where Sr. Trang and her siblings settled in Costa Mesa, where she attended school. At the age of 14, she began to explore the possibilities of a religious life. Her sister reminded her of their family's early ties to



the Daughters of Charity in Vietnam. She had attended an elementary school while her sisters attended high school and college; the Daughters of Charity ran all the schools. So, she decided to visit Maryvale on the weekends to learn more. She joined the community in 1992 and 2017 will mark her 25th year as a Daughter of Charity.

Sr. Trang earned a bachelor's degree in social ecology from the University of California at Irvine and completed most of the coursework for the Multiple Subject Credential Program at Cal State Los Angeles. After teaching for several years, she felt that God was calling her to work with youth in spiritual ministry. She served as the spiritual minister at Covenant House in Hollywood while pursuing the three-year spiritual direction training program at the Spirituality Center of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Later in her journey, she graduated with a master's degree in theological studies from the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, now relocated to Oceanside. But her almost intuitive ability to ease the suffering of others comes from a place beyond the classroom.

Reflecting back, Sr. Trang believes the empathy that she developed through the trauma she endured as a child was a sign of what her future ministry would eventually be about.

"I feel that this is how God's providence led me to Maryvale," she said. "When we talk about Maryvale's Trauma Informed Care treatment, and when I look back at the experiences that have helped shape me into the person I am today, I know God has been with me all these years, calling me to help others navigate through their trauma."

Sr. Trang always felt drawn by a calling to a spiritual ministry. "Spiritual accompaniment is essential to healing the traumatized," she said.

Her story has been written in large part by heartache, but in suffering, she learned how to heal, and she brings that special gift to Maryvale's children. "My mission is to help them find the love they need to heal, to find peace and wholeness," she said. "Be an unthreatening and loving presence offering spiritual support across all faiths.

"I am here to accompany our children who very often don't have a voice; my hope is to enable them to find their voice."



Preschooler **excels** with supportive therapy

There are memories that Seth tries to forget – the times he felt unappreciated, frustrated, insecure. What could have been a simple solution to a common problem instead created misery.

“Seth was asked to leave a public preschool because the administration determined he couldn’t participate with other children in the classroom,” said Lindsey Reynolds, Maryvale’s Program Support Specialist.

It turns out 3-year-old Seth was a casualty of the traditional preschool program.

“Didn’t Speak”

Seth was in the process of receiving an assessment when he arrived at Maryvale’s Early Education Center in Duarte.

“When I first met Seth, he didn’t speak,” Reynolds said. Though he was able to form a few words, which were mostly unintelligible, his primary mode of communication was by “grunting.”

By making slight modifications to learning programs, the staff observed Seth slowly gaining confidence to participate in classroom activities.

“We encouraged him,” Reynolds said. “If he wanted to stand, we let him stand. We allowed him extra time to join the group.”

Remarkable Progress

Now after six months, 4-year-old Seth is making remarkable progress. He now speaks coherently, and enjoys sharing stories.

“He recently told us about what he experienced at home over the weekend,” Reynolds said. “He has become a fully engaged child in the classroom. He enjoys social interactions and exudes confidence.”

His mother is “beyond excited” about the growth she has seen since Seth started at Maryvale.

“At Maryvale, we not only support the child’s needs, but we are here to provide support for the whole family,” Reynolds said.

Once his mom saw how Seth was supported in the classroom, she felt more comfortable, which, in turn, helped calm Seth.

In addition to speech therapy, the staff encouraged his mom to read and sing songs to Seth at home to support his language development.

“It’s amazing what can be accomplished because someone cares,” said Christina Moore, Early Education Vice President.

from tragedy to reunification **HEALING** can happen with support

At an early age, Jennifer survived conditions no child should endure.

Neglected by her mother who was plagued by mental health problems, Jennifer, 7, was often left with volatile family members. Her father offered no stability; he had a long criminal record.

Soon both parents were imprisoned at the same time for narcotic use. That’s when Jennifer entered the foster care system, where she acted out so severely she had to be hospitalized.

Those episodes led to seven foster care placements, all citing unresolvable problems due to Jennifer’s complex mental health issues.

When Jennifer arrived at Maryvale, she responded to the Trauma Informed Care approach and steadily improved. She stabilized to the point of being transferred to a foster home where she joined her brother. Sadly, trauma overwhelmed her, and she lashed out again. Her new foster family said she was “too much to manage.”

The next six months of Jennifer’s life consisted of moving from placement to placement.

A turning point came when Jennifer returned to Maryvale, where Trauma Informed Care practices made a difference.

She was visibly unhappy when she arrived, defiant and verbally abusive. Her despair turned into anger, and she fought with other residents.

However, Maryvale represented stability and consistency with a nurturing staff. Eventually, the child who distrusted everyone and was combative at every turn began to believe there could be a different way. Maryvale’s team listened and built trust. She slowly began to have faith in the staff.

“The team finally had an open line of communication and was able to build a strong relationship with Jennifer,” said Andrew Hernandez, Emergency Placement Center Program Manager. The once angry and scared child soon blossomed into a confident and resilient girl, whose ambition was to reunite with her father who was recently released from prison and had chosen a productive path. By working closely with staff with monitored and then unmonitored visits, Jennifer was eventually discharged and reunited with her father.



IN MEMORIAM



Dr. John Chandler

A trip to the dentist’s chair is almost universally unpleasant, but thanks to the kind heart and gentle approach of Dr. John Chandler, Maryvale’s children received the best care delivered compassionately.

Dr. Chandler, a generous and empathetic man who recently passed, will not be forgotten at Maryvale.

He treated hundreds of children on the Rosemead campus over the years. In 2012, he was recognized for his decades of volunteer dental service and a room was named in his honor.

Our prayers go out to Dr. Chandler’s family and loved ones.

UNSUNG

hero

.....

ROSE MARTINEZ

Rose Martinez, fondly known as the “voice of Maryvale,” will answer her last call on July 31st, 32 years after first arriving on the Rosemead campus as a teacher’s aide.

The receptionist’s desk is an integral post at Maryvale, and Rose has been a welcoming, professional force of nature who makes managing the more than 100 calls a day look almost easy!

“I see clients, visitors, social workers, people from FedEx and UPS; I know them all,” she said. “People, in general, are kind. They are appreciative of the help we give, and I know their experience starts at the front desk.”

Rose has many fans at Maryvale who will miss her dearly. She says the time has come for her to begin a new phase of life and is looking forward to traveling, spending time with family, and every so often, visiting the campus and the coworkers she has grown to love.

Although Rose appears unflappable and universally cheerful in her “command central” job, she wants everyone to know she has life challenges like everyone else. “All of you help me get through my day,” she said. “As soon as I get here I read the ‘thought of the day.’ I have my little prayer book, and I read the prayers the sisters leave me,” she said.

After observing the struggles and also the victories of so many, Rose shared: “I’ve learned that no matter who comes through our door or who calls us, we never know what someone else is going through. It’s important to remember we are here to help them, guide them, ease their stress.”

“I’ve been here so long I have a story for every face I’ve encountered. Be it sad, good, or funny. I care for them all.”



HOGs and friends roar onto campus

Maryvale’s children had a wonderful experience with the San Gabriel Valley HOGs (Harley Owners Group) & friends at Maryvale on Palm Sunday. Celebrating 18 years of compassionate commitment to Maryvale’s children and staff, some 40 plus HOGs and members of the Redemption Club and La Familia visited our Rosemead campus bearing Easter baskets and smiles for every child. This was an extra special visit honoring Dennis, who introduced the HOGs to Maryvale 18 years ago and who passed in the last year. Sr. Alicia along with many children and members of Dennis’ family blessed a beautiful new tree donated and planted in his memory.



HeartToHeartGala

We are deeply grateful to the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild for its successful 2017 Heart to Heart Gala, in support of Maryvale’s children. Above is honoree and longtime supporter Jackie Brooks.



RestoringHope

We would like to thank the 2017 Restoring Hope Golf Tournament’s sponsors and players for their continued support of Maryvale’s children. Special thanks to golf chair, Tom Grace.



LOS ANGELES ORPHANAGE GUILD

REPRESENTATIVES

SENIORS Melinda Woodruff rjmewoodruff@sbcglobal.net
JUNIORS Bette Baer betteannbaer@gmail.com

ROSEMEAD CAMPUS
7600 East Graves Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770
Residential Program: (626) 280-6510
Early Education Center: (626) 537-3311

DUARTE CAMPUS
2502 East Huntington Drive
Duarte, CA 91010
Early Education Center: (626) 357-1514
Family Resource Center: (626) 263-9133



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 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.