

## THE POWER OF RELATIONSHIPS

All Maryvale programs are guided by the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC) – a treatment model recognizing the devastating impact of childhood trauma. It asks, “what happened to this person?” versus “what is wrong with this person?”

This approach helps staff understand, engage and empower children in their road to recovery. Trauma victims often lose their ability to manage feelings and attachments. With TIC, staff help residents understand that relationships do not always hurt. And when a fracture occurs, we reconnect, working to discover what went wrong and teach new coping skills within a relationship of trust. This is especially important in short-term care when relationships need to be built quickly.

We have already witnessed how TIC can help change lives. While at Maryvale, Bridgette was more connected to her attorney than she was with staff. She was convinced that only her attorney knew what was best for her.

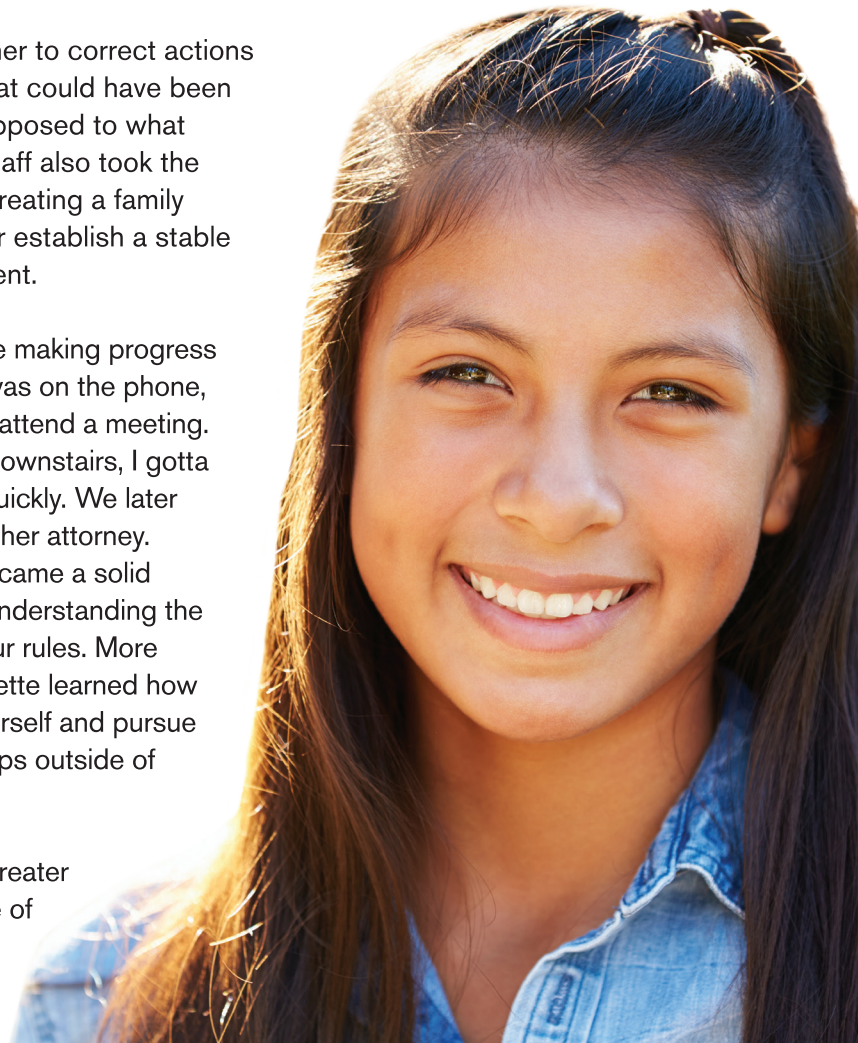
Every time she was held accountable for her actions, she would call her attorney to complain. While her immediate concerns might have been met, her inability to manage feelings and heal emotionally was not being addressed.

With TIC, we understand authority does not always come by interventions, but by relationships, so we took the opportunity to connect with Bridgette, gaining her trust.

We empowered her to correct actions by discussing what could have been done better, as opposed to what she did wrong. Staff also took the responsibility of creating a family setting to help her establish a stable “home” environment.

We knew we were making progress when, while she was on the phone, staff asked her to attend a meeting. “Staff needs me downstairs, I gotta go,” she replied quickly. We later discovered it was her attorney. Eventually, she became a solid advocate for us, understanding the reasons behind our rules. More importantly, Bridgette learned how to advocate for herself and pursue healthy relationships outside of Maryvale.

We became the greater influence because of the power of our relationship.





## We are Ready

C-C-R and S-T-R-T-P. Those eight letters are changing the way foster kids are being cared for in California. They stand for “Continuum of Care Reform” and “Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program,” but they mean a whole lot more.

With the goal of improving the outcomes of children in foster care, reforms to the placement and treatment of California’s foster children were introduced through the Continuum of Care Reform Act which came into effect on January 1, 2017. These reforms have led to Maryvale requiring a new type of license for our residential programs and the addition of new services for our children and youth.

As a licensed STRTP provider, Maryvale will provide a higher level of residential care, with intensive and specialty mental health services designed to stabilize each child and help her transition quickly back to her own or another family. A continuum of services, coordinated through a Child and Family Team, will follow her through the transition to ensure the first placement after Maryvale is a permanent one.

The move to STRTP has brought some changes to Maryvale.

For now, we will only be serving girls, ages six to 21. And because we already provide intensive mental health services and specialty programs that address issues of addiction, trauma and sexual trafficking, we anticipate receiving some of the most traumatized teens in the foster care system.

These are girls who have suffered through multiple failed foster placements, significant abuse and neglect, sexual exploitation, substance abuse and chemical dependency.

The new program name does not change who we are or why we care about vulnerable children. Over the past 163 years, Maryvale has seen a lot of significant changes, but our focus remains the same – do what is required to meet the needs of our kids.

We are Maryvale and we are ready!

**Steve Gunther, MSW**  
*President and CEO*



## Honoring Mike Amerio

Our Restoring Hope Golf Tournament is on March 25, and we are proud to honor Mike Amerio at this year’s event.

Mike is very active in the community. In addition to serving on our Board of Directors as Treasurer, he has also been the Treasurer for the City of Sierra Madre since 2016. In his profession, he is the Managing Partner at Lucas | Horsfall, Accountants + Advisors.

“I’m glad to lend my expertise to ensure Maryvale continues to provide hope for these children and families. That has incredible meaning,” says Mike.

***“I get more satisfaction out of my involvement with Maryvale than anything else I do.”***

While enjoying a day on the greens, participants at the Restoring Hope Golf Tournament play for a cause. Highlights include golfing at the exclusive San Gabriel Country Club, auctions, great food and networking.

“We are pleased to honor a long-time volunteer who is committed to helping our children and families,” says Steve Gunther. “We are grateful for his dedication and contributions. It is well deserved.”



## Maryvale Milers

Our children love hiking. So, Maryvale staff, developed a new program that empowers them to reach the top, literally.

Maryvale Milers is an exciting, get-up-and-go health and fitness activity that prepares our children to not only conquer a hiking excursion or 5K, but also understand that every goal is achievable if they work hard. The program encourages them to stay active should they want to participate in future hikes and walks in the community.

With this program, they learn that warm-up is key. Prior to walking, jogging or running on our campus, the children start with a combination of cardio, stretching and cool down periods – then they're off!

The children really enjoy it as they come back huffing and puffing, but ready for another round. This program has also attracted Maryvale staff who are walking alongside the children.



## Pardon Our Dust

There is dirt, orange cones, green fencing and mini bulldozers. We are all learning new "routes" to get to our meetings.

It is all part of a campus-wide sewer line repair and replacement project scheduled for completion in 2022. Although some buildings are temporarily closed with staff and residents having been relocated, as always, our focus remains on safety and meeting the needs of our children and families. All programs continue as we adjust to life under construction on our 16-acre, 70-year-old campus.

Work started in July 2018 when we began digging and replacing pipes under the main campus kitchen. This section is now completed and we have moved on to our residential building.

As the project goes, so does our efforts to obtain funding. We are working tirelessly to generate donations for this \$7.8 million project.

How about our children? Change is never easy for them, but they too have adapted well. This will not deter them from reaching their goals.

If you would like more information or to support our sewer line repair project, please email Carole Tremblay at [ctremblay@maryvale.org](mailto:ctremblay@maryvale.org) or call (626) 537-3364.



## Sierra Madre Fire Department Visit Maryvale



Who would win in a tug of war between Maryvale and the Sierra Madre Fire Department?

We found out as the SMFD visited our Rosemead campus. The gym was loud, packed and rockin' as our children teamed up with a firefighter to compete in games that simulated lifesaving activities like a rope carry obstacle course and heavyweight bag pull. Then it was time. The two sides took center stage for the ultimate battle. Drum roll please...the fire department won (they train for this stuff).

As part of the SMFD-sponsored event, the children were also treated to In-N-Out Burgers and a magic show by Funny Eddie, who discussed following your dreams.

Thank you Sierra Madre Fire Department.





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Rosemead, CA 91770

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## Happy 10th Anniversary Steve!

“ I thank God each day for the gift of Maryvale and the opportunity I have been given to lead this amazing agency.

I am especially grateful to the Daughters of Charity, all our Associates and to all of you who support our work! May God continue to bless Maryvale for the next 10 years and beyond. ”

— Steve Gunther

Steve Gunther, our President and CEO, celebrated his 10th Anniversary last month and all of us at Maryvale are celebrating.

We are thankful and honored to be led by a gentleman who, through his words and actions, embodies the meaning of



committed to Heal, Empower and Educate the children and families we serve.

Steve, congratulations on an incredible accomplishment. We look forward to many more years ahead.

### 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.

#### FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

2502 East Huntington Drive  
Duarte, CA 91010

Early Education Center: (626) 357-1514  
Community Based Services: (626) 263-9133

#### ROSEMEAD CAMPUS

7600 East Graves Avenue  
Rosemead, CA 91770

Residential Program: (626) 280-6510  
Early Education Center: (626) 537-3311

