

### ANNUAL REPORT



# Heal. Empower. Educate.



#### 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.

**Our Vincentian Core Values** 

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

Maryvale provides all of its services without regard to race, color or religion.

www.maryvale.org

# STEVE & SR. MARTHA



Since its founding 159 years ago by the Daughters of Charity, Maryvale has dedicated itself to addressing the needs of the marginalized of Los Angeles.

We are proud of the range of programs created by our remarkable staff of mental health and early education professionals. We are honored to have received certification from the **Council on Accreditation in 2014**, which ensures that our programs and services meet the highest standards across the nation. We are pleased to report we will be implementing an agency-wide outcome measurement system to better evaluate the impact of our services on our clients. And lastly, we remain passionately committed to delivering a trauma-informed treatment model.

Perhaps the most important recent development at Maryvale was the February 2014 opening of the Emergency Placement Center for Children. Prompted by the County's acute shortage of placement options for young children who may be in imminent danger, Maryvale's Emergency Placement Center now contains 20 beds for children ages 6 to 12. Most children sent to the center stay for 30 days, although in some circumstances the stay extends up to 90 days. The children receive 24-hour medical and mental health care in a safe, caring and stable environment. Maryvale is the only organization in Los Angeles County providing emergency placement for boys 6 to 12, and one of only two serving girls of the same age.

While most of our girls arrive here traumatized and scarred by a difficult past, there are no labels at Maryvale. Our Residential Treatment Program serves girls from 8 to 18, who have suffered severe neglect, physical abuse and sexual molestation. The program is designed to heal, through intensive therapy, treatment and care; empower, by giving a voice to the voiceless; and educate, including life skills training, to support each girl on a path to self-sufficiency and independence. This process is intended to nourish the whole person – mentally, physically and emotionally.

The last year also has seen the launch of a crucial pilot program to address Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) victims within our Residential Treatment Program. Each year the plight of California's CSEC victims grows (Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco have the largest numbers in the state), with the FBI estimating that 100,000 children nationwide are victims of trafficking.

Our Early Education Programs continue to develop a strong foundation for lifelong learning. For the past year, Maryvale has been working on much-needed facility renovations to the Rosemead Early Education campus. The renovation project includes updating five pre-school classrooms with three new bathrooms, fresh paint, new flooring and window treatments and construction of a new access ramp to the facility, along with upgrades to the play yards.

As we look toward our 160th anniversary, we know our work is far from finished. **The number of children in need remains great – children desperate to know that someone loves them**. Thanks to your support and that of our Associates, we at Maryvale are committed to be that someone.

**President & Executive Director** 

hater Marzha Harce

Daughter of Charity / Vice President of Mission Integration



### **PROFILE in COURAGE**

#### A Graduate's Story

I was 16 when I came to Maryvale, my second placement in the foster care system, but my first group home. I was broken; Maryvale saved my life. This is my story.

My mom was always stressed because she was raising us on her own and sometimes she didn't make enough money to pay rent so we constantly moved, losing our belongings along the way. I had to clean, cook and care for my brother. If anything didn't go the way my mom wanted it, she would hit, yell and sometimes kick me out. My step dad would find me on the porch at 1 or 2 in the morning.

My brother and I were both sexually abused by my uncle, and as time went by, it became a "normal" part of our lives. At the age of ten I started cutting my arms and wrists to distract myself from the pain, and by the age of 12, I was in and out of the hospital and on medication. The Department of Children and Family Services and the police had been in my life for a long time due to all that was going on at home, but they didn't remove me until April 2010, when I told them I didn't want to go home.

I was in a foster home for less than a month when I ended up in the hospital again. A month later, I came to Maryvale. I was 16 and a sophomore in high school. I was assigned to the St. Cecelia group and when they took me to my room, I looked around and became overwhelmed in a good way. I had a bed, a dresser, a closet, a desk. At home my bed was blankets on the floor, my dresser was a cardboard box. I had no closet or desk.

The person who impacted me the most was my counselor Deborah. She knows me better than anyone. One day when I had just finished a phone call with my mom, I went to my room, hid in the closet and I cried because I felt so alone. Deborah hugged me and let me cry, and at that moment I realized I felt safe. I couldn't remember the last time I felt safe. Deborah let me take it at my own speed and as time went by, I began opening up. I was no longer scared. Everyone treated me with so much love and respect that I slowly started to love and respect myself.

I have had many great experiences at Maryvale. I was involved in the hiking club, in volunteering and with mentoring. Maryvale took us on outings and to places I've never been, especially with the Junior Guild. They taught me the skills I needed to be independent and gave me valuable life lessons.

Maryvale is my family, this place has become my home. I am so thankful to all the staff who believed in me; they gave me the love I was missing. If it wasn't for Maryvale, I don't know where I would be.

**Today:** Our graduate has been working in our Early Education Center and was recently promoted to a full-time teacher's assistant. After spending two years in Maryvale's Transitional Housing, she now lives with a friend and attends Pasadena City College.



145

145 boys and girls received emergency housing and comprehensive assessments through the Emergency Placement Center for Children



712

712 compassionate volunteers included Special Friend & Senior Friend mentors, Independent Living mentors, Christmas Angels, the San Gabriel Valley HOGs, Biola University, the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild and the Orphanage Guild Juniors, and many more 2014 at a Glance

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www.maryvale.org

1,242

1,242 children and families received services from Maryvale in the last fiscal year



**95%** 

95 percent of all Maryvale Associates have received Trauma Informed Care training



### **RESIDENTIAL Program**

#### 2013-2014 REFLECTIONS

**It's difficult to imagine** the journey of suffering many of our residential care girls have had to endure before arriving on our campus.

Their vulnerabilities have been expressed in their art: "Imagine," "Anger," "To Be Loved - She Dreams," and "Alone = Being Molested." They carefully mask their fear and

loneliness to the outside world.

These girls are categorized within the foster care system as Level 12, which describes those who have been exposed to the most extreme forms of trauma and abuse, including sexual molestation and severe neglect. Even small measures of improvement are significant for those who have suffered so much physical and/or emotional injury.

To best serve the girls of Maryvale, our Associates have to invest every ounce of emotional strength and professional expertise they have to offer, infusing each relationship with a spirit of compassion, kindness and Trauma Informed Care practice. It's how we earn the trust of those we serve. Some highlights:

- > We provided 24-hour care, housing, and intensive mental health, substance abuse and life skills services for 137 girls.
- Girls enrolled in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy showed an average of 38% decrease in trauma symptoms.
- 100% of girls demonstrated a decrease in anger, disruptiveness, anxiety and depression with an average decrease of 20%.
  - We co-wrote, with the Los Angeles County Probation Department, the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) prevention program curriculum to address the impact of the national CSEC crisis on our girls. The pilot launched in November.
- We held the first Friends & Family event, bringing together more than 100 friends, family and community members to support our residents.
- Two alumni received supportive independent living services through Maryvale's Transitional Housing and After Care. Both young women are attending college and pursuing degrees, thanks to Maryvale's support network, which includes psychiatric and substance-abuse counseling, referrals to community-based activities, and case management and life skills guidance.



#### **2015** F O R W A R D

- Implement on-site substance abuse treatment program.
- Initiate on-site independent living skills program.
- Develop a Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) treatment curriculum as the next step in Maryvale's CSEC services.
- Complete a two-year evaluation on the effectiveness of the Residential Program by Dr. Cheryl Grills, Professor of Psychology at Loyola Marymount University and Executive Director of Imoyase, a non-profit program evaluation organization.



## **EMERGENCY PLACEMENT Center**

**Maryvale's response** to a critical shortage of placement options for young children who may be in imminent danger of physical or emotional harm or neglect was immediate and direct. The Emergency Placement Center was opened in February of 2014 to shelter children removed from their homes by authorities for their own protection.

Maryvale's Emergency Placement Center now contains 20 beds for children ages 6 to 12. Most placements average 30 days, although in some circumstances the stay extends up to 90 days. Maryvale's professional team, using Trauma-Informed Care, assesses and treats medical and psychiatric conditions, all in a non-institutional, nurturing environment that engenders an atmosphere of hope and understanding.

In 2014 Maryvale's Emergency Placement Center:



- Provided emergency housing and mental health assessments for 145 boys and girls.
- Increased capacity from 12 beds to 20 to respond to the County's growing need for emergency placement support.
- Served as the only organization in Los Angeles County providing emergency placement for boys 6 through 12, and is one of two providing emergency shelter for girls from the same age group.



- Thanks to funding from our generous donors, facility renovations will continue. Projects include the installation of custom furniture for the family and dining rooms, an updated hallway featuring colorful solar system pictures, and community areas designed for pre-teens and very young children.
- Maryvale will initiate psychoeducational group therapy for children with special psychiatric needs.

### FAMILY RESOURCE Center

#### The need to provide mental health support services to

families and foster care youth has never been greater. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, seriously debilitating mental health disorders affect 1 in 5 children, either currently or at some point during their life

Our Family Resource Center was developed to address that need with a range of services, including outpatient and school-based mental health counseling, family advocacy and case management, parenting classes, employment workshops, and community-responsive programs such as the Angry Birds anger management workshop for children and parents.

- The center served 571 individuals, including 245 through our internship program.
- Eight interns provided child and family therapy, clinical group counseling, and Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Program services under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker.
  - The center provided mental health services to 165 children and their families, an increase of 101%.
    - Provided care for special education students in the Montebello Unified School District through funding by the district. We received second-year district funding to provide consultation services to teaching staff and direct services to students at one of their high school continuation schools.

More than 100 people attended the Family Summit in April, a health and wellness fair providing educational resources and activities for the community.

Maryvale will launch comprehensive mental health services for up to 28 families in the San Gabriel Valley region through a Wraparound Approach Services contract with the Department of Children and Family Services. Wraparound is a collaboration of a team of mental health and social service professionals and paraprofessionals who "wrap themselves around a family," with the goal of helping families move toward self-sufficiency within their communities.

REFLECTIONS





### **EARLY EDUCATION Centers**

#### Maryvale is creating safe, nurturing and stimulating

**environments** at its Rosemead and Duarte campuses, where children and families are given opportunities to develop a love of learning and to build a foundation for academic success and personal growth.

To help achieve this goal, Maryvale has spent the past year completing facility renovations to the Rosemead Early Education campus, thanks to foundation funds. Five pre-school classrooms were updated with fresh paint, new flooring and window treatments. Three new restrooms completed this phase of renovation. Construction began on a new access ramp along with upgrades to the play yard.

#### 2013-2014 REFLECTIONS

FORWARD

The Rosemead and Duarte centers served 387 children last year, up from 333.

Maryvale was one of just 77 early education centers in California to participate in the pilot of the National Early Care and Education Learning Collaboratives (ECELC), part of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Initiative. The government-funded program is aimed at improving the health and well-being of pre-schoolers.

- The campus renovation project will continue with the final installation of the access ramp, updated play yard and classroom equipment, an updated ventilation system and a new security system.
- Maryvale also is strengthening its commitment to family health by continuing to participate in the National Early Care and Education Learning Collaboratives program, as we will be providing monthly parent education workshops on physical activity, health and nutrition.
- Thanks in part to renovations and program reconfiguration, we will be able to serve 266 children, a 16% increase between the Rosemead and Duarte campuses.
- Maryvale will continue to honor its mission of advocating for the poor by serving 24 new low-income children and their families through Early Head Start funding, in partnership with Pacific Clinics in Rosemead. In addition, we have applied for California State Preschool funds to provide care at both centers.

#### **BY 111 NUMBERS** BASED ON AUDITED FINANCIALS





CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED	2012/13	2013/14
RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM	134	137
EARLY EDUCATION CENTERS	333	387
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	3	2
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER	700	571
EMERGENCY PLACEMENT CENTER	0	145
TOTAL	1,170	1,242









**ADVOCACY** FOR THE POOR

The San Gabriel Valley Harley Owners Group

Martha

("The HOGs"), with Sister

## **SIMPLICITY**



The Emergency > Placement Center for Oscar Olivares Osher

# **INVENTIVENESS**

the red carpet







Children, volunteer artist



"The Life Inside



Learn more about us by joining our Facebook community and visiting www.maryvale.org

Maryvale officially achieved national accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA).



#### **COMPASSIONATE** SERVICE

The Los Angeles > Orphanage Guild and the **Orphanage Guild Juniors** 





## **RESPECT**

The Associates of Maryvale



display their