

OCT 2017

CAREline

FOSTERING HOPE, EMPOWERMENT, EDUCATION



Embracing the future

Former resident earns scholarship for essay on struggle & triumph

Some teens greet the school year with trepidation, but for others, the classroom represents an opportunity to leave a traumatic past behind and embrace the future.

Former Maryvale resident Monserrat is one of those who chose to leave behind the memories of a painful childhood and used academics as a means to personal growth and hope for a career helping others. In the process, she discovered herself. Her essay detailing her transformation from a deeply wounded youth to a confident, goal-oriented young adult, recently earned her a college scholarship. This is her story of struggle and triumph.

In my life I've overcome many obstacles; one of them is being a foster youth. Being taken from my home and put in a strange place wasn't easy. It has inspired me to one day major in social work. My social worker was very understanding and influenced my career choice. She took me to her office and showed me the tasks a social worker performs. I then knew I wanted a career in which I could build on and love.

Last year I overcame my drug addiction, relapse after relapse but I finally did it. My drug counselor had a lot to offer, he showed me how to reflect and was honest about the path I was headed. Becoming sober made me realize the things I am

truly capable of. I have looked online at college campuses and courses and am determined to take and pass the classes I need to pursue my promising future.

Working with my therapist at Maryvale was very beneficial. She helped me understand my emotions and grow as a person. I've had to work very hard with my treatment team so that I can visit my mom every weekend. I've also had to show my commitment to my rehabilitation process by staying 100 percent sober and submitting myself to random drug tests. I have done my best my senior year in high school by getting exceptional grades and attending school daily. My staff at Maryvale have taught me how to identify my strengths, by setting limits with me and finding ways to continuously motivate me.

By choosing social work as my major, I hope to learn about the laws, psychology and each individual's past. I know that my choice of attending college will further my education and help me become a success. My career will impact my look on life and only inspire me to keep learning. From my experience of being a foster youth, I hope to make a great social worker one day. I know how the system works, and I know how much it helps children and young adults like myself who want to be helped.



One from the heart



Lisa Sheedy

Past Los Angeles Orphanage Guild president Lisa Sheedy has been a dedicated volunteer for years, helping to nurture the lives of many Maryvale residents.

This year, Lisa and her family donated a scholarship to benefit graduating senior Monserrat.

We thank Lisa and her family for their generous support of Maryvale's children and mission.

THE GIFT OF ETERNAL HOPE

INTRODUCING THE ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC LEGACY SOCIETY

02

core values

respect

compassionate service



simplicity

inventiveness to infinity

advocacy for the poor

A ministry founded in 1856 by the Daughters of Charity

TRANSITIONS: Rebuilding lives at Maryvale



STEVE GUNTHER
President & Chief Executive Officer

“I will always welcome joyfully any opportunity that comes my way to be of service to you.”

~ St. Vincent de Paul

To some, life is a series of transitions or change; this is never truer than for the children of Maryvale. Though Maryvale represents a place of safety where they can learn to cope with their past and build new lives, often they must first face a transition that is sudden and frequently unsettling.

But thanks to our amazing staff and the work of so many others who give of their time and treasure, the children and families we serve do not have to make that journey alone.

Every day, transitions occur at Maryvale. Children learn to cope with the trauma they have endured while others get ready for their first day of kindergarten. And parents learn how to build stronger families.

As you read through this issue, you'll enjoy meeting a few members of our family, including some of our children, staff members, volunteers, a board member and the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild. We are grateful to all and the many other community ambassadors who help raise awareness about Maryvale's mission.

Don't forget to mark your calendar as we will be honoring Bette and Roger Baer at our Annual Golf Tournament on April 27, 2018. Bette has been a member of the Guild Juniors for the past 10 years and President for the past three years.

Thanks to people like Bette and all of you, we never stop believing in the power of hope.

Giving the gift of eternal hope

St. Louise de Marillac was a remarkable woman. Born in France in 1591, Louise was known for her open heart for the poor. She made caring for the homeless, the hungry and orphans her life's mission. Although she held many titles over the course of her life and into eternity: a wife, a mother, a teacher, a social worker, and a saint, it was as the foundress of the Daughters of Charity that carries special meaning for Maryvale's children.

Established by the Daughters of Charity in 1856 as the Los Angeles Orphan Asylum, Maryvale has grown into an indispensable source of assistance for children and families.

Today, 72 children who have been abused and neglected, have found a home with us; almost 300 children attend our Early Education Centers daily and we work with dozens of struggling families in the community.

Join St. Louise's Work

Eternally grateful to St. Louise, Maryvale has established the St. Louise de Marillac Society, honoring her and those who have joined her in this mission to help those in need.

The Society honors individuals who have made a planned gift to Maryvale. While bequests are the most common way to make a lasting gift, there are many charitable plans that let you provide for your family and create your own legacy for Maryvale's children.

If you feel strongly about Maryvale's work and would like to join with other supporters who share your values, we hope you will consider becoming a member. The rewards are many. You can guarantee security for yourself and your loved ones, gain significant financial and tax benefits and support Maryvale's children throughout your lifetime and beyond.

Because of the heart and generosity of people like you, Maryvale's children look to tomorrow with hope and the understanding that others believe in them, see their courage and want their futures to be strong.

For details, call Carole D. Tremblay, Vice President of Development & Communications, at (626) 537-3364.



“Encourage one another and may your mutual good example speak louder than any words can.”

~ St. Louise de Marillac

Chan: a purpose-driven life

Maryvale Board Member Marsha Chan doesn't like talking about herself; she prefers finding new ways to help others.

"What drives most of what I do is a desire to make a difference in the lives we touch," she says of her work on Maryvale's Board of Directors. Making a difference in the lives of others is what will ultimately make her own life a life well lived, she adds.

In 2007, Marsha joined the Board. While she brings a wealth of experience in quality, governance, leadership, policy development and planning, above all, Marsha understands Maryvale's unique purpose in reaching out to a community of



"What drives most of what I do is a desire to make a difference in the lives we touch."

~ Marsha Chan

children and families in need. Marsha has been impressed with the scope of Maryvale's service network. "Maryvale's focus is so comprehensive," she notes, adding that "all of the programs and care are so needed in this world and this community.

"Maryvale's staff reaches to the heart and needs of each child and family," she said. "Our goal is to be personalized to meet those needs." Timely intervention for immediate critical care issues is important to help prevent the need for more acute care and services in the future.

"So many of the children have been harmed and have had these awful experiences," she says, and the question now is "how can we ease that for them, and also prevent further harm. "We have a huge responsibility."

Marsha brings a personal philosophy of appreciating and respecting all people. "Being able to give people care and experiences that go beyond what they may have ever expected to experience ... it's what's important," she says. "Everyone is deserving of good life experiences."

FROM crisis to confidence



Maryvale's Community-Based Services team has seen a significant increase in the need for mental health services for its youngest of clients: infancy to age 5. While it may be difficult to comprehend how a newborn might need mental health intervention, these children represent a growing population.

"Our youngest clients are children at risk for emotional, behavioral and developmental problems," says Jeanette Valdez, Maryvale's Director of Community-Based Services in Duarte. Maryvale's therapists work with biological, foster and adoptive parents offering services ranging from screening and assessment to Parent-Child Interaction Therapy.

This is Daniel's story.

At the age of four, Daniel was already in crisis.

After witnessing domestic violence between his parents, he was taken from his home and placed in a foster home. A social worker referred him to mental health services, but during his second foster home placement in six months, his aggressive behavior, including throwing toys and other objects at children and his caretakers, continued.

He also was easily upset and would kick and cry throughout the day. He had difficulty falling asleep and had frequent nightmares. His behavior at his preschool left him on the verge of being removed from the program.

Then Maryvale's team intervened. A therapist facilitated Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) between Daniel and his birth mother. The program focused on building a bond between Daniel and his mother and creating a path to reunification. Parenting techniques were taught, and the therapist met with Daniel's foster mother and preschool teacher to help with consistency.

The time and effort eventually began to pay off, as Daniel's behavior both at home and at school improved. The sleep issues and nightmares subsided, and Daniel reunited with his mother. With further treatment, they were able to complete the PCIT program.

Daniel now acts like most 4-year old boys, his mother has learned to parent with confidence, and their bond has strengthened. What seemed unlikely not so long ago is now a reality, thanks to early intervention.

Maryvale team member Kristina Velasquez was born to serve. For 13 years she worked with the cognitively impaired, and later with seniors.

Those years were professionally satisfying, but she didn't feel as though she was where she needed to be until she began working with the youngest residents at Maryvale; girls ages 6 to 12.

UNSUNG
hero
.....
KRISTINA VELASQUEZ



"They are my family," Kristina says. "I teach them that they are each other's sisters. To me, they're superheroes. They really are. They've gone through some stuff, and it's so hard for them to be vulnerable, to accept our

love and support. We have to be there when they're hurting. We have to inspire them to be more, no matter where they come from, no matter the obstacles they've encountered."

Kristina is busy (an understatement!) four days a week, 10 hours a day providing guidance, empathy, and a loving ear to these children in crisis. More than that, she offers them a sense of dignity and respect, and shows them what it is to be loved unconditionally. As much as anything, she wants them to feel safe, and to learn how to trust.

Kristina challenges, and she teaches. But she also learns. "Every day these kids teach me something," she explains. The daily exchanges have had an impact on her own life in ways she never imagined.

The mother of an adult daughter, she also has a young son and two grandchildren. She says her experiences with the girls of Maryvale have helped her to love and appreciate her family even more.

As the voice of wisdom and compassion, Kristina's ability to connect with the children is a gift. "This job is life-changing," she said.



“Maryvale Superhero”

definition:

noun, plural superheroes.

1. Huge-hearted supporters, staff, volunteers, donors and Maryvale’s children and families (!), possessing extraordinary kindness, creativity, and determination to bring joy, love, and healing to everyone.

Meet our superheroes

Learn the creative ways you can make a big impact

You might be a “pajama-gram grandma” bearing PJs for 72 kids, or, a corporate group that decided to donate holiday presents. You might be one of our children who despite the sadness and trauma they have endured still find joy and hope in a stranger’s belief in them.

Whether delivering a truckload of turkeys or making a donation, we thank you for surrounding our children with love 365 days a year. Since October is Superhero Awareness Month at Maryvale, we want to salute you and recognize your incredible donations/support in our hearts and publicly. As we move into the season of giving, we thank you again for your dedication, energy, and compassion over the years.

Read more about our superheroes at maryvale.org/superheroes.

save
the date
APRIL 27, 2018

HONORING
BETTE &
ROGER
BAER &
FIREMAN’S
BREW



5th Annual

RESTORING HOPE
GOLF
CLASSIC

ANGELES NATIONAL GOLF CLUB

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
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Grace, determination guide LAOG angels

Maryvale wishes to thank outgoing President Indy Carey for her two-year labor of love as President of the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild and welcomes incoming co-presidents Mary Anne Atkisson and Phyllis Conkle.

Both Mary Anne and Phyllis have long been committed to children and served as past presidents of the Board of Directors for the National Charity League.

At right, past President Indy Carey, left, hands over the gavel to new LAOG co-presidents, Mary Anne Atkisson and Phyllis Conkle.



LOS ANGELES ORPHANAGE GUILD

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www.maryvale.org

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.