



## ON ANGEL'S WINGS

Against all the odds, Angel has flourished.

Angel decided to step away from the agony of her rape, the trauma she suffered as a victim of child sex trafficking, prior alcohol abuse, and other unspeakable horrors. She chose not to allow her past to define her future.

Triumph in the face of such adversity would seem impossible for the emotionally-scarred 17-year-old, who first arrived at Maryvale with a defiant attitude, openly throwing tantrums, immersed in kicking and screaming matches, refusing to attend school, leaving the premises without permission and initiating conflicts with her peers.



Maryvale's staff never gave up on Angel. The team was relentless in its pursuit of providing Trauma Informed Care treatment for Angel, offering empathy and guidance, giving her much needed hope to infuse her with enough strength so she could finally break free from her pain.

"We let her know that we were here for her, even when she so forcefully pushed us away," said Group Supervisor Isau Graves.

Diligent work in intensive therapy paid off.

Angel persevered, eventually volunteering and counseling young children herself. A year later, Angel is independent, graduating early from high school and presently enrolled in college. She received a letter of recommendation from the Yvonne "Sunset" Agee Scholarship Award.

"Before, Angel was lost, angry, misunderstood," said Graves. "Now she is happy and determined and showed she is capable of great things because she is focused on succeeding."

## THE VOLUNTEER FACTOR

### RETIREE NABIL MAKES VALUABLE IMPACT

In his life, everything happens for a reason.

After working four decades as a project manager in the aerospace industry, recent retiree Nabil Said decided it was time to give back to his community. Then Nabil learned about Maryvale's Emergency Placement Center (EPC) and its mission to help children, 6 to 12-year-old boys and girls suffering from abuse, neglect and abandonment by their families. He was certain that he had to do something – something more than his monthly financial contribution.

"Maryvale triggered something inside of me because I have children and grandchildren who are very lucky," he said.

Nabil decided to spend one to two afternoons a week with boys living in the EPC. For children whose lives have been turned upside down, with only uncertainty, sadness and fear to greet



them each day, the loving presence and care of a returning volunteer like Nabil brings them hope on an emotional level. "You can tell the kids are starving for attention," he said. "I worked with one 10-year-old, Danny, who was silent and was struggling. I remember the first time

I met Danny, he was closed up." After repeated visits, Danny welcomed Nabil and spoke animatedly.

Though volunteering has been a rewarding experience for Nabil, he quickly acknowledges the harsh realities of foster children's lives. "People at Maryvale are so compassionate with the kids," he said. "It's a special place. However, the children will eventually have to move on because it's short-term, so you do what you can (when they are with you). I talk to my older grandsons about the children at Maryvale. These foster kids don't have one percent of what they have, so they should be thankful."

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CELEBRATING 160 YEARS OF CARING



core values

respect

compassionate service

CELEBRATING 160 years OF CARING



simplicity

inventiveness to infinity

advocacy for the poor



## 160 YEARS AND COUNTING



**STEVE GUNTHER**  
PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we stand on the threshold of the busy holiday season, our yearlong celebration of Maryvale's 160 years of care and service is quickly coming to a close.

Maryvale has grown from an orphanage in the 1800s to a full-fledged social service organization informed by the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC) – a treatment approach we use to help empower abused children and struggling families by giving them the tools and support necessary to move from victims to survivors.

Over the years, we have been blessed to serve many courageous children, including 102-year-old Lillian who shared memories of playing in the gardens of the Los Angeles Orphan Asylum in the 1920s and 18-year-old Anna, who came to Maryvale at 5 and is now in college.

We can only accomplish this work with your generosity and advocacy. Los Angeles Orphanage Guild (LAOG) founder, Carrie Estelle Doheny, paved the way for today's Senior and Junior members who raise funds and host events and monthly outings for the girls in our residential treatment program. We are thankful for the creativity and commitment of individual volunteers and groups who teach painting, yoga, robotics, and so much more. We remain forever grateful to Associates like Mary Urbina, Anna Catalano and Ann Murillo, whose dedication to the children and Mission of Maryvale has spanned 32, 30 and 27 years. All of our volunteers and Associates represent the best in humanity, day in and day out, giving of yourself in generous and creative ways so that our children can begin to heal and eventually grow in awareness and confidence to lead peaceful and successful lives.

Our biggest inspiration comes from the children themselves: Early Education's curious preschoolers, the resilient young children at the Emergency Placement Center and families in crisis at the Family Resource Center. These children and families have made victorious strides after suffering near devastation, from addictions to domestic abuse to language and cultural challenges.

Thank you! And I pray you continue with us on our mission to heal, empower and educate children and families in need.

## ST. TERESA & MARYVALE



In 1973, Maryvale was blessed with a historic visit by Mother Teresa, who at the time was receiving the St. Louise de Marillac Award by the Ladies of Charity in Los Angeles.

Sr. Estela Morales remembers Mother Teresa well, as a warm and caring person, but most of all, impressed by her genuine kindness

and deep humility.

During her visit, Mother Teresa toured Maryvale's programs, spending significant time at the Early Education Center, thoroughly enjoying her talks with the children. While the other members of her tour left to attend another location, Mother Teresa chose to remain at Maryvale to "be with the children."

"The children were enthralled with her," Sr. Estela said. "And they later made gifts to send to children in one of the Mission of Charities works in India."

## SR. ALICIA JOINS MARYVALE

Maryvale extends a warm welcome to Sister Alicia Martin, who joined the Maryvale team on August 1.

Sister Alicia has already brought her personal touch and humor to Maryvale. "I've been a Daughter of Charity for 58 years," she said, "and I tell everyone I joined when I was 1!"



Sr. Alicia's goals are many and include bringing Maryvale's Vincentian founders to life. "So many people put our saints on a pedestal," she said. "But they were real people with real stories." She continues, "I have deep respect for the work our staff members and families do with our children; it is a true calling." She is not averse to using humor as a teaching tool. "I have been known to ask staff (out of the blue), 'what did you do to show respect today?'" "I've definitely caused a few moments of terror!"

Sister Alicia offers a wealth of experience serving children and families across a range of ministries, including creating life skills programs for developmentally disabled children and young adults, and so much more. Read more about Sister Alicia's journey at Maryvale's Fostering Hope blog ([www.maryvale.org/fostering-hope](http://www.maryvale.org/fostering-hope)).

# BRIDGING THE GAP

Maryvale recently welcomed its newest team member, San, a Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking therapist who is counseling recently immigrated Chinese families living in the Arcadia area.

Maryvale in collaboration with Arcadia Unified School District will be providing free parenting group services to Chinese families.

"It is not uncommon for families who are new to the country to experience challenges adjusting to cultural norms, including the school system. This in turn impacts parenting and the expectations being placed on their children," said Jeanette Valdez, Program Director for the Family Resource Center. "This can lead to stress in the home environment."

Maryvale, through the Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Program, is able to provide the free services geared to stabilize and strengthen the protective factors of recently immigrated Chinese families through compassionate and supportive therapy.

## UNsung HEROES

Anna Catalano greets each new morning as she has for the past 30 years, with renewed hope that the day will bring with it special blessings for Maryvale's children and its staff.



Through the years, Anna has become the unofficial keeper of Maryvale's memory book, and with encyclopedic precision she can recite the members of the Daughters of Charity who have been at Maryvale, including Sr. Mary Vincent, Sr. Elizabeth, Sr. Joanne, Sr. Carol, Sr. Monica, Sr. Mary Genevieve, Sr. Diane, Sr. Barbara and Sr. Martha.

Anna praises Maryvale's unwavering commitment to the children. "The children here are courageous," she noted.

Though Anna doesn't work directly with the girls, she greets them warmly every morning. Some of them ask her for a hug, and she responds compassionately, "I love hugs."

Anna has enjoyed working in housekeeping around campus, but no assignment surpassed her role as the dog walker during the years the sisters lived in the residential halls and had pets at Maryvale.

On her daily walks with Kollee, a bulldog mix, there was one 6-year-old girl whose gaze was constantly fixed on the dog. "The girl fell in love with Kollee," she said. One day the girl ran toward her then stopped abruptly, looking directly at Anna.

"I asked her what can I do for you?" said Anna. The girl pointed directly at Kollee. A supervisor shared that the girl wanted to walk Kollee with Anna. That marked the beginning of a special relationship between Kollee, Anna and the girl.

"We held the dog together and walked all around the campus," she said.

Every day at 10 minutes to 12 she was right there waiting for me." This ritual continued for the next nine years, until at the age of 15 the girl was adopted by a foster parent. A few years later, the girl and Anna shared a visit. "I'm really proud of her," she said.

Maryvale is the children's sanctuary, a place of retreat from a confusing and sometimes hostile world, and in some ways it is Anna's sanctuary, too. "I enjoy being at Maryvale," she said. "It's a wonderful place, and the people are really nice. They have become my second family."

## FROM DARKNESS COMES LIGHT

### A young boy's journey of healing

Zach's life began in darkness, a victim of abuse, rejection and other unfathomable traumas.

He arrived at Maryvale's Emergency Placement Center (EPC) the first time with a fury and aggression that required more intensive treatment at another facility.

After several failed placements, Zach was readmitted to Maryvale's EPC. But this time instead of anger, he was despondent. Maryvale's team was ready.

"We let Zach know that we would keep him safe and care for him," said Andrew Hernandez, Emergency Placement Center Program Manager.

Zach was apprehensive at first, but slowly embraced the kindness and affection, later thriving in his new surroundings thanks to the intensive counseling provided by Maryvale professionals. He began to develop close bonds with Maryvale staff and became a positive role model by assuming leadership responsibilities.

He befriended a resident, Jim, and upon learning about Jim's father's cancer diagnosis, Zach was supportive and caring, mirroring the compassionate care that has been extended to him at Maryvale. Zach wrote a heartfelt letter to Jim, explaining that "he understood how tough it could be, that it was OK to cry about it and he would pray for him and his dad."

Although Zach's struggles are far from over he is learning to heal by providing hope, compassion and love to others.

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Foster children returning to school face much more challenges than the average student. Thanks to the recent efforts of City National Bank employees, Maryvale's children started classes with dozens of new backpacks and supplies, courtesy of a thoughtful Back-to-School drive.

To learn about the many creative ways your company or family can support Maryvale's kids, contact Laura Rosales at [lrosales@maryvale.org](mailto:lrosales@maryvale.org) or call (626) 537-3359.



# friends & family PICNIC

Junior Guild President Bette Baer helps out at the picnic. >

Maryvale's 3rd Annual Friends & Family Picnic was enjoyed by children and adults alike, thanks to the tireless efforts of staff and volunteers. This Residential Program event brought together more than a hundred residents, friends, family and other supporters, including social workers from the Department of Child & Family Services. Guests enjoyed a barbecue, games and a DJ.



## ON CAMPUS



Maryvale was recently the grateful recipient of 3Mgives donations that are sure to keep the Agency operating in colorful efficiency. The office supplies found the most creative application in the hands of our children. Maryvale's kids used the bright, multi-patterned rolls of tape to create beautiful artwork. From wallets to personalized notebook covers, the tape was a particularly sought after donation that fueled our teen artists.

Alhambra School District staff learned about Trauma Informed Care, Maryvale's treatment approach which empowers children and families to move from victims to survivors.



## EFFECTING CHANGE

You can be that special someone who can bring about change.



As a Maryvale Community Ambassador, you will reach out to the community and seek donations for our children.

As we approach the holidays, children are especially vulnerable. Our website has a "wish list" of items that are always needed ([www.maryvale.org/wish](http://www.maryvale.org/wish)).

If you are interested, please contact Laura Rosales at [lrosales@maryvale.org](mailto:lrosales@maryvale.org) or call (626) 537-3359. The program is open to children, families and companies.



## 4th Annual RESTORING HOPE GOLF CLASSIC

ANGELES NATIONAL GOLF CLUB  
SUNLAND, CA

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT LIZ JACKSON  
626-537-3361 [ejackson@maryvale.org](mailto:ejackson@maryvale.org)  
[www.golf4maryvale.org](http://www.golf4maryvale.org)

## SAVE the DATE

FRIDAY  
24  
MARCH

2017  
*Gala*

## LOS ANGELES ORPHANAGE GUILD REPRESENTATIVES

SENIOR GUILD

Melinda Woodruff  
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Early Education Center: (626) 357-1514  
Family Resource Center: (626) 263-9133



[www.maryvale.org](http://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.