

ABOUT US

Established in 1978, Casa de Amparo (Home of Protection) is recognized as a leader in treating and preventing child abuse and neglect in San Diego County and beyond, with locations in Oceanside and San Marcos.

The non-profit organization annually serves over 1,000 Casa Kids, from prenatal to 24 years old, as well as over 700 families, through six integrated programs that promote healing, growth, and healthy relationships. These programs include Residential Services, Counseling Services, Family Visitation, Hayward Child Development Center, New Directions, and Young Parent Network.

Casa de Amparo is the San Diego Chargers Courage House, part of a national network of NFL teams and local charities dedicated to the prevention of child abuse.



Hand in Hand

2014 NEWSLETTER



Casa de Amparo is funded in part by:



UPCOMING EVENTS

SLATER'S 50/50 BACKYARD BREWFEST
 Saturday, October 18, 2014
 Slater's 50/50 San Marcos
 Enjoy over 40 brews from North County while supporting Casa de Amparo.

16TH ANNUAL CRYSTAL BALL GALA
 Saturday, November 1, 2014
 Del Mar Country Club (New Venue!)
 Help Casa Kids look into their own crystal ball and see a brighter future

FALL FASHION SHOW HOSTED BY MILLE FLEURS
FEATURING MAGGIE B & MISTER B CLOTHING
 Wednesday, November 12, 2014
 Mille Fleurs, Rancho Sante Fe
 Enjoy a lunch and fashion show all while supporting our Casa Kids.

12TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY DRIVE
 December 10 - 18, 2014
 200 E. Barham Drive, Suite 103, San Marcos
 Join us to make a happy home for all this season by contributing a gift for a Casa Kid.

For details contact Anna Leyrer at (760) 566-3560.

CASA KIDS' wishlist

TOP 5 WISHES

- iPods
- Plastic Storage Bins
- Bed-in-a-Bag (Full)
- Bicycles (for boys ages 15+)
- Bath Towels

TOP 5 REQUESTED ACTIVITIES

- Movie Tickets
- Moonlight Amphitheatre Tickets
- Aztec Football Tickets
- Legoland Tickets
- Bates Nut Farm Tickets

Contact Heather Jenkins at (760) 566-3559 or hjenkins@casadeamparo.org.

Don't park it.
Donate it.

IT'S EASY!

We pick up any vehicle
(running or not).

We handle all the paperwork.

We send you a tax receipt.

It takes just a few minutes.

CALL CENTER OF CAR DONATIONS
877-411-3662
 PLEASE MENTION CASA DE AMPARO!

Residential Services Expands to House Pregnant and Parenting Youth

Casa de Amparo's Residential Services program continues to grow and expand at an incredible pace during 2014.

In February, Residential Services received a new California Community Care license to house pregnant and parenting foster youth and their children. The program's newest residents arrived in April and Casa de Amparo is now the only licensed Group Home in San Diego County providing services specifically for pregnant and parenting foster youth and their infants. Casa de Amparo is hiring additional Child Care Workers and Supervisors to meet the needs for the growing population.

This critical program provides a nurturing and supportive atmosphere for teen moms who were removed from their homes due to living in abusive or neglectful situations. In addition to providing a comfortable home and fun activities, Residential Services also conducts individual and group sessions designed to address the critical need for bonding and attachment between young mothers and their children.

"It is very helpful for pregnant and parenting foster youth to be here as our specialized program has the parenting, developmental, and comprehensive health support for children and mothers, including providing trauma informed care and resources that will prepare these mothers for transition into adulthood," said Angie



Borowski, Director of Residential Services. "Our goal is to instill in these young moms a healthy and nurturing parenting style that they will practice beyond their stay at Casa de Amparo."

With the increase in population comes a growing need for space to comfortably accommodate current and future residents. In response to such needs, Casa de Amparo is preparing to move into Phase III of its Campaign for Casa Kids, which will include converting existing offices into bedrooms, constructing additional counseling offices, and building a fourth cottage for foster children who will reside at the cozy Casa Kids Campus in San Marcos.

Those interested to learn more about the Campaign for Casa Kids or available naming opportunities can contact Kathy Karpé at (760) 566-3556.



TAMARA'S CORNER

My first year as Casa de Amparo's Executive Director has brought many milestones, which I am thrilled to share with you:

► Residential Services is now able to support pregnant and parenting foster youth and their children; in fact, we are the only Group Home in San Diego County licensed to provide these services.

► The New Directions transitional housing program has increased its capacity to serve additional emancipated foster youth. We also secured an office large enough to comfortably accommodate the program's staff and provide participants with a safe and relaxing space where they receive case management and support.

► Our 16th Annual Crystal Ball Gala will return to the Del Mar Country Club on November 1st as we raise funds for our Casa Kids and honor Mr. Jim Minarik, President and CEO of DEI Holdings and one of our most generous supporters in the business community.

► I had the opportunity to participate in an Executive Learning Group through the Fieldstone Foundation. For the first six months of 2014, I met with other local nonprofit leaders to learn best practices in nonprofit management while working through issues relating to each of our respective organizations. I am excited to take the lessons learned and apply them to Casa de Amparo as we move into 2015.

► I have had the privilege of meeting many of our donors and volunteers this past year. I am so grateful to work for an organization that is worthy of such amazing generosity.

It is through your ongoing support that Casa de Amparo is able to provide the highest quality of care, increase our impact in the community, and foster a sense of self-worth and confidence in our clients. With your help, I eagerly await the milestones we will achieve in the months ahead. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for a great first year!

Tamara Fleck-Myers, LMFT
Executive Director

Tamara Fleck-Myers

Casa de Amparo Honors DEI Holdings

DEI Holdings, Inc. (DEI) has been a long-time supporter of Casa de Amparo's mission to support Casa Kids affected by and at-risk of child abuse and neglect. The relationship began in 2004 when DEI sponsored that year's Meet the Chefs event and evolved in 2011 with DEI becoming a Signature Partner, supporting Casa Kids throughout the year. DEI's generosity will be highlighted on Saturday, November 1 at the Del Mar Country Club, as DEI Chairman and CEO Jim Minarik will be introduced as the Honorary Chair of the 16th Annual Crystal Ball Gala.

In recent years, Casa de Amparo has been a beneficiary of DEI's Forte for Children, a charitable foundation which improves the quality of life for disadvantaged children with an emphasis on music education and therapy. The most recent gift was presented to Casa de Amparo at Forte for Children's Charity Gala on Saturday, August 23 at the Park Hyatt Aviara in Carlsbad.

"We at Forte for Children are honored to provide Casa Kids support in their daily lives in addition to exposure to music and the arts," said Mr. Minarik. "Whether it's through personal headphones, a concert or playing an instrument, music is sometimes the only connection Casa Kids have to the outside world. In addition, the use of music in their rehabilitation programs has proven to be vital for many of the residents."

Forte for Children's generous support has allowed Casa de Amparo to incorporate music therapy throughout its continuum

of programs, impacting Casa Kids from toddlers to young adults. The organization hosted a FunikiJam concert this past July for toddlers and preschoolers at the Hayward Child Development Center in Oceanside. The event was attended by Casa Kids and families, Casa de Amparo staff, Mr. Minarik, and Forte for Children Interim Director Elizabeth Fox (pictured on the right).



FunikiJam helps children improve developmental skills and explore world culture through original songs, rhymes, chants, and stories. Casa Kids in attendance transformed from being hesitant and holding back to approaching the stage while laughing and dancing along to songs. It is in those moments where reparative work is being accomplished through music.

"Thanks to the generosity of Forte for Children, we are able to provide a variety of musical experiences for our Casa Kids, that they simply would not otherwise be able to experience," said Tamara Fleck-Myers, Executive Director of Casa de Amparo. "Music plays such an important role in our lives, but for our children, music provides a critical outlet for ongoing healing and growth. We have seen the power of music first hand as our children develop the sound tracks to their lives."



Casa de Amparo hosted a FunikiJam concert in July 2014 for Casa Kids.

Corporations interested in becoming a Signature Partner can contact Erin Gospodarec at (760) 566-3557.

Suitcases for Smiles



Girl Scouts Troup 4192 collected 150 suitcases for Casa Kids!

A simple suitcase meant so much to Troy.

Like many others who come to Casa de Amparo's New Directions transitional housing program, Troy Pace, 21, endured a chaotic and unstable childhood. His birth parents were in and out of prison and his step dad passed away when he was just 14, resulting in a life in the foster care system.

"I was in a home where the foster parents treated me like a paycheck. I had no money for clothes or an allowance for anything I needed. I always felt used," said Troy. Each time Troy moved as a foster child, he was given no more than a garbage bag to store all his belongings. "I felt like trash," he said.

After hearing stories about foster children like Troy, Girl Scouts Troup 4192 organized a "Suitcases for Smiles" campaign during last year's holiday season and collected 150 suitcases from garage sales, their schools, and even the mall. Troy graciously accepted the suitcases from the Girl Scouts on behalf of Casa Kids young and old, who will now have something more permanent for when the next chapter of their life begins.

A member of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Troy is now a thriving young adult who is studying psychology at Palomar College and wants to become a social worker for Native American children.



Troy in front of his apartment with a new suitcase from the Girl Scouts.

Family Visitation Success Story

Casa de Amparo is proud to provide Family Visitation services at the Casa Kids Campus in San Marcos and Family Services Center in Oceanside. Our services provide a neutral, supervised setting for North County parents who have been separated from their children as a result of child abuse or neglect, enabling regular visits and positive interactions.

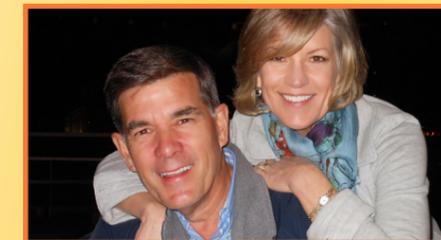
Tim Cowden is one example of someone who was helped greatly by Casa de Amparo's visitation services. Tim and his wife permanently adopted two young sisters through San Diego County's Child Welfare Services. As part of this process, the sisters were required to have weekly visits with their birth parents. When initial supervised visits at local parks resulted in a "two steps forward, one step back" scenario, Tim was connected with Casa de Amparo to help facilitate these sessions.

"The supervision was excellent, the environment here was structured, comfortable, and home-like enough to where the girls were less intimidated than they were before," said Tim. Staff members were knowledgeable and would help the girls decompress after spending time with their birth parents, allowing them to return to Tim and his wife without any lingering issues.



Drawn by one of the sisters after being adopted.

"We couldn't have done it without the help of Casa de Amparo!" said Tim.



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jim Grant has served on Casa de Amparo's Board of Directors since August 2012. His support for Casa Kids dates back to 1987, when he participated in church service projects at Casa de Amparo's original location at the Mission San Luis Rey. His relationship was earnestly renewed in 2003 when he became a donor. As President of Grant General Contractors (GGC), his company subsequently oversaw the planning and construction of the Family Services and Hayward Child Development Center, which opened in Oceanside in 2007, and Casa Kids Campus (CKC) in San Marcos, which opened in 2012.

"Having a stable family environment was a great foundation for the rest of my life. People in the foster care system who aren't afforded something similar are at a disadvantage, and the type of support Casa de Amparo provides to these individuals is fantastic," says Mr. Grant.

Jim has also mentored a teenage boy through the County of San Diego's Foster Youth Mentor Program for the past three years. Each week Jim spends time connecting with him, whether it be paintballing, going to the movies, answering questions as a trusted friend and advisor, or helping him plan his future goals.

"Mentoring is no substitute for supportive parents, but it is the next best thing. It is a tangible way to get into the trenches, be one-on-one with kids, and gain a deeper understanding of their goals and desires and help move them closer to seeing those dreams become reality," says Mr. Grant.

Besides being on Casa de Amparo's Board of Directors, Jim participates on the Operations Committee and chairs the Facilities Committee.

His wife, Kim Grant, is also very active with the organization and has long been involved in the planning of Casa de Amparo's events. Kim participates on the Special Events Committee and is Co-Chair of the 16th Annual Crystal Ball Gala. As owner of Kim Grant Ink, she also donates hand-crafted invitations to Casa de Amparo's annual Crystal Ball Gala Patron Party.

Together, the Grants make a wonderful team for Casa Kids. We can't thank them enough!

To learn about joining a Board or Committee, contact Kathy Karpé at (760) 566-3556.