



# Hand in Hand

Treating and Preventing  
Child Abuse and Neglect

FALL 2012

## OUR MISSION

To support those affected by and at risk of child abuse and neglect through a range of programs and services that promote healing, growth and healthy relationships.

## OUR VISION

A community where child abuse and neglect are not tolerated, and where child abuse awareness and prevention are priorities.

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## Casa Kids Settle Into Their New Home

Casa Kids in Residential Services have made big changes in the last few months. First there was packing and getting ready to move from the former Children's Shelter in Oceanside. Then it was the big move to the beautiful new Casa Kids Campus on April 27th.

Moving always involves a period of adjustment, especially for children who have been removed from their families due to abuse or neglect. Initially they missed Oceanside, but they've adjusted quickly and love their cozy rooms, brand new cottages, and especially all the outdoor space and sunshine that make the campus so lively and bright. Calel is one of our many resilient Casa Kids.



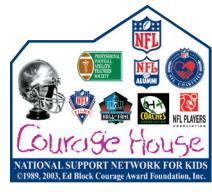
Calel came to Casa de Amparo a few months ago at age 11. He had been removed from his home due to neglect. His home was actually his mom's car. His mom suffered from mental illness as well as drug abuse. Unable to cope with Calel's depression and erratic behavior, his mom routinely sent him to a psychiatric children's hospital. Once Calel entered Casa de Amparo's Residential Services program, his life began to change dramatically. His therapist and nursing staff were able to stabilize his medications and provide the consistent structure and support he needed to heal and feel like a "normal kid." In just three months, Calel's social worker felt he was ready to move to a foster home where he continues to thrive.



Calel is just one of the hundreds of abused or neglected children Casa de Amparo cares for each year throughout our programs. Their resilience, hopeful nature, and desire to do well are typical of the potential we see emerge when children are given the support and encouragement they need to heal and to thrive.



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San Diego Chargers  
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## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



All of us at Casa de Amparo love our new home at the Casa Kids Campus in San Marcos. It's heartwarming to see Residential Services clients skateboarding, riding bikes or kicking a soccer ball across the playing field. With the administrative and program offices together on the same campus, our interdepartmental communication is better than ever and leads to strong program management.

Sharon Delphenich  
In the first week following our relocation from Oceanside, the County of San Diego awarded Casa de Amparo the contract for Inland Family Visitation Services and many families are benefiting from services at our new location in San Marcos.

### **We Haven't Left Oceanside!**

Thinking of Oceanside, I've heard that some in the community may think that Casa de Amparo has left Oceanside. Not true. We relocated our Residential Services programs and our administrative offices, but the Hayward Child Development Center, Coastal

Family Visitation, Out-Patient Counseling, and Coastal New Directions remain in Oceanside. The new campus has increased our capability to serve additional children and families throughout San Diego and provides space to grow as needs evolve.

Casa de Amparo has always served all of San Diego County, not just Oceanside and now San Marcos. Our locations provide more services and are convenient for those in need of our help. Casa de Amparo's reputation is such that we also have referrals from Riverside and Orange County.

One other great benefit of the new campus is that, as big, beautiful and new as it is, the saved dollars previously spent on leased space can now be spent on enhancing and expanding programs and services for children and families in need. We look forward to greater cost efficiencies in the future. Of course, the one immediate need before that can happen is to pay the final portion of the mortgage. We have "just" \$2.7 million to go to make the campus debt free. You've brought Casa de Amparo a long way in our mission to help abused and neglected children and families struggling with stress. We count on you, our loyal supporters, to spread the word and continue your commitment to advancing the cause of child abuse prevention in our community.

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY AWARDS CONTRACT FOR INLAND FAMILY VISITATION SERVICES

With its strong track record of success for Coastal Family Visitation Services in Oceanside, Casa de Amparo was awarded a contract from the County of San Diego to provide Inland Family Visitation Services at the Casa Kids Campus in San Marcos.

Since the program was launched on July 1, 2012, with its new proximity to homes in the inland area, Casa de Amparo has seen an influx of families taking advantage of the service.

"Our annual contract is to provide 936 visits for approximately 80 families in Inland North County," said Norma Mendez, Program Manager. "Our average monthly number of visits is 78, the same as we see in Oceanside, but we opened our program with a

waiting list and had 92 visits in August."

Casa de Amparo provides transportation to and from visits at the campus as well as off site unsupervised visitation sessions approved by the child's social worker.



The Family Visitation Program has one van but "Another van would really help," says Mendez. Visits are scheduled seven days a week between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. by appointment only. Donations of new toys, especially blocks, Legos and board games are also appreciated. To donate, contact, Tiffany Stanonik at [tstanonik@casadeamparo.org](mailto:tstanonik@casadeamparo.org) or call 760-754-5500.



"Clients love the space," said Mendez. "They are also able to use our beautiful outdoor areas to play and visit with their children," a new advantage of the Casa Kids Campus.

## CASA KIDS—RESILIENT, FUN-LOVING, FULL OF POTENTIAL

### Nurturing Talent

Chris Ziadie wants to be a graphic designer. He definitely has the talent and Casa de Amparo is giving him the opportunity. Chris is a participant in Casa de Amparo's New Directions program for former foster youth.



Chris is a veteran of the foster care system. It all started when he was 14. He, his mom and sister had been scraping by on sporadic income from mom's miscellaneous jobs. Unfortunately dealing drugs was one of those jobs. One day, on a routine traffic stop, highway patrol discovered that their mom was in the country illegally and she was deported to Mexico. Chris and his sister, having been born in the United States, were allowed to stay which was their mom's choice. She felt her children would be far better off if they remained in the U.S. despite having to go into foster care.

Chris had a tough time adjusting. He thought a lot about his dad who died when he was just three. He missed his mother but kept in touch via Facebook. He entered a new middle school but felt like he didn't fit in. "Nobody liked me," says Chris. He was bullied by other boys and became depressed. He wanted to leave his foster home.

Chris and his sister's social worker found them a new home with a single mom and her son. They lived there for three months, but their foster mother took in another male foster child. Since the foster care system does not allow one girl and three boys in the same foster home, the siblings moved on to their third foster home within a year.



Their third foster mom, also single, was young and, with boyfriends in and out of the home, did not provide the structure required by the child welfare system so Chris and April moved yet again.

Nearing 18, when foster care ends,\* Chris found out about

Casa de Amparo's New Directions Program from his Independent Living Skills (ILS) Worker. Now 19, Chris has been in the program for one year. "I like the freedom, like eating whenever I want, but it's hard becoming independent," says Chris. "But my advocate at New Directions helped me get into school and I just got a job at the YMCA as a peer coach."

Chris is in his third semester at Palomar College studying graphic design. All New Directions participants are required to be working, looking for work, in school or applying for school. Participants earn credits for these hours which can be applied against their share of rent. Chris's advocate, Jimmy, thought it would be a win-win arrangement if Chris could help with Casa de Amparo's graphic design projects and, in turn, earn credits.

For the past month, Chris has been a great help to Casa de Amparo staff, earning credits toward his rent as well as building his professional portfolio! He looks forward to a bright future in his chosen career.

### Quilt Group Gives Casa Kids TLC

Casa Kids at the Hayward Child Development Center stay warm and cozy at naptime snuggled in handmade quilts by TLC Quilters of San Diego. Started several years ago by a group of six ladies, TLC Quilters now has twenty-three members. Carlsbad Newcomers Club sponsors TLC Quilters, providing funds for fabric, batting and other quilt-making materials.

"We do our best and truly enjoy making the quilts," said Jean Frichtel, a member of TLC Quilters. "When I see how much the children love their quilts, I want to run right home and start sewing again."



Each year, TLC Quilters donates quilts which children may take home when they graduate from the Hayward Child Development Center's preschool. "Parents write us notes to tell us how attached their children are to their quilts," said Frichtel. "The quilts are often the best way to get their child to settle down for a nap."

\*In 2011, California passed Assembly Bill 12 which extends foster care to age 21 for youth who wish to remain with their foster families. The new law is not yet fully implemented.

## CASA NEWS AND EVENTS

### Positive Peer Support in the Young Parent Network

Casa de Amparo's Young Parent Network (YPN), launched in January 2012, reports great success with 74 clients enrolled in the program. Nurturing Parenting is one of three evidence-based practices that comprise the comprehensive YPN program funded by United Way San Diego. Other components are SafeCARE which includes an assessment of the home environment and provides education to improve child safety, health and interactions and Seeking Safety which teaches clients healthy ways of dealing with stress.

According to Program Manager Michelle Colarutto, Nurturing Parenting group participants are very supportive of each other and one participant who completed the YPN service plan has been serving as a mentor, helping to start a new group and encouraging parents. Members of Casa de Amparo's New Directions transitional housing and support program

for former foster youth are among the YPN participants.

The Young Parent Network is successfully helping to stop the cycle of child abuse by addressing the core issues that lead to abuse and neglect and by supporting young parents. This program is free of charge to those who qualify. If you know of any Young Parents, up to age 24, who would benefit from supportive services, please have them contact Michelle at [mcolarutto@casadeamparo.org](mailto:mcolarutto@casadeamparo.org) or call 760-754-5500.



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### 14th Annual Bassett Crystal Ball Gala

Saturday, November 3, 2012  
Fairbanks Ranch Country Club

#### Shop Under the Stars

Monday, November 5, 2012  
Carlsbad Outlet Stores.

#### Farmers Open

January 21-27, 2013  
Torrey Pines Golf Course, La Jolla

#### Meet the Chefs of Del Mar

Sunday April 14, 2013  
Hilton Del Mar

For event tickets or more information  
visit [www.casadeamparo.org](http://www.casadeamparo.org)

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