

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 850 Casa Kids, from prenatal to 24 years old, as well as 675 families and 450 adults, 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.



Treating and Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

Hand in Hand

NEWSLETTER



Casa de Amparo is funded in part by:



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Signature Partners

Here are some ways Signature Partners have been involved with Casa de Amparo:



Stone Brewing Co. donates to events and distributes meals to clients.



Sony, OneSource Distributors, Directed Electronics, & Fluid Components International host golf tournaments to benefit Casa de Amparo.



Corky's Pest Control donates ongoing pest control services on our campuses.



Harrah's Rincon donates food for special events, provides in kind items for Casa Kids throughout the year, and hosts a Holiday Giving Drive.



Jeffrey Strauss of Pamplemousse Grille donates auction items at special events and dresses up as Santa and delivers holiday gifts to Casa Kids.

Corporations that would like to participate and become a Signature Partner can contact Erin Harmonson at (760) 566-3557 or eharmonson@casadeamparo.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN RECEPTION

February 20, 2014
Say cheers to the champions who joined the fight against child abuse.

COME HOME TO CASA

April 3, 2014
Welcome home new residents at the Casa Kids Campus in San Marcos with a drop off party.

MEET THE CHEFS

May 4, 2014
Love good food and wine? You won't want to miss one of San Diego's best food and wine events at the Hilton Del Mar.

For more details or to join a committee, please contact Anna Leyrer at (760) 566-3560 or aleyrer@casadeamparo.org.

Casa de Amparo Continues to Grow

It is hard to believe the Casa Kids Campus in San Marcos has been up and running for over a year and a half, while the Family Services and Hayward Child Development Center at the Oceanside Campus will celebrate its 7th anniversary in 2014.

Since expanding to the San Marcos and Oceanside campuses, the organization has experienced tremendous growth.

Residential Services has doubled the number of children served in response to the community's changing needs. The program is now supporting children with special healthcare needs, both teen boys and girls, and is preparing to serve pregnant and parenting foster girls in early 2014. There has even been a need for Residential Services beyond San Diego County.

Family Visitation has also doubled the number of families served since expanding services to include both North Coastal and North Inland regions.

Expansion continued as New Directions added additional beds this year. Half of the New Directions participants have children of their own who are also being supported by Casa de Amparo. There are plans to increase beds in 2014.

"Since 1978, we have been able to depend on the generosity of our donors. If it were not for their belief in the mission of Casa de Amparo, we would not have been able to expand and serve more of those who are in need. We are forever grateful to our donors who stay committed to help abused, neglected and at-risk children in our community," said Kathy Karpé, Director of Development at Casa de Amparo.

Naming opportunities and commemorative bricks are still available at both San Marcos and Oceanside campuses. Families who would like to leave a legacy in their name can contact Kathy Karpé at (760) 566-3556.



Executive Director
Tamara Fleck-Myers, LMFT

TAMARA'S CORNER

As I reflect on 2013, I am reminded of what an amazing year of healing, growth and opportunity it has been for the many children, young adults and families at Casa de Amparo. I am truly impressed and humbled each day to see the tremendous energy that our team of dedicated staff, volunteers and donors contribute to improving the life of each individual that comes through our doors.

Casa de Amparo is an environment in which children and families know they are safe to grow and thrive. Casa literally means home, and home is about an experience of belonging and feeling safe. I want all who enter our doors to know they are surrounded by the safety of a loving home.

When I tell others what I do, I often get the response, "That must be so hard! How do you avoid feeling sad all the time?" My answer is always the same. It's only sad if you give up or start feeling sorry and helpless, instead of motivated to make a difference. Otherwise, this is incredibly hopeful work. We have the opportunity to teach people how to tell their story and move forward. I have seen time and again what is truly possible if you believe in these tremendously resilient children and families. Our goal is to allow people to tell their story, because that is where the healing begins. The stories of survival that we are privileged to be a part of are not sad, they are truly inspiring.

As I look to the future at Casa de Amparo, and prepare for the many adventures on the horizon, I can't help but think about what an amazing opportunity we all have together at Casa de Amparo. Whether you are a volunteer, donor, someone interested in learning more, or one of our talented employees, it takes all of us working for a better tomorrow for all children, young adults and families.

Happy New Year!

Tamara Fleck-Myers

Music Provides Healing to Casa Kids

"Music is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by. No matter what culture." - Billy Joel

Music is a universal language that transcends all ages and cultures and unites humanity. As music meets medicine, more scientific research is highlighting the benefits of music in reducing anxiety and rewarding the brain by releasing the chemical dopamine, associated with pleasure.

When Casa Kids arrive at Residential Services after being removed from their homes, often times music may be the only connection that they have to the outside world.

"Music is huge to our children and teens," said Angie Borowski, Residential Program Manager at Casa de Amparo. "We have seen negative behaviors decrease when kids listen, sing, dance, and connect to lyrics, allowing them to cope with their emotions. Instruments are also a therapeutic way to release emotions in ways that they cannot or choose not to verbalize."

Residential Services offers Casa Kids a therapeutic rehabilitation program, which includes a focus on music and art. Kids who go the extra mile in their participation earn "Casa Bucks," which can be used towards purchasing a music player from the Casa Store.

Another non-profit organization called YouthJamz partnered with Casa de Amparo this summer to provide healing to Casa Kids through playing instruments. They raised funds by hosting a benefit concert to provide high quality acoustic and electric guitars, hand drums, a piano, a complete drum set, and music lessons for the Casa Kids.

YouthJamz is not the only believer in the healing power of music. Directed Electronics Inc. Charitable Foundation's, Forte for Children, whose mission is to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged children, provided over \$60,000 this fall. With their support, Casa de Amparo is incorporating more music throughout all of its programs, from preschool age to young adults. Not only will the music program provide children, teens, and young adults with a therapeutic outlet, but it will also assist in the development of language skills and new strengths.

Jaime, a 22 year old New Directions resident and former foster youth at Casa de Amparo, uses his strengths in music production and poetry to teach young people how to channel their thoughts in a positive way. "I want to bring music back to focus on the lyrics. Through lyrics, lives are being changed by provoking thought on what's really going on in the lives of youth and society," said Jaime.



[Left to Right] Walker DeWitt, Casa de Amparo Program Manager, Noah & Jenna Lizerbram, Founders of YouthJamz

Former Foster Youth Pays It Forward



Samantha Webb, New Directions Graduate, Keynote Speaker at the Crystal Ball Gala

Samantha Webb, 27 years old, grew up in the foster care system. Her story represents thousands of other abuse and neglect cases, yet she is a former foster kid beating all odds. She has overcome physical, verbal, and emotional abuse, her mother's death, homelessness, hunger, and separation from her younger brother.

Despite her circumstances, Samantha's dedication to academics and athletics allowed her to play varsity basketball, volleyball, and track and graduate with a 3.8 GPA at Oceanside High School. In an attempt to adopt her younger brother at 18, she faced a difficult decision and turned down a university scholarship.

After struggling with homelessness again after high school, she finally found Casa de Amparo at the age of 21. It was through the New Directions transitional housing program that she was able to finally find a place to call home. It was her first time to feel stability, love, and a sense of belonging, while also learning the necessary life skills to live on her own.

Today, Samantha is taking her experiences and giving back as a manager at a level 12 group home for foster girls. Her goal is to complete her Bachelor's degree and become a probation officer for juveniles. "My challenge to help change people's futures fuels my passion for success," says Samantha. "I want to be someone's memory or reason they made wise choices."

Quality Preschool Initiative

In partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education, First 5 San Diego's Quality Preschool Initiative (QPI) provides high quality preschool in 16 communities throughout San Diego. This summer, Casa de Amparo's Hayward Child Development Center (CDC) in Oceanside was identified as a top quality ranking preschool and invited to be part of QPI. The selection is based on CDC's ability to meet the high quality criteria established by local, state, and national experts in the field of early childhood education.

All classroom teaching staff possess the education credentials and experience that is required by the Quality Preschool Initiative teaching standards. Teaching, curriculum, environment, teacher/student interactions, and active parent engagement are evaluated and monitored in order to meet the requirements developed by the First 5 Commission.

This initiative will also provide specialized training for teachers, utilize a research-based curriculum that sets goals specific to prekindergarten, build trusting relationships with families and connects them with other resources in the community. It will also enhance the classroom experience by providing new furniture, books, games, and toys.



Kate, 3 years old at CDC reading a book



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Members of the Legacy Circle are those who have remembered or wish to remember Casa de Amparo through planned giving. If you would also like to participate, please contact Kathy Karpé at (760) 560-3556.



- Pots, Pans & Dish Sets
- Cribs & Crib Sets
- Shower Curtains & Curtain Rings
- Car Seats
- High Chairs
- Twin & Full Size Sheets
- Silverware Sets
- Glasses (Sets of 4)
- New/Gently Used Furniture
- Rocking Chairs

To donate, please contact Heather Jenkins at (760) 566-3559 or hjenkins@casadeamparo.org.