



Generous hearts touched by Casa's kids

Backyard to fairway: two different venues show golfers' fine form



The legendary Kenny Brandyberry, a well known local philanthropist and Casa Board member will go to any length when it comes to helping make a difference in the lives of kids in need. On June 27, he held his 19th backyard Party of the Year and raised nearly \$50,000 for his "Casa Kids." His well-known event featured his

famous Mini-Golf tournament and terrific food in a traditional backyard BBQ style. Providing their unique brand of support were 200 dearest friends and guests.

Each year Brandyberry personally underwrites the entire event, one complemented with a huge assortment of gifts and premier items donated by local Los Alamitos merchants for the live auction, the highlight of the afternoon. Among those keeping the excitement were high bidders Phil McElroy, Brian Travis, Charlie Slaymaker and Peggy Ganz who won \$1000 and immediately donated \$200 back to the shelter.

The fantastic "Waikiki, Hawaii 8 Days and 7 Nights with Airfare-for-Two Vacation," sponsored by Tony and Alex of Coast to Coast New & Used Restaurant Equipment, was the hit of the party. Although the \$1,000 in gasoline and \$1,000 in groceries are always popular, too. Total proceeds from Brandyberry's "Party of the Year" fundraisers over the years have now reached over three-quarters of a million dollars! Not bad for one guy in his backyard.

With good friends like Kenny's anything is possible, and they all contribute heavily because they know there is absolutely nothing Kenny enjoys more than helping the kids at Casa.

Tilly Levine and Hezy Shaked started a clothing chain called Tilly's in 1982. The Los Alamitos store would be the model for a chain that is now in nine states and 110 locations, selling popular brands of teen clothing, shoes and accessories that capture the look and feel of the west-coast lifestyle.

Tilly's community relations include emphasis on schools in close proximity to their stores. Two years ago, they were introduced to Casa, and because the age group they serve is nearly the same as the kids in the shelter, there was an immediate connection. That connection grew unbelievably on June 21 when Tilly's Golf Tournament earned a whopping \$70,000 for Casa.



Lt. to Rt.- Tilly Levine, Luciann Maulhardt, Hezy Shaked, and Lynn Davidson

Working closely with suppliers, the company gathered 200 golfers at El Niguel Country Club for a beautiful day of golf, and a cocktail party and sundown dinner. Everything was done with style, including the facility and food, and entertaining hula dancers.

The real fun began with the live auction. Hezy told the crowd he planned to do a lot of bidding and for everyone to give him competition. They did. Many winning bidders donated their winnings to Casa. (The kids love their new 37" television!)

Some of the many brands contributing to a wonderful evening were DC, Hurley, LRG, Nike 6.0, Quiksilver, RVCA, Vans and Volcom. Thank you all. You've made it possible for more runaway and throwaway kids to have a safe alternative to the dangers of the streets.

Save the Dates

August 21
Casa Connection Poker Party

October 2
Annual Dinner Auction

November 14
Holidays on the Boulevard

December 16
Casa Holiday Party

December 21
American Legion BBQ

Memories of Myldred



Lt. Myldred E. Jones,
1945

To: Lieutenant
Myldred E. Jones
A Really Swell Boss

Date: June 7, 1945

From: F.B.I. Federal
Investigator
Gamwell

Subject: Miss Jones

*She's full of pep, she's full of vim,
Never ready to give in—Miss Jones*

*Her wit is sharp, her humor keen
Of the Commanding Officer Crop,
she is the cream—Miss Jones*

*Top a darned good Skipper from
the entire crew*

*Good Luck, God Bless you, Smooth
Sailing Too—Miss Jones*

Betty M. Gamwell

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Lutheran Church
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Seal Beach Seaside Lions
Seal Beach Leos Club
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Incarnate Word
Sorooptimist International of Cypress
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Stone Yamashita Partners
Sons of the American Legion,
Los Alamitos
Southern California Edison
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Time Warner Communications Corp.
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Toyota Motor Sales, USA
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Yamaha Motor Corporation
Youth Development Program

Board Profile

Sandra Terra McElroy



Sandra Terra McElroy

What a terrific gift Casa received on the day that Sandy McElroy accepted her invitation to become a member of Casa's board. Having heard about the shelter from board member and then Los Alamitos

Police Chief Mike McCrary, Sandy was at first reluctant to sign-on. On reflection, and encouraged by other Casa board members that she and husband Phil had met over the years while attending Casa's annual Commander's Ball, she said "Yes!"

All agree that Sandy's exuberance, genuine caring, and never say never attitude brought a welcomed new

spark to the board and its activities.

Asked why she finally accepted, she said that being associated with Casa presented a fantastic opportunity to give back for all the blessings in her life.

Sandy says with a smile, "You never know what's just around the corner in your life...and being a part of Casa has turned out to be one of the best corners I've ever turned. It brings great joy and a sense of fulfillment to participate in Casa's activities, because they are all undertaken with the welfare of the Casa Kids at heart."

As a former paralegal, she believes her life is truly blessed by the joy of being a stay at home mom, especially because it allows her time to volunteer.

Employee Spotlight

Christina Garcia



Christina Garcia

Three years ago Christina Calderon walked through Casa's doors to become a part of the Casa family as field-worker, a requisite in fulfillment of undergraduate requirements for her B.A. degree in human services. Christina says that she "fell in love" with Casa's temporary shelter and clinical counseling program for troubled youth, because it was exactly

what she thought it would be and much more than she had anticipated. And while she was delighted with the position, her talents were soon recognized and she accepted an executive assistant position, one that quickly led to her newest responsibilities as administrative manager. No doubt about it, Christina is a multi-

talented treasure, one who brings great dedication and organizational skills to her present position.

Having a multi-tasking talent, it wasn't long before she added yet another milestone to her long-list of achievements...becoming the bride of Mr. Alexander Garcia. A perfect match, for they both love bike-riding, music, hiking in Peter's Canyon, as well as traveling and visiting relatives in England. Christina says that while she's enjoying all the new things in her life, her next goal is to honor her parents with being the first person in her family to complete a Master's degree: a goal we are certain will be realized as well. One of Christina's guiding principles:

"Being happy doesn't mean everything's perfect, it means you have decided to see beyond the imperfection."

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Patricia Lange
- In Memory of Bob Lange on the occasion of Wedding Anniversary
Patricia Lange
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- In Memory of Garrett McNerney
Luciann and Tom Maulhardt
- In Memory of Robert Lange
Patricia Lange

Volunteer Spotlight Eunice Thompson and Cathy Lozano



Cathy Lozano
and Eunice Thompson

Eunice first learned about Casa several years ago at an ABC School District's community outreach presentation on Parent Leadership. The invited speaker was one of Casa's stellar counselors, Don Copeland. Eunice says the event was an eye-opener and she decided on the spot to begin making a difference in the lives of

troubled youth. Later, co-worker Cathy Lozano decided to also become involved. Contacting Casa to inquire what they might do, they learned of opportunities to provide

adult supervision while taking the kids on outings. They decided that walks to local parks would be good exercise for the Casa Kids as well as themselves. They were soon visiting Rossmoor and Little Cottonwood parks, which provided perfect opportunities for hamburgers and soft drinks. Taking the kids out to lunch was a special treat for everyone.

Eunice says that being associated with Casa and the Casa Kids has added a meaningful dimension to their retirement years, and are fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from the talented staff and share with other volunteers the rewards of being a part of the Casa Family. Eunice says she's a firm believer that "it's nice to be important, but more important to be nice." Well, Eunice and Cathy, we view each of you as being both important and nice.



Summer 2010 Executive Summary

Luciann Maulhardt
Executive Director

Summer is upon us and the past six months the shelter has been running at a record pace. Casa Youth Shelter continues to provide an incredible service to teens and family members and I would like to share a few highlights with you.



50th Anniversary Los Alamitos

Since 1978 Casa has partnered with the City of Los Alamitos and the Los Alamitos Police Department in providing critical services to our kids. Over 50 board members, staff and volunteers wearing blue Casa T-Shirts marched together in the city parade and participated in the weekend's activities at Laurel Park. We were one terrific (and loud) group following our "float," which happened to be Kenny Brandyberry's candy-apple red Cadillac. Our goal was to raise awareness of the shelter, and we accomplished the objective!



Pizza Mondays

Speaking of Kenny...who in the world would ever organize an event that would require his own personal commitment for five Mondays in a row from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.? Why, Kenny Brandyberry of course!

With the incredible generosity of Alex and Lee of Valentino's Pizza in Los Alamitos, and with Kenny greeting customers and collecting the money every Monday, Casa received \$6,700

from the sales. Valentino's is one terrific restaurant and one terrific donor to Casa. What an unbelievable gift.

Kitchen and Bath Remodels

If you've been by the shelter recently you can't miss our new

look. With the kitchen and bathrooms in desperate need of help, board member and general contractor Wally Telep came to the rescue. The kitchen was taken down to the studs and brought back to beauty, and the bathrooms now sparkle. What a transformation. While the kitchen was out of commission for three weeks, board members, volunteers and staff brought in hot meals and all the necessities for our kids.

Board Members

Casa has always been proud of the depth of experience and professionalism that board members bring to our organization.

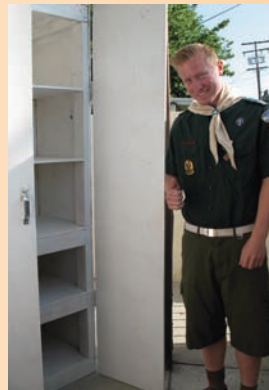
Our six newest

board members, (l to r): Kevin Boylan, Nesi Stewart, Sgt. Sharon Kerbow, Kathryn Partis, Los Alamitos Police Chief Todd Mattern and, Troy Edgar are shining examples. These folks came onto the board "running," and their quick inclusion into the committees and activities has made a significant impact.



Eagle Scout Excellence

Victor Chalfant, a member of Casa's Youth Development Program the past four years and president in 2009, was awarded the highest honor in Boy Scouting, the Eagle Award. Requirements include earning at least 21 merit badges and demonstrating Scout Spirit through the Boy Scout Oath and Law, Service, and Leadership, and an extensive service project.



Victor trained the Casa staff in

emergency preparedness and built two storage cupboards for the shelter's emergency supplies. We all join in congratulating Victor for his dedication and accomplishment.

Interact Club

The Los Alamitos High School Interact Club finished off the year on a tremendous high note. Under the leadership of student Carolyn Sharzer and advisor Lori Franzen, the group's volunteer efforts and fundraising reaped \$4,283.03, which was given to the shelter for Casa's Kids. What a heartwarming gesture and what great examples of role models for youth. Go Griffins!



Executive Summary continues on page 7

Casa Youth Shelter From Oregon to the OC and Back

by Gary Michael Zager, Clinical Director

Sally (*a made up name to protect confidentiality*), a 13 year-old who appears to be about 10, ran away from her home in Oregon following an argument with her mother that had become physical when Mom attempted to hit her daughter. Mom had not done this before and Sally reacted by running away. On buses, she eventually ended up in Garden Grove where she lived with a group of other adolescent runaways in an abandoned Burger King.

After almost 90 days, Sally had had enough. She flagged down a Garden Grove Police patrol officer and turned herself in. There was a missing persons report filed from her home state. On this Saturday the officer attempted to take her to Orangewood Children's home but was refused being told that Sally would have to be interviewed by a social worker first...the following Monday. The officer brought her to us.

When Sally arrived she appeared to have not showered the entire time she was on the run. She wore flip-flops and her feet were so dirty that the staff could not see any skin beneath the dirt. With no clothes other than what she was wearing staff allowed her to take one of the longest showers in Casa Youth Shelter history and then provided her with new clothes.

When we phoned her parents their joy was unmistakable. Prior to the police calling they had not known if their daughter was alive or dead. They drove down from Oregon and arrived the next day. Staff reports that the reunification was both loving and tearful, the parents and daughter were overjoyed to be reunited with each other. Before she left Casa we gave Sally and her parents phone numbers to non-profit family counseling agencies in their community. We are grateful to have played a role in returning home.

Please feel free to contact the clinical director with any questions that you may have at garyzager@casayouthshelter.org

President's Corner



Emil Jorge

Hello Casa Family!

First and foremost, a big THANK YOU to Kenny Brandyberry for putting together yet another wonderful party on Casa's behalf, and a big THANK YOU to all who

attended. I would also like to extend our gratitude to Tilly's Clothing and their generous vendors for donating the proceeds of their golf tournament to Casa. Your continual support in good times and bad has allowed us to help countless children find hope when they've lost all sight of it.

Our Board of Directors has grown by leaps and bounds. We have six new board members with exceptional qualities both personally and professionally. Any organization would be lucky just to have one of these folks to work with. It is with great pleasure and honor that I introduce to you **Kevin Boylan from Rossmoor, Troy Edgar from Los Alamitos, Sgt. Sharon Kerbow and Chief Todd Mattern from the Los Alamitos Police Dept., Kathryn Partis from Huntington Beach and Nesi Stewart from Los Alamitos**. All pistons are firing! Our Board of Directors are ready to race!

With that in mind, here we are again with the annual Casa Auction Dinner upon us. The auction items are pouring in, from flat screen televisions, expensive wines to luxurious vacations. Gary Howard, the Auction Committee, Board of Directors and Casa staff are working feverishly to ensure we hit another home run this year. Make sure you get tickets for this one; you won't want to miss it!

Thank you all for your continued support! You put smiles on our children's faces every day! See you at the Commanders Ball, Saturday October 2nd.

Teens Making A Difference

Casa Youth Shelter sponsors a youth leadership group comprised of high school students who want to serve and to make a difference in our community. Youth Development Program (YDP), engages about 60 youth under advisor Dr. Maribel Contreras, in valuable...services to our agency such as answering phones, tutoring residents, making presentations at schools and agency fairs, and working fundraising events. They also hold two voting seats on our Board of Directors.

One of their most important activities is reaching out the homeless families in our communities. They assemble toiletry bags and bundles of clothes, and head out in groups of about 20 to areas where there are homeless families. As they distribute the bags and clothes, they discover one of the saddest secrets in the Southland, that there are a lot of homeless families in need. This last year, YDP donated almost 7,000 hours of community service. Casa is proud to team with have such committed and concerned youth involved with our agency.

Mr. C's

Mr. C's Towing has been a caring community partner in Los Alamitos since 1986. Recently, co-owners Mike Welsh and Kurtis McElroy



surprised Casa with an unexpected gift. They had stored a car that was part of the investigation the past 2-1/2 years, and eventually took over ownership and sold it. Mike and Kurtis

presented proceeds of the sale, \$6,000, to Casa! Our "hats off" to these two gentlemen! Do remember to give them a call if you ever need help.

Kenny Brandyberry Appreciation Day

The City of Los Alamitos proclaimed June 23 Kenny Brandyberry Appreciation Day. It was a spectacular after-

noon as the Casa Courtyard filled with friends and Casa family to honor Kenny, who was at his finest as the center of attention. The Board of Directors joyfully hosted the gathering, and Kenny was truly thrilled with the honors and procla-



mations from city and state dignitaries. Elvis tunes played as the Sons of the American Legion served up a delicious BBQ. It just couldn't have been any better for Casa's King!

Former Casa Resident

My greatest reward is when a former Casa resident contacts me and comes for a visit. Karimah Saleem was at Casa 21 years ago in 1989 when I had just been here a few years. Karimah is now a Behavioral Therapist in Washington working exclusively with autistic children. Her visit to Casa brought back lots of fond memories and was a reminder of the healing effect that Casa can have.



You all help make these successes possible, assuring that kids and families will always find a safe haven with us. Thank you.

Luciana

YDP Worker Bees

Casa's Youth Development Program wrapped up their 2009-2010 year in a way that only teens can – running through a dark, foggy room shooting lasers at each other. This was just the last in a series of memorable events for YDP.

Starting last summer with the Teen Summit (where member Florent Blanc, co-president and Long Beach Poly High senior, presented a program highlighting the dangers and benefits of credit card use) and ending with St. Isadore's Cinco de Mayo festival, YDP participated in just about every type of fair, program and event imaginable.

The group raised funds by attending TV show tapings and throwing their own benefit at Los Alamitos High School, netting more than \$400 for Casa. YDP members also volunteered at the auction in October, where YDP alum, Christian



Salazar, gave the well-received "Sponsor a Casa Kid" address. YDP also collected goods to donate to the local homeless population, cooked a pre-Thanksgiving meal for the Casa Kids, decorated the shelter for Valentine's Day, and did children's face painting at several community resource fairs. New bonds have been made and will continue to last as these teens grow to adulthood.

Many seniors in the group have already decided what university they will attend. President Ryan Carnegie will be at Tulane in New Orleans, Victor Chalfant at CSU Long Beach, Jake Gantz at Long Beach City, Ximena Arce-Kohatsu at CSU Humboldt, and Erica Pollard at UC Santa Barbara.

For more information on our Youth Development Program (YDP) or how to become involved with YDP, call Dr. Maribel Contreras at 714-995-8601 or 562-594-6825.

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Art Therapy

One of the most enlightening groups for Casa kids is Art Therapy. It gives residents an environment in which to express difficult emotions in non-verbal, visual ways, working with media such as paint, clay and collage. It helps residents become more aware of who they are and what is important to them, building confidence and developing greater willingness to communicate their needs and desires within the family.

A most accomplished Art Therapy Graduate Student from Loyola University, Nephthys Resurreccion, provided Casa's Kids with four months of therapeutic art programs. At the end of her internship she wrote the following note:

Dear Luciann,

My experience at Casa transformed me and I had to thank you for taking me in and welcoming me. I was drawn to the field of art therapy because it combined my background in psychology with my PASSION for art. I knew the amazing creative release I felt when I did art



and I couldn't wait to share that with others. But I never expected how moved I'd be by the emotional honesty, vulnerability and life stories I saw in the kids' art and I was honored to hear each one. They showed

me to trust in the process and to be detached from the outcome—they showed that they had the courage to put it on the page and I had to have the capacity to hold them. One of my favorite activities is when I brought balloons and each resident decorated something they wanted to let go. Together we released them. Some teens tied theirs together and explained that sometimes you need the help of friends to let go. They tied theirs with mine and coined it the "circle of trust," I was deeply moved! This experience was an amazing journey in deconstructing myself - - as an artist, a better therapist and a spiritual being having a human experience. Thank

you—for the garden where I drew in my art journal and reflected, for your openness to have me share my fields, for all of it.

- Nephthys



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