From our President
GREG MAGNUSON

At Casa Youth Shelter we celebrate our 43rd year of providing safe shelter and support for teens in crisis.

As a result, our team has become more capable with remote tools and online/virtual capacity that will complement traditional service methods as we return to in-person operations.

Looking further forward, Casa comes out of this pandemic year not only stronger in our operations, but also strategically better positioned to serve.

The Board of Directors has worked tirelessly in this pandemic year to complete a new strategic plan. With broad stakeholder input, the Casa team completed a plan that provides focus necessary to guide the organization’s growth and development to address changing service needs and the resources required to meet these needs. We invite you to visit our website at: www.casayouthshelter.org to view our plan and activities.

Coming out of the pandemic year, we take great pride in the services provided and impact made by the Casa team in this year. With greater focus, more resilience and capacity to serve, we are excited that the future is bright for Casa and the youngsters and families in need of our team’s services.

To our team’s credit, this year has both presented and been taken as an opportunity to serve in different ways.

The team has grown and developed expertise to “reach-out” to be of service, and to implement new socially distanced methods for counseling, shelter and support services and “friendraising.”

GREG MAGNUSON
When I met TJ, he was sitting by himself at the dining room table, coloring. I sat down to watch his progress and asked how he was doing. He said that coloring was relaxing, and he liked having time to himself, just to sit and focus on one simple thing for a while. He commented that he rarely got time, or felt safe enough, to turn off his mind.

In one brief conversation, this insightful 15-year-old boy articulated and demonstrated the benefits of mindfulness. Focusing our minds on one tangible task allows us to replace negative or anxious thoughts with pleasant images and emotions, and over the last year, we have all needed to give our minds a rest from stress and worry.

I shared with him that I too enjoyed coloring, because it gave me time to shut out excess noise and focus on something creative. However, until that moment, I took this privilege for granted. How fortunate, to have the space and security to tune out with colored pencils and a moment of quiet. The last year has made me appreciate that feeling of peace more than ever before. Moreover, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude that I work at a place that provides that safety for youth in need.

The teens at Casa Youth Shelter work hard in counseling, they work hard in school, they do chores, and push themselves to be better every day. One of the best things we can offer them is a safe space and an opportunity to express themselves without judgment.

I am proud to say that Casa Youth Shelter’s staff works hard to make sure youth in crisis feel respected, safe and secure every day. Through all the challenges of the last year, we never once closed our doors to children in need. And there is no way we could have made it through alone. Our phenomenal staff, our caring Board of Directors, and the generous partners who make our work possible – from financial donors to volunteers, to partner agencies and community organizations – enable us to support teens in crisis with safe shelter, counseling, support services, and basic needs at the time when they need it most. Our team is full of heroes, and I am honored to work with them.
29% Of Teens at Casa Youth Shelter in 2020 Identify as LGBTQ+.

Before coming to Casa Youth Shelter (CYS) Kathy spent time at a psychiatric hospital after attempting to take her own life. She identified as lesbian and after coming out to her Latinx family their lack of understanding made Kathy withdraw and distance herself.

During the pandemic, her mental health declined and reached an all-time low. Kathy and her family felt helpless and fearful about what might happen should she return home.

While at Casa Youth Shelter Kathy attended individual, family, and group counseling, primarily focused on addressing issues related to depression and anxiety. In sessions she struggled to open up and feel safe communicating. Over time, she began to discuss the difficult emotions she felt toward her family. Finally she and her mother were able to express their wants and needs, and came to understand some of the difficult emotions Kathy held. Kathy and her mom finally felt at a place where Kathy could return home without fear.

Kathy's Story

Our Impact

3,996 Hours of Counseling Provided to CYS Residents & Families.
Kathy continues to participate in aftercare services to further develop her communication and emotional coping skills. She says she has been utilizing writing, reading, and listening to music to manage her difficult emotions. Kathy still has difficulty communicating with family, but has found more confidence to communicate and express her needs.

“I like Casa because it stops me from being around bad people and things I do when I’m around them. It also gives me time to better myself and it helps me find a better way to live life.”

– former resident

The average cost to provide shelter, food, counseling, supervision, transportation, recreation and all indirect costs to ONE youth for ONE week = $2,065
### Crisis Calls:
- Calls Received: 869

### Youth in Shelter:
- Youth Receiving Shelter Care: 153
- Shelter Days Provided: 1,418
- Hours of Counseling: 3,996
- Hours of Case Management: 186
- Parent/Guardian Participation: 50%

### Aftercare Services:
- Counseling: 72%
- Parent Education: 20%
- Teen Drop-In Classes: 11%

### Length of Stay:
- Less than One Week: 42%
- One to Two Weeks: 35%
- Two to Three Weeks: 21%

### Gender Identification:
- Female: 60%
- Male: 36%
- Non-Binary: 1%

### Age:
- 12 Years Old: 4%
- 13 Years Old: 13%
- 14 Years Old: 18%
- 15 Years Old: 26%
- 16 Years Old: 23%
- 17 Years Old: 16%

### Ethnicity:
- Hispanic: 46%
- White: 24%
- Mixed: 15%
- Black: 11%
- Asian: 4%

### Of the Children Served:
- LGBTQ+: 29%
- Military Family: 10%

### Referral Source:
- Social Services (DCFS/SSA): 18%
- Hospital: 16%
- Internet: 12%
- Self, Friends, Relatives: 12%
- Schools: 11%
- Law Enforcement: 10%
- Past Client: 9%
- Shelter: 6%
- Community Agencies: 5%
- Juvenile Probation: 1%

### Child Abuse Reported:
- Physical Abuse: 32%
- Sexual Abuse: 23%
- Mental Abuse: 9%
- Neglect: 7%
- Suspected Child Abuse Reports: 48%

### Issues Identified:
- Substance Abuse: 22%
- Literacy Concerns: 22%
- Running Away: 13%
- Experiencing Homelessness: 10%
- Gang Involved: 6%
- Human Trafficking: 4%

### Exit Disposition:
- Successful or Satisfactory: 80%
- Unsatisfactory or Unknown: 20%

### Destination at Exit:
- Parents' or Relatives' Home: 74%
- Social Services: 7%
- Hospital: 6%
- Alternate Shelter: 5%
- AWOL: 5%
- Residential Community Agency: 3%
Cities Served:

Anaheim, CA 12%
Bellflower, CA 1%
Buena Park, CA 5%
Compton, CA 1%
Costa Mesa, CA 1%
Cypress, CA 3%
Garden Grove, CA 2%
Gardena, CA 1%
Hawaiian Gardens, CA 4%
Huntington Beach, CA 3%
Inglewood, CA 1%
Irvine, CA 5%
Laguna Niguel, CA 1%
Long Beach, CA 3%
Los Alamitos, CA 3%
Los Angeles, CA 4%
Mission Viejo, CA 1%
Newport Beach, CA 1%
Orange, CA 3%
Paramount, CA 1%
Riverside, CA 5%
Santa Ana, CA 16%
Whittier, CA 1%
Cities less than 1% (28) 28%

Counties Served:

Orange County 65%
Los Angeles County 24%
Riverside County 9%
Other Counties (3) 2%

How We Are Funded

87% of our funding comes from the private sector.
2020-21 Revenue*

- Foundations 38%
- Individuals 20%
- Investment Income 16%
- Government Grants 15%
- Organizations 5%
- Corporations 3%
- Events (net) 3%

2020-21 Expenses*

- Program: Community Outreach 6%
- Program: Shelter & Clinical 74%
- Management & Admin 14%

Fundraising 6%

*Estimated at Press Time

Full financial statements and our FORM 990 are available at casayouthshelter.org.
Our Supporters 2020–21

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the hundreds of individual donors who contributed funding to support our programs in this fiscal year. Your gifts of all sizes help sustain us and provide for our youth.

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A House Hard at Work

Music therapy uses the naturally mood-lifting properties of music to help people improve their mental health and overall well-being.

We serve and nurture youth in crisis, no matter how big or small it may be, with shelter, counseling, and support services, empowering them with increased confidence, stability, and tools for continued growth.
PET THERAPY

Research has shown that the use of therapy dogs improves the efficacy of mental health treatments among adolescents. Our therapy dogs are heroes.

LIFE SKILLS

Our Life Skills program is aimed at teaching necessary life skills not taught in school. The youth meet to cover a variety of topics like careers, banking or your first apartment.

ART THERAPY

The creative process can help people to develop and manage their behaviors and feelings, reduce stress, and improve self-esteem and awareness.
Kaia spent the first 7 years of her life with her mother, who abused drugs and moved her and her siblings around from motel to motel. While she received the basic needs of shelter and food, she was neglected the warmth and nurture needed to thrive at home.

At the age of seven, Social Services took Kaia out of her mother’s care, and she was adopted into a loving home. While Kaia loved her parents immensely, Kaia also struggled with behavioral issues such as lying, manipulation, and deceit.

When Kaia came to Casa Youth Shelter, she was defeated, distraught, and afraid for what her future would hold. Her parents were at their wits end with their now teenage daughter, and expressed a deep fear surrounding the future of their relationship with her.

At Casa Youth Shelter, Kaia demonstrated her resilience and inner hope by diving into the therapeutic process headfirst.

She became a beacon of light for other teens at Casa, and developed her voice and strengthened her confidence along the way. Kaia’s parents were shocked by her transformation and were overjoyed to be reunited with their daughter and her newfound sense of self. Casa Youth Shelter offered Kaia the valuable knowledge and meaningful support she needed to help make the changes she desired.

“"I like Casa because I feel welcomed and safe. – former resident"
“Here at Casa Youth Shelter I really like that everyone is welcome, treated equally, and that there's a lot of staff for the kids.”

– former resident
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A SAFE PLACE TO STAY. 
A WARM BED. 
A HOT MEAL. 
SOMEONE TO TALK TO.
NUESTRA CASA ES SU CASA.

Our Mission
Casa Youth Shelter serves and nurtures youth in crisis with shelter, counseling, and support services, empowering them to come through their crisis with increased confidence, stability, and tools for continued growth.

24-HOUR CRISIS HOTLINE
(800) 914-CASA (2272)

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