



The Commander's Centennial Ball – a hundred years in the making.

Myldred would have been proud.

Her centennial party was a stunning success, just as she would have predicted. The 450 guests came to celebrate for a good cause.

First order for the evening was the silent auction.

A large assortment of one-of-a-kind treasures of beauty, whimsical just have-to-haves and everyday functional items encouraged generous bidding. Casa guests met, mingled and renewed old acquaintances while keeping an alert eye on their bids. Hors'doeuvres and sparkling libations added to the festivity.

Auction Chair Gary Howard, Los Alamitos businessman and member of Casa's board greeted and hosted.



memorative pendant custom designed by Los Alamitos Jeweler, Alex Keller. A one night stay for twelve at the Inn on Mt. Ada, Catalina Island was also popular, but puppies stole the show. Saving the best for last, two pure bred Labrador Puppies donated by

Kristine and Gary Howard went to **Commander's Centennial continues on page 6**

With Gary's superb leadership, the exuberant event raised \$150,000 for the shelter and its programs for homeless, abandoned and/or run-away youth.

From the heart

The surprise of the evening was young Christian Salazar, a non-residential client of Casa (see page 7). Normally, quiet and soft spoken, Christian's first-hand experiences about his life and Casa's influence were touching. Without notes, without a stammer, his words emanated from his heart bring tears from many in the audience.

Who let the dogs out

Auctioneer, Jeff Tanenbaum expertly handled the many hotly contested items such as golf packages (with airfare) at the American Club of Kohler, WI, a 2009 Honda Sport ATV and a one-hundred diamond com-

Here's How Your Donation Will Make a Difference In The Life of a Casa Teen

| | |
|---------|--|
| \$1,250 | Pays for One Month of Casa's, Family /Domestic Violence – Intervention and Treatment Program (mandatory for all the Casa Kids) |
| \$1,000 | Pays for One Month of Perishable Groceries: Meat/Fish/Chicken / Fruit /Milk / Fresh Veggies |
| \$1,000 | Pays for One Month's Utilities for the Shelter and the Counseling Center |
| \$500 | Pays for Emergency Medical Services for one Abused Casa Teen |
| \$250 | Pays for One Week of Counseling Services for one Casa Teen / Family |
| \$150 | Pays for Food, Shelter and Counseling Services for One Day for one Casa Teen |
| \$100 | Buys New PJs, Underwear, Shoes, Socks and a warm jacket for one Casa Teen |

Save the Dates

Auxiliary Spring Boutique:
May 1

Kenny's Party of the Year:
June 27

Wine Tasting:
July 22

Commander's Ball Dinner Auction:
October 16

Memories of Myldred



Lt. Myldred E. Jones,
1945

Another of the special remembrances found in Myldred's home after she passed away:

To: Lieutenant
Myldred E. Jones
Date: June 7, 1945

*Your lips are red, your eyes are blue
Your heart is big and very true.*

Your smile goes on thru thick and thin

And sometimes turns into a grin.

May your way be lighted for your many deeds

In helping others who have great needs

You were right here when we needed you most

To you, Miss Jones, we raise a toast.

*Marge Michael Y2c
Correspondence Unit*

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Youth Development Program

Board Profile

Gary Howard, the can do guy



Gary Howard

It was about six years ago that Gary really got involved with Casa. After observing the joy that his brother-in-law, Emil Jorge, (current Board president) derived from his association with Casa, and being influenced by his

lovely wife Kristine's abiding commitment to helping others, Gary decided he, too, wanted to be a part of Casa's compelling mission on behalf of at-risk youth.

When asked about the guiding principle of his life, Gary's unhesitant response was, "Hard work, honesty, and live by your commitments." Elaborating a bit, Gary also added that when volunteering, "One must

always follow through 100%." And, quickly responding to what was the most important thing in his life, Gary joyfully said, "My family ...my wife and my two young children: they are my life."

Gary's multiple talents and his can-do mindset are showcased often with his work on the board, his leadership as Auction Chair for two years and his willingness to serve for yet a third year. His profession, forensic auditor, has been more than invaluable the past two years as our get nearer to ending our court process.

Gary, we want you to know just how much you and your commitment to Casa's welfare have been and continue to be appreciated. Your dedication to continuing Myldred's mission is outstanding.

Employee Spotlight

Chandra Ricks - teaching and making good decisions

When Chandra arrived at Casa ten years ago as an undergrad fieldworker seeking to fulfill her on-site work experience requirement, she found the perfect setting to pursue her compelling life's mission: "To help troubled youth make good decisions." Casa believes that the decisions this single mom has made while working full-time at Disneyland and part-time at Casa, as well as fulfilling the requirements to achieve her degree in Human Services, were not only good decisions, they also formed the bedrock of a good life for both her son and herself.



Chandra Ricks

Chandra says she couldn't have achieved her goal without her faith and Christian belief that one must, "Treat others as one wishes to be treated, and to do so while 'walking

the walk' with God at your side." Today, Chandra continues working one night each week at Casa and also volunteers on Monday evenings so that she may assist with the "Teen Drop-In Counseling Program" that is designed for kids whose parents are attending Casa's, "Tips on Parenting" classes.

Chandra is "heartfelt proud" of her 24-year old son's graduation with a degree in psychology from Cal State Long Beach; and she says she's looking forward to achieving her Master's degree in Human Services /Social Services from Cal State Fullerton in the near future. Chandra, the entire Casa Family is very proud of you and thank you for years of loving dedication helping the Casa Kids build better futures for themselves.

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Bequests & Honorariums

In Memory of Wally Luthy

Tammy and Lee Luthy

In Memory of Terri Arbogust

Tammy and Lee Luthy

In Memory of Ike and Jerry Timmons

Tammy and Lee Luthy

In Memory of Dr. Leslie Esposito

Filomena Esposito

Tom and Luciann Maulhardt

Jan and Fernando Agudelo

Mary Thomas

In Memory of General Dan Hernandez

Mark and Diane Hernandez

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard

Judy Klabouch

In Memory of Jack Healy

Florence Healy

In Memory of Joann Stevens

Lorraine Caldwell

Toni Sawyer

Dominic and Laura Malfitano

In Memory of Kathryn Young

James and Patricia Holper

Tom and Luciann Maulhardt

Rita Shagan-Musicman

In Memory of Lee Reider

Ken and Jeanette Hodges

In Memory of Lloyd Lane

Tom and Jan Timmons

In Memory of Richard Beaver

Tom and Jan Timmons

Tom and Luciann Maulhardt

In Memory of Mary Jarvis

Richard and Catherine Searight

In Memory of Matt McEvoy

Laurence and Michele McEvoy

Tom and Luciann Maulhardt

In Memory of Michael Bechler Young

Alan and Katheryn Brunelle

In Memory of Garrett McNeerney

Tom and Luciann Maulhardt

In Memory of Patricia Vaughan

Rosie Maloof

David and Carol Evans

Lucille and Dana Takeuchi

In Memory of Paul Worthington

Lillian Worthington

In Memory of Alice "Kiz" Benscoter

Tom and Jan Timmons

In Memory of Bob Lange on the occasion of his birthday

Patricia Lange

In Memory of Craig Alan Westerhoff

Dorothy Fuelleman

In Memory of Chief Bill Stearns

Judy Klabouch

In Memory of Sharon Berg

Judy Klabouch

In Memory of Judy McEachen

Judy Klabouch

In Memory of Dorothy Sue DuVall

Georgena Evans

In Memory of Robert Evans

Georgena Evans

In Honor of Kenny Brandyberry

Harry and Pamela Robbart

In Honor of Alan Rosenberg on the occasion of 90th birthday!

Herbert and Phyllis Rosenberg

In Honor of Jason Friedman on the occasion of his 40th birthday!

Michael and Donna Boucher

In Honor of Myldred's 100th Birthday

Wilbur and Mary Bolton

Tom and Luciann Maulhardt

Nancy Coburn

Judy Klabouch

In Honor of Judy Klabouch on the occasion of her 70th birthday!

Robert and Terry Smitson

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Brenda and Robert McDougall

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Filomena Esposito

Mr. and Mrs. Ogonowski

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Eric and Polly Smitson

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Salisbury

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Karolyn Nelson

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Maury Mabry

Glenn and Marilyn Salsbury

Tom and Jan Timmons

Brenda and Richard Gorman

Olga Brown

In Honor of L.D. & Marcie Malatka

Rose Marie Macht

In Honor of Tom and Barbara Needham on the occasion of their Anniversary

Ruth Hermann

In Honor of Vera Enquist on the occasion of her 100th birthday

Olga Brown

In Honor of Hana Drew Kim

Minako Yasamuru

In Honor of Hana Drew Kim

Do Hyung Kim

Year-Round Financial Planning

Every year hundreds of troubled teenagers walk through the doors of Casa Youth Shelter looking for help. Often they come from the city streets, filled with despair, seemingly with no one to care about them. Hundreds more call Casa's Hotline - 800 - 914 - CASA - seeking help and safety. There is always someone to take their call - someone empowered to arrange and pay for transportation to safety here at the shelter.

Casa, and its 12 beds is now the last 24/7 full-services shelter for both boys and girls ages 12-17 in the area stretching from Palos Verdes to San Clemente. Casa is often the last hope for desperate kids to find someone to listen - someone to help - someone who can help heal their hurts.

You may never know the names of these children, but be assured; they'll carry thanks in their hearts for your kindness in helping keep hope alive.

Please remember them as you consider charitable donations throughout the year - perhaps in memory of - or to honor friends' and family members' birthdays, anniversaries or special events - and, of course, as you finalize your end-of-the-year financial planning. An investment in the future of a child will pay dividends for years to come. And, because Casa is a 501-C-3 nonprofit agency, your gift is fully tax-deductible. Thank You!

Winter 2009

Executive Summary



Luciann Maulhardt
Executive Director

Our latest doings

I can proudly say Casa is “one of the best” at what we do. Standing on the front line seeking to solve the critical issue of runaway teens and homelessness, we are focused on our



Check in and gift fulfillment crew show eager smiles to start Casa's 31st Dinner Auction

mission and our kids. Our experience tells us that it takes everyone working together to make good things happen and working together never looked better than on Saturday October 3, 2009.

We all know volunteering provides a pathway to making a positive contribution to our communities, and what a contribution nearly 100 folks made to ensure Casa's auction success, which is directly related to the shelter's success. The Commander's Centennial – the celebration of the 100th birthday of our late founder, Myldred Jones - was a night to make the Casa family proud. Beautiful décor, gracious, generous guests, auction items that got the crowd enthusiastically waving their paddles and a former Casa “Star” reminding us why we were all gathered, made it a special evening indeed.

All of this would never have been as successful had we not had the great volunteers making it possible. In fact, it just wouldn't have happened. From “Move-In” to “Packing Up” the

last truck, board members, staff, seasoned Casa volunteers and National Charity League mom's and daughters made it all come together like MAGIC! For twenty-two years I've overseen the auction and this was by far our best ever. Was it the energy of the group, the commitment to Casa's Kids, the goal of success in spite of a lean economy? It was all this and more. Hat's off to 2009 Auction Chair Gary Howard and the Auction Teams! Gary was so great - we begged - he said yes - and he'll be back to chair our 2010 event. Thank you Gary!

Celebrating Myldred

Myldred's spirit was felt as we celebrated what would have been her actual 100th birthday this past August 5. With her 5-foot life-size picture as the centerpiece for the celebration, the Myldred E. Jones Recreation Courtyard was the backdrop for our family BBQ. Myldred's favorite Mariachi musicians (a surprise gift provided by Casa's Youth Development volunteers)



Mariachi music on the patio

entertained the guests with sweet sounds of violins against the brilliance of trumpets – what a party!

Federal Peer Review

On that same day of Myldred's 100th, Casa was in the midst of a three-day Federal government Peer Review. Typically occurring every 4-5 years, this year's review results were particularly rewarding. Steve Ice, Program Specialist from the Family Youth Services Bureau wrote, “There were a number of respects in which we felt that Casa Youth Shelter exemplifies social work best practice. In particular, I would like to say how impressed we were with the clinical and therapeutic direction of group and family counseling, the positive setting in which counseling occurs and the information technology in place for evaluating the impact of casework on the behavioral outcomes for families and youth. We found the overall management of the agency exemplary.”

We couldn't ask for a more complementary review. The staff is justifiably proud of their efforts.

Planning and preparation

How is this all done you might ask?



Many hands make light work at move in

Executive Summary continues on page 6

Casa Youth Shelter Kathy, a Case Study

by Gary Michael Zager, Clinical Director

"Kathy" is a 13 year old who came to Casa Youth Shelter for a cooling off period at the request of mom and step-dad.

Kathy has not seen her father since age 7. She has no idea why and has only heard stories that he was in jail and that he has a new family. She fantasizes about what he might be like.

Emotions had been running high in the home for about four months following the death of her younger brother who was one year old at the time. The entire home was suffering from grief over the loss and the adults and children appeared to be trapped in an anger stage which had escalated to the point of yelling and screaming and the throwing of objects. This family was very much in need of a cooling off period.

During Kathy's time in shelter, Rachael, the assigned counselor helped the family to develop the following goals; teach them communication techniques to allow them to express their feelings without having to turn to anger each time, to start a dialog of meaningful exchange of ideas and emotions, to teach anger management techniques and lastly to help the family develop a grieving strategy.

Kathy was here for 13 days and during this time she received 7 individual counseling sessions, 6 family counseling sessions and 42 hours of group counseling.

She has returned home and the family appears to be doing well.

Commander's Centennial continued from page 1



Gary Howard, auction chair; Luciann Maulhardt, executive director and Emil Jorge, board president

\$31,750 to sponsor a Casa kid. The Soul Shadow band and vocalist inspired dancing that went well into the night

happy homes with Frank and Rhonda Buckner and Greg and Mindy Koslosky.

Ending the program was the reverse auction by more than one hundred guests who donated

President's Corner



Emil Jorge

Hello again!

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all in attendance Saturday October 3rd for our annual auction dinner fundraiser. In the face of a difficult economy whereby many non-profit organizations have been forced to drastically reduce their services or close their doors altogether, the Casa Youth Shelter will see neither outcome. Because of the generosity of our Casa Family (that's you!) the Casa Youth Shelter will continue its outstanding level of service to our kids. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

As the holidays are upon us, I wish you all a happy holiday season full of family, friends and FUN!! See you in 2010!

Emil Jorge
Board President

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Yearly we strategically assess our agency priorities and future plans.

We develop effective programs that meet our client and families needs.

We have been successful at identifying funding sources. And, we have written highly competitive grant applications with a component that evaluates program impact.

There is no doubt that competition for dollars is tougher than ever; but knowing how deeply needed our services are, and the momentum of success of a program that has served over 10,000 teens since 1978, keeps us focused on the end result....keeping kids off the streets, providing shelter, resolving crises and reunifying families.

Saga nears an end

As 2009 winds down, it seems we are getting toward the end of the court process for the Casa Youth Shelter embezzlement case. We're confident that the two years of arduous work by the Los Alamitos Police Department, Orange County District Attorney's office and the dedication of board members Gary Howard, Steve Ellis, Chief Mike McCrary and Tom Timmons will result in a favorable resolution very shortly. Your dedication to Casa's mission has sustained our commitment and hope.

As the holidays approach I am reminded that it's the people we care about that are the blessings we remember. For all the ways you make our Casa kids and families so special, you're loved and appreciated every day. The entire Casa Family wishes you happy celebrations throughout the holiday season.

Luciann

Teen Summit draws enthusiastic crowd



Sixth annual Teen Summit attracts large audience

Casa's Youth Development Program (YDP), together with Casa Youth Shelter's outreach team Jane Riehl and Maribel Contreras, pulled off yet another successful Teen Summit, the 6th of its kind, with a packed house and great speakers, including YDP members. The event, which occurred August 20 at Good Shepherd

Presbyterian Church, drew more than 80 local teens.

Local organizations also attended the event to share their information and resources.

YDP'ers helped set up the event, greeted the attendees at

check in, and spoke to the crowd. Member Christian Salazar and co-president Florent Blanc were emcees for the event, and co-president Ryan Carnegie opened the day with an explanation of Casa's programs and YDP. Blanc even made a presentation on personal responsibility and the ramifications of credit use, because, he

said, no one is sharing the information about credit in high schools.

Casa's Board of Director's President, Emil Jorge, addressed the teenagers, and enthusiastic presenters shared their knowledge and experiences, making topics that could normally be downbeat into fun discussions. Speakers included Duane Durst from California Youth Services, who told an enthralling tale of drug abuse and recovery, Robert Diaz from Human Options, Inc., who informed the audience of teen dating violence, and Rosie Rivas from the Long Beach Health Department, who shared information on sexually transmitted disease and safety practices.

Volunteer Spotlight Christian Salazar -- from client to leader



Christian Salazar

When Christian Salazar took the stage at Casa's Commander's Centennial Auction he looked like he might not make it. Immediately, however, his demeanor changed as the true words he was speaking took over. "What you get and what you deserve are two different things," said Salazar, "my parents taught me that."

The young man told his personal story, starting as a non-residential Casa client because of trouble at home and ending as a president of YDP (Youth Development Program) and a productive, good person with tons of volunteer hours.

Salazar, 20, grew up right down the street from Casa. He first met Myldred E. Jones when he was going door-to-door selling magazine subscriptions. Jones made a deal with the then teenage Christian - she would buy some subscriptions if he would

come to her house for a few hours that next afternoon. She did, and he did, and so their paths crossed for the first time.

At first Christian wasn't exactly receptive to Casa, "I thought it was a punishment," he said. But soon after his counseling was finished, he joined YDP at his mom's request. He thought he would only stay for his 100 hours of service but after his school-requisite community service had been completed, he stayed on to become a core member of the YDP group, and was elected president. He's still here, in fact, ready to help with whatever is needed - from heavy lifting, to watching young children while their guardians attend our parenting classes, to making an important speech in front of hundreds of people at an important event.

He's also a student and has a part-time job, and gives Casa part of the credit for his success. Christian Salazar is getting what he deserves: a bright future and lots of admiration from those associated with Casa.

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1909-2006

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Community Connections

Casa Youth Shelter is blessed to be part of a community rich in human service agencies. Rumor has it that the city of Los Alamitos has more non-profit agencies per capita than any other city in Orange County.

This is particularly important in that Casa Youth Shelter can not be all things to all people. Many times we are looking to make professional referrals to be used alongside of our own services, or following post-therapeutically.

Agencies that we trust and refer to frequently start right on our own street with; **We Care**, an agency serving the hungry and homeless, (www.wecarelosalamitos.org), **Precious Life Shelter**, an agency helping homeless pregnant women (yes, that should be an oxymoron), (www.preciouslifeshelter.org/home.asp) and close by the **Hotline of Southern California**, a crisis call in phone service. (hotlineofsocal.org). We also refer frequently to **Interval House**, a center and

shelter for the victims of domestic violence, (www.intervalhouse.org), as well as **Su Casa** serving a similar population and also fairly close to us, (www.sucasadv.org). When families are not in need of adolescent shelter and can benefit from counseling and they do not live close to us we many times refer to **Straight Talk** in Cypress, (www.straighttalkinc.org), **Family Service** in Long Beach, (www.familyservicecares.org) and **Turning Point Center for Families** in Santa Ana, (<http://www.turningpointssantaana.org>). For families who only speak Spanish we are confident in the services of **La Familia** Treatment Services in Santa Ana, (<http://www.chcada.org/LaFamilia>).

Casa Youth Shelter is able to achieve success many times due in part to our networking relationships to our sister agencies in our communities. We are thankful for their presence. In closing please let me remind you to also check in on our website, it is updated frequently. It is located at www.CasaYouthShelter.org.

Please feel free to write to me with any questions that you may have at GaryZager@casayouthshelter.org



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