From our President

Kathryn Partis

The past year has been rather memorable for a myriad of reasons – however, I personally would like to remember the demonstration of strength and resiliency of Casa Youth Shelter during the COVID-19 crisis. This organization was created specifically to help in crisis situations, so when the world seemed to slow to a stop, Casa Youth Shelter didn’t.

Our board members, staff, and volunteers had to adapt quickly to unfamiliar and continually developing situations. Led by Executive Director Amy Lakin, our amazing staff shifted gears: those who were able to began working remotely, while essential in-house staff took the additional guidelines in stride to keep operations at the shelter running smoothly and safely.

Though the pandemic has changed (and continues to change) many aspects of our daily lives, we’ve never closed our doors. We have and will continue to remain open for youth experiencing crisis for as long as possible, and we’ve worked around some of the challenges of temporarily suspending on-site activities; with that in mind, have you seen our online virtual tour of the shelter? It’s the next best thing to a live, in-person shelter tour! (Check it out at casayouthshelter.org/tour)

The future is bright for Casa Youth Shelter. In 2019, we created a Strategic Planning Committee, soliciting input from Board members, staff, stakeholders, and community representatives to produce a Strategic Plan for the next five years. Our President-elect Greg Magnuson is ready to lead us into the next phase for Casa Youth Shelter. We’re excited for what’s to come!

From our Executive Director

Amy Lakin

First, please accept my wishes for good health for you and your loved ones. We are all in this together, and together we will endure and thrive.

I am full of pride as I write this letter. While it can be easy to feel overwhelmed during these challenging times, Casa Youth Shelter continues to support youth in crisis. One day at a time. One child at a time.

A former resident told us, “Casa is a place that a kid can feel safe and they also have a voice.”

We continue to provide a safe space, where youth feel respected and heard. And we couldn’t do it without you.

“Casa is a place that a kid can feel safe and they also have a voice.”

Our doors have remained open, and our team has shown up with full hearts every day to provide safety and care to any adolescent in need. Our dedicated Board of Directors, talented staff, compassionate volunteers, and generous supporters have shown incredible resolve and strength through it all.

No matter what we face, a common thread unites us: a deep commitment to helping the most vulnerable youth in our community.

We look forward to all the good things to come. Thank you for your support, and please, be well.

Amy

The world is a different place than it was a few months ago. Everyone has been affected in large and small ways. As we struggle to rebuild, and push through concerns about our own and others’ safety and security, we wonder when we might feel whole again.

Imagine feeling this mix of emotions as a teen, without a home to go to or a family to confide in. What happens when home is not the safe haven we hope it to be? Many of our teens are particularly susceptible, not only to COVID-19, but to other physical and mental illnesses that stem from the trauma of living on the streets or experiencing significant crisis.

Our team specializes in handling crisis. When the safer-at-home guidelines came out, we at Casa Youth Shelter knew we would need to be a stronghold of safety for youth in our community.

With the wellbeing of our staff and our youth our highest priority, we implemented more frequent and rigorous cleaning practices and extended a hazard pay increase to our Youth Supervisors on site. We maintained social distancing inside the shelter as best as we could, and we approached this “new normal” one day at a time.

In April, we officially launched online clinical services — available to the public and temporarily offered free of charge during the COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual services include individual and family counseling, bilingual parenting classes, case management services, and a teen drop-in group. (Get more information and sign up at bit.ly/casaclinical)

The long-term impact of the crises we face this year is not yet known, but we are committed to keeping our doors open — as we have continuously for the past 42 years— to provide a safe space for youth, and ensure that families receive the support they need. At press time, restrictions are gradually being lifted, and we have adjusted our policies to reflect these latest guidelines.

For the latest updates, please visit casayouthshelter.org.

Your support is a lifeline for the youth in our care. We appreciate you standing by us, as our team continues their quietly heroic work to keep our youth safe.
Crisis calls received
1,263

Youth in shelter
241

Shelter days provided
2,351

Youth reported experiencing abuse
1 in 4

Youth dealing with substance abuse
26%

25 Average hours of clinical services each youth received while in the shelter

11% Identify as LGBTQ+

81% Residents who participate in aftercare services after exiting the shelter

12% Experiencing homelessness at time of intake

91% Youth who, when leaving the shelter, were no longer in crisis

See previous years' statistics at casayouthshelter.org/impact
Crisis Calls:
Calls Received 1,263

Youth in Shelter:
Youth Receiving Shelter Care 241
Shelter Days Provided 2,351

Hours of Counseling 5,901
Hours of Case Management 822
Parent/Guardian Participation 60%

Aftercare Services:
Counseling 81%
Parent Education 10%
Teen Drop-In Classes 6%

Length of Stay:
Less Than One Week 51%
One to Two Weeks 27%
Two to Three Weeks 20%

Gender Identification:
Female 57%
Male 41%
Non-Binary 2%

Age:
12 Years Old 7%
13 Years Old 14%
14 Years Old 19%
15 Years Old 21%
16 Years Old 21%
17 Years Old 18%

Ethnicity:
Hispanic 48%
White 22%
Black 15%
Mixed 12%
Asian 3%

Of the Children Served:
LGBTQ+ 11%
Military Family 10%

Referral Source:
Social Services (DCFS/SSA) 24%
Schools 17%
Community Agencies 11%
Hospital 11%
Self, Friends, Relatives 10%
Law Enforcement 8%
Internet 7%
Shelters 6%
Past Client 5%
Juvenile Probation 1%

Child Abuse Reported:
Physical Abuse 32%
Mental Abuse 24%
Sexual Abuse 20%
Neglect 9%
Suspected Child Abuse Reports 69%

Issues Identified:
Substance Abuse 26%
Literacy Concerns 17%
Running Away 12%
Experiencing Homelessness 12%
Gang Involved 7%
Human Trafficking 1%

Exit Disposition:
Successful or Satisfactory 91%
Unsatisfactory or Unknown 9%

Destination at Exit:
Parents’ or Relatives’ Home 68%
Social Services 12%
Alternate Shelter 8%
AWOL 5%
Residential Community Agency 4%
Hospital 3%
Juvenile Justice 1%

Cities Served:
Anaheim, CA 11%
Bellflower, CA 2%
Buena Park, CA 4%
Compton, CA 2%
Corona, CA 1%
Costa Mesa, CA 1%
Cypress, CA 5%
Fountain Valley, CA 1%
Fullerton, CA 3%
Garden Grove, CA 5%
Hemet, CA 1%
Huntington Beach, CA 2%
Irvine, CA 1%
La Habra, CA 1%
Lakewood, CA 2%
Long Beach, CA 7%
Los Alamitos, CA 1%
Los Angeles, CA 2%
Moreno Valley, CA 3%
Norwalk, CA 1%
Orange, CA 4%
Riverside, CA 5%
Santa Ana, CA 6%
Westminster, CA 2%
Cities less than 1% (47) 27%

Counties Served:
Orange County 56%
Los Angeles County 23%
Riverside County 14%
Other Counties (4) 7%

How We Are Funded
78% of our funding comes from the private sector.
83 cents of every dollar given to Casa Youth Shelter supported direct services in 2019–20

Casa Youth Shelter received an average individual donation of $330 in 2019–20

Volunteers gave more than 6,000 volunteer hours in 2019–20

Casa Youth Shelter received $50,000 in in-kind donations that help to offset our budget for resident needs

Full financial statements and our Form 990 are available online at casayouthshelter.org

One Youth One Week

The average cost to provide shelter care services to ONE youth for ONE week = $2,065

Includes shelter, food, counseling, supervision, transportation, recreation, and all indirect costs.

* Estimated at press time
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.
Residents have fun touching moon jellies and learning about our underwater world during an outing to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach.

Residents get some fresh air and exercise.

A resident crafts their own cuddly toy in a sewing group.

Residents get creative with chalk drawings on our patio.

Residents participate in Life Skills classes via Zoom.

One of our volunteers helps residents make their own potted succulents.

Former residents gather with staff for our annual Home for the Holidays reunion dinner.

Youth Supervisor Chantel Rothenburger leads residents in a game of "Superstition Jeopardy" on Friday the 13th.

Residents participate in a mock sea lion rescue during an outing to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center.

Residents create digital art on tablets during an outing to the Microsoft store in Cerritos.

Volunteer Mitch Banales leads residents in a ukulele lesson, with founding board member Lois Abrams joining in.

“This is one of the first places I ever felt [at] home.” — Former resident

“Each and every staff member helped to create such a nurturing and wonderful environment.” — Former resident

“Casa taught me structure and showed me what love is” — Former resident

“This resident made a friend when Mobile Zoo of Southern CA came to visit.”

Residents create digital art on tablets during an outing to the Microsoft store in Cerritos.

Volunteer Mitch Banales leads residents in a ukulele lesson, with founding board member Lois Abrams joining in.
Fifteen year old David lived with his mother and brother in an apartment. David’s mother worked full-time to support the family, but unfortunately her minimum wage job was not enough and they lost their apartment. Without enough savings to secure another one, they began depending on friends for shelter.

The uncertainty of their new living situation put stress on the two siblings, and David and his brother found themselves fighting more often. The conflicts between them became too aggressive and the environment too volatile for their friends to deal with, and so the family again found themselves in need of housing.

That’s when David’s mother called Casa Youth Shelter. David’s brother opted to stay with a friend, but David came in for shelter. His mother was able to work some overtime, and our Case Management Specialist provided her with resources for financial assistance and housing support. With our counselors, David was able to address his anger and work through the numerous challenges he was experiencing due to the instability in his life.

David reunited with his mother three weeks later, having made great strides in managing his anger. The family was able to return to their friend’s home with support and assistance from Casa Youth Shelter and other community partners. Finding stable housing continues to be a challenge as David’s mother struggles to support two teens on a minimum wage salary, but the family is currently safe and hopeful for what the future will bring.

Read more real-life success stories at casayouthshelter.org/success
Seventeen year old Carrie struggled with depression and low self-esteem, and was contemplating suicide. After writing a letter to her mother describing her desire to end her life, Carrie was hospitalized. When she was discharged from the hospital, Carrie came to Casa Youth Shelter to transition before she returned home.

During her stay at Casa Youth Shelter, Carrie talked to her counselor about feeling alienated at school, and being picked on by other students. To make matters worse, Carrie said that when she sought her mother’s help regarding her thoughts of suicide, her mother seemed as if she did not fully understand the seriousness of what Carrie was going through.

During their family therapy sessions, Carrie and her mother practiced communicating their feelings and needs. Carrie’s mother shared some personal and cultural experiences that impacted her understanding of depression, and she is learning ways to better support her daughter.

In individual counseling, Carrie identified her personal strengths and created a “safety plan” that she can practice when her feelings become overwhelming. She is gaining a better awareness of the triggers that lead to depressive thoughts.

After nine days at Casa Youth Shelter, Carrie returned home. She and her family remain active in individual and family counseling as part of our Aftercare and Case Management programs.

Read more real-life success stories at casayouthshelter.org/success
Casa Youth Shelter Commander’s Ball

October 26, 2019

Director Emeritus Luciann Maulhardt embraces supporter Dayl Salamanca as Dayl is honored during the evening’s program.

Guests enjoyed a spectacular Huntington Beach sunset.

Supporter and volunteer Madeline Hayward playing the role of a concerned parent in the evening’s presentation.

Mary Beth Mashburn celebrates her winning bid on our fabulous live auction packages.

The dance floor is full as guests dance the night away.

Placing a bid during Sponsor-a-Kid.

Live ensemble band Rembrandt keeps the energy high throughout the evening.

Founding board member Judy Klabouch invites friends to join her every year to support Casa Youth Shelter.

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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.

Casa Youth Shelter

amazon smile charity lists

Giving to Casa Youth Shelter has never been easier. AmazonSmile Charity Lists is a new and meaningful way for you to donate items directly to our shelter. With our Charity List, take the guesswork out of giving and donate securely and worry-free.

Shop now at bit.ly/casaamzcharitylist