

## Santa Barbara County Advisory Board

Casa Pacifica is excited to report that its newly formed Santa Barbara County Advisory Board held its first meeting in late May. The Advisory Board was created to promote Casa Pacifica's name and reputation in Santa Barbara County – helping to inform the community of the services the agency provides in the area. Casa Pacifica has the largest children's mental health contract in the county.

The Advisory Board is comprised of members who represent both north and south Santa Barbara County communities. The Chairman of the Advisory Board is Judge Frank J. Ochoa, a Superior Court Judge for Santa Barbara County. Judge Ochoa, a Superior Court Judge since 1996, currently oversees the Criminal Trial department, where he hears both felony and misdemeanor cases. He

has supervised the Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Dependency, and Mental Health calendars for the courts, in addition to civil and family law matters.

Joining Judge Ochoa on the Santa Barbara County Advisory Board are Brian Barnwell, *Santa Barbara City Council Member*; Kay Bruce, *Public Information Officer - Santa Barbara City College*; Charlene Chase, *Director (retired) - Santa Barbara Social Services*; Wendy Edmunds, *Vice President, Trust & Investment Services Division - Santa Barbara Bank & Trust*; Donna Barranco Fisher, *Education Consultant*; Richard L. Glaus, *Deputy Chief - Santa Barbara Police Department*; Janice Keller, *Lompoc City Council Member*; Dr. Glenn Miller, *Psychiatrist*; Mitch Morehart, *Village Properties*; Susan J. Pate, *Village Properties*; David Prichard, *Market President Santa Barbara & Ventura - Bank of America*; Dr. Andrew Sharf, *Physician*; Peter Steiner, *Executive Director (retired) - U.C.S.B. Alumni Association*; and Gail Tissier, *Superintendent (retired) - Santa Maria*

*School District.*

At the meeting, each of the Advisory Board Members in attendance expressed a heartfelt commitment to improving the lives of children and families who are in great distress in their communities – some of the members revealing that prior to their involvement with the new Advisory Board they were unaware that these kinds of

problems existed where they live. Casa Pacifica is honored to have such a distinguished panel of members for the Santa Barbara County Advisory Board who are dedicated to advancing the programs and purpose of Casa Pacifica “to bring help and hope to children and families.” We are excited about what the future will bring.



Santa Barbara County Advisory Board Members (pictured here with Casa Pacifica CEO, Dr. Steven E. Elson - back right), present at the May meeting were:  
Seated (l-r) – Wendy Edmunds, Susan Pate, Donna Barranco Fisher, Dr. Andrew Sharf  
Standing (l-r) – Brian Barnwell, Kay Bruce, Judge Frank Ochoa, Dr. Glenn Miller, Mitch Morehart, Dr. Steven E. Elson

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Summer 2006



Charles W. Cohen, Esq.  
Board President

## From the President of the Board of Directors

Summer of '06 is upon us. Most of us think of vacations, time out of school, family get-togethers, and the good things life has to offer. Even after all of these years, I can still feel the excitement of the last day before summer vacation kicks in, the sense of freedom and well being, and no more pressure until Labor Day. Even though I have been out of school for more than a few days now, I still tingle with a less demanding (mentally) sense of work, trips to the beach, the zoo, the mountains, not the deserts - it's too hot - or car trips and cruises. Such has been my privileged life.

Had it not been for my sojourn to Casa Pacifica and the opportunity to observe the other kids, who I did not grow up with, I might still be in the totally unreal world described (and felt) above. For the kids in our charge, under our care, in need of our compassion and capacity to serve, summer and June are another season and month of the same old stuff. It is our hope, and mission, to get all of our kids to a place where the romantic and fun notions of summer are enjoyed. We wish that were now for all of our kids.

One at a time, maybe a few at a time, will come to understand

summer as a delicious change from the rest of the year. While we would cheer for many of our kids to get to such joy, the reality is that that isn't reality. In some ways, summer becomes a more difficult time, a challenge because the contrast between our kids and those fortunate not to need our assistance becomes more graphic. The difference between beach and park days and time spent with your wraparound pals is heightened. Our brilliant and caring staff has to be conscious of this widening gap, and be even better than when all of the kids are immersed in the almost sameness of school days. And

they are.

I wish all kids could have enjoyed the sublime joy of summers that I remember and still enjoy, albeit somewhat more vicariously now. I wish we could all live in that dream world of no or lesser cares. But that is not to be. Thus, we who plunged with glee into the surf of summer must take a moment to think about those who can't and don't. We have the joyful task of turning our blessings into doing what we can for those who can't. Whether it be decorating the gym for Prom, hiking with the Amigos (or whatever else these

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Steven E. Elson, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

## From the Chief Executive Officer

About a year ago, Casa Pacifica embarked on a process to identify a set of values that would under-gird and over-arch all of our activities. We wanted to articulate and assert values for which we would be accountable, as well as model and teach to the children we serve.

Our hope was that these values would not just be words posted on office walls, but they would become part of the fabric of our every day world - from our treatment activities, to our interactions with each other, to the financial decisions we make. We began looking at and talking about values in a more intentional way. In researching programs that had integrated values into all their activities in clear and visible ways,

we found one - Hollygrove in Hollywood (a children and family services agency) - as a model from which to work. On a visit to Hollygrove we were amazed at how successfully they had made their core values part of the culture. We asked several of the children what are the "Hollygrove values?" and in every case not only could the children answer the question correctly, they could give examples of what the values looked like.

And so, we formed a Values Committee and asked all departments, the Board of Directors, and the children and families we serve to brainstorm a list of values that we wanted to assert. Based on our Hollygrove experience we decided to limit

our values to four:

**Respect** - To treat all as worthy of high regard, to imbue a feeling of great approval

**Integrity** - To assure that our conduct conforms to an accepted standard of right and wrong and to tell the truth

**Courage** - To have the strength of mind to carry on in spite of danger or social stigma

**Compassion** - To develop the ability to feel what another feels and to take his or her perspective.

We recognize that developing a values language and making it an integral part of Casa Pacifica's culture will take months, if not years. As a start to implementing our chosen values, we have created a special employee recognition program. Each month

our departments are encouraged to recognize an employee who best exhibits one of the values. With generous support of the Meister family we have also created the "Larry Meister Employee of Year" award, in honor of Larry who lived to the fullest these values in his work and personal life. This award will be granted annually to two employees who best exemplify our values.

We are fortunate to see daily examples of our values expressed not only by our staff, but also by volunteers who do such an amazing job with our kids. For example, this issue of *Heartlines* details the compassion of a community that comes together

*Continued on page 3*

## From Cohen

*Continued from page 2*

Wild Friends of Dennis Murphy, Amigos President, think up), raising funds and Casa Pacifica consciousness with the decorous Angels, we can invest a part of our good fortune for the benefit of the kids who will need a pretty remarkable change of life experiences in order to enjoy the summers we love.

Let's think about this when we sip our lemonade or iced tea.

Sincerely,



## From Elson

*Continued from page 2*

to make a special and spectacular event possible for the kids on campus – the Prom. From Amgen volunteers decorating the gym, to hair and make-up artists, to make-up artists, to limousine services, to tuxedo rental places that charge only a cleaning fee, to high school girls and community members who donate gowns - all have expressed compassion by helping create a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for kids in our care.

We are grateful to witness this tangible demonstration of values so poignantly expressed and will strive to assure that every day we carry out these values in ways that are obvious to everyone.

Sincerely,



## New Board Members

Casa Pacifica is pleased to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors, Ed Summers and Michael D. Bradbury.

ED SUMMERS is currently the Senior Vice President and Chief Credit Officer for Affinity Bank headquartered in downtown Ventura.

He also serves as the bank's CRA Officer and Chairs the Community Investment Committee.

Mr. Summers has worked in the banking industry for 22 years, including seven years as the Commercial Banking Manager of the Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Regional Office for Bank of America.

He also held the position of Vice President and Manager of Bank of America's Corporate Credit Examination Services office in Southern California. Prior to his career in banking, Mr. Summers worked for seven years in academic development for both the University of Southern California and Claremont University Center.

A resident of Ventura for 16 years, Mr. Summers has been active in the community for many of those years. He was elected to the Ventura City Council in November of 2005. He served for five years (nine years as a member) as the Chair of the Cultural Affairs Commission for the City of Ventura and was a Director of the Ventura County Economic Development Association for 12 years, as well as the Chairman of the organization for three years. He is currently a member of the Ventura Education Partnership and is on the Board of the Grant Park Conservancy. Mr. Summers is also a past member of the Board of Directors for Community Access Partners of San Buenaventura (the local public access television station) and was Co-chair of the

Ventura County 2005 BRAC Task Force. He is a past President and Director of the Ventura Music Festival, a former Trustee of the California Business Week Foundation, and served as a member of the Planning Committee for the Ventura County Chapter of the American Heart Association annual Walk for Life.

Building on over three decades of experience as a lawyer, public official, and community leader, MICHAEL D. BRADBURY counsels both national and California clients in a broad range of complex litigation and business-related matters for the firm of Weston Benschopf. With an extensive background in criminal justice and knowledge of the workings of government and business, Mr. Bradbury provides counseling to clients on strategic evaluation, complex litigation, and white-collar criminal defense.

Mr. Bradbury served for 24 years as the District Attorney of Ventura County, and for 33 years as a prosecutor. As District Attorney,

he headed an office with an annual budget of \$50 million and a staff of over 600 employees, which was recognized as one of the best and most innovative law enforcement agencies in the nation. He was the first District Attorney in California's history to twice be elected President of the California District Attorneys Association. He has served

the administrations of governors and presidents and has received some of law enforcements highest awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Alliance of California Law Enforcement in April of 2003. Mr. Bradbury was appointed to the 31st Agricultural District Board of Directors by Governor Schwarzenegger in



Ed Summers



Michael D. Bradbury

November of 2004.

We welcome both of these experienced professionals to our Board of Directors and look forward to the contributions they will make to the progress and purpose of Casa Pacifica.

## Retiring Member of Board of Directors

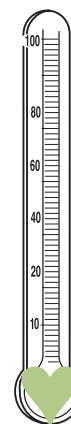
Heidi Bradbury is stepping down from the Casa Pacifica Board of Directors upon her completion of a three-year term of service. Mrs. Bradbury served on the Development Committee during her tenure on the Board. Casa Pacifica is grateful for her contributions to the work of the Board of Directors and to the progress of Casa Pacifica reflected by its expanding role in providing needed services to children and families of our community.

## Private Funding Fills "Margin of Care"

Private dollars are critical to funding the gap between government-provided funding and what Casa Pacifica needs to continue providing excellent and innovative care to our children.

Each year we ask the private sector to help fill the gap; which is \$25 per day per child. This year's annual goal of \$2,000,000 must be raised by June 30th, 2007.

Investing in our children is an investment in the future. You can make a difference!



Our Goal: \$2,000,000

## Casa Pacifica Kids Club Program Kicks-Off



Casa Pacifica is pleased to announce a new program called The Casa Pacifica Kids Club. Supporters of The Casa Pacifica Kids Club are community members who want to help make victimized children's lives better, and as such they are willing to commit to provide support in the form of an annual

donation of at least \$1,500 to Casa Pacifica. As long as a member continues to contribute annually, the donations are recognized on a cumulative basis. The Kids Club members' names will be displayed on a donor wall at the Camarillo campus, as well as on a traveling plaque as recognition of their commitment

to the children served by Casa Pacifica. Those who contribute and commit to annual donations prior to December 31, 2006, will be recognized as charter members of The Casa Pacifica Kids Club.

Casa Pacifica is committed to filling-the-gap that exists between the cost of caring for a child and the funding it receives from governmental agencies. The Casa Pacifica Kids Club will help maintain strong and critical services. If you are interested in becoming a member of The Casa Pacifica Kids Club, please contact Laura Fisher at (805) 445-7826 in the Development Department of Casa Pacifica.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS OR BUSINESSES WHO MADE A TRIBUTE OR MEMORIAL GIFT DURING THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 1, 2006 — MAY 31, 2006

### IN HONOR OF

MR. ANTHONY GONZALES  
*Mr. and Mrs. Richard Harrison*  
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*Mr. and Mrs. Harry Grace*

### IN MEMORY OF

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Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Medeiros  
MR. LEO TYNAN  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Medeiros

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rakestraw

THANKS TO THE INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES WHO MADE A GIFT DURING THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 1, 2006 — MAY 31, 2006

### CHAMPION (\$5,000+)

Alliance Realty, Inc.  
Clearwater Port LLC  
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation  
Kavlico Corporation  
Mid-State Bank and Trust  
Starfish Partners, LLC  
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### MENTOR (\$500 up to \$1,000)

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Bank of America - Woodland Hills  
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Pfizer United Way Campaign  
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Ms. Alexandra J. Snyder

### FRIEND (\$250 up to \$500)

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Las Posas Veterinary Medical Center  
Peet's Coffee and Tea  
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The Players Club  
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### ASSOCIATE (up to \$250)

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Embrace Wellness  
ESA Foundation Chapter 5434-Theta Omicron/CA  
GCS Tech and Business Solutions, Inc.  
GIO, LLC  
Go West Events and Multi Media

## Seraphim Award Announced at Annual Angels Spring Luncheon

The annual Angels Spring Luncheon took place at Las Posas Country Club in early May recognizing the work of the outgoing Angels Board and introducing the new Angels Board for 2006-2007. (You can read about the new members of the Angels Board in the Angels President's message.)

Following lunch the attendees (many of whom donned hats of their own) were entertained by the Hat Lady, Patricia Swift, who showed-off several hats which were only a partial selection of her favorite hats from her 1,000 piece collection. Mrs. Swift revealed that there is a hat for every woman, you just have to find the style that is flattering for

you. Her anecdotes about each of her hats had the guests giggling, and following the luncheon several women descended on the Hat Lady to try on some of their personal favorites, or to find the right style of hat for their own heads.

Each of the Angels Board members for 2006-2007 was introduced, but the highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of the Seraphim Award by Angels President Patricia Cordover to Kristin Eaton. Kristin was recognized for her work on the Membership Committee of the Angels Board and for her tireless efforts to help achieve the Angels Board's



Kristin Eaton, Seraphim Award Recipient and Patricia Cordover, Angels President

goal of improving communication with the Angels membership. Her efforts include designing and producing the Angel-to-Angel newsletter (which is emailed to each Angel several times a year), devising an updated volunteer request procedure, revising the Angels Membership Application, and creating an Angels Gift Membership form. The award was a special moment from a great, fun-filled gathering!

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 Pacifica Lending  
 Rico Marco's Shoetique, Inc.  
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# Corporate Leaders

## Mid-State Bank & Trust Continues as Corporate Leader of Casa Pacifica

As Partners in Your Community, Mid-State Bank & Trust is proud to support Casa Pacifica in providing hope and help for abused, neglected, or at-risk children and their families.

Mid-State Bank & Trust serves Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties with 40 offices, including one in Camarillo, two in Oxnard, three in Ventura, and two in the Ojai Valley. A new office at 2663 Townsgate Road in Westlake Village will open in July.

Mid-State offers free personal checking accounts, Internet banking with free bill pay, health savings accounts, mortgage

loans and refinancing, home equity loans and lines of credit, and trust and investment management services.

For businesses, they offer small business loans and credit lines, commercial real estate and construction loans, agricultural and SBA loans, business equipment leasing, and business checking and savings plans.

Mid-State Bank & Trust provides over \$1 billion in loans per year to local individuals and businesses. Their lending decisions are made locally and the money you deposit at the Bank is invested back into the community through loans to local



businesses and individuals like you.

With \$2.4 billion in assets, Mid-State Bank & Trust is a community bank with big bank capabilities. They are large enough to provide you with state-of-the-art, comprehensive banking services, yet friendly enough to know you by name. As "Partners in Your Community," their unique size allows them to respond quickly to your needs and tailor their services to each community they serve.

To learn how Mid-State Bank & Trust can help you reach your goals, visit their Web site at [www.midstatebank.com](http://www.midstatebank.com) or call (800) 473-7788.

## New Corporate Leader – Ventura Harley-Davidson

Now serving the county through locations in Camarillo and Moorpark, Ventura and Simi Valley Harley-Davidson and Buell have been delivering customers more smiles per gallon since 1969, with a large selection of new and used motorcycles, and extensive vehicle service, parts, clothing, rider gear, gift and novelty departments.

Ventura Harley-Davidson specializes in products of the Harley-Davidson Motor Company, a world class American manufacturer celebrating 103 years of renowned two wheeling on classic and progressive Harley cruisers and, more recently, Buell, the

### Ventura & Simi Valley

HARLEY-DAVIDSON

EST. 1969

American sport/adventure bike.

Well aware the average day-to-day can sometimes be less than carefree, the teams at Ventura and Simi Valley Harley-Davidson are dedicated to matching you with the ride of your dreams, whether its your first time and you're in need of a beginners Rider Safety course, or whether you've been heading down the road for years.

Now also representing Schwinn Scooters, a light first step for those looking to experience the thrill and joys of getting "out in the wind", our teams at our sister dealerships are ready, able and willing, with an "at your service" approach to your motorcycling needs.

Since becoming a Harley-Davidson dealer in 1989, Tom Elsaesser, now with a current



onsite ownership team of Paul Pecoraro, Tracey Warriner and Jason Barresi, has dedicated a growing portion of dealership profits to local and other charities each year, with an increasing focus on the youth of our county.

Tom and Nancy Elsaesser of Ventura and Simi Valley Harley-Davidson have been proud to be involved with the Casa Pacifica Wine & Food Festival for three years as sponsors, and they are already looking forward to next year's event!

Ventura Harley-Davidson's philosophy is simple: Riding motorcycles is fun — Buying one should be fun too!

# Child's Story—Christy

“I just want to be normal.” Christy states as her theme for her life. What child does not have dreams, plans, desires for a future? Unfortunately, life has a way of bringing pain along the way and dreams get dashed, replaced with failures and despair. This was Christy in the beginning, wanting more yet struggling with the very coping skills she had learned to use to survive. However, Christy's story doesn't end here, it begins, and Casa Pacifica was privileged to be a part of Christy's journey.

Christy is a 17-year old teenager, funny and bright. When she walks into a room she fills it with a wonderful presence. She lives in a small but affluent town in Santa Barbara County. Christy struggles with being overweight and mental health issues, and over time she has developed extreme social anxiety. She was laughed at and ridiculed by other children. Eventually, she refused to go to school and the police became involved. Though low self-esteem is a common experience for teens, in Christy's case, it was magnified many times over. This leads to anger, withdrawal, and aggression as it did with Christy. Her mother took the brunt of Christy's anger and frustration and finally decided the family needed outside assistance. After eight months of refusing to attend school and with her violent behaviors escalating, Christy was placed

at Casa Pacifica's residential treatment center where she remained for two years.

At Casa Pacifica, Christy learned new skills, built new relationships, and found she had people she could depend upon. She became familiar and comfortable with the routine and her life at the residential treatment facility. When Christy was ready to return home, there was concern that she would return to her old habits. Christy experienced deep anxiety and was in serious danger of returning to her aggressive/destructive behaviors.

A decision was made by Christy's treatment team to continue services for Christy through Casa Pacifica's community-based Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) program in Santa Barbara County. Assigned to her case was TBS Specialist Sarah Robles, who stated, “She didn't want to leave campus. She felt attached to the staff there and had anxiety regarding returning home to the community she had once struggled residing in.”

TBS Specialist Sarah Robles met with Christy and her family five times a week during the first few months. Christy had the support of her mother, father, and brother. She had an equally supportive treatment team at school and through mental health services. Throughout the ten months of TBS services, Christy would have her good days and

bad days. The TBS team continually evaluated her progress and devised different methods of dealing with certain negative triggers. And now, after basically three years with Casa Pacifica, Christy is getting ready to graduate. “I am so proud of her!” states TBS Specialist Sarah Robles.

When asked what she attributed to Christy's success, Sarah replies, “Christy found strength in herself. Whereas before she would react impulsively and/or aggressively, she is now empowered to face roadblocks and overcome them. Also, Christy's mom participated with weekly parent meetings and began to shift her approach with Christy allowing her to make choices about her life, such as her education plan, which helped Christy feel self-reliant. As a result, she became more aware of her responsibilities regarding school and life choices.”

Sarah continues, “Christy used to flat out refuse to go to school and now she's ahead in school credits! And she's looking into going to the local junior college with the goal of becoming a crime scene investigator and working in forensics. She's self-motivated and looking forward to graduating high school.”

Christy made a choice for herself to improve herself. She was guided by the developing belief that she had to help herself and had the necessary support to facilitate the process. She aimed for high

goals and reached them. Christy's family was there every step of the way, participating with services, attending weekly therapy sessions, and providing positive support for Christy.

TBS continued to build on the problem solving skills and communication skills Christy had learned at Casa Pacifica's treatment facility as she transitioned back home with her family. Now, Christy is motivated to finish high school and move on to greater things. She has been able to take the skills she had learned from Casa Pacifica staff and apply them to the outside world and home environment. Instead of falling back on old behaviors, she rose to the challenges facing her.

Sarah states, “It's always hard to say goodbye. But Christy has learned that there are such things as 'healthy goodbyes' and that's exactly what we'll have when she graduates from TBS.”

Santa Barbara County's TBS Program Manager Tom Sodergren states, “Casa Pacifica's Bed-Based and Community Based Programs can and should be proud that through continuity of care and collaboration of services, family reunification and preservation was attained and Christy was able to gain the self assurance and self respect to pursue her behavioral and academic goals towards a bright and hopeful future.”

Or as Christy would say, “A normal life.”

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AND BUSINESSES WHO MADE  
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## Archie Update

Archie, Casa Pacifica's therapy dog, is recovering well after his surgery for elbow dysplasia in May. The doctor cleaned-out Archie's joints of bone deposits that had formed into spurs, relieving his pain, and also performed surgery to correct a difference in the lengths of the two bones in Archie's forearms (a condition the doctors suspect caused the dysplasia in the first place). Originally the expectation was only one of Archie's front legs needed the length correction, but during surgery it was discovered the other leg needs it as well. Archie will go in for surgery on that leg in early summer.

Archie was back to work immediately following his operation on the doctor's

recommendation that being at Casa Pacifica with the children would be the best medicine to help him heal. Many of the children drop by routinely to see how Archie is progressing and to give him hugs and kisses. Archie is supposed to remain fairly calm and not rough-house or run around for a few weeks, which has been a bit of a challenge since he is obviously feeling no pain and he loves to play with the children.

Many, many people from the community answered our call for help in funding this important surgery for Archie and we would like to express to each of them our heartfelt thanks for their loving and generous donations, as well as our gratitude for all those



## Mentor Program

Casa Pacifica has joined with the Big Brothers & Big Sisters organization to establish a Mentor Program on campus. All of our children, who have been identified as wanting a mentor, have been placed on file with the Big Brothers & Big Sisters. When there is a mentor who matches our children's particular requirements, a connection is made.

Our hope is to provide each

of our children with mentors. All children need the guidance and support of caring adults to transition them into adulthood. Children and youth are finding it more challenging to find that support due to less adult availability. This challenge is even greater for children and youth in foster care, who have less access to consistent and supportive adults, especially children and

youth who live in group homes or treatment centers.

Should you be interested in participating or obtaining more information about our Mentor Program, please contact Pam Bardwil at [pbardwil@casapacifica.org](mailto:pbardwil@casapacifica.org) or (805) 484-7144.

## From the Angels President by Patricia Cordover



What a year the Angels have had! With the help of a highly competent Board, I look forward to my second year as the Angels

President with aspirations of continuing to bring new Angels into our family of membership, creating fun-filled and memorable events for the children, and raising record making amounts for the children of Casa Pacifica through our fabulous fundraisers!

Board Membership leaders Pam Grenier, Kristin Eaton, Sally Starr-Brewer, and Lydia Hopps were able to welcome almost 200 Angels as new members this past year! The additional \$35 gift membership contributions allowed us to make significant monetary donations to the medical clinic, the activities program, and to establish a school

expense fund.

Angels' parties for the children, under the creative leadership of Robin Steinberg and Susan Burgos, magnificently transformed the gym on four separate occasions and created many lasting and happy memories during this past year. Our talented historian, Michelle Paschen was on hand to create a photographic record of every event.

Angels' fundraisers, under the direction of Ways and Means VP, Rebeca Elliott, continue to contribute record amounts to benefit the children at Casa Pacifica. Our heartfelt thanks to our extremely capable and energetic event chairs and their committees for their commitment to creating first class events: Pam and Sonny Grenier and Bruce Barrios, Wine & Food Festival; Petra Lowe and Linda Catlin, Angels Ball; and Rebeca

Elliott, Spotlight On Style.

The sale of Lucinda Pins, a fundraising project launched by the Angels several years ago, took off to new heights this past year under the leadership of Jennifer Anderson. Look for Lucinda Pins at all Angels' events and in specially selected stores in our community.

I was proud to present the Seraphim Award for 2005-2006 at the May luncheon to Kristin Eaton. Kristin has been a valuable asset to the Angels in her role as Membership Co-Chair creating and revising many forms and procedures used by the Angels. The Angels' quarterly newsletter, Angel to Angel, was launched with her talent at the helm. This colorful and informative newsletter sent out by email, keeps members up to date on Angels' happenings and ways to be involved.

# Angels News

Valuable Board members also include Patty Turnage, Secretary; Linda Law, Treasurer; Fran Elson, Nominating Chair; and Petra Lowe, Parliamentarian. Our Board has been an effective, capable group and has shown the children of Casa Pacifica in so many ways, that there are people who do care.

Our 2006-2007 Board begins in July with the addition of able and enthusiastic members that include, **Carol Kirschbaum, Co-VP Ways & Means; Paige Hibbits, Co-Treasurer; Jane Costello, Children's Events Co-Chair; and Sue Stile, Hospitality Chair.** We are also grateful to **Eloise Cohen** for becoming a Co-Chair of the next Angels Ball. Together, we are deeply committed to fostering interest and community involvement in Casa Pacifica. We invite you to join us!



### ANGELS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lydia Hopps  
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Linda Law  
Petra Lowe  
Michelle Paschen  
Robin Steinberg  
Sue Stile  
Patty Turnage

### EVENT CHAIRS

Angels Ball  
Linda Catlin  
Eloise Cohen

Fashion Show  
Rebeca Elliott

Wine & Food Festival  
Bruce Barrios  
Pam Grenier  
Sonny Grenier

### AMIGOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### HOW TO BE AN ANGEL OR AMIGO

Everyone loves Angels and Amigos, especially the ones at Casa Pacifica. Since 1990, the Angels volunteers have hosted many fundraising events and children's parties, and have raised more than \$3,800,000 for Casa Pacifica. If you would like to become a part of either wonderful, caring group of volunteers, please contact Carrie Hughes at (805) 445-7831.

## From the Amigos President by Dennis Murphy



Buenos Dias!

Casa Pacifica Amigos have had a lot of fun together and with the kids this year. There have been some big events like the Pinewood Derby, chaired by the ever-enthusiastic Amigo Daniel Milla, as well as smaller, more casual events like hiking, biking, and car club demonstrations.

Most recently, the Amigos teamed with JD Power and Associates to "fly high" in a kite and glider-making and flying event. Another great event was an evening provided by Michael of Michaels

Bicycles in Newbury Park. Michael brought after dark astronomy classes and led the children through a tour of the night sky with his amazing telescope.

Twice monthly, the Amigos play poker with the kids on campus. Amigo Jeff Munson hosts Poker Math Night and he has worked hard to build the enthusiasm for and participation in the event. And it has worked - its popularity has spread from the boys to the girls and now co-ed games are held twice monthly.

The Amigos also gather the third Friday of each month to play poker

with other Amigos. The game is held at a different member's home each month. Amigo Poker Night has become a great forum for friendship and awareness of the needs of the kids at Casa Pacifica. The winning pot is divided between the evening's winners and the Amigo fund, which pays for various Amigo events as well as supporting the Angel/Amigo Alerts that are sometimes sent out requesting assistance for spontaneous needs of the kids. Join us this summer at the home of Jason and Lance Hardy for the second "Summer Series" of Texas Hold 'Em!

Tim New, Amigo Vice President, is the driving force behind the Amigos events. He expresses great thanks for all the support from members and volunteers who realize what a little time and energy can make in the day of our kids.

Feel free to contact the Amigos at [www.casaamigos.org](http://www.casaamigos.org) or [amigos@casapacifica.org](mailto:amigos@casapacifica.org) with your ideas and willingness to participate. We have so much and it takes so little to open the children's eyes to new ideas, hobbies, or skills. Come join the Amigos and have some fun and lighten the hearts of our kids.

## Amigos Take Casa Pacifica Children for a Great Ride

Titled for the nickname of a Casa Pacifica resident who suggested the idea, the 'Z' Bike Ride recently pedaled off, winding through the farmlands of Camarillo. The bike ride was organized by the Amigos of Casa Pacifica who plan events almost every month to give the children of Casa Pacifica the chance to experience activities that will expand and enrich their lives, or that just let them have normal experiences that other children might take for granted.

Once the idea was hatched, all the details seemed to just fall into place, starting with the donation of bicycles from Mark Blum of Mission With Bikes. Mr. Blum collects and refurbishes bicycles as a hobby. When he heard about the event, he brought twenty of his bicycles for the children to ride, a generous donation that made a huge impression on everyone, especially the children.

Rick Wilson, of Clif Bars, Inc., provided nourishment for the outing when he unexpectedly donated one-hundred nutrition bars immediately prior to the ride – bars that coincidentally were named "Z Bars." "All the kids were amazed that Z had nutrition bars named after her," recalls Dennis "Murf" Murphy, President of the Amigos.

Following the 5-mile ride for the older kids (the younger set toured around the Camarillo campus), a bicycle clinic was held in the gymnasium, where the children learned how to change a flat tire, re-attach or replace a bicycle chain, and generally care for their bicycles. "Our events usually have a focus. We either work on team-building and stretching personal limits at our Amigo-Team-Relay days, or we teach some basic, everyday know-how lessons, such as with this bike clinic, or the car clinic we held following a classic car show of some cars owned by an Amigo member. The car clinic



was prompted by one of the children asking us if gasoline was put in the car 'here' while pointing at the air filter in the engine," explains Murf. "These children have no idea about many things that we just take for granted. We are trying to change that – to make their lives more normal." The Amigos are planning to have more bicycle rides in the future.

Other events the Amigos have hosted include a Lifeguard Day, with relay races in kayaks in the pool, a Fireman's Team Relay day that included tricycle races and running races wearing firemen's equipment, and a construction themed day that included wheel-barrow races and sandbags. More recently they hosted a Pinewood Derby for which they spent weeks before the event helping the children design and build their cars, and then culminating in the big race on a Saturday afternoon.

If you are interested in being a part of the fun, please contact the Development Office for further information on becoming an Amigo, or visit the web site at [casapacifica.org](http://casapacifica.org).

Visit our website at [www.casapacifica.org](http://www.casapacifica.org) to listen to or purchase the song "Under the Wings of a Dove" written and recorded by the children of Casa Pacifica.

## Casa Pacifica's Volunteers Recognized at Special Luncheon

With April designated as National Volunteer Month, Casa Pacifica took the opportunity to thank its much-loved and appreciated volunteers for their time and efforts in improving, expanding, and enriching the lives of the children at Casa Pacifica.

Held in the gymnasium, guests enjoyed an Italian feast specially created by the kitchen, followed by a program organized and performed by the children themselves. The chorus was on hand to sing Casa Pacifica's song, *Under the Wings of a Dove*, and a couple of other numbers, and one of the girls sang a song she had written herself, accompanied by staff members and fellow residents on various instruments. Original poems were read, including one sung as a rap, which brought the audience to tears. And there was a lively percussion performance using pots, pans, buckets, and just about any other found item you could hit with a stick.

The children then came around and handed-out a brightly colored and decorated ceramic tile bearing a small handprint as a thank-you gift to each volunteer present at the luncheon - of course amidst 'oohs and ahhs' and hugs from the appreciative recipients. (Our thanks to Firefly Ceramics in Ventura for their kind patience in helping us produce all the tiles!) Several staff members also spoke, expressing their thanks for the hours given by the volunteers and sharing moving stories of what a difference their time makes in the children's lives.

The highlight of the day was the presentation of several awards to people who have made a difference over the last year at Casa Pacifica. The Volunteer of the Year Award was given to FRAN TARGON for her unselfish commitment to running the campus store, Cloud Nine, for the past

five years. Fran has also been an Angel for several years. DENNIS "Murf" MURPHY was presented the Amigo of the Year Award for his endless hours dedicated to



Award winners Dennis Murphy, Fran Targon, and Petra Lowe.

planning and executing special event days for the children, days that not only focus on having fun, but help the children learn teamwork and basic skills. Dennis conceived of the idea of an Amigos group and has served as its President since its inception two years ago. PETRA LOWE was given the Angel of the Year Award for her dedication and commitment to Casa Pacifica and its purpose. Petra served as the Angels President for two years and co-chaired the 2006 Angels Ball which was the most successful fundraising event ever for Casa Pacifica to date. Petra and her husband Al have also been instrumental in organizing the Care-for-Kids Classic Golf Tournament for the past ten years.

It was a great afternoon and our congratulations go to Pam Bardwil, Casa Pacifica's Volunteer Coordinator, for supervising and assuring the wonderful success of the afternoon's events, which hopefully expressed the tremendous gratitude Casa Pacifica feels for its amazing volunteers.

## Night of the Golden Dragon – Prom 2006



On the evening of June 14th, the residents of Casa Pacifica, from the infants up to the eighteen-year-olds attended the event of the year - the Prom.

With “The Night of the Golden Dragon” as the theme, the gymnasium was transformed into an Asian paradise, featuring pagodas, lanterns, a balloon dragon, and giant panels that sported glittering Chinese character letters representing a value or quality. The panels included Casa Pacifica’s four values of Respect, Courage, Compassion, and Integrity.

The children, following a scrumptious Asian dinner, enjoyed an evening of moving and shaking on the dance floor which was topped by a pagoda roof, under which hung a sparkling disco ball. Part of the evening’s festivities showed-off ballroom dance moves in swing and salsa that some of the children spent time learning for weeks prior to the Prom. The lessons were donated by Patricia Monico, a dance teacher from California State University, Channel Islands. A prom king and queen were named, as well as a prince and princess, chosen by the children’s votes.

Each child felt special in their finery – dresses donated by generous community members, tuxedos loaned from tux shops, hair coiffed by hairdressers, nails painted by manicurists, and make-up applied by professionals. Arriving at the gymnasium doors in a limousine and being presented with a flower as they entered the Prom celebrated each child as special and unique, giving them a moment of their own to shine.

Our thanks go to the Children’s Events Co-chairs, Robin Steinberg, Susan Burgos, and Jane Costello for their hard work in planning and creating the special atmosphere for the Prom. We are also grateful to all the volunteers and to the many Amgen employees who came out to help set-up for the event, as well as to all the volunteers who gave their time to make the children feel handsome and beautiful for this memory-making evening in their lives. Many thanks go as well to the Activities department and to the kitchen staff for their part in ensuring a wonderful evening for the children of Casa Pacifica. Please see the accompanying list of volunteers who generously gave of their time, talents, or services to assure a wonderful prom for each of our children.



## Prom Donor Lists

We are grateful to the following Prom Donors:

### Decorations/Lighting

Jerry Festa  
*Graphaids*  
Heidi Whitcomb  
*Ventura Rental Party Center*  
Trevor Zellet  
*Bella Vista Lighting Designs*

### Gowns

Cara Polisini  
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David Behrens  
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### Limousines

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### Manicures

Jamie Perelman  
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### Hair/Make-up

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Amanda Alvarez  
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### Miscellaneous

Mary & Harry Glass  
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Ventura County Life and Style Magazine  
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## 13th Annual Angels Wine & Food Festival

### Hosted by Embassy Suites Hotel Mandalay Beach Resort and Capistrano's Raises over \$155,000 for the Children of Casa Pacifica!

On Sunday, June 4th, Capistrano's Restaurant at Embassy Suites Hotel, Mandalay Beach Resort and the Casa Pacifica Angels hosted their 13th Annual poolside Wine & Food Festival - a gourmet food and wine tasting event. This year over 2,500 people attended the event making it the largest fundraiser Casa Pacifica has ever had.

Co-chairs Bruce Barrios and Pam and Sonny Grenier and their committee members made this year's event a spectacular afternoon that included over 150 local and Northern California wine-makers, 25 micro-breweries, and more than 75 of Ventura County's top restaurants, caterers, and specialty items. There were so many wonderful wines and foods to taste, festival-goers were hard-pressed to make it to every booth.

Sounds of the day included a variety of entertainment, such as the energy-building **Disco-Inferno - a Tribute to the 70's band, Benise** from the PBS special *Nights of Fire - Feel the Romance, Live the Passion*, the melodic tones of **Steel Drums**, and the smooth jazz vocals of **Jeanne Tatum**. Magic by **Shawn McMaster** and Brazilian dancers entertained and delighted the crowd as well.

Ventura County's favorite Disc Jockey, Bruce Barrios, emceed the day's events that included a large silent auction with over 250 items, and a live auction that included fabulous tropical vacation getaways. Also featured were two Harley Davidson Sportsters from Ventura Harley-Davidson. VIP sponsors were pampered by VIP host Topa Tower Club in their own special area where they enjoyed the excitement of the afternoon.

Guests were given our premier issue of the Wine & Food Festival Restaurant Guide and Tribute Journal, a colorful coffee table magazine featuring cover artwork by local artist Rex Kochel, which provided information about Casa Pacifica and its programs, as well as full-page listings on each participant in the Wine & Food Festival. We hope the journal will be a useful tool to those who attended the Festival throughout the year.

Special thanks go to Ruby Oertle-Jackwerth from Capistrano's, and to Rick Weichert and Susan Koehler from Embassy Suites Hotel Mandalay Beach Resort for hosting the festival for the past 6 years. Their continued support gives strength to the efforts Casa Pacifica makes to provide hope and help for children and families in our community. Once again, thank you to Bruce Barrios and Pam and Sonny Grenier, all of their committee members, the Angel volunteers, as well as the student volunteers for all of their time, commitment, and dedication. Thank you as well to all of the participating restaurants, wineries, breweries, and vendors who participated in the festival. And special thanks to all of the individuals and businesses who donated items for the silent and live auctions. Together you have made the Casa Pacifica Angels Wine & Food Festival the premier wine and food event in Ventura County. We are looking forward to seeing everyone next year!

#### Wine & Food Festival Donors

##### Event Hosts

Casa Pacifica Angels  
Capistrano's  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
Mandalay Beach Resort

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##### Sponsors

**Champagne - \$10,000**  
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Gold Coast Broadcasting - (105.5 FM Live; 1400 AM, KKZZ; 1590 AM,

KVTA; 1520 AM; Q104.7 FM)

Ventura County Reporter  
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**Pinot Noir - \$2,500**

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## Spotlight on Style Saturday, October 14th

Join us on Saturday, October 14th, when the Casa Pacifica Angels will be presenting another fabulous fashion event, "**Spotlight on Style,**" at the Hyatt Westlake Plaza. This year's event, hosted by Janet and Gregg Van Huisen, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., will include a champagne reception, a professionally produced "runway" fashion show, a sumptuous lunch, an exciting assortment of specialty boutiques, luxurious

raffle items, and a live auction.

This year's Haute Couture sponsors to date are Countrywide, U.S. Trust, and Northern Trust; Couture Sponsors, Wells Fargo and Hyatt Westlake Village; and Designer Sponsors, Affinity Bank and Barbara Meister. For information on sponsorship opportunities or to purchase tickets for this fabulous event (\$125.00 per person) please call Carrie Hughes at (805) 445-7831. Seating is limited.

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*Heartlines* is a project of the Casa Pacifica Development Department. For inquiries or information, please call (805) 445-7800.



## In Memory – Steven R. Hafen

Casa Pacifica is sad to report the passing of Steven Hafen, a member of the Casa Pacifica Board of Directors, following a yearlong battle with cancer. A vibrant man with a charming sense of humor, Steve joined the Board of Directors in March of 2000 and had just completed six years of dedicated service to Casa Pacifica. He served as the Treasurer of the Board for the past five years, a role in which he had agreed to continue.

Steve was employed in the banking industry for 30

years, the past fifteen of which he worked for Wells Fargo Bank where he was the Senior Vice President and Market President of the Pacific Coast Division. Steve was instrumental in forging a strong relationship between Wells Fargo and Casa Pacifica – encouraging Wells Fargo to support Casa Pacifica's mission as a Corporate Leader, which it has done since 2002.

Besides serving on the Board of Directors at Casa Pacifica, Steve was active in his church where he volunteered as an advisor to

young men. He also served on the Boy Scout Executive Board of Ventura County and was active organizing numerous camp-outs and other adventures for the scouts. Steve had earned his Eagle Scout as a boy in Utah where he spent his formative years.

Steve's dedication to his career, his community, and especially to his family was unsurpassed (Steve always made time to attend his children's activities even through a busy work schedule). Casa Pacifica sends its deepest condolences to

Diane, Steve's wife, and to his children, Leanne, Brett, and Justin, as well as to all of his family, friends, and those who loved him. Steve's intellect and spirit will be greatly missed by Casa Pacifica.



## An Angel to Remember



Casa Pacifica lost one of its special Angels on April 12 with the passing of Linda LaSalle.

Linda's life was dedicated to education. She was a much loved teacher of American political systems at Westlake High School until her retirement in 1998 and was pleased that two of her former students followed her in serving on the Angels Board.

Linda first came to Casa Pacifica to help with the

Angels' special parties for the children. She served on the Angels Board of Directors for four years beginning in 2000. The Ventura County Grand Jury discovered Linda the same year, and she served two terms in that capacity. Through her retirement Linda volunteered in many roles: in the archives at the Reagan Library, at the Camarillo Ranch House, and on the school board of St. Columba's Church Learning Center.

Linda was quick to laugh,

to find humor in any situation, and was always fun to spend time with. When she was diagnosed three years ago with ovarian cancer she approached her illness in the same positive manner in which she lived her life, sending out email updates regularly, always ending with a humorous statement and a positive thought. When she learned that no more treatment was available to her she again handled her dying with the same humor, grace and

dignity with which she'd lived her life.

Our deepest condolences go to Linda's beloved husband "Bear," their son David, and daughter and son-in-law Laura and Angus Tewnton and their son Jordan. Linda's sister, Susan Andrews and husband Chuck also survive her. "If there's laughter in heaven now, it's because Linda has arrived and, after learning about the other angels, is entertaining them with her stories."

## Upcoming Events:

**Saturday, August 5th, 2006**  
Westlake Regatta Sail a Thon  
Hosted by Westlake Yacht Club  
Westlake Village

**Saturday, October 14th, 2006**  
**10:00am-4:00pm**  
Casa Pacifica Angels Spotlight on Style  
Fashion Show @ Hyatt Westlake Plaza,  
Westlake Village

**Saturday, February 3rd, 2007**  
**6:00 pm**  
Angels Ball  
Sherwood Country Club, Thousand Oaks

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