

HEARTLINES

2025

MEET THE
GRADUATES
WHO TURNED
CHALLENGES
INTO TRIUMPHS

*From Struggle
to Success:*

**THE POWER OF EDUCATION
AT CASA PACIFICA**



CASA PACIFICA®
CENTERS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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A MESSAGE OF *Gratitude*

Each day at Casa Pacifica begins with the unwavering truth: **we need your help to fulfill our mission.**

Your compassion has fueled a year of meaningful progress—transformative not just in scope but in the spirit of how we nurture at-risk children, young adults and families to realize their full potential.

Because of your belief in our mission, we've reimagined our historic cottages into warm, therapeutic sanctuaries for healing. We've expanded critical mental health services into Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, reaching even more youth and families in need. And as you'll read in this issue, we celebrated one of our largest graduating classes from our Non-Public School, a moment of pride and promise made possible by your support.

These milestones are more than numbers or headlines. They're stories of resilience, hope and second chances. **And they all begin with you.**

From all of us at Casa Pacifica—our team, Board, and most importantly, the young people whose lives you've changed—**thank you.** You're not just part of our story. You're the reason it continues to unfold with strength and possibility.

With heartfelt appreciation,

PRESIDENT & CEO



Shawna Morris, MPA

Robert E. Wynner



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TURNING THE TIDE

on the Youth Mental Health Crisis

The statistics are staggering—but they're not the whole story. At Casa Pacifica, we're meeting the youth mental crisis head-on with care that changes lives.



The Challenge

Over **30% of youth** exiting residential treatment programs have **no identified stable housing** upon discharge

Our Impact

98% of youth who leave Casa Pacifica live in a home environment



The Challenge

Students with mental health issues are more than twice as likely to be **chronically absent from school**

Our Impact

98% of youth who leave Casa Pacifica attend school



The Challenge

An estimated **70% of youth in juvenile detention** have a diagnosable **mental illness**

Our Impact

More than 94% of youth who received our services have no involvement with law enforcement

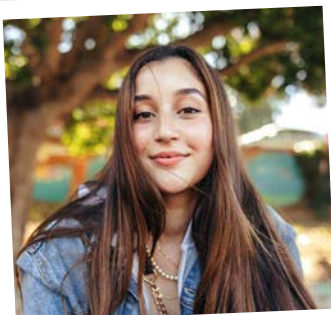


The Challenge

Suicide is the 2nd leading **cause of death** among youth ages **10-24**

Our Impact

After receiving our services, **95% of youth are not psychiatrically hospitalized**



CASA PACIFICA®
CENTERS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Where Business Meets Purpose:

OUR CORPORATE LEADERS

Our Corporate Leaders play a vital role in advancing Casa Pacifica's mission by sponsoring our premier fundraising events throughout the year.

These events are more than celebrations; they're a lifeline, helping bridge the funding gap between public support and the true cost of delivering life-changing mental health services to over 2,000 vulnerable children and families annually.

As a Corporate Leader, your business gains meaningful visibility, connects with a compassionate community and demonstrates a powerful commitment to youth mental health—a cause that resonates deeply with today's consumers and employees alike.

We are proud to recognize and celebrate the generosity of our Corporate Leaders whose partnership drives hope and healing across our region.

To explore how you can join this distinguished group, please contact Carrie Hughes, Chief Development Officer, at chughes@casapacifica.org.

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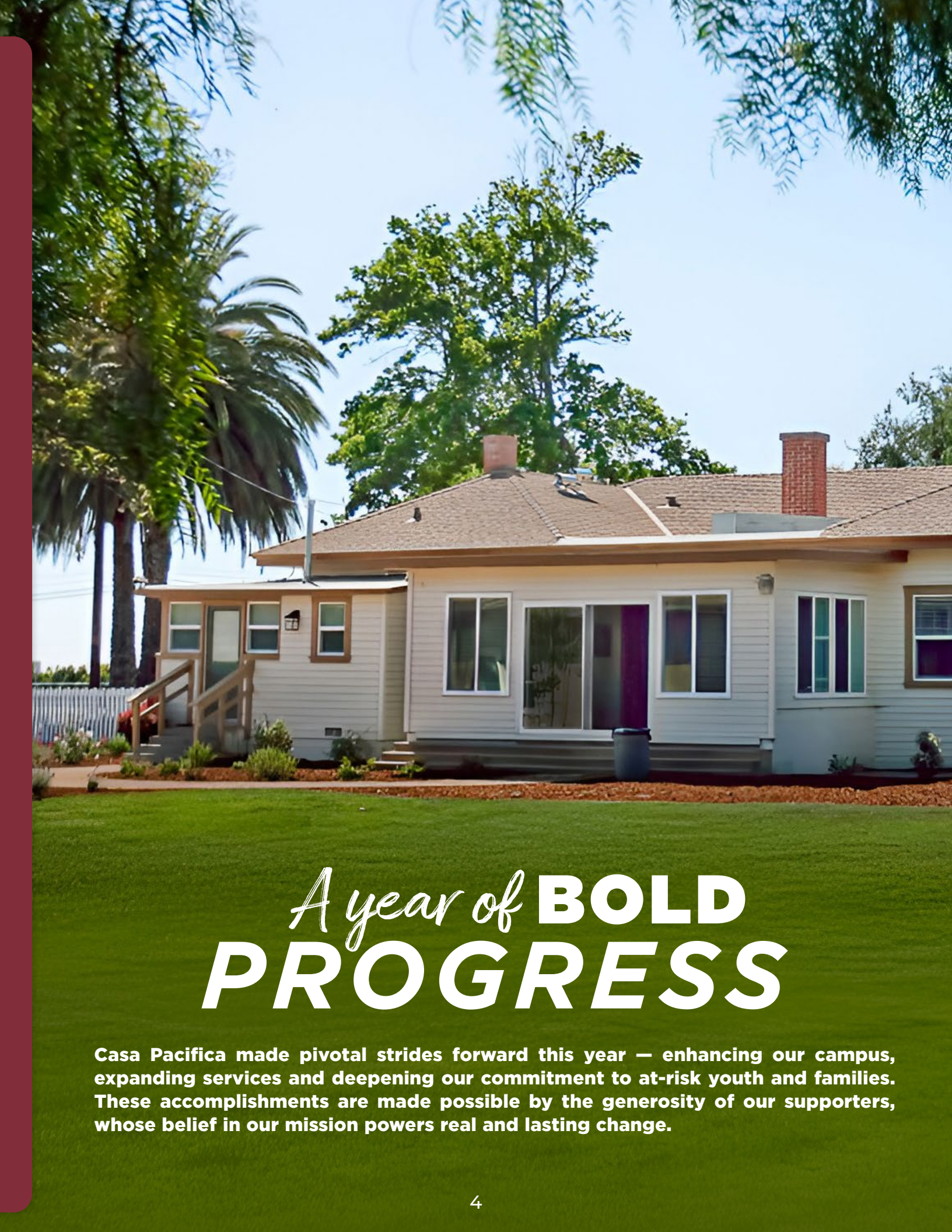
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A photograph of a single-story house with a brown shingled roof and two brick chimneys. The house has light-colored siding and several windows. A small porch with wooden stairs is on the left. The house is set on a green lawn with trees in the background.

A year of **BOLD PROGRESS**

Casa Pacifica made pivotal strides forward this year — enhancing our campus, expanding services and deepening our commitment to at-risk youth and families. These accomplishments are made possible by the generosity of our supporters, whose belief in our mission powers real and lasting change.

This spring, we proudly unveiled our newly renovated Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program cottages: modern, secure spaces where youth receiving intensive therapeutic care can truly feel at home. Thanks to Coastal Architects, S.L. Leonard & Associates and Staples Construction, and funding from the Department of Health Care Services, this transformation marks a major investment in healing. We were thrilled to welcome our first residents this spring.

Our legacy of care expanded further with the opening of our Transitional Youth Services cottages in late 2024. These beautiful new units provide young adults aging out of foster care or facing homelessness a stable place to grow toward independence. Beyond safe housing, our dedicated team offers therapeutic support and life skills guidance to help residents build resilience and navigate life's challenges.

We also launched outpatient therapy services in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties for transitional age youth, powered by the Michael Towbes Community Impact Grant through Montecito Bank & Trust. Building on this important work, we are expanding our outpatient therapy program to serve children, adolescents, and adults of all ages across Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, ensuring that even more members of our community have access to expert, compassionate care when they need it.

In our Non-Public School, we celebrated one of our largest graduating classes ever — students who overcame extraordinary challenges to earn their diplomas and demonstrate what's possible with the right support.

Thanks to you, this was a year of bold progress — one that moved us closer to a future where every vulnerable child and young adult can thrive. ***Your support is not only changing lives; it's shaping what comes next.***

Donors and community members gathered to celebrate the opening of our newly renovated Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program cottages, making a new chapter of hope and healing.



From left to right: **Chelsee Russell**, Management Analyst, County of Ventura; **Gina Johnson**, Chief Probation Officer, Ventura County Probation Agency; **Melissa Livingston**, Director, County of Ventura Human Services Agency; **Shawna Morris**, President and CEO, Casa Pacifica; **Dr. Lorretta Denering**, Behavioral Health Director, County of Ventura; **Clay McCarter**, Program Analyst, County of Ventura; **Euna Ra-Smith**, Deputy Director, Advocates for Human Potential and **Rob Wynner**, President, Casa Pacifica

TURNING THE TASSEL - *And the Page*

At Casa Pacifica's Non-Public School, students heal, grow and defy the odds

Eighteen-year-old Tyler adjusts the graduation cap on his head, staring at his reflection in the mirror. The deep red gown feels heavier than expected—not just fabric, but everything it represents.

For years, Tyler battled anxiety and depression without a diagnosis. Traditional school settings only deepened the strain. He fell behind academically and lost interest in the things that once brought him joy, like drawing.

After a falling-out with his closest friends, Tyler's mental health spiraled. He attempted to take his own life—and gave up his art altogether.

"I lost interest in everything that used to make me happy," he says. "Nothing mattered at all."

That changed when he came to Casa Pacifica's Non-Public School (NPS).

From the start, staff saw something in Tyler. They gave him time and space, and when he picked up a pencil again to process the grief of losing a beloved pet, they nurtured his passion. With each drawing, Tyler's confidence began to return.

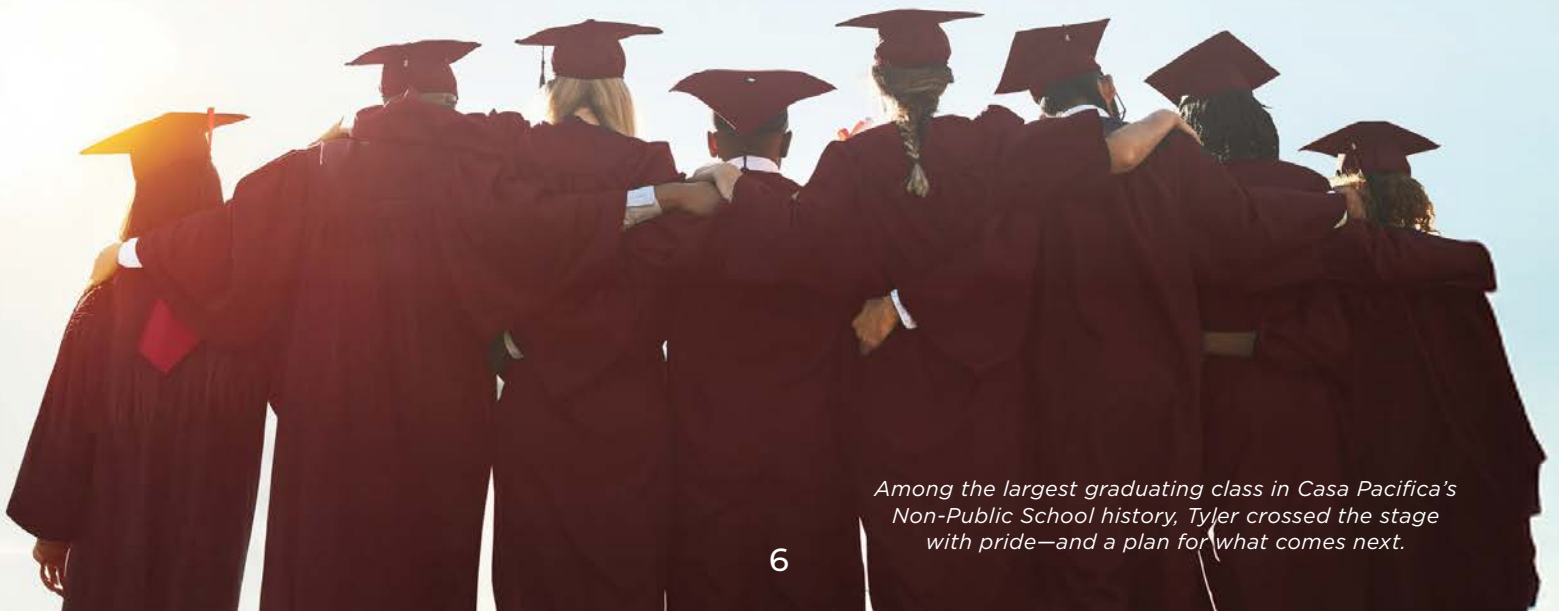
One of his proudest moments came when he entered an art competition to design a school logo. He learned to use digital tools like Procreate and Adobe software—skills he never imagined he'd explore. Submitting his artwork became a turning point and a symbol of something bigger: Tyler was beginning to believe in himself.

This spring, he joined the largest graduating class in NPS history. Alongside eight other seniors, Tyler walked across the quad to receive his diploma and shake the hand of Director of Education and Principal, Mark Capritto, Ed.D. He's now preparing to attend Moorpark College to study video game design and learning to drive—steps forward into a life he once didn't think he'd live to see.



“If you ask kids like me who've struggled with their mental health, most of us will tell you—there are things we never thought we'd live to see. For me, I didn't think I'd make it to eighteen and I definitely didn't think I'd see graduation day.”

- Tyler



Among the largest graduating class in Casa Pacifica's Non-Public School history, Tyler crossed the stage with pride—and a plan for what comes next.

MEETING THE MOMENT IN YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

NPS, which serves grades K-12, is built for students like Tyler: young people whose mental health needs, personal histories or learning differences have made traditional school settings feel impossible. At NPS, academics are paired with trauma-informed care, therapy and an emphasis on social-emotional learning (SEL), a model that is proving not only compassionate, but effective.

In 2021, the U.S. Surgeon General issued an Advisory on Youth Mental Health, calling for schools to expand access to SEL as a frontline response to the growing mental health crisis. Casa Pacifica's NPS has been doing just that for years—and the results speak for themselves.

“Our students arrive carrying more than backpacks; they come with anxiety, depression or behavioral challenges. At NPS, we address those issues head-on. We create space for healing, learning, and connection. And most importantly, we never give up on them.”

- Mark Capritto, Ed.D.

KRISTA FOUND HER VOICE—AND A FUTURE

For Krista, 17, school once felt overwhelming. She struggled with anxiety, truancy and was influenced by negative peers in the community. Raised by a single mother who felt helpless and unsure of how to support her, Krista frequently left home without explanation, sometimes for days. Enrolling at NPS was a last resort.

Almost immediately, she found a sense of safety along with an unexpected outlet: music. Encouraged by staff, she began writing songs and learning guitar, nurtured by Casa Pacifica music educators, Tom and Jill Ball. Music gave her a voice when words were hard to find.

“At first, I didn't think anyone could help me, but being at Casa Pacifica helped me see I'm not broken—I just needed someone to really hear me. Music helped me find my voice. I'm learning how to use it.”

- Krista

A LIFELINE FOR STUDENTS

Every NPS graduate has a story—of loss, of resilience, of transformation. Some once dropped out. Some had been suspended repeatedly. Others, like Tyler, once believed they wouldn't live to see adulthood.

But with the right support, they didn't just make it. **They thrived.**

Through small class sizes, individualized education plans, therapy and a team that wraps around each student, NPS helps young people re-engage in learning and rebuild their lives. Students learn to cope, to connect, to hope—and graduate.

And when they cross the stage in their caps and gowns, it isn't just a diploma they're receiving. It's proof that they've survived. That they've grown. That someone believed in them, even when they couldn't believe in themselves. For these students, Casa Pacifica's NPS isn't just a school. **It's a lifeline.**



HEARTS IN ACTION

Casa Pacifica's volunteers are the driving force behind everything we do. Whether beautifying our campus or helping bring the Angels Wine, Food & Brew Festival to life, their dedication is unmatched.

From holiday parties to campus clean-ups, every act of service helps brighten the lives of the children and families we serve. We are endlessly grateful to those who give their time, their talents and their hearts in support of our mission!



Lancôme volunteers gave our youth the red-carpet treatment for prom, inside and out.



The Pleasant Valley Lions Club kept spirits high and the grill sizzling at our Children's End of Summer Party!

Sage Publishing volunteers brought heart and helping hands to our campus!



Hands in the dirt, hearts in the work — Takeda Pharmaceutical Company's team made our garden shine.



Cheers to generosity! Volunteers made the 32nd Annual Angels Wine, Food & Brew Festival a toast-worthy success.

THE ANGELS AMONG US

Casa Pacifica's Angels auxiliary group is the heartbeat of our volunteer efforts, bringing joy, comfort and celebration to our kids year-round. This incredible group of volunteers organizes our four children's parties, helps plan our major fundraising events and lends a hand wherever needed.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

You don't need to have time to join the Angels!

A \$50 annual membership helps fund enriching activities for our kids and is a meaningful investment in their future. It's also a heartfelt gift for a friend or loved one.

A \$500 lifetime membership means you never have to renew!

Whether you're rolling up your sleeves or simply lending your support from afar, becoming an Angel means being part of a compassionate community that helps our children feel seen, celebrated and supported.



Angels Board

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To learn more or to join, visit
www.casapacifica.org/angels

BRIGHTEN THE HOLIDAYS FOR CASA PACIFICA'S KIDS

For many of our children and youth, the holidays can be a painful reminder of what's missing. You can help change that!

Through our annual Dove Wishes gift-giving program, caring individuals like you bring joy, comfort and connection to children, young adults and families who are receiving our services.

Get involved by purchasing essential items, hosting a gift card drive or making a monetary donation to support their ongoing needs. Every contribution brings warmth and hope to the season.

Thank you for making the holidays brighter!



Top 20 KIDS WISHES

- ♥ Gift cards
- ♥ Nintendo Switch games (teen rated and under)
- ♥ DVDs (PG-13 and under)
- ♥ Board games
- ♥ Journals
- ♥ Art supplies including acrylic paints, brushes and canvas
- ♥ Items to decorate rooms (battery-operated lights, rugs, posters of popular movies and TV shows)
- ♥ Bed-in-a bag (twin XL sizes)
- ♥ Vans or Converse (adult sizes)
- ♥ Sephora make-up
- ♥ Bath and Body Works body care products, including lotion and body scrubs
- ♥ Press-on nails
- ♥ Women's electric razors
- ♥ Cologne/Perfume
- ♥ Shampoo and conditioner sets (Pantene and Herbal Essence preferred)
- ♥ Portable DVD player
- ♥ Wire earbuds
- ♥ Craft kits
- ♥ Lego sets

MOST REQUESTED GIFT CARDS





Spread Holiday **CHEER TO A FAMILY IN NEED!**

The holidays can be especially challenging for families coping with their child's mental health struggles. Through our Adopt a Family program, you can help ease the burden by providing gifts for children and needed essentials like groceries and household items.

Gift cards to grocery stores, family restaurants, gas stations, and retail shops are a simple yet powerful way to bring comfort and cheer during a difficult time.

Year-Round **GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**

Shop Casa Pacifica's Registries! You can support Casa Pacifica's mission and help us meet the daily needs of the young people in our care by shopping our Amazon and Target wish lists. Your purchase helps Casa Pacifica provide for the children and young adults in our care every year and sends a powerful message of support.

Donate a gift card or host a gift card drive. Gift cards are one of the most popular requests of our youth, especially teens. Gift cards allow our kids to purchase needed items like clothes as well as snacks or meals during outings with our staff. See previous page for requested list!



For more information about Doves or Adopt A Family:
casapacifica.org/holiday-giving
wishes@casapacifica.org | (877) 445-WISH (9474)

PLANNED GIVING FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

What drives your generosity? Is it the desire to change lives? To leave a lasting legacy? Is it to lead by example and inspire others to give? Whatever your reason, your support of Casa Pacifica opens doors to brighter futures for at-risk children, young adults and families in our community.

Your impact doesn't have to end today. There are meaningful ways to continue your legacy of compassion.

Leave a Gift That Lasts

By including Casa Pacifica in your will or trust, you help ensure vulnerable youth receive the care they need—today, tomorrow, and beyond. A charitable bequest is one of the simplest and most powerful ways to make a difference. Your financial advisor can help you include language in your estate plan that reflects your values and supports our mission.

Please use our legal name and federal tax ID.

Legal Name: Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families

Address: Camarillo, CA

Federal Tax ID Number: 77-0195022

Make a Gift Through Your IRA

If you're age 70½ or older, you can use your IRA to make a difference—right now. By directing up to \$105,000 each year from your IRA to Casa Pacifica, you can help provide critical mental health services and support—without increasing your taxable income.

This special giving option, called a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** or **IRA Charitable Rollover**, lets you:

- Make a gift with immediate impact
- Pay no income taxes on the transferred amount
- Receive the benefit even if you don't itemize deductions

Give Appreciated Securities

A gift of stocks, bonds, or mutual funds that have grown in value is another savvy way to give. When you donate these assets directly to Casa Pacifica, you can:

- **Avoid capital gains taxes**
- **Claim a charitable deduction** for the full market value
- **Maximize your impact** at no additional cost

Make a Gift Through Life Insurance

A gift of life insurance is an excellent way to make a lasting difference. If you have a policy that has outlived its original purpose, consider naming Casa Pacifica as a beneficiary or transferring ownership of the policy. Your gift may provide you with tax benefits today while creating a legacy of hope and healing for children and families tomorrow.

Talk to your financial advisor about how these smart giving strategies can help you support what matters most—healing, hope, and brighter futures.

Contact Chief Development Officer, Carrie Hughes, at chughes@casapacifica.org or **(805) 366-4011** for additional information.

Explore more planned giving options at casapacificalegacy.org



The information in this publication is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your attorney or tax advisor. References to tax rates include federal taxes only and are subject to change. State law may further impact your individual results.



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Mark Your Calendar!

24th Annual Spotlight on Style Fashion Show

Sunday, November 16, 2025 | Four Seasons Westlake Village

13th Annual Top Chef Yummie Dinner

May 1, 2026 | Rancho de Las Palmas

33rd Annual Angels Wine, Food & Brew Festival

Sunday, June 7, 2026 | California State University Channel Islands

34th Annual Care for Kids Golf Classic

Monday, September 14, 2026 | The Saticoy Club

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