

HEARTLINES

2026

WHAT HEALING

LOOKS LIKE

ONE **POWERFUL**

REMINDER OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE!

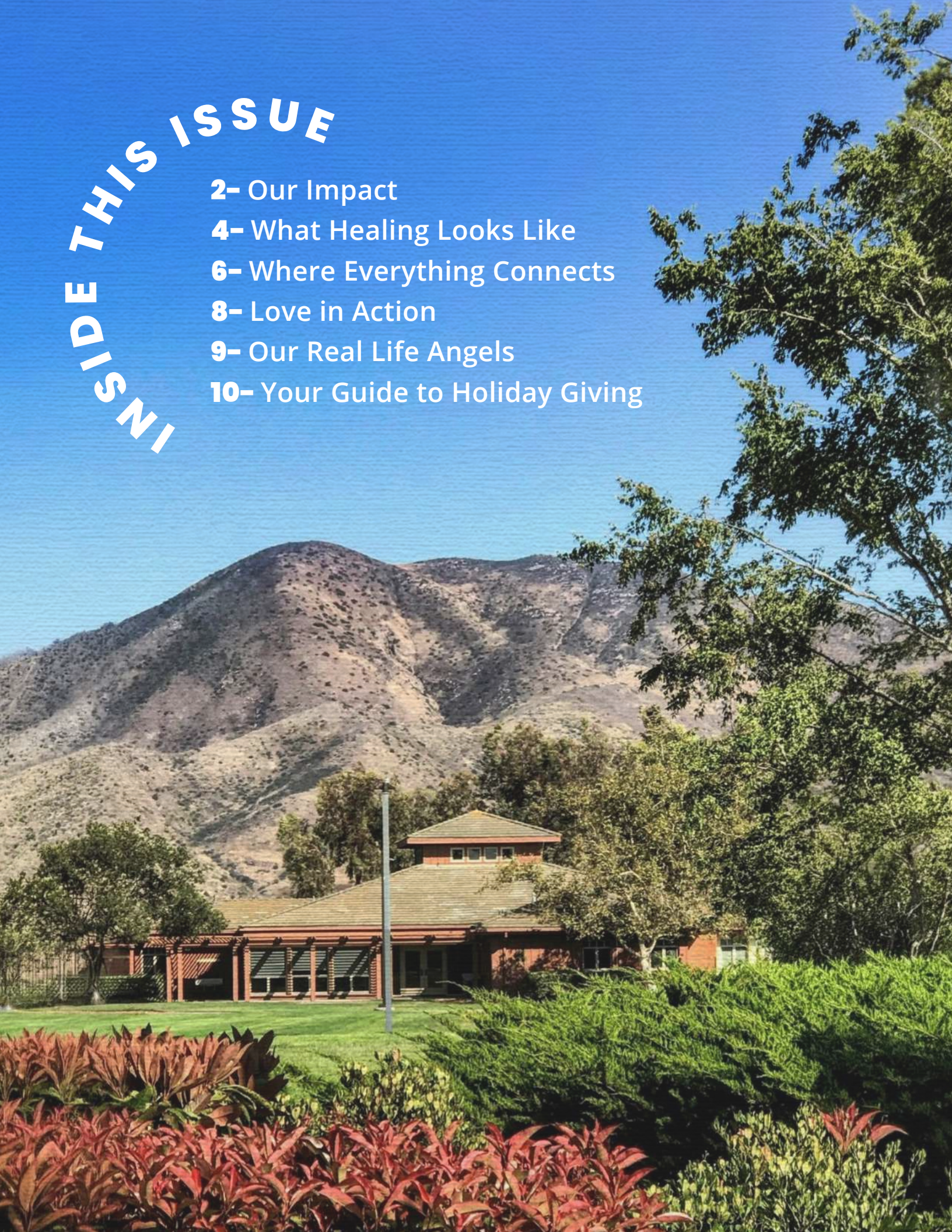


CASA PACIFICA®
CENTERS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES



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What does healing look like?

At Casa Pacifica, healing looks different for every child, young adult, and family we serve. It can be a youth learning healthy ways to cope, a family rebuilding their relationship or a young person realizing their future is theirs to write. While every journey is unique, healing becomes possible when the right support is available.

In this issue of Heartlines, you'll read stories that reflect the resilience, courage, and growth we witness every day. These milestones are made possible through the dedication of our staff, the involvement of families, and the generosity of supporters who believe every young person deserves to feel safe and hopeful again.

Healing happens every day at Casa Pacifica, in moments of courage, connection, growth, and hope. Those moments are possible because of caring supporters like you who choose to stand beside vulnerable children and families on their journey.

On behalf of our staff, our Board of Directors, and the children, young adults, and families we serve, thank you for helping create pathways to healing and lasting change.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Our Mission: Casa Pacifica inspires hope and nurtures mental health and well-being of children, young adults and families to realize their full potential.

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OUR IMPACT

Healing Happens Every Day

In FY2025-26, nearly 1,900 children and families turned to Casa Pacifica for life-changing mental health care.

Every 5.2 hours, a young person walked through our doors. Through the dedication of our clinical teams — and the generosity of donors and volunteers who make this work possible — they received compassionate care, stability, and strategies to strengthen their mental health and well-being.

THE IMPACT:



96%
**OF YOUTH
REMAINED
IN SCHOOL**

98% **WERE LIVING IN A HOME
ENVIRONMENT**



96%
**WERE NOT
INVOLVED
WITH LAW
ENFORCEMENT**

These numbers represent real progress: people staying connected to their communities, families finding support, and youth building the skills to navigate what comes next.

**Outcomes are based on survey data from more than 75% of clients.*

92% **WERE NOT
PSYCHIATRICALY
HOSPITALIZED**



Where Business Meets Purpose: **OUR CORPORATE LEADERS**

Our Corporate Leaders are more than event sponsors; they are champions for children!

Through their partnership with Casa Pacifica, they help bridge critical funding gaps, ensuring that at-risk children, young adults, and families have access to vital mental health care and support.

Their generosity strengthens programs, expands opportunities for healing, and helps build brighter futures for the nearly 1,900 children and families we serve each year. Together, these community-minded businesses are making a lasting difference across our region.

We are proud to recognize and celebrate the Corporate Leaders whose commitment to our mission inspires hope and transforms lives.

Interested in joining this distinguished group of community leaders? Contact Carrie L. Hughes, Chief Development Officer, at chughes@casapacifica.org.

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



WHAT healing LOOKS LIKE

Leah's Story

Healing doesn't follow a single path. For some youth who struggle with their mental health, healing begins with finding a family. For others, it begins with discovering they are capable of more than they ever imagined. These are two stories of hope but together, they tell one story about what's possible when youth receive the support they need to heal.

Finding A Place to Belong. Leah had already been through two foster homes by the time she turned eleven. She didn't expect the third one to last either. So when she arrived at Jeff and April Thompson's home through Casa Pacifica's Foster Family Agency (FFA), she did what she had learned to do best—kept her distance, stayed quiet, and waited for things to fall apart. They didn't.

Leah entered foster care at age ten after her mother's mental health challenges escalated, making home unsafe. While foster care provided immediate physical safety, the sense of security she needed to heal remained just out of reach. Her first two placements were brief, leaving her understandably withdrawn. She struggled in school, often pulled away when adults tried to connect with her, and lived with constant anxiety and hypervigilance.

Jeff and April knew they wanted to offer Leah more than a place to live; they wanted to become her family. With the help of Casa Pacifica's FFA, they received trauma-informed training and ongoing coaching to help them understand how early adversity shapes a child's behavior, emotions, and ability to trust.

“Leah came to us carrying a lot of fear and uncertainty,” April says. “We knew it would take time. What Casa Pacifica taught us was how to meet her where she was. Watching her begin to trust us, find joy in everyday moments, and truly feel like she belongs has been one of the greatest privileges of our lives.”

At first, Leah tested every promise of permanence. Rather than pulling away, Jeff and April learned how to respond with patience, recognize trauma responses, and remain steady. Little by little, Leah began to believe them. She also began working with a therapist who helped her process experiences of loss and fear at her own pace. As she developed new coping skills, the world around her began to feel less overwhelming.

Change showed up in small ways before it became obvious. Leah joined an after-school running club, where spending time outdoors became grounding. Teachers noticed she was more engaged in class and forming friendships. At home, she slowly let herself become part of family life. She grew closer to her adoptive brother, laughed more easily and began feeling that everyday routines—family dinners, weekend runs on the beach—weren't going to disappear.

Now 13, Leah continues to enjoy running and remains engaged in therapy. Like many teenagers, she still faces challenges, but she no longer faces them alone. This past summer, her adoption by Jeff and April was finalized, making official what had already become true:

she had found her forever family.



Sean's Story

Discovering What is Possible As Sean waited for his name to be called at graduation, he scanned the audience until he found the faces he was looking for. His teachers. His therapists. The staff members who had stood beside him on the days he wanted to give up.

Just a few years earlier, he never imagined they would be there—or that he would be crossing the stage to receive his high school diploma. After multiple group home placements, Sean arrived at Casa Pacifica carrying anger and depression. School had become another place where he expected to struggle rather than succeed.

At Casa Pacifica's Non-Public School (NPS), things didn't change overnight. What changed first was the consistency. Every day, Sean was surrounded by teachers, paraeducators, therapists, and school leaders who believed that emotional well-being and academic success go hand in hand. Instead of seeing behavior as a problem, they saw a young person whose experiences had interrupted both learning and trust.

As Sean began to feel more emotionally secure, something unexpected happened. School no longer felt like another obstacle. It became a place where he could imagine succeeding. Perhaps even more important, it became the place where he found something he had never experienced before. Friends.

At NPS, students aren't simply working toward graduation requirements. They are building coping skills, emotional regulation, confidence, and healthy relationships alongside their academic progress. For Sean, those skills became the foundation for everything that followed.

Sean's story is one of many. During the 2025–2026 school year, 109 students found support at Casa Pacifica's NPS, with approximately 70 students served each month. Each number represents a young person with unique challenges and possibilities—and a dedicated team of educators and clinicians helping them recognize what they are capable of accomplishing.

This spring, Sean became one of 13 students to graduate from NPS—the **largest graduating class in the program's history**. Today, he attends community college where he is studying criminal justice. Like many young adults, Sean knows there will be new challenges ahead. But he faces them with something he didn't have before: belief in his ability to overcome them.

For Sean, healing wasn't the moment he received his diploma. It was discovering that his past didn't have to define his future. Graduation simply marked the beginning of everything that comes next.

“Watching students discover what they are capable of is one of the most rewarding parts of our work. These graduates have overcome tremendous obstacles, and their success reflects not only their perseverance, but the power of providing a safe, supportive environment where healing and learning can happen together.”

– Mark Capritto, Ed.D., Director of Education

“Casa Pacifica helped me with many things,” Sean says. “But probably the most important was learning how to feel comfortable around other people. I actually made friends here, which I never had before.”



Where **EVERYTHING** Connects

SUPPORTERS HELP CREATE SPACES WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE CAN LEARN, CONNECT AND SIMPLY BE THEMSELVES

A LIVING LESSON

Growing food is only part of the story.

Casa Pacifica's teaching garden gives youth the opportunity to plant, grow and harvest food. Now, a new pollinator garden is expanding that experience, helping youth discover the important role that bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators play in making healthy gardens and ecosystems possible.

Designed to provide food and shelter for pollinators, the garden creates a small but important wildlife habitat right on campus. It also gives youth a chance to observe nature up close and see the connections between the plants they grow, the creatures that visit them and the larger ecosystem they are part of.

The garden was developed with the guidance of Native Monarchs, whose expertise helped transform the space into a functioning wildlife habitat and hands-on learning environment for Casa Pacifica youth.

"We often teach our youth about pollinators and how important they are to the garden and our ecosystem, but being able to watch and discover how these creatures interact with each other allows us to bring the learning out of the book and into their environment here on campus," explains Ali Villegas, Farm to School Program Coordinator at Casa Pacifica.

"This pollinator garden is a living outdoor classroom and functioning wildlife habitat where kids can see firsthand how everything is connected and has a purpose," says Chris Amendt, founder of Native Monarchs.

As youth plant, water and watch the garden change, they experience the rewards of caring for something over time while learning lessons about patience, responsibility and teamwork.

It's a lesson that extends beyond the garden. Healthy things don't grow in isolation. They depend on connection, care and every part doing its job.





SPACES TO CONNECT

That same sense of possibility is taking shape elsewhere on campus.

Through the generosity of The Balay Ko Foundation, two long-awaited outdoor improvement projects have created new opportunities for recreation, connection and family time.

For young adults in Casa Pacifica's Transitional Youth Services (TYS) program—including young parents working toward independence—the new gathering space offers a place to play, spend time outdoors and connect with their children. The space includes a sports court, play equipment and comfortable areas for families to spend time together.

For Angel, a 19-year-old mother in the TYS program, the new space represents quality time with her infant son.

"I want my son to have a happy childhood. Having this space on campus means we can walk, play and spend time together," she says. "Seeing him smile and explore in a safe place gives me so much peace. For us, it's a place where we'll make memories we'll always cherish."

At Casa Pacifica's Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), The Balay Ko Foundation also made it possible to create a dedicated sports court—something the youth themselves identified as a priority.

For young people who may have experienced instability or difficult transitions, a safe place to play offers something simple but significant: room to laugh, move, connect with friends and simply be a kid.

A PLACE TO BELONG

The name Balay Ko means "my home" in Tagalog, reflecting the Foundation's belief that home is about feeling supported and part of a community.

That belief is reflected in the spaces created at Casa Pacifica: places where young people can gather, families can spend time together and children can play and explore.

We are grateful to The Balay Ko Foundation for making the campus improvements possible; to Yardi Systems, the Casa Pacifica Angels and the Camarillo Rotary Foundation for helping bring the pollinator garden to life; and to the many supporters who continue to invest in our children, young adults and families.

Because when a community comes together, it creates connection... and gives young people the roots they need to heal, grow and find their own way forward!



Love in ACTION

Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do at Casa Pacifica, from quiet moments of campus care to high-energy events like the Angels Wine, Food & Brew Festival. These incredible individuals bring dedication and presence in ways that deeply shape our work.

Since the beginning of the year, our volunteers have contributed more than 6,600 hours of service—a reflection of the care and heart they give to our mission.

Want to join the best volunteer group in town? We'd love to have you! Learn more and find your place in our volunteer community at casapacifica.org/volunteer



Sandy Palmer and friends worked their magic assembling our annual Easter baskets for the children and families served by Casa Pacifica.



Takeda volunteers came ready to work, reorganizing an entire Porta-Stor filled with our holiday decorations!



California Conservation Corps volunteers made cleanup a breeze following the 33rd annual Angels Wine, Food & Brew Festival.



Nancy and Steve Bortz have hit the ground running since joining the Casa Pacifica Angels, including serving dinner at this year's prom.

Interested in volunteering with us?
Learn more and sign up here!





OUR REAL-LIFE *Angels*

The Angels bring fun, celebration and a whole lot of heart to Casa Pacifica!

For decades, this dedicated auxiliary group has been a constant presence on campus and in the lives of our children and youth, from holiday traditions to campus celebrations to special events. They also lend their support to major fundraising efforts, helping make healing and hope possible for kids and families throughout our community.

Want to be part of the magic? You don't need a lot of time to make a difference. For just \$50 a year, an Angels membership helps create enriching experiences for our youth (and makes a thoughtful gift for anyone who believes in giving back!)

Whether on campus or supporting from afar, becoming an Angel means joining a community committed to showing up for children with care, consistency and heart.

To learn more or to become an Angel, visit **casapacifica.org/angels**

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HELP MAKE *Holiday Wishes Come True!*

The holidays are a time for joy, connection and giving—and you can help make the season brighter for the children and young adults of Casa Pacifica!

Through our annual **Dove Wishes** program, community members can purchase gifts, host a gift card drive or make a monetary donation to support youth in our care.

Your generosity helps ensure every young person we serve can experience the warmth and joy of the holiday season. Thank you for making their holidays brighter!



SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER TO A FAMILY IN NEED!

The holidays can be a particularly stressful time for many of the families we serve. Help brighten the season for those in need by participating in our Adopt a Family program, which helps families obtain gifts for their children and purchase necessities like household items and groceries.

Gift cards to grocery stores, family restaurants, gas stations and retail stores are a wonderful way to provide a bit of extra joy during the holiday season!

Top 20 WISHES!

- ♥ Gift cards
- ♥ Lego sets
- ♥ Sephora or Ulta make up
- ♥ Shampoo & Conditioner sets
- ♥ Wired earbuds
- ♥ Cologne and Perfume
- ♥ DVDs (Movie and TV shows PG 13, TV-14 and under)
- ♥ Art Supplies (Canvas, acrylic paint, modeling clay, pony beads)
- ♥ Fidget sets (ex: squishies, clickers, sensory toys)
- ♥ Bath Towels
- ♥ Nintendo Switch Games
- ♥ PS5 games
- ♥ Nintendo Switch Lites
- ♥ ProClub brand sweatpants
- ♥ Portable DVD players
- ♥ Warmies brand weighted stuffed animals
- ♥ Reusable water bottles
- ♥ Young adult books
- ♥ Puzzles
- ♥ Skateboards/scooters (with helmets)

YEAR-ROUND

Giving Opportunities

Shop Casa Pacifica's Registries! Help meet the everyday needs of the children and young adults in our care by shopping our **Amazon** and **Target** wish lists. Every purchase provides something our youth need or enjoy, and reminds them how much their community cares!

Donate a gift card or host a gift card drive. Gift cards are among our youth's most requested gifts, especially for teens. They give young people the flexibility to purchase essentials like clothing, as well as snacks or meals while out with staff. **Check out our most-requested gift card list on page 10!**



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



MOST REQUESTED GIFT CARDS



LEAVE A LEGACY FOR *Brighter Tomorrow*

Every gift to Casa Pacifica changes a life today. But some of the most meaningful gifts are the ones that keep changing lives long after they're made. Planned giving lets you extend your compassion beyond this year - even beyond your lifetime - so the children and families who need us tomorrow have the same chance you're giving them today.

Leaving a legacy doesn't require significant wealth. It requires intention. The strategies shared below range from simple to more advanced options that can reduce your tax burden while increasing your impact. Your financial or tax advisor can help you find the approach that fits your goals. Whatever you decide, know that your generosity becomes part of Casa Pacifica's story. We're grateful you're considering it.

Leave a Lasting Legacy

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: 1722 S. Lewis Road, Camarillo, CA

Federal Tax ID Number: 77-0195022

Make a Gift Through Your IRA

If you are 70½ or older, you can use your IRA to make a difference – right now. By directing up to \$111,000 per year from your IRA to Casa Pacifica, you can help provide critical mental health services and support without increasing your taxable income.

This gift 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 and been held for more than one year, is another 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.

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

Or explore more planned giving options at **casapacificalegacy.org**

HELP *Hope* LOVE

Be the Safe Harbor a Child Needs: BECOME A RESOURCE PARENT!

Did you know there are 1,500 children in foster care in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties? These children need more than a roof over their heads—they need stable, nurturing environments where they can grow, heal and thrive. **And you can help!**

Casa Pacifica believes every child should have the opportunity to feel safe, secure and loved. Through our Foster Family Agency program, we find safe and loving homes for foster youth and equip parents with the training and resources they need for success, including 24/7 on-call support.

Requirements:

- ♥ Age 21+
- ♥ Valid CA driver's license
- ♥ Ventura County residency
- ♥ Household income to support an additional family member
- ♥ Space in your home to welcome a child
- ♥ Compassion and a willingness to grow alongside them

READY TO LEARN MORE?

Contact us at **805-218-4859**

or via email at

helphopelove@casapacifica.org

In a world where every child deserves love and care, you have the power to change a life. By opening your heart and home as a resource parent with Casa Pacifica, you can provide a safe haven for a child in need. Together, we can help, hope and love—creating bright futures for children in our community.



casapacifica.org · 805-218-4859

helphopelove@casapacifica.org



Mark Your Calendar!

25th Annual Angels Spotlight on Style Fashion Show

Saturday, October 24th, 2026 | Four Seasons Westlake Village

14th Annual Top Chef Yummie Dinner

April 30th, 2027 | Rancho de las Palmas

34th Annual Angels Wine, Food & Brew Festival

Sunday, June 6th, 2027 | California State University Channel Islands

CONTACT US

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