

LOS ANGELES
ORPHANAGE

GUILD



THE
GRADUATES

LAOG HOSTS MARYVALE'S FINAL GRADUATION PARTY

WINTER-SPRING 2021

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MARK KE
GRA



Nancy Lewis Angela Siuta-Pechin
Guild Co-President Guild Co-President

The Year That Was!

Dear LAOG Members and Friends,

Oh, what a year! The year 2020 certainly roared in many challenging ways! When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, it was necessary to cancel our Roaring '20s Gala, so we never had the opportunity to "Sparkle Together." Shortly thereafter, Maryvale announced, after lengthy and heartfelt deliberations, the closing of its Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) at the Rosemead campus, which had been the focus of LAOG's support. Maryvale has provided residential services for the children of the Los Angeles area for over 165 years, and LAOG had been supporting their efforts for over 70 years. Now it's time for both LAOG and Maryvale to refocus their missions.

LAOG continues to support Maryvale as it works through its strategic planning process, with an emphasis on serving children and families in need. Even though Maryvale has closed its residential program, the organization continues to provide necessary services through Early Education and Community "Wrap Around" programs.

The "Early Education Program" provides a subsidized pre-school for those families and a "Distant Learning Support Program" for older children to assist them with online classes and school work while their parents work. This is a much-needed service, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The "Community Wrap Around Program" provides mental health services and support to at-risk families, allowing the children to remain in a family setting, rather than a more restrictive alternative.

LAOG has decided to continue

supporting both programs to provide vulnerable families with our assistance during this transitional period.

As a result of the changes at Maryvale, donations from our fundraising efforts originally allocated for the Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program have been given to help support these two other programs. Also, LAOG recently released the 2017 Funded Item donation raised during our Safari Gala, intended to upgrade the Residential Care playground (put on hold due to campus construction) for the Early Childhood playground upgrade.

We are also pleased to announce that LAOG is able to donate \$500,000 to Maryvale this fiscal year as a result of the generosity of long-time guild member, Jacqueline Bolton. This donation was bequeathed to us through trusts established long ago. We encourage you as you review your estate planning and if you are willing and able to set aside an amount, large or small, to do the same. During challenging fundraising times such as these, Jackie's generous gift has afforded us the opportunity to continue with our annual donation to Maryvale. However, should you wish to make a donation now, please go to our website laorphanagerguild.com and click on our donation button.

We are forever grateful to all our donors and hard-working members, as each of you continue to support LAOG and Maryvale through these challenging changes. We pray that you and your loved ones are safe and stay well.

Thank you, and all the best for a better year 2021!

*Nancy Lewis and Angela Siuta-Pechin
Co-Presidents*

2020/2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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2020-2021 Provisionals



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Coulter



Kristine Mary
Eagan



Maureen (Mo)
Keckeisen



Janice
Mazza



Christine
Ofiesh

highlights of 2020-21



Sisters Julianna and Kendra Ross of Harvard-Westlake surprise Maryvale's children with a generous donation. See story on page 7.



- Thanks to the generosity of **Jacqueline Bolton**, LAOG is able to donate **half a million dollars** to Maryvale. Jacqueline was an active member of LAOG and served as 3rd Vice President in 1956. LAOG and Maryvale are extremely grateful for her donation.
- \$40,000 was donated to Maryvale on behalf of our "Roaring '20s – Lets Sparkle Together" Gala. Though the Gala was canceled due to COVID-19, our donors continued to donate generously.
- Special thanks to Mary Kay Lalli and Johanna Dawson for organizing our "Be A Friend On-Line Shopping Spree" and our vendors for donating 20% of their sales. The vendors were: **Haven and Co., Jacqueline B Clothing, Kiki Bean, Lavender Blue, Robin Terman Jewelry, Susie Os, The Treasured Accessory.**
- Thank you to JP Wines and Nomadic Distribution for their ongoing pledge to donate 20% of all wine sales when "LAOG" is designated at check out. Visit their websites below and continue to purchase wine from these generous vendors.
<https://jpwinesdirect.com>
<http://www.nomadicdistribution.com>
- Two special fundraisers, Christmas Wreaths and Valentine's Day Candy, were led by member Holly Culhane. These fundraisers not only raised money for Maryvale, they were also a thoughtful way to send love to our family and friends for the holidays while isolated during Covid. Thank you Holly!



on the cover:

2020-2021

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Left to right: Stephanie Silver, Holly Luntzel, Karen Knott, Shelly Scott, Nancy Lewis, Cindy Fairbank, Angela Siuta-Pechin, Phyllis Conkle, Diana Doyle, Nancy Lamb, Mary Anne Atkisson, Melinda Woodruff.

Last Dance

Maryvale's valedictorian excitedly sprints across campus to receive her trophy and diploma. See photos on page 4.



The Last Dance

June 24, 2020 marked the end of an era at Maryvale.

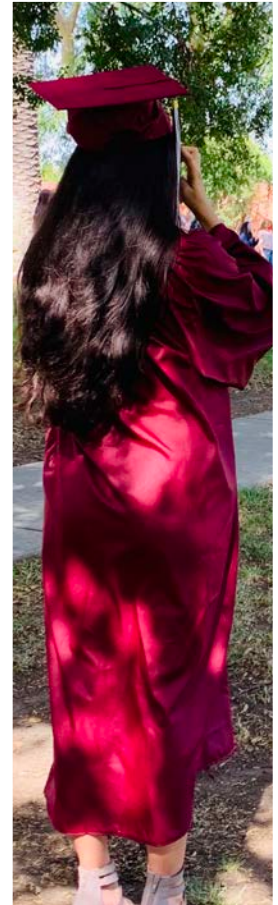
The smiles and jubilation of the commencement graduates belied the solemnity of the occasion, as this would also be Maryvale's final graduation.

Maryvale has decided to close its Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), a decision driven by the enactment of new regulations regarding foster care children implemented by the State of California. The new regulations are intended to better serve children in the state's massive foster care system, but it also means the end of Maryvale's 165-year history of providing residential services to children.

Maryvale will continue to provide Early Childhood Education and Community-Based and Wraparound Services for children and families.

Each graduate gave a "Wish List" to Guild member Linda Fischer, of items they might need, as they leave Maryvale. Linda purchased as many of the items as possible, putting the gifts in suitcases, and presenting them to the girls after the ceremony. The girls were so surprised and excited. It's one of the Guild's most incredible undertakings.

The Guild also provided Nathan's Food Truck for refreshments after the ceremony.



Maryvale Programs Care for Children and Families

Early Childhood Education

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of schools and many early education programs, like ours. But our Rosemead and Duarte staff members worked diligently to keep our Early Childhood Education Program open to serve our children and their families, many of whom work in health care and other essential services, to continue providing this vital foundation for academic success.

"We also launched Spotlight on FUNdamentals, an online learning program that provides videos of Maryvale teachers conducting learning and wellness exercises for families to practice at home," said Christina Moore, Maryvale's Vice President of Early Childhood Education and Nutrition.

John, a parent of children enrolled in our Early Education Program, thanked Maryvale for staying open during the pandemic and posting the videos, saying they "bring joy to my girls, and I'm very grateful for the job you all are doing."



Our Caring Community

In 1855, Bishop Amat, the first Bishop of the Monterey/Los Angeles Diocese, became increasingly concerned about the growing numbers of orphaned and abandoned children roaming Los Angeles' streets. He petitioned the Daughters of Charity to help.

On Jan. 6, 1856, five Daughters of Charity came to Los Angeles to open the county's first orphanage and hospital in downtown. Their dedication launched Los Angeles County's oldest children's charity - an organization that has cared for our community for 165 years.

This legacy of caring continued during fiscal year 2020, even as we made the very significant decision to close our Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program. Following all the changes the State of California implemented to better serve children in foster care, it became clear the program was not working. The outcomes for children, impact on staff and financial drain on the agency all contributed to the ultimate decision to end this chapter in the Maryvale story.

Throughout fiscal year 2020 and into the New Year, we continued to care for children and families through our Early Childhood Education and Community-Based and Wraparound Services Programs.

Community-Based and Wraparound Services

Our Community-Based and Wraparound Services have a life-changing impact on children and families through mental health assessments, crisis intervention, therapy, ongoing assistance and referrals to resources and services.

Among the many served this past year was George, a 9-year-old boy who was having tantrums and exhibiting difficult behaviors at school and home because of past trauma. Our therapist engaged George in play therapy, using figurines and toys to re-create his traumatic experience until he had no desire to continue playing it out.

"This is a proven approach to help children who are seeking to process trauma," said Michelle Culver, Director of Community-Based Services. "Children resolve what has not been resolved in their minds, and that can have a life-changing impact on them."

Once George could talk about his trauma, he was more capable of controlling his temper and using the skills he learned to address his anxieties. With this life-changing help, George graduated from Maryvale's Wraparound Services this past year and is now receiving outpatient care.

A Future of Possibilities

As fiscal 2021 beckons, Maryvale begins writing its next chapter by exploring a future of exciting possibilities.

THE HONOR ROLL

LAOG would like to honor these donors for their generous contributions

Raynad Abozraki
Diana Allegretti
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Joan Horsfall & Herbert Young
Morteza Yousefi

— IN MEMORY OF —

Lauren Carey

*The Carey family appreciates the love and support of our Guild members and friends.
Thank you for the generous donations honoring Lauren's love of the work we do for Maryvale.*

Mary Anne Atkisson
Tracy Ball
Hunt Barnett
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Hank Sinnock, Union Bank NA
Angela Siuta-Pechin
Eva Smythe
Lisa and Ronald Sohigian
Andrew Spokes
Adele Stone
Patricia Summers
The Speiser Family Fund
Wilhelmina Tyson

Steven Waters
Sue Ellen Waters
Jachi Xiong
Marjorie Zessar



WELCOME TO Virtual Reality

For the safety of our members all meetings in the foreseeable future will be held via Zoom!

Welcome to Virtual Reality.

After “fits and starts” but finally getting everyone on Zoom, our October, November and January Board and General meetings were all shifted from in-person meetings to Zoom calls. LAOG has continued to grow and thrive during these challenging times.

The biggest item of the day at the January General Meeting was, of course, the incredible donation of \$500,000 to Maryvale. This donation was from long-time Guild member, Jacqueline Bolton, who passed away in 2015. Present at the meeting were Steve Gunther, CEO and President of Maryvale, and Serena Bernolak, Director of Development. They had no idea of this donation and were astounded at the amount.



“
**LOOK
FOR
THE
HELPERS**
”
Fred Rogers



Lending a helping hand

In difficult times Mr. Fred Rogers said to “look for the helpers.” We are reminded that helpers arrive at the most unexpected times.

The LAOG would like to thank “helpers” **Julianna and Kendra Ross**, members of Harvard Westlake’s Bear Box Club, who collected numerous boxes of gifts and cash donations for Maryvale’s children. They accomplished this during COVID to ensure that their gifts would be received and distributed prior to the holidays. Thank you Julianna and Kendra!

HOW TO donate

- Go to LAOG’s website (laorphanagerguild.com) and click on any of the “donate” buttons.
- Cash donations are always welcome.
- Please review your estate planning and if willing and able to set aside an amount, large or small, we urge you to do so.



Los Angeles
Orphanage Guild

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visit our website:
laorphanageguild.com

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Calendar

2021

02	MAR	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING VIA ZOOM
	10:30AM	
12-16	MAR	SILENT AUCTION VIA ZOOM
16	MAR	GENERAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
	6:00PM	
27	APR	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING VIA ZOOM
	10:30AM	
11	MAY	GENERAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
	10:30AM	



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Los Angeles Orphanage Guild is to provide the children and families placed in Maryvale's care a safe, supportive, therapeutic, and compassionate environment in which to grow and heal. The Purpose of the Guild is to raise funds to provide financial and other support to Maryvale in Los Angeles.

Staff

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 Printer: Sapphire Business Solutions