



# Orangewood NEWS



When she was young, Osiris lived with her grandparents. Unfortunately, her grandfather - who she describes as a father-figure - died when she was in fourth grade. Eventually, Osiris was placed in foster care because there was no one left in her family who could take care of her.

During these traumatic years, Osiris found refuge in school. "When you're going through these horrible things at home, school is like a reprieve," she says. When she was in 3rd grade, she formed a special bond with her third grade teacher, Joy. A few years later, when Osiris was placed in the foster care system, Joy and her husband Jim took Osiris into their care until Osiris's mother was released from prison.

In high school, Osiris was living with her mother and did not have access to a computer at home. This was when she learned from a social worker about Orangewood Foundation. She started coming to our on-site Orangewood Resource Center to use the computers to do her homework. But what she found at Orangewood was more than just computers. "I connected with the staff almost immediately. Orangewood quickly became the family I never had. Everyone at Orangewood just gets you."

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## THE FAMILY I NEVER HAD

### OSIRIS'S STORY

Osiris is a bubbly young woman with a bright and cheery personality. Upon meeting her, it's not hard to guess that she used to be a cheerleader. But behind her bubbly exterior and cheerful disposition is a painful past.

Trouble for Osiris began before she was even born. "My father did not want a second child," she explains, "so he tried beating my mother to miscarry when she was pregnant with me." When Osiris was born, her father had left, but the trouble continued. Her mother spent most of Osiris's childhood in jail for drug-related charges.

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## GREETINGS FROM OUR CEO



Fall is a busy time around Orangewood Foundation offices. Our back-to-school efforts have subsided but the holidays are just around the corner. Throughout the year but especially during the holidays, current and former foster youth rely on us for the resources,

guidance, and emotional support to help them become independent.

Your support helps us make the holidays brighter for our youth. We've posted our 2016 holiday wish list at [www.orangewoodfoundation.org/holidaywishlist](http://www.orangewoodfoundation.org/holidaywishlist). You may be surprised to see kitchen and household items and gift cards on the list, in addition to typical "gifts". Many of our youth are teenagers preparing to transition from the foster care system to adulthood. Others have officially been released from the system but struggle to make ends meet. The kitchen and household items on the wish list help them set up a home for themselves. Gift cards help them understand the value of things they want to purchase and manage their money accordingly.

Speaking of the holidays, please consider attending our third annual Holiday Tea. It's a winter wonderland event for all generations. Proceeds support the operations of our Samuelli Academy charter high school in Santa Ana. This year's event will be held at the Ritz-Carlton in Dana Point. More

details can be found on page 3.

The following pages include information on other upcoming events, our Samuelli Academy charter high school, our dedicated volunteers and corporate partners, and how you can leave a There is a lot going on at Orangewood and there are many ways you can get involved!

Lastly, on behalf of everyone here at Orangewood, I would like to thank our outgoing Board Chairman, Bruce Fetter, for his six years of incredible leadership. Bruce will continue to serve



Bruce Fetter (left) and Greg Dunlap

on the Board but is stepping down as Chairman. We also want to welcome our new Chairman, Greg Dunlap. Greg has served on Orangewood's board since 2005. Prior to that, he was a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for two children in the foster care system.

Thank you for your commitment to Orangewood's youth!

Sincerely,

nsen, CEO

## OSIRIS'S STORY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

With the help of Orangewood staff, Osiris enrolled at Saddleback College with the goal of becoming a teacher. She is the first person in her family to go to college. Two years later, she has recently transferred to Cal State Fullerton. She started her first semester at CSUF in the fall, studying communications and kinesiology with the goal of becoming a PE teacher. She receives scholarship money from Orangewood to help her pay for her degree. "I want to be a teacher because I remember how important school and teachers were to me when I didn't have anyone or anything else," Osiris says. "I am so grateful to Orangewood for helping me get to where I am today."



## PREVIEW: HOLIDAY TEA BENEFITING SAMUELI ACADEMY

DECEMBER 11, 2016



Winter Wonderland themed decor at the 2015 Holiday Tea

Save the date for our third annual Holiday Tea benefitting Samueli Academy operations! All generations are invited to join us on Sunday, December 11, 2016 as we gather at the Ritz-Carlton in Laguna Niguel (note the new location) to celebrate the magic of the holidays. Guests will enjoy a selection of teas and light faire, carolers, a candy bar, and more.

Visit [www.orangewoodfoundation.org/holiday-tea](http://www.orangewoodfoundation.org/holiday-tea) for more information.



Susan Kinsey and daughter Caroline (12) decorate cupcakes at the 2015 Holiday Tea



2015 Holiday Tea chair, Lupe Erwin (right) with the "Snow Queen"



Carolers add a festive mood at the 2015 Holiday Tea

## RECAP: 2016 ATHLETES FIRST CLASSIC

Athletes First, a Laguna Hills sports agency that represents more than 140 athletes and coaches, partnered with Orangewood Foundation earlier this year for this annual two-day fund raiser. The gala event was held at the St. Regis Resort, Monarch Beach in Dana Point and included presentations of the Golden Heart Award to Deloitte and former NFL players Clay Matthews Jr. and Bruce Matthews. The dinner program included a video about Orangewood's newest program - The Lighthouse residential program for survivors of sex trafficking. Orangewood youth Oree, a sex trafficking survivor and advocate on the issue, was featured in the video.

The following day foursomes enjoyed

a round of golf with an athlete as a fifth person at Monarch Beach Golf Links. Current NFL players attending the weekend events included: Jimmy Clausen (free agent), Haha Clinton-Dix (Green Bay Packers), Marqise Lee (Jacksonville Jaguars), and Mark Sanchez (Dallas Cowboys). The event raised over \$500,000 for Orangewood.

Please save the date for the 2017 Classic on March 11 & 12, 2017. Look for more details coming soon at [www.orangewoodfoundation.org/events](http://www.orangewoodfoundation.org/events).



Honorees Bruce Matthews (left) and Clay Matthews Jr. (right) with family members.

### SAVE THE DATE:

NOVEMBER 1, 2016

PALS Social  
The Twisted Vine, Fullerton

NOVEMBER 12, 2016

Share Our Wine  
Seegerstrom Center for the Arts

NOVEMBER 14, 2016

Sex Trafficking Community Forum  
Orangewood Foundations

NOVEMBER 13, 2016

Ducks Center Ice Theme Party  
South Coast Plaza

DECEMBER 11 2016

Academy Holiday Tea  
Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel (NEW LOCATION)

MARCH 11 & 12, 2017

Athletes First Classic Gala and Golf Event  
Monarch Beach Resort

For more information, visit  
[orangewoodfoundation.org/events](http://orangewoodfoundation.org/events).

## OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

### DISNEY COPRPRATE SPOTLIGHT

Every year, our Independent Living Program (ILP) holds a graduation ceremony for foster youth graduating from high school or earning GEDs. This year's ceremony had a surprise for all of us. In honor of Disneyland's 60th anniversary and the philanthropic legacy of Walt Disney, Orangewood Foundation was selected to receive a \$60,000 grant to support our Mentor Program. Disney showed up to our ILP graduation ceremony and surprised us with the check. Our Mentor Program provides current and former foster youth with the friendship, guidance, and support only a mentor can provide.

In addition to the incredible grant, Disneyland also donated 60 Park Hopper tickets which were used by our mentors and mentees to create memories together at the happiest place on Earth. Mentor Tawnee and her youth Karen said of their trip to Disneyland: "Thank you for a magical day! We had a wonderful time and it's all thanks to you. Thank you for making dreams come true."

Disney employees also volunteer their time with Orangewood. Disney VolunTEARS help us with both fundraising events like our Athletes First Classic event and youth events like Belle of the Ball. "Disney is a staple in our community with a long history of giving back. We are honored to have this partnership with Disney, and look forward to continuing it for many years to come," says Orangewood CEO Chris Simonsen.



ILP graduates with our CEO Chris Simonsen and Allie Kawamoto, Disneyland Resort Ambassador.



Orangewood mentors and mentees gather for a photo before a day of fun at Disneyland

### ADDITIONAL THANKS TO...

Orangewood is fortunate to have the help and support of many caring companies and individuals in Orange County. Many thanks to the following companies:

- **ACRA Aerospace** who donated 400 backpacks full of school supplies for our youth AND filled our closet with school supplies.
- **Kaiser Permanente** who brought a doctor to our Independent City youth event, which teaches real world independent living skills to our youth.
- **Opus Bank** who has helped our Samueli Academy students tremendously in the past year - from helping with mock interviews, hosting career exploration tours and hosting interns this summer to displaying student artwork on a gallery wall in their office.
- **Samsung** who brought a group of volunteers in to sort and distribute a large clothing donation,.
- **Zumasys** who created a new video for Orangewood after our rebranding, helped our IT director and held mock interviews with our youth in our on-site resource center to prepare them for job interviews.

### DELOITTE

Deloitte has been a long-standing supporter of Orangewood. In fact, they've been donating to us for over 20 years. This year, they asked us if there were any volunteer opportunities available for a large group. We had one opportunity, but it wasn't glamorous. After a school year with teenagers, the inside of our Samueli Academy academic building desperately needed cleaning.

Deloitte stepped right up and agreed to clean the whole thing - from top to bottom! They brought over 45 volunteers on a Sunday morning with mops, rags, sponges, and buckets and got to work. They cleaned the floors, the walls, the hallways, every classroom and even every student desk in the three-story building.

"We are so grateful to Deloitte for their continued support, and especially for this great deed of cleaning our school," says Orangewood CEO Chris Simonsen.. Thank you Deloitte!



Deloitte volunteers

## SAMUELI ACADEMY NEWS

Our charter high school for foster and community youth has exciting things happening. The school year that started in August marked the first time we were at full capacity - we now have 9th through 12th graders! And we will have our first graduation for our senior class in June of 2017. Here are a few updates on the school.

### OUR SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM:

This summer began our first year of our internship program for rising seniors. Students spent their summers gaining real-world job experience at companies like ExploreOcean, Lyon Living, Opus Bank, House of Blues and many more - 39 companies/employers in total. Orangewood Foundation hosted eight interns of our own. Companies were asked to rate their interns after they completed their internships. An impressive 90% of the companies rated their overall experience with their intern as "Excellent," and the other 10% were rated "Above Average." Tim Jorgensen, General Manager at the House of Blues Anaheim Garden Walk, said, "I wish Javier could have stayed for the rest of the summer...a smart young man with a tremendous amount of potential," and Esther Shimizu, Human Resources Specialist at H&S Ventures, said, "The Academy is doing an awesome job preparing students for the work environment." Not only did the students learn and gain experience from their internships, they enjoyed them too. Student Body President Violeta Vega said, "This has been one of the most memorable and exciting summers I've ever experienced, thanks to Lyon Living!" If your company would like to host a Samuelli Academy Intern in summer 2017, please email Nyree Tramble, Work-Based Learning Coordinator, at [ntramble@samueliacademy.org](mailto:ntramble@samueliacademy.org).

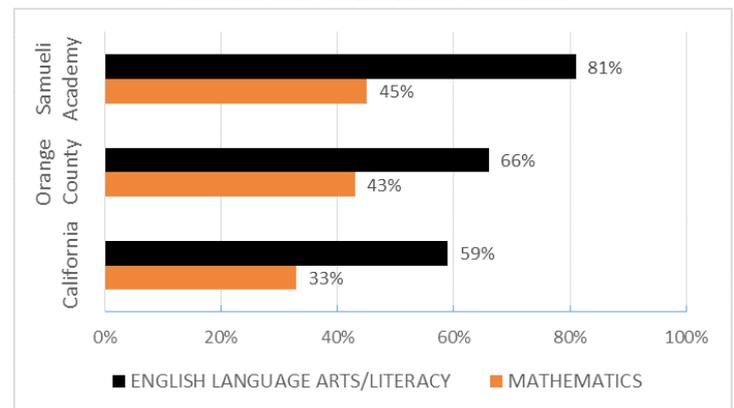
### OUR THRIVING STUDENT BODY:

We are proud of our continued attendance rate of 97%, the highest attendance rate for any high school in Orange County! Last school year, 53% of our students earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher, placing them on the honor roll. Outside of the classroom, we held our first formal dance, which was attended by over 150 students. Students also gave back to their community. School-wide projects and Helping Hands club activities benefited those in our local communities including foster youth, the homeless, animals, and the environment, and even those in Sudan and Malawi. We also established three new sports teams - a track team, a boys' volleyball team and a cheer leading squad! Go Firewolves.

### SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM (SBAC):

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) has replaced the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) as California's standardized test for high school students. The SBAC measures college level readiness in English and Math and is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. In English, 81% of Samuelli Academy students met or exceeded the standard. In Math, a subject in which

CALIFORNIA SBAC SCORES AMONG 11TH GRADE STUDENTS - MAY, 2016  
PERCENT MET OR EXCEEDED STANDARD



80% of our students arrived one or more grade level behind, 45% met or exceeded the standard. In both subjects, Samuelli Academy students outperformed students in Orange County and statewide. "We are thrilled with these results because they demonstrate how well our project-based, hands-on, collaborative learning environment is working," says Anthony Saba, Head of School.



Interns at Lyon Living



Academy cheerleaders



Winter formal

## JOIN PALS!

Looking for a way to meet new people, network with other young professionals in Orange County, AND give back to a great cause? Check out Orangewood PALS (Providing Assistance, Love & Support)! Orangewood PALS' members are energetic, influential, and dedicated professionals who have joined together to support Orangewood's mission. If you are interested in joining PALS, and you would like to experience the difference PALS members are making in the lives of children and youth, join us for our next monthly "Speaker Night!" On the first Tuesday of every month, the Orangewood PALS provide motivational, educational and inspirational speakers at the Orangewood Children & Family Center (formerly the Orangewood Children's Home.) These "Speaker Nights" are an opportunity for leaders in our community to inspire youth with their own stories of overcoming personal struggles and challenges.

## OUR NEW BOARD CHAIR:

We would like to welcome our new PALS board chair, Jessica Witt. We are excited for the passion and energy Jessica brings with her to her new position and for what the future holds for our PALS auxiliary.

For more information about PALS, visit [www.OrangewoodPALS.org](http://www.OrangewoodPALS.org) or contact Jeff Gilstrap at [jjilstrap@orangewoodfoundation.org](mailto:jjilstrap@orangewoodfoundation.org).



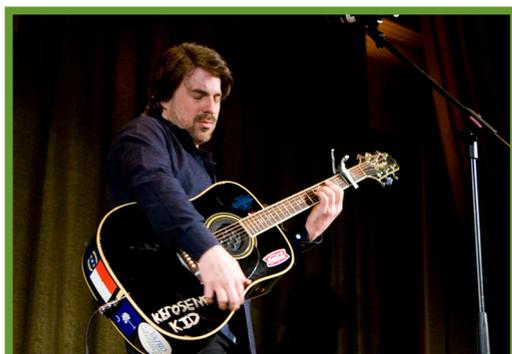
PALS chair Jessica Witt with then NFL hopeful Margise Lee (now with the Jacksonville Jaguars) at a 2014 Speaker Night .



## RECAP: 12TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

The 12th Annual Scholarship Luncheon in June featured country music star Jimmy Wayne as the guest speaker. As the 300 guests enjoyed lunch at the beautiful Resort at Pelican Hill, they heard the inspiring personal story shared by Orangewood former foster youth Sascha, who, after being placed into foster care because of her mother's drug abuse and neglect, was adopted by her grandmother. She talked about the challenges of growing up without a traditional family structure, and how social workers who helped her throughout her life inspired her to become a social worker herself. Of Orangewood staff and volunteers she said "You make me feel like I belong to something...to a group of people who care."

After Sascha shared her story, Jimmy Wayne began with a performance of "Sara Smile," which he recorded with Daryl Hall in 2009. Then Wayne, a former foster youth himself, told his story of growing up without a family in rural North Carolina. He talked about the elderly couple who gave him a chance by taking him in, and thanked the audience for giving Orangewood youth a chance. "I'm who I am today because this couple gave me a chance," Jimmy said, wrapping up his speech. "All of you here today are doing the same thing. You are giving the youth that benefit from Orangewood's programs a chance. You are believing in them."



Guest speaker Jimmy Wayne at the Scholarship Luncheon

## PREVIEW: DUCKS CENTER ICE THEME PARTY

Join us on Sunday, November 13th at the South Coast Plaza Crystal Court in the former Sport Chalet to party with the Ducks. Break out those windbreakers and leg warmers, because this year's theme is "80's to the max, like totally." Check our website [orangewoodfoundation.org/events](http://orangewoodfoundation.org/events) for all the details.

## OUR NEW BOARD CHAIR:

Introducing our new board chair, Carey Clawson. Carey has been on the 44 board for many years and has chaired many events. She recently stepped up to be our new 44 Women chair.



Scholarship Luncheon youth speaker Sascha with event co-chairs Sona Shah and Carey Clawson

## OUR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

DENNI DAVID AND LAURA WONG

### DENNI

At Orangewood, we have incredible volunteers, many of whom volunteer for us in multiple ways. They are dedicated to helping our youth and our organization succeed in whatever way needed. They see a need and step up, again and again. Denni is a great example. Denni began volunteering with the Foundation in April of 2015 and has accrued over 145 hours since then! She serves on the board of our 44 Women for Orangewood auxiliary. She is a trained licensed therapist and works one-on-one with youth in our on site Orangewood Resource Center. Denni also assists with administrative work. Most recently, she is volunteering with our newest program, The Lighthouse, which is a residential program for survivors of sex trafficking that will open this month. Denni is helping secure the many forms of therapy that will be needed for these young women. "Denni is selfless, driven and compassionate towards our youth. She is always reliable, efficient, and eager to help," says Jim Carson, Program Manager for The Lighthouse. Thank you Denni for all you do for Orangewood Foundation. We are proud to have you here!

### LAURA

Orangewood Foundation is a lean organization. Our staff members are focused on helping our youth, fundraising for our programs, and running the operations. Often, the help we need most is "behind the scenes" with office help. These tasks can often be repetitive and routine. Thankfully, we have individuals who love to help in this way and come in whenever they have free time in their week.

Laura is one of our amazing office helpers. She came to Orangewood because of her compassion for our youth, particularly the homeless former foster youth in our Orangewood Resource Center. Laura's skill set led her to give back through office work. At the time, Laura had a full-time job during the weekdays, so she volunteered on Tuesday nights for two hours...driving almost 20 miles to our Santa Ana location! She assists with data entry, assembles packets, stuffs and labels envelopes, helps with monthly Volunteer Information Sessions, and conducts research to help us find new potential donors.

"Laura has a huge heart for our youth and our Foundation and always works with a smile. We deeply appreciate her enthusiasm and willingness to do whatever it takes!" says Tracy Cooper, Senior Development Director. Thank you Laura for all your hard work behind-the-scenes for Orangewood Foundation!



Denni David



Laura Wong with staff member Tracy Cooper

*Legacy Society*

### LEAVING A LEGACY

Did you know that you can continue to support foster and community youth after you're gone by becoming a member of our Legacy Society? The Orangewood Legacy Society recognizes and honors those who have included Orangewood in their estate plans with a future gift through a bequest, life insurance, or trust agreement, or have a meaningful outright gift to Orangewood Foundation.

Recently, Congress passed the IRA Charitable Rollover into permanent law, making it available to donors and charities for the foreseeable future. For those aged 70½ or older, it is once again possible to make tax-favored charitable distributions from traditional and Roth IRA accounts directly to Orangewood (federal tax ID# 95-3616628). There may also be state income tax savings. Consult your tax advisor for more information and details.

Members of the Orangewood Foundation Legacy Society are recognized on the Foundation website, in our Legacy newsletter and in our annual report. Members also receive invitations to special events.

For more information and to view a list of our members who have made Orangewood Foundation part of their long-range giving plans, please visit our planned giving website, [orangewoodfoundation.planmygift.org](http://orangewoodfoundation.planmygift.org). Or, use the envelope enclosed. Check the box for "Bequests and remembering Orangewood in my will" and include your name and contact information.



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FALL 2016

# Orangewood NEWS



“Orangewood quickly became the family I never had. Everyone at Orangewood just gets you. I am so grateful to Orangewood for helping me get to where I am today.”

– Osiris