



SPRING 2018

Orangewood NEWS



HOMELESS BUT NOT HOPELESS

YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS FIND HOPE AND SUPPORT AT ORANGEWOOD



Casandra and her son, Gino in the Orangewood Resource Center

Foster youth age out of the foster care system at age 18-21 without the safety net, direction, and resources of a stable family. As a result, nationwide 50% will experience homelessness or housing instability.

Orangewood Foundation has been helping these youth for many years and we're excited to be doing even more today. Thanks to a recent five-year grant from the California

Governor's Office of Emergency Services, we have expanded our on-site Orangewood Resource Center (ORC) with additional staffing, services and outreach to foster and community youth experiencing homelessness.

"Homelessness is a complex issue that communities are struggling with across the U.S.," said Chris Simonsen, Orangewood CEO. "Our staff have a great ability to connect with young adults by creating a safe, nonjudgmental environment that builds trust. Providing these youth with a hot meal, a shower, or toiletries is often that first little step that we can then build the relationship on and begin to work together to create a path to self-sufficiency."

Casandra, Robert, and Tino are just three examples of the youth experiencing homelessness that Orangewood is helping.

MEET CASANDRA

Casandra and her two-year old son, Gino, live in their car, along with Casandra's boyfriend. She was placed in foster care as a child and heard about Orangewood Foundation through a friend. Orangewood Youth Support Specialists in our on-site resource center connected Casandra to housing resources and she's currently on a waiting list for an apartment. They have also helped her enroll Gino in the Head Start preschool program. With Orangewood's help, Casandra applied and was accepted into Taller San Jose's construction trainee program. Orangewood has provided Casandra and her family with weekly groceries, monthly toiletries, hot meals, bus passes, access to a shower, weekly sessions with a licensed therapist, and informal parenting coaching. "The staff at the Resource Center are caring and kind," says Casandra. "They are always

there for me and are helping me become a better mother."

MEET TINO

Tino is a familiar face around the Orangewood offices, always willing to help anyone with anything. He was in and out of foster care as a child, and had some especially traumatic experiences. All his life he was told that no one wanted him and that he was destined to be a failure. He struggles with his past and finds it difficult to look positively towards the future. He has held jobs and secured stable housing in the past. However, he has a hard time living indoors. For now, he prefers the freedom of being homeless and sleeps on benches, in local parks, or at the beach. Orangewood Youth Support Specialists help him with bus passes, access to a shower and laundry facilities, hygiene items, and hot meals, and are there for him when he is ready to take steps to move forward in his life.

MEET ROBERT

ORC Youth Support Specialists Francisco and Michael met Robert, a former Marine, at The Courtyard Shelter (formerly the Santa Ana Transit Terminal) and told him about Orangewood's services. Robert was hesitant and the conversation was brief. But just a few hours later, Robert showed up at our offices. Orangewood helped him with groceries, hot meals, hygiene items and emergency clothing. When ORC staff helped him find a job lead, Robert pursued it right away. He interviewed the same day and got the job! Today, despite not having a stable housing, he holds down two jobs, at a local gym and John Wayne Airport. Orangewood staff members have also reconnected him with the Veterans Administration who is helping him with housing. He hopes to leave The Courtyard soon.



Robert in the resource center celebrating his newly acquired job

INSIDE...

- 2 GREETINGS FROM OUR CEO
- 3 EVENTS
- 3 SAVE-THE-DATE
- 4 CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT
- 5 SAMUELI ACADEMY NEWS
- 6 OUR AUXILIARIES
- 7 DONOR SPOTLIGHT
- 7 VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
- 7 LEGACY SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

General William Lyon, Founding
Chairman

Greg Dunlap, Chairman

Cindy Dillion, Secretary

Steve Keefer, Treasurer

Marissa Barth

Bob Bartholomew

Stuart Bernstein

Alan Clifton

David Dunn

Richard Dutch

Lupe Erwin

Bruce Fetter

Joel Goldhirsh

Adam S. Horowitz

Daniel M. Houck II

Bob Istwan

Sandi Jackson

Steve Johnson

Chris Jones

Mitch Junkins

Wing Lam

Renee Pepys Lowe

Joe Lozowski

Neena Master

Mohit Mittal

Vikki Murphy

Ken Parker

Andy Phillips

Jeff Roos

Timothy Ryan

Susan Samuelli

Sona Shah

Rick Sherburne

John Stratman

John Stumpf

Frank T. Suryan, Jr.

Shannon Tarnutzer

Kris Theiler

Paul Tobin

Jaynine Warner

Piero Wemyss

Carey Clawson, Ex Officio

Jessica Witt, Ex Officio

C.E.O.

Chris Simonsen

GREETINGS FROM OUR CEO



Dear Orangewood
Friends,

Like you may have
experienced with your
own children (I know
I have with my four),
Orangewood's youth
have a wide variety of
needs. Some are far
along in their journey

to self-sufficiency and need the financial help of
our college or graduate school scholarships. Some,
like Casandra, Tino, and Robert on the cover, are
struggling with homelessness and basic needs. Many
of our youth are somewhere in between. It's our
mission to meet them where they are and help them
achieve their greatest potential. As long as they are
ready to accept our help, we'll be there for them –
thanks to your support.

Speaking of support, I'd be remiss if I didn't share the
amazing results of our holiday drive. Over 2400 gift
cards valued at \$54,000 were donated, along with
over 10,000 gifts. We distributed them to more than
500 youth, with the remaining items saved for year-
round needs or shared with nine other nonprofit
organizations in the community.

Thank you to all who attend our various fundraising
events during the year and those who work tirelessly
behind the scenes to make them a success. If you're
up for a day of physical and mental challenges, check
out the Orangewood Adventure Challenge on page
three. I'm competing again this year and I'd love to
have you join us.

ORANGEWOOD C.P.O. TO RETIRE

Bob Theemling, our Chief Program Officer, has been with
Orangewood Foundation since 2001. Along the way he has
led the creation or implementation of several important
new programs including the Collaborative Courts Full
Service Partnership, The Lighthouse Program for victims
of sex trafficking, Beverly's House transitional housing site,
Advanced Studies scholarships, and expanded services for
youth experiencing homelessness. In 2003, Bob oversaw our
move to our current location on 17th Street in Santa Ana.
After a 44 year career helping primarily foster youth, Bob
will be retiring on June 30th. We thank him for his years of
dedication to the youth of Orangewood and wish him well
on his retirement adventures!

Attending our events is just one of many ways to
support our mission. Companies, groups, and individuals
volunteer their time or their expertise, host fundraisers,
or create other opportunities. Page four has several
recent examples, including the Vaca and Bernstein
families who have turned the tragic deaths of their
children into acts of kindness and generosity for
Orangewood's youth. On page seven, you can read how
Karen and Matt O'Malley are ensuring that their support
of Orangewood youth continues after they're gone.
Page seven includes a spotlight on Carolyn McInerney,
a tireless supporter of ours for many years who passed
away recently. She was a remarkable lady who will be
greatly missed.

Yes, it's true. As you can read below, our long-time
Chief Program Officer, Bob Theemling, is retiring
on June 30th. His decades of service to youth in our
community have positively impacted so many lives. It's
been a real pleasure working with Bob and we wish him
well in his retirement.

Finally, May is National Foster Care Awareness
Month. Please read our insert for ways you can help
Orangewood youth reach their greatest potential.

We are so grateful for your support of our mission to
prepare foster and community youth to reach their
greatest potential. Our work is not possible without
YOU...thank you!

Sincerely,

Chris Simonsen



Bob with Orangewood scholarship student Tara in 2013

EVENT PREVIEWS



44 WOMEN SCHOLARSHIP LUNCH

June 1, 2018

Please join us for the 14th annual 44 Women for Orangewood Scholarship Luncheon benefiting Orangewood Foundation. This year's special guest speaker is Youth Advocate and Best-Selling Author Steve Pemberton.



STARS & STRIPES TOURNAMENT

June 28 - July 1, 2018

The Stars & Stripes Tournament is a fishing, golf, and music festival. This four day event, held in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, combines spectacular deep sea fishing and golf on Mexico's finest courses with beautiful accommodations and top-notch musical entertainment.



ORANGEWOOD ADVENTURE CHALLENGE

September 15, 2018

Are you ready for a challenge? The third annual Orangewood Adventure Challenge is a team-based adventure race in which teams of four bike, run, navigate, and kayak their way over 20 miles of Catalina Island.



AMBASSADOR LUNCHEON

November 2, 2018

Orangewood Ambassadors (donors of \$1,000) are invited to join us for our annual Ambassador Luncheon at the Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa! This year's guest speaker is US men's figure skating Olympian, sports commentator, and cancer survivor Scott Hamilton.

EVENT RECAPS



SAMUELI ACADEMY HOLIDAY CHOIR CONCERT

December, 2017

Choir students perform a holiday favorite at the Samueli Academy Holiday Choir Concert sponsored by Christyne Sutton Olson and Family. Students performed classic and contemporary pieces, and Santa Claus joined the festivities for a fun, family-friendly night.



ATHLETES FIRST CLASSIC GALA

March, 2018

Event honorees Ted Roth (left), Byron Roth (right), and Nick Foles (center left), with event youth speaker Laron Brown (center right). This two-day event combines mingling with NFL athletes and a world-class silent and live auction at the beautiful Monarch Beach Resort.



"I had lots of family problems when I was younger. When I found out I was pregnant with my son, I knew my environment needed to change. I applied for Orangewood's Rising Tide housing program, and it was the best decision I've ever made! Staff members Mitzi & LaCretia help me every step of the way. They have helped me build a better relationship with my family and learn how to be a better mom to my son, Josiah. Without Orangewood, I would not be who I am today. Thank you Orangewood Staff for giving me comfort, love and a place to call home." - Jasmin

SAVE THE DATE:

JUNE 1, 2018

14th Annual 44 Women for Orangewood Scholarship Luncheon
Fashion Island Hotel, Newport Beach

JUNE 11, 2018

Sex trafficking community forum*
Orangewood Foundation, Santa Ana

JUNE 14, 2018

Share Our Wine Drop-Off Party
Fisher & Paykel, Costa Mesa

SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

3rd Ann'l Orangewood Adventure Challenge
Catalina Island

NOVEMBER 2, 2018

Orangewood Ambassador Lunch
Hilton Orange County, Costa Mesa

For more information about upcoming events, please visit orangewoodfoundation.org/events.

*Sex trafficking community forums repeat on the second Monday of every month.

CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT



Corporate Cares Visionary partner, Experian, is a global leader in consumer and business credit reporting and marketing services that assist lenders in managing consumer credit risk and empower consumers to understand and responsibly use credit in their financial lives. Experian became a visionary partner through a combination of volunteerism and financial support to help Orangewood's foster and community youth thrive and prosper. This year the company made an extraordinary \$100,000 gift to Orangewood through the Athletes First Classic Gala and Golf Event.

Additionally, the company was involved in a hands-on capacity at our Samueli Academy charter high school this year. Representatives from Experian assisted students in our Virtual Enterprise business simulation class design their own "business," including HR manuals, marketing plans, sales pitches and more. When students qualified for the state competition in the Bay area, Experian stepped up and funded their trip, making it possible for our students to compete. At the state competition against 60 other schools, our students placed #1 in branding, in the top 8 in company booth, and in the top 10 in the HR handbook categories. Thank you, Experian, for your extraordinary support!



Experian VP of Corporate Marketing Abigail Lovell (center) presents a check to Orangewood CEO Chris Simonsen (right) and youth Laron at the Athletes First Gala

ADDITIONAL THANKS TO...



MANNY DUARTE / UPS

Manny Duarte (3rd from right) and his team from UPS volunteered to load, drive, and unload over 1,000 dresses plus boxes of makeup, snacks, and other items needed for our annual Belle of the Ball youth event. Thank you Manny, for your on-going partnership!



STARK IRVINE

Stark Irvine donated a health and wellness program for Orangewood employees. Presented as a series of "Lunch and Learns," a Stark representative joins us in the office once a month to discuss things like proper hydration and healthy eating habits.



ANAHEIM DUCKS

Late last year former Anaheim Ducks players Teemu Selanne (3rd from left) and Paul Kariya (center) were inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. Teemu and Paul and the Ducks selected Orangewood as one nonprofit to receive the proceeds from Hall of Fame merchandise.



JILL BOLTON

Thank you to Jill Bolton (left) for her many years of supporting Orangewood Foundation and the rest of the Orange County nonprofit community! Congratulations to Jill on her recent retirement from her position with Disneyland Resort.



BERNSTEIN FAMILY

Heartfelt thanks to Jeanne and Gideon Bernstein and everyone who has supported Orangewood in memory of their son, Blaze. The Remembering Blaze My Orangewood campaign raised over \$16,000 for Orange County foster and community youth.



REBECCA AND ANDREW VACA

Thank you so much to Andrew and Rebecca who donated gift cards for our youth in memory of their daughter Abigail. Andrew and Rebecca perform various "random acts of kindness" each year on November 17th in honor of Abigail's birthday.



"When I was younger, Orangewood was the light at the end of a very dark tunnel. It was my place of hope. I became a Peer Mentor because the support, services, and resources I received at every stage of my journey with Orangewood helped me develop skills that I wanted to share with others. When I heard about the receptionist job, it seemed like a perfect opportunity to continue to be a part of the Orangewood family. I love working at Orangewood because I can spread love and happiness by making everyone feel welcomed, by being helpful, and by just providing a smile or a listening ear to anyone who walks through our doors." - Alejandra, Orangewood Receptionist

WHAT'S NEW AT SAMUELI ACADEMY

Our public charter high school for foster and community youth has exciting things happening!

- Virtual Enterprise is a business simulation class in which students design their own “business.” This year, in the state competition against 60 other schools, our students placed #1 in branding, top 8 in company booth, and top 10 in the HR handbook categories!
- In January, the Orange County Board of Education approved Samueli Academy’s charter renewal for the period of 2018 to 2023, allowing the school to continue its operation as a public charter school for the next five years!
- In partnership with the Samueli Foundation and UC Irvine, Samueli Academy has created two “E-Sports” teams, which allow students to express their passion for computer games while working as a team and getting connected to college and career opportunities. Teams compete in a County e-sports league.
- In the more traditional sports realm, a few of the school’s sports teams made it to the CIF playoffs this year! Boys’ soccer made it to the CIF semi-finals, girls’ basketball went undefeated in the league and advanced to the playoffs, and both track teams made it to the CIF preliminaries. Way to go, Firewolves!

- In February, students celebrated National Engineers Week by participating in the Fluor Engineering Challenge. Students were tasked to use predetermined supplies to build a launching device to throw a ball as far as possible and a receiving device to catch it.
- Almost half of the alumni from our inaugural graduating class returned for our first homecoming! The celebrations included a staff versus students football game, a food truck, student performances, a live announcer, a DJ, and a “Friendsgiving” potluck style dinner.
- Students had a great time at this year’s Career Ignition Conference! Freshmen went on tours at companies like SoCal Gas and Hurley, while sophomores attended career workshops led by business professionals. Juniors were interviewed for internships by representatives from 25 different local businesses. Thank you to everyone who helped make this conference possible!
- Seniors in the Design 4 class were once again given the amazing opportunity to design t-shirts for the Anaheim Ducks. Winning students designs are being sold in-stores!

To keep up with all the happenings at our school, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/samueliacademy or visit www.samueliacademy.org.



Virtual Enterprise students with their award-winning booth at the state competition in San Francisco



Lady Firewolves basketball team went undefeated in league and advanced to the CIF playoffs!



Senior Jacob Baltanado shows his Engineering week project to Tanya Aguilar (left) and Deedee Rosenthal (right) of Fluor



A representative from Opus bank interviews a Samueli Academy junior for an internship position



Winners of the Ducks T-Shirt design contest on the ice with Ducks co-owner and school namesake Susan Samueli (right) and design teacher Patricia Vining (left)



“What I love most about Samueli Academy is how it is like a family. I was really shy in middle school and there were cliques and things that made it hard for me to branch out. Here I have been able to blossom because it’s such a family environment. The teachers really care about you as a person and connect with you emotionally. And, I’ve built so many long-term friendships here. I feel so fortunate to have spent the last four years at such an amazing place.” - Kira, Class of 2018

PALS UPDATE



ROOKIE NIGHT

On the second Tuesday of each month, Orangewood PALS hosts a speaker night for the children at the Orangewood Children and Family Center. In February, the Orangewood PALS were joined by staff from the Athletes First sports agency and their rookie clients, some of whom are

expected to be top prospects for the 2018 NFL draft. It included a fun Q&A session followed by autographs. After getting to know the players' favorite superheroes, nicknames, and advice for college, the children and teens had the opportunity to play football, basketball, and just hang out with the players. It was a truly memorable night for both the kids and rookies alike.



Orangewood staff, PALS, and Athletes First "Rookies" at a speaker night at the Children and Family Center

PALS BINGO NIGHTS

Every Monday during the month of April, Orangewood PALS, friends, family, Orangewood staff and supporters came together to play bingo for a great cause at Chapter One. For a \$10 buy-in, participants were treated to six games of bingo, plenty of laughs and a chance at some great prizes! Funds raised will go to PALS events for youth in Orangewood Foundation's Rising Tide transitional housing program. To learn more about the PALS auxiliary, please visit www.orangewoodPALS.org.



PALS members, Orangewood staff, and friends at PALS Bingo Night at Chapter One

44 WOMEN FOR ORANGEWOOD UPDATE



SCHOLARSHIP LUNCH - JUNE 1, 2018

Please join us for the 14th annual 44 Women for Orangewood Scholarship Luncheon benefiting Orangewood Foundation. This year's special guest speaker is Youth Advocate and Best-Selling Author Steve Pemberton. Pemberton's critically acclaimed memoir, *A Chance in the World*, recounts his triumphant life journey through foster care, and his drive to develop resilience, determination and vision. The event will be held at the Fashion Island Hotel in Newport Beach, and proceeds will benefit Orangewood's education services for foster and community youth.

PEER MENTOR BOWLING PARTY

In December, the 44 Women for Orangewood hosted the Orangewood Peer Mentors and their kids at Irvine Lanes for a night of bowling, pizza and FUN! At the end of the night, each of the Peer Mentors received a \$100 Target gift card, courtesy of the 44 Women.

To learn more about the 44 Women auxiliary, or purchase tickets for the 14th annual Scholarship Luncheon, please visit www.44womenfororangewood.org.



44 Women Peer Mentor Bowling Party



"I had very a traumatic childhood, and it took me a while to figure out how to work through it. Orangewood has helped me every step of the way, from helping me learn coping skills, to helping me navigate the college application process. Orangewood staff members have guided me and served as role models, and the financial assistance has been such a huge help. I'm so appreciative of the help and very excited to be pursuing my dreams at Berkeley." - Elizabeth

"Orangewood means everything to me. It has provided me the opportunity to further my education, grow professionally, and defy the odds as a former foster youth. My focus now is on continuing to be a good father to my son Cameron. I want him to know that with hard work and perseverance you can overcome any hardship. I want him to feel loved...to understand what having a dedicated parent feels like. Orangewood is my driving force to where I want to be in life." - Laron



DONOR SPOTLIGHT - THE PASSING OF A GREAT WOMAN

CAROLYN M^CINERNY



Carolyn and a Peer Mentor at a holiday bowling party

In March, we lost a passionate advocate for our youth – Carolyn McInerney. Carolyn supported Orangewood Foundation for more than 20 years, generously giving of her time, talents, and treasure.

Carolyn was a founding board member of our 44 Women for Orangewood auxiliary and more recently transitioned to an emeritus board member. In her career, she held positions in county and city government and brought that expertise to her position on the Board of Trustees of our Samueli Academy public charter high school. She served on many event committees including the Doug DeCinces Golf Tournament, the Orange Blossom Ball, the 44 Women Scholarship Luncheon, and the Samueli Academy Holiday Tea. Carolyn loved spending time with our youth. For many years, she helped plan the annual beach parties and holiday bowling parties for Orangewood Peer Mentors.

Susan Samueli, founder of the 44 Women auxiliary, shared, “I’m so saddened by the loss of Carolyn. Since the inception of 44 Women for Orangewood, she

became a great friend to me and to Orangewood over the years. She has always been passionate and cared so much for foster children and the vision to educate our emancipated youth. She provided us guidance and support, always devoting time and energy to 44 Women and Samueli Academy. Her kindness and generosity will be greatly missed by everyone who was touched by Carolyn. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, ‘There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in our hearts.’”

Carolyn was dedicated, smart, elegant, warm, not afraid to speak her mind, and committed to helping our youth reach their greatest potential. She will be greatly missed and we offer our heartfelt condolences to her husband, Mark, their children, Lauren, Kate, Mitchell and their families.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

JEAN HARRELL

At Orangewood Foundation, we are very fortunate to have dedicated volunteers like Jean who help our organization succeed. Jean has been an Orangewood volunteer since January of 2017. Jean, along with her friend Cindy and her two sons, cook and serve delicious meals to youth in our on-site resource center every month. Additionally, she has volunteered at various Orangewood fundraising events such as the Athletes First Classic and the 44 Women Scholarship Lunch. “Jean is a generous and loving individual who always goes above and beyond for our youth,” says Humberto Rojas, Volunteer Manager. “Her cooking and presentation is always fun and creative and the youth are so appreciative of the effort she puts in.”

“My favorite thing about volunteering with Orangewood is seeing the young people enjoying the food,” Jean says. “One time one of the youth told me that my food tastes like it was made with love. He couldn’t have said anything to make me happier. The kids in the Resource Center and the staff who are there for them make me proud to be associated with Orangewood.”

Thank you, Jean, for your service and dedication to our youth. It is a joy to have you in our kitchen!



Jean serving a home-cooked meal in our onsite Resource Center kitchen

Legacy Society

“TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN” - THE O’MALLEY FAMILY

Matt O’Malley and his wife, Karen Birch-O’Malley, discovered Orangewood Foundation almost 10 years ago. As parents of 13-year old Lily, he says, “Karen and I know that some children do not have access to the support structures that other kids have. They are no less deserving of support like stable homes, loving families, good schools, meals, and an education.”



Matt and Karen at the Athletes First Gala

Today, Matt and Karen continue to support Orangewood in a variety of ways, including attending the Athletes First Classic Gala & Golf Event.

“Orangewood fulfills our desire to support children who can grow beyond their current circumstances,” he says. “It feels good to give and know the support we provide is helping others.”

Matt and Karen have also included Orangewood Foundation in their estate plans, making them members of our Legacy Society. “The Bible says, ‘To those who much has been given, much is expected,’” says Matt. “We are fortunate enough to be in a position to help others and not doing so would be a lost opportunity. The opportunity to give, and the needs to be addressed, will not cease when we are gone.”

If you’d like more information about including Orangewood Foundation in your estate plans, please email Carlos Leija, Chief Development Officer, at CLeija@orangewoodfoundation.org.



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Santa Ana, CA
Permit No. 1559

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

WWW.ORANGEWOODFOUNDATION.ORG
1575 E 17TH ST., SANTA ANA, CA 92705
TEL (714) 619-0200



SPRING 2018

Orangewood NEWS



“ “ The staff at the Resource Center are caring and kind. They are always there for me and they are helping me become a better mother. I am so thankful.” – Casandra