Thanking Our Music Mentors

Annual Report

MENTOR & VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Where Are They Now?

GIVING THANKS TO OUR MAJOR DONORS

PLUS:

CEO’s Message • Honor Roll of Donors • Another Success! • Staff Hero and more...
Our Mission
Our mission is to provide innovative and individualized treatment, education, and support services to children, young adults and families to better their lives.

Board Officers
President Malak Kazan
Vice President Dennis Andelak
Vice President Steven Duben
Vice President Leslie King
Secretary Linda McWeeny
Treasurer LeLian Lau

Board Members
Larry Brown
Deborah Kent Clark
Sumako Cohrs
Pamela Duben
Jack Evans
Sheriff Jim McDonnell

Past Presidents (Currently Serving)
Dee Gadbury
Bill Snyder
Terry McWeeny
Gennie O’Meara
Scott Williams

Advisory Board
Carolyn Rodriguez, Co-Chair
Ona Wexler, Co-Chair

OYHFS Executive Staff
Silvio John Orlando, Chief Executive Officer
Maria Bhattachan
Dray Buttrick
Jennifer D’Alvarez
Alan Eskot

Optimist Newsletter Spring 2018
A staff publication of OYHFS
Jennifer D’Alvarez, Editor
Rudy Martinez, Design and Graphics

Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services
6957 N. Figueroa Street L.A., CA 90042
www.OYHFS.org

“Building Productive Lives”

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The New Year often leads to changes for many of us. In our case, it is a major change in leadership of our Advisory Board. For many years, we were fortunate to have the guidance of co-chairs Barbara Moore and Cindy Osbrink, who brought so much energy, innovation, and fun to this hard working group. However, both decided to step down from their positions, but fortunately not from the advisory board itself, necessitating new leadership. We are grateful that the founder of the advisory board and its first chair back in 2000, Ona Wexler, and longtime member and contributor, Carolyn Rodriguez, agreed to co-chair the group. We thank Barbara and Cindy for all they have done and will continue to do and at the same time welcome and congratulate One and Carolyn in their new roles.

As the first Los Angeles agency to become a Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) in accordance with new state regulations, we have been leading the way since August in pioneering this new system of care along with the County departments. While there are certainly many glitches on both sides, a recent assessment from the County resulted in them commending us for fully understanding the system and serving as a role model to other agencies. While we have positively implemented modifications necessary to adhere to the philosophy, procedures and practices of the overall agency.

Meanwhile we are already planning our 2018 Mentor Awards Gala which will take place on October 24, 2018 at the Taglyan Complex in Hollywood. The Humanitarian Award will be given to longtime governing board members Steve and Pam Duben and the Mentor Award will be given to governing and advisory board member Leslie King, who was also the chair of the board at Pacific Lodge.

As usual, I want to thank our countless supporters, volunteers, and of course our over 400 dedicated staff who work together to make us the best we can be.

The Uptown Optimist Club of San Diego has been supporting our agency for many years and has been encouraged to do so by Dennis Andolsek, one of our board vice-presidents who hails from San Diego. The Club recently sold a piece of property and Dennis was able to secure a gift of $25,000 for us from the sale! In recognition of this generous donation, a room on the main floor of our Youth Learning Center will be named after the Club.

We witnessed a changing of the guard as our two longstanding advisory board co-chairs, Barbara Moore and Cindy Osbrink, passed the torch to the new co-chairs, Ona Wexler and Carolyn Rodriguez.

We are so grateful to Cindy and Barbara for fearlessly and tirelessly leading the group for so many years and are certain that Carolyn and Ona will continue providing excellent leadership, guidance, support and enthusiasm.

Photo: From top left, Barbara Moore, Cindy Osbrink, Carolyn Rodriguez and Ona Wexler.

STOCKING STUFFING PROJECT LIFTS CHRISTMAS SPIRITS

Once again, the members of the Advisory Board and their friends provided an enormous boost in Christmas spirit to campus and group home residents with giant hand-made stockings stuffed with holiday presents.

The volunteers crafted 100 huge stockings loaded with gifts any teenager would treasure. Advisory Board members Cindy Osbrink, Jennifer Parker-Stanton, Michaela Pereira, Carolyn Rodriguez, Cheri and Larry Smith, Gina Shafer, Mary Mohammad, Barbara Moore and Susie Parker headed up the project. Each of the stockings was packed with $25 Target gift cards, scarves, wallets, journals, handheld games, toiletries, decks of cards, socks, batteries, and plenty of candy.

NEW CO-CHAIRS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

Please consider including OYHFS in your will. We who have devoted our professional life in the charitable world have seen the good a bequest can provide for our ultimate beneficiary, Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services. Indeed, estate gifts help us serve future generations.

Chief Advancement & Communications Officer, Jennifer D’Alvarez, is available to talk with you confidentially about your gift and estate plans, and to assist you in finding a qualified attorney. Contact her at (323) 443-3023; Email: jdalvarez@oyhfs.org

SAVE THE DATE: 2018 Mentor Awards Gala October 24, 2018 Location: Taglyan Complex in Hollywood
Meet Cesar Herrarte, a mentor to one of our Main Campus residents and a Human Services major at California State University, Dominguez Hills. Cesar has enjoyed volunteering at Optimist and shared the following:

"I was looking for a place to do my internship and heard many great things about Optimist from my professor including how supportive the Volunteer Coordinator Brenda Watts-Bell was."

"I've always wanted to become a mentor because I have a desire to help others succeed and live a better life, especially youth. I consider myself to be compassionate, and most of all, understanding, which is what our kids need."

"The days I meet with my mentee are very fulfilling. We play catch on the field, I watch him play basketball in the gym, and we eat dinner in the dining room. I feel the match between my mentee and I is off to a good start and I look forward to spending more time with him."

Cesar Herrarte, Mentor

Martha Pineda has been involved with Optimist for four months as a volunteer in our after school tutoring program. She has a great deal of experience with kids and the school setting. She worked at CALS Charter Middle School as an ASES tutor and for the LA's BEST after school program where she mentored and assisted students with homework.

Martha explained, "It’s been an honor to have the opportunity to become part of Optimist. I joined as a volunteer and mentor because I wanted to make a difference in someone's life. I enjoy sharing my knowledge with teens and guiding them to make better choices and appreciate that I was allowed to provide some of my time to support a youth. In the future, I would gladly like to become a counselor for youth so that I can provide empathy, guidance, and focused care. It’s important that no child or teen be left behind during tough times."

Martha Pineda, Volunteer

Grant Gordon drove by our Pacific Lodge campus for several years before stopping in one day in 2013. He began volunteering as a tutor in a classroom setting. He enjoyed working with the boys, learning about their lives and their challenges, and helping them with their schoolwork. Grant came back several months ago lending his support to our boys as a mentor. He shares his mentoring experience below:

"I feel the one-on-one time I have with my mentee is a positive experience for us both. Although we live in the same town, we inhabit completely different worlds. I share my experiences and insights with my mentee, encourage good habits and positive ideas. I recognize how challenging it is to be in his shoes. I remember how I felt as a teenager. We share possibilities and discuss ways in which he might improve his life. Being a mentor is a very rewarding experience, and I encourage others to try it too."

Grant Gordon, Mentor

"I look at where I’m at today and realize that most of my success is owed to the mentors that were in my life. - Kendrick Lamar"

Bob Levy, Volunteer

We're honored to recognize Bob Levy who has been volunteering at our Pacific Lodge campus since November 2017. He has linked our residents to different resources and is currently offering drum lessons to the boys. Below, Bob shares the reasons he volunteers:

"As a Director of Foster Family Recruitment with FosterAll, I’ve had the pleasure to help connect the faith community to the boys at the Pacific Lodge campus through our Foster Care Program."

"As a foster/adopt parent myself, I am now an “empty nester” and really miss my time with kids. As a child in foster care myself, a few of the things that I was able to enjoy, that gave me hope and identity, were the great men in my life that mentored me and playing the drums. The rhythms of life are all around us and being able to create them make us feel like we fit. It's the simple rhythms that make it fun. I am always impressed by the rhythms that the boys come up with. I want to give these boys something that can give them joy and confidence during this really hard time in their lives, and when they play I get to see the joy...the confidence will come later."

Bob, you are essential to helping us achieve our mission. Thank you for your hard work and for the impact you’re making on the residents.

Order a Personalized Tile

Put your name or someone else's name on a personalized tile in the Optimist Youth Homes EveryChild Youth Learning Center building and memorialize your commitment to Optimist forever. Large tiles (12"x12") are available for $500 and small tiles (6"x6") are $250.

If you are interested, please contact Silvia Hidalgo at (323) 441-3022 or by email: silvia.hidalgo@optimist.org by May 20, 2018. Tiles will be installed in June. Due to the labor and costs involved, we only do inscriptions once a year.

Your tax-deductible support will be remembered for decades to come by thousands of children who come here for help.
Thank You For Your Support! Please Visit Us at www.OYHFS.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2017
Building Productive Lives

Thank You For Your Support! Please Visit Us at www.OYHFS.org

OYHFS Honor Roll of Donors
November 1, 2017 - February 15, 2018

We provide quality service, while striving for continuous improvement

We embody honesty and accountability in all our interactions with clients and staff

We treat all staff, clients, and their families with the respect and dignity they deserve

We serve as constant advocates for the best interests of our clients and families

We value and honor the diversity of our clients and staff

We serve as advocates for the best interests of our clients and families
Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services has come a long way since our humble beginnings on the Strickland's chicken ranch 112 years ago. Optimist's programs have grown tremendously while staying true to our original purpose of providing high-risk children with not just a home, but hope. Since our inception, Optimist has continued its mission to provide innovative and individualized treatment, education, and support services to children, young adults and families to better their lives.

Now entering its second century, Optimist has become one of the largest residential treatment programs serving high-risk youth in California. A multi-service organization, it provides a broad array of services and programs supporting the well-being of youth and families from throughout Southern California. A non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, we provide the following programs for at-risk children: Residential and Behavioral Care, Independent Living, Community Based Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs , a Charter School, Youth Vocational Center & Cultural Arts, Community & Residential Mental Health Services, Mentoring, Family Finding, Foster Care & Adoption Services, Wraparound Services and Aftercare Services. Optimist Youth Homes and Family Services continues to stay at the forefront of youth and family service agencies. Our biggest accomplishment is the difference we make in the lives of the high-risk youth we serve. We can proudly say that 60% of youth emancipating from Optimist make a successful transition to life in the community during the first year following their 18th birthday. Approximately 20% of our youth go on to attend college or vocational training school upon their graduation from high school. Optimist is a beacon of hope and opportunity, providing high-risk youth with resources and tools to regain and rebuild their lives. We are proud to share our low administrative costs that are consistently 11% or less.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF JUNE 30, 2017

ASSETS
Cash & Bank Deposits $ 412,449
Receivables (Net) $ 6,761,224
Pledges Receivable $ 115,000
Investments (Securities & Bonds) $ 3,729,408
Split Interest Agreement $ 16,326
Prepays & Other Assets $ 149,059
Property & Equipment (Net) $ 10,830,607
Total Assets $ 22,023,873

LIABILITIES
Accounts Payable $ 1,444,131
Accrued Liabilities $ 1,760,798
Accrued Unemployment Liability $ 25,555
Lines of credit $ 1,000,000
Notes Payable -----------
Total Liabilities $ 4,230,484
Net Assets $ 17,793,389
Total Liabilities & Net Assets $ 22,023,873

ETHNICITY STATISTICS AGENCY WIDE

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REVENUE: $5,253,120 EXPENSES: $5,104.5%

TREND IN REVENUE AND EXPENSES

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THREATENING BEHAVIORAL SERVICES (TBS): We offer TBS to children, adolescents and their families to ensure that the client can remain in the least restrictive environment possible and can transition between treatment levels when necessary.

RECREATION AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES: The Recreation Department provides a variety of on and off grounds activities for the residents in an effort to help teach them the meaning of healthy, pro-social leisure time activity.

FOUR COMMUNITY BASED SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS: Community-based STRTP's throughout Los Angeles County (two of which are for girls) offer residents an alternative approach to the main campus. Some residents are graduates of our main campus who no longer need its more formal structure thereby enabling a quick transition into mainstream community living.

FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION SERVICES: Our Foster Family & Adoption Agency (FFA) was established to find loving, safe and permanent homes for infants, children and teens. Professional social workers and staff recruit, train and certify foster and adoptive parents and provide regular follow-up care.

MENTORING: A caring, trusting relationship between a youth and an adult mentor can provide enlightenment, incentive and encouragement in all areas of a youth's life, including educational attainments, professional aspirations and an appropriate model of healthy adult living. Mentors can provide tutoring and educational assistance, guiding and supporting higher educational, vocational and career goals while becoming a supportive, caring adult figure.

PROJECT FATHERHOOD: Project Fatherhood is designed to help fathers become more involved in their children's lives. Residents who are fathers meet in this support group to develop strong paternal skills, and the fathers, or male role-models, of our residents are also encouraged to attend a support group to improve their relationships with their sons. Additionally, there is a "Significant Others" group for relatives (aunts, grandparents, older siblings) to meet in a supportive setting and foster improved relationships with the residents.

OPTIMIST CHARTER SCHOOL: Optimist Charter School opened in the fall of 2013 and is authorized by the Los Angeles County Office of Education. It features a one to ten teacher/student ratio and is WASC accredited. Students are offered accredited academic classes as well as electives. A workability program is also offered whereby students can work part-time in our cafeteria, maintenance or laundry departments or in our auto shop. Special Education needs are respected and Optimist Charter School is a member of the LAC-SELPA.

FAMILY FINDING: Children in the foster care system often feel completely alone without parents or extended family for support or a sense of belonging. Our Family Finding Program attempts to locate, connect and establish relationships between foster children and family members who have been lost and may be able to provide new direction and stability to a child.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: In partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, we offer individual and family counseling sessions for our residential and foster family placed children and their families, as well as community based services for children and families in need. The goal is to improve self-esteem while assisting with adjustment issues and family relations. Program graduates and their families who reside in Los Angeles County receive follow-up via Aftercare services.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS: Optimist's Community Mental Health Programs are in place to stabilize families and avoid institutional placement of their children. The clinics are located in Los Angeles, Woodland Hills and Palmdale and we also offer treatment services to those incarcerated in L.A. County Juvenile Hall. Additionally, we provide comprehensive mental health services in several school settings.

WRAPAROUND PROGRAM: Wraparound is a community based program designed to assist with keeping the family together and to avoid out-of-home placements. The program utilizes a team approach to provide services in the home and community and attempts to do "whatever it takes" to support the child remaining in the home and with the family. A therapist, parent-partner, case manager, and wrap facilitator make up the agency's treatment team.
Where Are They Now?

“I would not be here today if the staff at Optimist hadn’t stepped in to help guide and advocate for me. I learned so much from Optimist.” – Sandra (Sammie) Martinez

Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services has been part of the Los Angeles community for over a century. Recently, one of our former residents came back to see us and share her story. Meet Sandra (Sammie) Martinez:

I had just turned 13 when I was brought to Optimist. In 1980, I was placed in the Transitional Day Treatment Program where we were picked up from home at 6am and returned after 6pm.

When I came to Optimist my grades and attitude were all F’s. I was a gang member and runaway at the age of 12, sniffing paint, smoking PCP, drinking alcohol and in and out of juvenile hall. Looking for a way to escape from my alcoholic, abusive mother, I decided to participate in Optimist’s program. My twin sister and I were the first females in the program and I was intimidated and scared.

After a few months, I started to take interest in school and began participating in individual counseling sessions. Things were great for a while but I struggled with my home and gang life and was sent back to juvenile hall several times. My probation officer Bill Robinson, my counselor Ray Vasquez, the director Chuck Hapel, and psychologist Bob Osterman all advocated for me to return to Optimist each time.

When I became pregnant, the staff at Optimist was supportive and helped me any way they could. I got a job on campus with Kelly the janitor and then off campus at a senior center. Olivia the OD (Officer of the Day) was like a second mother to me. She helped answer baby questions and taught me how to care about myself more. Christy, the head of the kitchen, fed me so well because she knew we didn’t have food at home.

I would not be here today if the staff at Optimist hadn’t stepped in to help guide and advocate for me. I learned so much from Optimist.

When I graduated in 1984, I decided I wanted to be a probation officer. Unfortunately that never happened due to some bad decisions which landed me in prison. However, I kept all the helpful people I encountered and their teachings with me and when I was released I made a decision to give back and make amends within my community for all the pain and trauma I caused.

Now, at the age of 51, I am sober, work for an organization called Gang Intervention Youth Development and have been volunteering in my community for 15 years. I also volunteer in three California prisons with men and women who are doing life. I live my life full so when I leave this world I will be empty with nothing else to give. I am forever grateful to Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services.

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Leonard Engren is a former resident of our main campus who recently visited to express his gratitude:

“I came to Optimist in June of 2014 and quickly learned that staying busy was really important for me to be successful in my program. In the beginning, my struggle was attending group therapy sessions and the overall structure of the program - it was really hard. However, some of the staff including Dennis, Ziggy, and Brian really helped a lot.”

“I was the only Level 3, I worked in the kitchen and played basketball. Before coming to Optimist, my grade point average was 1.9 and by the time I left, it was 3.89”.

“I think learning all the things I did at Optimist prepared me to balance my life. Today, I work in construction and landscape throughout Los Angeles. I graduated high school and received my diploma this past June. The main thing I learned at Optimist was to never keep secrets or hold information because it was and is very harmful. It is better to release it“.

Congratulations on your success, Leonard, and keep up the good work!

STAFF HERO

Fifteen years is a long time to work as a youth development counselor in residential treatment yet Mayra Cohen of our South Bay STRTP recently achieved this milestone.

Mayra has spent most of her career working with children. Prior to joining our Optimist family, she served as a teacher’s assistant, activities coordinator and a lifeguard.

Her performance reviews are excellent and she has been awarded an “above and beyond” pin more than once. She is truly dedicated to the youth we serve and is nurturing (especially with her cooking) while at the same time providing appropriate limits and structure. As such, she is well respected and liked by the hundreds of boys she has helped over the years.

We are thankful to have Mayra as part of our team and are happy to recognize her as a Staff Hero.

Using Music And Rhythm To Help Kids

The Optimist Music Mentor program pairs residents with a musically talented adult who either teaches them how to play an instrument, write songs, helps develop their singing ability and/or assists with music production.

This is a volunteer program and we are fortunate to have a talented group of dedicated music mentors who we thanked at a special reception in December for their commitment and the tremendous impact they’ve had on our kids.

If you or someone you know is musically inclined and potentially interested in becoming a Music Mentor, please contact Brenda Watts-Bell at: bwatts@oyhfs.org.

Pictured: Left to Right - Dr. Darby Saxby, Dan Long, Cathy Baum and Rosie Tucker

Thanking Our Music Mentors

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THE PACIFIC LODGE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

The Pacific Lodge Community Mental Health program held an open house on December 13th for staff to walk through the Boeckmann cottage, which is currently the Outpatient Mental Health Services Center, and learn about the different services being offered.

The Community Mental Health Program serves clients ages 5 – 20 who have a variety of presenting problems including depression, disruptive behavior, anxiety, behavioral problems, and past exposure to trauma. We provide individual and family therapy, case management and support for parents. We use evidence based practices, such as Seeking Safety, MAP and Triple P.

PLAYA VISTA OPTIMISTS DONATE DUFFEL BAGS TO FOSTER FAMILY PROGRAM

Bob Sommer and other members of the Playa Vista Optimists recently donated 27 overnight/welcome duffel bags for the clients in our our Foster Family Program. This is an ongoing project the club is committed to continuing and they donated a similar number of bags last April.

Thank you, Bob, for leading the cause, and to the rest of the club for your efforts and generosity.

HOLIDAY PROJECT WITH THE ROTARY CLUB OF WOODLAND HILLS

During the holidays, the Rotary Club of Woodland Hills and the boys at our Pacific Lodge campus made cards for patients at a rehabilitation center. The goal was to make the season a little brighter for the patients who had to spend the holidays in the center.

The project was led by Rotary Club of Woodland Hills’ members Eva Hainer, Gwyn Petrick, Jeff Stern, Joan Kay, Joyce Pearson, Michelle Goldwater and Sheri Polak.

The boys distributed the cards and were given the opportunity to let the patients know they cared about them. It was a win-win for everyone.

THE ELAC DREAM WEAVERS HELP US PAINT

Meet some amazing Optimist volunteers from East Los Angeles College’s student club, the ELAC Dream Weavers.

The ELAC Dream Weavers is a student organization that has serve as a network for current and former foster youth since 2012. They believe that through the weaving of student engagement in mentoring, workshops, and personal development, they can inspire and support each other to realize the dream of obtaining higher educational degrees.

The group recently volunteered and painted the rooms of our Valley Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program. Their efforts made a huge difference and the home is much more inviting and cozy as a result. Thanks, ELAC Dream Weavers!

SHALEEK SMITHSpeaks from the Heart

Shaleek Smith, a motivational speaker and career counselor for the United States Marine Corps, recently visited our Pacific Lodge Campus to speak to the boys.

His goal was to provide help and inspiration to our residents. As Shaleek puts it, “Nothing will ever touch my heart like speaking to kids who have their whole lives ahead of them. I hope that my words truly resonate with them so that when they return to their worlds, they decide to rise above all adversity and become as successful as they can be. This is truly why I began this endeavor in my life - to inspire and spark change in the world.”

Thank you, Shaleek, for your inspiring speech. Your passion and enthusiasm was appreciated by all.

GENEROSITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS

Greka and Manny Gutierrez hand-delivered a huge donation of Christmas gifts to our Palmdale Foster Family & Adoptions office last December. They collected the gifts with help from their son, MannyMua, a make-up artist, YouTuber, beauty blogger, and beauty influencer who has millions of YouTube followers.

For the second year in a row, the Gutierrez family used Manny’s platform to collect toys for foster children and partnered with Morphe stores at the Brea mall where they held a three-hour meet-and-greet with Manny and collected over 1,500 toys.
Giving Children a Second Chance

Acceptance.Love.Leadership Hosts Holiday Lunch

Words can’t express how grateful we are to Bita Ghatan and Acceptance.Love. Leadership (ALL) for hosting an incredible holiday lunch for our residents. The boys loved all of the activities and gifts and definitely had a memorable and wonderful day. Here is what Bita Ghatan, the founder of ALL, said about why she started organizing these holiday parties for the boys:

“I grew up across the street from Pacific Lodge thinking that one day I would do something for them. About seven years ago, I teamed up with a group of my colleagues at the Learning and Behavioral Center and we decided to set up a special day to empower the boys and bring them joy. The following year we got more organized and created a nonprofit called ALL (Acceptance, Love and Leadership) and our group of volunteers quickly grew including our friends and family members. As much as the boys look forward to seeing us, we are excited every year to see them and spread our love.”

Once again, thank you from all of us. Your generosity makes an immediate difference in the lives of our young men!

10th Annual Michael E. Curry Football Banquet

On December 19, Optimist hosted the 10th annual Michael E. Curry Football Banquet for the football team.

Held at a Los Angeles restaurant, the players were encouraged to invite their families to celebrate their achievements. Each player was given a trophy, a bag of goodies, their team jersey, and the coaches gave a nice summary of each player’s best plays of the season. Advisory board member (and a member of Mike Curry’s) Shehab Mohammad presented the coveted Michael E. Curry Leadership Award given to the player who best exemplified growth in athleticism, appropriate behavior and scholastic excellence. The award and banquet were created in memory of Mike Curry, a passionate supporter of the Home and a past Chair of the Advisory Board.

The Rotary Club of Woodland Hills Leads Project to Create Food Baskets for Needy Families

During the week of Thanksgiving, the Rotary Club of Woodland Hills and the residents at our Pacific Lodge campus made twelve food baskets and donated them along with gift certificates to those most in need. Here is what some of the boys had to say about this experience:

“I liked the project. It was fun helping others out and writing notes for the gift cards.”

“What I think about this project is that it’s something new. I never thought of it as a chance of giving back.”

“I think this idea was fun to do and it would be cool to do something like this again for people in need.”

Thanks to our amazing volunteers for giving back and creating a caring community! Thank you, Rotary Club of Woodland Hills, for helping our residents experience the fulfillment gained through giving back.

Giving Thanks To Our Major Donors

The 2017 holiday appeal was incredibly successful, bringing in a total of $115,000 and we are grateful to all of our loyal supporters for including us in their year-end allocations.

We’re aware of how many organizations there are to choose from and we’re fortunate to have several donors fall under our Major Donor Category ($5,000+) for the 2017 calendar year. They are as follows:

OYHFS and its Executive Staff Provide Holiday Donations to Families in Need

Pacific Lodge Campus Christmas Party

Everyone Loves Bowling

Viking Charities Provides Christmas Dinner to 23 Optimist Families

Many of our families struggle to provide for their children and can’t afford a real Christmas dinner. Thanks to Viking Charities, 23 of our families received food baskets containing a turkey and trimmings for a full Christmas Day meal.

We are so thankful to Viking Charities for being so generous and making the holidays brighter for the families that are in greatest need.

Thank you for your support! Please visit us at www.OYHFS.org.
Pacific Lodge Campus Rental Information

Rent a Space Today and Help At-Risk Youth!

Our Pacific Lodge Campus offers rental space for meetings, trainings, film shoots and special events. The facility houses an athletic field, a full-size indoor basketball court, parking lots, a dining hall, conference rooms and a chapel.

Our large gym is available for team practices, clinics and private runs. You can also host basketball camps in the gym; in fact, Andy Dardaine’s Basketball Summer Camp for young people ages 8-17 is the newest addition to our rental team.

Please contact us at 818-657-3128 or development@plys.org to make a reservation for your next event.

GYM/AUDITORIUM

- 5,700 sq. foot gym floor
- Seating capacity
- Bleachers: 120
- Dinner service: 300
- 28’X16’ raised stage adjoining gym floor
- Kitchen facilities and restrooms
- Handicapped lift

Join us for our 16th Annual College and Career Day
Thursday, May 3, 2018 from 10:00AM-11:30 AM

Our annual College and Career Day aims to provide students with helpful information about educational options and various career opportunities. This event will motivate and inspire our young people to dream beyond their current circumstances and help them prepare to take the necessary steps to lead a successful life after graduation.

If you would like to help our high school students plan for success in the workforce and/or in college, please call Silvia Velasco at (323) 443-3022 or via email: svelasco@oyhfs.org.

Thank you, in advance, for your support.