

# LA CASA

Orangewood Children's Home Auxiliary Organization



## Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 02 | Summer 2020 | La Casa

### *Orangewood under Quarantine*

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Like the rest of the world, Orangewood confronted unexpected challenges in addressing the threat of COVID-19 and ensuring the safety and happiness of residents. Here is a snapshot of how La Casa aided its efforts.

### *Inside This Issue*

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Orangewood: A COVID-19 Update.

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La Casa: Who We Are, What We Do.

\*Note: The faces of Orangewood residents have been obscured for their privacy and protection.

## Orangewood: A COVID-19 Update

These are unprecedented times for Orangewood. While social workers scrambled to reduce occupancy and place children in foster homes, Orangewood employees focused on tending to the needs of remaining residents in light of social distancing guidelines and stay-at-home orders. New safety protocols prohibited non-County employees from entering Orangewood facilities, resulting in the suspension of parent/child in-person visitation. “It was difficult in the beginning,” recalls Dustin G., Orangewood’s Recreation Director. “We had to get creative.”

Under normal circumstances, Dustin’s job entails planning, organizing, and facilitating on-site and off-site activities. The COVID-19 Pandemic compelled Dustin and his colleagues to think outside the box, limiting activities to those that can be enjoyed outdoors by small groups of residents. “Because of La Casa’s support, we were able to purchase large plastic sheets and inflatable pools which we are using for a variety of outdoor activities,” Dustin explains. “We played ‘Slip ‘n Slide’ and water kickball. We even built an obstacle course!” For a little fun in the evening, Dustin and his team converted Orangewood’s gym into a roller skating rink. La Casa provided funding to purchase enough roller skates to supply every resident with a set during his or her stay.

This summer, Dustin is excited to plan



An Orangewood resident splashes on a DIY "Slip 'n Slide" constructed from materials purchased with La Casa funds.

cookouts and make use of Orangewood's new "awesome BBQ smoker" - an amenity that will be available soon thanks to La Casa member contributions. “The kids are just grateful...we are all just grateful to La Casa and everything you guys do,” Dustin expresses.

### La Casa: Who We Are, What We Do

“Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) is a 24-hour emergency shelter care facility, operated and owned by the County of Orange Social Services Agency for children who have been abused, abandoned,

and/or neglected. OCFC is licensed by the California Department of Social Services as a group home” (Retrieved from [http://ssa.ocgov.com/ssa\\_volunteer/orangewood](http://ssa.ocgov.com/ssa_volunteer/orangewood)).

La Casa is a non-profit public benefit Corporation, organized for charitable purposes. La Casa’s mission is to foster interest and community involvement in OCFC. More specifically, La Casa’s purpose is to engage in fundraising activities and to otherwise solicit monetary contributions for the purchase of items of personal property and services required to meet the needs of children under the care of OCFC. La Casa also solicits non-monetary gifts of personal property intended for the use and enjoyment by OCFC residents. In short, we strive to ease the trauma and pain a child experiences when he or she is placed in foster care.



Dustin and his team convert Orangewood's gym into a roller skating rink.



# La Casa Membership Contribution Form

Please complete all sections of this form. *Thank you for your generous support!*

## Contact Information

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Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address (cont) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ *By providing my email address, I opt-in to receive emails from La Casa.*

## Donation Amount

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\$35     \$45     \$100     \$250     \$500    Other amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Information

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La Casa accepts payments in the form of personal checks, cashier's checks, and PayPal. Please make checks payable to *La Casa*. To make a donation via PayPal, please enter [och.lacasa@gmail.com](mailto:och.lacasa@gmail.com) in the recipient's email address field.

Send completed donation forms via postal mail: **La Casa/OCH**  
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