

# LA CASA

**Orangewood Children's Home Auxiliary Organization**



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## 2020 End of Year Highlights

**A haunted house, winter wonderland, Pinewood Derby, and more!**

Covid-19 poses daunting challenges for Orangewood and the entire child welfare system. Thanks to La Casa, Orangewood kids were able to partake in various holiday festivities while still observing statewide safety guidelines. This past summer, residents spent Labor Day weekend learning to cook on Orangewood's new BBQ-smoker - an amenity purchased with La Casa funds. During the Thanksgiving break, Orangewood fostered creativity by holding a Pinewood Derby in which residents competed for the best DIY model car. For Halloween, Orangewood's staff constructed a haunted house out of cardboard sheets. Residents dressed up as their favorite Disney and Marvel characters for a night of on-site trick-or-treating. In celebration of the Christmas season, Orangewood's dedicated and untiring staff transformed a playground into a Christmas tree wonderland, borrowing the theme from our annual fundraising event. La Casa funded the event which included a snow machine, costumes, cookie and stocking decorating, and Santa Clause. Finally, no winter would be complete without a trip to the mountains. La Casa sent Orangewood residents on an all expense paid trip to Big Bear Mountain. Mark your calendars: Christmas Tree Wonderland is scheduled for Nov. 29, 2021!

# La Casa: Who we are and what we do.

## Board of Directors' election results

### The 2021 Board of Directors

La Casa is pleased to announce the election of its 2021 Board of Directors, including the appointment of two new officers. Tim Branoff continues to serve as President; Alison Brenner holds the position of Second Vice President (Membership). Charlene Olivares continues to serve as Secretary. Sue Creager, our veteran board member, continues to hold the position of Treasurer. New appointments include Debbie Moss, who holds the position of First Vice President (Nominating), and Detlef Herrmann who serves as Parliamentarian.

We are also pleased to inform you that Dustin Gerard, Orangewood's former Recreation Director, has decided to serve as a La Casa board member. Dustin's knowledge and experience make him an invaluable asset.

Thank you to all who participated in our election. We appreciate your time and interest.



Labor Day cookout on Orangewood's new BBQ smoker.



Ski trip to Big Bear Mountain.



A snow machine helps to transform Orangewood into a winter wonderland.

### La Casa: The Who's and What's

“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.



Orangewood residents make model cars out of materials purchased with La Casa funds.