

LOS ANGELES Orphanage GUILD



SPRING-SUMMER 2017

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HANDS ON History

Maryvale girls visit Los Angeles Fire Department
Museum & Memorial located at Old Engine Co. No. 27



Indy Carey
Guild President

MISSION Statement

The Los Angeles Orphanage Guild is a charitable organization of women whose members are dedicated to act as ambassadors in the community, raising funds and awareness to ensure that Maryvale can continue the wonderful work that they do on behalf of the children in their care.

Dearest Guild Members and Friends,

It has been an amazing two years of growth for the Guild. We have raised more money than ever in our history. We will be presenting a check to Maryvale at the May General meeting that is the direct result of all our members' hard work.

We are now on a new course in the Guild. This was a big transition year for all of us. As an organization we have taken the Guild to the next level in fundraising; this is the place we need to be in order to compete in a world of so many viable charities. Next, we want to investigate corporate sponsorship for our two big events, the *Holiday Luncheon* and the *Heart to Heart Gala*. Please contact us if you have experience with this aspect of the business of charities.

Through our newly launched and user-friendly website, we have been attracting new individual donors who have found out about our work and want to help the children of Maryvale. Maryvale is an expensive place to operate because they maintain the highest standards of care. All the staff have been trained in the Trauma Informed Care approach which is so important in dealing with the many traumatized children who have been placed in their care.

We have a new program, Greater Giving, which is enhancing our ability to take donations, make online sales, and in the future we might be able to offer our supporters the opportunity to bid online for some of our wonderful auction items. We are moving forward. Tell your friends and business partners about www.laorphanageguild.com. Continue to send us important articles you have found regarding trafficking of children in Los Angeles and important books you suggest we read. We want the Guild to be meaningful to all members and broaden what we can offer to newly interested people. I encourage you to check out the Junior Guild's Calendar of events. They are our unsung heroes and give their blood, sweat and tears to our girls at Maryvale.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the following friends and Guild members:

To *Wendy Burch*, who continues to be our Mistress of Ceremonies for the "Be a Friend" November Luncheon. She is an amazing woman, an asset to our fundraising and a big part of the enjoyment of the Luncheon.

To *Loc Waters* for his stellar performance and wardrobe choices as Master of Ceremonies at the Heart to Heart Safari Gala. He is an example of unselfish commitment to the Guild. One day I pray he wins the wine raffle!

To *Jackie Brooks*, our Gala Honoree, who brought her gracious perspective on how pressing the needs of Maryvale children can be. She was heartfelt and impressive and her group of friends livened up our party. I am positive her speech put people in a mood of generosity for the Live Auction and the Funded Item, which was playground equipment for the Maryvale children.

To *Cindy Fairbank*, *Patti DiTullio*, *Debbie Buderwitz* and the *Live Auction* crew who are directly responsible for sending me to Africa on Safari this summer. To the remarkable Silent Auction ladies, *Betsy Emanuel* and *Margo Gleitman*, for collecting wonderful auction items. Thank you to *Melinda Woodruff* and *Mary Anne Atkisson* and all the *Gala committee members* for an incredible job well done. Many wonderful things happened at our Gala and I think we made many new Guild friends. If you have never been to one of our Galas, I strongly suggest you join us next year.

There are so many people to thank that I might as well list our entire member roster, but you know who you are, as you are always the people I have counted on over these last two years and who will continue to stand up for all children. I have depended on my Board of Directors and am most grateful for your help and guidance. In my book, every member is valuable to the Guild.

You are a phenomenal group of women. I have loved every minute of being your President.

Love and respectfully yours,
Indy Carey

We have a new program, Greater Giving, which is enhancing our ability to take donations, make online sales, and in the future we might be able to offer our supporters the opportunity to bid online for some of our wonderful auction items.



Clockwise from left: Painting by Maryvale resident, Glorianna, which now hangs in the Development Office; Diana Doyle & Anne Sisteron at the May jewelry event hosted by Anne Sisteron; Original hand made copper foil stained glass in Safari Gala's Silent Auction; and Steve Gunther, Maryvale President, giving a farewell hug to Sister Martha Garcia.



highlights

of 2016-17

- | Annual Patron Campaign for 2016-2017 has generated approximately \$35,000. See page 11 for a list of donors.
- | The Guild collected \$3,397 from the Anne Sisteron Jewelry event
- | "Heart to Heart" Safari Gala brought in a net amount of \$170,000
- | November Luncheon earned the Guild \$35,000
- | At the May General Meeting Maryvale was presented with a check for \$200,000. It was a good year!



2016-2017
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Left to right: Nancy Elliott, Betsy Emanuel, Indy Carey, President, Karen Knott, Diana Doyle, Angela Siuta-Pechin, Nancy Lewis, Patti Chertok, Melinda Woodruff. Missing: Patricia McVerry, Patti DiTullio.



Hands on History:

Maryvale girls visit the Los Angeles Fire Department's Museum & Memorial located at Old Engine Co. No. 27. This is a Cultural Heritage Monument.

President
Bette Baer



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LOS ANGELES ORPHANAGE GUILD JUNIORS

Orphanage Guild Juniors closed out 2016 with another wonderful Christmas Party with super-sized Christmas stockings presented to each of the Maryvale girls by our favorite Santa. Along with the teens, we included the "little girls" (6-12 years old) from the Emergency Placement Center to join us in this year's celebration. Special guests included Trey Carlisle, an ABC 7 "Cool Kid" Honoree, Patrick Blake Leeper, an eight-time Paralympic Track & Field International Medalist and Raymundo, a Latin Pop Singer & Songwriter. And as always, everyone was out on the dance floor...even Sister Alicia!

January was a trip to the Los Angeles Fire Department Museum & Memorial located at Old Engine Co. No. 27. We viewed fire engines and fire apparatus dating from the 1880's. February found us at the California Science Center to enjoy the PIXAR Exhibit along with space shuttle Endeavour and an amazing IMAX movie "Dream Big," featuring young female engineers. In May we're off to the newly renovated Petersen Automotive Museum. In June we'll join together for Monserrat's high school graduation with gifts and a dinner to celebrate her outstanding accomplishments. Mostly we wish her the very best.

We also wish to reflect on Glorianna, whose story you'll read on these pages. She has been a joyful addition to our many years of activities. She told us early on that she hated getting up early in the morning but wouldn't miss our activities because she knew "the OGD ladies would never disappoint." She received our \$500 scholarship last year and used every penny for her college art supplies.

California State Bill AB-403 went into effect January 2017 and requires many new training details to be implemented by volunteers who are directly involved with and have hands-on with the Maryvale girls. We are pleased that Orphanage Guild Juniors have committed to this transition and are complying with the on-line, in-class sessions as well as CPR and First Aid Training.



AUTO DRIVE

Juniors chaperone Maryvale girls at Petersen Automotive Museum.



CPR TRAINING

L/R Patty Cruikshank, Melinda Woodruff, Alexia Ashton learn proper lifesaving techniques.



Her Story

I know I've been blessed. I have endured more than most, and the stories of my childhood have made people cry. But I am here to tell you that anything is possible. Last September I spent my first day at Pasadena City College, majoring in digital media, where I hope to transfer to UCLA. It seems like it's taken me a lifetime to get here. But I'm here! Even though I suffer from chronic insomnia, I get up at 4 a.m. to take the bus to school. Nothing is easy, but you can never give up. Just listen to my story.

When I was only 2, I became a foster child. The Department of Child and Family Services removed me from my mother's care; we were living on the streets. Initially, my foster home seemed stable. Eventually however, my foster parents became abusive and I moved again.

My whole life changed when I was 5 and placed at Maryvale. I didn't know what to expect from a residential group home, and so I decided not to expect anything so I wouldn't be disappointed again. But I learned that Maryvale was different. Maryvale has kind and compassionate people who surround me with love.

You have to remember that I was 5 and used to being an only child. I was alone and comfortable with silence. But at Maryvale, I was surrounded by girls, and it was noisy and different. Although it was intimidating at first, I quickly learned that relationships form the foundation of therapy and care at Maryvale. I learned to accept and believe in the love and consideration from the staff who advocated for and comforted me; more importantly, perhaps, was that I finally learned to love myself.

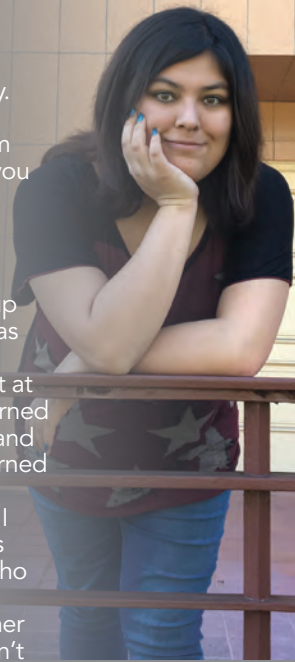
I've been at Maryvale for 12 years; this place is the only home I've known. As I grew and encountered challenges, I learned the hard way that the choices we make in life can define us for a long time. Even though my childhood was troubled and far different than other children who were blessed to have a mom and dad, I grew to care for those who gave me strength.

The toughest time was when I was 12 or 13. My best friend was a bad influence on me. Instead of lifting each other up, we ended up damaging each other. When she was hospitalized and then sent to another group home, I wouldn't eat or sleep. I felt my life had ended. I wanted to go where she went. But then I got a wake-up call!

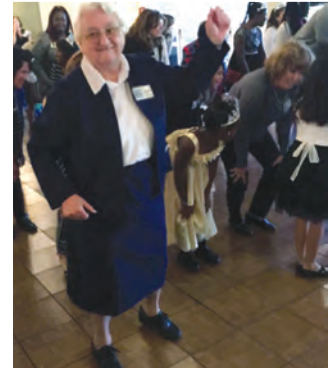
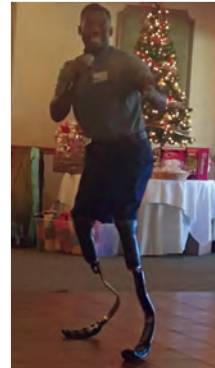
I'm so glad my therapist was honest with me – she told me that if I didn't turn things around now, I too, would have to leave Maryvale forever. I loved Maryvale, and I loved my friend, but I wasn't going to give up my life for her. I still feel guilty about my decision, but I knew I had to control my emotions and make smarter decisions.

I realized the girls who used their situations as a disability were getting held back in school. I didn't want that to be me. So I charged ahead, did everything to fit in socially and studied harder. Of course, there were days when I wanted to pull the covers over my head and plunge deeper into my depression and anxiety. I knew though, that by doing that I would be handicapping myself because people start thinking you are incapable of doing what you know you can do. I did whatever I had to do to get good grades and I found out that I enjoyed school. So I tell girls who are younger to do the best you possible can. Don't let life's challenges handicap you.

At Maryvale I found people who never gave up on me, who gave me as much as I needed to grow – even when the road got rough for those caring for me. For a long time I didn't believe I could make it. But I did. I'm going to get somewhere. Wait and see.



Junior Guild members at the Fire Dept. Museum: L/R: Pam Somermeier, Melinda Woodruff, Susan Frazier, Bette Baer, Glorianna, Mary Borowy, Linda Fisher, Patty Cruikshank. Below, Maryvale Girls explore Fire Station #27 Honor Wall.



CHRISTMAS PARTY 2016 Clockwise from upper left: Guests Trey Carlisle & Patrick Blake Leeper signing autographs; Patrick Blake Leeper guest speaker; Sister Alicia dancing at the party; Juniors making oversized xmas stockings for Maryvale; Christmas table centerpieces.





2017 Heart to Heart SAFARI GALA

March 24 | Four Seasons Hotel

The Safari Gala was a sell-out, the first time ever!

As Guild members, family and friends entered the Safari Gala they passed through the LAOG "Red Carpet" to have their photo taken. Then wandering through the incredible array of items in the Silent Auction, the Oscar de la Renta, Hawaii and wine raffles, guests were able to sip wine and snack on delicious hors d'oeuvres.

This was a magical evening, with exciting animal lighting dancing around the walls, and beautiful music.

Our Live Auction featured an 8 day Safari to South Africa, tickets to Hamilton, an evening with Jimmy Kimmel, a 10 course meal at Michaels in Santa Monica, plus vacation stays at Balboa Island and Santa Inez. Loc Waters was the Master of Ceremonies and everyone enjoyed his fun and entertaining humor.

A new auctioneer for the Guild, Grant Snyder, did an incredible job. We credit Grant for helping raise more money during the evening than ever before. The funded item, playground equipment for Maryvale, alone brought in over \$48,000.

But the highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Countess Estelle Doheny Award. Guild member, Jackie Brooks, was the recipient of the award. She gave a moving acceptance speech regarding the need for funds for Maryvale and this inspirational speech helped inspire those at the event to give - and give generously.

Due to the hard work of everyone the Gala was a huge success. We wish to give a special thank to the Live Auction Committee: Debbie Buderwitz, Patti DiTullio, Cindy Fairbank, and the Silent Auction Chairs: Betsy Emanuel and Margo Gleitman for their incredible efforts.

As of this date the Gala has netted \$170,000. The most ever!

Thank you everyone.

Mary Anne Atkisson and Melinda Woodruff, Gala Chairs



ON THE RED CARPET



The Brooks Family



Joan & James Layden



Roger Halfhide & Patricia McVerry



Sean Harmon & Pam Dawber



Charlie Moynagh & Indy Carey



Diana & Louis Doyle



Patti & William Chertok



Kimberly Fairbank & Cindy Fairbank



Leslie & Robert Reback,
Johanna & Robert Dawson



Nancy Lewis, Jean Marcon,
Angela Siuta-Pechin



Jennifer & John Ruddell



Cathy Ross & Karen Knott



Alice & Anthony Palermo

THE LOS ANGELES ORPHANAGE GUILD
would like to recognize and thank the following donors for
their generous contributions to the Guild
and the
2017 "HEART TO HEART" SAFARI GALA

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Sue Ellen & Loc Waters
Melinda & Edward Woodruff
Lori Wymbs
Joanna & Jim Zaferis
Nancy & Dean Ziehl

*If any names were not included we apologize, the list is non-exhaustive

Healing begins 'the moment people feel heard'

Hello from Maryvale! As I reflect upon the life stories of the children and families we serve, I am struck by the humanity that connects us all. No matter where we are on this journey of life, committed relationships are the foundation for healing, empowerment, and growth.

One of our children recently created a card that closely describes Maryvale's mission. Her drawing of a broken heart held together by a bandage has the words, "Maryvale Means Healing Hearts." Our children recognize the "heart" of Maryvale and our reason for being. It is messages such as this one that bolster us in the face of challenges and remind us of the importance of our work.

Healing starts the moment people feel heard. This concept is at the center of Maryvale's Trauma Informed Care approach. When children arrive at Maryvale, it's often at the end of a tumultuous journey. When families seek support from our community-based services team, they are frequently in the midst of a crisis. A history of trauma is the common factor, and being able to share their experiences represents the beginning of healing and change.

At all levels of our Agency, we have fully transitioned to a philosophy of Trauma Informed Care. This approach allows us to build every relationship on a foundation of trust with a clear understanding of the effects of trauma on recovery.

We wish to welcome Sr. Trang, who recently joined us as Campus Minister. When Sr. Trang escaped from Vietnam as a child, she didn't realize that the trauma she experienced would end up forming her life's mission: helping others to heal from a painful past. Every day we witness her passion as she works with our children.

Thank you for joining Sr. Trang and all of the Maryvale supporters in our mission to Heal, Empower and Educate. You make the difference by donating, volunteering, sharing our message on social media and sharing our work with friends, family, and colleagues. Together we can keep hope alive.



BY STEVE GUNTHER
MARYVALE PRESIDENT &
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



How God's providence led Sr. Trang to Maryvale

In 1977, two years after the fall of Saigon, in a nation still emerging from decades of brutal warfare – a small fishing boat carefully maneuvered out into the open sea.

Sister Trang, 10, and three of her siblings were hidden in onboard containers, huddled under layers of rice husks and ice to avoid detection by communist authorities. "We thought we were going to die," she said.

Her oldest sister and brother-in-law had planned this escape for months, working to secure false papers as fishermen so the small group could flee, leaving their mother, father and seven other siblings behind.

"When I looked into my mom's eyes on that day when we left Vietnam, when I saw her give me a hug, call a cab and give us an extra set of clothes, I knew in my heart I would never see her again," said Sr. Trang.

Despite her young age, she had been exposed to all forms of abuse and traumatic events; she still remembers seeing the machine guns and grenades outside of her home and watching the massacres of children on TV. Her father, a colonel in the army in South Vietnam, had been forced into a "re-education camp" by the North Vietnamese communist regime in 1975. Sr. Trang would not see him again for 16 years.

The group of travelers escaped to Malaysia, where they spent seven months in a refugee camp, eventually making their way to the United States where Sr. Trang and her siblings settled in Costa Mesa, where she attended school. At the age of 14, she began to explore the possibilities of a religious life. Her sister reminded her of their family's early ties to the Daughters of Charity in Vietnam. She had attended an elementary



school while her sisters attended high school and college; the Daughters of Charity ran all the schools. So, she decided to visit Maryvale on the weekends to learn more. She joined the community in 1992 and 2017 will mark her 25th year as a Daughter of Charity.

Sr. Trang earned a bachelor's degree in social ecology from the University of California at Irvine and completed most of the coursework for the Multiple Subject Credential Program at Cal State Los Angeles. After teaching for several years, she felt that God was calling her to work with youth in spiritual ministry. She served as the spiritual minister at Covenant House in Hollywood while pursuing the three-year spiritual direction training program at the Spirituality Center of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Later in her journey, she graduated with a master's degree in theological studies from the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, now relocated to Oceanside. But her almost intuitive ability to ease the suffering of others comes from a place beyond the classroom.

Reflecting back, Sr. Trang believes the empathy that she developed through the trauma she endured as a child was a sign of what her future ministry would eventually be about.

"I feel that this is how God's providence led me to Maryvale," she said. "When we talk about Maryvale's Trauma Informed Care treatment, and when I look back at the experiences that have helped shape me into the person I am today, I know God has been with me all these years, calling me to help others navigate through their trauma."

Sr. Trang always felt drawn by a calling to a spiritual ministry. "Spiritual accompaniment is essential to healing the traumatized," she said.

Her story has been written in large part by heartache, but in suffering, she learned how to heal, and she brings that special gift to Maryvale's children. "My mission is to help them find the love they need to heal, to find peace and wholeness," she said. "Be an unthreatening and loving presence offering spiritual support across all faiths.

"I am here to accompany our children who very often don't have a voice; my hope is to enable them to find their voice."

GENERAL MEETING

May 17, 2017 – Fig & Olive Restaurant

At the last General Meeting of the year President, Indy Carey, presented a check for \$200,000 to Maryvale. Carole Tremblay, Maryvale VP of Development and Communications, and Sister Alicia Martin, accepted the check on behalf of Maryvale. This is one of the largest donations the Guild has had the privilege to present. Ms. Tremblay, in turn, gave each of the departing Executive Board members a gift of appreciation from Maryvale. Also at the May meeting the eight new Provisional members were introduced. At the end of the meeting Indy Carey presented the President's Gavel to incoming Co-Presidents Mary Anne Atkisson and Phyllis Conkle.

At right, L/R: President Indy Carey, Treasurer Angela Siuta-Pechin, VP of Development Carole Tremblay, and Sister Alicia Martin.



Clockwise from left: Executive Board members receiving a parting gift from Maryvale; Indy Carey presenting the President's Gavel to incoming Guild Co-Presidents: Mary Anne Atkisson & Phyllis Conkle; New Provisional Members: L/R: Patti DiTullio, Cindy Fairbanks, Nancy Lamb, Mary Hernandez, Barbara Welsh Frear, Valerie Szabo Kiley, Mary Oneill, Francesca Perazzelli, Angela Siuta-Pechin. (Missing: Vilayvanh Shah, Mary Kamalski.)



GROWING OUR COMMUNITY: BE A FRIEND, BRING A FRIEND LUNCHEON

Nov. 16, 2016 – Four Seasons Hotel

This was a perfect day for celebrating the girls of Maryvale, the Guild, and our friends and supporters. As in years past our annual luncheon was a sold out event with more than 330 women attending.

Guests were able to shop at the many vendors, which is especially nice since it was just in time for the holidays.

The Luncheon Chairs, Leslie Reback and Jennifer Ruddell, were thrilled to have Wendy Burch as emcee again; she was instrumental in inspiring members to donate.

The guest speaker for the Luncheon was Michelle Guyman, Director of the Child Trafficking Unit of the LA County Probation Department. Her speech gave a passionate voice to these lost girls. The room was absolutely quiet when she spoke, so engrossed was everyone with what she had to say.

As always, this was a stunning event and brought in net proceeds of \$35,000 to the Guild.

Many heartfelt thanks to Leslie and Jennifer.

Clockwise from top left: Michelle Guyman; Wendy Burch; Leslie Reback & Jennifer Ruddell; and newsletter associates.



THE LOS ANGELES ORPHANAGE GUILD
would like to thank the follow donors to the
2016-2017 ANNUAL PATRON CAMPAIGN

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09

6:30 Luau
Hostess: JoAnn
Bourne



03

Board of Directors
Meeting –
Hostess: Eve Marie
Bhandari

17

General Meeting –
Maryvale



15

“Be a Friend,
Bring a Friend”
Luncheon
Four Seasons
Hotel, Beverly Hills



02

LAOG Juniors
Christmas Party
for the Girls of
Maryvale
Porter Valley
County Club



09

Board of Directors
Meeting –
Hostess: Sue Ellen
Waters

23

General Meeting:
location tba