



David & Margaret  
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Fostering Community

David & Margaret

Youth and Family Services

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1, ISSUE 4, DECEMBER 2019

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## Stay in Touch!

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Our website  
<http://bit.ly/DMupdates>

or by calling  
**Florida Barron 909-596-5921 x3249**

or by email  
[barronf@davidandmargaret.org](mailto:barronf@ davidandmargaret.org)

Learn about new merchandise, specials and offers at Dave & Maggie's Center through their monthly e-flyer  
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## Our Mission

*David & Margaret empowers children, youth, and families through culturally diverse services that foster emotional, educational, spiritual, and identity development.*

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## A Note From Charles C. Rich, Executive Director

As another year draws to a close, I am keenly aware that what has been accomplished here at David & Margaret has been a collaboration between agency and community, and

a coming together of individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of youth in foster care. I am so grateful for you, our community who have renewed hope and inspired change. As D&M board member, Darcy Coulter, likes to say - you have shared your time, treasures and talents with those who need them most.

I would like to take a moment to offer my personal thanks to you, our donors, volunteers, and supporters. You make a difference every single day in the lives of youth, young adults and families with experience in the foster care system. You also make a difference to the staff at David & Margaret. Your support bolsters them when they are doing the very important work of supporting youth and families. Your donations are there to provide a special gift or treat to a youth who meets a milestone in their plan or who just needs a little something special in their day. And your volunteer efforts have made a visible difference around the David & Margaret campus.

This year during various volunteer services days over 150 individuals came together to help make David & Margaret look its best, making it a therapeutic and welcoming space for all.

Over one thousand youth, young adults and families will come to David & Margaret this year to renew hope and inspire change. I am grateful you have been here for them.

David & Margaret has been a part of our community for 109 years, and every time we have reached out to you in that time you have always come through to support youth in foster care.

Whether you have fostered a child in need, donated, volunteered, or just told your friends and family that lives are changed here - you have made a difference.

This holiday season I want to extend my sincere thanks to you for all you do to support youth in foster care. I wish you and your family a safe and joyous holiday season, and look forward to what we can accomplish together in 2020 and beyond.

Warmly,

*Charles C. Rich*

Charles C. Rich

### KUN'S CIRCLE OF KINDNESS

There are many ways to gift a legacy

- Bequests, wills, and trusts
- Retirement plans and life insurance policies
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For more information contact:

Maggie Bohlman at [Bohlmanm@davidandmargaret.org](mailto:Bohlmanm@davidandmargaret.org) 909-596-5921 x 3246

# FOSTER FAMILIES NEEDED!



The Foster Care and Adoption Agency (FFA) at David & Margaret has paired children in foster care with safe, loving families for over 30 years. Throughout this time the FFA has licensed and supported hundreds of families and individuals on their foster journey.

Today, the need for foster/resource families is even greater than it has been in the past. There are nearly 450,000 children in foster care in the United States and the numbers continue to grow. It is easy to assume this problem doesn't affect us, but it does. There are children in need in our own community. Los Angeles County is home to 30,000 of the 50,000 children in foster care in California.

These children need nurturing families to keep them safe while they are unable to be with their biological families. If you are interested in becoming a resource family (aka foster family), the FFA at David & Margaret will help you every step of the way.

## Step 1 Attend an Orientation

Orientations are held on campus the first Monday of every month, excluding some holidays. Personalized orientations can be scheduled in applicants home, place of worship or other venue! During the orientation an FFA foster/adopt expert will go over every step of the process, share insights, and answer any and all questions.

## Step 2 Submit an Application!

Following the orientation interested parties will be given an application. The application asks standard questions including name, place of residence, number of members in the household and legal history. There are also safety questions on the application, inquiring about nearby bodies of water, household practices, and the like.

## Step 3 Complete Training

20 hours of specialized training is required to become a Resource Family. This training prepares parents for their experience with children and youth in foster care and strengthens the foundation on which they will build their family.

## Step 4 Background Clearance

While receiving training, background checks are being processed, ensuring the safety of these vulnerable children.

## Step 5 Home Study

After all trainings are complete and background checks have cleared, applicants arrive at the final step in the process! The home study social workers will schedule a time to visit the home and do a final safety check. This is also the time when the social workers really get to know the family. This step is immensely beneficial when deciding which home will best suit a child.

## And Then...

After successfully completing these 5 steps, Resource Family Approval (RFA) is received and families will begin to receive placement calls matching their family interests. This process can take anywhere from 3 months to a year, depending on how quickly a family wants to move through the process. Resource families (foster families) receive the following support: weekly meetings with social workers to go over any placement issues/successes, access to the 24/7 help line, ongoing trainings, access to foster parent support groups, mental health services, school support, complete adoption services, and a monthly stipend (as set by DCFS). Families also have access to onsite holiday events, library classes and enrichment activities.

### Interested in Learning More?

**There are many misconceptions about foster care and they often deter interested families from following their calling to foster/adopt. If you're unsure about the process but would still like more information or if you're ready to dive in head-first, call 1-800-4-FOSTER or email fos-ter@davidandmargaret.org. The caring professionals of the FFA are eager to support you on this journey!**

# DONNA COMES HOME



Recently David & Margaret Youth and Family Services had a very special visitor. Donna was a former resident of David & Margaret. She came to David & Margaret with her sister in the early 1940's, when she was only 6 years old.

During The Great Depression and WWII it was not uncommon for children to be placed with D&M by their families, this was the case with Donna and her sister. Money, food, and other resources were scarce and David & Margaret provided a safe haven for these families in their desperate time of need. Donna and her sister called D&M home for six formative years until one day, as they were getting ready for school, they were told to gather their belongings. Their family had come to take her home. Donna recalls "crying and crying" because she knew she would no longer be with the friends and care providers they had come to love.



Donna has since relocated to Washington state and had not been back to David & Margaret since 1947. But, this year her daughter and nephew made sure she had the opportunity to come back.

Donna looked through the archives of photo albums, and newspaper clippings. Memories and faces flooded back to her. She found her intake signature, a photo of her and her sister, former caretakers, and long lost friends she had not seen since she was a young girl.

It was truly wonderful to have Donna come back home. After all, she is why D&M is here, and she is an important part of David & Margaret's history. We hope she cherishes the memories and photographs she brought home with her as much as we will cherish her visit.

**If you have a history with David & Margaret and would like to visit please don't hesitate to reach out to Florida Barron at [BarronF@davidandmargaret.org](mailto:BarronF@davidandmargaret.org) or 909-596-5921 x3249**



Adopt a holiday wish list from a child in foster care or organize a holiday gift drive!

## BE AN ANGEL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE!

contact Noemy Maciel to receive a child's wishlist Today!

[MacielN@DavidandMargaret.org](mailto:MacielN@DavidandMargaret.org)

for more information visit [bit.ly/BrightAngelScrolls](https://bit.ly/BrightAngelScrolls)



# Our Caffeinated Hero, Nick Solis!



It is safe to say Nick leads a busy, fulfilling life! Nick currently works as a full-time manager at Starbucks, as a professor at the University of La Verne, and as a fitness teacher. In his spare time, he dedicates his life to supporting his community and raising awareness for causes he is passionate about.

Nick graduated from the University of La Verne (where he currently serves on the Alumni Board) and USC, where he truly dove deep into volunteering. His passion for volunteering, however, began when he was a student at Damien High School.

In high school he volunteered with an educational children's theatre group, and would participate in walks to raise awareness for various causes. These opportunities solidified his passion for volunteering and advocacy. A passion that he has carried with him ever since.

Nick has always been a man on-the-go. Throughout his adult life he has volunteered with many organizations ranging from

food banks to decorating Rose Parade floats, to walking for ASL and AIDS, and even bringing his Starbucks District 641 teammates to volunteer with David & Margaret!

Nick and his team have become an integral part of David & Margaret. They frequently participate in volunteer service days, open houses, and have even successfully advocated for Starbucks to make a grant to support the youth and families at David & Margaret.

Nick and his team also support the youth at David & Margaret during holiday drives, hosting drop off boxes at their locations. Nick shares Starbucks mission: *"To inspire and nurture the human spirit—one person, one cup, and one neighborhood at a time."*

When he isn't working, walking, volunteering, or spreading awareness, Nick enjoys attending studio tours, television taping and other media activities. You may even recognize him from a recent commercial for The Masked Singer, a hit FOX reality show!

Nick, everything you do to support the youth at David & Margaret is truly appreciated. Your dedication to make this world a better place is inspiring. You are an inspiration. How do you accomplish so much? It must be all that coffee.

# BE THE

# Helping an Old Building Wear a New Hat

A drop-in center for youth with a history of foster care has long been a dream and goal of the board and staff at David & Margaret Youth and Family Services. With the recent advent of the COMPASS Programs, the time was ripe to make it happen. The COMPASS Point Center is currently under construction in the basement of the 93-year-old Whitney Building, and the goal is to have it open during winter of 2020.

Launching a construction project of this scope is a large undertaking. Rather than spend weeks interviewing contractors and getting bids, the agency used resources at hand: Board of Directors President Sabina Sullivan and her husband, Russ, whose company, RCS Construction, specializes in renovating historic buildings were enlisted to turn this dream into a reality. “We wanted to get it going and get it off the ground,” says Sabina, “instead of waiting around. We needed to decide what we could squeeze in – we knew we needed offices, a kitchen, handicap access, a common area, meeting room, reception and laundry areas, things like that. We wanted a LOT!” The wish list was curated through youth focus groups, a specific needs list from COMPASS Programs Director Marissa Scholefield, and field trips with Chief Community Engagement Officer Maggie Bohlman to drop-in centers in Los Angeles. All of which helped inform the project.

While Russ has a wealth of experience with older structures – including re-roofing the Whitney Building in the 1980s – the newest blueprints of the basement were 40 years old and did not include later upgrades. “We were trying to design spaces to have adequate room for their specific purpose,” he says. “Then there are ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] requirements, so we had to factor in wheelchair turnaround space. Then things like the sewer lines – finding out where they come from and where to they go? And how do we vent the laundry facilities? We have to accommodate existing services and decide whether to tie in with them or reroute them. Additionally, there are security, egress and access to worry about. And building codes, including

plumbing, fire, electrical, and so on.” Sabina added “it’s been great working with Building Manager, Mark Lovelis, as he has the hands-on experience to make the project move forward.”

Despite the challenges, it’s more than worth it. “It’s SO necessary, and it was such excellent timing to get the grant from the Margie and Robert E. Petersen Foundation for funding the project,” Sabina says. “The COMPASS Point Center will provide a foundation for young adults with a history of foster care who are or are at risk of being homeless. The services, resources and training they’ll receive will do that!”

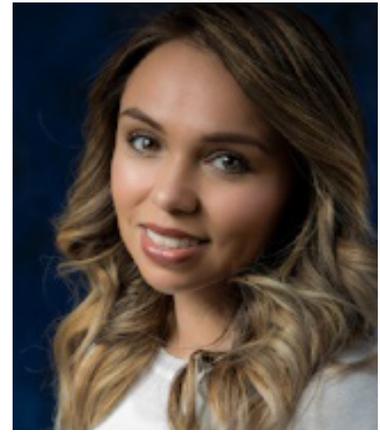
“These young people are the next generation, and the number of homeless youth with a history of foster care is growing,” Sabina adds. “What can we hope for when they have no guidance, no basic skills or education? We’re going to provide that with the Drop-In Center. It will be a very open, comfortable and a welcoming place where they can get the services they so desperately need to have a chance at building a productive, fulfilling, and independent life.”



# CHANGE

# 5 QUESTIONS:

## An Interview with Jessie Sandoval, Employment/Education Specialist, COMPASS Programs



A little bit about Jessie: “I am the youngest of 4 daughters and am the only one from my family to ever go to or graduate college. I got into the mental health field by accident through my mandatory internship class for my bachelors, and ended up being very good at building rapport with clients and problem solving in moments of crisis (probably due to my family experiences). I worked in a residential program for children ages 5-18 who have severe emotional disturbances, and then in a non-public school as an algebra teacher and crisis manager. During my time there I worked with very aggressive, high-demand students, all of which were amazing and I truly learned from. However, fast forwarding to today, I feel as though all my professional and personal experiences have geared me up to know how to advocate and navigate through human services to get my daughter the services she needed to successfully work through her diagnosis of autism. Because of this, I was able to recognize her symptoms early, getting her services from regional center when she was 14 months, a diagnosis of autism at 18 months, and into 40 hours of ABA therapy by the time she was 2 years old. Since then, she has made tremendous strides. I truly believe I was born to be her mother.”

### 1. What do you most enjoy about working here?

“I enjoy the face to face interactions I get with the participants in our program, and the insight it has given me to look at the world from a different lens.”

### 2. If you could learn anything, what would it be and why?

“How to learn all the different languages of the world, so there would be no barriers for me to explore different cultures.”

### 3. Who are your role models?

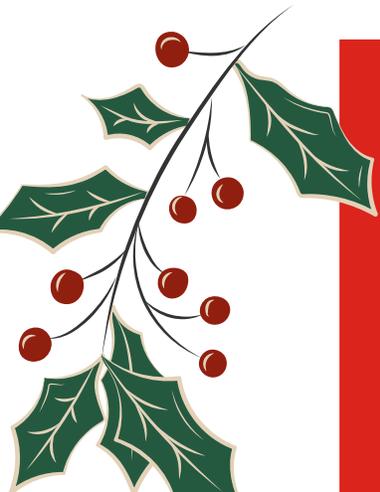
“My mother. She is by far the strongest, most resilient person I know.”

### 4. When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up, and why?

“Believe it or not, I wanted to run a homeless shelter. My father has a drug addiction and has cycled in and out of rehab/homelessness my whole life, therefore, I have always had empathy for those who struggle with homelessness and or mental health.”

### 5. Saying or motto you live by?

“Lead with your heart, but take your brain with you.”



# BETHE

# PLANS THAT CREATE HOPE AND A FUTURE

Brianna lost her father when she was 8 years old and her mother when she was 12. She was placed into foster care not long after and by the time she was 17 she came to live at David & Margaret.

Shortly after moving to David & Margaret, Brianna “aged out” of foster care which meant she could no longer live in residential foster care housing. Luckily Brianna had the opportunity to join the Transitional Living Program at David & Margaret, a program that supports youth with a history of foster care.



Brianna is an extremely motivated young adult and has graduated from the Transitional Living Program and currently works as a peer mentor for David & Margaret’s C.O.M.P.A.S.S. programs, offering these youth unique support and guidance other professionals can’t.

“I do walk a very fine line between staff and client,” Brianna shares. “It’s a hard job. At the end of the day I am a TAY (Transitional Aged Youth). Every morning when I wake up and every night when I got to bed, I’m still a TAY. I go through the same things the clients go through, I’m just a little bit further down the road in my life.”

The difficulties youth with a history of foster care face once they turn 18 has been devastatingly overlooked across our

Every single year, in Los Angeles County alone, 4,000 children turn 18 and age out of foster care.

20% immediately become homeless

50% will not find stable employment by the age of 24

>3%

will have the opportunity to get a degree of any kind.

nation. In an effort to support these “invisible” youth, David & Margaret has increased the scope and type of services offered.

“First David & Margaret had transitional housing, then Cedar Springs’ permanent supportive housing was added, and then the Workforce Training Program was added and now we’re C.O.M.P.A.S.S.” explains Brianna. “I joke with everyone, that it ‘encompasses’ all the needs, but it’s true. C.O.M.P.A.S.S. stands for Creating Opportunities and Making Personal Advancements to Self Sufficiency.

“In a nutshell, we’re teaching Transitional Age Youth how to be reliant on themselves. And they’ve always been that; they’re resilient, they’re strong. They’re strong willed and strong minded, but they don’t always know it,” she says. “I think the biggest thing we do is to let them know that one day you’re going to be reliant on yourself and you’re going to make it. We say ‘here are all the opportunities we can provide for you, now let’s figure out what you want to do!’ Just a chance for them to speak up for themselves and find their path, whether they know they can or think they can’t.”

“TAY participants often find it difficult to take advantage of all the supportive services D&M provides and having Brianna onboard has drastically increased program participation.” According to Marissa Scholefield, Director of C.O.M.P.A.S.S. programs. Brianna shares her success, stating “even if I were to leave here today, I still made an impact in more than one person’s life in these past six months.” Brianna provides invaluable support to the TAY and we are thrilled to have her as a part of the staff.

This quote has given Brianna much inspiration over the years. “For I know the plans I have for you, Plans to Prosper You and Not to Harm You, Plans to Give You Hope and a Future.” It seems a fitting quote to share in celebration of the work she does to renew hope and inspire change amongst her fellow Transitional Age Youth.

*Aging out statistics source <http://socialracemedia.com/51-useful-aging-out-of-foster-care-statistics/>*

# HOPE



# PROGRAMS & SERVICES



**David & Margaret**  
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

## FOSTER FAMILY & ADOPTION AGENCY (FFA)

The FFA works in collaboration with Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside counties to place children awaiting homes. The FFA supports prospective foster/adopt parents through each step of the certification process as well as follow up services!

## C.O.M.P.A.S.S. PROGRAMS

*Creating Opportunities and Making Personal Advancements to Self Sufficiency*  
C.O.M.P.A.S.S. Programs make up the various services available at David & Margaret dedicated to supporting youth & young adults who are aging out of foster care. Including Youth Workforce Training Program, COMPASS Point Drop-in Center, Permanent Supportive Housing, peer mentoring, paid internships and more.

## JOAN MACY SCHOOL

Joan Macy is a specialized, non-public school located in La Verne, Ca., serving at-risk girls grades 1st-12th, in the surrounding communities.

## NEW BEGINNINGS PROGRAM

Providing a temporary homelike environment to youth who enter the country without familial support.

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Outpatient mental health services for full-scope Medi-Cal eligible youth up to age 21. As well as Full Service Partnership Program for youth and families in need of intensive services.

## DAVE AND MAGGIE'S CENTER

Offers the community brand-name staple and other goods at deeply-discounted prices while providing paid internships to youth with a history of foster care.

## LEARNING ENHANCEMENT CENTER (LEC)

The LEC supports community members ages 3-99 with various difficulties by retraining your brain to accurately and effectively take in information, process it, and respond appropriately.



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# DAVID & MARGARET 2019

## Fast Facts\*



**908** Families Served



**8,254** Volunteer Hours



**4,123** Youth Internship Hours



**101** Units of Housing Provided



**6** youth found forever homes through adoption

## Foster Care and Adoption

**100%** of the youth demonstrated progress toward and/or met their needs and service plan goals;

**88%** of youth who left their foster families moved on to permanency

## New Beginnings: Residential Program

**97%** of youth were happy/satisfied with program services received

## Transitional Housing Programs

**80%** of the participants remained in stable housing

**71%** of those who left moved to a permanent housing

## Cedar Springs: Permanent Supportive Housing

**93%** of youth remained housed for a minimum of one year

**77%** of youth were involved in some type of education or vocational training program



**For all housing programs**



**100%** of young adults would recommend the program to family and friends

**100%** of the young adults felt the program's services have helped them.

**100%** of youth reported having a consistent relationship with their identified permanent adult connection which is a protective factor for at-risk youth.

*\*Data based on statistics through November 2019, full reporting will be available in early 2020*



David & Margaret

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

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*New merchandise  
arrives weekly!  
Find favorite brands at  
your favorite prices!*

Dave and Maggie's Center provides two benefits to the community; as a retail store offering staple and other goods at deeply discounted prices, and as a training center for youth aging out of foster care who need work experience to build their future!



[www.davidandmargaret.org](http://www.davidandmargaret.org)



 **David & Margaret**  
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

**CALL TODAY FOR A**

**FREE ASSESSMENT**

**& TRANSFORMING LIVES, ONE PERSON AT A TIME**

*"I WAS AMAZED AT HOW QUICKLY MY SON STARTED IMPROVING IN SCHOOL. I WOULD RECOMMEND THE LEARNING ENHANCEMENT CENTER TO ANYONE WITH A CHILD WHO HAS A LEARNING DISABILITY OR ADHD. SO GRATEFUL!"*

**THE LEARNING ENHANCEMENT CENTER**  
909-596-5921 x3152  
[bit.ly/learningenhancementcenter](http://bit.ly/learningenhancementcenter)