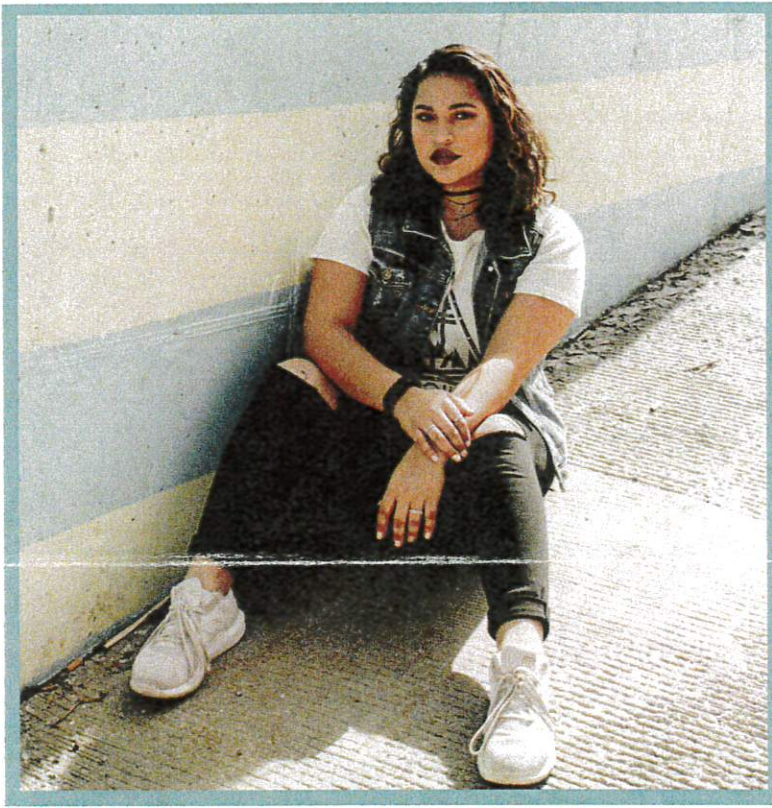


FOSTERING COMMUNITY

DAVID & MARGARET YOUTH AND FAMILY
SERVICES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Elizabeth Flourished

The Greenblatts have three biological children ages 9, 10, and 14 and two children ages 11, and 18 who were brought into their family through foster care. As active foster parents at David & Margaret for the last 10 years, they have opened their home to many youth.

Their eldest daughter, Elizabeth, came to them at age 12 with emotional trauma created by her previous situation. She required Treatment Foster Care, also known as Therapeutic Foster Care, which is more intense and specializes in children and adolescents with significant emotion, behavioral, or social issues or medical needs.

Mr. and Mrs. Greenblatt were dedicated to providing Liz with every resource available to help her recover and thrive. They also truly valued, supported and loved her. Elizabeth flourished in the Greenblatt household. She was able to expand her extra curriculars and grew to share their love of sports, especially soccer. She graduated high school and is currently attending college and working part-time while living at home. Though she is 18 and no longer in foster care, she is still a member of the family.

Have breakfast, lunch, or a snack at

DAVE & MAGGIE'S CAFE

Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

1351 Palomares Ave.

La Verne, CA 91750

Eat for
a Cause!

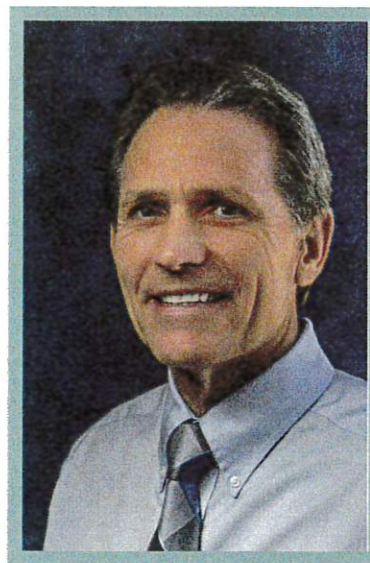


David & Margaret
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Welcome to Our New Community Newsletter!

Welcome to the first issue of Fostering Community, a brand-new quarterly newsletter for the David & Margaret family of supporters. The goal of this publication is to keep you informed about how your generosity is impacting the children, youth, and families we serve – which in turn is having a positive impact on our community.

You'll find out about some of the success of our foster families, for example, or youth aging out of foster care, as well as learn how you can help support these and other programs. You'll meet some of our cadre of volunteers (and maybe be inspired to join them yourself!), and see photos of



some of our community events. If there's anything else you'd like to know, just reach out – we'd love to hear from you. Our contact information is at the bottom of this page. And remember, you can always learn more by visiting our website, www.DavidandMargaret.org.

Charles C. Rich

Executive Director



David & Margaret
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

1350 Third St., La Verne, CA 91750 (909) 596-5921 www.DavidandMargaret.org

Executive Director Charles Rich

(909) 596-5921, ext. 3140 RichC@DavidandMargaret.org

Publicity Coordinator/Editor Julie Griffith

(909) 596-5921, ext. 3180 GriffithJ@DavidandMargaret.org

Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator Linda Vahrson

(909) 596-5921, ext. 3311 VahrsonL@DavidandMargaret.org

Foster Family and Adoption Agency

Manager Deena Robertson

(909) 596-5921, ext. 3189

DominguezA@DavidandMargaret.org

Mental Health Services

Administrative Assistant Jackie Gonzales

(909) 596-5921, ext. 3510 GonzalesJ@DavidandMargaret.org

Residential Services

Manager Cheryl Kroll

(909) 596-5921, ext. 3215 KrollC@DavidandMargaret.org

Transitional Housing Program

Program Support Brianna Ascensio

(909) 596-5921, ext. 3606 AscensioB@DavidandMargaret.org

Joan Macy School

Education Director Monica Kirk

(909) 596-3173, ext. 5456 KirkM@DavidandMargaret.org



Potential + Ambition = Success

Meet 19-year-old Luis Torres and you can feel energy radiating from him like heat. He seems excited about pretty much everything, even leaving his apartment at 5 a.m. to get to his new job at the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps in Pomona. He works with a road crew cleaning up turnouts, and recently earned his chain-saw certification so he can help clear fire hazards such as dead trees.

So many potential careers, so much ambition. "I want to get into the Forestry Department," he says, "where they go into the forest and watch for fires. I want to go into law enforcement after that - I'm going into the Army soon."

Like many foster kids, his path could have been very different from the one he envisions for himself. His parents were in the drug trade, moving house frequently until a suspicious landlord tipped off law enforcement to their activity. "We got picked up by the police at school," he remembers. "I was 7. It's been quite a journey." He and his 11 siblings and step-siblings - three sisters, eight brothers - wound up in foster care.

Even though he was in only three foster homes - a comparatively small number for a youth who was in the system for 11 years - "it was hard for me," Luis remembers, "because I wanted to feel like a regular kid with his family."

He found out about the Transitional Living Programs at David & Margaret, and after attending an orientation, he applied and was accepted. The programs provide housing and supportive services for youth aging out of foster care. As long as they are in school or working, they will have housing for the length of the program.

"I want to get into the
Forestry Department ...
I want to go into law
enforcement after that
- I'm going into the
Army soon."

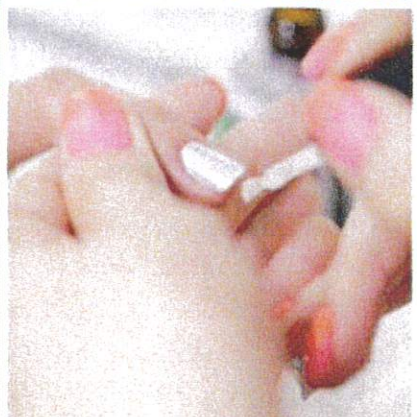
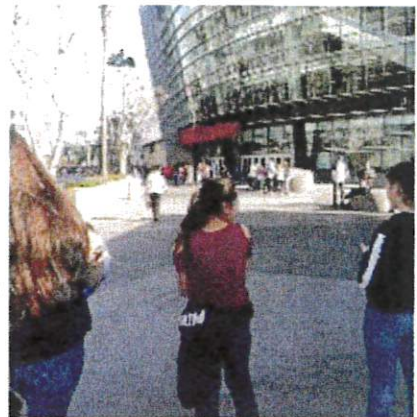
Youth have weekly check-ins with their social worker and are strongly encouraged to participate in life skills and career readiness classes. They also have an employment/ education specialist who is available to work with them one on one. In addition, they are provided with clothes for interviews and household items that they need to manage their homes.

When asked about his time at David & Margaret, "It is really awesome," he says with a smile. He now has his own apartment near the David & Margaret campus in La Verne.

Do you know someone who might benefit from the Transitional Living Programs at David & Margaret? Contact Program Support Briana Ascensio at (909) 596-5921, ext. 3606, or AscensioB@DavidandMargaret.org.

Thanks to Supporters Like You ...

... we are able to give some of the youth a chance to be kids -
having Thanksgiving dinner, going to the movies, getting a mani/pedi,
or receiving a Valentine's Day bouquet!



To give, please visit our website at www.DavidandMargaret.org or contact Chief Community Engagement Officer Maggie Bohlman at (909) 596-5921, ext. 3246, or BohlmanM@DavidandMargaret.org

David & Margaret Earns Coveted International Accreditation

CARF International announced that David & Margaret Youth and Family Services has been accredited for a period of three years for its Foster Family and Kinship Care, Group Home Care, and Specialized or Treatment Foster Care programs.

This represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to an organization and shows its substantial conformance to the CARF standards. David & Margaret put itself through a rigorous peer review process, demonstrating to surveyors during a site visit its commitment to programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality.



"There are three main national accrediting agencies, but we decided to seek CARF accreditation due to agency and program standards that assisted us in identifying our strengths as well as areas that we could improve," says Chief Program Officer Michael Miller.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of the persons served.



5 Questions, an Interview with...

Human Resources Assistant Marlene Caudillo

What do you most enjoy about working at David & Margaret? I believe in what we do here at David & Margaret. There are so many hurting children in this world and I am happy to be a part of an organization that is trying to help.

What was the most memorable experience you've had at David & Margaret? Last year's Halloween participation. The girls were coming up the stairs screaming and yelling, and when they saw me at the top

of the stairs with a basket full of candy, their eyes grew big and they had huge smiles on their faces.

If you could learn anything, what would it be? I would love to learn to be a mathematician. I love the movie Good Will Hunting and wish I could solve complex formulas with ease.

Who are your role models? I can't say that I really have a certain role model. I have encountered some wonderful genuine people in my life. I have tried to model my life after their wonderful qualities.

What did you want to be when you grew up? I have always loved art and photography. I wanted to be a photographer for National Geographic. These days, photography is my hobby.

NOMADS

Find an Oasis

When you hear the word 'nomads' you might think of desert caravans, but there are urban nomads, too – people whose home is their RV. It's also the acronym for Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service: members of the United Methodist Church who spend part or all of the year as full-time RVers. NOMADS donate their valuable time and talent to organizations like David & Margaret, a National Mission Institution, National Division of the General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church. We recently had a team of three NOMADS couples:

Sandy and Steve Drake met as Xerox technicians 30 years ago. "We used to winter in Yuma, Arizona, and met a couple doing NOMADS projects," Steve says. "We've been all over the country and have done about 65 projects."

Kris and Keith Niehaus learned about NOMADS in the 1990s. "We fell in love with the concept," says Keith, "so when I retired in 2013, we hit the road. We've

"Agencies like David & Margaret, that make a difference in the world – those are our favorites."



been coast to coast and border to border. Agencies like David & Margaret, that make a difference in the world – those are our favorites."

Sandra and Anton Jones are in their second year as NOMADS. "We're full-time RVers and looked for an RV-based ministry," Anton says. "That's how we found the NOMADS."

Because of you!

David & Margaret has a beautiful, historic (read: old) campus, and as such we seem to always have a long list of items that need to be repaired or remodeled. Much has been accomplished this year because of you, our supporters. Grants and individual gifts have resulted in the following improvements:

- Two restrooms remodeled to be ADA compliant.
- New LED lighting installed in many areas.
- New LED light posts installed around campus.
- Renovations in Gillette and Turner cottages.
- New front lawn irrigation and leveling to make it safer for the residents.

Thank you for making our campus safe and welcoming for the children, families and young adults who access our services as they continue their journeys towards healthy, safe, and fulfilling lives.

Board Member Darcy Coulter: 'Every Gift Matters'

"I found out about David & Margaret years ago through a former board member," says Darcy Coulter, "and I wanted to get involved." She has become one of the 109-year-old agency's most outspoken advocates.

After joining Southern California Edison (SCE) in human resources management, she discovered that the company would match donations for schools. She promptly headed up a fund-raising drive on behalf of David & Margaret's Joan Macy School.

"I got reconnected and asked about a board position," she says. "I ended up on the Personnel Committee, and after a while, was asked to submit my resume for Board consideration."

Coulter's energy and enthusiasm are contagious. "If David & Margaret dug in its heels and said 'No! We're not going to change!' it would be out of business," she says. "We're always scanning the community to see what the needs are. I really like that. But the number one goal of any business, for profit or non-profit, is to stay in business; you need the resources to survive."

She notes that while government funding pays for the actual provision of services, there is so much more that the agency needs to operate.

And that's where Coulter's skill and passion for fund raising comes in. An avid cyclist, she recruited members of her bicycle club to donate toys and gift cards



Darcy is also a
member of the Gala
Committee!

for the holidays. "I was practically pulling people off the street, saying, 'What's buying presents for one more kid?' she says with a laugh. "Every gift matters, every little thing."

She will be termed out as a Board member in 2020, but has an eye on filling the position with her 26-year-old daughter, Dallen, a certified energy manager and engineer at Coulter's own former employer, SCE. Dallen chairs David & Margaret's new Young Professionals Committee.

"We need to recruit people, including young people, whose skills and knowledge can help," Coulter adds. "It's a good way to groom future Board members."

Want to help David & Margaret as a board or committee member, or with fund raising? Contact Chief Community Outreach Officer Maggie Bohlman at (909) 596-5921, ext. 3246, or BohlmanM@DavidandMargaret.org.



David & Margaret

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

1350 Third St.

La Verne, CA 91750

Upcoming Events at David & Margaret

Saturday, April 20, 1:30 p.m.: Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Info: Community Engagement Associate Noemy Maciel, (909) 596-5921, ext. 3217 or Navan@DavidandMargaret.org

Thursday, May 16, Noon-6:00 p.m.: American Red Cross Blood Drive. Info: Community Engagement Associate Noemy Maciel, (909) 596-5921, ext. 3217 or Navan@DavidandMargaret.org

Wednesday, June 5, 11:00 a.m.: Joan Macy School graduation. Info: Education Director Monica Kirk, (909) 596-3173, ext. 5456 or KirkM@DavidandMargaret.org

Saturday, Sept. 21, 5:00 p.m.: Annual Gala. Info: Chief Community Engagement Officer Maggie Bohlman (909) 596-5921, ext. 3246 or BohlmanM@DavidandMargaret.org

