



# St. James Mission Circle Newsletter

P.O. Box 1376, Solana Beach, CA 92075

May 2015

[www.missioncircle.com](http://www.missioncircle.com)

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*Our mission is to organize, lead, and engage the parishioners of Saint James and Saint Leo Catholic Community to improve the lives of people in need.*



## Casa Eudes Celebrates 40 Years Of Sheltering "At Risk" Girls

In 1975, a small group of Eudist sisters opened the Casa Eudes doors, taking in a few young and vulnerable girls. The good sisters struggled in those early years trying to make ends meet. Then, in 1977, Father John visited them and vowed to help. He came back to St. James and started our Mission Circle charity. The rest, as they say, is history. Way back then our first priority was helping the Casa Eudes Girls Home and it still is. We provide maintenance crews, craft projects, outings, parties, living expenses, and school tuition. This year we even started a Futures Program that sends qualified girls to college.

No wonder we joined in the celebration on March 28th with so much joy! After Archbishop Munzo said mass, the sisters, the staff, the girls, and scores of Casa Eudes supporters, all gathered in the courtyard of the home. Under the shade of a big white tent, we shared a delicious chicken dinner, sang along with the Mariachi band, and watched the girls dance in colorful folk costumes.

It was a wonderful day celebrating a wonderful institution. Congratulations to the sisters at Casa Eudes for 40 years of caring for "at risk" kids.





## New Shed Is Dedicated To Our "Donation Lady"

On Saturday, April 18th, the new Mission Circle donation shed was dedicated to the person who ran our food and bread programs for years. Her name was Laura Wagner but most people simply knew her as "The Donation Lady". For over three decades Laura distributed food, clothes and household goods to the needy. Her efficiency was only matched by her compassion.

All of us who worked with Laura felt that dedicating our new shed to her memory was a fitting tribute. The shed itself was a donation. It was given to us by Habitat For Humanity who no longer needed it. We tore it down, trucked it to the lower parking lot of St. James Church, and then carefully reconstructed it. The rebuilding of the shed was a true labor of love by parishioners, headed by Walt Birchall and Tom Ferris. For eight months, volunteers spend their Saturday mornings working on the shed. Handymen, unhandy men, oldsters, gals, teens, and even little kids helped rebuild it from the foundation up.

Finally, on this sunny April morning, we gathered to watch as Father Howard blessed the shed and a memorial plaque was installed. Then we all celebrated together: people who worked with Laura, people who worked on the shed, and the people who currently run our donation programs. It was one of our happiest events of the year. Laura would have liked that.

## We'll Keep On Truckin' With These New Wheels

We needed to replace our old, defunct box truck and we recently found a new one ... well, actually a gently used one ... that fit the bill just perfectly. We'll use it for local pick ups and deliveries including some for Catholic Charities. The truck's first round trip was a short one from the basement of the school to the lower parking lot to deliver chairs, a table, and the photo board for the shed dedication (above).



## Our Designers-For-A-Day Need Your Donated Clothes

Most of us have clothes that are just hanging around in our closets going nowhere. They're nice clothes but they're just a wee bit too small or a wee bit out of style, or you wonder what you were thinking when you bought them. Well, why not donate them to the our fashion show?

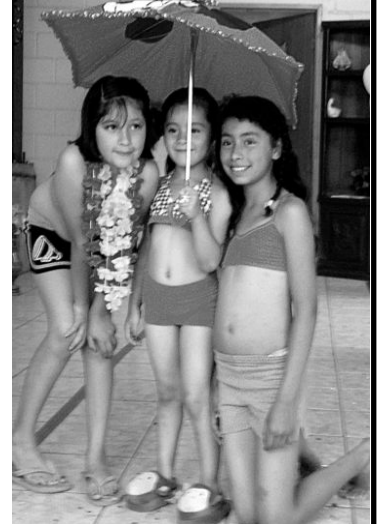
This is the event when all the girls at the Casa Eudes Girls Home get a chance to be fashion designers for a day. Working with donated clothes and accessories, the kids put together wonderful, wacky, and (sometimes) weird outfits. Then they hit the makeshift runway to model their creations for an small but appreciative audience of sisters and Mission Circle helpers. Small prizes are awarded at the end.

Right now we're collecting gently-used clothes, jewelry, shoes, purses, hats, and scarves for the show. It's on May 30th so there's still time to clean out your closets and help the girls stage this fabulous, fun "dress-up" day. Both teens' and children's sizes are all needed. There are a lot of young girls at the home right now so we would welcome gently used clothes from your children's closets, too. Please pack the items in bags or boxes and label them "Casa Eudes Fashion Show". Then, put them in the collection box in the social room of St. James church.

After the show, all the donated clothes and accessories go to the nearby thrift store that helps support the home. So it's a win-win -- a little make-believe that makes a little money, too!

## New "Life Skills" Program To Start At Casa Eudes

It will be designed to help the older girls at Casa Eudes develop skills that will prepare them for jobs or further education when they leave the home. We expect the funding to come from the Hilton Foundation. Interns and teachers from the Ibero, the Jesuit college in Tijuana, will provide much of the instruction and counseling. We'll report more on this new program as it gets underway.





## Fish Feast Nets Us Fun And Funds

At these Lenten dinners, we're "fishing" for a little financial help while mingling with our many supporters and serving them a delicious meal.

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, all the proceeds from the Friday Fish Feasts are shared with the different outreach programs who help serve the dinners. This year, our turn to host a meal was on May 27th. The Faith In Action Team cooked and served with us -- dishing up delicious crisp Thai salad, barbecued salmon, and pecan rice. Three guests won bottles of wine by correctly naming three saints based on short descriptions. Those of us who are liturgically challenged could only look on in admiration.

Many thanks to the Knights and all our supporters for giving us this chance to share good food, good friends, and some much needed funds!

## 50 City Kids Will Go To Summer Camp This Year

The Summer Youth Leadership Camp for promising junior and senior high school kids from low income families will be held in July. Once again it will be at the beautiful Whispering Winds Campsite in Julian. The camp is sponsored by La Colonia de Eden Gardens, Inc. with some help from Mission Circle. There are 50 kids going this year from areas throughout North County like Escondido, Oceanside, Encinitas, and Solana Beach. The 2015 camp will be held from July 13th to the 16th. Several college students will act as youth councilors.

These are city kids who rarely, if ever, have had a chance to enjoy nature so the emphasis will be on outdoor activities. But the camp won't be all fun and games. Speakers and workshops will teach problem solving, critical thinking, and decision making skills. Activities promoting team work are planned. The idea is to help the kids become community leaders in the future -- while swimming, hiking, and eating s'mores around the camp fire. Hey, what's not to like?



## Events Calendar

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
<b>May</b>		
During May	MC Quarterly Newsletter	US Mail
11am to 2 pm, all Thursdays	PB&J Sandwich Program	St. Leo's Mission
10 am to 2 pm, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
2:00 pm Fri 8th	Bread of Life Dinner	Parish Hall & Oceanside
7:30 a.m. Sat 9th	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Sewing	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:00 pm Tues 12th	MC Monthly Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
7:30 a.m. Sat 9th	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:30 a.m. Sat 30th	Casa Eudes Fashion Show	Casa Eudes, TJ
<b>June</b>		
11am to 2 pm, all Thursdays	PB&J Sandwich Program	St. Leo's Mission
10 am to 2 pm, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
7:00 pm Tues 9th	MC Monthly Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
2:00 pm Fri 12th	Bread of Life Dinner	Parish Hall & Oceanside
7:30 am Sat 13th	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Sewing	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:30 am Sat 27th	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ
<b>July</b>		
11 am to 2 pm, all Thursdays	PB&J Sandwich Program	St. Leo's Mission
10 am to 2 pm, all Fridays	Staffing CRC Pantry	CRC Resource Center
2:00 pm Thur 9th	Bread of Life Dinner	Parish Hall & Oceanside
Mon,13th to Thurs,16th	Youth Leadership Camp	Whispering Winds, Julian
7:30 am Sat 11th	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Sewing	Casa Eudes, TJ
7:30 am Sat 14th	MC Monthly Meeting	St. James Gathering Room
7:30 am Sat 25th	MC/SBYA*-Maint/Crafts	Casa Eudes, TJ

\*St. Brigid's Young Adults

### News Briefs:

#### Students In Futures Program Are Doing Well

In May the three girls from Casa Eudes that we are sending to college will complete their first term. The girls have done very well adjusting to apartment living and the rigors of studying for higher education courses. They are hoping to get summer jobs to help with expenses. We thank everyone who has donated to this life-changing program. For more information, contact Jeff Sturgis at [pres@missioncircle.com](mailto:pres@missioncircle.com) or Maggy Hillenbrand at [carlmaggy@aol.com](mailto:carlmaggy@aol.com).

#### PB&J sandwich program continues to help the hungry

The prisoners in the TJ jail and the homeless people camping along the Tijuana river never have enough to eat. To help, a group gathers at St. Leo's every week to make 800 to 1000 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. A Good Samaritan named Bill Luke takes them down and distributes them. Thank you to everyone involved in this compassionate effort.

## Many Thanks



To all the volunteers who participate in our bread pick-up and the other donation programs. Thanks to you, we can help to local soup kitchens, the Community Resource Center, as well as the Galilee Center in Coachella.



To the 15 adults and youth counselors who will help guide the kids that attend the 4-day Youth Leadership Camp in July.



To the parishioners who donate gently used clothes to the Casa Eudes Fashion Show. The girls love this dress-up day and the clothes go to the thrift store to help support the home after the show.



To the people who make a work day at Casa Eudes a real treat -- VG Donuts! Every time we make a trip to the home, they send several boxes of goodies with us. That gives us a real incentive to go!

St. James Mission Circle  
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## **You're Invited To One Of Our Meetings:**

This is an open invitation to all our supporters to come to one of our monthly meetings.

They're held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room of St. James Church (formally the church library). You're welcome to come and learn about our charity as we plan events and discuss the many ways we help the poor.

If you are interested, please contact Jeff Sturgis at [pres@missioncircle.com](mailto:pres@missioncircle.com).

### **Please Send Donations To:**

Mission Circle, P.O. Box 1376, Solana Beach, CA 92075

Want to donate on line? It's very easy. Just go to our website and follow the simple directions.

**Visit Our Facebook page  
at [www.facebook.com/sjmissioncircle](http://www.facebook.com/sjmissioncircle)**

We post photos and videos of our events on this site. If you are already a member of Facebook, just register as a "fan" and refer the site to others. If you are not a member, visit the website to check on our activities.

**Go To Our Website at  
[www.missioncircle.com](http://www.missioncircle.com)**

You can get more details on our activities and ways you can help at this website.

**For volunteer opportunities, contact  
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