

## THE VINCENTIAN SPIRIT

When family and friends heard about the award, there was a resounding vote of *"no one is more deserving than Susan."*

For nearly three decades as a Junior Guild volunteer at Maryvale, Susan Frazier made our children laugh, was a "big sister," helped organize innumerable activities and introduced our residents to experiences they previously could only imagine.

It was our honor to award Susan with the first-ever *Maryvale Vincentian Spirit Award* at our Dinner Celebration on September 12. Held at Maryvale's Rosemead campus, the well-attended event drew more than 100 guests including alumnae, donors, volunteers and elected officials.

"I had always been involved with charity work, it's my life. However, Maryvale has stuck with me. It has a special place in my heart. I have met many wonderful girls and staff."

As a former president, vice president, assistant treasurer, senior representative (to name a few) Susan and the other Junior Guild members developed a tradition of introducing our children to valuable experiences both on campus and within the community. Their activities, which included bowling, birthday parties, petting exotic animals and an annual Christmas party, were not only fun, but also provided hope.

Throughout her time at Maryvale, Susan has constantly shown the caring and kindness demonstrated only by those with the biggest hearts. Her impact on our children, and our staff, has been tremendous.

### FIRST THE HEART, THEN THE WORK

St. Vincent de Paul was a humble French priest known for his compassion, humility and generosity.

In recognition of exceptional individuals who have supported our mission, we have created the Vincentian Spirit Award based on our five Vincentian Core Values of Respect, Compassionate Service, Simplicity, Advocacy for the Poor and Inventiveness to Infinity. Award recipients are a beacon of hope for our children, bringing love and care when the girls need it the most.



**SUSAN FRAZIER**  
Vincentian Spirit Award Recipient

This edition of Careline features a few of the thousands of women who have contributed to make Maryvale what it is today. From a humble beginning, made possible by the Daughters of Charity, to those who have made significant contributions of time and treasure, we are truly grateful for their dedication.

We are also thankful to the women who benefited from Maryvale's programs and agreed to share their stories with us. It has been a pleasure to get to know them and I am glad we are able to share their incredible journey with you.

Thank you to all of you who continue to support us. We are so glad to have you as part of the Maryvale Family.



**Steve Gunther, MSW**  
**President and CEO**

A blue ink handwritten signature of Steve Gunther.

## AN ALMAZ-ING ALUMNA

A proud Maryvale alumna, a mother and wife, a fashionista, a writer...and a lover of aqua blue. All words to describe Pat Almazan, a determined woman who credits her time at Maryvale for her blessed life.

"I'm always happy to speak to anyone about my time at Maryvale and what it has personally done for me...as you can see," says Pat, referencing life after Maryvale and pointing out her immaculately decorated home.

She tied the knot at age 18 and has been happily married for 55 years to her husband, Joe, a retired Los Angeles County firefighter and Air Force medic.

What makes her remarkable is not just her warm personality, it's how she captured her passion and life's experiences and used it to succeed as a writer and community advocate.

Pat is a very busy woman who believes in being involved. She headed her children's Parent Teacher Association for many years. And just recently, she stepped down as a member of the City of Upland's Advisory Council.

Today, Pat enjoys writing and decorating, and delights in the success of her children and grandkids.

"I have two children, three grandkids, all college educated and all with nice jobs. It's very important for me to learn about family values and to give my children what I didn't have, and Maryvale helped with that."

## TRULY REMARKABLE

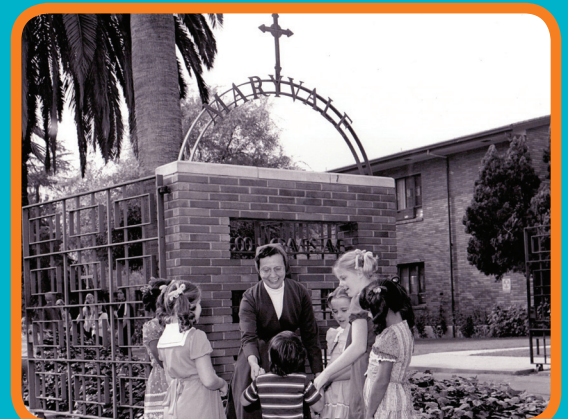
As we celebrate the women of Maryvale, we have to start at the beginning and recognize the Daughters of Charity (DOC) – the organization that started it all.

This international community of Catholic women, established in 1633 by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, served "the poorest of the poor" of Paris.

On January 6, 1856, five Sisters responded to a request for help from Bishop Amat who was concerned about the growing number of neglected and abandoned children living on the streets of Los Angeles. The Sisters opened Wilson Home – Los Angeles' first orphanage and hospital in a small wood-frame house on the site where Union Station stands today. The orphanage expanded quickly and was officially named the Los Angeles Orphan Asylum in 1869.

In 1891, the Los Angeles Orphan Asylum relocated to a much larger facility in Boyle Heights where it sheltered more than 8,000 children over 60 years. Fast forward to 1953, where another move, this time to Rosemead, brought with it not only a new location, but a new name: Maryvale.

Today, the Daughters of Charity includes more than 19,000 Catholic women who continue to minister worldwide to the sick and the poor.





## ALWAYS WELCOME

When a former resident visits, it's a big deal. When sisters, one traveling from Europe, honor us with their presence, it's extraordinary! That's what happened when Sara and Mari recently walked our Rosemead campus again.

"From our perspective, this was healing and interesting for Sara and I to witness after all these years," says Mari.

"It's hard to describe the feeling walking the very floors we used to as youths in such troubled times after all these years, but this time with fresh eyes as adults. I'm so happy the girls get to benefit from all the different programs and that they have post-graduation assistance. My heart is happy."

Even though the sisters live continents apart, both use creativity as a path to success. Sara owns Art with Sara, an art studio in Whittier. Mari wrote a piece about her time at Maryvale that was read as an exemplary memoir at the Zürich Writer's Workshop in Switzerland.

"First the heart, then the work."

—St. Vincent de Paul

Sara and Mari



Shontyla

"This is where mommy lived and had a wonderful time," Shontyla said to her son, holding his hand as she and her family visited the Rosemead campus of Maryvale.

Walking through the buildings and grounds of Maryvale for the first time in 30 years, Shontyla couldn't contain her excitement as she reminisced about her 12-year stay. She remembers dance lessons, friendships she formed and gaining her confidence.

Shontyla is currently trying to start her own business and thanks Maryvale for a childhood full of happy memories and learning. "I'm not a visitor; this is my home."

What a joy to be visited by Lydia. Along with her two sisters, she was a former resident...when Maryvale was still the Los Angeles Orphan Asylum in Boyle Heights!

A courageous woman, Lydia told us about her challenges, triumphs, her 25-year nursing career and how she started speaking at congregations with the message "With God, we can get through everything."

Lydia remembers her first day as a four-year-old walking up the stairs with her two sisters. They couldn't speak English and were scared, but

soon realized the Sisters cared for them and they were in a safe place.

She recalls getting swung around while on rollers skates and playing in the courtyard, but one of her greatest memories was playing the Virgin Mary during a procession.

Lydia is thankful for her time at Maryvale. She feels the structure and routine helped her throughout life.

"I appreciate the morals, values and faith instilled in us. Maryvale made me resilient!"

Lydia





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## FOLLOWING HER LEAD

St. Louise de Marillac was a remarkable woman. In 1633, she made it her mission to care for those in need in Paris. Although she held many titles in her lifetime and into eternity, it is the title Foundress of the Daughters of Charity that carries special meaning to Maryvale.

Eternally grateful to St. Louise, we have established the St. Louise de Marillac Society to honor her and those who made a planned gift to Maryvale. A planned gift is a commitment made today for distribution in the future. A bequest in your will, a living trust, or real estate, these are just a few examples of ways you can make a difference beyond your lifetime.



If you feel strongly about our mission, please give a gift of possibilities to our children and families. Become a member of the St. Louise de Marillac Society and join with others who share your values in the support of Maryvale.

Visit [www.plannedgiving.maryvale.org](http://www.plannedgiving.maryvale.org) to discover how easy it is to make a lasting difference.

### OUR MISSION

Maryvale's Mission, inspired by the compassionate service of our Vincentian Founders, faithful to Catholic Social Teaching rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the charism of the Daughters of Charity, is to heal, empower and educate children and families to instill hope for a more fulfilling future. We do this by providing residential, educational, mental health and community-based services in an environment of dignity, love and respect.

#### ROSEMEAD CAMPUS

7600 East Graves Avenue  
Rosemead, CA 91770

Residential Program: (626) 280-6510  
Early Education Center: (626) 537-3311

#### FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

2502 East Huntington Drive  
Duarte, CA 91010

Early Education Center: (626) 357-1514  
Community-Based Services: (626) 263-9133



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

