



Dear friends of Maryvale,

Who would have imagined everything 2020 would bring when we celebrated the New Year! The pandemic, social unrest and now wildfires have challenged us all in ways beyond what we sometimes feel we may be able to handle.

In the midst of all this, Maryvale's leadership made the very significant and important decision to close our short-term residential therapeutic program (STRTP), ending 164 years of residential services for children. Following all the changes the State of California implemented to better serve children in foster care, it became clear the program was not working. The outcomes for children, impact on staff and financial drain on the agency all contributed to the ultimate decision to end this chapter in the Maryvale story.

Maryvale remains open and continues to serve children and their families. We are providing critical services through our Early Childhood Education Programs in Rosemead and Duarte, as well as our Community-Based and Wraparound Services Programs.

Throughout our 164-year history, transitions like this are common. The Daughters of Charity, who founded Maryvale in 1856, are committed to meeting the needs of the community and having the greatest impact possible. Sometimes this means re-evaluating the services provided and shifting focus.

As one of the Daughters told me during the time we were making the decision to close the program: "We don't like to celebrate the centennial of anything because, if you have been doing the same thing for 100 years, you're probably doing something wrong!" I'm not sure that's true in every case, but I do agree that it is important to change course when needs change. This is exactly what Maryvale is doing.

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We have embarked on a comprehensive strategic planning process and a separate process to look specifically at potential uses for our Rosemead campus and four acres of undeveloped land adjacent to the campus. This is an exciting time to carefully consider the community's needs and how Maryvale can best respond to those needs.

We are exploring possible housing options, as well as opportunities to expand our Early Education and Community-Based Services Programs. While we don't yet know the path we will take, we are dedicated to writing the next chapter for Maryvale and following the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in continuing our long and rich legacy of service in Los Angeles County.

Steve Gunther, MSW
President and CEO