



WAYMAKERS' HUNTINGTON BEACH YOUTH SHELTER CELEBRATES THIRTEEN YEARS OF PROVIDING YOUTH WITH A SECOND CHANCE THROUGH SHELTER SERVICES

Waymakers' Huntington Beach Youth Shelter Recognizes Supporters at Annual Reception and Open House

Huntington Beach, Calif., (June 13, 2019) - Waymakers, a nonprofit organization committed to providing high-quality counseling and support services to struggling Orange County children and families at their greatest time of need, recently hosted its 13th anniversary celebration of re-opening the doors of the Huntington Beach Youth Shelter, a short-term intervention "safe-haven" for runaway, homeless and at-risk children ages 11-17. Community members and Waymakers supporters proudly gathered for an open house and anniversary reception during the early evening to hear the positive impact and resources the Waymakers Huntington Beach Youth Shelter has provided over the years to more than 1,600 sheltered youth and their families.

During the event, the following community members were recognized for their notable involvement and support of Waymaker's Huntington Beach Youth Shelter:

- Huntington Beach based **The Great Dane Baking Co.** received the "**Unsung Hero Award**" for their continued support by providing delicious treats, cakes, and pastries to the Shelter on a weekly basis for the last 10 years. Great Dane Baking Co. always ensures that there is no shortage of cakes and cupcakes when celebrating birthdays and special events in the residents' lives. The treats that Great Dane contributes always puts a smile on the residents' faces.
- Huntington Beach City Officials **Chris Cole and Kellee Fritzal** were honored with the "**Distinguished Partner Award**" for their continued support and dedication to the Huntington Beach Youth Shelter. As a City Official, Cole has led the partnership between the City and Waymakers Youth Shelter to provide the annual Waymakers Light a Light of Love Parade and Celebration and coordinated with different city departments bringing together much needed resources to deliver this special community event to the Huntington Beach residents. City Official Kellee Fritzal has educated City government and staff of the services offered by the Shelter to the community and to youth in need. For the last 10 years, Fritzal has demonstrated and displayed a unique understanding and compassion for the needs of the Shelter and at risk young people.
- Huntington Beach resident and Shelter Volunteer **Janet Lewis** was recognized with the "**Inspiration Award**" for dedicating countless hours over the last four years to teaching Ukulele classes to the residents of the Youth Shelter as well as to the children in the Oak View Outreach Component of Waymakers impacting the lives of many underprivileged children. Lewis not only donates her time but also generously donated over 50 ukuleles for this very low income population.
- Huntington Beach residents **Dave and Robyn Stauffer** were presented with the "**Philanthropist Award**" for their generous financial contributions which have helped the Waymakers Youth Shelter provide young people in crisis with the necessary tools and support to overcome obstacles, become self-sufficient and gain stability and safety in their lives. The Stauffer's continuous acts of kindness have helped provide "hope" to those who have seldom experienced it in the past.
- Orange County resident **Chuck McInnish**, Director of Engineering at the Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort and Spa received the "**Outstanding Service Award**" for his

instrumental role in two of the Shelter's main special events: The Light a Light of Love Holiday Celebration and the Anniversary Open House. As a Hyatt representative and director, McInnish has provided leadership and guidance to ensure the success of both events.

During the event, guests were also encouraged to learn more about Waymakers' "What a Difference a Dollar Makes" Drive through a visual display of the culmination of funds raised throughout the shelter grounds. Participants were encouraged to collect dollars/change in a unique and creative way, while creating awareness to support the young adults who are residents at the Huntington Beach Youth Shelter. This year, the Huntington Beach Youth Shelter recognized 30 community groups and businesses who helped raise over \$20,000 for the "What a Difference a Dollar Makes" campaign.

Since opening its doors 13 years ago, the Waymakers' Huntington Beach Youth Shelter has helped over 1,600 homeless, runaway and struggling Orange County youth, most who are trying to cope with issues kids should never face, such as early-childhood trauma, along with their families. The trained staff has an excellent success rate of reuniting children with their families, over 90 percent, by finding solutions to the problems that hinder them the most.

The Waymakers' Huntington Beach Youth Shelter, along with the Laguna Beach Youth Shelter and the Tustin Youth Shelter, is not just a place to stay, as they provide a place for homeless, runaway and at-risk youth 24/7, 365 days a year.

For more information on Waymakers, visit <https://waymakersoc.org/>.

About Waymakers

Every day throughout Orange County, people find hope after trauma. They don't simply survive; they find ways to heal – all with the help of Waymakers. Our ten model programs guide over 120,000 abused children, crime victims, struggling families, acting-out adolescents and people needing mediation services annually. Waymakers has been sheltering children, supporting victims, counseling families, resolving conflicts and educating communities in Orange County since 1972.

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