

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 8/9/18

The Sheehan Adopt-A-Family Project (SAF) 501(c)(3)
1590 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite D360
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
www.safproject.org
(310) 435-9808



South Bay Charity SAF Project To Host Opening Party for New Computer Lab at Vista Del Mar Group Home

On September 12, 2018 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm, local South Bay non-profit The Sheehan Adopt-A-Family Project (SAF) will be hosting an opening party for the launch of their new Apple computer lab at Vista Del Mar group home located at 3200 Motor Ave., Los Angeles, 90034. The party is an opportunity for donors, board members, friends and family to see the completed lab and partake in music, light appetizers and drinks.

Late last year, SAF project partnered with the over 100-year-old Vista Del Mar group home to launch this computer lab along with a mentoring program for its youth residents. SAF Project's goal is to teach practical life skills and inspire the residents of Vista Del Mar to achieve success on their own after they leave the foster care system. Weekly courses started in the lab in April and are held each Tuesday from 5:45-7:00 pm. The class is split into two parts: a motivational speaker series led by an ethnically diverse group of successful entrepreneurs who have overcome great personal challenges, followed by computer training and workshops to ensure each resident has a resume and the skills to apply for jobs, internships and further education. The SAF computer lab was generously networked with the help of INC Technologies www.inctech.net who specialize in concierge IT services.

The lab currently holds 12 Apple desktop computers. SAF project is currently seeking donations to expand the lab in order to accommodate all 46 residents and have the computer courses run throughout the year. To donate, please visit SAF's donations page at www.safproject.org/donate. Checks can also be made out to The Sheehan Adopt-A-Family Project and mailed to 1590 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite D360 Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

About the SAF Project: For 7 years, the Sheehan Adopt-A-Family Project 501(c)(3) (www.safproject.org) has been "adopting" families through the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) 35 year old Adopt-a-Family program (<http://dpss.lacounty.gov>). Local South Bay resident and business owner Melissa Sheehan-Clarkson founded the SAF Project after she saw a growing need to address pervasive homelessness and hunger in Los Angeles. "I wanted to give back to the community that supported my dog walking company, Melissa's Mutt Hutt (www.gotmutt.com), one of the largest pet care service providers in the area," remarks Clarkson. "I figured if I could run a successful small business for 14 years, I could apply some of these skills to a charity for some grass roots level impact."

The SAF Project has grown to become the largest non-corporate adopter of DPSS families, bringing clothing, food and toys to thousands of needy families throughout greater Los Angeles. This year, Clarkson decided it was time to expand from not just adopting families, but adopting a group home. "After all these years of supporting our families and getting to know their true needs, I've come to learn that while giving material items to families in need is important, it's not fixing the problem of homelessness. It's a temporary fix. There is a lot of truth to the ancient proverb 'give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. Statistically, most kids in the foster care system are headed straight toward homelessness. My goal is to intervene before they exit the foster care system in order to break this vicious cycle."

About Vista Del Mar: Vista Del Mar Child Care Service provides comprehensive housing and help to orphaned and foster children with special needs, including those with mental, behavioral, emotional or developmental challenges. Located on over 18 acres in Culver City, the secure facility includes 24/7 care for residents, and an exclusive school where children can be monitored at all times. Vista Del Mar's mission is to provide at-risk youth with the best opportunity to learn fundamental life skills in an effort to prepare them for adulthood.

For more information about Vista Del Mar or to arrange a tour, please contact Craig Horning at (310) 836-1223, extension 545, or at craighorning@vistadelmar.org.

Contact

Melissa Sheehan Clarkson
safprojectorg@gmail.com

www.safproject.org
310.435.9808

Social Media

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SheehanAdoptAFamily
Instagram: @safproject