

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 12/19/17**

The Sheehan Adopt-a-Family Project (SAF) 501(c)(3)  
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**South Bay Charity SAF Project To Build Computer Lab in Vista Del Mar Group Home**

For 7 years, the Sheehan Adopt-A-Family project ([www.safproject.org](http://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>). Out of the hundreds of families that apply annually to this program only a tiny fraction end up getting adopted. SAF Project is the largest non-corporate adopter of families and has been able to bring clothes, food and toys to thousands of needy people throughout Los Angeles through monetary and in-Kind donations to their families over the past 7 years. Every holiday season SAF partners with the Vikings Charities to co-host two major events: a holiday party for over 300 disadvantaged children, and a food packing event with 300 volunteers from the Los Angeles Sheriff’s department who pack up 1550 food boxes for food scarce families around Los Angeles.

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 made my dog walking company, Melissa’s Mutt Hutt ([www.gotmutt.com](http://www.gotmutt.com)), one of the largest pet care service providers in the area. I figured if I could run a successful small business, I could apply some of these skills to a charity for some grass roots level impact.”

This year, Sheehan-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.”

As a result, SAF project has partnered with 100-year-old Vista Del Mar group home to begin building a computer lab for its youth residents to teach practical life skills so that they can find success on their own after they leave the foster care system. The computer lab will be supplemented with a 1.5 hour weekly course beginning in January 2018. The course will be split into two parts: a motivational speaker series led by an ethnically diverse group of successful businesswomen who have overcome great personal challenges, followed by computer skills training led by a skilled, Apple affiliated computer technician.

SAF project is in immediate need of technology donations (Apple laptops, desktops & tablets that are less than 8 years old) for the computer lab as well as monetary donations via their YouCaring fundraiser page: [www.youcaring.com/saf2017](http://www.youcaring.com/saf2017).

**Social Media Contact**

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**Social Media**

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