

Fostering Community

THE DAVID & MARGARET YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES QUARTERLY

# Newsletter

VOL. 1, ISSUE 3, OCTOBER 2019



David & Margaret  
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES



# Support D&M Today!

# 1

## LINK

Support D&M when you shop at Amazon



<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-1660346>

# 2

## FILL

Join our canned food drive to fill the pantries of young adults with a history of foster care.

<http://bit.ly/DMtday>



# 3

## INVITE

D&M Staff to come and speak about youth in foster care at your next service club, business or faith based meeting



# 4

## READ

the D&M Blog to learn about the people and programs that you support

<http://bit.ly/DMSStories>

Florida will schedule a speaker for you

**909-596-5921 x 3249**

## Stay in Touch!

Always be the first to know about what's happening at David & Margaret. Sign up for our mailing list and join our community however is easiest for you.

Our website  
<http://bit.ly/DMupdates>

or by calling  
**Florida Barron 909-596-5921 x3249;**

or by email  
[barronf@davidandmargaret.org](mailto:barronf@ davidandmargaret.org)

Learn about new merchandise, specials and offers at Dave & Maggie's Center through their monthly e-flyer  
<http://bit.ly/storenews>

## Our Mission

*David & Margaret empowers children, youth, and families through culturally diverse services that foster emotional, educational, spiritual, and identity development.*

### DAVID & MARGARET YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## A Note From Charles C. Rich, Executive Director

David & Margaret has been part of the fabric of La Verne for over 110 years. The partnerships and community building that have happened in that time have been invaluable. David

& Margaret is better for it, as is our community. As partners in the work we do, I wanted to share some recent updates and offer a state of the agency.

2019 has been a year of change for D&M. In a recent agency assessment we completed, our results indicated we are in a core program development phase. This is a time of growth and re-assessing our programs to assure David & Margaret is aligned with the needs of the community we serve. As always, our focus is on providing the best care for the youth and families who come to David & Margaret. I wanted you to hear from me about these changes and know firsthand that they are all happening as we hone our services to the needs of our community.

In our efforts to ensure the highest quality of programs, we have made the very difficult decision to close, for now, our Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP). After diligently working to build a program focused on the youth achieving their goals, we determined we did not have the resources needed to accomplish that. Given the acuity of the needs of the youth involved, the open layout of our campus, and the challenges that created, it was prudent to close the STRTP program for now and focus on building and strengthening our other programs. Residential programs have always been the cornerstone of our services and they still are, albeit in a slightly different format. We still have short term residential services for youth ages 11-19 as well as our New Beginnings Program for youth ages 6-17 who are coming to the United States to start new lives away from the numerous and diverse challenges they faced in their country of origin.

The other change on campus is the shuttering of Dave & Maggie's Cafe for now and a change in our store hours to Tues-Sat from 10am-4pm. This is being done to manage expenses while making sure there are needed funds for our core

programs. We are pleased to still be able to offer the community the opportunity to find bargains, necessities and fun finds while supporting our programs. The cafe was running at too great of a loss financially and we are taking a few steps back to reassess and determine how to best move forward with the space and hope to bring back service in the future. Our Youth Workforce Training Program is still going strong and is providing internships for Transitional Age Youth at various D&M departments as well as in the community at TJ Maxx, San Dimas Chamber, and more.

As part of these changes we also have some exciting new additions. Our foster care agency has entered in to a new partnership with Urban Strategies to help qualify new foster parents so they will be ready to welcome foster youth into their homes. D&M is also building out our new youth drop-in center which will be called COMPASS Point and will provide resources and services to teens and young adults. There will be community linkages and referrals, peer mentoring, group classes on life and career skills, onsite resources such as hot meals, a place to shower, study, access computers, and just hang out as well as much more. As a result of the growth in our Transitional Age Youth (TAY) programs we have appointed Marissa Schofield as Director of COMPASS Programs overseeing all TAY services. COMPASS stands for Creating Opportunities and Making Personal Advancements to Self Sufficiency.

Marissa has been with the agency for four years as the manager of the Transitional Housing Program and I am excited to have her lead us in growing programs for TAY.

It is a privilege to bring needed resources such as more foster families and COMPASS Point to our community. I look forward to continuing championing programs that evolve to meet the needs of our youth, families and community.

Best,

*Charles C. Rich*

Charles C. Rich  
Executive Director

# Brian Bowcock: Above and Beyond



Brian Bowcock's life is a testament to his passionate devotion to helping people, especially young ones. Whether it's coaching little league, mentoring a foster child, serving on a community college foundation board, or simply making access to city services easier for people, he's done it. He is a longtime resident of La Verne, and his personal history is interwoven with the city and with David & Margaret Youth and Family Services.

*"I met former Executive Director Bud Whitney when I was Director of Public Works for the City of La Verne in 1978," Brian recalls. "I knew Bud through La Verne Rotary. Bud would ask for help on various projects at David & Margaret for the same reason that I now work with The Learning Center at the Fairplex and the Citrus College*

*Foundation – to help young people who don't have financial means or transportation, achieve their goals through higher education."*

He and his wife, Sonya (who he also met when they both worked for the city), are long-time advocates for disadvantaged youth. Fifteen years ago, they mentored a David & Margaret resident who is now working full-time. *"I look out for the residents any way I can,"* he says. *"That's why I make the donations that I make,"* for instance helping to underwrite the annual gala in years past, or most recently, a generous gift toward the new COMPASS Point drop-in center under construction in the historic Whitney Building.

He admits to getting into his fair share of mischief as a kid, which he says gives him empathy for troubled youth. Brian and Sonya feel it is important to support David & Margaret. Brian notes, *"Staff performs a service that could help the young women and young men in their care." Because we can't do what the staff can, we help financially."*

*"I have been retired now 19 years. My whole purpose is to give back to my community that provided for my family. I want the young men and young women to have the opportunities that I did not. Maybe you would like to join me?"*

**If you are interested in joining Brian in supporting the youth and families at David & Margaret, please feel free to contact our Community Engagement Officer Maggie Bohlman at 909-596-5921 x3246 or [bohlmanm@davidandmargaret.org](mailto:bohlmanm@davidandmargaret.org) You may donate online at <http://bit.ly/DMYFSgive>**

# RENEW



# SPOTLIGHT:

## Joan Macy School

Public school is not suitable for all students, there are many factors involved that can hinder your child's ability to succeed, ultimately harming their relationship with education. Private school is not an option for most families nor is it always the right fit, leaving parents wondering where to turn.

This is where Joan Macy School comes in; offering the community and surrounding districts an alternative school experience, geared toward the needs of each individual student.

Joan Macy School (JMS) is a specialized, Non-Public School located on the campus of David & Margaret Youth and Family Services (D&M) in La Verne.

Joan Macy is recognized by the California Department of Education, to provide services for 1st -12th grade students in Special Education. Student's education is in accordance with each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Class sizes range from 8-12 students per classroom with a Teacher and Assistant. Students participate in state curriculum framework and standards. Additional classes offered: home economic, P.E., woodshop, art/drama, as well as a work experience program, hygiene awareness, and life skills management. These special classes foster crucial human development by exercising social skills, promoting togetherness and developing



peer relationships. In addition, all students receive 30-60 minutes of DIS Counseling weekly and curb to curb transportation is provided.

On top of the curriculum, class sizes, friendly peers and personalized academics, what makes JMS so extraordinary is the faculty and staff. These adults truly care for their students and will do what is needed to help them set and achieve their goals

**You can learn more about Joan Macy School on the D&M Website [www.davidandmargaret.org](http://www.davidandmargaret.org). If you are interested in visiting Joan Macy School please contact your student's District or Claudia Enriquez for more information. (909) 596-3173 or [Enriquezc@davidandmargaret.org](mailto:Enriquezc@davidandmargaret.org)**

# WHOPE

# COMPASS Programs and CO

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Marissa Scholefield



Marissa Scholefield is the newly appointed inaugural director of David & Margaret's COMPASS Programs, a new division focusing on the needs of transitional age youth. COMPASS stands for Creating Opportunities and Making Personal Advancements to Self Sufficiency.

### MEET MARISSA

I have been serving foster youth for over 10 years, working alongside our most vulnerable children both in the group home setting, as well as in the community as part of wraparound services. For the past 4 years, I have been a part of the David & Margaret team, where it has been my privilege to serve young adults who have a history of being in foster care. As part of that housing team, we provide access to skill building, support, and links to services in their community. Now, with COMPASS Programs emerging, I am excited at the limitless possibilities to obtain new opportunities for the young adults in our community.

## Transitional Age Youth

Like other young adults, youth with a history of foster care are not quite ready to be out on their own, but unlike other young adults they lack the support of family and face numerous other challenges such as:

- *Nearly half of foster youth have learning disabilities or delays.*
- *Only 58% of young people in foster care graduate from high school.*
- *Foster youth do not have the guidance of a family to help them navigate the road to adulthood and career.*
- *Almost 50% of young women in foster care in California will have been pregnant at least once by age 19*
- *Half of youth who have aged out of foster care end up homeless or incarcerated.*

**There are over 1,400 youth that age out of foster care in Los Angeles County annually. Youth aging out of foster care need services, support and a community to advocate for them as they do the hard work of growing into adults without a family to depend on. This is why David & Margaret has launched the new COMPASS Programs division.**





# COMPASS Point Drop-in Center

In 2016 David & Margaret Youth and Family Services opened Cedar Springs permanent supportive housing apartments to address a need in our community and to compliment the transitional housing programs already in place. Adding permanent supportive housing helped D&M see that the services currently provide are a good start, but more was needed to support young adults with a history in the foster care system. Through community assessment, focus groups, surveys and listening parties, a new vision of what is needed to support young adults with a history in the foster care system living in our community was born.

The COMPASS Programs are a result of that process. COMPASS stands for Creating Opportunities and Making Personal Advancements to Self Sufficiency. The COMPASS Programs will be led by the Director of COMPASS Programs in partnership with the COMPASS Advisory board which is comprised of young adults with a history in foster care and community leaders. One

particularly exciting aspect of these programs is the long-anticipated COMPASS Point drop-in center. Construction of the COMPASS Point drop-in center has been funded by a generous grant from the Margie & Robert E. Petersen Foundation and will open in early 2020 to serve youth aging out of foster care in our community. Youth who use the drop-in center will have access to:

- *Healthy meals and snacks,*
- *Activities and special events*
- *Linkages to David & Margaret's College and Career Program*
- *Housing and support services*
- *Connections to community providers who can support them in their journey to adulthood*
- *And more*

COMPASS Point will centralize service delivery and bring needed services to the young adults eliminating transportation and other barriers to accessing services. The center will include offices, restrooms, a kitchen, a dining area, a laundry room, showers, a rest area, a recreation room, a quiet room/study area and library/computer room, and a conference room.

Other programs under the umbrella of COMPASS Programs are Cedar Springs permanent supportive housing; transitional housing programs; the college and career readiness program; helping hand; food, new clothing and new household item distribution center; mental wellness services; peer mentoring pro-grams and soon an alumni club.

Over the coming months David & Margaret staff and the COMPASS Advisory board will be working in partnership with the young adults we serve to identify what services and programs are needed to best meet the needs of our participants. This inclusive process and the resulting programs will need the financial support of our community, companies and private foundations to grow from concept to reality. Please keep an eye out for updates to learn how you can be a champion to these young adults.

**If you would like more information please contact Marissa Scholefield at [ScholefieldM@davidandmargaret.org](mailto:ScholefieldM@davidandmargaret.org) or 909-596-5921 x3625**





# RESILIENT MR. TEAL



In his early teens, Carl Teal was placed into residential foster care. *"It wasn't the best predicament"* he shares. *"It was tough. I wasn't in foster care my whole life, I was in foster care for 3 years. Just a short amount of time. It was different for me - coming from a household, experiencing the foster care thing was just different."*

*"We had some kids I wasn't used to. I wasn't about being bad and negative but I was around guys that were like that."* He recalls knowing in his heart that *"I don't belong here"*. Needless to say, Carl was eager to be released from foster care.

The reality Carl faced once he was released from foster care was not what he had hoped for. He was working two jobs: Target in the morning, Marshall's in the evening. But he no longer had a home, a place to sleep at night, a place to wind down and feel safe. He did his research and found a shelter in Los Angeles where he could take refuge while looking for a way out.

After six months of living in a shelter, Carl was finally able to move into an apartment of his own. That apartment is in the Cedar Springs apartment complex at David & Margaret Youth and Family Services. Cedar Springs offers permanent supportive housing and more to young adults with a history of foster care. Supportive services include mental wellness services, career and college readiness programs, life skills classes and individual mentoring and counseling as needed. These resources are there to ensure all the residents have the tools they need to thrive.

Carl's assiduous personality shines through to everyone who meets him and he soon became an employee at David & Margaret in the maintenance department. *"I'm learning a lot of different fields. I learned electrical, I've worked with air-conditioning, some plumbing and gained skills in all around maintenance work - it's very useful."* Carl explains. Next week Carl is set to begin school to

receive his HVAC certification, something he is very excited about as it will help secure his future.

Complimenting his resilient work ethic, is his creative heart. He started writing music in 8th grade and continued to write through out his experience in foster care. He describe it as an effortless passion that naturally continued through the years. *"Then I fell in love with poetry and started writing poems."* Carl shares. *"I just like creating. It takes a lot of thought. I feel like that's something that a lot of successful people who are sitting on top of empires do. They put in a lot of thought and time. Especially for people who are in predicaments that they just wanted to get out of. You're pretty much put in a position where all you can do is think about things like that. Dreamin', just dreamin' of a better situation."*

We wish Carl the best of luck in his future, and we look forward to sharing the poem he promised us!

**If you are or you know of a young adult with a history in foster care that is in need of housing please contact Brianna Ascenio at [asceniob@davidandmargaret.org](mailto:asceniob@davidandmargaret.org) or (909) 596-5921 x 3604.**



## Donor Dollars at Work

Thanks to the support of The Parsons Foundation, In-N-Out Foundation, and others, as well as donors like you there have been significant capital improvements around campus. Thank you for making the following happen:

- A new van for Joan Macy School to safely transport students.
- New Basketball court and sport court area
- New sidewalks for Joan Macy School
- Cottage renovations including remodeling the bathrooms in Turner and Wynn cottages.
- The Learning Enhancement Center is getting a face lift with new paint, lighting and new equipment.
- A new security booth at the front gate helping to ensure the safety of all residents, staff and guests.
- And of course, the COMPASS Point Drop-in Center is under construction and expected to open in early 2020

**If you are interested in learning how you could support the youth and young adults that rely on David & Margaret please contact Maggie Bohlman, Chief Community Engagement Officer at 909-596-5921 x 3246 or [bohlmann@DavidandMargaret.org](mailto:bohlmann@DavidandMargaret.org)**

## Thank You, Gala Sponsors!

Gala sponsorships support the programs and services for the over 1,200 children, youth and families served at David & Margaret annually. We gratefully acknowledge the sponsors of our 12th Annual Gala, Fostering Community:

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Spectrum Instruments Inc.  
Cindy Walkenbach

## Volunteers Making a Difference

Over the past few months volunteers have given their time and offered their talents to David & Margaret. Thank you to each and every person who Renewed Hope and Inspired Change.

The annual Summer Service day was a huge success with dozens of volunteers in attendance. Volunteers came as individuals and as part of larger groups. Groups that attended included Jack & Jill, ADP, and Church of the Brethren. The day included mostly indoor activities, such as helping out in Dave & Maggie's Center; filing work in Human Resources; and moving old furniture from its temporary home to its new location. The hearty outdoors crew washed vans for Joan Macy School and gave some picnic tables and benches much-needed TLC.

Southern California Edison also came for a day of volunteering. During their time on campus they tackled a huge project. They relocated the "birthday room" (The storage area that houses donated supplies and gifts that

are waiting to bring smiles to youth and young adults in foster care) to its new location as well as moving furniture.

Gilead Sciences also came for a day of service. Their team painted the Learning Enhancement Center as well transforming the back Whitney Stairs into a rainbow to create a visual reminder that LGBTQ youth, families and staff are welcome at David & Margaret, and more.

A Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout project installed two planter boxes and stained picnic tables, a stage, benches, and gazebo by the playground.

Each and every volunteer day and project made a difference, thank you.

**If you or your group are interested in volunteering please, contact Volunteer/Mentor Coordinator Linda Vahrson at [VahrsonL@DavidandMargaret.org](mailto:VahrsonL@DavidandMargaret.org) or (909) 596-5921, ext. 3311.**





# 12th GALA Fostering Community

The 12th annual gala was a night of celebration, friends, food and fun. Our community came together to raise needed funds to support the youth and families who rely on David & Margaret Youth and Family Services. This year's Gratitude Award recipient was former board president Cindy Walkenbach, and this year's Henry Kuns award recipient was Joel Ramirez. You can learn more about each of them on the next page. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate and recognize this year's honorees. We are already looking forward to next year!





# Henry Kuns Award

The Henry Kuns Award is named after the founder of David & Margaret Youth and Family Services. The Henry Kuns Award recognizes a youth aging out of foster care for their accomplishments on the path to independent living.



## HENRY KUNS AWARD RECIPIENT – JOEL RAMIREZ

Joel, 20 years old, has been in foster care for over half of his life. He has lived in eight group homes and with three different foster families. Foster youth like Joel who age out of foster care without a forever family have a 50% likelihood that they will experience homelessness and/or incarceration. Only 58% will graduate from high school, and only 3% of foster youth go on to graduate from college.

Joel, however, is not a statistic, and he has plans for his future. He was a participant in the Transitional Housing Program Plus Foster Care (THP+FC) program at David & Margaret. While living in the apartment provided for him by THP+FC, he successfully balanced being a full-time student at Mount San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) and working a part-time job as a student ambassador at the REACH program at Mt. SAC. As a student ambassador, Joel assists former foster youth with case management services.

While at David & Margaret Joel took advantage of the Youth Workforce Training Program and attended life skills classes, working one-on-one with the employment coach and case manager. Joel earned his associate's degree in 2018 and began classes this past August at Cal Poly Pomona, where he's working on a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

# Gratitude Award

The Gratitude Award honors a foster parent, donor, volunteer, or other supporter of David & Margaret Youth and Family Services for their outstanding efforts on behalf of the agency and the youth and families served.



## GRATITUDE AWARD RECIPIENT – CINDY WALKENBACH, PAST PRESIDENT, DAVID & MARGARET BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindy's introduction to David & Margaret was in the early 1980s when she as a teacher in the Bonita Unified School District (BUSD). Some David & Margaret residents were enrolled in BUSD's Work Experience Education program, and she realized the special challenges many of these students had in finding and keeping jobs without the benefit of the family support that most students received. Later, as an administrator in BUSD, she created a special Regional Occupation Program class for students on our campus, designed to teach youth essential job readiness skills.

In 1998, Cindy was asked to represent BUSD on the David & Margaret Board of Directors, and served for 18 years. At various times she served on the Finance Committee, Audit and Pension Committees, the Board Development Committee, and the Program and Quality Assurance Committee, which she chaired. In 2011, she became the Board president and served for four years.

During her tenure as president, a \$25 million capital campaign was launched to build Cedar Springs, supportive housing apartments for young people who are aging out of the foster care system. As president of the Board, she was actively involved in the initial planning stages of the campaign including building the case for support.

# Holiday Happenings

This Fall, Fill the Pantry of transitional aged foster youth and help make Thanksgiving a day to remember! Between October 14th and November 8th donations of canned goods will be accepted at various locations including David & Margaret and Starbucks located on Foothill and Wheeler in La Verne. Cash and Card donations are also accepted to provide Turkeys and fresh items for the youth's Thanksgiving Dinners. **Please visit [bit.ly/dmthanksgiving2019](http://bit.ly/dmthanksgiving2019) for additional information or to make a Fresh Food cash/card donation!**



## HOLIDAY GIVING

The holidays are fast approaching, typically a time to spend with family and celebrate the bounty of the season. For youth and young adults with a history of foster care their holidays are often a painful reminder of what they don't have. At David & Margaret we invite you to join us in changing their stories and to help make the holidays merry & bright. These pages highlight how you can renew hope and inspire change this holiday season. Other ways to make a difference this holiday season include volunteering, shopping at Dave & Maggie's Center, and fulfilling wishlists items from our website <http://bit.ly/DMWishlist>

For more information please reach out to Florida Barron at 909-596-5921 x3249 or [BarronF@davidandmargaret.org](mailto:BarronF@davidandmargaret.org)

## HOLIDAY SERVICE DAY

Deck the Halls for youth in foster care! Holiday Service Day will take place Sunday, December 1st from 1pm-4:30pm. Registration is available at [bit.ly/HolidayServiceDay2019](http://bit.ly/HolidayServiceDay2019) (case sensitive)

## GIVING TUESDAY - DECEMBER 3, 2019

Let the Holidays Sparkle for youth in foster care 100% of the funds raised on giving Tuesday will go to make the holidays and winter break special for the youth, young adults and families served by David & Margaret Youth and Family Services. Individualized holiday gifts, special meals, holiday outings, and special activities on campus to make the holidays special are only possible with your generous support. Without you the resources just aren't there to make these special things happen. These things may not seem like much, but to a child, young adult or family who has nothing they mean the world. Thank you for letting foster youth and at-risk families celebrate the season! The David & Margaret Board of Directors will match all #GivingTuesday donations dollar to dollar up to \$2,500 which means every dollar you donate has twice the impact. If you would like to make a donation please do so by December 3, 2019.

Learn more or donate here <http://bit.ly/DMTues> If you would like to support this event in other ways please contact Maggie Bohlman at 909-596-5921 x3246 or [Bohlmanm@Davidandmargaret.org](mailto:Bohlmanm@Davidandmargaret.org)





## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

The Annual Holiday Open House & Boutique will take place on Saturday, December 7th from 3pm-5pm! Featuring live music, Santa Photos, great shopping, crafts and more. This is a fun-filled event for the entire family! Bring a gift card or unwrapped gift valued at \$20 or more to brighten the holidays for youth with a history of foster care and be entered in the holiday raffle!

**For more information please reach out to Florida Barron at 909-596-5921 x 3249 or [BarronF@Davidandmargaret.org](mailto:BarronF@Davidandmargaret.org)**



## NOVEMBER IS: NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH!

November is National Adoption Month and David & Margaret Youth and Family Services will have several special stories, features and activities throughout the month. Please check our website at [www.DavidandMargaret.org](http://www.DavidandMargaret.org) in November to learn more about adoption stories in our community.

If you are interested in sharing your adoption story please contact Jadie Delgado, Digital Communications Coordinator at [Delgadoj@Davidandmargaret.org](mailto:Delgadoj@Davidandmargaret.org) or 909-596-5921 x 3225



# 5 QUESTIONS: An interview with Wayne Wolcott, Supervisor, Transitional Housing Programs



## A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WAYNE:

He is Massachusetts born and bred, with a bachelor's degree in psychology from Sacred Heart University and a masters from the University of Massachusetts in clinical psychology. A doctorate is in his future (eventually), and he hopes to be accepted at the University of La Verne, where coincidentally his fiancée is an English professor. To balance out the stress of his job he plays basketball almost every day, and is "very, very, very into movies – all genres – more streaming and rentals than going to a theater. My fiancée and I like to go to flea markets and bookstores looking for bargains on DVDs."

## What do you like most about working here?

*"The fact that even though we don't always see it, we're making a difference in someone else's life. To be fair, they don't always realize it, either. We do hear from successful former clients from time to time. It's not that we're looking for gratitude, but it's nice to hear."*

## Who is your role model?

*"My dad, because he's not a quitter, no matter what adversity faces him. I always try to keep that in mind."*

## When you were a kid, what did you want to be and why?

*"The plan was for me to be a doctor. In fact, I did two years of pre-med. But I wanted to be a surgeon, and I have bad knees, so standing for hours during a surgery wouldn't be possible. I always wanted to help people, though, and in college my classmates would always come to me to talk about their problems. They said, 'Hey, have you ever thought about psychology or therapy?' It's clear that that's the way for me."*

## If you could learn anything, what would it be and why?

*"I'd love to learn to play an instrument – either piano, guitar, or violin. I have no musical talent, but love music and always have to be listening to something."*

## What saying or motto do you live by?

*"I have two: one, 'every single second is a chance to turn it all around,' and two, 'we should concern ourselves less with the pursuit of happiness and more with the happiness of pursuit.'"*

# INSPIRE



# MEET RUTH MARTINEZ, Volunteer, Young Professionals Committee

Ruth has passionately supported her community - wherever that may be - for over a decade.

It all started her senior year of high school, with the Invisible Children movement when she began volunteering and fundraising to support children in Africa who are actively recruited by the militia. Since then she has been an unstoppable volunteer, looking out for vulnerable members of society, and supporting more than a handful of organizations.

Following her passion she attended college in Iowa where she studied international affairs. From there she moved to Chicago to volunteer with the AmeriCorps. Her services didn't stop there; while working at an International School in Korea Town she also volunteered at a local dog café where she worked with abandoned and disabled pups. She also travels to Tijuana every month with her church to bring critical supplies to families and individuals in need.

Ruth is currently volunteering at David & Margaret while she waits to move to Uganda with the Peace Corps, in early November. Ruth expresses her decision to volunteer with D&M because the mission resonates with her. Helping improve the lives of young adults and families is a cause she was eager to get behind.

"I love volunteering! I try to motivate people, especially the younger generation, to go out and volunteer. Get involved with an organization whose mission you agree with. Every organization does something different and if you enjoy that aspect or sector then you should get involved. Volunteering really allows you to see different aspects, different work environments, gain skills and meet new people! It has been something I really enjoy." Thank you for everything you do to make this world a better place, Ruth! We look forward to following your journey.



If you are interested in volunteering please contact Linda Vahrson 909-596-5921 x3311 or [VarhsonL@davidandmargaret.org](mailto:VarhsonL@davidandmargaret.org)

# CHANGE



David & Margaret

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

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