



CALIFORNIA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The History and Heritage of the Knights and Rancho San Antonio Boys Home

“DEDICATED TO THE MAKING OF MEN”

The history of Rancho San Antonio dates back to 1933, when the Catholic Big Brothers recognized the need for such an agency, where boys with problems might solve them under proper guidance. The present location at 21000 Plummer Street, Chatsworth, was purchased by the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles and officially opened on June 20, 1938.

In 1953, the Cardinal requested that the Brothers of Holy Cross assume direct supervision of the facilities and program at Rancho San Antonio. Cardinal McIntyre also requested the Southern California Chapter of the Knights of Columbus to assist with this much-needed service for youth and their families. Through the years, the Knights of Columbus have raised over four million dollars funding the 17 facilities on the Rancho San Antonio campus and assisting with the graduation of over 15,000 youth.

Rancho San Antonio has an especially challenging task because our teenagers need to be readjusted and redirected after parental, home, and school difficulties have aggravated the normal problems of growing up. Often, the line between the restless, high spirited, rebellious teenager and the potential criminal is a thin one. If his environment or his home conditions are degenerative rather than constructive, the transition from boyhood to manhood becomes a disastrous experience. He then needs a chance to escape from such an environment and to consider the unpromising direction he has taken so far.

At Rancho, each boy's education, spiritual needs, social judgment, physical growth, and counseling needs are given individual consideration. Rancho San Antonio provides various types of therapy-based programs for helping the individual find and maximize the strengths that he has as an individual. These programs seek to help a youngster define and recognize his problems, change his attitudes and relationships, and help him respond to life's problems in a responsible and acceptable manner.

Successful completion of the program is the ultimate goal. The boys at Rancho San Antonio are not incarcerated, as there are no walls or fences. Therefore, each boy must be willing to accept his need for placement and be willing to participate in working on his problems. We request the boy's family actively participate in his growth toward responsible manhood.

Rancho San Antonio has received citations for its services from the State Legislator, the County of Los Angeles, and the City of Los Angeles. We also have the wholehearted endorsement from the Los Angeles Board of Education, the Department of Public Social Services, and the Juvenile Court. Today, Rancho San Antonio is nationally accredited, and is recognized as a leader in innovative programs for youth.