



Communique

resident profile

Jorge Solano moved into his apartment at Casa de Amma in August 2007. Jorge moved from Cali, Columbia and was very excited about the opportunity to be a part of the unique community and support Casa de Amma offers. The staff at Casa were quickly touched by Jorge's compassion and concern for others. He is the perfect example of a gentleman and is always watching out for his friends.

Jorge has a passion for sports. He enjoys basketball, tennis, soccer and ping-pong. We have all been impressed with his athletic skills, but even more impressed by his sportsmanship. Jorge has shown that he cares more about how the game is played than about who wins.

Jorge has worked hard ever since he moved into Casa de Amma. He assists seniors at Brighton Gardens and also works at the St. Vincent De Paul's Thrift store in San Juan Capistrano. Jorge also takes English classes 4 times a week and a recreational class on Fridays at Saddleback College.

Jorge is a valued member of the Casa community and we love having him. Thank you Jorge for all the joy you bring us!



opportunity knocks

It is often asked, "what is Casa de Amma?" The usual answer goes something like this; "Casa de Amma is a unique apartment community fostering growth and independence in adults with special needs." That may be true, but it falls short as we are so much more. Casa de Amma is Opportunity! An opportunity to have a life full of meaningful relationships, to make personal choices, to demonstrate accomplishments and to live a full and purposeful life.

The young men and women of Casa de Amma want what we all do, a chance. Often times adults with disabilities have fewer opportunities than most because of the stereotypes and confusion about them. At Casa de Amma we regularly see the men and women who call Casa "home" surpass expectations. We know that their abilities are remarkable and that all they need is an opportunity to prove what they can accomplish.



Casa de Amma is a great resource for the business community. Did you know that Casa de Amma residents are a great option for your entry level employment openings? Free, on-the-job training is provided (at no cost to the employer!) and tax credits may be available. Employers have an excellent resource, as well as a dependable and reliable employee. In turn, our residents gain the self respect that comes from receiving real-pay for real-work.

Do you know of an opportunity you could pass on to one of our residents? Whether it is a job, a financial gift that goes to improving the services we provide, or just offering volunteer time to our community - we love it when opportunity knocks at our door!

jorge's family perspective

Why did you choose Casa de Amma as the place for Jorge to live? We chose Casa de Amma for Jorge because it is a very cheerful and beautiful place. It is extremely well-designed and planned out for the convenience and enjoyment of the residents. It also has excellent rules and regulations, which allow Jorge to be independent, yet cared for and supervised at all times. Living together with the other residents gives him a feeling of belonging, provides friendships and more importantly, a home away from home.

How has Casa de Amma benefitted Jorge? Jorge is living a more independent life than ever before as he lives in his own apartment, where for the first time he can fix a meal for himself, launder his own clothes, and basically be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of his things. He also has a part time job and enjoys the responsibility as well as the appreciation they show him at work.

Where would Jorge be if he wasn't at Casa de Amma? He would be living in Cali, Colombia with his mother, Blanca. In Cali, he would have many restrictions due to the insecurity and inherent dangers of a large city. He would also have very few responsibilities because his mother and relatives would always be there for him.

How have you seen Jorge change since living at Casa de Amma? Seeing Jorge have the opportunity to grow in so many ways such as learning to be independent and responsible for his own apartment, to live and get along with other residents and to have a credit card and manage a budget, to make good choices when shopping for groceries, to go on field trips, play team sports, table games, to celebrate birthdays with his friends, enjoy barbeque's, dress up for Halloween and decorate for Christmas, just to name a few.



when they can't live alone but want a life of their own

Casa de Amma is a unique apartment community, fostering growth and independence in adults with special needs.

We provide a broad spectrum of vocational, residential and educational opportunities in a responsive and caring environment.

Our programs are designed to meet the needs of each resident and provide a fulfilling experience for the entire family — because we understand families are happier when their member with special needs is living the best life possible.

We host programs for parents, siblings and others whose lives are touched by a person with special needs and encourage families to remain supportive and involved.

Our staff includes highly skilled professionals who provide responsive and effective support services to our very special population.

(877) 496-9001

Tel (949) 496-9001

Fax (949) 373-1399

www.casadeamma.org

EIN #26-0030511

Marshalls is an "off-price" retail store, not a discount store. Buyers find brand name products that designers produced too much of, allowing 'Marshalls to pass them along to their customers for a much lower price.

Nathan

Jeremy



casa's community partners

The Marshalls in San Juan Capistrano, CA recently made some exciting changes, incorporating a Megashoe Shop in their store. General manager, Mr. Kliebenstein, has hired two of Casa de Amma's residents in the past year and a half. Jeremy Pasino began working there in July of 2007, and Nathan Couturier began in April of 2008. Mr. Kliebenstein has given Jeremy and Nathan a variety of tasks, helping them to learn most aspects that are required to run a successful retail store.

The Megashoe Shop has kept Jeremy extremely busy, as he has the challenge of finding as many mismatched shoes as possible, pairing them, and placing them in the appropriate boxes. Jeremy is also responsible for straightening the shelves, tagging the shoes with size and security tags, assembling shoe boxes, and placing the correct display shoes neatly on the shelf.

Nathan has recently transferred from the Megashoe Shop to the perfume and cologne department. He is responsible for unloading the boxes and organizing the perfumes and colognes by brand and size. Nathan then carefully places security tags on each bottle that exceeds a set price. Toward the end of his shift he has the challenge of appropriately shelving the delicate merchandise to be purchased by customers.

Marshalls has helped both of Casa de Amma's residents learn the importance of being punctual, as they have to clock in and out, and take an exact 15 minute break. They are also responsible for filling out their own forms to request time off and retrieving their weekly paystubs. Because of the store's convenient location, Jeremy and Nathan find their own way to work. Jeremy prefers to walk, and Nathan rides his bike.

Mr. Kliebenstein says, "The Casa de Amma residents bring dedication, enthusiasm, and energy to work. It is contagious in this store and brings out the best in other employees. Jeremy and Nathan are reliable employees and are eager to learn." We appreciate all of his efforts to help our Casa de Amma residents become hard-working, dedicated, and enthusiastic employees.



Casa BBQ Brings Smiles

Guy Goes GQ!

Gala Girls Rock!

A Trip To The Fun Zone

A Very Thankful Casa de Amma Thanksgiving

nutritional focus for 2009

This is the time of the year that we reflect on what we are thankful for. My list included family, friends, my career; on and on I could go. In addition, I would imagine that at the top of most of your lists is health. Health affects every aspect of our life. Did you know that adults with disabilities are almost twice as likely to be obese? Staying in shape is hard work and often time's adults with disabilities are limited in their access to appropriate nutrition and exercise support. In 2009 we are going to be introducing a new exercise and nutrition program at Casa de Amma. We believe that with the right support we can help the men and women living at Casa change those statistics. Would you like to help? Your charitable contribution to Casa de Amma can go specifically to our Exercise and Nutrition Program in 2009. If you would like more information just call us and ask for Aaron.

through the doors | by jessica anderson

The front desk is similar to a window in that from behind it one can view a small glimpse of life. It is a medium which bridges staff and residents together, as well as a catalyst for change. Each day I find it brings with it new challenges, yet even more blessings. With the holidays fast approaching we are thrust into a time of reflection in which an overwhelming sense of gratitude, joy, and love emerges. In the hustle and bustle of fixing Thanksgiving dinner, entertaining guests, and frantically purchasing those last minute gifts, it is easy to forget the pertinence of family and friends. Despite the tough economic time, there is a wealth of things to be thankful for. Since the first day I started at Casa de Amma I have seen resident after resident succeed in numerous tasks vocationally, nutritionally, financially, and socially. Casa de Amma is more than just a residential program, it is a family, grounded in character and commitment, knit together in friendship and fellowship, and seasoned with determination and teamwork. From the heart I can genuinely say that Casa de Amma is a unique treasure that is cherished by all!

