



# Los Angeles House of Ruth

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2006

### Mission Statement:

Our mission at the Los Angeles House of Ruth is to provide temporary and transitional shelter for homeless and battered women and their children. Through our mission, we offer women and children a caring and supportive environment in order to help them transition to long-term self-sufficiency.



## The Challenge for a New Home!

A recent editorial in the Los Angeles Times reads, "According to the most recent count, **there are 88,000 homeless people in the region (Los Angeles) — nearly 1% of the county's population.** Many sleep in their cars. Others bounce from shelter to shelter, hoping each night that there is a bed available. The worst-off sleep on skid row, a tragedy that we have allowed to happen right before our eyes. Will we improve their lot? (Los Angeles Times, "Homeless politics, L.A.-style", April 3, 2006)

**We are happy to say that here at Los Angeles House of Ruth that YES – we improve their lot!** But we still have a long way to go! Los Angeles House of Ruth is a place that is ever evolving to meet the needs of the dozens of homeless women and children who walk through our doors each month!

The title of this article "The Challenge for a New Home" has a double meaning. First, it refers to the challenge of each and every homeless woman and child who walks through our doors hoping to find a refuge and a place to call home. Second, it refers to Los Angeles House of Ruth's current campaign to purchase a new shelter house for existing residents to serve as their temporary home until they can find permanent shelter – like over 90% of our residents!

We currently have three shelter houses that serve over 120 women and children every year. One of our shelter facilities that houses six families is in very bad condition and it would be extremely costly and time consuming to rehabilitate the shelter so that it can continue to be used as one of our shelter homes. The house—built over 80 years ago—has seen much good use, but the wear and tear from housing multiple families with many children at once and several families throughout the year combined with the age of the house makes it virtually impossible to maintain. We have been given the opportunity to purchase a 3,036 sq. ft. house, only one-half a blocks away from our current shelters, for a negotiated rate, to modify into a new shelter home. This will allow us to relocate six homeless families (20 individuals) from an existing deteriorating shelter, expand and enhance our current shelter services, and serve an additional six or seven more families at a time, which translates into a potential to serve up to 65 more homeless women and children a year.

### HELP US MATCH THE



THE AHMANSON FOUNDATION

**\$100,000  
CHALLENGE GRANT  
FOR THE  
PURCHASE OF A  
NEW SHELTER HOME!**

**WE CAN HOUSE 40-60  
MORE PEOPLE A YEAR!**

**We have been generously promised a challenge grant of \$100,000 from the Ahmanson Foundation if we can raise the remaining \$300,000 to purchase and modify this home for our shelter program.**

**We extend this challenge to you and hope you will help us reach our goal of raising \$300,000 by September. If we cannot, we lose the challenge grant and the opportunity to serve many more homeless families!**

**Remember that every gift counts and is needed – from \$25 to \$2,500 to \$25,000! Please contact Sister Jennifer Gaeta at 323-266-4139 for more information about how you can donate – or send a check today!**

***On behalf of all the mothers and children served by Los Angeles House of Ruth, we say THANK YOU for having the confidence and faith to invest in their futures and the futures of their families!***

**House of Ruth  
Board of Directors**

**Betsy Azariah**  
Asst. Director, Dept. of Children's Services  
Retired

**Linda Gustafson**  
Broker, Beiker & Co.

**Sharon Leahy**  
Project Supervisor, Dept. of Children's Services,  
Retired

**Anne Wetzel**  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

**Annette Colefax**  
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**Bishop Gabino Zavala**  
Auxiliary Bishop, San Gabriel Region

**Deacon Gus Sebenius**  
Deacon, San Gabriel Region

**Tony Saldana**  
Community Relations, Exide Technologies

**Barbara Hudziak**

**Karen Macfarlane**

**Sr. Jennifer Gaeta, SSS**  
Executive Director

**Letter from the Director**

Dear Friends,

There are truly many angels among us here at Los Angeles House of Ruth who help us accomplish our mission.

Los Angeles House of Ruth serves those women and children who face the most severe problems with the fewest resources to build stable and independent lives. Most have suffered from domestic violence, mental health problems, addiction, and severe poverty. The past abuse and neglect of many of the mothers prevent them from building strong emotional bonds with their children and knowing how to nurture them. Against all the odds, these women have great strength, resiliency and determination. With the support system of House of Ruth and your help, these women are able to address and overcome their problems and build the skills to lead productive, happy lives again.

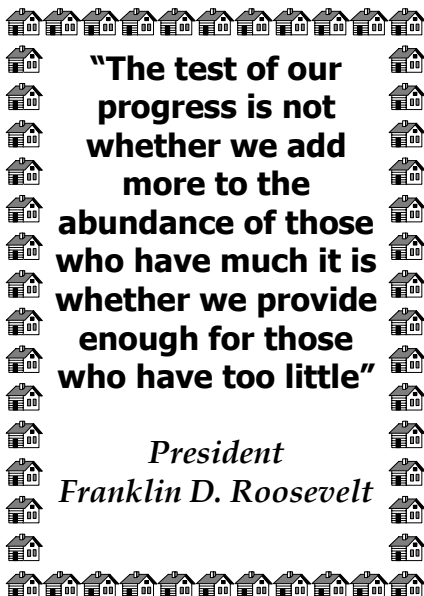
This month's newsletter is a special dedication to many of those individuals (supporters, staff, and volunteers) and organizations who work with us to ensure that many homeless families have a chance to start over and find a place to call home! From our many contributors, to our wonderful attorney, to our daily staff members – it is the combination of your combined efforts that leads to the success of our residents in finding a permanent home, a better life, and a hopeful future.

We are so blessed to have a compassionate, capable staff who work tirelessly and selflessly to ensure the success of our residents. One perfect example of this dedication is our Case Manager, Luisa Sanchez. We have profiled her in this newsletter and hope you can grasp a small sense of the type of people who work here at House of Ruth.

Every day, our staff and those who support our work directly impact the lives of dozens of woman and children. For this, we are eternally gratefully. And we are not the only ones - the future generations of these families are indebted to you for the support received through our shelter homes.

My personal thanks to those featured in this newsletter, our generous supporters and volunteers, and to those who keep us in your prayers.



God bless you and keep you safe,  
*Sister Jennifer Gaeta, SSS*



**"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little"**

*President  
Franklin D. Roosevelt*

**USED BOOK SALE**  
**Saturday, August 19 at 4-6 PM**  
**Sunday, August 20 (following Church Services)**

 **St. Timothy's Parish**  
**10425 West Pico Blvd.**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90064**  
[www.sttimothyla.org](http://www.sttimothyla.org) 

**Join us to help raise funds for our families!**  
Only \$12.50 serves the needs of one person in our shelter per day!

## WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!!!



The House of Ruth is very grateful for the *pro bono* assistance given by attorney **Matthew M. Proudfoot**. He has helped us with some important issues over the last few months and we are indebted to him for his help. Matt has been a featured speaker at a number of conferences and seminars. He has also conducted seminars on general litigation and warranty litigation issues for manufacturers and dealerships. His specialty is Business and Employment Litigation. Matt is a member of the International Association of Lemon Law Administrators, the Motor Vehicle Defense Association, RVDdefense.com and the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel. He received his undergraduate degree from University of California Irvine, B.A. and his law degree from University of San Diego School of Law. Matthew is licensed to practice in the State of California and United States District Courts.

Matthew is a Partner with **Gates, O'Doherty, Gonter & Guy, L.L.P.**, a firm deeply committed to serving their clients through a unique focus on transforming their client's experience with outside litigation defense counsel. The firm covers several areas of law and have collectively tried over 500 jury trials. They give their clients the voice and the tools they deserve to challenge conventional thinking about the practice of law, the delivery of legal services, and the customary operation of a law firm. For more information about the law firm, please visit [www.gogglaw.com](http://www.gogglaw.com).

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

### YOU CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION TO END HOMELESSNESS!

- Donate** by Check (Mail in enclosed envelope)
- Ask friends or family to **make a gift** to mark special occasions.
- Secure matching funds from your **employer**.
- Planned Giving**: Make a bequest in your will or set up a **charitable trust**
- Name House of Ruth the beneficiary of a **life insurance** policy.
- Make a **tribute gift**, honoring someone's special occasion (e. g., birthday) or remembering a loved one. (We'll send a letter of thanks.)
- Sponsor us** in any charitable giving program (employer, church, civic groups, etc)
- Volunteer** your time
- Donate materials** for our residents permanent housing (see back page!)

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If your work participates in the **UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN**, you can use your employee contribution to help provide shelter, food, and support to hundreds of homeless families through Los Angeles House of Ruth. To designate your United Way donation for us, simply write our account number **#35419** on your "designation card".



## Staff Profile: Luisa Sanchez

Luisa Sanchez had just sold her business, a small restaurant, because it was taking too much time away from her family. She was not sure what she was going to do for work, but knew that she needed to spend more time with her growing children. Then, sitting at church one Sunday, she was approached by Sis Jean Hopman, OSU. Sister Jean and Luisa often had conversations after the services about House of Ruth, a place where Sister Jean worked. She told Luisa that the House of Ruth was looking for someone to work part-time in childcare. Luisa called the director and soon was offered a temporary part-time job in childcare at the House of Ruth. That was 15 years ago.



Today, Luisa still works at House of Ruth, but now she helps to manage the childcare program as well as the night staff, weekend staff, and assist with case management in her position as a full-time house manager. She also helps with nighttime supervising, and even teaches nutrition classes to residents. Needless to say, Los Angeles House of Ruth is like a second home to Luisa. She brings so much joy and optimism to House of Ruth. When asked what her favorite part of the job is, she exclaims, "I love everything!" This is evident, but her voice seems to brighten even more when she talks about the 7 years she spent working with children.

Luisa's most memorable experience with her job was with her first client as a case manager. She fondly recalls the story of meeting her first official "client family." It was in the middle of December, close to Christmastime, and a mother with two little boys showed up at House

of Ruth. They had driven across the country from Minnesota through the snow and ice to escape a bad domestic violence situation. "I could not being to imagine the unbearable situation she was in," shared Luisa, "She was running away from her husband, a police officer, with a bicycle on the back of her car knowing that if the car broke down she could use the bicycle to keep moving. She was a very brave lady." Luisa was able to help her find shelter at House of Ruth and assist her in moving to permanent housing with the help of Section 8 vouchers. There have been many other brave women and children that Luisa has come in contact with over her years here. There is a bulletin board and a photo album in her office overflowing with photos of families who have moved on and cards and letters expressing their gratitude to her. Luisa was recently touched by a past homeless resident that recently bought a home in Atlanta, Georgia and called House of Ruth to offer part of her home to anyone else who may be in need. She marvels at the bravery and strength of the women she meets here.

While working at the House of Ruth, Luisa earned her AA degree in Child Development. When not in full service mode at House of Ruth, Luisa enjoys spending time with her own children, two girls and a boy. She enjoys talking walks to the park with her son. She also loves to dance as much as she can - from the salsa to the meringue. Her love for life is evident in her passion for dancing to her passion for serving those she works with. "I feel lucky," she explains, "because I get to earn money doing what I love to do."



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*Summer 2006*

**Many Thanks To All Our Donors!**

*We would like to thank the following organizations for their recent contributions. Through their generosity, we are able to serve many families and help in the fight against homelessness in Los Angeles County! Also, much thanks to all our individual donors!*

- Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation**
- Fritz B. Burns Foundation**
- Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation**
- Dwight Stewart Youth Foundation**
- Ralph M. Parsons Foundation**
- Northrop Grumman Corporation**
- Parish of St. Matthew**
- United Way**



**BECOME A LATTE CLUB DONOR!**

**"A latte spurned is a life turned"**

Once a week, instead of buying that \$5 latte, donate that amount to the L.A. House of Ruth!

**Your latte savings can feed one of our family for a month!**

Still not convinced? Consider this:

\$5 per day x 52 weeks = \$260 per year  
\$260 can feed one families for a month!

**Set up a latte jar at work to collect latte savings and donate them to LA House of Ruth!**

**Current Needs!**

We are always in need of items to help our residents make a new start in permanent housing! We appreciate any and all help!

**Large Items:** Kitchen Items (Stoves, Refrigerators), Couches, Beds (Twin & Double), Dining Room Sets

**Kids Items:** Clothes for Girls & Boys, Shoes, Toys, Videos in Spanish & English

**Baby Items:** Diapers & Wipes, Cribs, Clothes, Car seats, Bottles, Strollers, Formula, Baby Food Jars

**Apartment Start-Up Kits:** Furniture, Linens, Curtains, Pillows, Bedding, Appliances, and Kitchen and Bath Supplies

**Other Items:** Women's Clothes & Socks, Retail or Market Gift Certificates, Women's Hygiene Products, Cleaning Supplies, Food (the basics: rice, can goods, flour, beans), **CASH FOR DAILY OPERATING EXPENSES (\$850/day)**

**WE CAN PICK UP ANY DONATED ITEMS! Call SANDEE at (323) 266-4139**

**PLEASE POST!**