

# SALESIAN FAMILY YOUTH CENTER



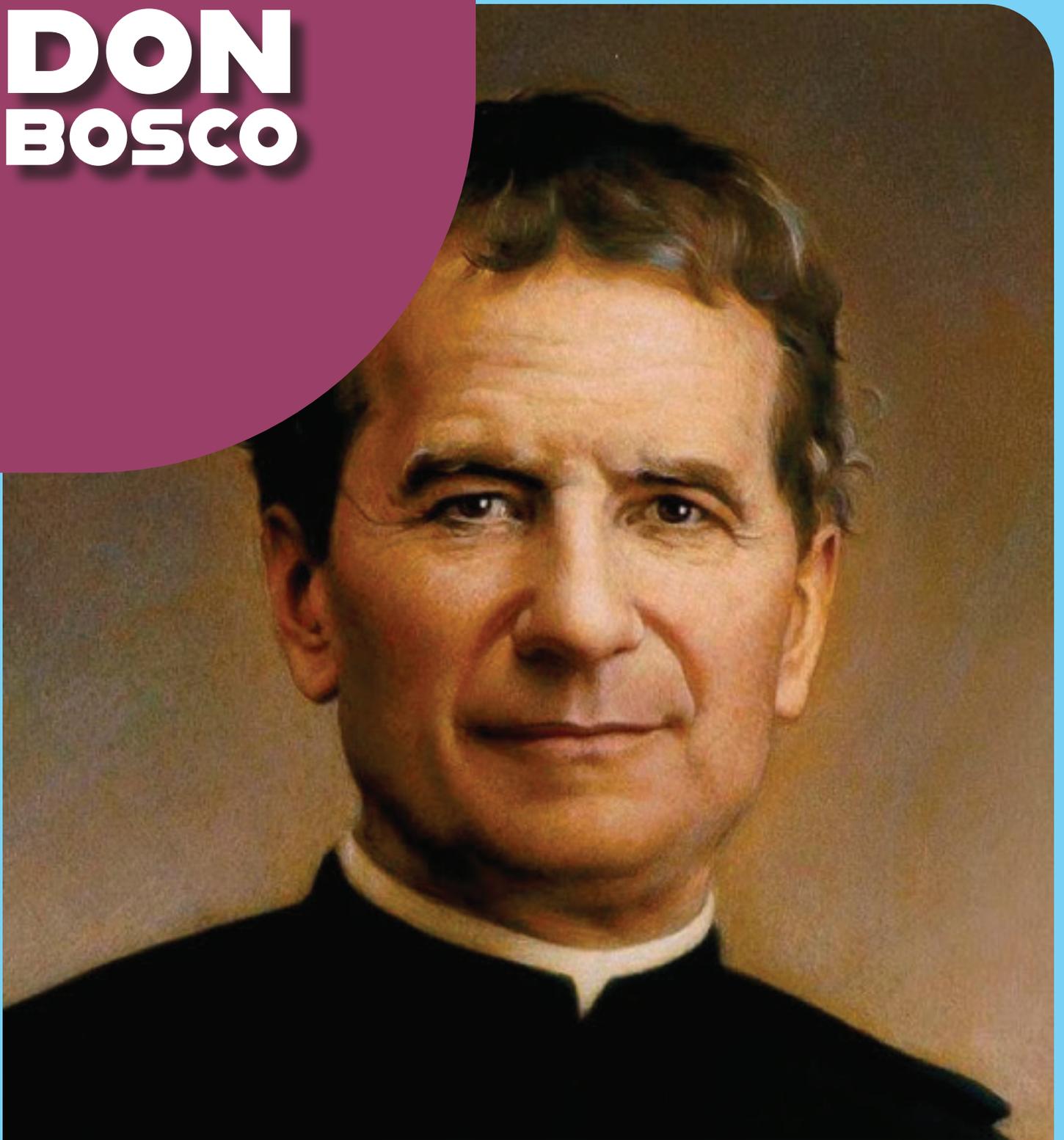
Annual Report  
JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021



ISSUE #3



# DON BOSCO



*"It is enough that you are young  
to make me love you very much."*

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@salesianclubsla



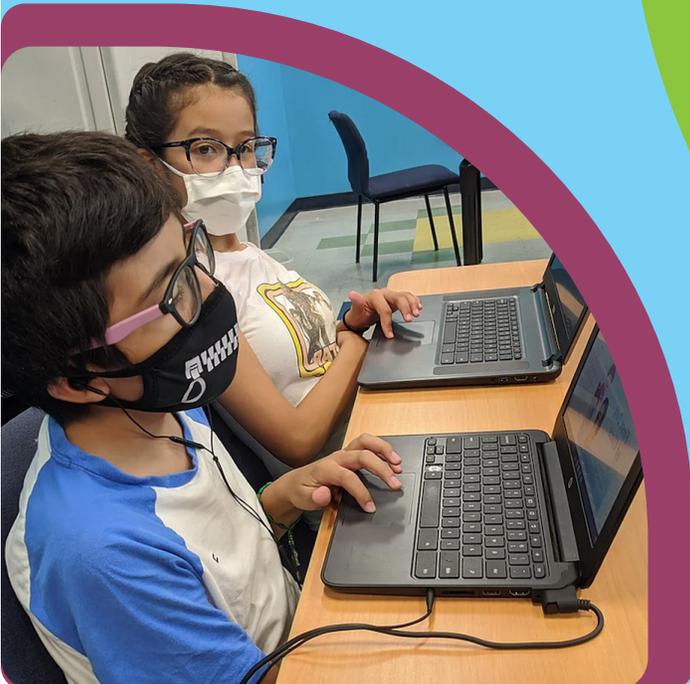
# WHO WE ARE

## **Our Promise:**

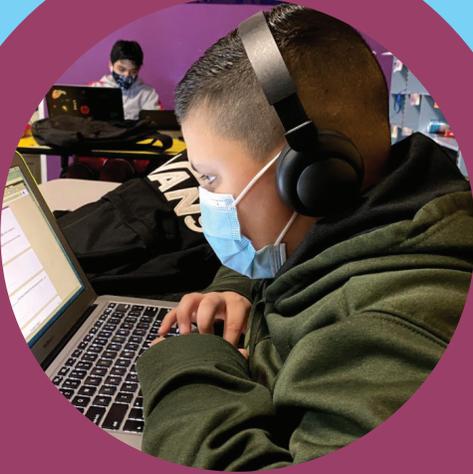
As volunteers and employees of the Salesian Family Youth Center, we promise to support our young people in creating a path to their desired future.

## **Our Personality:**

The employees of the Salesian Family Youth Center are kind, caring, loving, role models, fun, dependable, honest, unique, in touch and understanding!



# MISSION



*To inspire and enable the young people of Boyle Heights and the surrounding communities to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens and to support their families in this effort.*



# VALUES

The Salesian Family Youth Center's values are:

HONOR

COMMITMENT

OPEN-MINDEDNESS

RESPECT

EMPOWERMENT

DETERMINATION

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### DEAR SALESIAN FAMILY,

This past year has been a challenge and a blessing to all of us. We have been able to experience life differently. In March 2020, we experienced fear and anxiety. Everything shut down, and everyone hid at home. From March to April, we, the Salesian Family, kept trying to figure out how we could continue to serve the children of our community. By April, we were ready to do something. We started offering virtual online programs, but our community was not initially receptive to this new way of delivering programs. Our children and young people missed the personal interaction of in-person programs. We all needed to learn how to better communicate virtually.

By June 2020, the Governor approved the reopening of summer camp programs, and our Salesian Family jumped at the opportunity to serve our community face to face. We were ready and eager to bring in-person programs back safely. We ran Camp Salesian for nine weeks last summer. We stopped in-person activities for one week due to a COVID exposure. Thanks to God, no one was seriously ill.

Once Camp Salesian was over, we realized that many parents still needed our services so they could continue working and providing for their families. We answered our community's call once again and opened our doors from **7 AM to 6 PM every day**. Our program had an average daily attendance of **34 children**, and we became a school assistance program. Our SHOUT Teen Program became an example of how to implement a successful online virtual program, Our Youth Ministry Program accompanied our young people sought to be confirmed last year, despite the pandemic and shut down. Throughout all of this, our administration team worked on our organizational **strategic plan for 2021 to 2024**, which we are proud to present on the following pages.

While writing this, I cannot stop thinking about all our staff/family members who made this possible. They have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice their own lives to be present among the children of our community. Without each of them, I believe the letter I am writing now would be much different. I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of our team members, who have our mission to take care of our children in their hearts.

We also want to thank all of our donors who have made this adventure possible. I invite you to read on and see all of the beautiful things that are possible when we get together, set aside our own needs, and have our mission - the children - in the center of everything we do.

**Thank you so much for being part of the Salesian Family Youth Center.**

**SINCERELY,**

*Jc Montenegro*

**Jc Montenegro, PhD**

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2024



Under the leadership of Dr. Montenegro, this is the second strategic plan developed for the Salesian Family Youth Center. This plan took into consideration all of our stakeholders. Surveys and interviews were created to gather input from our children, parents, partners, board members, donors, and the community. All this information was gathered and analyzed by the administration team and presented to all staff/family members for their feedback and approval. Our 2021-2024 Salesian Family Youth Center Strategic Plan represents a whole organizational effort and experience.

Our strategic planning process analyzed the needs of our community and the strengths of our organization to propose a clear pathway for the next three years. The main goals that we identified through this process are:

## **GOAL 1: IMPACT**

To provide children, youth, and teens with intentional and impactful programs that support their character development, Salesianity, academics, health, and well-being.

## **GOAL 2: ENHANCE ORGANIZATION**

To enhance our organizational capacity through staff training, board development, and improved processes that increase efficiency and coordination of activities.

## **GOAL 3: ENHANCE STORYTELLING**

To enhance our storytelling and messaging with all our partners.

## **GOAL 4: INCREASE ENGAGEMENT**

To increase engagement and support by strengthening our relationships with our community and partners (i.e., parents, Salesians, schools, corporations, foundations, local businesses, and other partners).



# WE CARE PROGRAM



## OUR PROGRAMS

### ANNUAL REPORT

Salesian's We Care Program continued its mission to be there for families with whatever they needed despite the COVID pandemic. We extended our program hours to **7:30 am to 6:00 pm** in order to assist parents that needed a place for their children during the school day while they were working. Our staff ensured our facilities and programming adhered to all **CDC and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health guidelines**. Our computer lab offered them a place to log on for class and our staff were there to provide homework assistance after. We continued to provide enrichment activities like arts & crafts and **STEM** during the out-of-school time hours. Our youth continued to learn and grow throughout the pandemic when LAUSD opened up school campuses for **in-person** learning again, Salesian provided transportation for our students that were not within walking distance and picked up our students from school that returned back to in-person learning. We began with **30 students** and ended our year with over **50 students** attending our center daily. We found joy in the little things through the tough times by celebrating holidays and feast days, and we held a water day to celebrate the end of our craziest school year! We are happy with all we accomplished with our students and are even happier to welcome them back in person this fall!

### PERSONAL STORIES

Joseline and Elizabeth have been attending our youth center for **more than 5 years** now. The sisters come from a single-parent household, and their father finds comfort in knowing that the girls are safe with us after school.

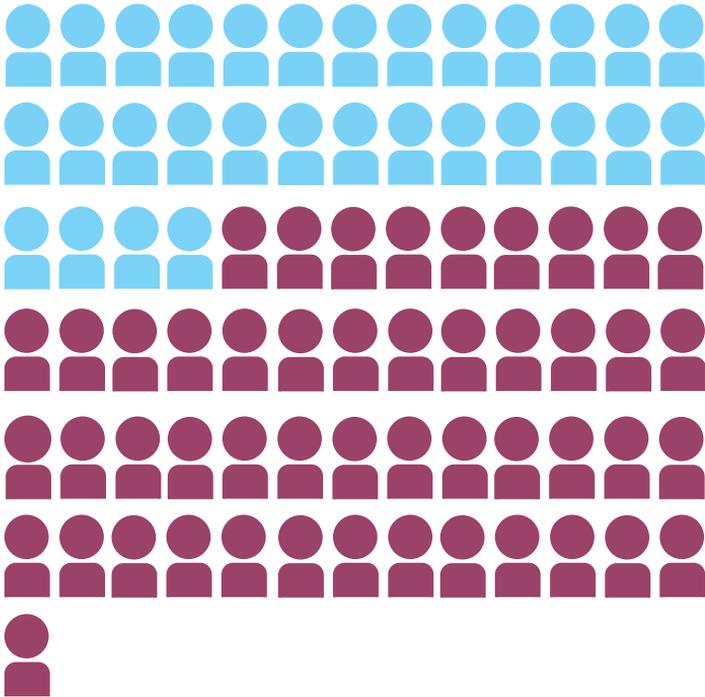
When Joseline began coming to the center she was a shy, timid girl that often didn't really talk too much and kept to herself. The program has helped her grow in that she is now so outgoing and loves talking with the staff and her peers every day. She welcomes you with open arms and brightens up the room with her smile. Joseline is growing up and dealing with emotions and different relationships with those around her. She finds confidence in the tutors and is able to express herself freely without judgement or criticism. She always receives love and support from our staff. We asked her what she loved about the We Care program and she said, **"I love all the activities that we do but what I love most is when something happens to me I kinda tell the tutors and I love that when they talk to me and that makes me more happy instead of me feeling sad."**

Through the pandemic we have continued to be like a second home to our students. We provided assistance with logging into school and doing homework. Elizabeth has also grown with us like her sister and is beginning to be more talkative and energetic. She shared what she's liked about this year at We Care and she said **"When we have a problem with the computers they would help us to listen to our class and they help us with anything that we need."**

Both sisters are examples of how the club helps our children grow and step into the people they want to be. Our staff surround the kids with kindness and love to accompany them in life!

# WE CARE ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

**79 YOUTH SERVED**

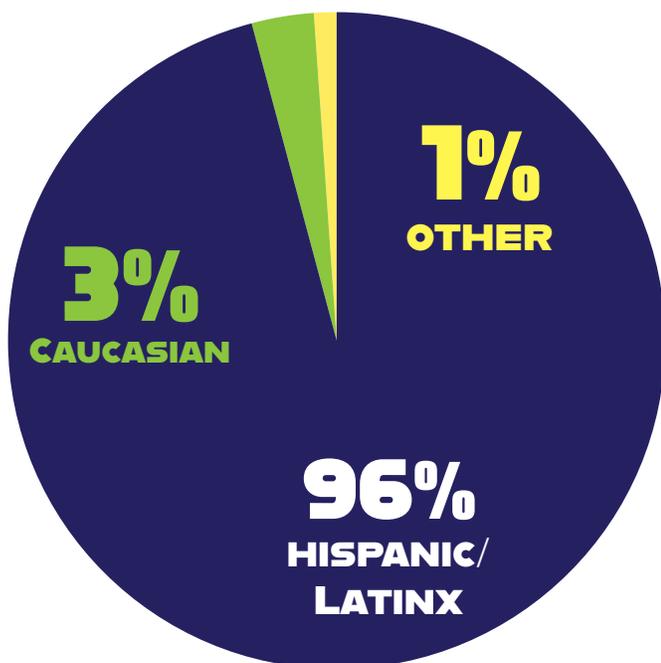


**38%**  
**BOYS**

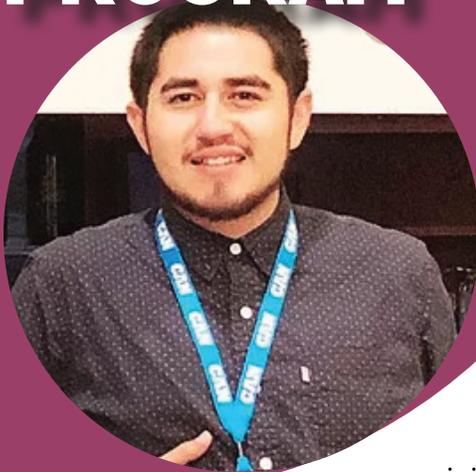
**62%**  
**GIRLS**

**54%**  
**NEW**  
**MEMBERS**

**46%**  
**RETURNING**  
**MEMBERS**



# SHOUT PROGRAM



## ANNUAL REPORT

This past year has been extremely difficult for all of us. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged every one of us, in both our professional and personal lives. We had to adjust from in-person programming to virtual on-line learning. We created a **SHOUT Instagram** account to stay in contact with our teens. Our Social Media experience was quite interesting. Our program was able to successfully utilize different forms of **communication** and **spread awareness** to our youth and community partners. We were challenged to make the best out of this virtual programming experience. We continued to **assist** our students **academically online**. We followed online safety protocols to continue to socialize and interact with our teens and provided a safe environment for them to come and join us every day. Like most youth development programs that made the jump from in-person to virtual, one of our hardest challenges was attendance. Our attendance numbers dropped drastically, by at **least 80%**. After a long day of virtual

learning in their regular school schedule, our teens were already too drained to attend our after-school virtual programming. Our staff did everything and anything possible to catch the students' interests and needs. Thankfully, it all paid off. We became more adept in **virtual programming**, and provided enhanced online activities, which resulted in an **increase in our attendance numbers**. There were so many adjustments and last-minute changes that we made to accommodate our students.

But what we learned from this past year, was that anything is possible in this world! We can happily say that this year, despite the challenges we faced, we made it possible to serve our youth in Boyle Heights!

## PERSONAL STORY

Yoshi is full of love for the people he truly cares about. He came to the United States in search of the American Dream. A dream that had to be put on pause, but was lived with such happiness. He is the type of person who, no matter where a person came from, or what language barriers he had to face to communicate with them effectively, if he liked you as a person, he would find a way to create a friendship. Sadly, certain events in his life cut his time in the United States short. He was forced to go back to Mexico, jeopardizing his education and health. Yoshi still keeps in touch with his SHOUT family through social media. On our Instagram page, we posted a picture taken before the quarantine of Yoshi and his friends from SHOUT. We were unable to see our students face-to-face during the quarantine, so we wanted to connect everyone and share the memories created with our students in SHOUT. Yoshi has not lost the hope of one day being able to return to see all his friends, and promised on a post (yoshigamer99) on SHOUT's Instagram that one day he will return.



# SHOUT ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

## MANY YOUTH SERVED

JULY 2020 - 0

AUGUST 2020 - 43

SEPTEMBER 2020 - 135

OCTOBER 2020 - 267

NOVEMBER 2020 - 360

DECEMBER 2020 - 353

JANUARY 2021 - 255

FEBRUARY 2021 - 861

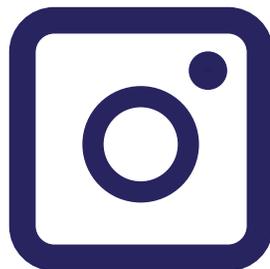
MARCH 2021 - 656

APRIL 2021 - 439

MAY 2021 - 315

JUNE 2021 - 99

**SHOUT  
INSTAGRAM  
CREATED**

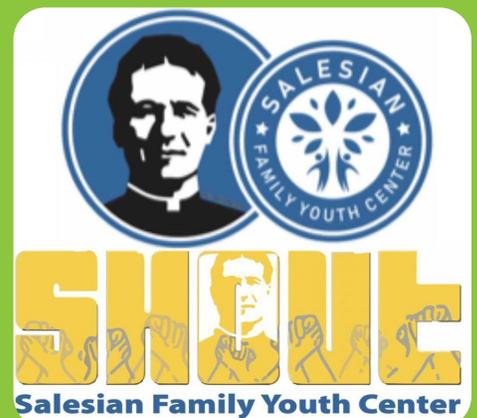


@shout0707

**VIRTUAL  
LEARNING  
SPACE**

**PRACTICED  
ONLINE  
SAFETY  
PROTOCOLS**

**NEW  
FORMS OF  
COMMUNICATION**



# SHOUT MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

*Valerie Concha | Garfield HS | Class of 2023  
2 Years with SHOUT*

Punctual, dedication, thirst for knowledge, and enthusiasm are some of the characteristics of our SHOUT student from Garfield High School Valerie Concha. Valerie was in 3 different programs offered by SHOUT. Very rarely did she miss a zoom session during the pandemic. During each program, she would always participate and ask questions. So happy to have a student that enjoyed learning so much. Valerie faces medical obstacles due to her heart condition yet she joined our SHOUT athletics to stay in shape. She wanted to be physical fit as well as mentally fit. An Ideal student!!!

## **Coach Oda's Responses**

### **Why are we choosing her as a highlight?**

- Her attendance, dedication, openness to learn, and the effort to help others were fully displayed throughout our programs.

### **What characteristics did she bring into our program?**

- Her leadership and being active with other students involved with our program was contagious. She had perfect attendance throughout the pandemic.

### **How did the student benefit from our program?**

- It helped her bond with other students from other schools. Learn new leadership skills. Helped with basketball skills.

## **Valerie's Responses**

### **How did you hear about the program?**

- Through Coach Duran from Garfield.

### **What do you like the most?**

- Getting to know my new mentor Coach Oda. Isn't he sweet :)

### **Would you recommend our program to your classmates?**

- Yes definitely!!!

### **What do you plan to do when you graduate high school?**

- Go to college and study medicine.

### **How can we help you make your high school experience memorable?**

- Continue having more programs like the Life skills which helps out with daily interactions with others.

# YOUTH MINISTRY



## ANNUAL REPORT

Throughout the year, our Youth Ministry has been busy. We have continued our collaboration with St. Mary's Church to serve and **empower the youth of Boyle Heights**. Salesian Family teens have also volunteered as tutors in We Care and participated in workshops held by **SHOUT**. As part of the pandemic response, youth-focused programs such as **virtual leadership training, team building, and faith formation** were implemented. The monthly Youth Nights were another huge success for teens who wanted to gather with friends. The nights included **fun games, prayer, and fellowship**. Youth Ministry was focused this year on St. Mary's Church's confirmation program. Classes were taught through Zoom, and classes were held whenever it was safe for everyone. Teens helped usher, lector, and sanitize chairs during **11:30 am mass** which became the youth mass.

The celebrations of the year continued. Members of the confirmation program participated in a mobile posada in December. For this project, the youth assisted in building a live nativity scene that travelled around town for three days. The **feast of Don Bosco** was celebrated with a **drive-thru toy drive, a movie night, and Eucharistic celebrations** that included members of the Salesian family, a magician, and our Father Provincial. The Holy Week activity included a **Lenten retreat, the washing of feet, and a performance of the passion of Christ**. The week was concluded with an Easter concert for teens. As part of a grand procession honoring Mary Help of Christians, students were encouraged to design t-shirts; the winning design was printed on **150 t-shirts** that were distributed at the procession. A total of **42 students** were confirmed in June.

**Twelve teens** were selected to participate in the Salesian Youth Leadership Conference (SYLC) on the week of June 11, 2021. In preparation for this conference participants led two youth nights and raised **\$2,500.00**. The weeklong Salesian Leadership training brought over **80 teens online** from different Salesian sites in California and Texas. JC Montenegro, our Executive Director was invited to present one of the sessions. As part of our commitment to helping young people become good Christians and honest citizens, participants learned about Salesian **Spirituality, Social Justice, team building**, and participated in group dynamics that highlighted their **strengths**. This is an important training for young people as part of developing them into good leaders. Despite not being able to do certain things as we normally would, our commitment to serving the youth of our community has led to new possibilities and continues to drive everything we do.



# YOUTH MINISTRY



## SCHOLARSHIP FROM ASCENDING LIGHTS

Leo embodies what it means to be an Ascending Lights Scholarship winner. He began volunteering at the Salesian Family Youth Center in 2018 as a Head counselor in our Camp Salesian Summer Program, and has helped as a Youth Leader in our Saturday Oratory and the Youth Group at St. Mary's Church.

*“What I like most about St. Mary's and the SFYC is feeling part of a community that I'm able to make a difference and able to help people.”*

Leo attends Los Angeles City College and plans to transfer to Cal State Northridge majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Ascending Lights provides community college scholarships, financial support, and one-on-one mentoring to students who are committed to strengthening their community through volunteer leadership roles in urban churches.

## FAREWELL FR. RAFAEL AND WELCOME FR. MARCOS

Every farewell always generates a pinch of sadness and a halo of hope, even more so if it is a cheerful priest who people enjoyed being around and sought as a spiritual guide during challenging times. This is the case of Father Rafael Saiz SDB, who will be missed at St. Mary's Church in Boyle Heights. The Parish community said goodbye to Fr. Rafael with a farewell Mass, reception, songs, and rousing applause. With the same enthusiasm, the Salesians welcomed the new pastor, Father Marcos Cesar Riveros.

## YOUTH MINISTRY/CONFIRMATION

A group of teens, parents, young adults, and Sr. Elizabeth, FMA gathered at the Salesian Family Youth Center to make hygiene care packages for the unhoused in our community. Soaps, toothbrushes, canned goods, and sweets were packaged and distributed to those in need living nearby. The rest of the care packages were taken to a community event in Skid Row. Teens who participated reflected on their experience.





## PERSONAL STORY

Tiffany De Anda is a 15-year-old who attends Roosevelt high school and was born and raised in Boyle Heights. She is the youngest of four siblings. Tiffany joined the Boyle Heights Youth Movement/Youth Ministry in **September 2019** through the confirmation program. She serves as a **core leader** for a youth group where she plans prayers, discussions, and youth activities with a team of teens. Tiffany also **volunteers** as a Salesian Camp Counselor and never misses a youth ministry event.

Tiffany, like many students, was isolated, learning remotely, and unable to see her friends during the quarantine and shut down. When the confirmation program started again in **October**, teens were invited to participate in the youth nights in person, with negative COVID test and state-required preclusions taken into consideration.

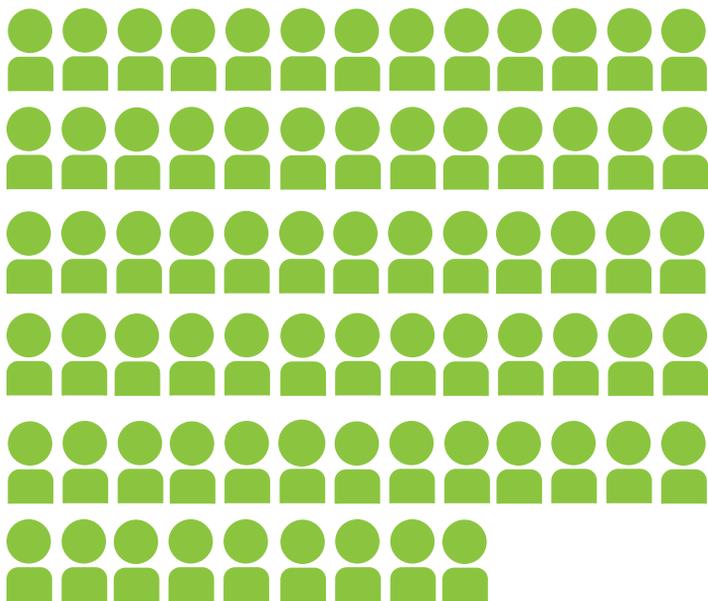
In the conformation program Tiffany found an outlet to be outdoors, active, and social. Tiffany says, **“I used to feel like I was missing out when I saw my friends on social media going out, but now I feel that they are missing out.”** During this past year, she has made new friends, raised money for youth activities, led events, attended the Salesian Youth Leadership Conference, and did a live radio interview about the Youth Ministry.

Tiffany shared that, **“Being part of Youth Ministry for the last two years has been honestly the highlight of my life. I’ve made the best friends and made a real connection with God. I wouldn’t have been the person I am today without all the people I’ve met in the youth ministry, especially Miriam who has helped me grow and come out of my shell”.** SFYC is proud to guide Tiffany De Anda on her journey to self-empowerment.



# YOUTH MINISTRY ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

**74 YOUTH SERVED**

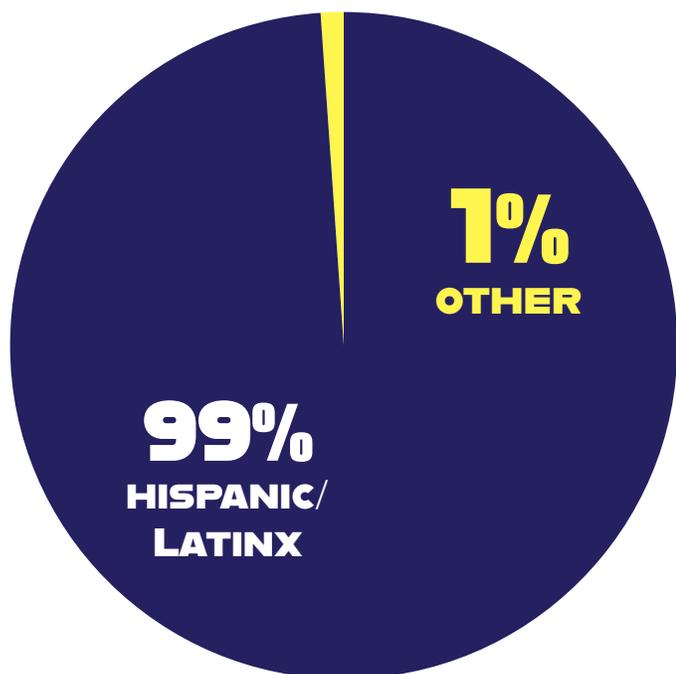


**41%**  
BOYS

**59%**  
GIRLS

**24%**  
ATTEND PRIVATE  
ACADEMIC INSTITUTION

**16.22%**  
ATTEND YOUTH  
MINISTRY 2+ YEARS

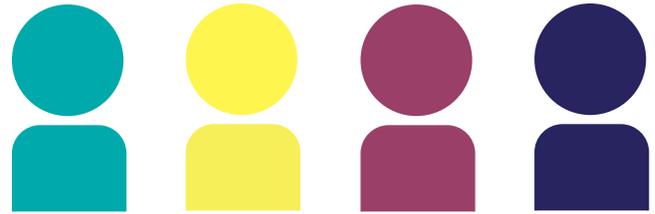


**62 YOUTH  
CONFIRMED**

**12 YOUTH  
MINISTRY**

**AVERAGE OF 18  
TEEN YOUTH ATTEND  
MASS WEEKLY**

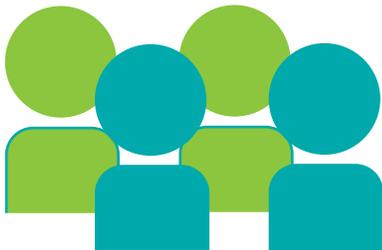
# CAMP SALESIAN



## ANNUAL REPORT

Last year's Camp Salesian summer program was the first time we opened our doors after the COVID-19 quarantine. Despite the pandemic, over **30 teens** and **young adults volunteered** to be **counselors**, and we had an average daily attendance of **20 campers**. As with the rest of the world, this was a new journey for us. Our Counselors and Campers had to adapt to the new guidelines and protocols like social distancing, increased sanitizing routines, mask wearing, and the prolific use of hand sanitizer throughout the day. Our counselors were **tested every 2 weeks** to ensure that we were all safe and ready for camp. Although we were unable to take our usual field trips to museums or visit the pool, we got creative and brought in programs, like cooking to go with our arts and crafts, STEM, and game room activities. Camp Salesian had all **50** of our Campers and Counselors with us for the **full 8 weeks!** Campers experienced a fun-filled summer packed with special memories from park days to prayer services, and an end-of-camp carnival day. Despite the challenges, our amazing team provided kids with a place they could be safe, make friends, stay active, and just be a kid, in a time when they needed it most.

## COUNSELOR DATA



**37**

**COUNSELORS**

**18**

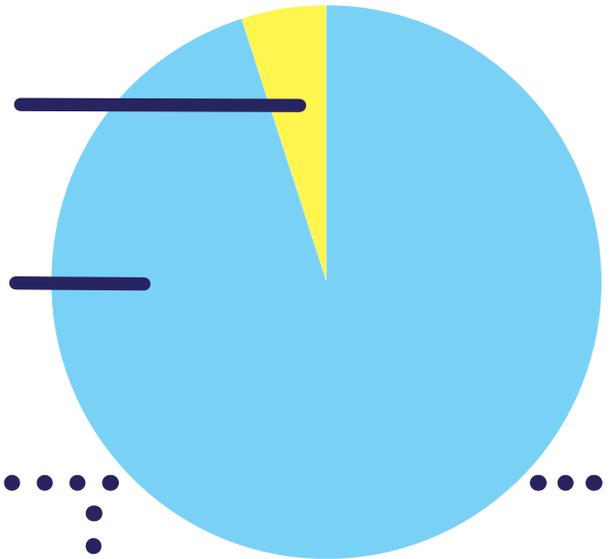
**MALE**

**19**

**FEMALE**

**5% PRIVATE SCHOOL**

**95% PUBLIC SCHOOL**



**100% FULL TIME**

**AGES 14 TO 20+**

**38% NEW**

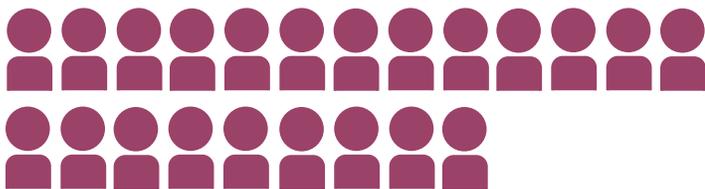
**62% RETURNERS**

# COVID-19 CAMP SALESIAN ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

## REPORT 2020

This year the Salesian Family Youth Center decided to open in-person following the CDC Guidelines for Summer Camps. It was a much different year than previous ones, but the fun was the same! We finished with 8 weeks of camp.

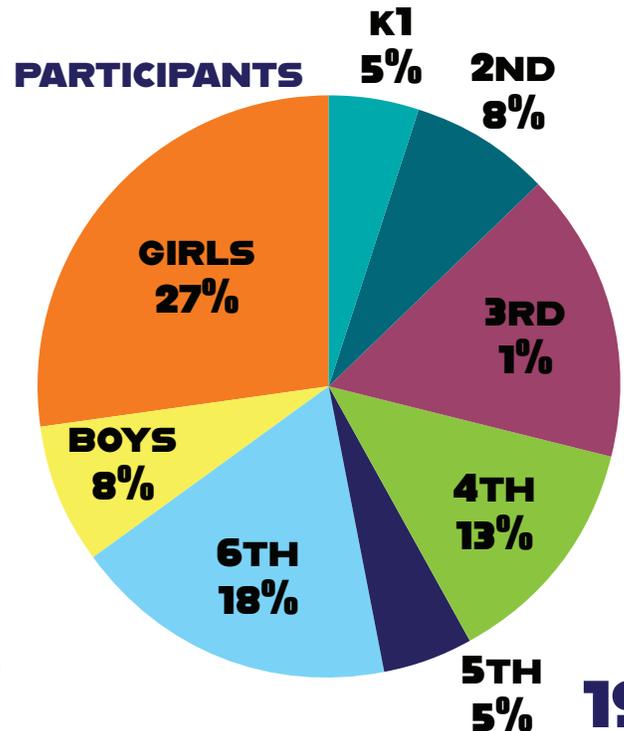
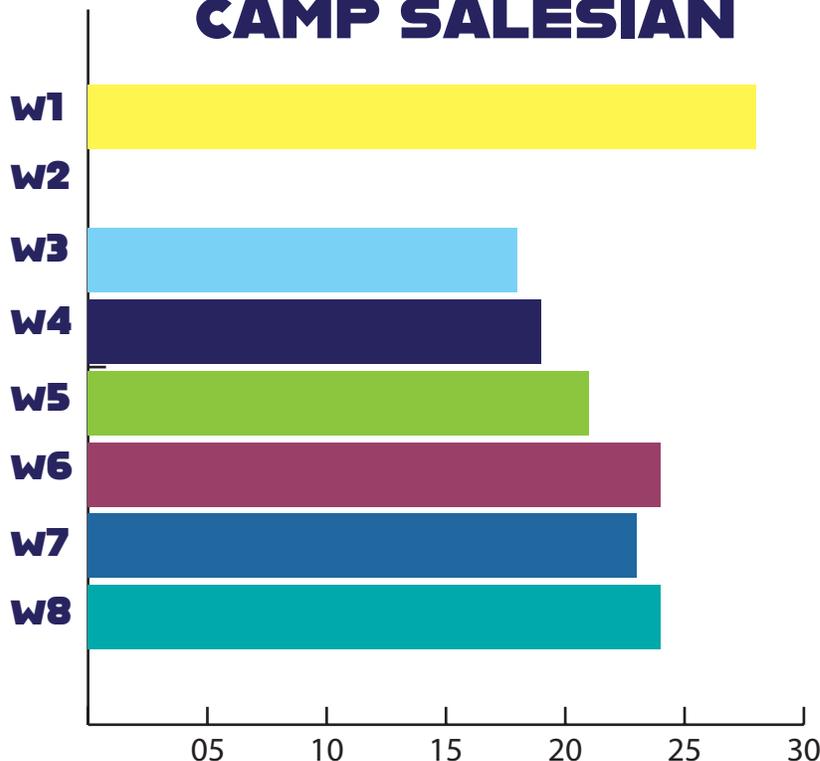
**22 YOUTH  
SERVED DAILY**



**8  
WEEKS**

**37  
CAMPERS  
REGISTERED**

**PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING  
CAMP SALESIAN**



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



## SUPPORT AND REVENUE

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS

Individual	\$30,063
Business	\$19,600
Foundations	\$324,221

### OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Gifts in-Kind	\$112,600
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### OTHER REVENUES

Programs, Rents	\$464,762
Other revenues	\$302

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$951,548</b>
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### EXPENSES\*

Program Services	85%
Administration Expenses	15%

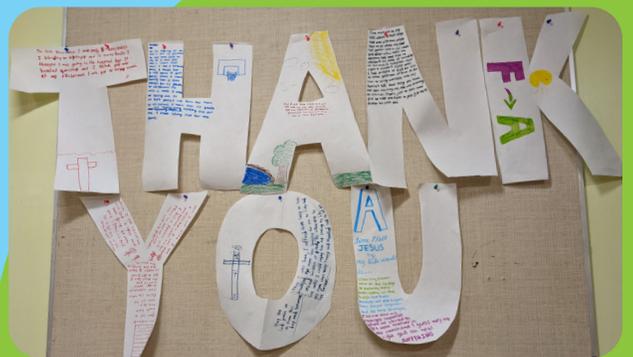
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>
--------------	-------------

\*Based on \$803,377 total expenses before depreciation of \$250,068

**THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
DONORS!**



*The Salesian Family Youth Center appreciates the kindness and support given throughout these unprecedented times. Our donors and volunteers have continued their efforts to provide a safe place of learning and growth for the children of Boyle Heights.*



# OUR DONORS

## 2020-2021

### GENERAL DONORS

The Dan Murphy Foundation  
Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation  
Philip Rinaldi Charitable  
Trust Sky light Foundation  
Ahmanson Foundation  
Alicia & Max Gallegos  
Guerra & Gutierrez Mortuary  
Kleiner Cohen Foundation  
Stripe Harness  
Sylvia Balderas  
Felipe Bagues Mortuary  
Guerra Cunningham Bagues  
John M Hernandez MD Inc  
Jorge O Ruiz  
House of Life  
Werner Hintzen Family Fund  
Network For Good  
Alonso G Silva  
Association Ex-Alumnos Salesianos  
United Way Inc.  
Your Cause  
Front Stream  
Run Jump N Hoop  
Cuellar Family  
Velma M Thompson  
A & L Maldonado  
Farmers & Merchants Bank  
Ruth Brandt Spitzer  
Amazon Smile  
Gail Klein  
Paul Villa  
Paul Tordella  
Patrick Lee  
Flynn Rebecca

### SPECIAL DONORS

*These are donors who are supporting us with monthly donations!*

#### Bronze Member

Mari Evelin Moreno Velasco  
Arnold & Lois Maldonado

#### Silver Member

Roxanna Gaete  
Raul Vallejo  
Teresitas Restaurant

#### Gold Member

Joe & Dianne Lumsdaine

#### Rounds Up

Melissa Somoza

*Thank you so much for all the people who have helped us to keep our doors open during COVID 19. Without you, many children would have been in the streets. THANK YOU!*

*If you would like to be part of this family, please visit our website and click on memberships.*



## MONTHLY MEMBERSHIPS

A new way to get involved!



Our Salesian Family Youth Center has created a new membership program to allow our supporters to make a difference in the life of our children. The main objective of this program is “To recruit professional believers who want to give back to the community, and make a difference in the life of a child”.

Our membership program starts at \$15 per month, about the cost you pay for any streaming service. The difference is this money goes directly to providing quality services for children and young people in our community.

If you would like to be part of this amazing membership program, please visit our website at: <https://www.salesianclubs-la.org/membership>

## CAMPER AID

93% of the campers received financial aid during Camp Salesian 2020. Without the support of the donors, these children would not have been able to experience an unforgettable summer. The percentage of support has increased in recent years being the highest as of 2020.

**DONATE  
TODAY &  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE!**



# SALESIAN FAMILY YOUTH CENTER OF LOS ANGELES

*EMPOWERING YOUTH SINCE 1966*

