

THE SEASHELL

VOLUME VIII





2024 IN REVIEW

Dear Friends + Families of Mae House,

2024 has been a great year for Mae House. We have seen our Members grow individually, gain confidence in independence, and be more involved in community. They are staying fit, eating healthy and getting good exercise. Carrie, Gina, Hannah and Tanette continue to grow as all young women do. Their relationships with each other and staff are really fun to observe and so rewarding for all.

Mae House has received its first two sizable grants. One from [Farmers & Merchants Bank](#) and the other from [100 Companies That Care](#). We are grateful for these opportunities and thank those groups very much.

In January 2025, Mae House will celebrate 7 years! We are so grateful to all for all of your support in the way of time, prayers, and donations. It is truly A-MAE-ZING to reach such a milestone!!

In a recent note from the family of one of our Members, they stated how Mae House has helped their daughter transition from a life of dependence to one of independence. See our Family Impact Story for more.

One of our primary goals at Mae House is to continue the high level of care for our Members. This is how we know it is time to expand our home. We have met with Tom Rakestraw, our architect of record for Mae House, and are in the second round of plan development. Once the plans are complete, we will proceed and prepare for city submittal for plan check and get ready for permit.

We are so excited about this growth and to be able to invite two more women to live at Mae House. We'll need to move the four current Members to a rental to live next fall through summer while the expansion construction occurs. It will be a thrill for all. The expansion includes a private room for each Member, an additional bathroom for the house, interior + exterior community spaces, and other fun enhancements.

Annie is always thinking of new ways to engage the Members with fun activities and planning for things that will make a meaningful difference in their days. Mae House uses a white board for the girls' schedules either written out or in picture form. They love knowing what's happening and all the comings and goings.

Chef Mary continues to provide great nutrition for our Members, keeping them happy and healthy. Her meals are thoughtful and delicious. In her regular meal planning, she cooks grilled turkey burgers with sweet potato fries and salad + almond crusted chicken tenders with veggies, rice, and salad. The Members all love their dinners together each night, both for the food and the great company.

As part of our community outreach efforts, we are in partnership with RAD Camp, Mariners Church, Shea Riding Center, St. Andrew's Church, Aspire, and Otra Mas to further support and advocate for people with developmental disabilities.

We are approaching three years of friendship with John and Catherine of [Pizza Bakery](#), who deliver pizza + veggie lasagna dinner to Mae House two times per month. We are honored that John says it's his favorite delivery to make. The Mae House girls would agree it's their favorite as well!

Our biggest initiatives are to create an entity for Mae House to purchase the home from the current ownership, and secondly, to develop an endowment fund of approximately \$5 million to support the ongoing operational expenses of Mae House. These are ambitious goals, but we know they need to be achieved to ensure the success and longevity of Mae House in perpetuity.



Please let us know if you'd like to purchase any of our custom designed Notecards. Each package is \$20 for a set of 10 cards. We have five designs available: Seashells, Flowers, Christmas Trees, Hearts, and Collages. They are blank inside and perfect for any celebration or thank you note. They make a great gift, too! To order, please visit our website at MaeHouse.org or email us at info@maehouse.org.

As always, thank you in advance for your consideration to support Mae House. As a reminder, 100% of total revenue goes to the cause.

Thank you for taking the time to read the updates about Mae House, it means a lot to us all.

Blessings! Love, Liz



MEMBER UPDATES



CARRIE

Something new and fun for Carrie is having her social companion, Stacy, color her hair to get rid of the gray. Stacy also cuts Carrie's hair and styles it in cute braids and ponytails. The smile on Carrie's face says it all when she looks in the mirror after a beauty session with Stacy. Afterwards, they head out for an excursion in town and have dinner together.

Along with getting her hair done, going to the nail salon and receiving massage therapy fall right in line with developing a healthy self-care routine, which helps Carrie gain greater confidence.

Carrie is building an independent life that includes work, community, friendships, and social activities. This, along with the love and support of her sister and father, has enabled her to grow and learn while having so much fun.



TANETTE

Our in-house artist has been busy creating some beautiful pieces. In August, Tanette was awarded an Honorable Mention Award at the Dream Art Contest for individuals with developmental disabilities in Orange County. Her watercolor was amongst only 12 artists to receive an award.

Tanette was so proud of herself for this recognition. She had so much fun standing with her fellow artists while being presented with her certificate and Amazon gift card. Her family and Mae House were in the audience cheering her on and taking a lot of photos of the special moment when her name was called.

Being an artist brings Tanette a lot of joy. She is able to express her personality, ideas, and emotions through this creative outlet. To be recognized in front of peers and loved ones was truly a wonderful experience.



GINA

Bingo Night on Balboa Island has been a favorite activity for Gina of late. Every Wednesday evening after work, Gina hangs out with some family friends for Bingo and dinner. This weekly social outing has become one of Gina's favorite activities. She likes to laugh, cracks jokes and yell out, "Bingo!" with her friends. Occasionally, her parents also join in on the fun during their visits.

By attending Bingo Night, Gina is also meeting new people and practicing social skills in another setting. This allows her to expand her social circle to include spending time with old friends while meeting new ones.

Gina continues to grow and thrive in her position working at Vons Pavilions.



HANNAH

Hannah's speech has continued to develop steadily overtime. For those who know Hannah, you know how very social and outgoing she is. Her friendly demeanor and willingness to talk to people are obvious and contagious.

It is very heartwarming and exciting to watch and listen to Hannah be able to express more of her thoughts in her speech. She loves chatting with her family and friends over the phone and through Facetime. Hannah can speak in greater details of her day and express more about how she is feeling. It is a delightful experience to laugh with Hannah over Facetime. You can see her face light up when you answer the call and hear her greet you with a hearty, "Hello!"

Get on the phone tree list for a phone call or Facetime chat with Han. It's something special.



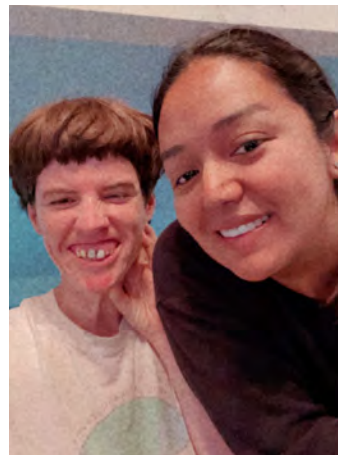
WONDERFUL ASSISTANTS

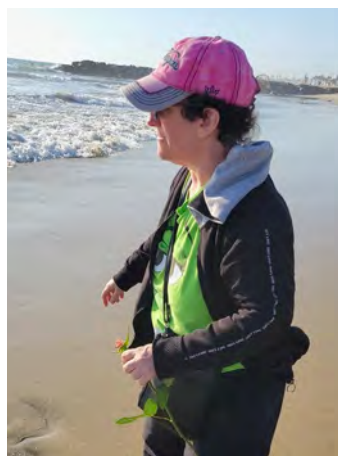
Jennie: The past years that I've had the privilege to work at Mae House has been a blessing! I have learned a lot, not just about the Members but about myself also. Every time I step into Mae House, I am greeted with a smile and a hug, whether it's Hannah already calling my name as I walk into the front yard or Gina hearing me come in from her room, there's never a shift I don't start without a, "Hi Jennie!" It's the simplest acts of kindness that gets my day going!

Monica: I enjoy doing activities with the girls. Helping them stay physically active. Going on walks to the park and bike rides. I also enjoy taking part in maintaining a safe home for them to live in, helping them with preparing meals and proper hygiene. They are always accepting and willing to learn. Any shifts I get at Mae House are always a blessing.

Luisa: There's not one thing that I don't like at Mae House, which makes me love coming to work.

Dina: I enjoy the outings and activities with the Mae House Members. We discover new places, meeting people, making friends in the community, and having the opportunity to go out and show the Members important things like not talking to strangers or giving out personal information, being appropriate and having good manners, and how to cross the street safely.







FAMILY IMPACT STORY

1. Please introduce yourselves and how you are connected to Mae House.

We are Cory and Courtney Youngberg, Carrie's father and sister. Carrie has been a resident at Mae House since September 2021. Mae House has been an incredible support not only for Carrie but for our entire family, especially after the passing of our wife and mother, Robin, in July 2021. It's been a challenging transition, but Mae House has helped Carrie gain the independence and confidence we always knew she was capable of achieving.

2. How did you first learn about Mae House? And what was the process of getting Carrie introduced at Mae House before becoming a Member?

We first heard about Mae House through people Carrie had known for years, including Hannah from the Blind Children's Center in Tustin and Gina from AYSO VIP Soccer. The transition to Mae House wasn't easy for Carrie at first. After the loss of her mother, she was reluctant to make such a big change, but with the patience and care of Annie and the staff, Carrie was able to "baby step" into life at Mae House. Annie's patience and understanding—through regular FaceTime calls and emotional support—helped Carrie overcome her anxieties and start to see Mae House as a safe and nurturing environment.

3. What has changed in your life as a family now that Carrie lives at Mae House?

Mae House has provided joy for both of us, knowing that Carrie is in a safe, supportive, and loving community. Before, Carrie lived at home, and our family helped her with most of her daily tasks. Now, she's becoming more independent, and we can rest easy knowing she is being well taken care of. Mae House has allowed Carrie to thrive, and it's given us peace of mind that she's happy, engaged, and building a future. We no longer worry about Carrie being alone or how she'll navigate life.

4. What changes have you noticed in Carrie since she has been living at Mae House?

Carrie has grown so much since she moved to Mae House. She's become more independent, helping with chores, making dinner, and getting dressed. She even works at the National Cat Protection Society, where she spends time with her favorite animals, cats. Carrie also participates in therapeutic riding at the Shea Center, which has been a great outlet for her growth and confidence. She's learning to overcome her anxieties and is building relationships with the other girls. We've noticed her confidence growing, and we love hearing her laugh and talk about the fun she's having. It's clear that Mae House has helped her feel at home.

5. As a family member to a Mae House Member AND a donor, how does it feel knowing that your donations have contributed to the well-being and development of not only your daughter but the other Members at Mae House?

As both family members and donors, it's incredibly fulfilling to know that our contributions are helping not just Carrie, but all the Members at Mae House. Mae House is all about fostering growth, independence, and community. It's wonderful to see firsthand the positive impact that Mae House has on the girls, and it makes us feel like we're part of something bigger that's changing lives.

6. What would you say to other potential donors who are considering supporting Mae House?

We would say that supporting Mae House is an investment in the future and well-being of these incredible young women. It's not just a home but a place where Members are nurtured, encouraged, and given the tools they need to succeed. Your contributions go directly toward making a meaningful difference in their lives. It's a place where real change happens, and your support can be a part of that.

7. What would you say to other potential families who are considering applying to have their daughters live at Mae House?

For families considering Mae House, we would say that although the transition might be difficult at first, the support system at Mae House is exceptional. They've helped Carrie transition from a life of dependence to one of independence. Mae House has given her the tools to become more confident and capable, and we are grateful every day for the loving community she has found there. Your daughter can gain the same sense of independence and growth, and Mae House will be there every step of the way.

8. Please share anything else that you would like to about your experience or Carrie's experience at Mae House.

We'd like to express our deep gratitude to the staff and community at Mae House. Carrie's journey to independence hasn't always been easy, but Mae House has provided the environment she needed to flourish. Whether it's riding bikes, going on walks with friends, or continuing her therapeutic riding at the Shea Center, we love seeing how happy and fulfilled she is. The love and care she receives are immeasurable, and we know Robin would be overjoyed to see how much Carrie has grown. Mae House has been a true blessing for Carrie, and for us as a family.



DONOR LIST

NOVEMBER 2023 - OCTOBER 2024

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Tom Vincent - Payne & Fears
The Pizza Bakery - Catherine + John Craft
Mark Sakaeda - Critical Environments

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To foster a full and abundant life for adults with developmental disabilities within a supportive and loving residential community.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

To provide a residential community and home for adults with developmental disabilities to live active engaging lives.



For more information, visit us at www.maehouse.org

P.O. Box 2953 • Newport Beach, CA • 92659

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MAE HOUSE
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Editors: Annie, Jess and Liz