

Casa De Luz

2025 Newsletter



A Formal Grand Opening



Tan, Ed, Moe, President of the Board Markus, and Founders Jack & Irving, the community was invited to a ceremony and open house at the amazing shelter.

We were graced with the neighbors and the local media from both Tijuana and San Diego as a formal presentation was given and speeches by both mayors, Irving, and Jack were spoken to the crowd. Everyone enjoyed light refreshments and a walk through the shelter afterwards. We thank everyone that came and everyone that helped make this once in a lifetime event come true!

In 2025, we had the great opportunity in collaborating with the Mayor of Tijuana, Ismael Burgueño and the Mayor of San Diego, Todd Gloria to do an official presentation of the shelter to the world! With board members

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EIN: 86-2469077

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Casa De Luz SD
PO BOX 3482
San Diego, CA 92163

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[HTTP://WWW.CASADELUZ.COM](http://www.casadeluz.com)
CASADELUZSDCA@GMAIL.COM

WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD PRESIDENT: Markus Zaugg

As our two-year cycle comes to an end with the board leadership, we would like to introduce the new elected President of the Board: Markus Zaugg. As one of the founding board members of Casa De Luz SD, Markus has been an integral part of the organization from day one! As an immigrant himself, moving from Switzerland in 1998, he knows the importance of having support in a new country and to call that new country home.



In addition to being a founding board member, Markus has served as interim treasurer and has been on the planning committees for multiple fundraisers.

With the support of newly elected treasurer Manuel Reyes and secretary Kiki Tolson, the newly elected board leadership hopes to create new ways of raising money and to continue to grow the prestige that the previous leadership groups have set as the foundation.

Additionally, if there is ever an interest in joining the board, we are more than open to hearing about you. Casa De Luz SD is all about doing the most we can with what we can.

UPGRADED UTILITIES!

Through the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to upgrade the shelter with some much-needed upgrades. We were able to upgrade all the showers with hot water heaters and added access for the outdoor kitchen.

Additionally, with the hot summers, we needed a way to cool down the rooms in a better fashion and thus with the help of your donations, we were able to create better ventilation solutions for the rooms. While it can still get quite hot in the rooms in the summer, this has helped keep it to a livable solution. Hopefully one day we can create a better solution for the many residents!

CESFOM CONNECTS WITH CASA DE LUZ

Centro Scalabriniano de formación para migrantes through working with Diego Salazar-Galvis has teamed up to provide the residents of Casa De Luz with life changing opportunities! Through the Border Dignity Project, residents are offered the opportunity to attend classes to learn life skills such as driving, barbering, English, Spanish, balloon arts, computer skills, and basic auto mechanics. The program provides weekly classes and even provides transportation to the learning center.



WINTER WHITE DELIGHTS!

This year, we were privileged to work with Ryan Bedrosian at Rich's San Diego to help create our 2025 fundraiser! With the support of Ryan Bedrosian, sponsors DAPA Janitorial, Venture Commercial, Adam Clark/ Cedar Valley Living, Gossip Grill/ Moe Girton, and the many businesses and individuals that offered auction items, we were able to raise over \$35,000!

Winter White was a white-attired event held at the beginning of December. With a hosted bar, a silent auction, attendees had great libations and great food with desserts by the amazing Chef Kiki as they listened to amazing music at Rich's San Diego. Our amazing donors offered items such as Airbnb stays in Puerto Vallarta, to roundtrip tickets on Southwest, to an excursion on a yacht!

We appreciate all those who came, all those who volunteered, and all who donated. It was an amazing first Winter White!



THE INTERNATIONAL COURT & NICOLE MURRAY RAMIREZ

Year after year The International Court & Nicole Murray Ramirez are our biggest supporters. Not only through the generous monetary donations, but through their ongoing campaigns to give visibility to Casa De Luz SD.

We want to thank them with all of our hearts for all that they have done, that they do, and that they will do.

CASA DE LUZ SD AT THE MUSEUM OF MAN

During pride month, Casa De Luz SD was offered an opportunity to have a table at the Museum of Man to interact with the community of San Diego. Visitors came to learn about Casa De Luz and had the opportunity to write letters of support to the asylum seekers residing at the shelter. Words of encouragement came from all ages of people, from a child just learning how to spell to grandparents there with their grandkids. Visibility and educational empowerment is just one of the things we can do to help asylum seekers.



VERSACE FASHION VALLEY HELPS CASA DE LUZ TIJUANA

Nick Peraza with
Versace Fashion Valley
in San Diego created a
luxurious shopping

night to raise funds for Casa De Luz SD! A private night of shopping with light refreshments helped shoppers make their decisions easier as 10% of sales went towards a donation to Casa De Luz SD.



Santa Comes to Casa!

President of the Board of Directors Markus and Board Member BigMike ran this years Christmas at Casa! With our Christmas gifting event, donors were matched with a resident to make their holiday season a little bit brighter.



We were able to convince Bigmike to dress up as Santa to deliver the gifts! Diego from the University Christian Church came with to celebrate the holiday season! These events help foster a sense of community and makes sure the residents feel valued, especially when morale is so low with the way things are going with asylum cases.

BOARD OF DIRECTORSPresident: Markus ZauggSecretary: Kiki TolsonTreasurer: Manuel ReyesMembers:

Jack Nooren (Founder)

Tan Carlin (Former President)

Michael Albo

Ed Parsley

Big Mike Phillips

Ed Miller

Moe Girton

Erick De La Torre

SPECIAL THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS GIVEN IN THE PAST YEAR!

- The International Imperial Court
- Rich's San Diego
- Tijuana Sin Hambre
- Gossip Grill
- Hillcrest Sandiego (@hillcrestsandiego)
- First Lutheran Church San Diego
- Refugee Health Alliance
- AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- University Christian Church
- International Community Foundation
- Chef Kiki Desserts
- Club San Diego
- Board & Barrel
- DAPA Janitorial
- Aesthetica Spa
- MO's Universe
- Kiwanis Club of Hillcrest
- Cedar Valley Living

Support Us!

We thank you if you've supported us in the past, but we continue to seek your support for our ongoing operations, and if you haven't had the chance to help us out yet, there are plenty of ways to get involved!

At just 4 dollars a day per resident! We can give two meals a day, safe housing, and a sense of community to those who are in need! We always accept donations through Pledge, PayPal giving (search "casa de luz sd"), PayPal, or checks sent to us at:

PO BOX 3482
San Diego, CA 92163

Additionally, for those seeking to visit the location, reach out to any one of us to make it happen and you will see all the heart and good that is involved in the cause.

Once again, we thank you for everything you do to help support a worthy cause, whether through directly or even just passing on the news of our mission statement and good work!



@casadeluz.tijuana <https://www.pledge.to/organizations/86-2469077> <http://paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/4355498>



CASA DE LUZ SD is a 501(c)3 (EIN #:86-2469077) sister organization of Casa de Luz TJ a collective house open to LGBTQ+ refugees who left their home country in search of a better life. Casa de Luz SD raises money for Casa de Luz TJ so they can offer a safe haven for people who lived in fear of persecution because of their sexual orientation or gender identification. Trans, lesbian, gay & bisexual people are fleeing from all over the world to escape "epidemic levels of violence" and threats by criminal gangs and security forces. Over 2,900 were killed in the past 5 years just in Central America. These are the most vulnerable refugees entering the US.