



**“Never bend  
your head.  
Always hold  
it high.  
Look the  
world straight  
in the eye.”**

— Helen Keller



*This year we will be highlighting some special people and organizations who are making a difference in the lives of those with disabilities and their supportive families. We hope you make use of these connections as it is our hope that they will link our Special Needs Community in a more personal and supportive way.*

## this special place is lighting the way

The Glennwood Foundation, Inc. (dba **The Lighthouse Group**) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which provides a place for social community and growth, for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Founded in 2003 by a group of parents in South Orange County California who realized that once their children with special needs aged out of the formal school system and youth groups, they were left without a social community to belong to and participate in, throughout their adult life. Their Mission – Provide a community of lifelong Friendship, Fellowship, and Fun for adults with intellectual disabilities!

The Lighthouse Group is the face of this organization and has been supporting the adult special needs population for the last sixteen years. It serves approximately (125) participants by holding weekly “Club” meetings, outings, and events throughout the Orange County and Inland Empire communities. Club meetings are held once a week for an hour and a half at each Club location, and typically include social time, music, games, crafts, and small group discussions. In addition to Club meetings, The Lighthouse Group also facilitates monthly community outings which include movie nights, bowling, bingo, dinners at local restaurants, coffee shop gatherings, Angels games and beach bonfires — just to name a few! They also hold seasonal dances to celebrate holidays like Valentine’s Day and Halloween, and put on special events such as their annual “Mock Rock” air guitar show and their four-day summer camp trip to Forest Home.

The Club meetings and events are coordinated by the Club Director, with the oversight of a Board of Directors. In addition to an all-volunteer Board, The Lighthouse Group has a very dedicated group of volunteers that participate each week in Club activities to facilitate community, establish relationships, and encourage personal growth within the special needs population. Participation in Club is entirely free to the participants, and none of this would be possible without the generous support of donors! For more information about The Lighthouse Group or to attend/volunteer at one of their Club events, please visit their website at:

<https://thelighthousegroup.org>.

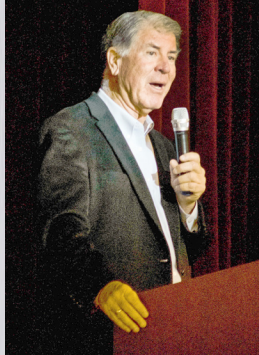


## thankful for the giving

November marks a long-standing, and very popular tradition where residents help prepare a Thanksgiving meal and serve it at a special dinner for everyone including Casa’s staff. This year was especially impressive. Preparations began the night before and a great deal of effort was put into making the holiday dishes. Special care was taken as dinner was served and words of praise could be heard around the room!

As the night progressed everyone took turns sharing what they were thankful for — which became the highlight of the evening. Staff members were touched as residents shared how grateful they are for the support and help they provide. In addition they reflected on special moments when they helped a resident learn a special skill or overcame a fear. It was an extraordinary evening — highlighting the importance of staff/resident relationships because this is what has made Casa so effective. This was a night where they felt thanked by those they support.





[www.casadeamma.org](http://www.casadeamma.org)

## what a success!

Thank you to all those who made our 2019 Benefit Dinner such a success! We hosted another great event at the Laguna Hill's Community Center, and what a fun time it was. This year we celebrated the fifteen years Casa has been making a difference in the lives of adults with disabilities and their families. The event included a magician, photo booth, great food and an inspiring program that highlighted all we have accomplished.

We want to thank all who participated and for their generous donations. We especially want to recognize our Honorary Event Chairs; **Veronica and Brian Grazer** who were our first ever \$100,000 sponsors! **Peggy and Mike Torpey** who have been our most generous donors (not named Leatherby) over the past 15 years! And of course, **Susie and Russ Leatherby**, to whom we owe the creation of Casa de Amma itself!

*Check out some pictures from this wonderful evening . . .*