



# *The Crisis House Connector*

## April 2021 Newsletter

### Sexual Assault Awareness Month



#### **"I Believe You."**

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) raises public awareness about sexual assault and educates communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.

Sexual harassment, assault, and abuse can happen anywhere, including in online spaces. As we connect online, we can learn how to intervene when we see harmful content or behaviors and ensure that online spaces — whether they be workspaces, classrooms, or social media platforms — are safe.

Crisis House seeks to help make San Diego residents aware of services that are available to those who have been impacted by sexual violence. Our Journey Programs support women in overcoming domestic and sexual violence abuse by renewing their lives through housing services.

SAAM may only last the month of April, but the conversation shouldn't end. Each of us has a role to play and there are things we can do in our everyday lives to make these changes, starting with how we react to trauma.

When someone discloses their trauma to you, your reaction matters and can often be a factor in whether they seek further help.

**“I believe you,” “I support you,” “You are not alone,” and “what happened to you was not your fault”** are some simple yet powerful phrases to use with survivors, as is also **“Thank you for sharing that with me”** to express gratitude for their disclosure, which is often difficult for survivors to do.

Your support, whether by donating or volunteering, helps us confront sexual violence and eliminate assault and abuse.

[Additional Prevention Resources](#)

[Additional Survivor Resources](#)

[Donate now](#)

[Volunteer opportunities](#)

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## Housed & Happy - A Couple's Gratitude



*Crisis House is honored to share the following story with you.*

[It is because of donors and supporters like you](#) that Mary Lynn and Steve were able to secure safe housing and transform their lives.

After having experienced over 3 years of homelessness, in addition to dealing with a global pandemic, this couple was provided with emergency housing and then permanent housing through our East County Housing Connections (EHC) program.

Thanks to funding from the **City of Santee CDBG CARES Act grant**, Crisis House staff are able to provide housing and services concentrating on the most at-risk households (families, disabled, seniors), providing them with emergency shelter in motels/hotels, case management, and inviting them to continue their journey from the streets to permanent housing with our Rapid Rehousing East County Housing Connections (ECHC) program.

*"We want to thank Crisis House. We really needed a place to stay, it was getting tough out there. We appreciate all you've done and we love our new place." - Mary Lynn*

*"We want to thank Joe, Jon, and everyone that helped out. It works, that's all it is, it works." - Steve*

[I want to provide shelter for couples like Mary Lynn & Steve!](#)

## A Step Forward in the March Towards Justice



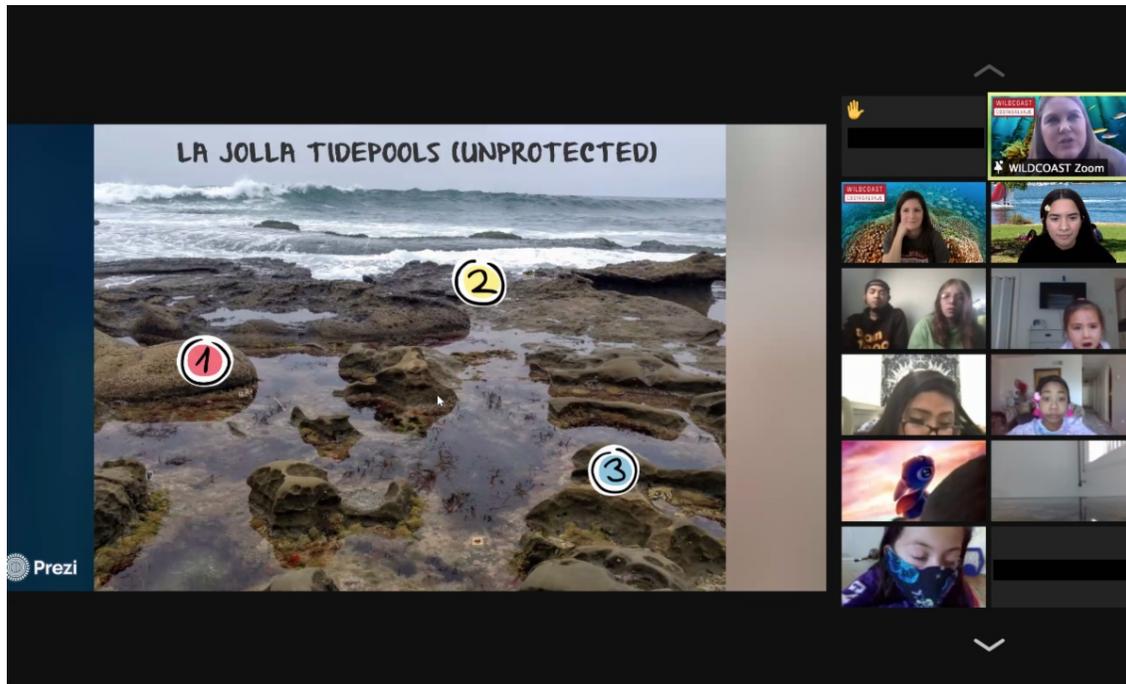
True justice is about much more than a single verdict in a single trial. Yet, accountability is a much-needed first step toward real change.

As an organization, we are committed to empathetic listening and continuous learning about racial oppression and the dehumanization of people of color in our community.

Only together can we successfully build a stronger community rooted in equity and justice for all in San Diego. Crisis House is committed to this pursuit.

**Black Lives Matter.  
Black Families Matter.  
Black Futures Matter.**

# Adventures with WILDCOAST



We are excited to continue to find creative ways to engage our **Camp HOPE** kids and youth!

**WILDCOAST** has been a monumental partner in delivering fun, interactive, and engaging virtual nature science activities during these challenging times.

During a recent event, Camp HOPE kids gathered together for a virtual tour of the local San Diego Tide Pools to do some group research! Our children and youth participants learned all about protected and nonprotected areas and sea critters. We are excited to begin Camp HOPE in-person activities soon!

Please email [yolanda@crisishouse.org](mailto:yolanda@crisishouse.org) for more information.

*[Thanks for supporting our Crisis House programs for children and youth!](#)*

## Meet our Crisis House team



*Photo (above): Joe Villanueva kayaking with our Camp HOPE kids; Crisis House - East County Housing Connections Housing Navigator*

This month, we are honored to highlight team member Joe Villanueva for his hard work and multi-faceted value to the team.

### **"What would we do without Joe!"**

**Joe** is the Housing Navigator for our East County Housing Connections (ECHC) program. Joe guides our unsheltered neighbors through the housing search and leasing processes so that they can obtain stable housing to end their homelessness.

Joe is also the team lead for the Homeless Mobile Outreach Team and coordinates our collaborative efforts with other service providers to best serve our mutual clients. Joe's compassion, patience, and resourcefulness have been crucial to overcoming challenging barriers in housing our unsheltered neighbors in the community.

In 2020, our East County Housing Connections (HEAP) program *served 41 households* and *housed* a grand total of **78 individuals, including 21 children**. Our Mobile Outreach Team provided outreach and services to **429 individuals**.

**Fun Fact:** Aside from enjoying outdoor activities and camping, he also has a pet parrot!

*Please join us in celebrating Joe's accomplishments at Crisis House!*

# Star Supporter Spotlight



Crisis House extends a very special thank you to the **San Diego County Sheriff's Department** for their generous in-kind donation of **40 pairs of shoes** for men and women experiencing homelessness.

This donation has been distributed to those served by our Homeless Outreach Team.

*Thank you for exemplifying kindness and support for those experiencing homelessness in San Diego!*



## Remember to Follow us on Social Media!

### Follow us!

Here's a reminder to **follow** and "**like**" us on social media! We are on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Click on the icons below to join in on the action online! We'd love to share our stories with you.

Please **share** our posts with your community, as well!



*Crisis House remains committed to serving those experiencing homelessness and domestic violence abuse at our new location:*

**9550 Cuyamaca Street Suite 101  
Santee, CA 92071**

Donate