



The Award Winning

Malibu Rotary Club Surfwriter

March 30, 2016

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Malibu
Malibu Rotary Club President David Zielski

Edited by Dr. John W. Elman

Pictures by Dr. John W. Elman and Children's Lifesaving Foundation

In This Issue (click underlined topics for web link when connected to the Internet)

- Last week Maria D'Angelo and Sean McCaffery Talk About the Children's Life Saving Foundation
- Other News and Guests at Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting
- Next Regular Malibu Rotary Club Meeting April 6 at Pepperdine Graduate Campus Room LC 152 with fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at noon. Speaker Will be Yuko Saito-Rodriguez who will be telling us Why California is still the best place to live and work
- Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher.

Check [Calendar](#) on Malibu Rotary website www.maliburotary.org

- Rotary International Website: www.Rotary.org
- Rotary District 5280 Website: www.rotary5280.org/
- RI President (2015-2016) K.R. Ravindran
 - Rotary District 5280 Governor (2015-2016): D.J. Sung

Maria D'Angelo and Sean McCaffery Talk About the Childrens Life Saving Foundation



Maria D'Angelo is the Founder, President and CEO of the Children's Lifesaving Foundation. After meeting a few extraordinary children at a South Central LA shelter in 1993, Maria knew that she wanted to change their lives for the better. Her experience as an immigrant in America and the years she spent teaching in New York shaped her vision to provide transitional families with the same sense of hope that she had as a child. Maria's vision is now supported by her daughter, Francesca McCaffery, who serves as the COO and Director of Development, and her son, Sean McCaffery, who is the Director of Programs, along with the support of volunteers and partner organizations.

Maria and Sean talked about how the Children's Lifesaving Foundation at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting March 30.

Maria's desire to work with young people stems from her initial experiences as a volunteer at a homeless shelter in Central Los Angeles, as well as her own experiences as an immigrant child in America, and her years teaching in New York.

At that shelter, she met a little eight year old boy who did not know how to read. Realizing the boy had never set foot in a classroom, she asked the boy why. He answered vaguely that it was because he had never had a physical exam. Maria took the boy for a physical the very next week, and realized there were many more children in similar situations. She started meeting with doctors and arranging for free surgeries, check-ups and dental exams. This is how the CLF truly came into being.

As the months passed, Maria realized there were very few opportunities for children living in shelters and the inner-city to truly get off of the streets; that their most innocent years were being stolen by the lure of gangs, easy money and crime. Many of these children had not been out of their immediate neighborhood, much less to the beach, a nice restaurant, the movies or the circus. Seeing the very dangerous and life-threatening environments these children were living in on a day-to-day basis, she knew she had to expand the scope of what she was currently doing- and do something immediate and life-changing to enhance and alter the course of these children's lives.

With the help of a good friend, Dr. Chris Landon of Ventura , she began looking for a space to bring the children: A setting that would improve and enrich their lives with arts, sports and nature., They persuaded the National Park Service to reopen an old Boy Scout camp called the Circle X Ranch, if her group of friends and volunteers would agree to refurbish it and bring it up to health code. The Circle X Ranch is located in the gorgeous Santa Monica Mountains, on 1700 acres of beautiful, natural, unspoiled land. At that point, the Santa Monica newspaper, *The Evening Outlook*, featured an inspiring article about the Foundation, stating "Miracle Needed!" in bold print on the cover. Within days, calls flooded in, with offers of help to paint, clean-up, rebuild and remodel. More than \$150,000 worth of upgrades and repairs was done on the ranch

for about \$6,000, thanks to the generous, in-kind donations of many supporters, including local builders, electricians and merchants. Within a short month, the repairs were completed, and the National Park Service gave the CLF a long-term lease for the use of the property.

In July of 1993, the first group of homeless children from Lincoln Park came to the campsite.

It was a momentous day. They were served hot meals, made beautiful art projects, hiked in the mountains, swam in the Olympic-sized swimming pool, and had a day that was the equivalent of a brand new camping experience, or a terrific mountain retreat.

As she witnessed the expressions of joy on the children's faces, Maria observed just how different, how happy, and how relaxed the children seemed afterwards. Parents and counselors working at the shelters began to share their newfound joy. They were amazed at the changes the children had undergone from just a few daily trips.

Maria began the CLF by supporting it with personal resources at the time. Soon after, friends rallied around her, finding temporary office space in downtown L.A., making calls, and Maria began to meet local politicians, learning how to fundraise as she went along.

Since July 7th, 1993, over 75,000 at-risk and homeless children, teens and their families have attended the camps at the Circle X Ranch. They have come from shelters, group homes, churches and agencies dealing with at-risk youth in L.A. and Ventura counties.

In 1994, Maria then created the Adopt-A-Family Program, which allows for homeless families who are ready and emotionally able to move out of a shelter environment into a home environment. As Maria began meeting the mothers of these children living in shelters, she realized how truly bright most of them were, and how ready they were to leave Welfare behind, and move from the shelter into a new home.

Maria, having come to America at a young age herself, knew how difficult it was to find one's own place in America as an immigrant, and also, how hard it was to struggle with very little. But her main goal was this: She wanted them to really learn how to be on their own.

She began by motivating them to go back to school, receive proper training, and when they were ready to go back to work, she would help them to find a lovely apartment, pay first, last month's rent, and a deposit payment. The first family Maria and the Children's Lifesaving Foundation adopted is an incredible story in itself:

Maria received a call one evening from a director of one of the shelters in Santa Monica. She explained that a family of five children whom Maria knew very well and was very fond of, was about to split up the next day by Children's Services, and placed in separate foster homes. The parents were going to be incarcerated the next morning for using and dealing drugs from their little room in this shelter. The director offered one helpful bit of information: The only known relative was an aunt, living nearby. Without hesitation, Maria late that evening went to see the aunt, (a mother who herself was financially challenged, and caring for a young, handicapped son), and asked her to take temporary custody of her nieces and nephews. Maria assured her that the CLF would not only assist her financially, but truly help her care for her nieces and nephews.

The aunt agreed. Maria helped arrange for her to move out to a beautiful, large apartment, got furniture donated, (including a new TV and full bedroom sets for the kids) and helped her to care for these children. For a year and a half, this aunt lovingly cared for her nieces and nephews until her sister was released from prison and rehabilitation, with the help of loving CLF volunteers and friends.

When the family finally got back on its feet, Maria provided funds to move the family out into a new three-bedroom town home of their own, and she and her staff of volunteers continued to see the children regularly, giving new clothes and funds for food, and taking the children to fine restaurants, to the movies, and to fun places such as Disneyland and Magic Mountain. Volunteers also wanted to continue seeing the children they had formed a bond with during the Camp Enrichment Season. The Project Angel Wings Holiday Program was then successfully born. She also made certain that now the natural mother, who had since divorced the father, received proper assistance to care for her newly reunited family. Her oldest son was one of CLF's very first college scholarship recipients, and had made incredible achievements in changing his life.



To this day, Maria keeps in touch with many of the families and emancipated teens she has helped throughout the years. It is a calling, she feels, as she knows that it was the love and strength of her own family which developed the sense of self so inherent in her and both of her siblings. It is this sense of worth, well-being and hope that she wants to see carried on in the lives the CLF touches and serves. Along with her children, Sean and Francesca, and a great staff of counselors, volunteers and supporters, she has found a definitive, positive way reach children and their families that is both unique, and leaves an incredible impression upon their lives.

After 22 years 75,000 kids have benefitted. And other programs were developed, such as the

Adopt A Family Program, tutoring for both kids and their young mothers, and Maria and the Children's Lifesaving Foundation has gained local and national recognition. Maria appeared on the Steve Harvey show and was given Harvey's Heroes Award, on a show aired May 22, 2013.

The Children's Lifesaving Foundation (fondly known as the CLF!) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to transforming the lives of homeless and at-risk children and families in Los Angeles through academic, social and domestic support. OVERVIEW Our services are centered on three key, core platforms: LIVING, LEARNING & ENRICHING. The Living program is an integrated approach to domestic support. The Learning program fosters hope in students striving to achieve their goals. The Enriching Platform is comprised of activities and events to provide a sense of normalcy and community throughout the transitional experience for the whole family, whether the experience is a moving from a



shelter into a new home, or apartment, or helping their children apply for college in the coming year. These platforms are supported by Camp4All, our highly successful summer camp, Care through College, an after-school tutoring and educational program, and the Vita Network, which provides ongoing, personal assistance to our core group of families.

CLF MISSION STATEMENT: The Children's Lifesaving Foundation (the CLF) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to transforming the lives of homeless and at-risk children and families in Los Angeles through academic, social and domestic support.

OVERVIEW: Since 1993, the CLF has served over 75,000 at-risk and homeless youth and families-through its three program platforms- Living, Learning and Enriching.

LIVING, LEARNING & ENRICHING. Each platform contains a key program or programs within it to help make the lives of those we serve thrive:

The Living Platform is an authentic, one-on-one intuitive path to domestic independence for both homeless and very financially at-risk families living in Los

Angeles. The CLF identifies ready-to-move-on homeless families directly from shelters into a new home. After these families the CLF have helped commit to positively changing their lives, they continue to succeed and participate in our other program platforms, creating an amazing network of support and continuity known as **the Vita Network**.

The Learning Platform, which includes our **Care through College Program, Dream Mentors** and a really great roster of community outings, fosters hope in students striving to achieve their goals, conducting one-on-one, advanced, STEM-focused tutoring sessions to students through elementary, middle and high school age, and providing crucial college scholarships through **the McHugh-O'Donovan Shining Stars Scholars Program**. Our Dream Mentor Program, new #CodingisCool Initiative and student incentives all work together to create the desire for these students to succeed

The Enriching Platform is made up of wonderful cultural, recreational and outdoor activities, programs and events which provide a sense of belonging, joy and participation in a “real,” positive, abundant and successful life. Whether the experience is enjoying a truly refreshing and exhilarating day at the beach or at a special overnight retreat in the Santa Monica Mountains, attending a great Holiday party (complete with bags of new gifts for their children) or Thanksgiving Dinner, or enjoying countless Family Dinners, individual (many for the very first time ever!) birthday parties or graduation celebrations, this Enriching Platform is created by these amazing, specialized **Field Trips** and outings, **Camp4All**— our highly successful summer camp program which has served over 50,000 homeless and at-risk youth and families, and a thriving **Project Angel Wings Holiday Program**—starting on Thanksgiving Day and offering amazing holiday experiences and events throughout the month of December.

Learn about the CLF's “Hope Effect” Philosophy, and how the CLF works within the local community to affect change and lasting results.

Much about the Childrens Lifesaving Foundation, their work, their needs, and volunteer opportunities can be found on their website at <http://childrenslifesaving.org/wordpress>.

The site also has links to several videos, including the one shown at the Malibu Rotary Club meeting. It was produced by People magazine media department called “Heroes Among Us” showing Maria in action at The Learning Center, a space at the Boys and Girls Club of Venice, where CLF volunteers tutor and offer other help to at risk youth in Los Angeles westside.

<http://www.people.com/people/videos/0,,20919851,00.html>

Below is listed some of the special awards and recognitions Maria D'Angelo has received for her work with the Children's Lifesaving Foundation:

- **2013-"Heroes Among Us" –People Magazine, March 4th, 2013 Issue**
- **Steve Harvey Show-aired May 22nd, 2013- Maria D'Angelo received the *Harvey's Heroes Award***
- **Jane Seymour's Open Heart Award-April 2013**
- **March 2013-CNN.com's [Impact Your World Page](#)**
- 2007-Certificate of Recognition for "Outstanding Services Provided to LA Youth" to the CLF by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
- 2005- Local Hero Award-Maria D'Angelo -Bank of America Foundation
- 2003, 2004 & 2005 & 2006-Top 100 National "Volvo For Life Hero" Awards
- KADY Televisions' "Spirit of Excellence" Award
- Certificate of Appreciation from Los Angeles Mayor James K. Hahn—"For Enriching the Education of the children of Los Angeles, fostering their self-expression, expanding their experience of community, and providing valuable interactions with caring adults."
- Martin Luther King, Jr. "Spirit of the Dream" Award-House of Blues
- Malibu City Citizen of the Year
- First Recipient of the Agape International Spiritual Center's Service Leadership Award
- *The Malibu Times* "Dolphin of the Year" Award for Outstanding Social Service

Other News and Guests at Last Malibu Rotary Club meeting

Much of the March 23 meeting of the Malibu Rotary Club was involved with fundraising ideas. Two that especially seemed to have a lot of enthusiasm among club members was teaming the Woodland Hills Rotary Club on a fundraiser that they have already been doing at a Malibu private residence. Discussion of these ideas continued at the March 30 meeting. In previous years the Woodland Hills cosponsored event, a dinner and auction, with a pet adoption group. Bill Wishard has spoken to Jill Mellman of the Woodland Hills Rotary Club who expressed an

interest in cosponsoring with the Malibu Rotary. Bill Wishard and Delvin Glymph would be following up with this.

Another idea coming out of the March 23 meeting was one suggested by Bianca Torrence for Thanksgiving morning—a Turkey Trot Run. Mark Person had a contact person who might be able to help with the logistics of putting this on—and more discussion will be forthcoming on a planned Thanksgiving morning Malibu Rotary Club sponsored or cosponsored Turkey Trot 5k-10k run and walk at Trancas Beach.

Malibu Rotary Club Young Professionals

Bill Wishard and Jack Scherrer had a meeting with Rotary District Governor Elect Nominee Cozette this past week in Santa Monica where they discussed the new Malibu Rotary Young Professionals Club. The young professionals group are people in the age group 20 something to 40, who want to have their own meetings and different places and times than the regular Rotary Club but still be part of the main Rotary club. So far there are 5 Rotary Clubs in District 5280 that have young professionals group. The young professionals will pay dues and be considered part of the main Rotary Club. We are not sure how attendance is counted and reported. Currently attendance of each member of our club is reported weekly to the district and RI. The main club will have a representative in the young professionals and the young professionals will always have somebody in the young professionals group. In our club Jack will be the liaison between the two groups.

Rotary District Breakfast April 5

The final Rotary District Breakfast of this Rotary year will be April 5 7:00 Am at LAX Westin Hotel in Los Angeles. Ramu Damodaran, Deputy Director for Partnerships and Public Engagement in the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) and Chief of the United Nations “Academic Impact” initiative, will be the featured speaker at the District Breakfast on April 5. Mr. Damodaran has led the initiative since its inception in 2010. He also designed its youth offshoot—ASPIRE (Action by Students to Promote Innovation and Reform through Education), bringing together the creative cooperative energies of student communities in the global United Nations cause. He is also Secretary of the United Nations General Assembly Committee on Information and President of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council.

At least 5 people will be representing the Malibu Rotary Club at the breakfast. Carlyie is unable to attend but Margo Neal is collecting the money to pay the district so all those attending pay Margo.

Guests

Guests at the March 30th Malibu Rotary Club meeting included Tiffany Venable's son **Cameron** and PDG **Tom Bos** of the Rotary Club of Holland, Michigan. Tom spent much of the beginning end of the meeting trying to convince our speaker, Children's LifeSaving Foundation Founder Maria D'Angelo why she should be a Rotarian. She has spent years with a philosophy of "Service Above Self."

Malibu Rotary Club Supports RainCatcher

David Zielski, Executive Director of Raincatcher makes regular trips to Uganda and Kenya for new Raincatcher installations and maintenance of those previously intalled.. More about Raincatcher can be see on it website Raincatcher.org. A link to Raincatcher video is on the Maliburotary.org website. The direct link to the video is at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59rzOcM-RL0&list=UUFetq8NgjhXhtkVf0idcQUg>

Calendar (for details on these programs see Calendar on maliburotary.org)

Filter records:

Speaker	Date	Topic
Rotary District Breakfast #4	Apr 05, 2016	Rotary District Breakfast #4 at Westin LAX Hotel, 5400 Century
Yuko Saito-Rodriguez	Apr 06, 2016	<p>Why California is still the best place to live and work Why California is still the best place to live and work.</p> <p>California: the manufacturing capital of the United States The Amazon Effect Climate Change Legislation How raw land gets selected for development</p> <p>Attend the meeting and learn what impact these topics have on you</p> <p>Yuko Saito-Rodriguez is a Regional Manager for Velur Enterprises, Inc. The company offers a safe investment vehicle to help grow your business.</p> <p>Her professional experience includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manager of the Year 2011, Platinum Club 2010, 2011, Silver Club 2009 Leading a team of 12 licensed agents for the last 10 years Land Investment Consultant for private fund managers to help them diversify their portfolios Responsible for managing land portfolios in excess of \$30 million
Kristofer R. Gray, CFP®, CRPS, C(k)P®	Apr 13, 2016	Integrity Financial Corporation discussing the Malibu Rotary Charitable Account. Kris will be discussing the charitable account and what proper investments are.
Glenn McConnell	Apr 20, 2016	A Police Officers's Devotion fo Community and Service to God Glenn McConnell has been a police officer for 48 years--he also has experience in human trafficking. He also can give us advice on what to do about this police officer serves the commuity and God.

- See more at: <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/2529/Speakers#sthash.jvO99BAs.dpuf>