

Cliff Drive Care Center

1435 Cliff Drive · Santa Barbara · California · 93109 · (805) 965-4286

Caring for the people of Santa Barbara since 1963

Cliff Drive Care Center reaches into the community with the love of Jesus Christ in caring and practical ways to serve people of all ages. We provide physical, emotional, and spiritual support to children and their families through licensed, professionally staffed early childhood education programs including pre-school, pre-kindergarten, after-school and summer camp programs. We provide physical, emotional, and spiritual support to older adults through nutritious luncheons, activities, social events, and personal attention. We provide professional Christian counseling to hurting individuals and families through therapeutic interventions and education by state-licensed marriage and family therapists on a sliding fee scale.



July 2015



Generations of “Jesus Loves Me”

Cliff Drive graduates serve at Senior Lunch



Saxophone music, coming from the upper room at Cliff Drive Care Center, greeted seniors the afternoon of Thursday, July 2nd. A jazz rendition of “Amazing Grace” quieted the room, full of people from our community. The saxophone belongs to Lito Hernandez, Santa Barbara local. His music floated out the windows, drifting down to the very same classrooms and playgrounds where he used to play and learn as a young child.

*Above: Seniors listen as Lito plays “Amazing Grace”
Right: Lito Hernandez, 2014 Music Performance major, Sax, at Berklee College of Music.*

The last song Lito played was “Jesus Loves Me.” When introducing this song, Lito looked to Pat Weatherford, an active Senior Lunch participant and former director of Cliff Drive Children’s Programs. She knows Lito from the time when he came to Cliff Drive. “I know Miss Pat knows this one,” Lito said, and he started the familiar song. Lito reflected on the moment, saying, “Having the opportunity to perform for the people who raised me is always a treat. It’s a moment where I can give back and say ‘thank you’ with my craft for all that they have done for me and countless others. Without the aid of those in the church, I most definitely would not be where I am today.”

Lito, 24 and a 2014 graduate of the Berklee College of Music, looks back on cheerful times at Cliff Drive. He says, “I made my first friends at the day care center, where I also learned the meaning of ‘sharing.’ **One could even go as far as to say that this is where all of the music began in my life. Every day, the day care made sure to lead us in song and worship, which not only led me on a path to music but to a path of loving Christ.**”

For “Miss Pat,” this song was also a moment of reflection. She says, “What a treat it was to watch this young man as he reached out to our Sr. Lunch bunch. His talent is awesome. My mind was drawn back to the little action-packed preschooler in his beloved cowboy boots, charming me with his brilliant smile and sparkling eyes. He closed his time with us by playing and having us sing with him. God took that tiny little person and grew him into this personable, talented, respectful, worshipping individual, and we all got to be part of this through CDCC.”

Lito wasn’t, however, the only Cliff Drive alum to be at Senior Lunch that day. Kathleen McFarlin and her daughter Lindsay, at one time a Cliff Drive student, volunteer their time to serve the seniors here. Kathleen speaks to her experience of having Lindsay in Cliff Drive’s children’s programs saying, “I have fond memories of CDCC, which was a God-send when Lindsay was little. Miss Pat was at the helm, and God clearly worked through her. An additional bonus

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were the hours, which accommodated my work schedule, unlike so many other preschools. Now I see Jenny (who I have personally seen still working as late as 7pm) and her terrific staff carrying on the tradition of a Christian education . . . It is obvious the kids are thriving in this environment.”

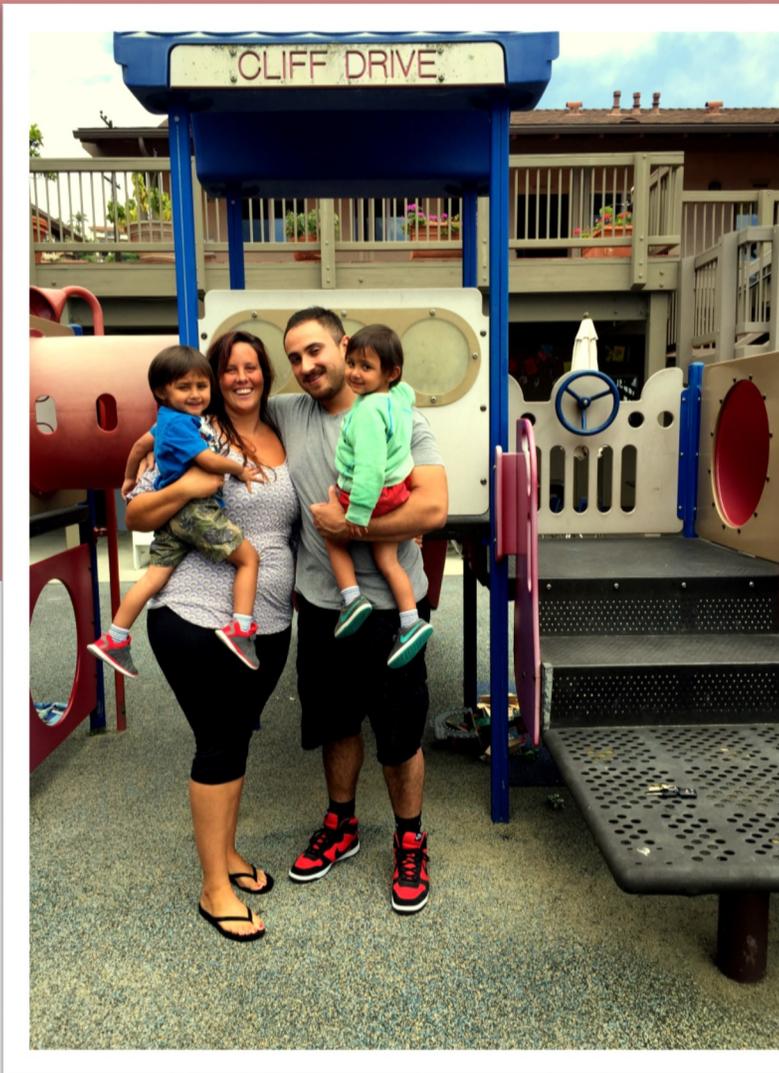
As much as we celebrate the graduates of the children’s program, we also celebrate those who have been helped at **Cliff Drive Christian Counseling Center**. As Kathleen and Lindsay help Michele Molony, our professional chef, in the kitchen or clearing plates in the senior lunch’s fellowship room, one can also see many faces who have had counseling here, a place for healing of the mind and heart. Because we care about the whole person, CDCC seeks to address people’s social, spiritual, and relational needs and help them grow into wholeness. What Kathleen reports of Senior Lunch is true of our Christian Counseling Center as well as all of Cliff Drive’s programs: the key ingredient is God’s love.

Deep and Wide: generations and community

Akela Casso-Cloonan, mother of twins Adrian and Nicolas, sends her two year old boys here because she, too, came to Cliff Drive as a child. Akela participated in both our Preschool and After School programs. She smiles as she remembers water balloon games on the playground and fun fieldtrips to Hurricane Harbor. Akela has known our children’s programs director, Jenny Yznaga, for many years and openly acknowledges her

reassurance in knowing her children are in good hands. Akela nods as her boys run around her feet and says, “I have so many good memories coming here, so this was my number one place to send them.”

Cliff Drive finds itself caring for children of alumni, as well as having alumni who come back here to work. Wei-Joan Udden, going into her second year at the University of Colorado, is home in Santa Barbara for her summer vacation. An alumni of the children’s program, she works here as a housekeeper, keeping our kitchens and our grounds clean. She remembers CDCC for its field trips, including times at a Dodger’s baseball game and at Knott’s Berry Farm.



Sue Wuertz, our administrative assistant, finds Cliff Drive connections everywhere in the community. She reports, “The guy from Service Master who oversees our accounts went to Cliff Drive. My daughter, Alissa, went to Cliff Drive. On Saturday, when my husband, Craig, and I



were out walking our dog, we saw a woman who recognized me because I worked here when her kids, who are now in college, went to Cliff Drive. As it turns out, she also went to Cliff Drive as a child, in the 60s, when it was still called the Cliff Drive ‘Nursery School.’” Sue’s eyes sparkle when she discovers more ways Cliff Drive influences our community. She put it well when she said reflectively, “There is a constant thread of people in the community who came here, and they are all around us.”

Above: Akela Casso-Cloonan with her family on the Cliff Drive playground. Right: Wei-Joan Udden puts on gloves to prepare for work.

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