

## American Province Ministry Connections January 2019

### Casa Cornelia Law Center

Carmen M. Chavez, Esq - Executive Director

<http://www.casacornelia.org/>

#### **Casa Cornelia Law Center: Our 2018 Milestones**

By Rosa E. Mitsumasu Scotti

As we reflect on the gifts, challenges, and opportunities brought to Casa Cornelia in 2018, we would like to share our deepest gratitude with you for directly participating in our mission to provide quality pro bono legal services to vulnerable communities in Southern California. Your generosity resulted in several major accomplishments and milestones.

First, we received outpouring support as we responded to the family separation crisis in the spring and summer, and the migrant crisis in the fall. These emergency efforts were undertaken in addition to the anticipated activities for the year.



2018 La Mancha Awards: (L to R) Carmen Chavez, Executive Director, Casa Cornelia Law Center; Nicholas Kristof, Columnist, New York Times; and Veronica Openibo, SHCJ, Society of the Holy Child, Society Leader

We also celebrated! At the [2018 La Mancha Awards](#) Casa Cornelia commemorated 25 years of service and over 10,000 lives saved through humanitarian protection.

Casa Cornelia's work was prominently featured in the media. Some of our favorite articles include the ones in [The Southern Cross](#), [The L.A. Times](#), [The San Diego Union Tribune](#), and [Al Jazeera](#).

Finally, we are both proud and humbled to report preliminary impact data for 2018. As of December 17, Casa Cornelia's legal team has responded to approximately 2,301 children, women, and men who have escaped (or are seeking to escape) violence, torture, and persecution. Humanitarian relief will forever change their lives.

Thank you so much for supporting Casa Cornelia's clients, and for opening your heart to vulnerable communities which suffer daily but remain hopeful, primarily as a result of the Society's prayer and unrelenting support over these 25 years!

Happy New Year 2019!

Sincerely yours,  
Your friends at Casa Cornelia Law Center

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## Providence Center

David Chiles - Executive Director  
<http://www.providencecentershcj.org/>

Recently released statistics revealed that the poverty rate in the Fairhill section of North Philadelphia has risen to 61%. We are the economically poorest community in the United States' poorest large city, and the poverty is getting worse.



*Family Fun Day at Providence Center*

Sophia, a former Teen Leader and now Providence Center's Program Aid, describes what it can feel like growing up in Fairhill. "We're in a really bad neighborhood where you're exposed to a lot of stuff, just from walking down the block. I walk out of my house -- there are drug dealers on the corner. I walk down the block -- there's prostitution. I get to the next corner -- there's someone shooting up. It's a lot that you face when you walk out your door."

The situation is a crisis, and Providence Center continues to challenge itself to find ways to bring joy and hope to the community. One of our core commitments is to welcome youth into the safety of our building and help them grow into people who have the power and spirit to transform their lives and community.

"I know a lot of kids would be influenced differently if they didn't come to

Providence Center," Sophia says. "They wouldn't have certain role models. If they weren't coming here, what would they be doing? I feel like this job has taught me so much about making sure that other kids don't have to go through the stuff that I had to go through. I'm not leaving the environment. Instead, I'm posting myself right in the middle of it and helping out my community, starting with the youth."

## South Central Los Angeles Ministry Project (SC LAMP)

Diana Pinto - Executive Director

<http://www.southcentrallamp.org/>

Paulo Coelho said, "the world is changed by your example not by your opinion." This is perfectly illustrated by the mothers at SC LAMP, who have themselves been changed by the generosity of the Sisters. The Sisters' example inspired our SC LAMP mothers to help the women and children at the border. While this is a controversial topic, our mothers see themselves in the women and children at the border and recognize that they, too, are in need of kindness and generosity. These mothers and children also need people to show up for them. With their limited income, our SC LAMP mothers decided to take up a collection to send to families in need. Together, they have collected diapers, wipes, and baby formula for the children and menstrual pads for the women. We understand that when someone is struggling, showing up is the most important thing you can do.



*SC LAMP donates baby and feminine products for families at the border*

Thanks to the great example the Sisters have shown to SC LAMP and in the world that inspires us to make a difference, in any way we can.

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Casa Cornelia Law Center \* Providence Center

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South Central Los Angeles Ministry Project (South Central LAMP) \*  
Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep \* Hope Partnership for Education \*  
Cristo Rey New York High School \* Washington School for Girls

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