

# Casa Pacifica Introduces Programs to Santa Barbara Locals



Dr. **Steven Elson**, Casa Pacifica Chief Executive Officer; Honorable Judge **Frank Ochoa**; **Donna B. Fisher-Yates**, Casa Pacifica Advisory Board Member; **Vickie Murphy**, Casa Pacifica Advisory Board and Archie's Assistant; SBCS Sheriff **Bill Brown**; **Stacy A. Roscoe**, Casa Pacifica Board of Directors President

By **JEANETTE CASILLAS** / CASA

**CASA PACIFICA** recently hosted a reception at the Santa Barbara Club to bring awareness to Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families and its Santa Barbara County Programs.

“We wanted folks in our community to know who we are and what we provide,” shared Donna B. Fisher-Yates, Casa Pacifica Advisory Board Member. “We are the largest provider for foster care youth in Santa Barbara County.”

In 2003 Casa Pacifica opened an office in Santa Barbara on Hope Street and began Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS). TBS is a short-term, intensive, supplemental mental health service designed to assist children in preserving a current placement when they are in jeopardy of moving to a higher level of care or helping them move back home and into their community.

With a staff of over 350 and an annual budget of \$23 million Casa Pacifica was recently named the sixth largest nonprofit on California’s Central Coast. “Casa

Pacifica has received state and national recognition,” shared Honorable Judge Frank Ochoa. “Most recently at the annual conference of the California Mental Health

Advocates for Children and Youth, Casa Pacifica received the prestigious 2009 *Exemplary Program of the Year* award.”

Plans are underway for a new facility in the SB County in the Los Alamos area. The Children’s Project

is a collaborative public/private project focused on developing an innovative boarding school and college preparatory academy that through a rigorous, supportive, and academic environment, will create a community where foster children and selected youth with mental

health or delinquency issues can set and achieve high educational goals. They are expecting to break ground in 2010 and open the Academy for the first students in 2011 or 2012.



SBCSD Chief Deputy **Jim Peterson**, Casa Pacifica Advisory Board member with foster parents **Lillian** and **Philip Pipersburg**



**Mary Ransom** and **Phil Butts**



Back: **Lillian Pipersburg**; **Janice Keller**; **Donna B. Fisher-Yates**; and Middle: **Vickie Murphy**; Therapy Dog **Archie**; **Mindy Bidder-Denson**; **Meredith Scott**, and **Barbara Seward de L'Arbe**. Front: **Jenna Douglass**

Casa Pacifica has also received some national publicity because of their therapy dog at the residential treatment center in Camarillo. Archibald RazzMaTaz (aka Archie) is a 165-pound, three-foot-tall Newfoundland who has become an important member of the Casa Pacifica family. “Archie works wonders with at risk youth,” Shared Fisher.

For more information about Casa Pacifica call 445-7800 or visit [www.casapacifica.org](http://www.casapacifica.org) and for The Childrens Project visit [www.childrensprojectsb.org](http://www.childrensprojectsb.org).