

## RANCHO DAMACITAS NEWS

After 35 years of serving foster youth in the Temecula community, Rancho Damacitas will be moving in a new direction to care for young mothers with children who are seeking a better life for their children and themselves.

Due to recent legislation, the state was suddenly placing youth at Rancho Damacitas that weren't a fit for the residential program at its Wine Country campus, resulting in difficulties both in the homes and in the neighborhood. This led to the difficult decision to discontinue the youth residential program and move in another direction.

The Board at Rancho Damacitas is hoping to have the new program, which will be called Empowerment Village, up and running soon after the first of the year. Another program under the umbrella of Rancho Damacitas, Project Independence, which helps 18-25 year olds who have aged out of the foster care system, will continue to operate.

More information on this change for Rancho Damacitas is reported in the Valley News at <http://myvalleynews.com/local/rancho-damacitas-to-shift-focus-from-foster-youth-care-to-care-for-mothers-and-young-children/>.

St. Thomas of Canterbury has supported the mission of Rancho Damacitas for many years, sending birthday gift cards to the youth and annually gathering school supplies. Our support is still needed. Financial and other volunteer support will be needed in the future in ways that are still being imagined. The most immediate need is for prayers for the youth in our community who are in the foster care system and prayers for the Rancho Damacitas Board of Directors as they seek new ways to implement the Rancho Damacitas mission of providing care and compassion of abused and neglected children and young adults.

