

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Ardra Williams

**DIRECTOR**  
Kenneth Fleming

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT**  
Larry Love

**TREASURER**  
Stanley Hall

**SECRETARY**  
Valicia Franklin

**MEMBER/DIRECTOR**  
Jog Brown

**MEMBER/DIRECTOR**  
Rodney Pomphile



**Administration Office**  
23860 Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 200  
Torrance, CA 90505  
Phone: (310) 791-3064 Fax: (310) 791-3084  
[www.dacfs.org](http://www.dacfs.org)

June 9, 2022

Dimondale Adolescent is writing this letter in support of Hope in a Suitcase, which has positively impacted our agency. Dimondale provides a safe, warm, culturally competent, and homelike environment, with the highest level of support and empathy for all children and non-minor dependents in our care. Our trauma-informed and evidence-based practices help the youth we serve achieve a feeling of self-worth, an appreciation of community, and a respect for culture, family, and each other. Dimondale is a 501c3 non-profit, and we believe the scatter site model (6 youth per single family home) provides the best family setting for our residential programs. Our Residential Treatment Facilities serve 48 youth, 24 female and 24 males ages 12-18. Our Foster Family Agency is ever growing and servings ages 0-17 and our Shelter program serving 12 homeless foster youth is the first of its kind providing services in a scattered site model (6 youth per home not on a campus) ages 14-17 males only. Foster youth are faced with homelessness, lack of social connections and permanent relationships with positive adults. Stabilizing our youth both emotionally and physically is our top priority.

Hope in a Suitcase has supported our agency by providing holiday gifts, duffle bags filled with NEW high-quality clothing, shoes, hygiene items and personal items that are requested. With the support of Hope and a Suitcase our agency is able to increase our community impact and celebrate our youth at every opportunity.

Sometimes a child is removed from their home with only the clothes on their back. Whether going into our shelter program, foster family home, or residential program, we greet each child with a duffle bag donated to us from Hope in Suitcase. The smiles and happiness it brings to each child is priceless. The bag always feels explicitly packed for the child that receives it. It may be a special blanket or handwritten note that the child is comforted with. This attention to detail is what makes Hope and a Suitcase special from other doners. They treat every donation like they know exactly who it's for, and that child feels so incredibly special when they open their gift/duffle bag. Hope in a Suitcase's program keeps the child in mind at every step. It is challenging for donors to accommodate such a large demographic 0-17 and Hope in a Suitcase is successful in this difficult mission.

It is important to note that the items/clothing that Hope in a Suitcase provides are relevant to what the kids want. The items are always NEW, on-trend and often name brand. Helping the child to feel special and not just a recipient of a donation helps them to feel wanted, cared for, and thought of. Feeling special increases self-esteem and self-efficacy skills that equip children to manage relationships in multiple contexts, including

**FACILITIES**

**DACF # 1**  
1632 E. Dimondale Dr.  
Carson, CA 90746  
Phone: (310) 791-3064 x100  
Lic. No. 198203822

**DACF # 2**  
4416 63<sup>rd</sup> St. W.  
Lancaster, CA 93536  
Phone: (310) 791-3064 x200  
Lic. No. 19760504

**DACF # 3**  
2509 W. 115<sup>th</sup> Place  
Hawthorne, CA 90250  
Phone: (310) 791-3064 x300  
Lic. No. 198204471

**DACF # 4**  
1461 N. Anaheim Pl  
Long Beach, CA 90804  
Phone: (310) 791-3064 x400  
Lic. No. 197804638

**DACF #6**  
13019 Ruthelen St.  
Gardena, CA 90249  
Phone: (310) 791-3064 x600  
Lic. No. 197804638

**DACF #7**  
44423 Hanstead Ave  
Lancaster, CA 93535  
Phone: (310) 791-3064 x700  
Lic. No. 197606254

**DACF #8**  
823 E. Pillsbury Street  
Lancaster, CA 93535  
Phone: (310) 791-3064 x800  
Lic. No. 197606874

**DACF #9**  
43862 Cedar Ave  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
Phone: (310) 791-3064 x900  
Lic. No. 198208228



**Administration Office**  
 23860 Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 200  
 Torrance, CA 90505  
 Phone: (310) 791-3064 Fax: (310) 791-3084  
[www.dacfs.org](http://www.dacfs.org)

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
 Ardra Williams

**DIRECTOR**  
 Kenneth Fleming

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT**  
 Larry Love

**TREASURER**  
 Stanley Hall

**SECRETARY**  
 Valicia Franklin

**MEMBER/DIRECTOR**  
 Joy Brown

**MEMBER/DIRECTOR**  
 Rodney Pomphile

**FACILITIES**

**DACF # 1**  
 1632 E. Dimondale Dr.  
 Carson, CA 90746  
 Phone: (310) 791-3064 x100  
 Lic. No. 198203822

**DACF # 2**  
 4416 63<sup>rd</sup> St. W.  
 Lancaster, CA 93536  
 Phone: (310) 791-3064 x200  
 Lic. No. 197605014

**DACF # 3**  
 2509 W. 115<sup>th</sup> Place  
 Hawthorne, CA 90250  
 Phone: (310) 791-3064 x300  
 Lic. No. 198204471

**DACF # 4**  
 1461 N. Anaheim Pl  
 Long Beach, CA 90804  
 Phone: (310) 791-3064 x400  
 Lic. No. 197804638

**DACF #6**  
 13019 Ruthelen St.  
 Gardena, CA 90249  
 Phone: (310) 791-3064 x900  
 Lic. No. 197804638

**DACF #7**  
 44423 Hanstead Ave  
 Lancaster, CA 93535  
 Phone: (310) 791-3064 x700  
 Lic. No. 197606254

**DACF #8**  
 823 E. Pillsbury Street  
 Lancaster, CA 93535  
 Phone: (310) 791-3064 x800  
 Lic. No. 197606874

**DACF #9**  
 43862 Cedar Ave  
 Lancaster, CA 93534  
 Phone: (310) 791-3064 x900  
 Lic. No. 198208228

education and employment settings, as well as with friends and family members. It also decreases depressive thoughts that “no one care about me”. When the youth wears name brand items they hold their heads up high because in that moment they don’t feel underprivileged. Instead, they fit in to society and they love the compliments they get.

Shopping days are important to our population because most of these children haven’t been exposed to new clothing, let alone branded items. Hope in a Suitcase makes it possible for both things to happen. During one of the shopping days, within 5 minutes one of our teens saw the quality of items and realized she’d get to choose for herself, she definitely opened up, saying “I’ve NEVER experienced anything like this!” She was literally DANCING and TWIRLING around in her new Prom Dress, saying how excited she was to go to school in her new casual clothing. Other girls said comments like “I’m so happy today. I’m 16 years old and I’ve never been able to go shopping for name brand new clothes!” and “I can’t wait to wear my new dress to court when I see my mom for the first time in 6 months”. Upon leaving the shopping day, not only did they have new art supplies, books, beauty items, new branded clothing, and accessories, they were able to collect their items in brand new duffle bags and suitcases and finish out the shopping day with dignity and a sense of purpose. The experience that Hope in a Suitcase provides is so much more important than outfitting a child. It allows for them to have a safe space to observe sincere and caring adults positively assist with whatever they need. The entire experience resonates with that child’s soul.

This small act of providing new clothing and other items makes such a significant impact on foster youth. We could not thank you enough for the work that you do. It takes a village, and we are so grateful that Hope in a Suitcase is in our village.

Sincerely,

*Theresa Foster*

Chief Program Officer  
 Dimondale Adolescent