



Introducing

LAS CANDALISTAS, INC

2023-24

Las Candalistas is a 100% volunteer nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to benefiting children and the environment in the South Bay of Los Angeles County.

In 1967, an enterprising group of women formed a nonprofit auxiliary to help raise funds for the Child Guidance Clinic of the South Bay Children's Health Center in Torrance. Because our original fundraising effort was selling beeswax candles, it was decided to call the group Las Candalistas – 'The Candle Lighters.' Committed to supporting children and the environment in the South Bay community, we quickly moved beyond selling candles. The name, Las Candalistas, took on a new meaning as we became leaders in community service – expanding our fundraising activities and the philanthropies we serve. Las Candalistas' continued success led us to incorporate as an independent nonprofit in 1989.

Now, over 55 years later, although our mission is steadfast, our organization is evolving to keep up with our community's outlook and needs. We're redesigning our events and outreach to increase our impact. We have always been known for our classy fundraising events. In all that we do, our focus will be on nurturing strong relationships — with our charities, donors, community, and each other.

Each year our members nominate and vote on which local charities we will partner with. We choose three that will receive the majority of our raised funds, but we also donate to many other local charities. In addition to direct monetary grants, Las Candalistas' members very generously collect and distribute food, clothing, educational materials, and other essential items for our philanthropies. We also "adopt" several families during the holiday season.

We have been recognized in the community for our contributions and our ongoing partnerships with the philanthropies we serve. These recognitions recently include: Community's Child 2022 'Making a Difference Award'; 'Community Service Award' given to us by Palos Verdes Peninsula Coordinating Council in May 2018; as well as the Palos Verdes Peninsula's Chamber of Commerce 'Community Service Organization of the Year' Award in November 2018.

Currently we hold two major fundraising events each fiscal year, in the Fall and Spring. Our Fall Event, *Between the Covers...A Literary Luncheon.* took place on October 20th, 2023, at the Palos Verdes Country Club. Our upcoming Spring Event, *Havana Nights*, will be held April 27th, 2024, at the Norris Pavilion.

In October 2023, our members chose the following as our philanthropies to receive the majority of the net proceeds from our 2023-24 fundraising events: Community's Child (feeding hundreds of local children weekly through their Healthy Bags program), Manes for Movement (helping to improve the lives and mobility of disabled children using equine assisted therapies and activities), and Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles (general funding for the hospital and center). In addition, we hope to support 11 other South Bay charities.

Please join us, and our 130+ volunteer members, in this important work. For more information on us, what we do, and the philanthropies we support, please visit our website: www.lascandalistas.org