

## CALENDAR

16th Charle Street Annual Picnic AND

8th Annual Chili Cook-off

Sunday, August 22 at TeWinkle Park in Costa Mesa

11 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Burgers, Dogs, BBQ Chicken, Salads  
Games, Prizes, Raffle.

Tickets for Adults \$5, Kids \$2.50  
Drinks \$.50

*All you can eat*

\$25 Entry Fee for Cook-off

Call Marc H. for Picnic  
(949) 633-4838

Call Mark D. for Chili Cook-off  
(949)690-1595

In Memory of Mark Lynn.

*35th Annual Holiday  
Dinner Dance*

*December 9,*

*at the lovely Turnip Rose  
Costa Mesa*

### Future Newsletters To Be on Website Only

The board of the First Step House of Orange County, Inc., has decided to discontinue the mailing of the newsletter due to rising costs.

*For Future Issues, Go To*  
[www.charlestreet.org](http://www.charlestreet.org)

Be sure to add your e-mail address on the Website if you wish to receive special announcements and news regarding Charle Street.

### 16th Annual Comedy Night a Great Success

We had a great time at the Comedy Night. Approximately 250 guests spent a laugh-filled evening with four talented comedians.

As if the laughs were not enough, refreshments were served, over 20 prizes were raffled-off, and the ever popular 50/50 drawing was held.

Thanks for this great evening go out to: Linda D. Patty S., Carol T., Anne M., Bill B., John C., Andrew B., Henry R., David D., Jim V., James H., Misha S. and the great men of the Broadway House.

### The 17th Annual Charle Street Golf Tournament

For the 17th year, we had a wonderful turnout & dinner at the El Niguel Country Club. We had 122 players and 12 volunteers.

It was all possible due to our Underwriters: **The Crean Foundation & Legacy Farms.**

T-Sponsors: **California Advantage, Hoag Hospital, Reach Foundation,**

**Koko Island, R & R Sheet Metal, Quickstart, The Plant Stand, Villa Nova,** and several anonymous supporters.

Special thanks to **Perrione Juices** for the beverages & **Crevier BMW** for the Mini Cooper Hole in One.

Finally to our many Auction Donors and El Niguel Golf Club, thanks for all your help

Extra special thanks to our volunteers: **Grant McN., Henry R., Homer, Andrew B., Carol T., Dick J., Georgina T., Dinah, Joni C., John C., Bill B., Lynn, and Fred.** You made the event successful.

### Adopt-a-Bed

Charle Street recognizes the great contribution **Rick Jochum** has made by creating & promoting the **Adopt-a-bed Charity.** Adopt-a-Bed has raised \$3,900 for Charle Street this year.

### Charle Street Success Story

By the grace of God, my sobriety date is **October 28, 2009,** and for that I am truly grateful.

My drinking started at an early age. My mom asked me to go with my sister to a party so I could "keep an eye on her." I had a bottle of Strawberry Hill. & don't remember anything else. That was my first blackout. From then on, I was always planning my next drunk.



The First Step House of Orange County, Inc.  
2015 Charle Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92628

[www.charlestreet.org](http://www.charlestreet.org)

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My first police contact while intoxicated was a few years later - I was throwing bottles at cars.

Once I got to high school I would never go to class. I was too busy planning and making sure we had plenty of beer for the weekend parties. When I was in school, I had alcohol in my backpack.

My first DUI got me 45 days in jail and possible deportation. Facing 6 years in prison, I was desperate and scared and I turned to God for help. But then, my life got so good that I went back to another 12 years of misery, selfishness, depression, jails, and broken promises.

I started isolating, staying away from my family in hotels for weeks. I was drinking day and all night. After my wife left with my kids, I really got started. I wanted to die. I was drinking and driving every day and having daily blackouts. And, once more I was awakened by a CHP Officer. This time I was charged with a DUI Hit & Run.

So, back to jail. This time I swore I was done with drinking forever. Yet, I was drunk within hours of being released.

I had accepted the fact that I would die an alcoholic death. My last drunk lasted two years. Then one day in a moment of clarity, I asked God for help and found myself at Charle Street. It was here that I found others who had lived this way. And, here I found the solution to my problem. I was able to admit complete defeat and find a power greater than myself.

Today I work the steps in order out of the first 164 pages of the Big Book, under the direction of my sponsor. And today I am living life on life's terms. I am not trying to control anything or anyone. I've found that life is good when I let go & let God, one day at a time.

My name is Fernando, and I'm an alcoholic.

**To Get Involved in Charle Street:**

- Send monetary donations to First Step House of Orange County, PO Box 1904, Costa Mesa, CA 9262
- Donate men's underwear, razors, soap & deodorant at 2015 Charle Street, from 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.
- Volunteer at Charle Street: If you are a male alcoholic with at least one year sobriety & are available to help, come see us.
- Join The Committee at Charle Street. Meetings are held the 4th Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m., Charle Street. November & December; meetings are the 3rd Thursday. Check the Website for Qualifications.

**Questions, comments, suggestions** regarding this newsletter or First Step House of Orange County, Inc., please call (949) 642-2261. Federal Tax ID#23-736946

**Charle Street Mission Statement**

To assist men suffering from alcoholism and who are willing to spend ten days at First Step House, in order to begin their recovery and integration back into society.