



# GIVING & NONPROFITS

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## ‘Jeopardy’ Donates to Valley Shelter

Prize goes to build Trebek Center for the Homeless.

By **KATHERINE TANGALAKIS-LIPPERT**  
Staff Reporter

The “Jeopardy Tournament of Champions” final round concluded on May 28, with the \$250,000 grand prize being matched and donated to the upcoming Hope of the Valley Trebek Center for the Homeless in Northridge.

The show’s annual “Tournament of Champions,” features 15 previous winners facing off in the trivia game and concludes with a matched donation to charities; past recipients included **Media Fellowship House** and **Justice Defenders**. Sam Kavanaugh, a five-time winner of the show prior to the tournament, won the grand prize this year and **Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission** was selected as recipient of this year’s charity gift. Over the years, “Jeopardy” has donated a total of \$1.25 million guest hosts’ charities of choice, an amount determined by the cumulative winnings of contestants during their weeks as host.

“We are absolutely honored to be the recipient of this year’s ‘Tournament of Champions’ charity donation,” **Ken Craft**, chief executive of Hope of the Valley, said of the gift.

The Valley Trebek Center, to be developed in the former Skateland roller skating rink at 18140 Parthenia St., was renamed the Alex Trebek Center in March after a \$500,000 donation from the late “Jeopardy” host’s estate and will be open later this year. The 23,000-square-foot interim housing facility, run by the Pacoima-based nonprofit, will contain 107 beds and provide mental health services, job training and placement and substance abuse counseling for people experiencing homelessness.

“It’s even going to have a library and reading area and it’ll be all Alex (Trebek’s) books to line those walls. He really wanted the books to come to Hope of the Valley,” Craft said.

In addition to Trebek’s book collection, the new shelter will feature a garden therapy area outside, a “Jeopardy”-inspired wall which will list donor names, as well as a wall of preserved wooden planks from the Skateland roller rink to honor the business that closed as a result of the pandemic. The original signs from Skateland and wood planks will be preserved by **Valley Relics Museum** in Van Nuys.

“We will definitely make this an incredible facility for people that have unfortunately hit bottom, but they’re on their way back up,” Craft said. Plans have been submitted for construction, which Craft said should begin in June and the shelter should be open by December.

Hope of the Valley, in partnership with the city of Los Angeles, has rapidly expanded its locations. The mission opened an 85-bed shelter in North Hollywood, a 100-bed shelter in Van Nuys and two resource centers over the last year, in addition to three tiny home communities which have opened since January.

### Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission

**HEADQUARTERS:** 11076 Norris Ave., Pacoima  
**CEO:** Ken Craft  
**BUSINESS:** Nonprofit services for people experiencing homelessness  
**NOTABLE:** Rapid expansion over the last year includes four tiny home developments and the upcoming Trebek Center.



Kudos: Josh Morales, center, accepts check at Rams’ Draft House in Malibu.

## Law Firm Partners With the L.A. Rams

Heart & Hustle Award sponsored by Wallace in Encino.

By **KATHERINE TANGALAKIS-LIPPERT** Staff Reporter

**Wallace Firm** in Encino has teamed up with the **Los Angeles Rams** in Agoura Hills to launch the WallaceWins.com Heart & Hustle Award for local heroes as part of a multi-year partnership.

The first recipient is 17-year-old **Loyola High School of Los Angeles** football player **Josh Morales**, who provided care for his parents and siblings while maintaining his schoolwork when he and his entire family contracted COVID-19 last year. The teen, while sick himself, facilitated doctor’s visits, cooked meals, and monitored his family’s health as his mother was bedridden and his father eventually hospitalized. After a full recovery, Morales received the award, a \$5,000 donation to support his college education and two tickets to the Rams season opener at SoFi Stadium against the **Chicago Bears** on Sept. 12.



Bradley Wallace

“Partnering with the Rams while helping Josh Morales fulfill his dream of studying aerospace engineering and graduating from USC, is also a fulfillment of my own dreams. ... I am thrilled to be partnering with L.A.’s original NFL team, an amazing and innovative organization that shares our law firm’s values,” **Bradley Wallace**, founder the Wallace Firm, said in a statement.

The award is one element of an ongoing

### Wallace Firm

**HEADQUARTERS:** 16000 Ventura Blvd., Encino  
**FOUNDER:** Bradley Wallace  
**BUSINESS:** Personal injury law firm  
**NOTABLE:** Partnered with L.A. Rams for charitable community award

partnership between the football team and law firm. Additional efforts throughout the Rams partnership will include community days of service and Wallace Firm’s sponsorship of the team’s “Three Keys to Winning” article series, which aims to keep Rams fans connected with the team.

The firm also will sponsor a “Rams Win, You Win” sweepstakes, which will provide a VIP gameday experience for a winner and three guests. The winner will be selected following the team’s first regular season victory of the 2021 NFL season.

In addition to winning the Heart & Hustle award, Morales was featured in a short documentary that premiered on the WallaceWins website. It includes interviews with his family and coaches and shows the teenager receiving the inaugural award at the Rams’ Draft House in Malibu.

“You always got to keep going, keep pushing, and I think that’s something football has really taught me, especially throughout these hard times with COVID,” Morales told ABC News. The recent high school graduate hopes to be the first person in his family with a four-year college degree, supported by funds received from the award.

## Casa Pacifica Funding for Crisis Health

Program focuses on youth and family counseling.

By **KATHERINE TANGALAKIS-LIPPERT**  
Staff Reporter

**Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families** received a grant for \$80,000 from the **Women’s Fund of Santa Barbara** to fund an additional mobile crisis counselor for the Safe Alternatives for Treating Youth Program to respond to children and youth experiencing mental health emergencies.

The program from Camarillo-based Casa Pacifica involves a mobile crisis response team serving children and youth, up to 20 years of age, who are in crisis. The program provides families of youth experiencing mental health and behavioral emergencies – often suicidal or violent – with quick and accessible specialized crisis intervention, with in-home support and linkage to county mental health services.



Camarillo: Casa Pacifica facility.

The goal of the mobile program is to prevent psychiatric hospitalization and decrease the use of emergency rooms and law enforcement for mental health crises in order to prevent detention in juvenile facilities due to a mental health crisis. The program receives about 1,900 crisis calls annually with approximately 1,000 of the children and youth requiring services beyond the initial call. Since opening in 2005, the program has served more than 12,800 children and families.

“We are honored and grateful to the Women’s Fund of Santa Barbara for choosing us to be among their grant recipients providing critical services,” **Christina Lombard**, manager of the program at Casa Pacifica, said in a statement. “An additional crisis care specialist ultimately increases the number of kids we will be able to serve; we are passionate about making an impact in our community and are thrilled to partner with an organization who clearly feels the same.”

Casa Pacifica is the largest nonprofit provider of children’s mental health services in both Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Its services include a residential treatment facility for foster or at-risk children, as well as administering 10 programs designed to strengthen families and keep children in their homes.

### Casa Pacifica

**HEADQUARTERS:** 1722 S. Lewis Road, Camarillo  
**CEO:** Shawna Morris  
**BUSINESS:** Nonprofit mental health and family support services  
**NOTABLE:** Mobile crisis response team assists nearly 2,000 calls a year.