

# THE MARINO FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

The Marino Foundation, 10671 Civic Center Drive, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
(909) 476-2511

California Tax ID: 71-0889391

## Mission Statement

The Marino Foundation was established in 2002 by the sons and friends of James J. Marino. A nonprofit private foundation incorporated under the laws of the State of California, the foundation aims to support Southern California families in need.

The Marino Foundation was organized to commemorate the life and spirit of James J. Marino, a classic example of the American dream. Born to immigrant parents, through hard work, calculated risk-taking, and a little luck, James Marino built a number of successful small businesses in Southern California. During his lifetime, he owned and operated Kosmo Gears, Lester Equipment Manufacturing, Aztex Industries and founded Gear Technology located in

## Wealth, Wisdom & Work

By Tom Marino, President

People are always asking how they can help us. We always refer them to the three tenants of philanthropy. Each person needs to decide what gifts they have and how to best share them.

**Wealth:** The Marino Foundation is an organization that gives direct financial assistance to families in time of crisis. Unfortunately, there is an endless need for our services in society and a finite amount of resources. The Marino Foundation does not have a dedicated revenue stream that is generating the funds we distribute. Every dollar we give out is donated to us by

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Mission Statement	1
Wealth, Wisdom & Work	1
Charitable Giving Since Inception	2
Jarod Behee Story	2
Ethan La Porte Story	3
Blake Browning Story	3
Family to Family Christmas Program	5
Fernandez Family Story	5

Rancho Cucamonga. With all that he accomplished in business, Jim believed, first and foremost, in the importance of families – his own, as well as those of his employees and neighbors.

The Foundation seeks to raise funds to make grants to individuals, families and worthy groups as a commitment to those values.

wonderfully kind and generous people such as yourselves. It's a very simple formula, the more money we raise the more people we can help. Your donation does not necessarily need to be cash either. We are in constant need of items we can auction off at our fundraising events. If you have a business that sells something that people would be willing to bid on we would love to talk to you. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to The Marino Foundation.

**Wisdom:** The Marino Foundation is constantly coming across people that are in need of professional services.

Please see *Wealth, Wisdom & Work* on page 4

## Charitable Giving Since Inception

Since our inception in 2002 The Marino Foundation has given out in excess of \$575,000 in direct grants to families in need. We have helped over 50 families that otherwise would have had no one to turn to. We have supplied grants to cover funeral expenses, medical expenses, rent, mortgages, food, insurance coverage, you name it we have helped ease the pain of families in need.

Every family we help asks us the same question “Who are you guys?” The answer is always the same; we are just people that want to help. We have no employees; but rely on our dedicated board volunteers and generous donors. All of who want to do the right thing. None of this would have been possible without your support. We cannot thank you enough for providing The Marino Foundation with the resources to help so many families.

## Jarod Behee Story

In May of 2005, Army Staff Sgt. Jarod Behee was shot in the head by a sniper’s bullet while serving his country in Iraq. After being stabilized in Iraq, Jarod was transferred to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. Jarod’s situation was very grave at this point. He had not only been shot in the head but he also suffered a stroke and had two aneurysms in his brain. He could not breathe on his own, talk, eat, walk, or do anything by himself. It is a total miracle that he is alive today. After spending seven weeks in Bethesda, MD, Jarod was transferred to a VA poly-trauma unit in Palo Alto, CA. The three months that Jarod was at the facility was a complete nightmare. They wanted to give up on him and ship him to a sub-acute unit, which is nothing more than a nursing home. The care Jarod received at the VA hospital was minimal at best. Ultimately, Jarod was transferred to Casa Colina Center for rehabilitation in Pomona, CA. He immediately started showing improvements and progress once passionate care and therapy was implemented. The VA doctors told Jarod that he would never walk again and they bought him a wheelchair. Just three months after he arrived at Casa Colina, Jarod was walking! But because his head injury was so severe, he is still mildly cognitive

impaired. He is due to be medically retired from the Military with an uncertain financial future.

On February 3, 2007 The Marino Foundation hosted a benefit dinner dance in support of Staff Sergeant Jarod Behee and his Family. The event was held at the Pacific Palms Resort in the City of Industry, California. The event was billed as a night “Celebrating the Life of a True American Hero”. That night The Marino Foundation raised \$114,700 in support of Army Staff Sergeant Jarod Behee and his family.



*Marino Board Members Tom Marino, Kelly Mancino & Jim Roy present check to Jarod Behee*

## Ethan La Porte Story

On Thanksgiving of 2006 Sara La Porte and her six year old son Ethan were visiting some friends in Nashville Tennessee. During their trip there was a tragic accident involving an open field fire pit. Ethan suffered 3rd degree burns over 35% of his body. The burns to his chest, arms, neck and portions of his face were tremendously severe. Ethan has had numerous surgeries since that fateful day in 2006 and he has many more in his future. The doctors feel that by the time they are finished, Ethan will have 75% of his tiny body covered with some type of skin graft. During Ethan's ordeal, his mother Sara stayed by his side night and day. Sara, unable to work, was having trouble making ends meet. The Marino Foundation supplied a direct grant in the amount of \$11,400 which went towards medical expenses and the La Porte's rent for 6 months. The Marino Foundation also was able to send Sara, Ethan

and two friends to an Angel's Baseball Game. We don't know what Ethan enjoyed more, his 1st baseball game, or his 1st limo ride. All we know is it was worth every penny just to see that kid smile again.



*Ethan & Mom Sara*

## Blake Browning Story

On Saturday August 18, 2007 Blake Browning suffered a serious neck injury during football practice at St. John Bosco High School. The initial reports from the doctors were that Blake would be paralyzed from the neck down for the rest of his life. Blake has had a hard road since his accident, but we are happy to report that he is proving all the doctors wrong! Blake is currently in a wheelchair and is able to get around quite nicely under his own power. During Blake's recovery The Marino Foundation stepped in and issued a grant for \$9,000 which was used to cover the Browning family's mortgage for six months.

We are please to let you know that Blake is now at home and making plans to attend school once again. The Marino Foundation is currently working with the Browning family to help them make their home more wheelchair friendly. If any of you are in the construction industry and would like to help please contact Tom Marino at (909) 476-2511.

Please see *Blake Browning* on page 4

*Wealth, Wisdom & Work* from page 1

These services cover a wide range from medical, dental, vision, legal, accounting, construction, financial planning to name a few. If you are in a position to donate your expertise in a specific field of business, we sure could use the help. We are in the process of putting together a data base of people that would be willing to donate a particular service as needed. The plan is that when we get a family that needs, let's say dental work, we pick up the phone and contact someone that will take care of that need.

**Work:** We are always in need of people that do not mind getting their hands dirty. A good example would be the work the Marino Foundation volunteers did in completing a home remodel to help in the care of a local high school girl stricken with a debilitating illness. After a trench was dug from the property to the sewer line, it needed to be filled in by hand. We made a few calls and 20 people showed up with shovels. It took us about four hours but it got done. Just think of how fast it would have gone if we could have called 40 people!! We deliver meals, collect and drop off clothes, and shop for people. There is a lot you can do by donating just your time.

*Blake Browning* from page 3

"January 12, 2008

Recently our family experienced a traumatic event when our youngest son, Blake suffered a C-5 Spinal cord injury, leaving him paralyzed. Along with this life changing injury and all the medical expenses that come with it, our own financial obligations, not to mention taking a leave of absence from work to provide our son with the daily care needed, we became financially over burdened.

The Marino Foundation has been a true Godsend for our family in this time of need. We cannot express the gratitude we feel for the financial support the Marino Foundation has provided, it has given us the peace of mind we need to help us focus on what is most important to us right now and that is caring for our son and our family. We would like to thank the Marino Foundation for all they have done for our family.

Sincerely Yours,

The Browning Family"

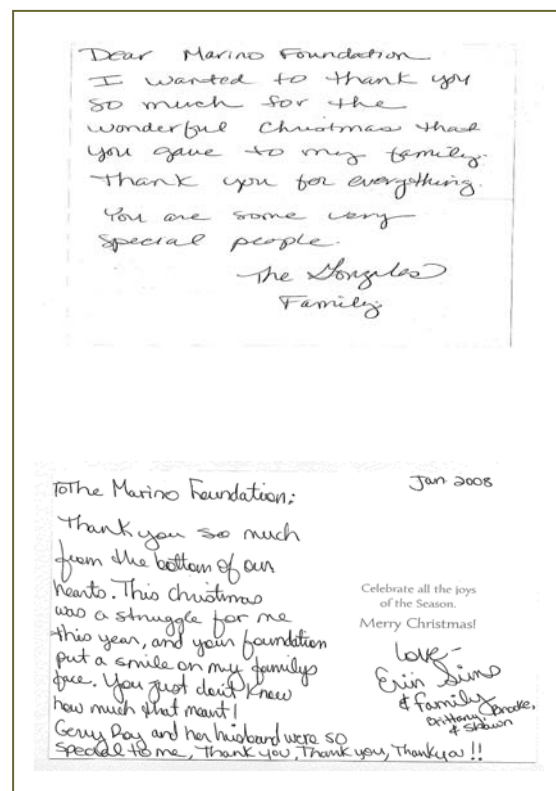


*Blake Browning at USC Football Practice*

*Save The Date!*  
*Don't Miss The Marino Foundation's*  
*Annual Dinner Dance!*  
*Saturday, March 22, 2008 ~ 6:00 P.M.*  
*The Nixon Library*  
*18001 Yorba Linda Boulevard, Yorba Linda, CA 92886*  
*Casino de Paris, Dinner, Dancing, Silent & Live Auction*

## Family to Family Christmas Program

In December of 2007, The Marino Foundation provided cooked Christmas dinners and Christmas presents for 30 families throughout the Southland. Each member of the family was given at least one gift from of their "Wish List". Each family was also provided with a pre-cooked turkey dinner with all the fixings. On average, The Marino Foundation spends \$500 per family. The Marino Foundation would like to thank all the people that shopped for our families. We realize the Christmas Holiday Season is a hectic time for us all and we truly do appreciate all the effort of the people that did the shopping. A lot of our shoppers have their children help them shop for these families, this helps pass along our spirit of philanthropy to the next generation. If you would like to be involved next year please contact us and we will put you on the list of shoppers.



## Fernandez Family Story

The Fernandez family was evacuated from their home in Rancho Bernardo along the I-15 corridor at 2am on Sunday night October 13 with literally only the clothes or pajamas on their backs. Upon their return days later, they found only remnants of the family home they left that night. Jose and Elisa have four children, three boys in college and a little girl. The good news is that they had home owners insurance and are plugged into various support groups that are helping those impacted by the fires to sort out their recovery effort. Their home has now been demolished and they are talking to

contractors about rebuilding on the property. Their hope is to be back in a home on their property in early 2009. That may be optimistic. In the interim, their insurance is covering temporary housing, but the meter is running as the insurance only covers this for a limited period of time. The loss of their home and resulting financial struggles is exacerbated by Jose's recent career change from the mortgage industry was necessitated by the "sub-prime" melt-down. Jose now works at El Cajon Mitsubishi and is anxious to take care of anyone's new vehicle needs.



*Fernandez Home after fire*

Please see *Fernandez Family* on page 6

**Board of Directors:**

Tom Marino, President  
Tracy Adkins  
Steve Bowen  
Kris Brenard  
Michael F. Henn  
Kelly Mancino  
William Marino  
Steve Molinari  
Randy Moore  
Randy Peterson  
Gary Pluchino  
Bob Renken  
John Renken  
Keith Renken  
Cheryl Roberts  
Don Roberts  
Steven Rigali  
Jim Roy

*Fernandez Family* from page 5

With all of these challenges including three kids in college, The Fernandez's have been faced with negative cash flow.

Despite their misfortune, the Fernandez's continue to be very upbeat and positive people. The Foundation is trying to raise enough funds to cover them for six months while their home is being rebuilt. The Foundation has covered the 1st month and we are hosting an e-mail fundraising drive to try and raise the remaining funds.



*The Fernandez Family*

The Marino Foundation  
10671 Civic Center Drive  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

