

Pat Shaffer

Founders Club (1979 – present) 1
History & Evolution of the Club 2

In 1979 the CLUB was called Sacred Heart Club and consisted primarily of students from Sacred Heart Schools. They celebrated the Feasts of Mater Admirabilis, St. Philippine Duchesne, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat and enjoyed the Teas provided by the Associated Alumni,-ae of the Sacred Heart (AASH) and mingled with the Alums and RSCJ.

In 1986 students who were children of Alums of USD (College for Women & College for Men) became interested in the Club. So the name became Sacred Heart/Second Generation Club. This Club reached out in a variety of ways: Cooking Thanksgiving dinner for all of the students who couldn't go home to family and working with Esperanza International to build wooden houses ([picture 3](#)) and Habitat for Humanity to build concrete block houses ([pictures 4,5,6,](#)) in Tijuana, Baja California. Naturally, the students raised money for these projects. Several students were very involved in organizing these projects, Jennifer Saporito, Jason Orlando and Chris Maloney.

In about 1992 the students added a new project in Mecca, CA ([7. outline](#)). Through Sister Esperanza Jasso, RSCJ, the Club members began a project with the Mecca Youth Group (RCIA in Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Mecca, CA, under the direction of Esther Gonzalez). They went out to Mecca, CA, in the fall in order to get to know them ([pictures 8,9](#)). THEN the Club members had the opportunity to go down to La Paloma in Rosarito Beach, Baja CA, for a weekend and PLAN the Retreat for the Mecca Youth Group ([10 outline, 11, 12 pictures](#)). It was during this meeting that they decided to call the Club, Founders Club, and to draw up the Constitutions based on keeping the spirit of the Founders of USD. A Club member, Susie Martin (Tweedy), was responsible for this change.

Founders Club set up a more elaborate plan with 4 key activities ([long outline 13](#)). In the spring they brought the Mecca Youth Group into USD for a tour and official meeting with a representative of USD Office of Admissions ([14 short outline & pictures 15, 16](#)). They then transported the Youth Group to Questhaven Retreat House ([pictures 17 & 18](#)) to begin an overnight retreat, including Mass in Spanish, and transported them back to Mecca, CA. As a result over the years six of the Youth Group have graduated from USD and at least 50% have gone to college. This is probably the oldest project of Founders Club and in the past was funded by the Society of the Sacred Heart's Fund For Ministry and by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of San Bernardino.

Another activity ([outline 19](#)) that Jason Coito organized in 1998, consists of a day-long trip to Hogar Infantil (Orphanage) in La Gloria, Baja, CA. The members cook and set up the noon meal, play games and perform activities with the children and visit the infants ([pictures 20, 21, 22, 23, 24](#)). This is very popular among the members and takes place in both the fall and spring semesters.

The Club activities with Nazareth House Retirement Home have changed over the years ([outline 25](#)). At first in 1995 Suzanne O'Connor organized Club members to transport flowers from events at USD and knock on the doors of the elderly offering them a bouquet ([pictures 26,27,28](#)). Now with the State Certification of the facility the members meet on Saturdays to share with a group of interested elderly under the coordination of a facilitator ([we may have a couple pictures](#)). Flowers are still delivered, but to the dining rooms at the facility when they are available.