

Miracle Manor, a Sanctuary for Families



Left: Lifescapes International, a Landscape Architecture firm based in Newport Beach, CA, generously offered their efforts to design the overall garden spaces for Orange, CA's Miracle Manor; an apartment complex supported by the non-profit organization, Miracles for Kids. They decided to create an atmosphere that was welcoming and relaxing to make the residents feel at home.

Right: Since its opening in 2016, Miracle Manor has housed over 120 people from low-income families (average \$22,000). In this way, Miracle for Kids has helped support families with several ill children by providing safety and shelter in their time of need.

by Aaron Schmok, LASN

Miracles for Kids is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing aid to families with critically ill children. Having been around for nearly 20 years in southern California, Miracles for Kids has helped hundreds of families and children in need through offering financial assistance, counseling, and everyday essentials. However, in July 2016, Miracle Manor was created to deliver housing for the families supported by Miracle for Kids. HomeAid Orange County, Landscape Architecture firm Lifescapes International, Inc., and several other generous organizations helped create the new housing facility which is capable of providing long-term, affordable, and safe sheltering within a mile of CHOC Hospital for as many as 12 families.

Initially, Miracles for Kids contacted HomeAid Orange County, part of a 19-chapter non-profit organization that relentlessly works towards ending homelessness, for help to create an apartment complex for the families in need. HomeAid then reached out to president of Lifescapes International, Julie Brinkerhoff-Jacobs, to provide the landscaping on the site. From there, a collaborative team of providers and consultants put the project together.

Brinkerhoff-Jacobs looked at the big picture with Miracle Manor. She saw that there was incredible opportunity to create something that was bigger and more impactful through the landscape. As a result, the team donated their time and efforts to design and create gardens that resembled sanctuaries, holding an emotional and spiritual influence for the Manor.

“We designed the gardens and outdoor play area for Miracle Manor as a sanctuary, giving these brave families a beautiful and inspirational environment to enjoy,” said Julie Brinkerhoff-Jacobs. “As an Orange County-based firm with a deep connection to the local community, this is a project that is close to our hearts, and we are proud to be a part of the Miracle Manor team.”

In discussing the project, Brinkerhoff-Jacobs, also noted that she hopes more people and organizations in the industry would be inspired by the work of Miracles for Kids to provide for and build up communities 🌿

Way To Go!!!

If you have a project where landscape architectural design services were provided pro bono, you can submit your Stewardship proposal to: aschmok@landscapearchitect.com.