

## Founded in Chino, Casa Colina turns 75

Published: Friday, April 26, 2013 6:05 AM PDT

Pomona's Casa Colina will celebrate its 75th anniversary with a gala June 1 at the Sheraton Fairplex Convention Center in Pomona.

The facility's 75-year history began in Chino when founder Frances Eleanor Smith located her treatment center for children with polio and other crippling diseases at Boys Republic. Casa Colina, built for Boys Republic founder Margaret Fowler as her residence, was vacant and Boys Republic donated its use.

In 1938, Casa Colina opened with Ms. Smith as director, taking no salary. In 1944, the west wing addition increased bed capacity to 35. Young patients came from all areas of California, other states and abroad. Casa Colina Thrift Shop opened in Pomona in 1946.

Ms. Smith, who had guided Casa Colina since its earliest days, collapsed while on a fund raising mission in Hollywood in 1952. The Los Angeles Times reported that as she lay on the sidewalk her last words were, "I feel so foolish lying here when there is so much to be done."

In 1955, the Casa Colina board decided to abandon the Chino building, which was beyond repair. A new building was designed in Pomona, on land that once belonged to the Smith family. When medical advances reduced the number of children needing polio treatment, Casa Colina focused on caring for children and adults disabled by birth defects, spinal cord injury and similar conditions.

Today, Casa Colina provides inpatient and outpatient medical rehabilitation, residential services, return-to-work and community programs for persons with disabilities.

Its programs address neurological and orthopedic conditions, and provide medical and rehabilitation services needed by patients with brain injury, stroke, spinal cord injury and orthopedic injury and disease.

Each program concentrates on the individual needs of the patient,

according to the hospital's website, [casacolina.org](http://casacolina.org).

Also located on the Pomona campus is Casa Colina's imaging center, which offers MRI, CT, ultrasound and X-Ray, as well as advanced diagnostic procedures. Board certified radiologists are located onsite. The new state-of-the-art surgery center is owned by Casa Colina and leased to surgeons who operate the facility.

Casa Colina's main campus is located at 255 E. Bonita Ave. in Pomona.

For more information on the 75th anniversary gala, contact Casa Colina Foundation at 596-7733, ext. 2223 or email [events@casacolina.org](mailto:events@casacolina.org).

Members of the community are also invited to attend a monthly "Lunchtime Social" where they will learn more about Casa Colina's history and future plans, hear stories from former patients, meet staff members and receive a free lunch. Tours of the 20-acre campus will be offered.

The "Lunchtime Social" will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month through Oct. 13 at Casa Colina's Tamkin Education Center, Building 1D. Reservations are required.

To RSVP for the Lunchtime Social, contact Casa Colina Foundation at 596-7733, ext. 2232 or e-mail: [agarbayo@casacolina.org](mailto:agarbayo@casacolina.org).