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## PORTUGUESE AMERICAN DANCERS OF SAN DIEGO

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### **Mission Statement**

The Portuguese American Dancers strive to preserve our Portuguese heritage through the teaching and performance of folkloric dancing. The dances represent all regions of Portugal, and our group has entertained and educated people around the world.

The Portuguese American Dancers (PAD) is comprised of 28 members; consists of two (2) dance groups – Junior and Adult; that range in age from 7 to 22 years of age. We are very proud of our dancers, their families, and their dedication to the group.

2024 has been a year of transition with most of our group being all new, my sister Evelyn and I have had a difficult time keeping the group together and were ready to throw in the towel. But by the grace of God, we had alumni's who step to the plate. Samantha Camacho- Garces, Marlaena Camacho-Balastar, Janessa Camacho-Goncalves, Ana Medina Silva, Luis Silva & John Reis, they have taking time from their busy lives to help us out. It has not been easy, but we are hoping soon to get our group back into full force.

This year fundraising has been a struggle and challenge. Dates to book events were difficult since we did not want to coincide with other hall and organization events. We are hoping we will have better luck in 2025 when we will be able to have fundraising event to help with the every day expenses of the group. New costumes, shoes, socks need to be purchased this year and certainly cannot forget their favorite thing, an ice cream after Monday night practices.

This year we have taken the group to Universal Studio. This group has dedicated so much time to the community and had not had a get together or party for 4 years. We decided to treat them to a day enjoying themselves. The dancers are not just a group, they are a family and best friends

### **2024 Performances**

- Bom Jesus Festa, Bom Jesus fundraiser
- Festa Rosary, Festa Friday & Saturday
- Padre Heritage Night
- Festa da Lapa
- USS Midway Anniversary
- Holiday Dancing – Joe & Mary Soares, Scott & Ana Camacho-Bier, Pureza Goncalves Family and Gerald & Zezita Balelo. The kids had a feast at each home. It is so humble to watch the families smiles and their cheers when the group performs. We already have families asking for next year and hope to bring a little bit of Christmas cheer.

### **2024 goals achieved**

- **Purchasing a Chinelas & socks**
- **Trip to Universal Studio**
- **Padre Heritage Night**
- **Holiday Dancing**

**2025 Goals: Be the best we can be and continue to do what we do!**

Congratulations to 2024 Festa Schoeffel Family on a beautiful Festa

To 2025 Festa Byrnes Family we wish you much success!

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Garces, Director