

SERVING BAY AREA YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS

HUCKLEBERRY



PROGRAMS



2008 Annual Report

July 2007 - June 2008

IN SAN FRANCISCO:

Huckleberry House

Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic

Huckleberry's Counseling Services

Huckleberry's Community Assessment and Referral Center

Huckleberry's Wellness Academy - San Francisco

IN MARIN COUNTY:

Huckleberry Teen Health Program

Huckleberry's Wellness Academy - Marin

Founded on the belief that adolescence is a dynamic and challenging time of life, Huckleberry Youth Programs' mission is to educate, inspire, and support underserved youth to develop healthy life choices, to maximize their potential, and to realize their dreams. Since 1967, we have accomplished this by providing San Francisco and Marin youth and their families with a network of services and opportunities offered by caring peers and adults.

Dear Friends of Huckleberry Youth Programs,

Happy Valentine's Day! No matter what your politics, we must agree there is a new spirit in the country - a coming together and a feeling of hope. This feeling comes just in time. The next six months will be the busiest and most challenging in the history of Huckleberry Youth Programs!

We are actively involved in several innovative and major projects. **We are relocating the Community Assessment and Referral Center (CARC) to a new, larger facility. We are also partnering with UC Hastings School of Law to involve law students in the program as volunteers and advocates.** In addition, we are entering into a new collaboration with the San Francisco Human Services Agency to **completely redesign the Huckleberry House program (the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department chose to terminate their funding of the program effective Feb. 20, 2009).** The new program will provide up to sixty days of respite care and intensive family reunification services for youth in child protective custody and for some current and/or potential foster youth. Those services are designed to avoid out-of-home placements and maximize permanency planning.

Adolescent Health and Wellness

Many of our other exciting developments have to do with our growing focus on **adolescent health and wellness, the theme that you'll see repeated throughout this Annual Report.** We have experienced great success with our Wellness Academy in San Francisco, a school-to-career program that is preparing young people for jobs as healthcare professionals. **This year, the Wellness Academy was identified as a potential statewide model by The California Endowment, which funded us to replicate the program in Marin.**

We will also relocate and expand our current clinics by developing Huckleberry Wellness Centers (or Multi-Service Centers) in San Francisco and Marin. **The Centers will serve as one-stop "hubs" for adolescent services. At the Centers, underserved youth will access medical care, counseling, case management, health education, and career development.** Additional services will also be developed. We are partnering on this initiative with Larkin Street Youth Services in San Francisco and the Marin Education fund in Marin, with a special emphasis on San Rafael High School as Huckleberry Teen Health Clinic is across the street from that school.

To carry out these projects during challenging times, Huckleberry has assembled what I feel is the most qualified and talented staff in our history. However, this team, as talented as they may be, can't do it alone. More than ever, we need your support. We hope you will join us this year as donors, volunteers, and advocates. If you have ideas about how to help, please contact me directly at bfisher@huckleberryyouth.org. Thank you for your support.

P.S. Valentine's Day is a special day in Huckleberry's history. In **1968, Huckleberry's for Runaways officially reopened on February 14, after a six-week closure imposed by the police, following the arrest of staff for "contributing to the delinquency of a minor."** Over 600 people attended the reopening celebration and street party. For a history of Huckleberry Youth Programs, visit our award-winning website, www.huckleberryyouth.org.



Bruce Fisher
Bruce Fisher
 Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to accept the position as Board President for the current fiscal year, as it is both an exciting and challenging period for the organization. As we implement our strategic plan, you can already see the evidence of new directions at Huckleberry. While it is sad to see our shelter at 9 Grove Lane in San Anselmo close this past September, it represents the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new one in the evolution of our organization. We have expanded our Wellness Academy program to Marin, after achieving great success in San Francisco its first year, and we will be continuing to pursue our vision of Huckleberry Youth Centers that will be a hub of HYP services.

I am very grateful and appreciative of the continued support of our donor base, for without your help we wouldn't be the viable organization that you have helped create. It was delightful to see many of you at the recent Comedy Night at Bimbo's. We all had a needed laugh, given the events in the financial arena, and netted nearly \$75,000 for Huckleberry! Thank you very much, indeed.

My position is made much easier by having the backing of an incredibly experienced leadership team, headed by Bruce Fisher, along with a passionate staff and a dedicated group of volunteers. I'm honored to be selected by my fellow board members, who themselves are an experienced and diverse group of individuals, whose time, talent and support are greatly appreciated.



Brian G. Swift
Brian G. Swift
 Board President

Statement of Operating Revenue & Expenses 7/1/07 to 6/30/08

Revenue and Support

Foundation Grants	\$ 888,309	21%
Individual Donations	\$ 142,531	3%
Corporate Donations	\$ 143,922	4%
Special Events	\$ 198,343	5%
Government		
- Contracts and Grants	\$ 2,594,305	62%
- Placement Fees	\$ 164,469	4%
Other	\$ 34,999	1%

TOTAL REVENUE **\$ 4,166,878** **100.0%**

Expenses

Programs		
- Huckleberry House, SF	\$ 551,459	13%
- Counseling Services, SF	\$ 379,339	9%
- Cole Street Clinic, SF	\$ 330,444	8%
- CARC, SF	\$660,582	17%
- Nine Grove Lane, Marin	\$ 449,715	11%
- Huckleberry Teen Health Program, Marin	\$ 615,738	15%
Support Services	\$ 711,214	17%
Fundraising	\$ 416,247	10%

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$ 4,114,738.00** **100.0%**

TRANSFER TO RESERVE **\$ 52,140**

Huckleberry Youth Programs, Inc.'s financial statements are audited annually. This condensed statement was extracted from audited financial statements. Complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

CLIENTS SERVED

Huckleberry Youth programs served more than **8,600** clients in fiscal year 2007-2008. Since our inception in 1967, we have served over **150,000** youth and their families. All our programs are provided free of charge.

Health and Wellness Programs

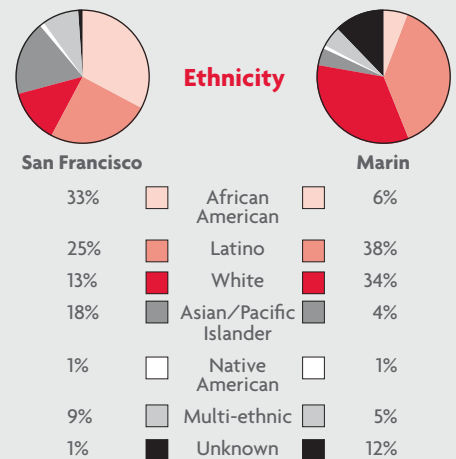
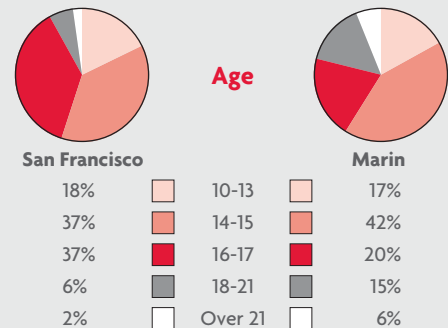
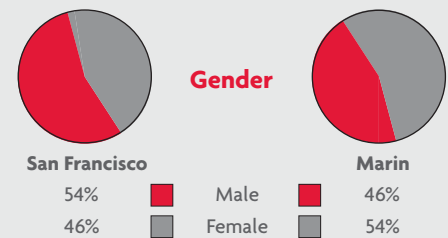
- 5,030 Youth who attended a Huckleberry Health Education workshop in a Marin or San Francisco school or community center
- 942 Youth who received medical services at Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic
- 620 Youth who received medical services at the Teen Tuesday Health Clinic in San Rafael
- 95 Youth who participated in the Baby Think It Over pregnancy prevention program
- 242 Youth who received services at the Monday Teen Wellness Clinic at the Novato Youth Clinic

Counseling and Shelter Programs

- 260 Youth who received overnight shelter services at Huckleberry House
- 173 Youth who received Huckleberry Counseling services
- 77 Youth who received overnight shelter services at Huckleberry's Nine Grove Lane

Juvenile Justice Diversion Program

- 585 Youth served at Huckleberry's Community Assessment and Referral Center (CARC)



Huckleberry's History of Nationally Recognized Health Programs

Huckleberry Youth Programs has been at the **forefront of health and wellness programs for youth** in San Francisco and Marin County for the past forty-one years. In the late 1980s, the San Francisco Department of Health and Human Services outsourced a nurse to the Huckleberry House shelter to provide care to clients. **The demand for the service was so high that within a year, the makeshift clinic in the basement of the shelter tripled in size.**

At the same time, Huckleberry was beginning to recognize that many of our clients were engaging in risky behaviors that put them at high risk of contracting HIV. **In response, HYP established one of the first HIV prevention programs for teens in the country, and in 1989, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded Huckleberry the first ever HIV/AIDS prevention education grant for runaways and homeless youth. As Huckleberry developed the Peer Health Education Program, the CDC recognized it as a national model.**

In 1992, Huckleberry built Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic, one of San Francisco's few full-time health centers dedicated exclusively to teens. In 1995, Huckleberry established the Huckleberry Teen Health Program and Teen Tuesday Clinic in Marin, after being approached by Marin Department of Public Health to replicate Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic. Based on these models, a third teen clinic was established in Novato in October 2006 with Huckleberry as a key collaborator. Today, Huckleberry clinics serve over 1,500 youth annually.

All clinics offer comprehensive, age-appropriate, culturally sensitive adolescent health and mental health services to high-needs youth.



The Health Education team at Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic. From left: PHEs Jessica Alegria and Amina Choudhery, Director of Health Education Ayesha Desai, PHE Chenai Johnson, and Health Educator Jason Martinez.

Peer Health Education

Over 200 youth in San Francisco and Marin have been trained as Peer Health Educators in Huckleberry's clinics since 1989. Building on our success with training youth in health education, Huckleberry launched the Huckleberry Wellness Academy – San Francisco in 2007, a workforce development program for youth interested in health-related careers. In the fall of 2008, the Academy expanded to Marin headquartered at Huckleberry Teen Health Program. **The California Endowment recently identified the Academies as a state-wide model, continuing Huckleberry's tradition of innovative youth wellness programming.**



Health Educator Jason Martinez teaches youth how to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS at the Macy's Fashion Inform Event.

Huckleberry School-Based Presentations: Changing Health Outcomes for Thousands of Bay Area Youth



Health Educators Sammy Ramirez and Karen Colin at the Marin Canal Health Fair, July 2008.

Huckleberry Health Education staff presented at the following 27 schools in San Francisco and Marin in fiscal year 2007-2008.

Marin

Bayside/MLK Middle School
County Community School
Delmar Middle School
Lagunitas Middle School
Madrone Continuation School
Novato High School
San Marin High School
San Rafael High School
Tomales Elementary School
Tomales High School
White Hill Middle School

San Francisco

Abraham Lincoln High School
AIM High School
Balboa High School
Chinese American International School
Downtown High School
Galileo High School
Gateway High School
George Washington High School
Horace Mann Elementary School
James Lick High School
James Lick Middle School
June Jordan School
Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Middle School
R. Wallenberg Traditional High
Synegy School
Urban School

In addition to serving youth in our clinics, Huckleberry provides more school-based health education than any other agency in the Bay Area. Our trained Peer and Professional Health Educators provide Health Education workshops to young people throughout the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), schools all over Marin County, and in after-school sites at various community-based organizations. Our curriculum has been approved by SFUSD and several Marin school districts, and workshops are offered free of charge to low-income public schools and community organizations serving young people. Our bilingual health educators use evidence-based curricula and engage students through dynamic, interactive activities designed to help students apply the information to their lives. They also serve as a crucial link to our clinic-based services.

For more intensive health education and services, Health Educators encourage youth to visit community-based teen health clinics including Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic, located on Cole Street (at Haight) in San Francisco, the Teen Tuesday Clinic at Huckleberry Teen Health Program in central San Rafael or the Monday Teen Wellness Clinic in Novato in Marin.

Workshop topics include:

- Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
- Anti-Homophobia Workshops
- HIV/AIDS Prevention Education
- Body Image
- Communication about Sex and Drug Use
- Contraception and Pregnancy Prevention
- Diversity
- Eating Disorders
- Family Dynamics
- Healthy Relationships
- Sexual Decision-Making
- Oppression Issues
- Puberty
- Rape and Abusive Relationships
- Reproductive Anatomy
- STI Prevention Education
- Self-Esteem
- Suicide Prevention
- Violence Prevention

Outcomes of Huckleberry Workshops: Fiscal Year 2007-2008

99% of youth in Huckleberry workshops reported that they increased their knowledge regarding teen health issues.

96% of youth in Huckleberry workshops stated they would change their behavior as a result of the workshop to reduce their risk taking.

Huckleberry Wellness Academy –

Huckleberry Wellness Academy-SF students from the 2007-2008 inaugural class.



In the Fall of 2007, Huckleberry Youth Programs embarked on a school-to-career initiative known as the Huckleberry Wellness Academy (HWA) – San Francisco. The purpose of the program is to successfully transition each HWA student into post-secondary education that will lead to a health-related career, in an effort to diversify California's healthcare workforce. The HWA achieves this objective by linking under-performing, high-potential high school students with academic tutoring, case management, internships in community health settings, preparation for post-secondary education, and professional support needed to fill a growing demand for qualified healthcare professionals.



Huckleberry Wellness Academy students
Jennifer Barillas and Chenai Johnson.

Huckleberry is extremely proud of the 2007-2008 Huckleberry Wellness Academy-SF inaugural class. These are some of their thoughts on their experience in the academy:

"I was having trouble in school. They set up tutoring and it helped a lot."

"I've become more appreciative of my education and don't give up when things become difficult."

"Monica Vargas, Academic Case Manager, has been extremely helpful with college guidance."

"I learned how to organize a blood drive."

In fiscal year 2007-2008, fifteen high school juniors completed their first year of the three-year program, **including 10-week internships in various healthcare settings throughout San Francisco.**

Several internship site supervisors shared their experiences working with the first group of HWA– San Francisco students:

"Ginger showed maturity and enthusiasm while she was with us. She made a contribution, and she also learned some clinical skills: blood pressure, other vital signs and some exposure to procedures, such as asthma treatment, injections, microscope evaluation, urine evaluation, diabetics, and glucose checks."

– Natalee Ernstrom, Nurse, Balboa Teen Health Center

"Huckleberry Wellness Academy's participation contributed to the success of the UCSF Medical Center's 2008 Summer Internship Program Initiative; two high school seniors were hired as Summer Interns into the Clinical Lab Departments. We are very happy to be part of a project that plants seeds for success and fosters a "Can Do Spirit."

– Linda D. Gregory, Workforce Outreach and Diversity Coordinator, UCSF Medical Center

"Catherine was an absolute pleasure to have. She was given the task to create a resource guide for young mothers. Her end product was FANTASTIC! The Center for Young Women's Development now has a guide book specifically designed for young mothers created by a young woman."

– Cria Merchant, Supervisor, Center for Young Women's Development

San Francisco

Preparing Youth for College and Careers

Eventually, the Huckleberry Wellness Academies in both San Francisco and Marin will successfully serve **125 youth annually and assist them with obtaining health-related careers and post-secondary education.** Most of these students will be the first in their families to graduate from college. One of our students' mothers was so moved by the progress her daughter has made in the HWA – San Francisco, that she wrote the following letter:

My 17-year-old daughter, Ilisha Graham, has benefited immeasurably from Huckleberry's Wellness Academy. Ilisha is a very shy, introverted individual whose self-confidence has grown tremendously over the past year. I am so proud of her and her interest, focus, and all of the relationships she has developed with the Wellness Academy. Working beside doctors, clinic directors, and with her brilliant tutor, she has learned life-changing lessons that she will carry with her through her life.

My daughter is number four of five in her single parent family and the first to consider attending a four year college. She wishes to be a child psychologist, and without the Wellness Academy and their promise to shadow her through her first year, I do not think she would have a chance to succeed, even with all her hard work. Vicky Valentine, Wellness Academy Director, and Huckleberry Youth Programs, have given us all a chance to hope and believe in dreams.

Sincerely,

Denise Couther-Graham



Huckleberry Wellness Academy - San Francisco Student, Ilisha Graham (at right) and her mother, Denise Couther-Graham

Huckleberry Wellness Academy Expands to Marin County – After Much Success in San Francisco

Huckleberry Receives \$306,000 Grant From The California Endowment For Expansion

Research has indicated that a workforce that mirrors the racial and ethnic diversity of California will increase access to healthcare and improve the quality of care that is delivered. Studies also indicate that students of color face economic and social barriers to entering and succeeding in the health professions. This research, coupled with Huckleberry's history of training Peer Health Educators, led us to start the Huckleberry Wellness Academy – San Francisco. This project was primarily funded by a three-year grant from San Francisco's Department of Children, Youth, and their Families. **After much success, the Academy has expanded to Marin County with the help of a \$306,000 grant from The California Endowment, California's largest healthcare foundation.**

The HWA-Marin is a five-year program that provides students with academic preparation and tutoring, education about health issues and careers, counseling, training as Peer Health Educators, internship opportunities, and assistance with the college application process.

The students begin the program as 9th graders, will be trained as Peer Health Educators during the second and third year of the program, and will receive guidance from Wellness staff through their first year of college. Huckleberry's community partners for the HWA-Marin include the Marin Education Fund, San Rafael City Schools, Dominican University of California, and the Marin County School to Career Partnership. As part of Marin Education Fund's College Day Tours, HWA-Marin participants will be visiting Stanford University in April.

The first group recruited for the HWA-Marin is composed primarily of San Rafael High School students, many of whom are Latino and will be the first generation in their families to attend college. **HWA-Marin Director, Lissette Flores and Senior Health Educator, Sheila Dominic, lead the Academy.**

During weekly meetings at Huckleberry Teen Health Program (HTHP), students explore various career options within the health field

through activities, research, and presentations by local health professionals. They learn about and discuss health issues in their community by engaging in curriculum that connects factual knowledge to real world applications.



From left: Sheila Dominic, Senior Health Educator, and Lissette Flores, Director of Huckleberry Wellness Academy-Marin.



On Thursday, October 30th, Huckleberry Wellness Academy-Marin held its first Parent Night. Parents had the opportunity to get to know Wellness Academy-Marin staff, hear about the services offered by HTHP, and participate in a dialogue - led by Claudia Asprer of Marin County Department of Public Health. This orientation was conducted primarily in Spanish, as many of the parents are mono-lingual.

Mental Health Programs: A Key Component of Huckleberry Services

Huckleberry’s Counseling Program, headquartered next door to Huckleberry House, provides family counseling, individual counseling, and on-site counseling at San Francisco schools. We aim to provide our clients with better communication and conflict resolution skills and to support their healthy development. Services are designed to increase individual functioning and keep families intact.



Huckleberry’s Counseling Staff from left: Meghan Kearney, Rosana Ascanio, Lisbeth White, Clinical Director Jorge Vega, Leroy Watts, and Katie Jennette.

“Huckleberry has assembled a uniquely qualified and diverse team. We are currently fully staffed with two bi-lingual Spanish therapists and two African American therapists. Being culturally and linguistically competent gives Huckleberry a competitive edge when attracting new clients,” says Huckleberry Clinical Director Jorge Vega.

A Huckleberry Counseling Client’s Story:

Huckleberry House staff will never forget the story of Sandra.* Four years ago Sandra lost her father to suicide. When her mother remarried, she was fearful of a drug and alcohol abusing stepfather who threatened to molest her. She was also frustrated with her mother who failed to provide her with protection. Seeing no other option, Sandra ran away from her home in Visalia, California. At seventeen-years-old, she found herself homeless in San Francisco.

Legal Services for Children referred Sandra to Huckleberry House. Once she arrived, we provided Sandra with a hot, nutritious meal, a bed, and we listened to her story. Over the next couple of weeks, we worked with Child Protective Services and advocated for Sandra to be placed in a transitional living program. We also connected Sandra to medical services at Huckleberry’s

Cole Street Clinic, Huckleberry’s Peer Health Education services, and Huckleberry’s bi-lingual, bi-cultural counseling services. When we learned of Sandra’s love of dancing, Huckleberry House staff enrolled her in an after school dance program at Mission Dance Theater. The Director of the dance program was so impressed by Sandra, she waived all fees for the dance classes.

After a total of three weeks at Huckleberry House, Sandra was accepted into a transitional living program in San Francisco. Sandra continues to see her Huckleberry Counseling Program therapist, Rosana, and we are proud to say that Sandra is doing well in school and continuing to thrive as a dancer.

*The name has been changed to protect client identity.

Youth Leadership Development

Huckleberry's Peer Health Education is a nationally recognized model for health education and is an integral part of Huckleberry's San Francisco and Marin Health Programs. **Huckleberry has recently expanded this component of our services into Huckleberry's Wellness Academies**, a school-to-career program that prepares youth to pursue health related careers. Peer Health Educators (PHEs) are recruited and trained to conduct workshops and other outreach, provide waiting room education, and support the teen-friendly atmosphere of the clinics. Since our inception, **Huckleberry has trained hundreds of youth to become volunteer and staff PHEs**, and many move from their positions into careers in health. Huckleberry would like to recognize two of our outstanding PHEs.

Jessica Alegria, Huckleberry Peer Health Educator and Huckleberry Wellness Academy – San Francisco Student, is a member of the inaugural class. As a cheerleader and Senior Class President at Wallenberg High School, Jessica is a natural leader, and over the past few months, she has put her leadership skills to use as a Peer Health Educator (PHE) at Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic.

Jessica at Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic.



Jessica participated in group interviews in the fall of 2007, when Huckleberry began recruiting members for HWA-SF at Wallenberg High School. Vicky Valentine, Director of HWA-SF says Jessica had, “an irrepressible fire,” that immediately made her stand out amongst her classmates. She was asked to join the HWA-SF and instantly became one of the Academy's most dedicated members.

When Jessica was struggling with Chemistry, she took advantage of HWA-SF's tutoring program and changed her C in Chemistry to a B with the help of tutor, Andy Shaw, who she says was, “so helpful.” The HWA-SF has not only helped Jessica academically but has given her the opportunity to conduct health education workshops at Huckleberry House and in various high schools in San Francisco. Topics include sexually transmitted infections and birth control. Jessica says, **“The Wellness Academy has exposed me to public issues about health and improving the healthcare system. I feel very confident and comfortable talking about these things now.”**

Jessica is in her second year in HWA-SF and was recently hired to join Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic's staff as a PHE. “I love my job. I love being able to reach out to youth and talk to them about health issues that impact their lives. I'm proud,” Jessica says. Vicky adds, “She sometimes stays longer than required after conducting workshops at Huckleberry House so that she can connect with the youth. Through her dedication and her ‘going the extra mile’ attitude, she consistently earns the respect and admiration of staff and clients. **She is so committed to her education, in and out of the classroom, and has an equally strong desire to educate and inspire her peers.**”

Jessica's goals after high school are to attend the University of Miami in Florida, and one day, work with Doctors Without Borders. **“Being a part of the Wellness Academy has made me more open-minded. It's taught me about work ethic, professionalism, and working in a diverse environment.”**

From Peer Health Educator to Healthcare Professional



Sammy at the Canal Health Fair in Marin, July 2008.

Samantha Ramirez, Huckleberry Teen Health Program, Senior Peer Health Educator

Nineteen-year-old Samantha Ramirez (known throughout Huckleberry as Sammy), became involved with Huckleberry upon the suggestion of another Peer Health Educator David Parada, a past classmate of hers. “I am really outgoing and love giving presentations,” Sammy says. Her interview with Huckleberry Teen Health Program (HTHP) included a presentation on sexually transmitted infections, and her infectious energy and boundless charm instantly won her the position. As a PHE for Huckleberry, Sammy has facilitated workshops at her alma mater, Venetia Valley Middle School, conducted birth control counseling with clients at HTHP’s Teen Tuesday Clinic, and worked at the Novato Monday Teen Wellness Clinic as a waiting room health educator. She also conducts health education presentations at community events.

Sammy originally had aspirations to study art history in college but after working at HTHP she, “got really passionate about health issues and the communities that lack resources and access to health information,” she says. Director of Huckleberry Wellness Academy – Marin, Lissette Flores, introduced Sammy to the Metropolitan Health Academy, a transfer program wherein students finish general education classes at San Francisco City College and transfer to San Francisco State with an emphasis on health studies. The Health Academy is a group of seventeen diverse students who will study together for two years and have their own counselor and tutor. Sammy is currently in her sophomore year and says, **“It’s really exciting to conduct health workshops at my old school, Venetia Valley, because the Principal uses me as an example of someone going to college and doing exciting things.”**

As a Huckleberry PHE, she also joined the Youth Leadership Institute as a Youth Commissioner addressing, “issues that are not okay in the community,” she says. She worked with the Marin Board of Transit to address the problem of sexual harassment on buses in the Canal District. She has also been outspoken in the community about the impact that race and class have on education as one of the youth council members on the Race and Class Education Equity Initiative Council. In early 2008, Sammy was nominated for the Western States Youth Services Network Leadership Award for her, “exemplary commitment to young people, community, and change in work and life.”

“By working at Huckleberry I really found direction, doing things that I love,” Sammy says. In the future, Sammy wants to continue her health career by becoming a community health worker, targeting birth control education within Latina populations and later pursuing a Masters in Social Work. “Sammy’s passion for health and equity shines through in all that she does,” says Susan Quigley, Huckleberry’s Associate Executive Director, Marin Programs. “She is a powerful advocate for young people.” This power helped Sammy take home Huckleberry’s 2008 Danny Keenan Award for her contributions to the development of services for youth.

Huckleberry Continues Its Long-Standing Tradition of Awards for Excellence

Each year Huckleberry Youth Programs partners with foundations and corporations in the community who share our mission of empowering young people to make healthy choices in their lives. Huckleberry would like to highlight some of our partners in fiscal year 2007-2008 who helped us promote youth leadership and health in San Francisco and Marin Counties.

Huckleberry Honored with San Francisco Giants Violence Prevention Award

The **San Francisco Giants Community Fund** awarded Huckleberry with its **\$10,000 Violence Prevention Award in honor of Huckleberry's Lioness Girls Program**. The program provides leadership development, case management, counseling, and peer education to young women in the Western Addition so that they can become advocates in their own success and the success of their communities. Huckleberry Peer Health Educator, Amina Choudhery, represented Huckleberry at Strike Out Violence Day at AT&T Park on Sunday, September 7, 2008.



Amina Choudhery, Huckleberry Peer Health Educator pictured second from left.

Isabel Allende Recognizes Huckleberry Teen Health Program – AGAIN!

For the **fourth consecutive year**, **The Isabel Allende Foundation** has honored Huckleberry Teen Health Program (HTHP) in San Rafael with their Esperanza Grant. The \$20,000 grant honors HTHP's, "exemplary work and consistent success meeting grant goals," including reproductive self-determination and healthcare, economic independence and social justice for women and girls, and protection of women and children. In the past, Isabel Allende has visited HTHP and met with Peer Health Educators and Health Education staff to personally congratulate them on their achievements.



Macy's Fashion Inform: HIV Prevention 101

Special thanks to Macy's Passport Fund for a **\$25,000 grant for our HIV/AIDS Youth Prevention Education Program known as HYPE**. Annually, over thirty Huckleberry Health Educators, Peer Health Educators, and volunteers participate in an evening of HIV/AIDS prevention education at Fort Mason known as Fashion Inform: HIV Prevention 101. Thousands of Bay Area youth are brought to Ft. Mason for an evening of fun and educational HIV/AIDS prevention games and a spectacular fashion show.

Huckleberry staff and volunteer Health Educators at Macy's Fashion Inform, September 2008.

Huckleberry Receives \$1,500 Art4Moore Grant for Art Therapy

Huckleberry's Counseling Program will increase services by providing therapeutic groups at two San Francisco high schools, Lincoln High School and Ida B. Wells Continuation School. Thanks to a **\$1,500 grant from Art4Moore**, Huckleberry Psychotherapist Lisbeth White will facilitate two stress management groups that will focus on helping youth develop inner resources for coping with stress, adversity, and past trauma.



Cirque du Soleil Sponsors

We wish to acknowledge the generous support of the following sponsors of our Cirque Du Soleil benefit held on November 30, 2007, under the Big Top at AT&T Park. Approximately 1,200 HYP supporters gathered and helped HYP break a fundraising record – over \$200,000 raised for our programs benefiting high need youth in San Francisco and Marin. Thanks to everyone who attended and a very special thank you to the event sponsors.

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Cirque du Soleil will partner with Huckleberry once again in 2009! Stay tuned for ticket information!

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