2018 ANNUAL REPORT
July 2017 - June 2018

SAFETY
HEALTH
JUSTICE
EDUCATION
Dear Friends of Huckleberry Youth Programs,

We believe that every youth, every person, deserves support achieving the four building blocks of personal success: Safety, Health, Justice, and Education. This winter, this core value was tested, and we emerged stronger. On February 6, 2019, one of Huckleberry’s facilities was destroyed by a fire after work crews ruptured a street gas line. The building, which housed staff for nearly 30 years, was deemed uninhabitable and our property damaged. Thankfully, no one was injured in the incident.

The fire breached the roof of the building, resulting in significant water and smoke damage. Though we were able to recover most of our historical memorabilia and critical documents, our computers, furniture, and spirits were damaged. Our incredible staff acted quickly, and we were up and running within days, albeit at various remote locations. Community partners lent us temporary space so that no youth services were interrupted. As of this printing, we continue to seek temporary location for our administration functions and a longer term location for the Huckleberry Wellness Academy-San Francisco.

In times of crisis, people show up. Our Huckleberry community has shown up. We have received numerous donations from long-time donors and from new friends, from concerned foundations and corporations, and support from peer organizations and public partners. Thanks to the extended Huckleberry family, we will weather this storm and rebuild stronger together. Thank you.

Fire and recovery are not the only things going on at Huckleberry. We are celebrating milestones, as well! The Huckleberry Community Assessment and Resource Center (CARC) celebrated its 20th Anniversary of supporting arrested youth this year. In the past two decades, CARC has been a leader in juvenile justice reform in San Francisco. Read through the program’s accomplishments in the special extended section of this document. Special thanks to Denise Coleman and Stacy Sciortino for their continued leadership over the last 20 years of CARC!

We expanded programming for youth in challenging situations. Huckleberry’s PROJECT READY (Reconnecting, Educating, and Achieving Dreams for Youth) grew, enabling us to work with more middle school students and promote successful matriculation to high school. Our Huckleberry Advocacy and Response Team (HART) expanded to better address the needs of youth who are at risk of exploitation and trafficking. Both programs were established as a result of our experience with justice involved youth and work to prevent their further engagement in the juvenile justice system. Huckleberry also increased involvement with Marin County schools to provide mental health counseling, substance use counseling, and critical health education on campus.

Our experiences this year underscore the fact that: adversity can strike anyone, or any organization, at any time. Whether you are a young person running toward safety, arrested for theft, a victim of partner abuse, requesting guidance for college admission, suffering from depression, or a nonprofit displaced by a fire, our successful recovery from such challenges lies in our preparation and prevention efforts; it grows out of our engagement with each other in our community and requires a commitment for us to be our most humane, compassionate, giving selves.

I look forward to our continued partnership in the years to come!

Douglas Styles, PsyD
Executive Director

Jackie Murphy
Board President

IN FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018

HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE
Changes in California’s foster care system and the continued housing crisis in the Bay Area have led to a lack of suitable foster care placements in San Francisco and an increased number of youth running away from foster care placements. Accordingly, it is more important than ever that families remain intact so vulnerable youth do not end up on the street or in unstable living situations. To meet this need, Huckleberry House provides family reunification services - where highly trained and professional staff work with families to address trauma, disruptive behaviors, and ways to move forward together.

In addition, Huckleberry House has recently expanded its aftercare programming for families to receive ongoing counseling and other supportive services for at least 3-6 months after a shelter stay, or as long as necessary, to restore healthy functioning and preserve the family unit.

HUCKLEBERRY ADVOCACY & RESPONSE TEAM (HART)
Providing support for commercially sexually exploited youth

To help strengthen families whose youth are commercially sexually exploited, Huckleberry developed and implemented psycho-education support sessions for caregivers of trafficked youth. These sessions address common issues that arise for youth who are being exploited, including safety, red flags, and resources.

When caregivers are better equipped to support youth in their care, fewer youth will disconnect from their families and more will remain in safe and stable home situations, helping youth escape a life of exploitation.

Safety in Marin County

Through a partnership with a local Marin foundation, Huckleberry is working to become an expert and resource hub on youth-specific sexualized violence in Marin County, providing a continuum of programming and services, from prevention, to first response, to counseling, to service referral and ongoing care with community, health, and justice partners.
**HEALTH**

**COUNSELING**
To increase access to services, embedded in all Huckleberry programs is on-site and school-based individual and family counseling, case management, behavioral health groups, and other mental health services as core components of our continuum of services. Serving diverse young people ages 11-24 and their families, Huckleberry strives to provide culturally relevant, trauma-informed, high-quality mental health services in English, Spanish, and Cantonese at no cost to our clients.

**HEALTH EDUCATION & ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE**
In partnership with our medical providers, the SF Dept. of Public Health and Marin Community Clinics, Huckleberry provides sexual and reproductive medical services at our clinics in both counties and primary medical services in San Francisco. Common services requested and received by youth are physical exams and immunizations. HIV/STI testing, gynecological exams, pregnancy testing, options counseling, and family planning/birth control, including Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC), the most effective birth control method for adolescent girls. Huckleberry is also one of the only San Francisco clinics offering PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) for youth under 18. PrEP is a daily pill that HIV-negative individuals can take to lower their risk of becoming infected by up to 92%. In San Francisco, we offer rapid HIV testing Monday through Friday. Integrating sexual and mental health services, all new clients at both Huckleberry clinics are screened to identify mental health, substance abuse, or sexual and/or dating abuse issues. At the first sign of concern, youth are referred to one of Huckleberry’s on-site therapists and other support services as appropriate.

**EDUCATION**

**HUCKLEBERRY WELLNESS ACADEMIES**
In 2018, the Huckleberry Wellness Academies (HWA) celebrated 10 years of providing college access programming to 337 low-income, first-generation college students in San Francisco and Marin. In that time, 80% of HWA students continue to persist in college or already have earned a Bachelor’s degree or higher (nationwide average of first-generation college students persisting: 11%). Twenty-three percent of HWA alumni are currently pursuing or have earned a graduate degree.

In academic year 2017/2018, 26 HWA seniors who received assistance in college essay workshops were awarded nearly $700,000 in scholarships over the next 6 years!

“In FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018”

**IN FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018**

- **642 YOUTH** participated in COUNSELING SERVICES
- **68% OF San Francisco clients under 18** received SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING and/or treatment
- **1,263 YOUTH** accessed primary and/or reproductive medical care at HUCKLEBERRY HEALTH CLINICS in both counties

**IN FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018**

- **95% OF YOUTH IN HUCKLEBERRY WELLNESS ACADEMIES GRADUATED from high school and 98% OF THOSE GRADUATES enrolled in a post-secondary institution**

**IN FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018**

- **6,119 YOUTH** engaged in HEALTH EDUCATION WORKSHOPS across both counties
- **185 STUDENTS** received FAMILY SUPPORT

"HWA has provided me with socioemotional support from adult figures I’ve known since high school. They motivated and encouraged me – they really look after their graduates."

- Sandy, currently pursuing a Master’s in Public Health at USF Sacramento

"HWA has provided tender loving care. They really believe in you and motivate you. A lot of kids don’t have parents who can help them, especially first-generation college students. HWA embedded into my heart that I could go to college."

- Sophia, earned a bachelor’s degree from UC Berkeley and a Master’s Degree in Social Work from California State University East Bay

**“My hope for students is that they let go of any fears or misconceptions surrounding HIV and HIV-positive people. I would like for them to drive conversations with their family members and friends to tear down stereotypes and engage in teaching those around them about the ongoing stigma experienced by HIV-positive people.

Should a friend or family member one day come out to them as HIV-positive, I’d like for students to be mature and comfortable enough to offer their support. Should they ever find themselves in a position where they have contracted HIV, I want them to know that they have options to live a long and healthy life.”

- Adam Chang is Huckleberry’s HIV Youth Prevention Education (H.Y.P.E.) Development Specialist at the Huckleberry Youth Health Center SF. He conducts HIV prevention workshops in schools across San Francisco."
50th Anniversary Gala

On Thursday, November 30, 2017 at the Four Seasons San Francisco, Huckleberry’s 50th Anniversary Gala grossed a record $450,000 for our essential services that provide SAFETY, HEALTH, JUSTICE & EDUCATION to youth in the Bay Area.

We could not have accomplished this without the support of our entire community of corporate sponsors, table hosts, donors, and volunteers. THANK YOU to all who attended and donated so that Huckleberry can continue our mission of educating, inspiring, and supporting youth for the next 50 YEARS!

Huckleberry’s Young Professionals Board

The Huckleberry Young Professionals Board was formed in early 2018, with the purpose of engaging a wide and diverse network of young professionals to support our programming. Since its inception in early 2018, the YP Board has raised more than $11,000 for Huckleberry’s programs through special events!
Huckleberry Youth Programs
3310 Geary Boulevard
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 668-2622 • www.HuckleberryYouth.org