

HUCKLEBERRY WELLNESS ACADEMIES HOST "STEP UP" CEREMONY AND HEALTH CAREERS DAY

The Huckleberry Wellness Academies, currently in their fourth year, help high-needs youth in San Francisco and Marin graduate from high school, be the first in their families to attend college, and pursue careers in health. **Of 32 high school graduates completing the program in the last two years, 31 are still in college.**

The program recruits freshman from San Rafael and Terra Linda High Schools in Marin and sophomores from eight different high schools in San Francisco.

On Friday, June 17, at Fort Mason, Huckleberry honored the 100 students in the Huckleberry Wellness Academies with a Health Careers Day. The afternoon also included a special "Step Up" Ceremony commemorating the students' advancement to another grade level next year. Over the course of the last school year, the students in the Huckleberry Wellness Academies have attended weekly afterschool workshops focused on health, academics, leadership development, and job readiness training. They also participated in academic case management, tutoring, and internships in health care settings.

Prominent San Francisco and Marin health professionals attended the event and participated in health careers panels exposing the students to the mental health, oncology, and pediatrics fields.

Major funders of the program are the Marin Community Foundation, S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, San Francisco Dept. of Children, Youth and Families, and the California Wellness Foundation.

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Students' favorite part of the Health Career Day:

"Getting to ask questions in the field I am interested in."

"Listening to the panelists talk about case studies."

"Talking with the specialists."

"Learning new things about health issues."



Students get into the Health Careers Day spirit by wearing surgical masks and gloves during the Oncology panel.



Vicky Valentine, Director of the Huckleberry Wellness Academy-SF, recognizes the program's juniors "stepping up."

Advanced Oncology Clinical Nurse Wen Bei Jiang demonstrates how to read blood pressure.

HUCKLEBERRY WELLNESS ACADEMIES HOST “STEP UP” CEREMONY AND HEALTH CAREERS DAY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)








From left: Mental Health Panelists Mark Ryle, Huckleberry House therapist; Gayle Sandoval, Drug and Alcohol Counselor at Wolfe Center; and Dr. James Beauford, Kaiser Permanente Psychologist.



Huckleberry Wellness Academy-Marin students honored as they “step up” a grade level.

Huckleberry Wellness Academy Program Components Include:

-  Academic support and tutoring
-  Education about health issues and health careers
-  Psychosocial support
-  Placements in health internships
-  Assistance with college applications and financial aid submission
-  Parent support and education



Dr. Tomas Aragon, Director of Population Health and Prevention at the San Francisco Department of Public Health gave the day's keynote address and encouraged the students to “never be afraid to dream.”



Dear Friends,

Huckleberry Youth Programs just finished our fiscal year on June 30 and I wanted to share with you a brief summary of a very exciting year. With your support, Huckleberry continues to grow and thrive. We are committed to providing high quality, innovative, essential services to San Francisco and Marin youth and their families.

September 2010

- We celebrated the grand opening of the new Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service Center-Marin. The 6,000 square foot space includes an exam room, offices, a lounge area, a state-of-the-art classroom, and a tutoring/computer lab.
- On Sept. 8, 2010, a press conference was held at the Huckleberry Community Assessment and Referral Center, to announce a new Departmental General Order (DGO) for the SF Police Dept. The DGO explicitly states that police officers are required to contact Huckleberry CARC in all juvenile arrests.

November 2010

- On November 19, 2010, our first Teatro ZinZanni fundraising event raised over \$80,000 for our programs and was attended by 200 Huckleberry supporters.
- The Huckleberry Wellness Academy Advisory Board, which promotes the program around the state, met in November 2010 and May 2011. The Board is comprised of prominent health and education figures from UCSF, SF State, the San Francisco Department of Public Health, UCSF Fresno, and Children's Hospital Oakland. For a complete list of Advisory Board members, visit www.huckleberryyouth.org.
- The Marin Community Foundation awarded \$200,000 to the Huckleberry Wellness Academy-Marin, representing the second largest grant given in their "Ending the Achievement Gap" initiative.



From left: Joyce Hicks, Director of the Office of Citizens Complaints; Former Chief of Police George Gascon; and Huckleberry's Denise Coleman at a press conference at CARC discussing the SFPD Department General Order.

March 2011

- The Mortar Foundation awarded \$100,000 to our San Francisco programs for a full time therapist at Huckleberry House and additional tutoring for the Huckleberry Wellness Academies. The grant will also fund a part time volunteer coordinator.
- The S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation increased their funding for Huckleberry health programs from \$65,000 to \$125,000 for 2012.

April 2011

- Sutter Marin announced a \$175,000 award to the Marin Adolescent Health Network (MAHN) – a collaboration of organizations, of which Huckleberry is the lead agency.

May 2011

- Our third annual wine auction, Run for the Roses, made close to \$90,000 this year, representing a 36% increase from last year.

June 2011

- Huckleberry established critical new health partnerships with Dominican University School of Nursing and Allied Health, as well as the Metro Health Academies at SF State and SF City College.

We thank you again for all you do for Huckleberry Youth Programs, and we realize that without your help, none of this would be possible. I look forward to seeing you at our Cirque du Soleil benefit on November 4.

Bruce Fisher
Executive Director



From left: Huckleberry Wellness Academy student Kristal Garcia, Huckleberry Associate E.D. Susan Quigley, and Tom Peters, President and CEO of the Marin Community Foundation, cut the ribbon on the new Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service Center-Marin.

HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH PROGRAMS BY THE NUMBERS

July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

- Huckleberry House: 141 sheltered youth
- Huckleberry Community Assessment and Referral Center: 450 youth received case management
- Huckleberry Counseling Program: 177 clients for 1,011 visits
- Huckleberry Wellness Academies: 108 students currently enrolled
- Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service Center San Francisco: 1,135 youth visiting clinic;
4,037 health education workshop participants
- Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service Center Marin: 785 youth visiting clinic;
1,984 health education workshop participants

FORMER HUCKLEBERRY CLIENT NOW ADVOCATING FOR FOSTER YOUTH ON CAPITOL HILL



Marjorie (left) with Representative Karen Bass.

At 13, after lots of friction at home, Marjorie Delgadillo was placed into the foster care system. Marjorie became a frequent resident of Huckleberry's former Nine Grove Lane Shelter in Marin, sometimes staying as long as two months. "I would wake up on Sunday mornings and make blueberry pancakes with the staff," she remembers.

During a visit to Huckleberry Teen Health Program in San Rafael (HTHP) for medical care, Marjorie was introduced to her future foster mother, Claudia Asprey, a Dept. of Public Health nurse at HTHP. "Claudia performed my intake and she really wanted to help me out. She became a mentor to me and she encouraged me to become involved in the community," says Marjorie.

Marjorie began volunteering at HTHP and was hired as a Peer Health Educator. In 2007, she became the facilitator of the "Baby Think It Over" teen pregnancy prevention program.

"Huckleberry taught me the basics of work and gave me my break. They were really there for me in all aspects."

After leaving Huckleberry to pursue her education, she kept in close contact with Huckleberry Associate Executive Director Susan Quigley, who wrote her letter of recommendation for the Foster Youth Internship Program in Washington, D.C.

Since May 2011, Marjorie has been working with Representative Karen Bass of the 33rd District of CA, assisting her with legislation around child welfare reform, specifically the "Foster Care Mentoring Act."

Of her 8 years spent as a Huckleberry client and staff member she fondly says, "Huckleberry really empowers youth and treats them with respect - they find the drive in each youth. That's the hallmark of a great organization."

MARIN YOUTH INSPIRED BY HUCKLEBERRY HEALTH EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

"Our students and teachers really enjoyed the presentations and looked forward to them each day. The presentations were engaging, relevant and done in a way that addressed important issues in a sensitive way. The students all reported that they learned a lot and would have liked MORE presentations from Huckleberry."

— San Rafael High School Physical Education Teacher



Jackie Davis is Huckleberry's Community Health Education Coordinator in Marin and a dynamo in the classroom. She conducts health education workshops all over Marin County and reaches thousands of young people each year.

HUCKLEBERRY COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT & REFERRAL CENTER (CARC) EXPERIENCES BIG CHANGES THIS SUMMER



Sheriff Ken Harrison, right, with former CARC Program Director Stacy Sciortino.

Huckleberry CARC Bids Farewell to Sheriff Ken Harrison and CARC Program Director Stacy Sciortino

Two critical components of Huckleberry CARC recently left the program this summer. After six years as the first point of contact for youth brought to Huckleberry CARC, Sheriff Ken Harrison has been transferred to another location. For many youth arriving at CARC, the experience is intimidating. Huckleberry's Denise Coleman says Sheriff Harrison was a "calm and gentle" presence for clients. "When youth were brought to CARC by the police, Sheriff Harrison took physical custody of them. He has such a reassuring way about him – he always put the youth at ease. He was very engaging, warm, and approachable. We'll miss him!"

Huckleberry is also very saddened to say goodbye to Stacy Sciortino who left Huckleberry CARC in May to pursue her dream of living in Chile.

The SF Sheriff's Dept. is a vital partner in the CARC program, and a Sheriff is present at all times to maintain order and security. Huckleberry CARC is the largest juvenile justice diversion program in the city and county of San Francisco and provides case management and counseling to approximately 500 arrested youth annually.

NEW HUCKLEBERRY CARC DIRECTOR GAVIN O'NEILL DRAWS FROM PAST TROUBLES TO HELP CLIENTS



Growing up in Napa, Gavin O'Neill was a self-proclaimed troubled adolescent. He dropped out of high school at age 17, began using drugs, and says that he was headed down a "course of destruction." His parents and teachers knew he was in trouble, but Napa didn't offer many services for youth. He eventually moved to San Francisco, where he took advantage of services to get sober at Walden House, graduated from SF State with honors, and was one of five people accepted to the University of Oregon masters program with a full scholarship in creative writing.

"I taught creative writing in Oregon but really missed the Bay Area. As a clean and sober adult, I was interested in helping other addicts," he says. Gavin went back to Walden House, where he accepted a job as Chief of Staff and later became Director of their adolescent drug treatment program. When the program closed for lack of funds, he was very careful in choosing his next job.

"I really liked Huckleberry's story and I liked what I knew about Bruce (Fisher) as a person. I was looking for that familial aspect. This work demands a lot, and you don't want to feel like you're out there on your own." The one-on-one relationships clients build with their case managers and the strength-based model of CARC are things that impress Gavin most about the program. "CARC screens for mental health issues and addresses a lot of the problems kids are going through without criminalizing them. Case managers try to get the kids' interests sparked instead of treating them like criminals, a revolutionary concept."

HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH PROGRAMS



RUN FOR THE ROSES

Run for the Roses, Huckleberry's Third Annual Auction Event, Is Most Successful To Date!

On Saturday, May 7, at Marin Country Club, Huckleberry supporters gathered for our third annual wine tasting and auction event, Run for the Roses. The event was our most successful auction to date and raised \$87,500 for the Huckleberry Wellness Academies in San Francisco and Marin Counties.



Guests gather to watch the Kentucky Derby at Huckleberry's Run for the Roses event.



Huckleberry Executive Director Bruce Fisher and Huckleberry Wellness Academy Advisory Board Member Dr. Martha Nelson, a big winner in the Kentucky Derby raffle.



Cirque du Soleil TOTEM Benefits Huckleberry on NOVEMBER 4, 2011

For the seventh time, Cirque will partner with Huckleberry to help us raise funds for our programs benefiting high-needs youth. Join us for Cirque's latest production, TOTEM, which traces the fascinating journey of the human species from its original amphibian state to its ultimate desire to fly.

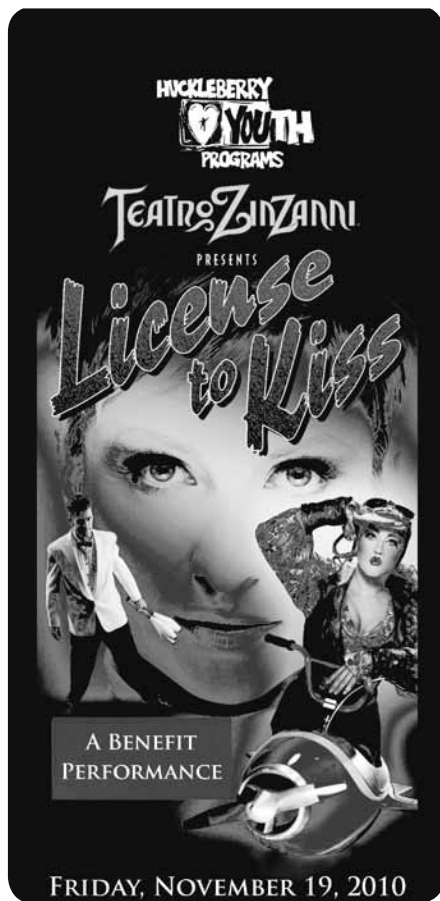
VIP Adult tickets \$500 each/VIP Children's tickets (12 and under) \$250 - Includes the best seats in the house, parking, a Cirque goodie bag, an elaborate cocktail and hors d'oeuvres pre-show reception, and fabulous desserts at intermission under the Tapis Rouge tent.

Standard Adult tickets \$125 each/Standard Children's tickets (12 and under) \$100 - Includes great seats to the performance.

Tickets on sale now at
www.huckleberryyouth.org

For more information and for sponsorship opportunities, contact Vicki Schwartz at 415.668.2622 ext. 220 or at vschwartz@huckleberryyouth.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR TEATRO ZINZANNI EVENT SPONSORS!



Huckleberry wishes to acknowledge the generous support of our Teatro Zinzanni event sponsors. Your contributions have made a big difference in the lives of youth and families in San Francisco and Marin. The event raised over \$80,000 for Huckleberry's programs!

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HELP HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE CLIENTS THIS SUMMER!



As the new school year approaches, many students will go back to school lacking essential items. Some of these youth in need are residents of Huckleberry House, which provides short-term crisis shelter and counseling to nearly 200 San Francisco youth annually.

Clients at Huckleberry House are in need of toothbrushes, deodorant, pajamas, socks, underwear, backpacks, and hairbrushes. If you are interested in providing any of these items to our clients, please contact Heather Mathews at 415.668.2622 ext. 211 or via email at hmathews@huckleberryyouth.org. (Please note that items must be new, unused, and unopened.)



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HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH PROGRAMS

2011 NEWSLETTER



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Multi-Service Center-SF**
555 Cole Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
(415) 386-9398

**Huckleberry Wellness
Academy - San Francisco**
555 Cole Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
(415) 386-9398

**Huckleberry House and
Counseling Program**
1292 Page Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
(415) 621-2929

**Huckleberry Community
Assessment and Referral Center**
44 Gough Street, Suite 104
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 437-2500

MARIN SERVICES:

**Huckleberry Youth
Multi-Service Center-Marin**
Montecito Plaza
361 Third Street, Suite G
San Rafael, CA 94901
(415) 258-4944

Huckleberry Wellness Academy - Marin
Montecito Plaza
361 Third Street, Suite G
San Rafael, CA 94901
(415) 258-4944

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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.