

# **HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH PROGRAMS**

# H 2013 NEWSLETTER

# NEW BOOK, SEASON OF THE WITCH, CHRONICLES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE



In 1967, the Haight-Ashbury District of San Francisco began to explode with the activity of an arising youth movement during what is popularly known as the "Summer of Love." Young people from across the nation were converging on the city to participate in this

jubilant moment of change and newfound

freedom. Many of those arriving in the city were runaway teens who had left their homes and families in other cities and states and then wandered the streets of San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury without money, friends, or connections.

Author David Talbot explores this moment in San Francisco history in his new book Season of the Witch. Talbot, a friend of Huckleberry, has graciously donated his time to conduct two book groups in private homes this September and October, giving Huckleberry supporters the opportunity to discuss his enthralling narrative.

Season of the Witch covers some of San Francisco's most dramatic moments from 1967 to 1982, including the **establishment of Huckleberry House.** Chapter five, "The Lost Children of Windy Feet," chronicles the opening of

the first shelter of its kind in the U.S. in response to the intensifying runaway youth situation in San Francisco.

Shortly after opening its doors, a police raid took place, resulting in the arrest of Huckleberry's staff for contributing to the delinquency of minors. From Chapter five, "As word spread about Huckleberry's resilience in the face of official harassment, more and more teenagers showed up

on the shelter's doorsteps. When Huckleberry House stood its ground and survived, it was a major victory for the new city growing within the old. The city's establishment didn't give a damn about the children on its streets... But in the end, the community took care of its own.

They had flocked to San Francisco from all over the world, but they were now the city's children. And you took care of your children, particularly when they are lost and broken."

Forty-five years later, Huckleberry House continues to provide approximately 200 youth

per year with overnight shelter and counseling. With staff support, 92% of our sheltered clients exit to safe housing. Annually, 240 youth receive crisis intervention counseling and over 1,000 meals are provided to youth at the shelter. Today's clients are able to access additional services including health care at the nearby Huckleberry Youth Health Center. Visit www.huckleberryyouth.org to read more about Huckleberry's rich history in San Francisco and Marin.

# **"SO GLAD YOU ARE STILL THERE."**

"I lived at Huckleberry House for six weeks with my younger brother back in 1978. It was a hard time in my life as we left our home where the PG&E had been turned off for quite some time. I was 16 and he was 13. My mother was mentally ill and had not been able to take care of us for several years. I have only fond, warm memories of Huckleberry.

I especially appreciated meal time where we all got to chip in and help cook dinner. We had no food where I came from. I cry now as I write this. I know the pain of having nothing. Unfortunately, my younger brother died in prison last year, but I have somehow been able to make a life for myself and am now a teacher. **So glad you are still there.**"

With gratitude, Linelle Barnhill, Napa, CA





On May 17 and June 19, the Huckleberry Wellness Academies in San Francisco and Marin graduated a total of 38 seniors. This is the fourth graduating cohort from San Francisco and the second from Marin.

All of these graduates are off to college this fall to pursue careers in health. Many of them will be the first in their families to attend college.

For the past three years, these students have participated in weekly cohort meetings focused on paths to college, internships in healthcare settings, academic guidance and tutoring, SAT and ACT prep, case management, health education training, and field trips to post secondary and healthcare institutions.

# Huckleberry Wellness Academies 2013 College Acceptances

Barnard College
Brandeis University
Brown University
Cal Poly Pomona
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Cal State East Bay
Chico State University
Clark University
Dominican University
Emory University
Georgetown University

Humboldt State University
Kenyon College
Middlebury College
Northeastern University
Pepperdine University
Sacramento State University
Saint Mary's College
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University
Sonoma State University

Tufts University
UC Berkeley
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UC Merced
UC Santa Barbara
UC Santa Cruz
UC San Diego
University of San Francisco
Wesleyan University

# WHAT GRADUATES ARE SAYING ABOUT THE HUCKLEBERRY WELLNESS ACADEMIES:

"Three years ago, I moved to the U.S. and I was clueless about my life. I didn't know I could go to college. Thank you Huckleberry for making that happen."

Nga, attending Tufts University "Without their support I would not have done anything with my life. Huckleberry influenced me to seek out what my career goals are and what I want to do with my life. I'm very grateful for that."

-Kyle, attending UC Davis



"I'd like to thank the whole Huckleberry staff because without them, I would not have even graduated from high school. I would have never gotten into college and I'm going to be the first one in my family going to college."

-Katherine, attending College of San Mateo "I wouldn't be where I am today without them."

Nancy, attending
 Brown University



# HUCKLEBERRY WELLNESS ACADEMY GRADUATES - WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

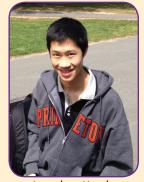


Justin Kwok, UCLA Class of 2013

**Jonathan and Justin Kwok:** Brothers Jonathan and Justin Kwok are the first in their family to attend college and are both graduates of the Huckleberry Wellness Academy-San Francisco.

Justin was a member of the first graduating class of HWA-SF and graduated in 2009. He graduated from UCLA this summer with a degree in Public Health and is on his way to pursuing a Masters degree!

Justin's younger brother, Jonathan, has just completed his first year at Princeton University. "The Wellness Academy definitely helped me," he said of the program. "It was a great experience and they played a huge role in my high school years. They recommended I apply to Princeton. I would not have applied without them. They do their best to help students achieve their goals."



Jonathan Kwok, Princeton Class of 2016



**Gaby Melgar:** A recent graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, Gaby was born in El Salvador and moved to the United States when she was 7 years old. She joined HWA as a sophomore at Gateway High School and while in the program interned at the Center for Young Women's Development where she worked with young mothers. She also worked as a tutor for HWA and discovered an interest in working with youth in a mentoring position. This October, Gaby will travel to her native El Salvador to teach English for four months.

# TEEN HEALTH

## TAY TUESDAY & TEEN THURSDAY CLINICS NOW OPEN! **Huckleberry Youth Health Center Adds New Drop-In Hours**

The Huckleberry Youth Health Center has expanded access to important primary and reproductive health care for youth at Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic. Launched in April, TAY TUESDAY is a free, confidential, drop-in clinic providing primary and reproductive health care to Transitional Age

Youth (19-24). Services also include summer job assistance, counseling, HIV rapid testing, workforce development, housing referrals, and academic support. Younger youth, aged 12-18, can access these services at the new TEEN THURSDAY drop-in clinic.

## **HUCKLEBERRY EXPANDS COUNSELING PROGRAM TO INCLUDE** SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES IN MARIN

Huckleberry is proud to announce that we recently received state certification to conduct substance abuse treatment at the Huckleberry Teen Health Program in San Rafael. We are currently one of few nonprofits in Marin offering substance abuse treatment for low income or under-insured youth.

Huckleberry's full-time Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor, Gale Sandoval, provides brief intervention and outpatient treatment for young people focused on reducing or eliminating the use of alcohol and drugs. She also conducts substance abuse groups that support youth and young adults as they strive to live a healthy, balanced life. In addition to substance abuse treatment, Huckleberry Teen Health Program provides the following to over 1,000 youth annually at our Teen Tuesday Drop-In Clinic:

- Pregnancy Tests
- STI/STD testing
- Birth Control
- Exams
- Health Education
- Condoms
- Counseling



From left: Drug & Alcohol Counselor Gale Sandoval with Academic Case Manager Tyler Holmes, Associate Executive Director-Marin, Jasmine Stevenson and Hana Afra. Americorps Volunteer.



PHEs Jasmine (far right) and Dominic (third from left) with Huckleberry's San Francisco Health Education Team.

## **HUCKLEBERRY PEER HEALTH EDUCATORS** WIN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT GRANT

Two of Huckleberry's Peer Health Educators (PHEs), Jasmine and Dominic, were recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Youth Empowerment Fund for a traveling mural project entitled "Unity in our Community."

The mural will visit various San Francisco high schools allowing students to contribute artwork at each destination. The mission of the project is to establish a sense of a unified youth community despite socioeconomic barriers, encourage youth to participate in community-based projects, and create a sense of ownership for youth in their environment. The PHEs will host the project at each school and unveil the finished product at a local art fair.

### NEW DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES BEGINS EXCITING **INITIATIVE AT SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL**

Huckleberry Youth Programs is pleased to announce that Mark Ryle was recently appointed as the new Director of Health Services in San Francisco. Mark joined Huckleberry as a bilingual clinician in 2010 and has a history of direct service and program development, working with gang-affiliated youth and within the HIV/AIDS community.

Mark has been instrumental in the effort to expand Huckleberry services into the Western Addition, particularly at Ida B. Wells Continuation School, a school with a high-risk population of youth. Mark and the principal have been working closely to plan a project that would bring Huckleberry health educators

into the school beginning in September, for a series of five workshops. Topics will include violence, poverty, sexuality, nutrition, and anger management. The series will culminate at the Huckleberry Youth Health Center allowing over 200 students to become familiar with the services offered at the Huckleberry Cole Street Clinic.



# JUVENILE JUSTICE

## INTERNATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE EXPERTS VISIT CARC

The Huckleberry Community Assessment & Resource Center (CARC) recently received visitors from a delegation of international Juvenile Justice experts from around the world, hosted by the U.S. State Department. This group of twentyfive (pictured) represented countries as diverse as Argentina, Denmark, Egypt, Japan, Haiti, Rwanda, Suriname, and Romania. The purpose of their visit was to explore the U.S. judicial system with an emphasis on the legal structures in place to protect children and



the best practices in the treatment and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.

Huckleberry programs have been visited by experts from all over the U.S. and around the world. The CARC as well as Huckleberry House and the Huckleberry Youth Health Center/Cole Street Clinic, are viewed as national models.

## **HUCKLEBERRY ESTABLISHES ADVISORY BOARD OF** JUVENILE JUSTICE EXPERTS

The Huckleberry Community Assessment & Resource Center (CARC) is a program for youth (11-17) arrested for a variety of offenses, both felonies and misdemeanors. Huckleberry recently created the CARC Advisory Board, uniting key partners to address juvenile justice policy and protocols, including: the Chief of Juvenile Probation; the District Attorney; the Public Defender's Office; the Department of Children, Youth & Their Families; District Supervisors; SFPD; and, the Sheriff's Department.

One recent result of the Advisory Board meetings is an agreement with the District Attorney and the Juvenile Probation Department, that youth with reduced charges be referred to CARC for case management, therapy, and other support services in an effort to reduce recidivism amongst this population. Approximately 500 arrested youth are provided case management and counseling through the CARC each year and it is one of the largest juvenile justice diversion programs in California.

### SOMEONE TO LISTEN: THE HUCKLEBERRY CARC MENTORING PROGRAM



**CARC Mentor Mirian** 

Many Community Assessment & Resource Center (CARC) clients share with their case managers that they have no adult in their lives who they can talk to and no positive adult role models. Some CARC clients get little support at home. Several live in foster care or with extended relatives and a large number have parents

or siblings who are incarcerated. Through the CARC mentoring program, case manager Harvey Lozada matches CARC clients with adults who can provide them with support to keep them out of trouble and on the right track.

Harvey says, "Lots of our young people don't have the privilege to be kids due to the hardships in their lives. Having a positive adult role model is priceless and it gives them the opportunity to be a kid." Mentors attend special trainings, get matched with a CARC client, work with their mentee to create a goal for their experience, and participate in group outings and activities, like going to movies, museums, restaurants, or exploring San Francisco through the program's scavenger hunt.

"She just wants someone to talk to her," says Mirian, a CARC mentor, referring to her mentee. "No, not even that. She just wants someone to listen." Once a troubled youth herself, she chose to study criminal justice at SF State so that she could become a positive force within the system. "It shouldn't be about putting them away. It should be about helping them," she believes.

CARC mentors are asked to make a commitment of nine months to their mentees and meet with them weekly

for one hour. "Being a mentor has been a great experience," says Mirian. "It's really hard for youth to open up to you but you build trust and then it becomes really beneficial for them." If you are interested in becoming a CARC mentor, please contact Harvey at hlozada@huckleberryyouth.org or at 415.437.2500.





## **RUN FOR THE ROSES**

For the second consecutive year, our annual Wine Tasting and Auction, Run for the Roses, **SOLD OUT!** We are happy to report that with your generous support, we **raised \$145,000** for San Francisco and Marin programs. Special thanks to our Table Captains, the eight wineries who poured, in kind donors, and guests for making it a truly amazing Kentucky Derby event.

### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS TABLE CAPTAINS

Turf Club - \$5,000

Jerry & Justin Peters John & Junie Sullivan Dyann Tresenfeld & Ed Waldrup

Millionaires Row - \$3,000

Warren Browner & Mollie Ward Brown Chris & Jackie Gallo / Joseph & Sarah Gallo Grandstand - \$1,750

Bruce Fisher & Marlene Litvak Joel & Betsy Hausman Ramiro & Judith Maldonado Jared Polsky & Debbie Levy Jeff Sosnaud & Jean Curran, MD US Bank Private Client Reserve





Winner of the event's hat contest Carol Murphy and Huckleberry Board Member Leonard Berry



Joanne Ferris and Huckleberry Board Member Leon Metz

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

# Huckleberry's Cirque du Soleil Benefit AMALUNA DECEMBER 6, 2013

For the eighth time, Huckleberry Youth Programs is partnering with Cirque du Soleil for a special benefit performance of *Amaluna* on Friday, December 6. *Amaluna* invites the audience to a mysterious island governed by Goddesses and guided by the cycles of the moon.

#### VIP Adult tickets \$500 each:

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 \$175 each:** Includes great seats to the performance.

oodie bag, otion, and tent.

To the performance.

For more information and for sponsorship opportunities, contact Betsy Hausman at bhausman@huckleberryyouth.org or at 415.668.2622 ext. 224

# THANK YOU TO OUR BEACH BLANKET BABYLON SPONSORS!



On December 1, 2012, these corporations and individuals helped raise \$95,000 for Huckleberry's programs!

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## **OTHER FACES OF HUCKLEBERRY**



Huckleberry donor, Mitch Cohen (left), recently paid a visit to the Huckleberry Wellness Academy-Marin.

Thanks for your support, Mitch!



Congratulations to Huckleberry Board Member Leticia Márquez-Magaña (pictured with her husband, Dr. Tomás Magaña). **She is the** winner of KCBS's Jefferson Award and was recently chosen as a "Fun, Fearless Latina" by Cosmopolitan for Latinas magazine. Leticia is a Professor of Biology at San Francisco State University and the

first in her family to attend college.

# HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH PROGRAMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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www.huckleberryyouth.org

# Programs:

**SAN FRANCISCO SERVICES:** 

#### Huckleberry Youth Health Center

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 & Resource 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

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.