

THE HUCKLEBERRY WELLNESS ACADEMIES

San Francisco Successes

HYP's newest program, the Huckleberry Wellness Academy - San Francisco has demonstrated great success since its inauguration in the summer of 2007. The goal of the program is to help underserved youth pursue careers in the health field. Under the direction of Vicky Valentine, 17 high school juniors were recruited and met regularly throughout the school year. The youth received health career training led by Vicky and Monica Vargas, Wellness Case Manager. Vicky says of the SF Academy, **"HYP is responding to a need to diversify the health field workforce, while helping students succeed in post-secondary education. Many of these students would not otherwise go to college or pursue careers in the health field."**

A tutoring program was implemented in March 2008 to help these students achieve their academic goals and eventually apply to college. Board Member Liz Leone, along with HYP's Development Department, formed a task force to recruit volunteer tutors and pair them with students on a strengths/needs basis. Three of the recruited tutors are employees at one of HYP's corporate supporters, **Dodge & Cox. Andy Shaw**, Math Teacher at The Bay School, and **Rory Thompson**, HYP volunteer, both tutored youth as well.

The first group of Huckleberry Wellness Academy - San Francisco students



Simone Gardinier at Wellness Academy Graduation



Huckleberry Wellness Academy students gathered at Cole Street Clinic for their health education training.

completed "Year One" of the two-year program on Saturday, June 14, in a ceremony held at Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic. The students have been placed in health-related internships throughout the community. **Linda Gregory**, Workforce Outreach and Diversity Coordinator at UCSF Medical Center, has allotted funding for four Academy members to be placed there for summer jobs. **Michael Baxter**, DPH Health Center Director, was awarded funding by the California Wellness Foundation to fund six more job placements for the Huckleberry Wellness Academy - San Francisco students. Other job placement sites include **Arthur Coleman Medical Center, Balboa Teen Health Center, Blood Centers of the Pacific, and the Center for Young Women's Development.** The next group of 15-20 Huckleberry Wellness Academy - San Francisco students will be recruited this August.



Wellness Academy students Chenai Johnson and Mayra Morales.

Marin County Expansion

With the help of Lissette Flores, Director of Special Projects at Huckleberry Teen Health Program (HTHP), and significant foundation funding, HYP is building on the success of the Huckleberry Wellness Academy - San Francisco by expand-

ing the program to Marin. **Our enthusiastic partners in this expansion will include the Marin Education Fund, San Rafael City Schools, Dominican University, and the Marin County School to Career Partnership.**

Slated to begin in August 2008, the Huckleberry Wellness Academy - Marin will enroll 15-20 ninth graders annually who are interested in the health field, eventually serving up to 75 youth. This five-year program, designed to work with youth through their high school years and first year of college, will have several different components: training as health educators; intern placements; academic preparation and tutoring; counseling; exposure to health professions; and assistance with college application and financial aid submission. **"We**

are excited about this project in Marin, as it gives us an opportunity to build on our successful Peer Health Educator trainings and offer a comprehensive 'health careers' program," says Lissette. "Over the years we've seen youth in our PHE program struggle with their school work and with figuring out what it takes to pursue specific careers," she adds. "The Wellness Academy will give us an opportunity to provide youth with more intensive, long-term support."



Lissette Flores, Director of Special Projects, Marin

Dear Friends of Huckleberry Youth Programs:

As most of you know, Huckleberry Youth Programs (HYP) developed an exciting new strategic plan in 2007 and circulated an overview to our community of donors and friends in January of this year (you can view the “2008 Strategic Plan: A Vision for the Future” on our website at www.huckleberryyouth.org). I want to update you on our progress to date:

Goal One Create “Huckleberry Youth Centers” in both counties, which will serve as single site multi-service centers.

- In Marin, we have had very productive discussions with the **Marin Education Fund** about developing a multi-service youth center together. The “Ed Fund” provides support to low and moderate income youth in Marin who hope to go to college. A number of other potential partners have expressed interest in collaborating as well. We have begun looking at potential sites for a Huckleberry Youth Center near **San Rafael High School**. We are in discussions with Planned Parenthood Golden Gate to be our on-site medical partner.
- In San Francisco, we have generated substantial support for the concept and have identified a few key potential partners, including **Larkin Street Youth Services** and **Urban Services Division of the YMCA**. We have been encouraged to pursue the use of vacant school sites. **The Mayor’s Transition Age Youth (TAY) Task Force also recommended the development of multi-service centers**, and the TAY coordinator has scheduled meetings with HYP to explore a coordinated effort. Medical services will continue to be provided by our Cole Street Clinic partner, Community Health Programs for Youth, DPH.

Goal Two Develop Huckleberry Wellness Academies in San Francisco and Marin, which will recruit, train, and encourage young people to enter the health professions.

Please see lead article for updates on the Huckleberry Wellness Academies.

Goal Three Improve the effectiveness of our crisis shelters, Huckleberry House and Nine Grove Lane.

- Because of recent years of diminishing utilization of our shelter beds and the recent cuts from public and foundation funders, **HYP will close the Nine Grove Lane shelter program at the end of September, 2008**. HYP and the Marin County Probation Department are jointly **exploring alternative strategies to serve clients** who have used the shelter in the past. Youth and families in crisis will continue to be served through counseling services at our San Rafael-based Huckleberry Teen Health Program.
- We have hired a new therapist to work exclusively at Huckleberry House, **thus expanding the number of sheltered youth who will receive individual, family, and aftercare therapy**. Funding for Huckleberry House has become shared with several county agencies, not just juvenile probation.

Goal Four With San Francisco public and private partners, expand and relocate the Community Assessment and Referral Center (CARC).

- **HYP and the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department have been meeting regularly for nine months reviewing policies and procedures and exploring ways to expand the number of youth referred to CARC case management. Deputy Chief Alan Nance has been very active in the effort.** We have also been invited to relocate the CARC to a new structure at Golden Gate and Larkin, being built by **UC Hastings College of Law. Academic Dean Shauna Marshall** has been very supportive of the idea and wants to have law students do community service with CARC youth, as well as to develop a clinical law program in connection with the CARC, including a program in education law. CARC Case Managers are almost always assisting clients with reintegrating into the school system.

As we move to implement the program goals of our strategic plan, we remain excited about the vision and gratified at the support we are receiving in the community. Many challenges lie on the way. **I invite you to call me with questions, suggestions, and especially offers of assistance.**

Best wishes,

Huckleberry Teen Health Program, Marin - Health Education Staff.



Bruce Fisher
Executive Director



PS. For those of you who heard that I plan to retire soon (maybe from me), I have officially changed my mind and made a commitment to the agency to stay as Executive Director to assist in implementing the strategic plan. **New plan, new energy!**



HUCKLEBERRY'S NINE GROVE LANE WILL CLOSE SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

NEW SERVICES PLANNED

Because of diminishing utilization, the county and HYP have agreed to close down Nine Grove Lane shelter. Alternative non-shelter services are being planned to assist youth and families in crisis. Created in 1974, Nine Grove Lane was a model based on Huckleberry House's success in San Francisco and emerged in response to the need for services for runaway and other at-risk youth in Marin. One of the program's memorable activities in the mid-1970s was the utilization of a 26-foot mobile outreach van, C.C. Rider, that traveled throughout Marin County providing on-the-spot counseling and crisis services.

In 1991, Nine Grove Lane was also designated by the county to be the primary shelter for abused teenagers. While data collection prior to 1990 wasn't computerized, we do know that since **July 1, 1990, Nine Grove Lane has provided 16,708 bednights, 50,124 meals, and 7,280 counseling sessions.** Client Satisfaction Surveys consistently rate the program as "Good" or "Very Good."

HYP is grateful to all the staff, past and present, that served the community so well and so faithfully. **Particular acknowledgement goes to Lisa Sanfilippo, Program Director, who has been on staff at Nine Grove Lane for twenty**

years! During those years Lisa earned her California certification as a Group Home Administrator, was appointed a member of the Marin County McKinney-Vento Advisory Board, and in 2004 received HYP's Audrey Chickering Award. **While we know it is time to reconfigure our services in Marin County, we wish to acknowledge the very important role Nine Grove Lane has played in the agency's history.**



Huckleberry's Nine Grove Lane Staff. **Top Row:** Seamus Cowley, Heather Richardson, Lisa Sanfilippo, and Jennifer Breen Justice. **Bottom Row:** Jessica Sosin and Margit Pirsch..



Huckleberry's Nine Grove Lane in San Anselmo.

HUCKLEBERRY HELPS A FAMILY IN CRISIS - TANYA'S STORY

"Tanya" confided to her teacher that she was thinking about running away, because of the angry fights she was having with her older sister. **The teacher suggested visiting Huckleberry House and connected Tanya with an HYP therapist** to whom the teacher had made previous referrals. The therapist soon learned that Tanya's mother was in poor health, and the family needed help in dealing with the situation. Family therapy focused on linking the family to

ongoing services and creating a space for the family to talk openly about the impact of Mom's illness on the family and to express/externalize feelings through drama therapy and art therapy exercises. **Additionally, Tanya's sister was referred to a peer health educator at Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic to talk about sexual decision-making.** She had become sexually active but was afraid to talk to her mother because she was worried that she would, "worry mom

and make her more sick." As treatment progressed, all family members were able to talk more openly about the impact of Mom's illness and ways in which the family members could support each other. Thanks to the help of adult allies they found at Huckleberry House and Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic, Tanya and her sister aren't fighting any more. The family conflict has been resolved and Tanya no longer wants to run away!

KOOZÁ

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'S KOOZÁ

Over \$200,000 Raised for HYP

On November 30, 2007, over 1,200 HYP supporters gathered for Cirque du Soleil's KOOZÁ, raising over \$200,000 (the record for an HYP event!). For the fifth time, Cirque partnered with HYP to help us raise funds for services benefiting at-risk youth - a cause close to Cirque's heart. Over 200 major donors and sponsors enjoyed the VIP event under the Big Top at AT&T Park and a Young Professionals event hosted 100 supporters at Pete's Tavern. HYP would like to thank Cirque du Soleil for all of their support over the years! We also want to extend a BIG THANK YOU to all of the sponsors who made this event such a huge success.

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From left: HYP Executive Director Bruce Fisher, Board President Gary Angel, Board Member Katie Callahan, former Board Member Mark Mance, and friends.



Young Professionals at the Pre-Cirque reception at Pete's Tavern.



Marin Human Race: On May 10, 2008, HYP participated in the Marin Human Race raising over \$1,700. The team consisted of HYP staff, Board members, Young Professional Committee members, a Foster Parent/community advocate and her family, and a number of HYP supporters. Pictured above and below.

SAVE THE DATE! HYP COMEDY NIGHT

at Bimbo's 365 Club, Thursday, October 23

HYP's major 2008-09 fundraising event will be our **Second Biennial Comedy Night at Bimbo's 365 Club in SF on Thursday, October 23**. This year's event is just in time for the 2008 elections! Bring your funny bones as featured comedians **Will Durst, Nato Green, Bob Sarlatte, and Johnny Steele** skewer both Republicans and Democrats in the race for the White House.

\$5,000 Sponsor

Pre-show Reception & 8 VIP Tickets (full table)

\$2,500 Sponsor

Pre-show Reception & 4 VIP Tickets (partial table)

Individual Tickets

VIP - \$500; Standard - \$125

Contact HYP Director of Development, Vicki Schwartz at 415.668.2622 ext. 220 or vschwartz@huckleberryyouth.org for more information on tickets and sponsorship opportunities.



THE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL CENTER (CARC): TEN YEARS OF JUVENILE JUSTICE DIVERSION IN SAN FRANCISCO

CARC

On April 11, 2008, Bruce Fisher, HYP Executive Director, and Denise Coleman, Director of Juvenile Justice Programs, submitted written testimony about the Community Assessment and Referral Center (CARC) to the **State Assembly Select Committee on Youth Violence Prevention**. Denise also presented at the hearing on a panel for "Innovative Community-Based Alternatives to Detention." Members of the Assembly included Anna M. Caballero, Chair, and Mark Leno, 13th Assembly District, Host. The subject of the hearing was Developing Youth Leadership: A Key to Building Safer Communities. **The presentation was well received, and the Assembly Committee showed great interest in the CARC's program model and its possible replication in other cities in California. In fact, after the hearing, the City Manager of Sacramento asked that HYP consult with him on a "CARC" for that city.**

The San Francisco Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the Juvenile Probation Department, and HYP have met regularly since September 2007, to discuss how to provide advocacy and leadership to expand the program and make the CARC a permanent and integral feature of juve-



Front center: CARC Program Director Stacy Sciortino and Director of Juvenile Justice Programs, Denise Coleman, with CARC staff.

nile justice services in San Francisco. **The CARC has become an important model program as an alternative intervention capable of significantly reducing recidivism and detention.** Annually, the CARC provides case management to over 500 arrested youth in San Francisco, assisting them in school reintegration and reducing recidivism. **Next year, the CARC will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary!**

KISAI HENRIQUEZ FROM CLIENT TO CARC CASE MANAGER

A unique characteristic of HYP is the fact that our clients often return years later to become full-time members of our staff. Clients are given opportunities and referrals in the community that they may not have otherwise and that significantly change their lives. Clients often feel excited to return to HYP to assist youth in the ways that they were once assisted. **Kisai Henriquez is an example of a current HYP employee who found adult allies at the CARC that had a profound impact on her future.**

A client at age 15, Kisai was brought to the CARC where she was assigned a Case Manager to help her navigate her way through the intimidating legal process. The Case Manager referred her to Life Learning Academy, a charter school designed

to assist at-risk youth succeed in school and go on to graduate. **"Being referred to that school by my CARC Case Manager changed my life," Kisai says matter-of-factly. "Through my contact at CARC, I met so many adults who cared about me and mentored me. It took me a while to get myself together, but I knew that I wanted to eventually go to college."**

After graduating high school and staying on the right track with the help of her mentors, Kisai started college at Dominican University and finished her degree in Child & Adolescent Development at San Francisco State. In June 2007, when she needed to complete an internship for her degree, Huckleberry immediately came to mind. "I knew it would be a great place to start my



Kisai Henriquez

career working with youth, and eventually a full-time position became available," she says. **September 2008 will mark Kisai's one-year anniversary as a CARC Case Manager where she helps her caseload of troubled youth find opportunities similar to the one she was given a decade ago.** "A lot of youth who are arrested don't understand the legal system and need someone to support and guide them so they are not lost in the shuffle."

Jorge Vega Audrey Chickering Award Winner

The Audrey Chickering Leadership Award was established in recognition of Audrey's exemplary work and commitment to the development of HYP. Each year the agency presents this prestigious award to one Director who goes above and beyond the call of duty and exemplifies outstanding leadership, playing a decisive role in the health, growth, and continuation of HYP.



Jorge Vega - Words like supportive, solid, sharp, and work ethic are among the many used to describe HYP's Director of Mental Health Programs, Jorge Vega. Jorge has over a decade of impressive experience working with youth and families as a therapist in the Bay Area, as well as Southern California.

Prior to relocating to the Bay Area, Jorge served as the Clinical Director for Concept 7 Family Support & Treatment Centers. His program provided mental health assessment

and behavioral health services for foster children in placement with the agency. Upon his arrival to the Bay Area, Jorge knew immediately that he wanted to work with HYP because, "it was highly regarded by clients and other agencies," he says. **"Right away I realized that this was an agency well connected in the community, and I wanted to be a part of HYP's unique focus on youth intervention."**

Jorge has been with HYP for nearly three years, and in that short amount of time, he has significantly increased the number of youth served, built a strong and diverse Counseling team, and developed an invaluable integration between Counseling and other HYP programs, including Huckleberry House, Huckleberry Teen Health Program, and Cole Street Clinic. Director of Programs Genny Price says of Jorge, "He really understands the needs of our clients and champions people to succeed."

Annette Lombardi Muller and Jason Boronski Danny Keenan Award Winners

Danny Keenan is remembered by HYP as a moving force in the establishment and success of the Teen HIV Prevention Program now known as Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic. In honor of his memory, staff nominate HYP employees who provide outstanding contributions to the development of services for youth.

University of Health Sciences in Southern California. **She hopes to one day return to Huckleberry Teen Health Program in some capacity because she says, "I'm so inspired by the young people I come into contact with at Huckleberry."**



Annette Lombardi Muller - After an experience with the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic nurtured her desire to work with young people, Health Education Coordinator Annette Muller began her career in

the Bay Area in youth development and reproductive health. Having heard about HYP in the community for many years, she knew the organization was respected and sought an opportunity to be a part of Huckleberry Teen Health Program in San Rafael. She began as a part-time Health Educator and later expanded to full-time, working on after school programs at Davidson Middle School with groups such as LATINAS and the Youth Leaders in Progress. Her positive energy, professionalism, and leadership resulted in a subsequent promotion to Health Education Coordinator. After four years at HYP, Annette will move on this August to pursue a nursing degree at Western



Jay Boronski For six years, Huckleberry House has relied on Jay Boronski's sense of humor and dedication to human service in his role as

a Residential Counselor for the shelter. After studying history at the University of Massachusetts and living in Spain after college, Jay knew he did not want big business to profit from his labor. He became devoted to human service and social work after working with homeless adults in Seattle at the Downtown Emergency Service Center. He later went on to work with the homeless in Providence, RI and Long Beach, CA and turned his passion for helping others into a career. **"Working for Huckleberry has been my favorite job so far," Jay says. "This organization has taken such good care of me, and I will always stay connected to Huckleberry in some capacity, whether it be as a full-time employee or a volunteer."**

Peer Health Educator, Samantha Ramirez



Pictured with Samantha is Nancy Fastenau, Executive Director of Western States Youth Services Network.

Congratulations to Samantha Ramirez, Peer Health Educator at Huckleberry Teen Health Program, Marin, for being nominated for the Western States Youth Services Network Youth Leadership Award! Samantha received a Certificate of Recognition, "for her exemplary commitment to young people, community, and change in work and life."

WELCOME TO HYP'S NEW BOARD MEMBERS

HYP would like to take the opportunity to welcome new Board Members during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. **Liz Leone** is active in HYP's fundraising efforts as the Chair of the Development Committee, and she has been instrumental in developing the Wellness Academy's Tutoring Program. **Marilyn Metz, M.D.** is a family physician at the Arthur H. Coleman Medical Center, and **Christopher Morales** is a Criminal Defense Attorney who has tried over seventy-five criminal jury trials.

OTHER FACES OF HYP



Top Row: Karen Colin, HTHP Health Educator with a "robot baby" from the Baby Think It Over Program; Stefanie Smith, Director of Research and Evaluation and Rory Thompson, Wellness Academy Tutor at a fundraising event at Macy's Union Square.

Second Row: Two of HYP's Lioness Girls; Peer Health Educator David Parada.

Third Row: Huckleberry House Residential Counselor Roya Hossaini; CARC Case Managers Andres Rios and Edwin Bernardez.

Left: Director of Health Services, Marin, Jasmine Stevenson conducting street outreach.

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HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH PROGRAMS

2008 NEWSLETTER



Gary Angel



Brian Swift

HYP would like to thank **Gary Angel** for an excellent job as Board President for the past two years and welcome **Brian Swift** as new Board President. Congratulations to Gary for a great job and welcome Brian!

Programs:

SAN FRANCISCO SERVICES:

Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic

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's Community Assessment and Referral Center

121 Leavenworth Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 567-8078

MARIN SERVICES:

Huckleberry's Nine Grove Lane

9 Grove Lane
San Anselmo, CA 94960
(415) 453-5200

Huckleberry Teen Health Program

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 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..