



2010 NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION

HUCKLEBERRY CHOSEN AS "2010 AGENCY OF THE YEAR" BY THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH

The National Network for Youth (NN4Y), an organization composed of community-based youth organizations across the country, recently honored Huckleberry Youth Programs with the **"2010 Agency of the Year Award."** According to Victoria Wagner, CEO and President of the NN4Y, "Huckleberry Youth Programs is eminently qualified for selection as NN4Y's Agency of the Year, **because of the organization's wide scope of youth programming, years of innovation in the field of youth services, and commitment to collaboration with other youth-serving organizations.**"

The Agency of the Year Award is presented to a National Network member agency to honor the vital role that youth agencies play in the healthy development of youth, families, and communities. Currently, there are 2.5 million disconnected, unaccompanied, and/or homeless youth in our country.

On Tuesday, January 26, 2010, Huckleberry's E.D. Bruce Fisher, Director of Development Vicki Schwartz, and Director of Programs Genny Price attended a special



Huckleberry Youth Programs is committed to providing excellent youth programming in San Francisco and Marin Counties. Pictured: Huckleberry Youth Programs staff.

award ceremony in Washington, D.C., honoring Huckleberry's achievements on behalf of runaway and homeless youth.

HUCKLEBERRY'S HIV/AIDS WORKSHOP MAKES A BIG IMPACT AT HILLTOP SCHOOL



Jennifer Lloyd, Americorps Health Educator Assistant and Ramses Munoz, Community Health Coordinator, outstanding members of the Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service Center Health Education team.

Dear Ramses, Jen, and Team:

I want to thank you for sharing Danny's story with Hilltop Students. The HYPE Program should be mandatory for all students, 11-12 graders especially. Our students learned so much about HIV and AIDS. They are sharing with other students in school, who did not take part due to their absences.

Your program builds the trust needed in the first two days to then bring in the HIV infected person without the stigma they might feel coming in cold. The two presenters, Ramses and Jen were quick to like the students and were not judgmental. That built the trust needed to continue on when Danny Garcia came to tell his story.

Thank you for taking time for us. Our school is small and we do not have funding to bring in outside speakers unless they do not cost us. Teachers spend their own money on supplies for their students. We are in your debt.

Sincerely,
Ann Darling, Biology and Health Sciences Teacher
Hilltop School

HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE CLIENT BREAKING THE CYCLE OF ABUSE

In January 2010, Huckleberry E.D. Bruce Fisher and Vicky Valentine, Director of Huckleberry Wellness Academy-SF, gave a presentation about Huckleberry at an event at the Forest Hill Country Club for The Links, a community service organization comprised of African American professional women. During the presentation, someone in the kitchen at the Country Club spontaneously came forward to share her experience with Huckleberry House twenty-four years ago...

At fifteen, Jennifer had been in Juvenile Hall, a foster home, and living with different relatives while her parents were both struggling with addiction. She was experiencing a lot of physical and emotional abuse in her life, and she candidly shares, **"I was born to teen parents, and they weren't given the tools to be parents."** In the summer of 1986, after running away from home, Jennifer ended up at Huckleberry House.

These services are so important because you aren't a number. Someone is seriously caring about you. You need someone who just really cares about you - especially when you're going through puberty.

- Jennifer, former Huckleberry House client

"I have strong memories of being at Huckleberry House," she says. While there, Jennifer received reproductive health services at the clinic in the shelter's basement (what would later become Huckleberry Cole Street Clinic). "The staff at Huckleberry House sat me down and explained why women need to



Former Huckleberry House client, Jennifer (second from left) with her children Alex, Chiara, and Amber

have these exams. No one in my life had ever told me that they were important."

While at Huckleberry House, Jennifer was also shown a documentary film called *StreetWise*, about young runaways in Seattle. "That movie really resonated with me. It struck me because I remember thinking, 'I don't want to be this way'." At nineteen she found herself, "repeating a lot of my parents' mistakes," and decided to make a change in her life.

Today, Jennifer is the mother of three and she says, "I went out and bought a copy of *StreetWise* and showed it to my own kids." **She's currently employed at Genentech where she is leading a volunteer committee of twenty-five employees in an "Intake" Care Package Drive for youth at Huckleberry House.** The group is soliciting donations of soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and various toiletry items for Huckleberry House clients. She also actively volunteers with young people in the community because she says, **"I want to help break the cycle of violence and abuse in my family and other families."**

HUCKLEBERRY'S DIRECTOR OF JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS RECOGNIZED AS A LOCAL HERO BY KQED AND UNION BANK



San Francisco Mayor, Gavin Newsom, Denise Coleman, and Huckleberry E.D. Bruce Fisher.

Denise Coleman, Huckleberry's Director of Juvenile Justice Programs, was recognized by KQED and Union Bank as a **Black History Month Local Hero** for her outstanding commitment to youth in San Francisco!

For the past 11 years, Denise has worked with Huckleberry Community Assessment and Referral Center (CARC), providing youth arrested for nonviolent crimes with a rehabilitative, supportive alternative to incarceration. **Huckleberry CARC provides case management, guidance, support, and mental health services, to 20% of young people arrested in San Francisco.**

Denise was honored for her achievements at a reception at KQED's headquarters on February 17. Please visit www.huckleberryyouth.org to watch a short video of Denise's experiences working at Huckleberry CARC.

HUCKLEBERRY COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL CENTER RELOCATES TO 44 GOUGH STREET, EXPANDS PROGRAMMING, AND ENTERS NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

On January 11, Huckleberry Community Assessment and Referral Center (CARC) relocated to a new facility at 44 Gough Street. This new location allows Huckleberry CARC to expand counseling services, move our girls' leadership program, Lioness Girls, to Huckleberry CARC, and introduce a new room dedicated to police interviews and investigations.

Expansion of our Counseling Services at Huckleberry CARC includes on-site assessment and counseling for clients and is funded by a grant from the Department of Public Health, Community Behavioral Health Services.

Huckleberry CARC has also added a mentoring program in partnership with San Francisco State University.

Huckleberry Lioness Girls Program relocated to 44 Gough Street, in order to provide leadership development and case management to young women, ages 13-15, who are arrested for non-violent crimes.

On January 14, four days after Huckleberry moved into 44 Gough Street, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom held a press conference to announce the city's new program targeting chronic truancy in an effort to close the achievement gap in San Francisco schools. The Truancy Assessment and Referral Center (TARC) will be run in conjunction with Huckleberry CARC and will also be located at 44 Gough Street.

This new public/private partnership includes the SF Unified School District, the SF Police Department, and the SF Juvenile Probation Department. The two community-based organizations managing the project are Huckleberry and Urban Services of the YMCA. Other San Francisco dignitaries in attendance who expressed their support for this new partnership were Maria Su, Director of Children, Youth and their Families; George Gascon, the new Chief of Police; and William Sifferman, Chief of Juvenile Probation.

Watch the Mayor's press conference at www.huckleberryyouth.org.

On Thursday, February 25, Huckleberry hosted a special ribbon cutting ceremony at 44 Gough Street to recognize the Huckleberry CARC staff, our sub-contractors Brothers Against Guns, Instituto Familiar de La Raza, the Community Youth Center, and their commitment to providing arrested youth in San Francisco with an alternative to the juvenile justice system.



Mayor Gavin Newsom, back center, with Huckleberry Youth Programs staff.



Alejandra, a Huckleberry CARC client for two years, spoke at the ribbon cutting and said, "Coming to CARC has changed my life. They gave me so much love."

HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH MULTI-SERVICE CENTERS:

In 2007, Huckleberry began an intensive year-long strategic planning process that included input from staff, clients, community funders, and stakeholders, to help us determine the next steps for Huckleberry. Today, as a result of that planning, Huckleberry services include both Huckleberry Wellness Academies and the Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service Centers.

The creation of the Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service Centers is well underway in both counties, thanks in part to a \$200,000 grant from the Department of Public Health, Community Behavioral Health Services for the Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service Center - San Francisco and The Grainger Foundation for the Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service Center - Marin.

Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service Center Services in Marin and San Francisco will include, but are not limited to:

- ✧ Primary & Reproductive Health Care
- ✧ HIV Testing and Prevention Services
- ✧ Health Education
- ✧ Substance Abuse Services
- ✧ Drop In/Referral Center Services
- ✧ Employment/Education Services
- ✧ Counseling and Case Management
- ✧ Youth Development & Leadership
- ✧ Outreach Services
- ✧ Arts Programming for Youth



Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service Center - SF Peer Health Educators with Vicky Valentine (top right), Director of Huckleberry Wellness Academy - SF



Health Educator, Jason Martinez and Huckleberry Wellness Academy - San Francisco Academic Case Manager, Monica Vargas.

COMING SOON IN BOTH MARIN AND SAN FRANCISCO!



HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH MULTI-SERVICE CENTER-SF HEALTH EDUCATION TEAM

Front row from left: Peer Health Educator Eloise Sarmiento, Peer Health Educator Dwanna Schaedlich, AmeriCorps Health Educator Assistant Jennifer Lloyd, and Community Health Coordinator Ramses Munoz.

Back row from left: Peer Health Educator Dat Trinh, AmeriCorps Case Manager Assistant Molly Hongola, and Health Educator Jason Martinez.

HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH MULTI-SERVICE CENTER – SAN FRANCISCO:

Huckleberry Youth Programs, in partnership with Larkin Street Youth Services and DPH's Community Health Programs for Youth (CHPY), have met over the past year to plan and design the Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service Center – San Francisco. **Currently located at 555 Cole Street, the site of Huckleberry Cole Street Clinic, the Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service Center will eventually relocate to a larger facility.** Through this Multi-Service Center, San Francisco youth and young adults, ages 12-24, will access health care, counseling, educational and employment services, and a variety of other services under one roof.

HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH MULTI-SERVICE CENTER – MARIN:

Huckleberry Youth Programs-Marin in San Rafael is moving into space directly across the hall from its current location in Montecito Plaza. **Huckleberry signed a lease in early March for the new location which is almost 6,000 square feet and offers more space for expanded programming** and a state-of-the-art classroom for the Huckleberry Wellness Academy - Marin. **This new location is almost three times the size of the current location.** Alternative Family Services, an organization providing services to youth transitioning out of the foster care system, will relocate as well and share the space with Huckleberry. Currently, we are in search of a third partner and have been in dialogue with multiple youth-serving agencies about potential co-location. The relocation date for the new Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service Center – Marin is July 2010.



HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH MULTI-SERVICE CENTER-MARIN HEALTH EDUCATION TEAM

From left: Senior Peer Health Educator Sammie Ramirez, Community Health Coordinator Jackie Davis, Case Manager Maribel Cabrera-Borloz, and Senior Peer Health Educator Tyler Holmes.



SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1:30 TO 5:00 PM

Special thanks to Ann & Dick Grace, Grace Family Vineyards - Honorary Co-Chairs

HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH PROGRAMS WINE TASTING & AUCTION

This year, the event
will also feature a
special performance
by Edyta Sliwinska
and Alec Mazo from
Dancing with the Stars!

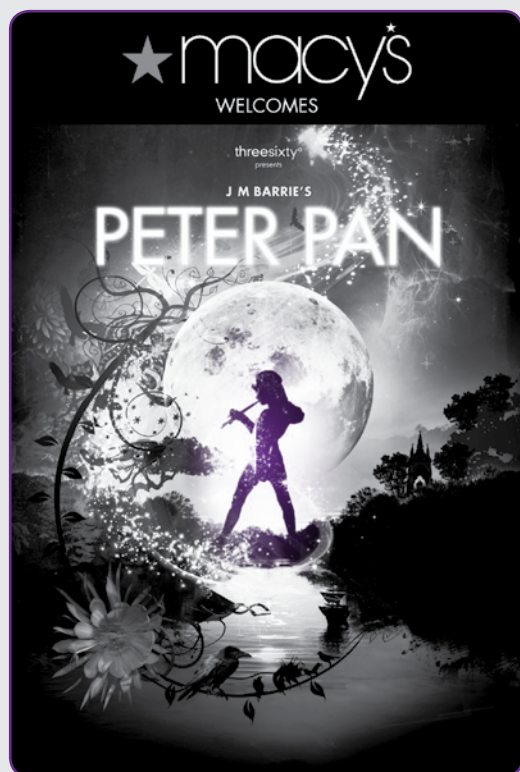


Edyta Sliwinska & Alec Mazo
from *Dancing with the Stars*.

Huckleberry's Second Annual Wine Tasting and Auction Event is Saturday, May 8 from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm at a magnificent five-acre estate overlooking Lucas Valley in San Rafael.

Tickets to the event are \$100 each and include complimentary wine tasting, cuisine by Insalata's Restaurant, designer jewelry, a live and silent auction, and valet parking. Auction items will include priceless experiences like tickets to the *Dancing with the Stars* finale on May 25 in Los Angeles, luxurious trips and spa packages, fine wines, tickets to shows, sporting events, and much more!

Tickets are on sale now and are available at www.huckleberryyouth.org. Your ticket purchase and successful bidding will help meet the needs of underserved youth and families in our community. For those of you who unfortunately cannot attend this year's wine tasting and auction **NEVER FEAR! We have developed a way for you to bid on LIVE AUCTION ITEMS using a proxy from Huckleberry Youth Programs.** If you are interested, please contact Betsy Hausman at bhausman@huckleberryyouth.org or by phone at 415.668.2622 ext. 224 for more information.



SPECIAL CHARITY PERFORMANCE OF *PETER PAN* BENEFITING HUCKLEBERRY!

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 26 AT 7:00 PM
360° THEATER AT FERRY PLAZA**

Please join Huckleberry on **Wednesday, May 26 at 7:00 pm** for 360° Theater's U.S. Premiere of the London hit, *Peter Pan*! This is a spectacular new stage production of J.M. Barrie's classic story performed in a state-of-the-art theater pavilion.

Conceived by an award winning creative team and featuring 22 actors, stunning puppets, epic music, and dazzling flying sequences surrounded by breathtaking video, *Peter Pan* was a smash hit when it launched in London in 2009.

This is a special charity performance benefiting Huckleberry and 100% of your ticket purchase will support our programs for youth and their families.

Please visit www.huckleberryyouth.org to purchase your tickets today, or call Heather Mathews at 415.668.2622 ext. 211.



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL OVO BENEFITS HUCKLEBERRY

Huckleberry would like to thank all of the sponsors and guests of our December 11, 2009 benefit performance of Cirque du Soleil OVO. The event raised over \$190,000 for Huckleberry's programs in San Francisco and Marin! Special thanks to Cirque du Soleil for their continued support over the years!

This biennial event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and more than one thousand guests who attended Huckleberry's benefit performance.

\$20,000

Veritable Vegetable

\$10,000

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WORLD RENOWN DESIGNER, EILEEN FISHER, DONATES \$5,000 TO HUCKLEBERRY LIONESS GIRLS PROGRAM

On Saturday, March 27, fashion designer Eileen Fisher held a very special fashion show at Macy's Union Square to benefit the Huckleberry Lioness Girls Program. The fashion show culminated in a \$5,000 check presentation made by Eileen Fisher to the Lioness Girls. Huckleberry Lioness Girls Program offers leadership development for young women ages 13 to 15 through a safe and supportive after-school program. The group participants are provided with knowledge that encourages them to make positive change in their lives and communities, while helping them accomplish their goals.



Huckleberry Lioness Girls with Director of Juvenile Justice Programs Denise Coleman (third from left), designer Eileen Fisher (third from right), and Leadership Specialist, Minna Dubin (far right).

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HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH PROGRAMS 2010 NEWSLETTER

SAN FRANCISCO SERVICES:

Huckleberry Youth Multi-Service 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 and Referral Center

44 Gough Street, Suite 104
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 437-2500

MARIN SERVICES:

Huckleberry Youth Programs - 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.