

HUCKLEBERRY CLIENTS, PAST & PRESENT, SHARE THEIR STORIES

INNER STRENGTH: A HUCKLEBERRY CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Huckleberry Wellness Academy - Marin client Joseline Hernandez, wrote this poignant story about her journey to find inner strength with the help of her Huckleberry Counselor, Meghan Kearney. Huckleberry provides comprehensive, wrap-around services to all of our clients which enabled Joseline to participate in both the Huckleberry Wellness Academy - Marin, as well as the Huckleberry Counseling Program. She wanted to share her story with Huckleberry supporters...

I believe in inner strength. Although some people think they can't change, I know you can change for the better. You can learn a lot about yourself and when you do, you start doing all these incredible things you never thought you would be able to do. There was a point in my life when I just wanted to throw my life away and be in the streets. I didn't care what people thought about me, and I didn't care if my parents would suffer because of me... I went to a Huckleberry therapist to ask for help because I was just ready to throw my life away forever. She taught me how to see my strength from my weakness, and the good from the bad. The most important thing is that I had to find my inner strength. This showed me that I was a really strong person to be able to change and to move to the right path before it was too late... I'm pretty proud of myself for changing. I don't think I could've done it without the love and support of my Huckleberry therapist and family.



Huckleberry Wellness Academy - Marin Client Joseline Hernandez

Just a few years ago, I was in the streets all day smoking or getting drunk, not caring about anything or anyone in my life. And now, I'm an A and B student working hard to accomplish my goals and to live my dreams. I've been through hell and back, but what makes me really proud is how much I changed and how many incredible things I have done that I never knew I was able to do. I believe in inner strength because I found I can change for the better if I put my mind and heart in it.



From left: Former Huckleberry client, Gina, her daughter Savannah, and her foster daughter Morgan

TWO FORMER HUCKLEBERRY CLIENTS REACH OUT ON FACEBOOK

I was a 14-year-old runaway 34 years ago. Huckleberry saved my life. Thank you for all you do for our precious teenagers! I am now a healthy, happy, sober mom, to my own beautiful 14-year-old daughter. Thank you. - Gina (at left)

Wow, what memories I have of Huckleberry House. The safe place to go when you didn't want to run the streets anymore. Sixteen years later and proud to be a productive member of society. - Grace

Find out about Huckleberry's latest events and how you can get involved by joining the Huckleberry Cause on Facebook. www.facebook.com

Dear Friends and Donors,

Huckleberry Youth Programs continues to provide successful, critical services to homeless or high-needs youth annually in San Francisco and Marin. We are continuing our long tradition of innovation and creativity to meet our clients' needs along with services delivered by outstanding staff. The past six months have seen the growth of our **Huckleberry Wellness Academies, the first senior class graduation (14 of 14 going to college)**, and the participation of prominent health and education professionals in our first Huckleberry Wellness Academy Advisory Board meeting.

In addition, **our juvenile justice diversion program, the CARC, continues to effectively case manage almost 20% of all youth arrested in San Francisco, and serves as a national model.** Both of our health clinics, Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic in San Francisco and the Huckleberry Teen Health Program in Marin are two of the largest adolescent health clinics in the Bay Area providing access to reproductive and sexual health care for hundreds of youth annually. **At the same time, our health education staff reach more youth with health education workshops in public schools than any other agency in the Bay Area.** And this summer, the Huckleberry House shelter program will become San Francisco's premiere site for short-term, family-reunification oriented foster care placements, working in a new partnership with San Francisco's Human Services Agency.

All of this innovation is occurring amidst the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Huckleberry has had several public grants terminated or reduced. Some foundation funding has been reduced. Individual giving has declined as well. So, as we move to implement significant and exciting changes throughout our programs, we also must cut back on expenses, reduce staffing, and strategize to survive in the next 12-24 months! In order to do this successfully, we need a Board of Directors who fully partners with us in paving the way.

We are excited to welcome this talented bunch to work with our excellent Board of Directors, which has dedicated hours and energy to keeping the agency strong. **If you have any questions about programming, or want to offer your support, please feel free to contact me or visit our award-winning website at www.huckleberryyouth.org.**



Sincerely,

Bruce Fisher

Executive Director

Huckleberry would like to acknowledge our three most recent board members, outstanding individuals who will be part of our leadership team:

Sara Eisenberg graduated from Brown University and the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law with a JD, summa cum laude. She currently works as a Litigation Associate for Howard Rice. Previous to joining Howard Rice, Ms. Eisenberg clerked for several judges, including the Honorable John Paul Stevens of the US Supreme Court. In New York, Ms. Eisenberg worked with Children's Rights, Inc. and with the Administration for Children's Services, demonstrating her early interest in working with youth.

Rebecca Smullin is an Associate at Altshuler Berzon LLP, where she practices plaintiff-side labor, civil rights, and wage-and-hour litigation. She is a graduate of Yale University's Law School, where she earned her JD, and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, where she earned her MPA. Ms. Smullin has clerked for Judge Marsha Berzon of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and has held numerous legal positions in immigrants' rights, international criminal law, and refugee law, including winning a Fulbright Scholarship to study micro-enterprise development in Peru.

Kurt Beyer is a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney who also works with the Opus Group providing complex wealth management and estate planning for Silicon Valley companies and executives. Dr. Beyer's impressive professional resume includes working as a college professor, co-founding a digital media start-up, and flying F-14 Tomcats for the US Navy. He graduated from the US Naval Academy and holds an MA from Oxford University in England and a PhD from the University of California at Berkeley.

HUCKLEBERRY CONGRATULATES THE WELLNESS ACADEMY CLASS OF 2009!!

THE FIRST WELLNESS ACADEMY – SAN FRANCISCO GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON MAY 14, 2009



Wellness Academy - SF graduates Jessica Alegria and Amina Choudhery

We are extremely proud of the first graduating class of the Huckleberry Wellness Academy – San Francisco! **On May 14, 2009, the fourteen graduating students were recognized at City College John Adams Campus.** The ceremony included their families, friends, leaders in the San Francisco community, and Wellness Academy funders, AT&T and the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and their Families. Guest speakers at the Ceremony were **Lynn Bunim, Executive Director, External Affairs at AT&T and Kim-Shree Maufas, President of the San Francisco School Board.**

Over the course of the last two school years, the students have attended weekly health-related trainings at Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic, participated in academic preparation and tutoring, peer group support, exposure to health professions, case management, and assistance with college applications. **All fourteen students completed 10-week clinical health care internships throughout San Francisco during the summer of 2008.** They are now looking

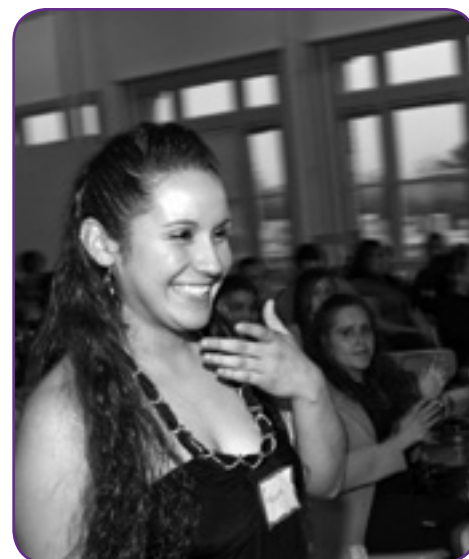
forward to college and most of them will be the first in their families to attend!

The seniors from Huckleberry's Wellness Academy were accepted into 42 colleges across the U.S. including UC Davis, Pace, The New School, Ohio Wesleyan, De Paul, Mills College, UC Berkeley, Skyline Community College, and Virginia State University. Jessica Alegria was accepted to Mills and UC Berkeley with scholarships and Gaby Melgar was accepted to Ohio Wesleyan with scholarship.

One graduate who overcame particularly difficult barriers is Jen Barillas, a young woman who has been living independently with little support from her family. "Jen could have given up on herself and her education but she never let that happen," says Vicky Valentine, Huckleberry Wellness Academy – SF, Director. This fall, Jen starts school at City College of San Francisco in a program to become an Ultrasound Technician. This will be her first step in realizing her dreams of becoming a gynecologist.



Vicky Valentine, Director of the Huckleberry Wellness Academy - SF and Wellness Graduate Jen Barillas



Wellness Academy - SF Student Mayra Morales is recognized at the Graduation



Dr. Susan Obata (left), Medical Director, Community Health Programs for Youth (CHPY), and Huckleberry Wellness Academy student Erendira Arreola at the Huckleberry Wellness Advisory Board meeting on May 8.

HUCKLEBERRY WELLNESS ACADEMY ADVISORY BOARD

Ms. Charlotte Ferretti, R.N.,

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Dr. Katherine Flores, M.D., Program

Director, UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research

Ms. Barbara Garcia, Deputy

Director of Health, SF Department of Public Health

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Dr. Tomás Magaña, M.D., Physician, Oakland Children's Hospital

Dr. Miriam Martinez, Division Director of Infant, Child, and Adolescent Psychiatry, SF General Hospital

Dr. George Matula, M.D., Retired Department of Infectious Disease, Permanente Medical Group

Ms. Kim-Shree Maufas, President, San Francisco School Board; Program Director, UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women's Health

Ms. Kim Mazzuca, President, Marin Education Fund

Ms. Fran Meckler, Executive Committee Member, Women's HIV Program, UCSF

Dr. Marilyn Metz, M.D., Medical Director, Arthur H. Coleman Medical Center

Dr. Martha Nelson, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, Dominican University of California

Dr. Mary-Ann Shafer, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Director for Training of Adolescent Medicine at UCSF

Ms. Linda Squires-Grohe, Dean, School of Health and Physical Education, City College of San Francisco

HUCKLEBERRY ESTABLISHES WELLNESS ACADEMY ADVISORY BOARD

In 2007, Huckleberry created the Huckleberry Wellness Academies (HWA) in San Francisco and Marin to encourage and support at-risk youth of color in pursuing post-secondary education and health service careers. Huckleberry has recently partnered with prominent leaders in the health community and experts in education and the medical field to establish the **Huckleberry Wellness Academy Advisory Board**. This Advisory Board provides HWA staff with guidance, advice, and insight into effective ways to expand services and measure program success.

The Board also provides suggestions for best practices in program design

and networking opportunities by offering referrals for contacts, strategies, and partnerships throughout the community.

The **first annual Advisory Board meeting was held on May 8, 2009**, at UCSF thanks to the generosity of Advisory Board Member Dr. Mary-Ann Shafer, Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Director for Training in the Division of Adolescent Medicine at UCSF. Youth input is imperative to Huckleberry's work, so seven HWA students were invited to participate in the panel discussion and share their experiences as members of HWA.

HUCKLEBERRY WELLNESS ACADEMY - MARIN AND MARIN EDUCATION FUND FORM "THE COLLEGE ACADEMY"

This summer, Huckleberry Youth Programs' Wellness Academy - Marin and the Marin Education Fund in collaboration with Dominican University of California, will join forces to launch **The College Academy**. The goal of The College Academy is to prepare rising ninth graders to smoothly transition to high school and be more prepared to succeed. **It also serves as the introduction to the Huckleberry Wellness Academy - Marin, a comprehensive, school-to-health careers program.**

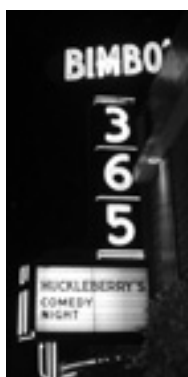
The College Academy will recruit and engage up to 25 rising freshman entering San Rafael or Terra Linda High Schools in the fall of 2009, in a four-week program on the Dominican University of California Campus in San Rafael. **Under-served youth of**



Huckleberry Wellness Academy - Marin participants during a College Day Tour at Stanford University on April 8, 2009.

color who are first generation to attend college will be targeted for recruitment.

The College Academy participants will meet each weekday afternoon and participate in a curriculum and that includes a writing and communication skills workshop, math success skills, study and organizational skills, adolescent health education and resource information, leadership and self-advocacy skills, and college and career readiness information and resources.



HUCKLEBERRY COMEDY NIGHT RAISES \$70,000 FOR HIGH-NEEDS YOUTH

On October 23, 2008, over 200 Huckleberry supporters gathered at Bimbo's 365 Club for Huckleberry's Second Biennial Comedy Night.

Special thanks to all of the event sponsors and featured comedians Will Durst, Nato Green, Bob Sarlatte, and Johnny Steele!

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 Janet and Art Wong

FIRST ANNUAL HUCKLEBERRY WINE TASTING & AUCTION RAISES \$40,000!



At right, guests Gail and Bernie Nebenzahl enjoy wine poured at the inaugural Huckleberry Wine Tasting & Auction.

Special thanks to Huckleberry Board Vice President Jerry Peters for hosting the inaugural Huckleberry Wine Tasting and Auction Event on Saturday, May 9. The event featured silent and live auctions with close to 100 auction items and a grand total of \$40,000 was raised for Huckleberry's programs! Special thanks to pouring wineries Barbour Vineyards, Barnett Vineyards, Black Stallion Winery, Esquin Imports, Expression Wines, Kendall Jackson Winery, Kingston Family Vineyard, Limerick Lane Cellars, Merryvale Vineyards, Sullivan Winery, and VJB Vineyards & Cellars. We are excited to bring this

event back next year! Thank you to everyone who attended and made this new annual Huckleberry event a success!



Host Jerry Peters, center, speaks to guests at the inaugural Huckleberry Wine Tasting & Auction.



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'S OVO Benefits Huckleberry in Late 2009!

For the sixth time, Cirque will partner with Huckleberry to help us raise much needed funds for our programs benefiting high-needs youth. Join us for Cirque's latest production OVO, which captures the teeming world of insects through acrobatics and artistry. VIP tickets are \$500, Standard Adult tickets are \$125, and Standard Youth tickets are \$100. We will be sending a Save The Date in August.

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

HUCKLEBERRY HEALTH EDUCATION

Each year, Huckleberry conducts workshops in middle and high schools reaching thousands of young people in San Francisco and Marin. Letters pour into our clinics from teachers and students who are consistently impressed and affected in positive ways by Huckleberry's Health Education team.



A Redwood High School (Marin County) student said:

Thank you for spending time with our social issues class. I am sure that our whole class benefited from this visit, but I feel that you reminded me about many things I should remember to do about relationships, sex, alcohol, and all the rest of the stuff we went over during your visit. What I benefited the most from was to remember to not pressure your partner into sex, be smart about the use of alcohol, and to always have safe sex.

A Venetia Valley K-8 School (Marin County) student said:

I believe the program is a great and very effective way of teaching teens how to make healthy choices, prevent the possible negative consequences of sex (including STDs), communicate their concerns, and ask questions.



*Dear Huckleberry Outreach Team,
Thank you so much for joining us for John O'Connell's Teen Health Fest 2009! Your participation helped link students to vital services and information that they might not have known about otherwise. One student expressed, "I never knew there were so many groups that were there just for us." Thank you for the valuable work you do in the community. We hope to see you at next year's Teen Health Fest!*

*Sincerely,
The John O'Connell High School Wellness Team
(San Francisco)*

Top Left: Huckleberry Teen Health Program staff members Tyler Holmes, Karen Colin, and Program Director Jasmine Stevenson conducting outreach in Marin.

Top Middle: Sheila Dominic, Tyler Holmes, and Jackie Davis from the Huckleberry Teen Health Program Health Education Team.

Middle Right: Huckleberry's Cole Street Clinic Health Education Team from left, Jason Martinez, Amina Choudhery, Program Director Ayesha Desai, Jessica Alegria, and Ramses Munoz.

Bottom Left: Senior Health Educator Ramses Munoz leading a health education workshop in a San Francisco middle school.

OTHER FACES OF HYP



1. Huckleberry Wellness Academy Marin Student Rocio performs an exam on a dummy patient during a tour of Dominican University of California.
2. Huckleberry Board Member Christopher Morales presents Executive Director Bruce Fisher with a \$5,000 donation from the SF Elks Lodge No. 3.
3. Russell White, Huckleberry House Residential Coordinator and his wife Aminah, at Huckleberry's Wine Tasting and Auction in May 2009.
4. Bruce Fisher, AT&T Executive Director of External Affairs, Lynn Bunim, and President of the SF School Board, Kim-Shree Maufas at the Huckleberry Wellness Academy Graduation on May 14.
5. Huckleberry's Lioness Girls group with Leadership Specialist Nzingha Shakur-Ali (fourth from left). Lioness Girls provides leadership development for young women in SF's Western Addition.
6. Huckleberry Wellness Academy - SF students (from left) Geanell, Ginger, and Mamie examining organs during a tour of the Anatomy Department at UCSF.

HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH PROGRAMS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS ROSTER

2008-2009 Fiscal Year

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Bruce Fisher, Huckleberry Youth Programs, Executive Director, Ex-Officio

LIFETIME HONORARY MEMBERS:

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Ruth Cowan

Bernie Nebenzahl

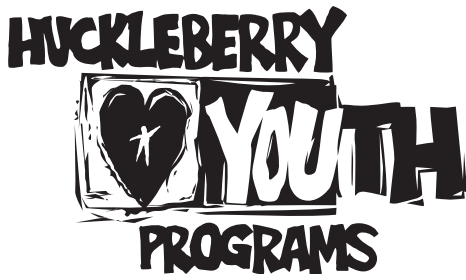
Don Rubin

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS STARTING JULY 1, 2009

Kurt Beyer, Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney

Sara Eisenberg, Attorney, Howard Rice

Rebecca Smullin, Attorney, Altshuler Berzon, LLP



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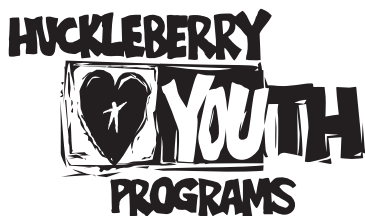
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HUCKLEBERRY YOUTH PROGRAMS

2009 NEWSLETTER



Programs:

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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's Community
Assessment and Referral Center**
121 Leavenworth Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 567-8078

MARIN SERVICES:

Huckleberry Teen Health Program
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

Newsletter Design by www.cindyp.com

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.