



At Side by Side, our mission is to walk with young people impacted by adversity, toward a future with connection and meaning.

We see our clients for the individuals they are, and how all aspects of their life experiences have impacted their behavior, emotions, and ability to learn. We provide critical and comprehensive services that honor the young person's unique needs and strengths to prevent the escalation of dangerous conditions and behaviors and set them on a positive path. We trust our young people as the experts in their own lives. By showing respect and appreciation for them at every step, we help our youth gain the skills to create and maintain supportive connections and healthy relationships in school, work, and life.



We also recognize that many of our young people, their families, and communities have been negatively impacted by biased and inequitable systems – we stand up against injustice, advocate for their rights and resources, and provide the safe space most have missed in their lives.

Since our founding in 1895 in Marin County as the San Francisco Presbyterian Orphanage and Farm – and through subsequent years as Sunny Hills Services – Side by Side has been at the forefront of best practices in child welfare, working with the most vulnerable youth in our community. Our programs use data to drive outcomes, impact and efficiency, while remaining open and responsive to the ever-evolving needs in the communities we serve.



Today, Side by Side operates in four counties – Marin, Alameda, Sonoma, and Napa – across the Bay Area, reaching nearly 2,000 children, young adults, and family members per year with much-needed services related to behavioral and mental health, early intervention in schools, LGBTQIA+ support, special education, and transitional housing for foster youth.

Board Opportunity

Side by Side is seeking candidates to join our Board of Directors, with a goal for it to better reflect the diversity of our clients and where we serve them. In particular, we are seeking board members who have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Have a particular affinity for one of our programs due to lived experience or personal connections to an aspect to the work that we do
- Reside or work the Bay Area with special appreciation given to those based in Alameda and Sonoma Counties who can help broaden our base of support in those regions (board membership has been traditionally more reflective of our Marin headquarters)
- Reflect the diversity of our staff and clients in terms of race, ethnicity, or SOGIE (sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression)
- Have a strong interest in advocating on behalf of Side by Side and the youth we serve, on community and state-wide policy measures.

Profile of the Successful Board Member

Side by Side seeks energetic board members who are committed to the mission of Side by Side, and can guide the organization in implementing its programmatic vision for change, and challenging inequities that impact our clients. Additionally, candidates must be willing and able to be strong ambassadors for Side by Side, with established connections throughout the communities we work in, who can help us build awareness among various audiences.

Successful board members are asked to support giving campaigns throughout the year, as well as fundraising events, in terms of time and/or financial commitment.

Qualifications

A passion for our mission and a commitment to support our work.

Board Responsibilities

- Act responsibly and prudently as a steward of the public trust, be an advocate for the organization in the community, and follow the organization's Governing Policies and Code of Conduct.
- Act in the best interests of Side by Side, and follow its policies on avoiding and disclosing actual or potential conflicts of interest.
- Give board meetings and other activities pertaining to Side by Side a high priority, participate actively in at least one board committee and take a leadership role in the Board's activities in line with skills and experience. Attendance in person at quarterly board meetings is required (meetings during Covid-19 safety protocols are being held via Zoom), while committee meetings may be attended in person or by teleconference.
- Acknowledge that an essential responsibility of the Board of Directors is to ensure that the organization has the resources necessary to do its essential work. As such, each board member is asked to support this responsibility by
 1. Making a total financial contribution to Side by Side's annual fund campaign and fundraising events each year, that is personally significant and one of their highest philanthropic priorities.
 2. Attend and support two or more of organization's annual fundraising events. Board members are asked to assist with solicitation of sponsors, table hosts, event ticket sales, event speakers, auction gifts, and/or wine donations.
 3. Connecting Side by Side with other individuals or corporate funders in the community to further the agency's base of support.

Board Terms

Individual Board terms are two years, and may be renewed four times up to a ten-year term limit.

For more information, visit our website at SidebySideYouth.org, or contact:

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