



OAKLAND A'S PITCHER AND HIS GIRLFRIEND HIT A HOMER FOR OUR SPACE, SUNNY HILLS' LGBTQ PROGRAM



Oakland A's pitcher Sean Doolittle, Eireann Dolan and Our Space's program director Stephanie Perron at A's Pride Night.

CEO MESSAGE



Mary Denton, CEO

The question isn't "if" trauma will occur in our lives, but when. Trauma happens to everyone to different degrees, regardless of age, gender, orientation, ethnicity, race, education or socio-economic status. It wreaks havoc on every part of our being.

The school-age children and transition-age youth (ages 5-24) we serve at Sunny Hills have all experienced significant trauma, without exception. Many have a diagnosis of PTSD—post-traumatic stress disorder. It may have been triggered by poverty, abuse, abandonment, homelessness, neglect, or domestic violence and family dysfunction. Drug or alcohol abuse, mental illness or incarceration in the family, and violence or gang activity in the community may have caused trauma, and they may themselves be the manifestations of earlier trauma.

At Sunny Hills we practice trauma-informed care (TIC), an approach that focuses on how trauma affects our clients and their responses to treatment. TIC is incorporated throughout the organization, and the question from our entire staff is no longer "What's wrong with you?" but instead "What happened to you?" We are working to integrate fully the body of knowledge about trauma into our policies and practices and to create an environment of care that respects our clients' stories, that helps them heal without suffering trauma anew, and that protects our staff from vicarious trauma and compassion-fatigue.

To learn more about trauma-informed care, two excellent resources are the National Council for Behavioral Health (thenationalcouncil.org/) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (www.samhsa.gov)

Thank you for your support.

Mary Denton, CEO

A CEREMONIAL OPENING FOR OUR NEW SONOMA COUNTY OFFICE

In early August, Sunny Hills held an inspirational and fun ribbon cutting ceremony at our new office and community center in Santa Rosa. Special guests included Congressman Mike Thompson, Sonoma County Supervisor Shirlee Zane, Sonoma County's Assistant Director of Human Services Oscar Chavez, Sunny Hills' distinguished board members and wonderful staff.

Sunny Hills' records indicate that we served our first Sonoma County young person in 1905! For more than a century we've continued to help Sonoma County's vulnerable youth to live happy, healthy, more productive lives.

Our new Santa Rosa location:

1360 North Dutton Avenue, Suite 100
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401
 Phone: 707-569-0877



Sunny Hills CEO Mary Denton with Congressman Mike Thompson and Sunny Hills Board president Bill Caroli

MARY KAYE GERSKI IS NEW CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER

Mary Kaye Gerski, a visionary administrator with more than 30 years of outstanding senior-level strategic planning, policy making and financial and program management, joined Sunny Hills in July as our new Chief Program Officer.

Mary Kaye ensures exceptional outcomes for clients, regulatory and contractual compliance, financial sustainability and the management and support of all program staff. Perhaps most importantly, she is the primary holder of the Sunny Hills mission,

and is committed to furthering our reach, so that our exceptional programs positively impact more young lives. Mary Kaye is based at the agency's San Anselmo location, but she oversees all Sunny Hills programs in five Bay Area counties.

She is a graduate of California State University (BA), and has a master's degree in Human Resource Management from Keller Graduate School of Management.

WELCOME!



THANKS TO A'S PITCHER SEAN DOOLITTLE AND HIS GIRLFRIEND EIREANN DOLAN, OUR SPACE WAS A WINNER ON PRIDE NIGHT

In June the Oakland A's had their first ever Pride Night, celebrating the Bay Area's LGBTQ community. Thanks to A's pitcher Sean Doolittle and his girlfriend Eireann Dolan, one of the night's big winners was Our Space, Sunny Hills' LGBTQ program.

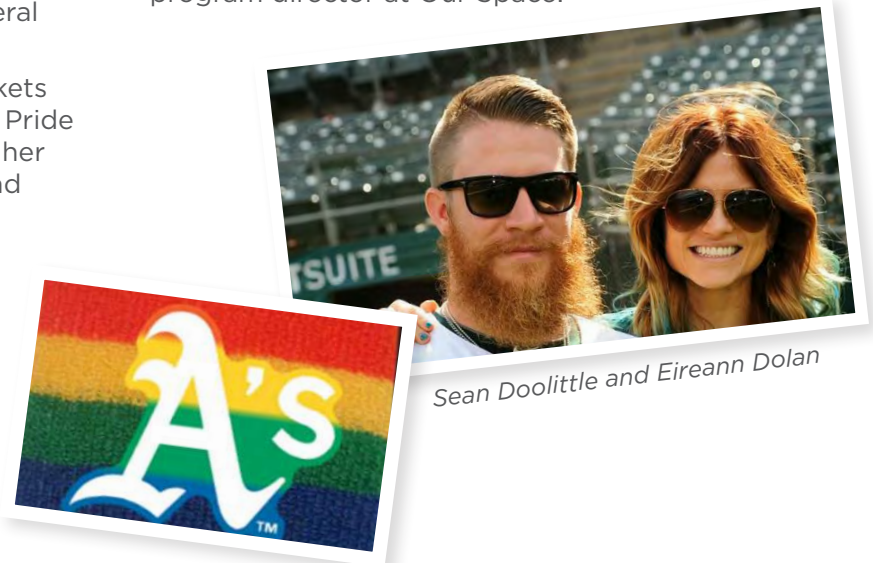
When the A's first announced Pride Night, Sean and Eireann learned that some A's season ticket holders were offended and planned to skip the game. Eireann, who was raised by two moms, came up with a plan to help fill the stadium AND raise money for several LGBTQ nonprofits.

Eireann and Sean bought back, at face value, tickets of any season ticket holder who wouldn't attend Pride Night. Eireann created a GoFundMe page where her goal was to raise \$3,000. Within five days she had raised close to \$35,000, and \$7,750 went to Our Space! Eireann also donated a Macbook Air to Our Space as well as hundreds of Pride Night tickets, so that Our Spaces' clients and friends could enjoy an evening of community and celebration.

Once Eireann and Sean's fundraising story went viral, hundreds of media outlets across the

country helped spread the word. Soon donations were coming in from everywhere. One contributor wrote to say, "I'm a lifelong NY Yankees fan, but I'm giving to this worthy cause, and on Pride Night I'll be pulling for the Oakland A's. Thank you for being inclusive and respecting all beings."

"The Our Space youth were completely blown away by the outpouring of generosity and love coming at them through Eireann and Sean's campaign. It's beautiful to watch. We're so grateful to Eireann and Sean and to all the people who donated and spread the word so that the youth at Our Space, and the LGBTQ community as a whole, got to have a Pride Night they'll never forget," said Stephanie Perron, program director at Our Space.



Sean Doolittle and Eireann Dolan

SUNNY HILLS SAYS GOODBYE TO DEAR FRIEND IRENE HUNT

Sunny Hills Services is deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friend and steadfast supporter, Irene M. Hunt. Irene was a long-term volunteer with the Greenbrae Acorns, one of Sunny Hills' most active fundraising guilds. As champions of the Sunny Hills' mission, Irene and her husband Pat worked tirelessly to help disadvantaged and emotionally challenged children have a better life.

Irene's name and legacy will forever endure at Sunny Hills Services and on our campus, where the Irene M. Hunt School of Marin stands as a testament to the opportunities she provided for hundreds of vulnerable young people throughout our community.

Thank you Irene, it was an honor to know you.



Pat & Irene Hunt at the official dedication of the Irene M. Hunt School of Marin, on the Sunny Hills' campus.



Sunny Hills
SERVICESSM

Better and Brighter Futures

Sunny Hills Services
300 Sunny Hills Drive
San Anselmo, CA 94960
(415) 457-3200
www.sunnyhillsservices.org

The mission of Sunny Hills Services is to help vulnerable children, youth and their families use their strengths to develop healthy relationships and fulfilling lives.

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WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

TO DONATE ONLINE, PLEASE GO TO:

<https://www.charity-pay.com/d/donation.asp?CID=6>

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Contact us at emathern@sunnyhillsservices.org or call 415.457.3200 x118 with questions!