Don’t Stop Believing

Former Irene M. Hunt School student deals himself a “better-hand”

By the age of six, Trevor felt the odds were not in his favor. He lived with his mother, but due to her drug abuse, he was forced to feed, clothe and care for himself, and sometimes his mother. In his younger years, Trevor witnessed things no child should see, such as watching his mother inject illegal drugs. These traumatic experiences resulted in severe behavior issues for Trevor, so in first grade, he was moved to The Irene M. Hunt School of Marin, a non-public K-12 day school that specializes in educating children and youth who struggle with acute social and emotional issues. He remained there for 10 years. Continued on page 3 »
Sunny Hills serves children and youth that have endured more disruption, neglect or abuse in their young lives than most of us could ever imagine. They may have behavioral problems, struggle with mental health issues or be homeless. When it comes to helping youth, our staff of outstanding professionals is tenacious – they provide treatment options that support young people in healing from past and present trauma as they learn new beliefs and behaviors and develop the resilience and coping skills to live a better life. We empower children, youth and their families to overcome life’s challenges so they can learn to thrive.

As an organization that focuses on behavioral health, our services address each youth’s individual needs and strengths, in a range of appropriate settings, including schools, community organizations and homes. Our goal is the emotional, social and functional well-being of our clients.

INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT
We recognize that youth should have a say in their own lives, and we partner with them, and their families when possible, in planning and carrying out their treatment and services.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
School-age children (ages 5-17) who can't function in a traditional public school due to their behavior issues attend our Irene M. Hunt School, where they receive an education while their needs are professionally and compassionately addressed.

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
Youth who are aging out of the foster care system or have been in the juvenile justice system learn daily living and social skills, while also receiving behavioral treatment and other support in meeting their academic, work and relationship goals, as they prepare for adulthood and greater independence.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
We provide early prevention and intervention programs in schools and in the community, allowing youth to develop coping skills and resilience needed to avoid self destructive decisions and behaviors, including gang involvement.

In 2016, our 122nd year, we served close to 1400 children and youth, in addition to hundreds of family members or caregivers across Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa and Sonoma counties.

For detailed information on our programs and services, visit www.sunnyhillservices.org
President Obama created Champions of Change, a program that celebrates ordinary people who do extraordinary things in their communities across the country; to share their accomplishments so that others will follow their lead.

In May 2015 Sokhom Mao, Sunny Hills’ Community Engagement Officer, and former Sunny Hills client, was honored at the White House as a Champion of Change for his “courage, resilience, and contributions and his commitment to furthering his education.”

On Monday December 5th, Sokhom returned to the White House for a celebration of all those who were recognized as Champions of Change during the Obama administration. All of us at Sunny Hills couldn’t be prouder of Sokhom, who demonstrates and personifies the agency’s commitment to providing current and former foster youth with programs and services that lead to greater opportunities and more successful lives.
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.

MARK YOUR 2017 CALENDAR AND JOIN US!

JANUARY 19
Screening of Spotlight, 2016 Oscar winner for Best Picture, with commentary by Spotlight’s producer and SHS Board Member, Blye Pagon Faust. At the Rafael Theater in San Rafael

JANUARY 23
A Night at the Market, at Swan’s Market in Oakland

MARCH 24
Sam’s Sparkler, at Sam’s Anchor Café in Tiburon

JUNE 19
Bank Of Marin Golf Tournament, at Meadow Club in Fairfax

OCTOBER 7
Reach for the Stars Gala, location to be announced

*More info at www.sunnyhillservices.org/Events

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