

FALL 2018

SidebySideYouth.org



FORMERLY SUNNY HILLS SERVICES/BAYC

The mission of Side by Side is to walk with youth impacted by adversity toward a future with connection and meaning.



Board of Directors

Peter Breen, *President*
Jay Cahan, *Treasurer*
Barbara Carbone
Dave Egan
Cynthia Gregory, *Vice President*
Elizabeth Kulavic, *Past President*
Joy Phoenix
Suzie Pollak
Dale Satake
Howard Schomer, *Secretary*
Jacqueline Spielberg

Senior Leadership

Mary Denton, *CEO*
Karen Bischoff, *Director of Property & Risk Management*
Mary Kaye Gerski, *Chief Program Officer*
Rebecca Hathorn, *Executive Director, Alameda County*
Jaimie Knight, *Director of Human Resources*
Noelle R. Moss, *Director of Development*
Stacey Navins, *Chief Operating Officer*
Amber Whiteside, *Director of Communications*
Larry Woodland, *Director of Clinical Practice*

Side by Side
300 Sunny Hills Drive, Bldg. 5
San Anselmo, CA 94960
Tel: 415-457-3200
Fax: 415-456-4679

@sidebyside4kids
 sidebysideyouth



LETTER FROM MARY

Dear friends,

It's been a whirlwind since the July launch of our new brand Side by Side, and we've been so thrilled by the positive response from our community.

And thank you to everyone that joined us for the Reach for the Stars gala on September 22. It was an incredible night, with guests decked out in Deco-era costumes and energy at an all-time high, resulting in a banner year in terms of fundraising, bringing in close to \$200,000 in direct support of our young people with critical services like substance abuse treatment, behavioral and mental health, special education, and therapeutic housing.

Housing in particular is such a pervasive challenge in the Bay Area, and impacts our organization in so many ways – in addition to our specific housing programs, Real Alternatives and Esser House, many of our other clients are marginally housed and/or struggle with periodic homelessness.

It's something I think about especially at this time of year, as we head into the colder months and holiday season. Your support of Side by Side makes a big difference. We also accept in-kind gifts such as furniture, kitchen, and home items for our housing programs and drop-in community centers.

You can also give directly to one of our young people through our holiday giving program – you'll find more about this in the following pages, or visit: sidebysideyouth.org/holiday-giving.

With gratitude,

Mary Denton, CEO

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS



BEHAVIORAL & MENTAL HEALTH

Community Counseling (M·A·S·N)

Spectrum of community-based clinical services – from individual and group therapy to crisis stabilization and medication management – based on the specific needs and diagnosis of the young person.

TAY Space (M)

Drop-in center and full service support for youth ages 16-25 (transitional age youth, or TAY) who struggle with severe mental, behavioral, and/or emotional disorders – compounded, for some, by homelessness – while navigating towards a self-sufficient adulthood.

EARLY INTERVENTION

YouThrive (M·S)

Community-based early intervention program for 11-18 year olds to prevent and divert the escalation of troubling behaviors such as failing grades, truancy, gang activity, and drug and alcohol abuse.

LGBTQ SUPPORT

Our Space (A)

Community center with drop-in hours, mental health services, and case management for LGBTQ youth ages 11-23, many of whom live in poverty, are homeless, or are impacted by the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY

ReStart (M)

Residential and after school substance abuse treatment program for adolescents ages 13-17 that blends recovery, mental health, and daily coping skills through individual and group therapy, behavioral interventions, parent education, adventure therapy, and recreation.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Irene M. Hunt School (M)

K-12 day school for students with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges that cannot be met in the public school system, providing a therapeutic environment that equips students to thrive academically and socially.

YOUTH JUSTICE

ReFocus (S)

Community-based program that addresses the mental health needs of juvenile offenders ages 12-19, and facilitates restorative justice practices that benefit the young person, their family, and the community.

THERAPEUTIC HOUSING

Esser House (A)

Short-term crisis intervention and treatment for especially vulnerable populations including commercially sexually exploited youth and LGBTQ identified youth, who are involved in the foster care or probation systems.

Real Alternatives (A)

Continuum of transitional housing opportunities for current and former foster youth and/or those on probation ages 16-24, providing a safe, supportive environment for them to learn to live independently.





PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Irene M. Hunt School (M)

K-12 day school for students with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges that cannot be met in the public school system, providing a therapeutic environment that equips students to thrive academically and socially.



CLIENT & PROVIDER PROFILE

Zach and West

Zach first arrived at Irene M. Hunt School over nine years ago, when he was in kindergarten. At that point he'd already been through multiple schools, and believed the message that he didn't belong in "normal" school. His English teacher, West ("Mr. West") has helped convince him otherwise.

Here's how they describe their relationship, to each other:

Zach: Since we first met, you seemed to have an answer to every question I had. When the idea of transferring to a public school was first brought to my attention, it was scary. It was pressing on my mind and you and I had a conversation and you told me about your



Daniel, Ben, and Deanna

Deanna and Family

Life has a funny way of coming full circle sometimes. When Deanna and Daniel first met on a blind date, Daniel was living in an apartment complex on Sunny Hills Drive, just down the street from what was then Sunny Hills Services. Today, the couple has two sons, one of whom is a student at Side by Side's Irene M. Hunt School on the same Sunny Hills Drive. We caught up with Deanna one morning to find out what brought her family to Side by Side and what our programs mean to them.

Side by Side: Can you tell me a little about your background and maybe a favorite family activity?

Deanna: Dan is a teacher at Drake High School and I am a corporate lawyer. We have two boys, 13 and 11. We love family camping trips and watching America's Got Talent.

SBS: What brought you to Side by Side?

D: Our kids were both in the Ross Valley School District and we knew that our younger son Ben had challenges. He had a one-on-one aide for third and fourth grade, but as school became harder, Ben

started developing avoidance behaviors including running out of the classroom to hide. He was evaluated by a clinical psychologist and the Hunt School was recommended to us. I feel so lucky that Hunt had a spot for him because the only other possibility at the time was a school down on the Peninsula, which would have been a logistical nightmare. Ben finished out fourth grade and recently completed fifth grade at Hunt. Our hope is that he is able to transition back to mainstream school at the end of sixth /beginning of seventh grade.

SBS: Can you tell me about Ben's experience with the Hunt School?

D: At first Ben didn't buy into the program. Just getting him out of the car in the morning took forever. But after many conversations at home and positive re-enforcement at school, something clicked for him. Now his teacher, Miss Chloe, says that he is cheerful when he comes to class and is engaged in the work they're doing. He progressed so much over the last year – I'm incredibly proud of him and credit the Hunt School for offering a safe, supportive environment that allows Ben to learn the coping skills he needs and gain the confidence he deserves.

SBS: And is this why you've become increasingly involved in Side by Side?

D: Yes, I want to give back to the school and support not only my son and his classmates, but all the people that Side by Side serves. My employer matches our donations to Side by Side making our contributions that much more impactful. I have also really enjoyed supporting the organization by being a part of the Reach for the Stars gala committee and attending the gala.

SBS: What surprised you the most about Hunt School and what do you wish other people knew?

D: Hunt School students come from all walks of life. I found it so comforting that the kids – no matter their background – were all similarly situated in the classroom. Ben was no longer the odd one out and, as parents, we no longer felt so isolated and alone in the challenges that we were facing. I wish that there was more awareness in the community about the Hunt School, and all the other services that Side by Side offers. We feel so thankful every day that we had a local option for our son, and one that has helped him in so many ways. He really acts like a different kid and we have the staff at the Hunt School to thank for that.

high school experience and how you made friends that you still see to this day and it inspired me to start to integrate into a mainstream school. This past semester I started the process of going to a public high school for a few periods a day and it has been fantastic. I can't wait to make many friends and do everything we talked about. None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for the amazing support and encouragement from you.

West: I wonder if our campus already seems a little bit smaller to you? After we both learned that you would be starting the process of transferring to your district school, you looked around the classroom and asked what it would be like to leave our campus after so many years. I said, "I think you'll come back, and this place is going to look a whole lot smaller." At your new campus you'll read dozens of new stories, learn bigger words, and when you come back to tell me about it, I know our school will seem even smaller, because you've grown up. You've grown into a thoughtful, funny, and intelligent young man. With a little support from us and heaps of hard work from you, you've grown out of the things that brought you to us in the first place. And before you know it, you'll be graduating high school and moving on to even bigger things. We're all so proud, and we can't wait to see what big things come next.

You can see more of Zach and West, and other client and provider pairs, in our video at sidebysideyouth.org.



REACH FOR THE STARS



Top: Kristen D'Offay, Robyn Luning, Shelley Cahan, Beverley Domet, Michell Kawaja, Kary Chendo; Chris and Julie Dolan; Vernon and Darlene Goins
Bottom: Gala entertainment; Senator Mike McGuire; Jonas Gunawan, Kate Gunawan, Tom Cadden, Kristen Swann, Jac Cadden

THANK YOU!

REACH FOR THE STARS WAS AN ENORMOUS SUCCESS,
 RAISING CLOSE TO \$200K IN SUPPORT OF SIDE BY SIDE'S YOUNG PEOPLE.
 WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO OUR GENEROUS GUESTS AND SPONSORS.

STAR GAZER SPONSORS



SHOOTING STAR SPONSORS



TWINKLING STAR SPONSORS

Kaiser Permanente ♦ Sutter Novato Community Hospital

TABLE HOSTS

Deanna Brock & Daniel Freeman ♦ Mary Denton & Monte Deignan
 Ginger & Dave Egan ♦ Anne & Matthew Golden ♦ Jennifer L. Gotti
 The Mattaja Families ♦ Jacqueline & David Spielberg ♦ The Lynn & Weinstein Families

SPECIAL THANKS

Mendy Calegari/Marin Roto-Rooter ♦ Lydia & Tony Cameron
 Julie & Chris Dolan ♦ Eventful Events, Inc. ♦ Marin Country Mart
 Montecito Market Place ♦ Marilyn Rich ♦ Ricki & Ray Syufy ♦ The Schultz Foundation

WAYS TO GIVE: WORKPLACE GIVING

Did you know you can double – or even triple – your gift to Side by Side by taking advantage of your employer’s matching gift program? Contact your HR department to find out if that’s an option for you and help make the journey a little easier for the youth we serve.

Learn more at sidebysideyouth.org/workplace-giving or contact **Noelle Moss** at 415-457-3200 ext. 114 or nmoss@sidebysideyouth.org.



GIVE A HOLIDAY GIFT TO A SIDE BY SIDE YOUTH

Holidays can be a stressful time for all of us, and especially for the young people that Side by Side serves. Many of our clients are from low-income families where gifts are a significant strain on the family budget or they are former foster youth living on their own limited resources. Side by Side hopes to brighten our young people’s holiday season by ensuring that each has a present to unwrap.

Want to help by purchasing a gift? The following businesses have generously offered to showcase our clients’ holiday wish lists – stop in during the indicated time frames to pick up a tag and fulfill one or more wishes!

Book Passage

51 Tamal Vista Blvd, Corte Madera

Wishes available: 11/15 – 12/17

Marin Country Mart

2257 Larkspur Landing Circle, Larkspur

Wishes available: 11/29 – 12/24

Zocalo Coffeehouse

645 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro

Wishes available: 11/1 – 12/14

*Please return the gifts by December 15 to ensure that we can get them to our clients in time.



Additionally, Side by Side clients will be represented in the Sonoma County Secret Santa program. Visit www.secretssantanow.org to see a list of participating Sonoma County businesses or “Adopt a Heart” online 11/1 – 12/24.

Also, clients from our Real Alternatives therapeutic housing program have their own Amazon Wishlist – search for “SideBySide” in the Find a List section of Amazon. Available 11/15 – 12/7.

We are grateful to the Sausalito Nursery School, Temple Beth Shalom in San Leandro, and Kids Bike Lane for privately supporting our holiday giving program.

Learn more at sidebysideyouth.org/holiday-giving or contact Patty Lufano at 415.457-3200 ext. 179 or plufano@sidebysideyouth.org.



300 Sunny Hills Drive, Bldg. 5
San Anselmo, CA 94960
Formerly Sunny Hills Services

Return Service Requested

POSTAGE
PAID



SAVE *the* DATE



MARIN
valentine's
BALL

LOVE LIFTS US UP

**23rd Marin Valentine's Ball on
Saturday, February 9, 2019**
