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Braun and Grant Grover Day Treatment Programs

Sunny Hills Services is delighted to announce that Grant Grover, our day treatment program for elementary and middle school students, is joining Braun Day Treatment Program for high school students, on the Braun campus in northern San Rafael.

“This move has some distinct advantages,” explains Jessie Blake, North Bay Regional Director. “Two programs on one campus means we can share staff with ease and optimize oversight for program managers. Continuity with the facility, clinicians and teachers is beneficial for kids who transition from Grant Grover to Braun.”

Jeannie Scott and Kim Connolly, who oversee the programs, have worked together for decades. Their proximity will allow them to work even more closely, sharing best practices and resources. “The facility is terrific,” continues Blake. “There is much more space per kid, and it is really student friendly. We’re especially excited about that aspect of the move.”

Day treatment is a highly structured therapeutic program that is integrated into the students’ standard academics. Activities include group therapy, therapeutic play, recreation and art therapy. Blake explains “The primary goal of day treatment is improved social functioning. By putting kids into a highly staffed situation where they receive continuous prompts, we help them improve their relationships with adults and their peers.”

The day treatment classrooms are operated in conjunction with the Marin County Office of Education, which supplies the classroom teacher. Sunny Hills provides the clinicians and milieu therapists who work with students throughout their entire day.

Students in day treatment have not been successful in public schools or special day classes. They have mental health diagnoses, with a large range of psychological and behavioral issues. Mood disorders and severe ADHD are common, and in addition to their primary issues, many day treatment students have secondary problems such as learning challenges. Individualized academic plans and the high level of staffing deliver an unprecedented degree of support to each student, helping them to succeed academically and socially.

This level of support is also helpful to the students’ families, says Blake. “Because these kids are living at home, we have a huge focus on making life function more smoothly there too. When things are working at home, they can work better at school.”

Grant Grover and Braun staff and kids are excited about their expanded community. Please join us in welcoming the Grant Grover students to their new campus home!

For more information about Braun and Grant Grover, please visit www.sunnyhillsservices.org/Programs and click on “Marin”.

A message from the CEO



Dear Friends,

Thank you for all your kind words of support and encouragement over the last few months as I have settled into my role as CEO of Sunny Hills. It's been a real whirlwind, offering many exciting challenges.

In response to the unpredictable funding environment in which we currently operate, both public and private, I have restructured and streamlined our senior management team, putting me in closer touch with program managers and line staff who do the face-to-face work with our clients. It's been heartwarming to solidify and expand relationships with our staff and clients. Putting faces to the names and hearing their stories directly underscores the very real and positive impact we have on so many young lives.

As we finish the last year of a significant three-year strategic plan implementation, we will be starting a new strategic planning cycle, including staff and board, to refine our vision and develop new initiatives to address areas of need. I have met with a wide range of stakeholders in Sunny Hills' three major counties of operation - Marin, Sonoma and Alameda - and will take many new insights forward into our planning process. Community engagement, collaboration and finding more ways to leverage our assets and resources will be the hallmarks of this process.

Springtime also saw a flurry of fundraising activity. Our Sunny Hills Services Council gala dinner at Cavallo Point, on a picture perfect, warm and clear day in late April, was a great success and memorable evening. In June, the 16th annual Bank of Marin Golf Tournament benefiting Sunny Hills was equal in every way, offering a great day of golf and camaraderie at the Meadow Club. A heartfelt note of gratitude to both of the committees that made those events a reality. Additionally, our tireless Guilds held numerous events, including the unique and unforgettable French Laundry tour - many thanks to all involved.

I am also very pleased to welcome Janet Wilks as our new Director of Development and Communications. Growing up in Marin and familiar with Sunny Hills, Janet has hit the ground running. I hope you all have the chance to meet her in the near future.

I appreciate your interest in Sunny Hills, and am truly grateful for the support of our communities. You make the difference.

Warm regards,

Mary Denton
Chief Executive Officer

And introducing...



Sunny Hills Services is pleased to announce the appointment of Janet Wilks to the position of Director of Development and Communications.

Janet will guide development and communications while continuing Sunny Hills' rich history of personal, community, corporate and foundation relationships, which support the wide array of programs.

Janet is a Marin County native with more than 15 years experience in development. Most recently Janet served for seven years as the Director of Development and Communications at Salesian, a college preparatory high school located in inner city Richmond. In 2008-09, she led her team to raise more than \$1.7 million in development income resulting in significant increases in scholarships and program funding.

Janet has an extensive background in event orchestration and directed significant advances in communications for the high school. She was the first development officer for two East Bay programs, the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program and Elder Abuse Prevention. Janet has also served as a grant writing and grant administration consultant for after-school programs and a documentary filmmaking company.

Planned Giving, Post-its and Rolling Luggage

A friend of Sunny Hills recently shared an idea that brought to mind inventions like post-its or wheels on luggage. So simple and obvious, why did it take us so long!

The idea - Change the beneficiary designation on our 401k's and/or 403b's to include Sunny Hills Services. A few minutes on-line can improve the impact of our savings through tax benefits and help create better and brighter futures for Sunny Hills children. You are invited to share abundantly.

Save the Date

Greenbrae Guild's Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon

Please join the Greenbrae Guild on Tuesday, October 12 at Deer Park Villa for what is sure to be another spectacular afternoon of fun, food and fashion! Anne's Secret Hang-ups in Novato is once again providing the lovely fall fashions.



BAYC: Reaching more young people than ever before

For more than thirty years, BAYC has helped emotionally traumatized young people heal and is reaching more young people than ever before.

Transitional housing programs-plus (THP-plus) are offered by service providers throughout the state to youth who have 'aged out' of the child welfare system. Such programs provide transitional housing opportunities and assistance with achieving self-sufficiency for former foster youth aged 18-24.

Through the recent expansion of BAYC mental health services, youth who graduate from THP-plus programs are now able to continue receiving mental health services from highly skilled BAYC clinicians. By accessing these after-care mental health services, graduates can continue to work with the same clinicians they have learned to trust.

Miranda is one such graduate. Throughout her two years in the THP-plus program, she worked hard to overcome profound mental health challenges; she experienced thought and expression disorders, was chaotic and deeply depressed, and struggling to parent her young daughter Ava. Miranda is one of many foster youth who would have benefitted significantly from a lengthier stay in a supportive THP-plus environment, but the state-mandated program limit is two years. Fortunately, through BAYC's newly expanded after-care mental health treatment services for program graduates, Miranda was able to continue with her trusted clinicians.

Miranda and Ava struggled on leaving the THP-plus program. "This is not a story with an immediate happy ending," explained BAYC's clinical director Marsha Vaughn. Without the supportive housing of THP-plus, Miranda and Ava found themselves essentially homeless, couch surfing among friends as they sought a more stable living solution. Miranda's anger and stress management, though vastly improved, still surfaced in situations like job interviews. Her parenting and organizational skills had grown tremendously while under the care and

guidance of BAYC staff, but in the real world Miranda would sometimes become overwhelmed. "There are so many stumbling blocks within the system that make perfect happy endings harder for these youth," said Vaughn.

Fortunately, Miranda has been able to continue working on a weekly basis with Emma, the clinician who helped her come so far during her two years at BAYC. The relationship that they have developed has helped Miranda to face her mental health challenges and begin the hard work of tackling them when faced with real life situations and not just within the relative safety of her THP-plus program. Emma has given her practical support with things like job applications and considering education options for her daughter. At the same time assisting Miranda in managing more complex issues such as her disorganized thinking, speech disorders, depression and anger management.

With Emma's help, Miranda has managed to land her first job. She has enrolled Ava in kindergarten, and is actively seeking a more permanent housing situation. Miranda has been successful in staying on top of her depression and moods, as she becomes more skillful in managing her mental health.

BAYC's clinicians are highly skilled, with a remarkable degree of mental health expertise. The relationships that they develop with youth in their care are profound, both in their depth and impact. With BAYC's mental health program expansion, those relationships are now a bridge for young adults as they make the often-challenging transition from one program to another, or out of programs they have completed. We look forward to seeing many more success stories like Miranda's.

For more information about BAYC and Sunny Hills' programs for transitional-age youth like Miranda, please visit www.sunnyhillsservices.org/programs.php



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

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The mission of Sunny Hills Services is to transform young lives by giving hope and by teaching skills that enable our clients to face their challenges, develop their strengths and lead productive and satisfying lives.

Sunny Hills Services Council - Spring Gala 2010



The Cavallo Point backdrop of the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco glistening across the Bay, graced the Sunny Hills 2010 Gala. On a sparkling and delightfully warm April evening, guests enjoyed the lively music of Clay Bell and the sumptuous fare of Cavallo Point.



Our many generous benefactors supported Sunny Hill's teen programs

through silent and live auctions, event underwriting and Fund-a-Need bidding.

We most gratefully acknowledge the enthusiasm, creativity and hard work of the Sunny Hills Services Council event committee who made this extraordinary evening a resounding success. Thank you, Rhonda Shipley, Suzi Salmen and Jamie Behrendt!

A hole-in-one for Sunny Hills



A day on the greens at the Meadow Club doesn't get much better than the 16th annual Bank of Marin Golf Tournament which benefited Sunny Hills Services.



Rich Walcoff, Sports Director KGO Radio, was our celebrity host for the day and acted as auctioneer for the live auction and tribute bidding honoring Sunny Hills' recently deceased, long-time friend and benefactor Phyllis Cope.

Many thanks to the event committee members and congratulations to everyone on a successful day.



For more information on these events, email events@sunnyhillsservices.org or call (415) 457-3200 ext. 115.