



Sunny Hills
SERVICESSM
Better and Brighter Futures



I'm Janey. I'm smart and artistic and I am
"severely emotionally disturbed." Look on page 3. I wrote my story for you.

A Message from our CEO



- Mary Denton

Over the last eight months, a team of Sunny Hills Services board members and staff worked to create a strategic plan to guide our path in the next several years. It had been several years since our last strategic review, and the last decade has seen the environment for child welfare

services change significantly. Our program model evolved to allow us to meet the needs of youth, teens and young adults at home, in schools and in a variety of community settings, including transitional housing programs. At the same time, Sunny Hills expanded its geographic reach into the North Bay and East Bay through a merger and program growth.

Our planning process was timely given the upheaval and uncertainty in public policy and funding for child welfare services. It is vital that we ready ourselves to partner effectively with county and community-based organizations to ensure that we are doing everything we can to meet the needs of vulnerable young people in our communities.

Our vision is that all children and youth we serve have the resources, support and skills to develop socially, emotionally and behaviorally along a healthy, age-appropriate pathway—a pathway that will allow them ultimately to thrive as adults and to nurture the next generation of young people.

This vision inspires and motivates us, guides our programming and defines our mission. It helps us identify where there are unmet needs, and where we can do more to prevent vulnerable children and young people from needing more intensive and more expensive services, now or in the future. It helps us continuously evaluate our programs and improve outcomes for our clients and their families. And it helps us engage our communities to support us in making that vision a reality.

As we conclude this planning process, we realize that we have come full circle to our roots as an organization deeply embedded in the communities we serve. We are doing what we have done for over a century – helping vulnerable young people and their families find a pathway to better and brighter futures for themselves and their communities.

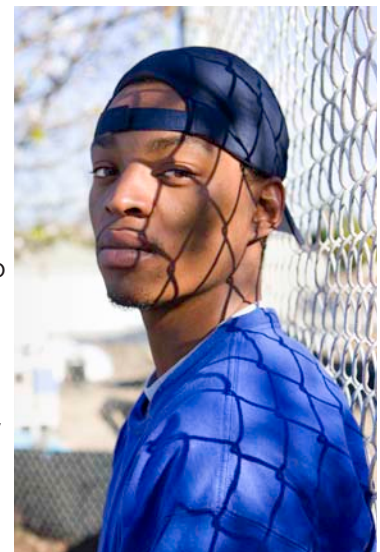
Marin Program Expansion

In response to a growing need for gang prevention and intervention services for youth in Marin County, Sunny Hills Services has expanded the Community Engagement and Youth Development (CEYD) program to serve youth in the Novato Unified School District. Sunny Hills Services currently operates a successful CEYD program in Sonoma County that provides some 500 youth with a continuum of gang-prevention, intervention, outreach and education services.

Recent highly publicized gang violence in Novato has raised awareness and attention to the reality of gang presence in Marin County. The City of Novato has called on the community to increase efforts in preventing the expansion of gang activity, with one of their strategic priorities being to “increase public safety through prevention and intervention.” The Marin CEYD program will help meet this community need, providing alternatives to gang life for youth.

CEYD comprises two essential and complementary components – “Community Engagement” and “Youth Development.”

Community Engagement services include gang-awareness and capacity-building workshops, training sessions and other presentations targeting a diverse range of community members in order to develop a strategy to respond to the gang problems in the region. On April 21, the first Marin County presentation was held with approximately 75 attendees that included the Marin County District Attorney, Undersheriff, Head of Probation, other law enforcement and community members. Discussions are underway to schedule the next Marin community presentation.



The Youth Development services began in May at Hill Middle School in Novato and will expand to San Jose and Sinaloa Middle Schools in the fall. School-based services include gang re-direction youth groups that incorporate anger management and life skills training designed to help youth become more involved in their education, personal development, and community.

For more information or to make a donation to support this program, please visit the Sunny Hills website at sunnyhillsservices.org.



Janey's Story

My name is Janey. I'm nine years old and in fourth grade. I'm smart even though I didn't learn to read until last year. I used to live in a car with my mama and her boyfriend. We looked in garbage and at the back of restaurants to find food. No one taught me school stuff. There were scary people who yelled at us and tried to hit my mama or me. Sometimes even my mama acted wild. She died last year from using methamphetamines. I learned how to spell that word. I live with a foster family now. It's nice not to live in a car and be hungry and have my mama sick. But I miss her.

I can also draw beautiful animals - like gazelles and fruit bats. I can draw your face, too, if you can sit still for awhile. My drawing will make you laugh because it will really look like you. I can do all of these things on a good day. But some days don't go like this. That is because I am severely emotionally disturbed. That's the name of it. I had to copy that. I don't really know how to spell it.

On bad days I feel afraid of the sound of people running, of the school bus, of the hills ... of everything. Sometimes I cry and can't stop. Sometimes I get mad at all of the world that scares me and I try to throw my school desk or books or hit anyone who talks to me. On those days, I don't really want to be alive.

At MAC I have more good days than before. The teachers are nice to me, even when I am all dark. I am learning to be gentle to other kids who are dark sometimes, too. I think someday I will feel better and maybe laugh every morning.

At Sunny Hills Services' Marin Academic Center - fondly referred to as MAC - we operate a school for children from kindergarten through eighth grades who are 'severely emotionally disturbed' (SED). Nestled in the hills of San Anselmo, Marin County, on the site where the original Sunny Hills orphanage opened in 1895, MAC provides academic and therapeutic behavior services for some 20 students who come from four counties.

The SED designation encompasses a range of diagnoses which include high functioning autism, depression, oppositional defiant disorder, bipolar disorder and substance abuse, to name some. Though psychiatric diagnoses are complex and varied, there is a common focus in the behavior and academic plans developed by MAC staff. Highly individualized care and plans are hallmarks of Sunny Hills programs as is our commitment to engaging family and working with our clients using a 'strength-based' therapeutic approach. Children, youth and families that engage with Sunny Hills are provided services that are informed by evidence-based practices and have a track record of positive outcomes.

MAC is one of an array of Sunny Hills Services programs in the Bay Area helping children, youth and families. If you would like to help Janey and other children at MAC to achieve better and brighter futures, contact Janet Wilks in our Development Office at 415-457-3200 ext 114 or jwilks@sunnyhillsservices.org.



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The mission of Sunny Hills Services is to engage vulnerable children and youth, enrich their connection with family and community and empower them to lead healthy, rewarding lives.

Calendar of Events

Sept 17 Saturday - Wine Women & Shoes

Nov 4 Friday - Sam's Sparkler - Sam's Anchor Café

**We gratefully acknowledge the following
sponsors of our 17th Annual Golf Tournament**



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Saturday September 17, 2011

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Lourdeaux Estate

Ross, CA

Be there. Be Fabulous!

Buy tickets now:

winewomenandshoes.com/sunnyhillsservices