



**For Immediate Release**

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**AHEAD Program Gives a Boost to BAYC's Housing Supported Housing Program**

*providing former foster youth opportunities for successful transitions to adulthood*

**Hayward—November 3, 2009---** The Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco (the Bank) recently announced that it has awarded BAYC a \$10,000 Housing and Economic Assistance for Development (AHEAD) Program grant for the benefit of its Supported Housing Program (SHP) for former foster youth ages 18-24. The Charles Schwab Bank, an FHLB member financial institution, served as BAYC's sponsor for the AHEAD grant.

"This award will help improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable members of our community. BAYC is grateful to the Charles Schwab Bank and especially, Julia T. Brown, Esq, Vice President and CRA Officer, for championing our request for support," says BAYC Executive Director, Josh Leonard.

This grant represents one of 33 AHEAD grants awarded and will provide much-needed financial support for BAYC's Supported Housing Program. SHP provides supported apartment living for former foster youth ages 18-24 who are either homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. For SHP clients, a 100% rental subsidy is provided initially, and then gradually decreased over a period of two years until youth are able to pay 100% of the rent. BAYC also provides food vouchers and emergency financial assistance to provide for the youths' basic needs until they are able to achieve self sufficiency. Educational counseling and tutoring are provided to all residents, in addition to life skills training to teach youth how to make informed decisions with regard to housing, money management, education, and employment

"The Bank established the AHEAD Program to support programs and initiatives that will have a lasting impact on our communities," says Marietta Núñez, Vice President, Community Lending, at the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco. "We believe now is not the time to pull back from exploring new ventures and thoughtful proposals or from helping community organizations replicate successful models from other regions. We are pleased that these grants encourage our members and their nonprofit partners to embrace innovative approaches to promoting community stability and economic achievement in the communities they serve."

AHEAD provides funding for initiatives that foster strong communities and stimulate economic development by producing housing, social services, or other benefits for low- to moderate-income households; creating or preserving jobs; or facilitating public or private infrastructure projects. The AHEAD Program is funded annually at the discretion of the Bank's Board of Directors, which doubled the amount of funding available for AHEAD in 2009 in response to strong demand from members and their community partners. The Bank reviewed 145 grant applications requesting a total of \$6.2 million before selecting the winners. More detail about the 33 projects receiving 2009 AHEAD grants is available on [fhlsf.com](http://fhlsf.com).

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**About BAYC**

Bay Area Youth Centers (BAYC) operates as the East Bay division of Sunny Hills Services and works with youth ages 14-24 who are emancipating from the foster care system. BAYC's programs are designed to support successful transitions to adulthood by helping young people to develop positive relationships, healthy lifestyles, independent living skills, and the achievement of educational goals. BAYC programs include supported and transitional housing programs, a group home, a housing program for foster youth who are pregnant or have children. Each of BAYC's programs includes integrated mental health services and a healthy dose of adult encouragement to ensure these youth have the opportunity they deserve to reach their full potential. For more information about BAYC, visit the agency online at [www.bayareayouthcenters.org](http://www.bayareayouthcenters.org) or [www.sunnyhillsservices.org](http://www.sunnyhillsservices.org).