

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES WILL EXPAND SERVICES TO TARGETED, UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

*Agency seeks funding and partnerships to expand services for veterans and transition age youth*

*By Jim Welsh, MSW, President & CEO*

This spring, our Board of Directors and staff concluded a dynamic strategic planning process. With the expert guidance of Jonathan Chadwick, Senior Vice President, Corporate Controller, of Cisco Systems, we set out to create a plan that would set the agency in a clear direction for its seventh decade of service and establish the road map to facilitate the fulfillment of our objectives.

The over-arching goals we will be pursuing over the next several years are intended to deepen our community impact by strengthening the agency's operations, expanding our capacity, and leveraging our clinical expertise. Here are a few of these goals and the steps we have taken so far to advance them:

### To increase our partnerships and collaborations for the benefit of the community.

- We are partnering with the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center to increase mental health and counseling services for low-income youth between the ages of 16 and 25 who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning.

- As participants in the local American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services (AFES) committee, we are engaged in collaborative efforts to address the tremendous needs of veterans and their families. In early October, we became eligible to accept the military's health insurance.

### To grow our Endowment Fund.

- We formally launched our Endowment Fund and Legacy Circle this spring. Donations to our Endowment Fund help to build a sustaining source of funding for our services. We continue efforts to inform our supporters of this way to contribute to the present and future emotional health of our community.

- We are participating for a third year in the Silicon Valley Planned Giving Council's Incubator Program. We thank our mentors, Carol Lillibridge of Pathways Hospice Foundation and Paul Pelosi of Pelosi & Ferguson, LLP, for their valued guidance and wisdom.

### To grow areas of service where we have expertise.

- This fall we will increase our services for transition age youth (ages 16-25) through a new Santa Clara County contract to provide mental health services. Watch for more details about this innovative program in our next newsletter.



- We are seeking support to increase our mental health and abuse prevention services to the underserved Deaf and Hard of Hearing (HOH) community. We continue our partnership with FIRST 5 Santa Clara County to provide support services for families of children newly diagnosed as Deaf or HOH.

- This year, we will pilot a new family violence and abuse prevention model, developed by our staff in consultation with experts on our Board. We hope this model will one day be used in other communities to build healthy families and safe homes.

### To develop facilities that meet the needs of our services and clients and that allow for growth.

- We are fortunate to own both of our facilities. This was made possible through the generosity of many donors over the years. Now, pledged funds from the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller, St. Joseph Commandery will rehabilitate and enhance our space for group client services in our Peninsula and San Jose offices. We thank the members of the Commandery for this support.



time. If you have thoughts to share with me about these plans, please call me at 650-326-6576 or send an email message to me at [info@fcservices.org](mailto:info@fcservices.org).

## 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE ELEGANCE FEATURES WINTER FASHIONS AND LOTS OF BENEFITS

Valle Monte League will hold its 41<sup>st</sup> annual Christmas Tree Elegance the week of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Four days of events will feature fashion shows, a children's party, and a gala to raise funds for four local agencies, including Family & Children Services. For a schedule of don't-miss events, visit the events page at [www.vallemonte.org](http://www.vallemonte.org) or call Valle Monte League at 408-278-8001.



## SAVE THE DATE

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Circle of Support Breakfast is scheduled for May 7, 2009! Sponsorship opportunities available. Please visit [www.fcservices.org](http://www.fcservices.org) or contact Maryanne at [info@fcservices.org](mailto:info@fcservices.org).

## FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES

**Family & Children Services** builds strong, safe, and self-sufficient individuals, families, and communities in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Each year our range of services supports approximately 8,000 children, youth, and adults in resolving obstacles to their success and becoming more stable and healthy. Learn more online at [www.fcservices.org](http://www.fcservices.org).



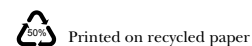
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FALL 2008



## HIGHLIGHTS FOR FRIENDS OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES

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**Strengthening individuals.**  
**Strengthening families.**  
**Strengthening communities.**

## HELPING YOUTH SUCCEED AFTER FOSTER CARE

*We Mark 20 Years of Helping Youth Achieve Stability and Success*



*"When I needed interviewing clothing, they were there. When I needed stuff for my car, they were there. Even when I need someone to talk to, they are there. So when I turn 21, I will miss them a lot, but they know I will come and visit them,"* said Anna\*, a youth in Family & Children Services' Independent Living Program.

For the youth served through the Independent Living Program, also known as ILP, turning 18 is both an exciting and terrifying milestone.

\* Names have been changed to protect client confidentiality.

They exit the foster care system and enter adulthood, generally without family support to help them ease into maintaining housing, paying their bills, and figuring out the innumerable big and small tasks of supporting one's self.

"They have had a deep network of support services while in foster care," Tamie Barragan, ILP director. "Once they turn 18, that network falls away and ILP is the main support available to them."

Our ILP staff strives to teach the youth strong life skills, ranging from decision-making and goal-setting to how to find a job, rent an apartment, and open a bank account. They also emphasize staying safe, with workshops on relationship violence and risky behaviors. For youth interested in college or job training, the staff connects them with financial assistance

programs. Anna will be the first in her family to attend college.

Some of the youth in the program are also juggling parenthood. During the last year, grant support from **Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Service Area** enabled the ILP staff to provide a parent education series, as well as rides to prenatal and well-baby check-ups, for new mothers in the program. The staff hopes to build on these resources this year, while also launching an expanded healthy living curriculum, also through the support of Kaiser Permanente.

We thank the **County of Santa Clara, the John Burton Foundation for Children Without Homes, Kaiser Permanente, Union Bank of California, Valle Monte League,** and our **individual donors**, for investing in the youth we serve and strengthening the future of our community.



*Our mission is to build strong, safe, and self-sufficient individuals, families, and communities.*



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NEWS & VIEWS

**Welcome to Carolyn Amster**, CPA, who was elected to the Board of Directors in June. Carolyn is a Partner in the tax practice of Burr, Pilger & Mayer LLP and has extensive experience with individual, trust, partnership, nonprofit, and corporate taxation. She also brings legal expertise to her work and to her service on the Board: Carolyn is a graduate of the University of San Francisco School of Law.

**A Little Bit of Harvard at F&CS:** Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Harvard Business School Association of Northern California, our CEO, Jim Welsh, attended a week-long Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management program for nonprofit leaders at Harvard Business School this July. Jim has been sharing what he learned with staff, our Board, and other nonprofit leaders, and we thank the Association for investing in our leadership.

**Thank You to Rebuilding Together!** This summer our San Jose office received some much needed TLC from volunteers provided through Rebuilding Together. The team fixed our fence, trimmed trees, cleaned the play area, and provided other needed facilities repairs and enhancement. We are grateful for this gift, which makes our office a more pleasant environment for clients and staff.

**Congratulations to Tasneem Ismailji!** We are delighted that Tasneem Ismailji, M.D., one of the dedicated members of our Board, will be honored as a Distinguished Volunteer Fundraiser at Silicon Valley's National Philanthropy Day Luncheon in November. This event is presented by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

**Campbell Office Move:** For several years, Family & Children Services has operated facilities in Palo Alto, San Jose, and Campbell. This spring, we evaluated our use of space with the help of space planners from Cisco Systems and determined that we could move out of our small space in Campbell, the only facility we rented. This move brought the services housed there closer to the clients they serve, while also increasing our financial efficiencies, allowing more dollars to benefit direct client services.

JOIN US FOR WINE AND CHOCOLATE!

Family & Children Services invites you to an evening of chocolate and wine tasting on November 13th. Details and tickets are available on our web site ([www.fcservice.org](http://www.fcservice.org)). To request an invitation by mail, please contact Toni at 650-326-6576 x 5412 or [tdreier@fcservices.org](mailto:tdreier@fcservices.org). Hope you may join us for this new fall event!

CIRCLES OF GENEROSITY

*Local Foundations, Companies, and Organizations Allow Us to Increase Services*

The generous investments of individuals, organizations, foundations, and companies fund our services, enable programmatic innovation, and make our agency stronger.

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE...**

The **Sobrato Family Foundation** for choosing Family & Children Services for a Challenge Grant this year. We are



honored to announce the opportunity for our supporters to help us to leverage a grant of \$102,500. *(Please see the article on this page.)*

The **Circle of Support Committee** for far exceeding its attendance and revenue goals during its fifth year. Thank you to all who attended or contributed to this May's event. We hope to see you at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual event on **May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009!**

The **Safeway Foundation** and **Valle Monte League** for helping us to continue our Families and Schools Together (FAST) Program services during the last school year. Our long-time school partners, faced with significant budget tightening, were no longer able to contribute funds to the program's supplies, yet were steadfast in their belief in the program and its benefit for their families. Support from Safeway and Valle Monte League filled the funding gap and 226 children and 121 parents from low-income households participated during the year.

**Proxim Wireless** for contributing boxes and boxes of office supplies to us during the company's recent move.

**United Way Silicon Valley** for continuing its investment in our Counseling Services. The \$50,000 grant from the Community Impact Fund supports our services for individuals and families who are uninsured, underinsured, and low-income.

**Intel** for including our clients in its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. As part of the company's goal of contributing a million service hours, employees read to children at Kennedy Elementary School in San Jose. Kennedy is one of our long-standing partners in offering our Families and Schools Together (FAST) program to support the academic and life success of children and their families.

HELP US MEET THE SOBRATO FAMILY FOUNDATION'S CHALLENGE

*Leverage Your Gift to Help Raise \$102,500!*

*This year, the Sobrato Family Foundation has given us a challenge: to raise \$50,000 to match its generous gift. With your help we will meet the challenge and the Sobrato Family Foundation will contribute \$52,500 to the agency next year, for a total grant of \$102,500. We are grateful to the Foundation for this investment and opportunity.*

**HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

- **Increase your last gift.** The increase will be matched 100%.
- **Tell a friend.** Introduce a new donor to Family & Children Services and his or her gift will be matched 100%.
- **Renew your support:** We know our donors have many invitations to give to deserving organizations and causes. If we were not on your list for annual gifts last year, thank you for considering renewing your support this year. Your gift will be matched 100%.

Thank you for making a tax-deductible donation by mail (375 Cambridge Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94306) or online ([www.fcservices.org](http://www.fcservices.org)). For information or questions, please call Toni Dreier, director of donor relations, 650-326-6576 x 5412.

DONOR APPRECIATION

Family & Children Services extends our appreciation and thanks to the generous donors whose support makes it possible for our clients to grow stronger, safer, and more self-sufficient. We are proud to acknowledge the individuals, foundations, and corporations who invested in our mission between May 1, 2008 and September 30, 2008 at the \$500 level and above or through memorial, honorarium, and in-kind gifts. We regret the omission or incorrect listing of any names, and thank all of our donors, providing gifts of all sizes, for being part of our work.

**INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES**

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& COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS**

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**President's Circle**

\$10,000-\$24,999  
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The Fatherhood Collaborative  
of San Mateo County  
Palo Alto Community Fund

**Family Circle**

\$5,000-\$9,999  
Atkinson Foundation  
Harvard Business School Association  
of Northern California

**Benefactor**

\$2,500-\$4,999  
Junior League of  
Palo Alto Mid-Peninsula

**Patron**

\$1,000-\$2,499  
Alliance for Children and Families  
Silicon Valley Realtors  
Charitable Foundation

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You may have noticed that we are transitioning to a new way of recognizing our donors in these listings. Rather than a standardized format (e.g., "Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Services"), our goal is to reflect the preferred format of our individual donors. Thank you for your understanding as we clarify your preferences and please let us know how we can improve: 650-326-6576 x 5412, [tdreier@fcservices.org](mailto:tdreier@fcservices.org).

\* Endowment Fund contribution