



PROGRESS

MISSION: Fred Finch Youth Center seeks to provide innovative, effective services supporting children, youth, young adults, and families to heal from trauma and lead healthier, productive lives.



progress in 2015

Rising Harte Wellness Center

In 2015—its first full year of service provision—Rising Harte Wellness Center provided medical, dental, and behavioral health services to 188 Bret Harte Middle School (BHMS) students and 95 young adults transitioning out of the foster care system.

Turning Point

80% of the young adults who left FFYC's Turning Point transitional housing program in 2015 moved into stable, permanent housing.

Rising Oaks

82% of tenants exiting the program moved into stable, permanent housing. Within four months of entering Rising Oaks, 86% of youth were involved in school, work, volunteering, or other productive activities.

Fred Finch Youth Center honored

FFYC received the "Gallant Knight" award from San Diego's Family Youth Roundtable, in recognition of its contributions to the children's system of care in the county.

School-based services grow in Contra Costa County

In collaboration with Contra Costa County and the Mt. Diablo Unified School District, School-Based Services (SBS) added four new school sites and additional service dates at two others. This brings the total number of school sites in the district to 10.

Progress 2015

Dear Friends,

Each year, the publication of our Annual Report gives us the opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the privilege of another year devoted to the support of vulnerable children, youth, and families. 2015 marks our 124th year as an organization and has been filled with preparation for the upcoming 125th anniversary milestone—a unique opportunity to reflect back over our history and look ahead to our future. With all the changes of the last century and a quarter, as well as the growth on the horizon, it seems appropriate to focus our 2015 Annual Report on Progress.

Each day, we have the opportunity to witness the progress of our participants as they move toward safer, healthier lives. At Rising Oaks, Tawan, an unemployed and homeless young man with a high level of anxiety gained full time competitive employment and permanent housing. In San Diego, 17-year-old Mary moved beyond aggression and self-harming behaviors, improved her verbal skills, and began participating in group activities. Her delightful personality has surfaced and she is enjoying a productive life in her home community. In June, the staff at our Oakland-based Avalon School congratulated a record number of high school graduates—each one overcoming tremendous developmental and mental health challenges to move on to work, community college, and vocational training.

Witnessing the progress of individual participants motivates us to continue improving and growing our programs so that we can effectively serve even more young people and their families. The Rising Harte Wellness Center (RHWC) completed its first full year of providing services to the community, promoting equal access to healthcare for Bret Harte Middle School families and Alameda County's transitioning foster youth ages 16 – 24. Our reach continues to grow with the addition of Therapeutic Behavioral Services in Santa Clara County.

By sharing our commitment to improving life for the most vulnerable, you have played an instrumental part in our progress—not just this year, but for many years—and we are truly grateful. Your support allows us to continue offering vocational programming, educational support, housing, therapy, and other services designed to help participants find their strengths and create fulfilling lives. On the pages that follow, you will see stories of progress along with opportunities to help us celebrate the legacy of 125 years of hope and healing—a legacy you share. We invite you to join in this celebration, see first-hand what we have planned for the future, and stand beside us as we launch the next 125 years!

Sincerely,

David McGrew,
Chair, FFYC Board of Directors

Thomas N. Alexander,
President and CEO



Tom Alexander, above
David McGrew, left

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

– Cesar Chavez

FFYC's young adults get to work

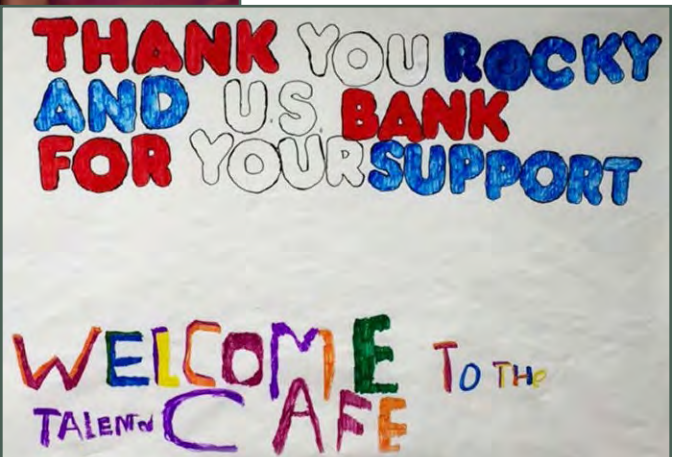
In the fall of 2012, Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services selected Fred Finch Youth Center's Supportive Housing for Transition Age Youth (STAY) program as one of its sites in an international pilot for the Individualized Placement and Support/Supported Employment Program (IPS).

IPS focuses on supporting participants with serious mental illness to obtain and maintain competitive employment in the community. Competitive employment is defined as a "regular" job for which anyone could compete—not subsidized or sheltered employment—and the opportunity to work is open to anyone who wants it, regardless of symptoms or other challenges. Unlike traditional youth employment programs, IPS focuses on teaching young adults employment skills as part of the process of getting employed, rather than delaying employment by spending time teaching them first.

Since implementing IPS, the rate of competitive employment for STAY participants has more than quadrupled. Based on this success, FFYC is expanding these services to Turning Point, Rising Oaks, and Contra Costa Transition Age Youth.



US Bank supports
FFYC's Talented Café
vocational training
program in San Diego



"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

– Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr.

A sense of permanence: Holly's story

Removed from her biological mother as a toddler, Holly was initially one of the lucky ones. Adopted at age four, she was one of only 12% of foster children nationwide who find “forever families.” But as the years went by, a series of tragedies overwhelmed Holly's parents, compromising their ability to continue caring for the child they had planned to raise to adulthood. At age 11, the unthinkable happened. Holly was returned to foster care.

In her own words, she “bounced around” the foster care system for over six years and spent a seventh year sleeping on a friend's couch. Describing that period as lacking any kind of stability, Holly was grateful when her application to Fred Finch's Rising Oaks program was approved.

A 30-unit transitional housing program for current or former foster youth ages 18 – 24, Rising Oaks provides much more than a roof and a bed. Participants receive health and wellness services (including therapy and medical care) life skills training, educational support, and career development, all within a supportive community. This developmental period—referred to as the “transition age”—is especially critical for young adults who grew up in foster care. Without services, nearly 50% of these transition age youth will become homeless and fewer than half will find employment.

As Holly learned the skills of adulthood—how to shop, cook, and budget—Rising Oaks staff helped her chart a path for her future career as an early childhood education teacher. Happy as she was at Rising Oaks, Holly, who suffers from severe anxiety, remained troubled by the knowledge that—no matter how stable she felt—the day would come when she would have to move once again. Fortunately for Holly, a spot opened up in Fred Finch's Coolidge Court, independent permanent housing open to young adults suffering from persistent mental illness. Holly applied and was accepted in the spring of 2015. Unlike Rising Oaks, Coolidge Court is truly independent living, albeit with a measure of support. Any services are purely voluntary and residents pay 30% of their adjusted gross income towards rent.

Holly celebrated her new-found independence by adopting an energetic dachshund she calls Popeye. “I'm my own little family now,” she says with a smile. The studio apartment is small, but it's home. “I could get married here if I want, or have kids. This is my place.” When asked about the best thing she has experienced since coming to Fred Finch, Holly stretched her arms wide and grinned. “Just one word,” she says, taking a breath. “Permanence. For the first time I don't have to bounce. This place is permanent. And it's mine.”



Holly and Popeye, above
Coolidge Court, left



**"You saved my life."
Graduate of Community
Wrap to a mentoring
police officer**

Fred Finch and San Diego: Wrapping its arms around vulnerable youth

San Diego County is home to 158 street gangs with nearly 8,000 members, many as young as 13. Gang members rarely finish high school and commit crimes that impact entire communities. Of the 67,621 crimes committed countywide in 2014, San Diego gangs were responsible for nearly 17,000.

In response to this crisis, a group of committed service providers partnered to offer a unique form of support referred to as Community Wrap; a gang prevention, positive youth development, and community safety initiative that leverages strategic community alliances to support gang-affiliated youth by offering an alternative to gang life and promoting success through involvement

with family, school, work, and community. A partnership between numerous community groups including the American Labor Pool, the San Diego Police and Probation Departments, the San Diego Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention, and Mothers with a Message, Community Wrap includes educational, civic, and social components such as individual mentoring and comprehensive life planning, family and group meetings, and community involvement and service projects.

Now in its second phase, the collaboration hopes to capitalize on the success of the pilot, in which nine out of 10 participants graduated from the program and all 10 enrolled in school and/or obtained employment. Participating police officers reported that numerous alternative approaches with these same youth had been unsuccessful. Incarceration or premature death was a near certainty. Seasoned police officers admitted to feeling a measure of fear in the room with these youth during the first few meetings.

"If this didn't work, we didn't know what else to try." – Assistant Police Chief Todd Jarvis

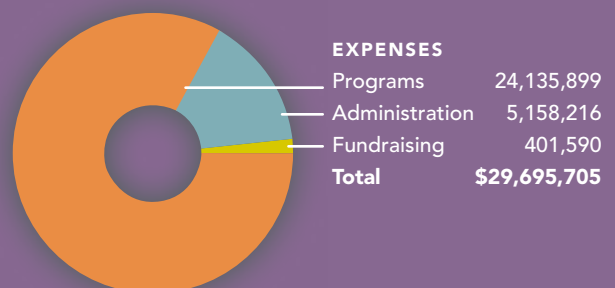
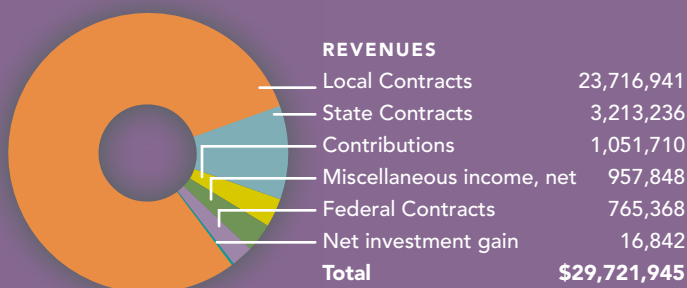
The cornerstone of Community Wrap is the Monday night meetings where youth, mentors, friends, relatives, and supporters gather first for a meal—a small but important step toward creating community. They practice sharing, respecting dissenting opinions, and accepting change. Topics range from the concrete—safety planning, educational resources, vocational skills—to the abstract—spirituality, the mentality of gang involvement, overcoming stigma—and always carry a message of hope and positive change. Guest speakers include those rarely seen in the company of gang members—representatives from the mayor's office and the probation department along with local business owners, mothers who have lost children to gang violence, and educational/vocational counselors. Police and probation officers come out of uniform, not as authority figures but as mentors committed to the youths' wellbeing, offering a powerful message: We care about you. We believe in you. We will help you become who you strive to be. For the youth seeking to change their lives, it is the only message that matters.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2015 (with comparative totals for 2014)

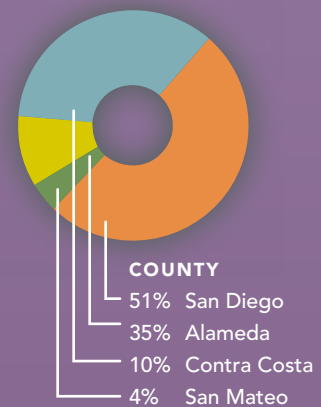
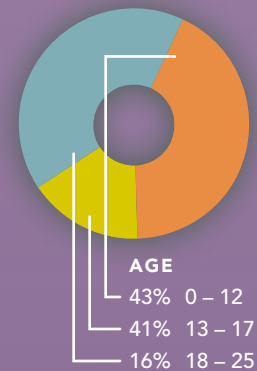
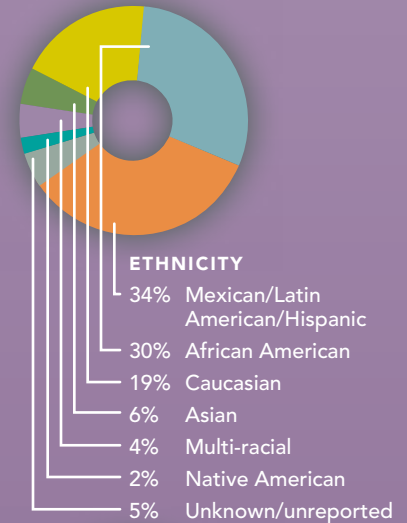
ASSETS	2015	2014
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,701,608	2,289,053
Restricted cash	1,119,837	1,096,094
Accounts receivable (net of allowance of \$108,186 in 2015 and \$25,000 in 2013)	5,225,271	4,348,714
Prepaid expenses, deposits, and other assets	383,083	297,082
Total current assets	\$8,429,799	\$8,030,943
Noncurrent assets		
Investments held in perpetual trust by bank	107,465	115,504
Beneficial interest in charitable remainder trusts	324,301	349,193
Marketable securities	2,838,599	3,405,680
Loan issuance costs, net	42,561	44,643
Construction in progress	285,548	884,023
Property and equipment, net	10,071,213	8,862,155
Total noncurrent assets	\$13,669,687	\$13,661,198
TOTAL ASSETS	\$22,099,486	\$21,692,141
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2015	2014
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,652,485	2,826,089
Advances and overpayments	2,050,717	1,779,323
Current portion of long-term debt	—	—
Total current liabilities	\$4,703,202	\$4,605,412
Noncurrent liabilities		
Obligations assumed under King St. acquisition	712,775	720,600
Long-term debt, net of current portion	8,375,466	8,177,592
Total noncurrent liabilities	\$9,088,241	\$8,898,192
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$13,791,443	\$13,503,604
Net assets		
Unrestricted	7,137,646	7,035,046
Temporarily restricted	867,095	842,150
Permanently restricted	303,302	311,341
Total net assets	\$8,308,043	\$8,188,537
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$22,099,486	\$21,692,141

Operational Performance



2,707

PEOPLE
SERVED
IN 2015



With our deepest gratitude

Fred Finch Youth Center extends our deepest thanks to every individual, business, and organization that made donations in calendar year 2015. You are, each and every one, our heroes. Large or small, the gifts you send directly benefit our work to help change the lives of children who have been abused or neglected.

Below, we offer special recognition to donors whose gifts were received in 2015. We are truly grateful for your commitment to FFYC.

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United Methodist Women Marysville
United Methodist Women of Crescent City
US Bank
Wayside United Methodist Church
Western Alliance Bank
Winnemucca United Methodist Women
Witkin Foundation

Please know we've worked hard to ensure the accuracy of these lists. If your name has been omitted or misspelled, call us at (510) 482-2244.

Fred Finch Youth Center prepares for its 125th year of mental health and social services

The roots of Fred Finch Youth Center extend deep into Oakland's history. The only son of a 19th century shipping magnate Duncan Finch, Fred died of tuberculosis at age 24. Fred's sister had also died young, leaving Duncan childless. In his grief, Duncan would wander the docks of Oakland, passing homeless orphans living in dismal circumstances. On one of these walks, Duncan Finch decided to take action in his son's memory, so that the city's orphaned youth would not be neglected or forgotten. He donated the property where the center still stands, in Oakland's modern Dimond District, to be used by the Methodist Church as an orphanage. Within a few months of opening in 1891, 25 children lived at the center, a number that would soon grow to ten times that amount. They worked together to maintain a functioning farm and take care of each other, creating a family.

Evolving with the introduction of mental health services and psychiatry in the 1950s and 1960s, Fred Finch Youth Center began to focus on childhood trauma and developmental disabilities, poverty, substance abuse and emotional impairments, particularly in foster youth. In the late 1960s, the center opened a psychiatric residential treatment facility for kids requiring more intensive services. Eventually, it moved toward more community-based treatment, along with its transitional housing services. "We try to break down the barriers so they're not clinic-based services," said CEO Tom Alexander. "We meet families in their homes. We meet families at schools, wherever is convenient for them. This model has proven successful, as youth are allowed to heal in their own communities," he added.

Fred Finch Youth Center has evolved quite a bit from its humble beginnings and will celebrate 125 years of providing services to vulnerable children, youth, young adults and families in 2016. *Opportunities to join the celebration are listed on the back cover of this report.*

SKYLER'S STORY

Skyler lost his mother at age nine and lived on the streets until he was placed into foster care, where he moved from household to household. After rotating through what he called "foster farms," Skyler ended up living with his high school teacher before starting UC Berkeley in 2013. A committed student studying rhetoric and education, Skyler lived and worked at the Berkeley Student Cooperative. Less than a year later, however, Skyler was homeless in Sacramento, working on his teaching credential online at the public library, and suffering from a deep depression. Skyler had nowhere to turn. Eventually, he rediscovered a home and hope through Fred Finch Youth Center.

Today, at 24, Skyler is a resident at Turning Point, a transitional housing program for homeless youth and young adults ages 18 to 25 run by Fred Finch. He has a routine of counseling and career planning, and plans to continue with his teaching credential program at UC Berkeley. Though he originally intended to become a lawyer, he has switched to pursuing a degree in education with the goal of becoming a special needs teacher. He hopes to help those who have experienced some of the trauma he did as a homeless foster youth.

LEADERSHIP

Without the professionals who make up the Fred Finch Youth Center leadership team and our dedicated board members, the broad scope of our facility—and the success of our programs and services—would not be possible.

Fred Finch Youth Center wishes to thank and recognize all of these individuals for their hard work and dedication.

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(510) 439-3130

San Mateo
126 West 25th Avenue
Suite 202
San Mateo, CA 94403
(650) 286-2090



Since it opened its doors to orphans in 1891, Fred Finch Youth Center has sought to give children the hope of a brighter future. Today, almost 125 years later, Fred Finch continues to be a major champion for youth in the Bay Area and San Diego County by providing innovative and effective mental health and social services to thousands of children, young adults, and their families, more than 95% of whom live in poverty. Through its unique blend of mental health, supported housing, education, and employment services; counseling; and healthcare, Fred Finch helps the most vulnerable among us to build on their strengths, overcome challenges, and live healthy and productive lives.

Please mark your calendars for Fred Finch Youth Center's 125th Birthday Celebrations.

Free Celebration

June 25, 2016 Bring your friends and family to an 1891 country fair, a 1940s movie theatre, a 1950s schoolhouse, and a modern wellness center—all on the same day!
11 am – 3 pm, 3800 Coolidge Avenue, Oakland

125th Anniversary Gala

September 22, 2016 Help us celebrate 125 years of service to California's children and families! To purchase tickets, contact Tara DeRosa, Director of Development: taraderosa@fredfinch.org or (510) 485-5239

celebrate!



CELEBRATING 125 YEARS!



Offering hope and healing since 1891