



HAYNES
FAMILY OF PROGRAMS



David & Margaret
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

ENRICHMENT EDITION

JULY 2023

Dear Friends,

June marks graduation season and this year we celebrate our largest graduating classes ever. Renaissance Community Prep had 16 high school seniors earn their diplomas. Bliss Academy had 15 students earn their certificates of completion. All walked across the stage and accepted their diplomas at venues packed with family, friends, faculty, staff, and community members.

It was the beginning of a new chapter for each of them. It was a happy yet sad ceremony for everyone knowing that the students who have become a part of our education family for so long were leaving. All of the students worked hard through an arduous and courageous journey to a well-earned and well-deserved completion.

Children, youth, and young adults come to the Haynes and David & Margaret programs with multiple challenges and deficits and with the support of our highly compassionate and skilled educational and clinical teams, families, and friends and a comprehensive yet unique education approach, they find success.

Our programs focus on individual needs and utilize multiple approaches to support emotional stability, self-confidence, and academic achievement. This newsletter edition focuses on the many enrichment programs offered to our students and others that support the varied ways clients learn and grow.

The Theory of Multiple Intelligence was first proposed in 1983 by Howard Gardner. Theory suggests that a person's potential to process information can be achieved through many

experiences and settings. We have seen firsthand how traumatized clients are better able to modulate themselves and build self-esteem when accessing enrichment opportunities. Our clients have access to a variety of enrichment settings including ceramic arts, culinary arts (coming soon), automotive technology (coming soon), visual arts, recording studio, talent performance, work experience in our Café and retail store, garden nursery, landscaping and maintenance, sewing, cosmetology (coming soon), and masonry.

Our rich array of enrichment programs develops clients toward a future of self-sufficiency. We invite all of our supporters and friends to visit our campuses to see how our enrichment programs favorably impact our youth. You will be amazed at how unique and special the learning environment is for our students and other clients.

Our relationship with you is what allows us to excel at our mission which is "to strengthen and empower, children, young adults and families through innovative and culturally respectful trauma-informed quality treatment, education, and support services to better their lives."

Thank you for your caring,

Daniel S. Maydeck

President & CEO



Vocational Arts Program at Renaissance Community Prep/Joan Macy School



The 2022-2023 school year has seen many improvements to our Vocational Arts Program. Between the endless on-campus projects and the introduction of our new ceramics class, there are so many ways for students to get involved.

One of the biggest projects this year included a complete redesign of the rec room by the pool! Mainly used for storage before, students have been hard at work applying fresh paint and helping to design the new space.

Projects like these help students get excited about school while also learning new skills that can be beneficial for future job experience.

The school year has also seen the introduction of a new art program - ceramics! The program has been a huge hit with students who get to express their creativity using a new medium.

It has been incredible to see the talent and imagination of our students come to life!



Career Day

In April, Renaissance Community Prep/Joan Macy School welcomed representatives from 12 businesses to talk to students about potential career paths.

The businesses in attendance included the US Army and Navy, Costco, the City of La Verne, La Verne Fire Department, LBC Basketball League, Gehl Electric, SGV Conservation Corps, La Verne Chamber of Commerce, Lusnak Motors, St. Mary's Hospice, and the Mayor of La Verne Tim Hepburn.

The students went to each table asking questions about the different types of jobs available, what the requirements are, and how they can get started.

We are so appreciative of all the folks who took the time to speak with our students and inspire them to consider all the options available post-graduation.

Bliss Academy Field Trips

Going on field trips is a favorite activity for Bliss Academy students! With the generalization of skills being a main focus for many of the students, getting to practice in real-world scenarios can make a huge impact.

One of the students' favorite destinations is our very own Dave & Maggie's Store and Café where students can practice skills like ordering food, conducting a transaction, shopping for essentials, and interacting with staff.

Not only do students get to practice their skills, but some have even been inspired to explore the job opportunities available through Dave & Maggie's!

Working at Dave & Maggie's Store & Café gives students the chance to develop workforce skills they can use after graduation, like warehouse management, food service, and cashier work.

We are grateful for the strategic partnership between Haynes Family of Programs and David & Margaret Youth and Family Services that allows us to expand the utilization of our resources to more children and youth in our care.



BLISS ACADEMY

SCHOOL FOR AUTISM AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



Talent Show

Recently, the students of Bliss Academy put together a talent show to show off their skills to their classmates, parents, and teachers!

Providing opportunities for students to showcase their individual talents increases confidence, encourages positive risk-taking, and can reduce symptoms of anxiety.

The show also had an art display featuring some of the beautiful work the students did throughout the year, including a large collaborative piece made from torn scraps of paper!

The students, parents, and staff all had a blast at the talent show and we look forward to hosting more events like this in the future!



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES of 2023!

Bliss Academy School for Autism and Developmental Disabilities and Renaissance Community Prep / Joan Macy School had their largest graduating classes ever in 2023! We are so proud of all our students and cannot wait to see what the future holds for them!



**BLISS
ACADEMY**
SCHOOL FOR AUTISM AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



S.T.A.R. ACADEMY

When school districts cannot serve the needs of special education students, S.T.A.R. Academy is here to help fill the gaps, providing supplemental services both in school and at home to help students meet their individualized education program goals.

Gigi, who has been diagnosed with a chromosome disorder, began receiving services from S.T.A.R. in the first grade. Like many students, Gigi did not always take well to teachers or feel enthusiastic about her sessions.

That was until she met Ms. Sydney. Gigi immediately responded positively to Ms. Sydney and her teaching methods, which in turn has majorly boosted her confidence both during sessions and at school. Gigi's one-to-one aid at school reported that since she started working with Ms. Sydney, Gigi is very eager to participate in class and will often be the first one to raise her hand to answer a question!

Now in the 5th grade, Gigi has received two additional contracts for supplemental services that her father requested go to S.T.A.R. Academy due to Gigi's positive experience with Ms. Sydney. Gigi has come a long way in her four years with S.T.A.R. and we are so excited to see her continue to meet her goals!



Workforce Training Program

One of the unique features of the partnership between Haynes Family of Programs and David & Margaret Youth and Family Services is the workforce training opportunities available to students and youth across all of our programs.

Dave & Maggie's Center, composed of both a retail store and café, serves as the training ground for youth, introducing them to real-world job experience right on campus.

Participants in the Workforce Training Program gain skills like warehouse management, stocking shelves, bartending services, and cashier duties, giving them a leg up when applying for jobs after their internship ends.

As part of the program, youth also meet with an education and employment specialist weekly to discuss their progress, work on their resume, and craft a plan for their future.



Teaching Responsibility

Internship opportunities at the store and café are a great way for students and young adults to teach responsibility and build up confidence.

Alexandra, a high school student at Renaissance Community Prep, was experiencing some difficulties in school. Without a lot of support at home, Alexandra was acting out in class and struggling to keep her grades up.

Alexandra and her teachers worked together to create a plan to help her reach her goals, which included starting a job at Dave & Maggie's Café.

After completing her training with the café staff, Alexandra began working in the café for a few hours each week and became more and more confident in her skills. Soon, her confidence translated into the classroom where her grades and behavior improved so that she could keep her position at the café!

Alexandra has been a huge asset to Dave & Maggie's, helping out with events held at the café and being a shining example of the benefits of Haynes and David & Margaret's Workforce Training Program!



COMPASS Programs

— at David & Margaret —

Too often, when young adults age out of foster care they have never learned how to live independently. The goal of COMPASS Programs is to help bridge the gap for these youth, teaching them valuable skills and setting them up for success in their newfound independence.

Life skills workshops are one of the most popular events at COMPASS Programs! Led by their social workers, young adults learn new skills each week that can be transferred to daily life.

Recently, these young adults made burrito bowls at the Nutrition & Healthy Eating workshop. To make the meal healthier, a bed of lettuce was substituted for the tortilla. The young adults also learned cooking skills, like how to sauté vegetables for their bowls.

All throughout the class, participants learned new ways to easily improve their nutrition, like cooking vegetables less to retain more vitamins and minerals.



Participants in COMPASS Programs have been learning a lot thanks to the Life Skills workshops.

When one young man joined the program, he struggled with eating healthy foods because he didn't know how to prepare them and often relied on fast food for his meals.

After attending two Nutrition & Healthy Eating workshops, he now understands how to prepare healthier foods and how to eat a more balanced diet.

Since the workshops, he has started to cook at home more and incorporated more vegetables and fewer carbs into his diet.

We are so proud of this young man for taking the steps to better his long-term health and are excited to support his journey to overall wellness!



Take Action for Mental Health

As you may know, May is celebrated as Mental Health Awareness Month!

To spread the word about the importance of mental health services, Haynes Family of Programs' Mental Health department teamed up with Take Action for Mental Health LA County and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to host workshops and events all through May and into June!

These events were all free and open to anyone in the community who wanted to attend. Most events were also held in person and on Zoom to make them as accessible as possible.

Topics from these events included:

- Maternal Mental Health
- Prevention & Early Intervention
- Mental Health vs Mental Illness
- Mental Health First Aid Training
- TAY Social Determinants of Health
- Supporting LGBTQ+ Mental Health
- Mental Health Fair



HAYNES
FAMILY OF PROGRAMS

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



David & Margaret
FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION AGENCY

Partnership with Empire Strykers

Our Foster Care & Adoption Agency (FFA) had the wonderful opportunity to partner with the local indoor soccer team, The Empire Strykers, this past season!

As a part of the partnership, youth and families had the chance to attend several games, including a VIP event with the coaches and players! These games were a great way for youth and families to bond, along with an opportunity to meet and connect with other families going through similar situations.

Our Foster Care Recruiter Laura, also got to set up a table at various home games encouraging attendees to consider starting their journey to become foster parents.

These recruitment opportunities are especially critical as we are seeing an increase in referrals, mostly for teens, who need safe, nurturing foster homes.





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