



HAYNES
FAMILY OF PROGRAMS



David & Margaret
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Newsletter Issue #9

April 2022

Dear Friends,

As we work to help children and families succeed through the most challenging times of their lives, it is the support of our partners – school districts and public agencies, committed and caring team members, donors and foundation supporters, and the families we are privileged to serve – that make our mission achievable. Primarily, thanks to unique collaboration, the past twelve months have once again proven to be a time of significant innovation and progress.

On February 22, 2021, the boards of directors of Haynes and David and Margaret signed a Memorandum of Understanding stating their intent to merge. Several developments over the past few years have prompted these two leading child welfare agencies in Southern California to explore an affiliation with one another, consolidate missions to leverage their success, and increase collaborative impact.

Both organizations are in La Verne, California, and with 200 years of combined service in their respective specialties, Haynes Family of Programs and David & Margaret Youth and Family Services have distinguished histories of providing successful programs that uplift and advance children in need. Now, with the combined resources of staff, management, specialists, and facilities, both organizations together can better deliver on their near and long term strategic goals.

Programs include residential foster care, foster care and adoption services, transitional and permanent housing for former foster youth, youth workforce training, K-12 special education schools for students with autism and children with learning disabilities, in-home educational and academic support services, and mental health services for children and families.

This partnership is a landmark investment in the way the community supports and encourages some of the most vulnerable young people who face complex challenges to live with stability, hope, and dignity. The outcomes and results are life changing for everyone—continued mutually beneficial engagement with local city, state, and county organizations, with over 1,200 professionals strong, and ongoing programs and events that positively impact surrounding communities and close neighbors are just a few examples.

We thank you for your past and continuing collaboration and look forward to the opportunities for even greater impact in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Maydeck

President & Chief Executive Officer



LeRoy Haynes' Legacy Lives on Through Residential Services

Haynes Family of Programs has a rich history of supporting our community's most vulnerable children. In 1946, our doors opened to a group of just 10 boys in need of a stable, caring, and enriching environment. Fast forward to today, Haynes has seen many changes and expanded our services to empower more youth and families than ever, yet our commitment to vulnerable young males has remained the same.



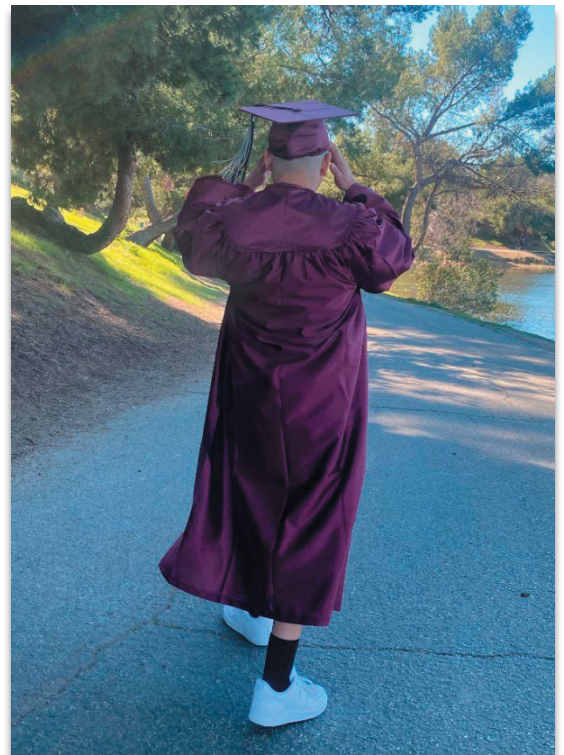
LeRoy Haynes Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) is a home for abused, abandoned, and/or neglected boys who need supplemental support and guidance before returning home or to a lower level of care. Although their stay at Haynes is temporary, the support and care they receive here lasts a lifetime.

“EMPOWERING SUCCESS ONE BY ONE”

After spending three years as a ward of the court, Ralph was referred to LeRoy Haynes residential program. Like many youths in the program, a closer look at Ralph's history revealed traumas he suffered as a younger child. Recognizing that his mental health was contributing to his past and current struggles, he began receiving treatment from Haynes' Mental Health department.

It was tough at first, but Ralph's wraparound team, consisting of residential staff, a therapist, and a child/family specialist and facilitator, provided him with continued support and encouragement, highlighting his strengths and challenging him to meet his goals.

In February of this year, after just over 6 months of hard work in the program, Ralph graduated high school and was awarded Student of the Month by his school! A member of his support team says that Ralph is “a charismatic, thoughtful, and determined young man” and he “serves as a leader to his peers.” Following his graduation, Ralph was accepted into a transitional housing program where he is learning valuable independent living skills and receiving assistance with education, employment, and mental health services. Ralph's success is a true testament to our mission of “empowering success one by one.” Thanks to the efforts of his wraparound team, and his own hard work, Ralph is on the path to permanency and stability.



COMPASS Programs Supports Youth with a History of Foster Care

Brandon joined COMPASS in July of 2021 after aging out of his previous placement. As a requirement of Extended Foster Care, youth must be employed, enrolled in school, or actively working towards one of those goals. After struggling to graduate high school given the virtual environment, Brandon chose to obtain employment at Walmart working in the back of the store. While he enjoyed the position, Brandon lacked adequate transportation and had to take three buses to get to work.

After deciding that Walmart was not the right fit, Brandon asked COMPASS' education and employment specialist for assistance finding a new job. Luckily for Brandon, the COMPASS Training Program works directly with Dave & Maggie's Center, the on-campus discount store, to provide internships for these young adults to develop retail, warehouse, and customer service skills. Proceeds from the store also help to support the essential services and resources provided by COMPASS Programs.

Since the store is located on campus, Brandon found it much easier to get to work and keep up with case management and workshops at COMPASS. In the five months Brandon has been at the store, he has learned many skills like unloading boxes, organizing products, time management, and how to work with customers. Brandon excelled in his role and has been promoted to a peer coach, training new interns from the COMPASS Training Program.

In addition to the skills he is learning at the store, Brandon attends the COMPASS Training Program workshops weekly. The workshops are hosted by the education and employment specialist and cover topics like making a resume, how to dress appropriately, interview skills, and more that can be used throughout their life.

On top of the assistance he receives from the COMPASS Training Program, Brandon values the support from his Transitional Social Worker, Frankie. When he came to COMPASS, his old placement had lost his birth certificate and social security card, an unfortunate reality for many young adults in foster care. Working together, Brandon and Frankie were able to apply for replacement documents, which are essential for his future employment and housing.



One of Brandon's favorite aspects of COMPASS Programs is having access to the Drop-In Center and all the amenities offered there. You can often find Brandon watching movies on the couch with his pet chinchilla, waiting for his laundry to finish using the on-site machine. From resource fairs, to workshops, to holiday parties, Brandon is almost always in attendance making everyone laugh.

Brandon is very social and has made several friends within the program with whom he spends time regularly. In the future, Brandon wants to work with people, either as a nurse or a teacher. COMPASS Programs at David & Margaret is so proud of this young man's accomplishments and will continue to support him on his journey to independent adulthood through case management, educational and employment services, life skills, and social opportunities.

Making a Difference in Mental Health

Following a decade of increased rates of mental health disorders for youth, along with the effects of the global pandemic, the U.S. Surgeon General declared the child and adolescent mental health crisis a national emergency in December 2021. At Haynes Family of Programs and David & Margaret Youth and Family Services, we tackle this challenge head-on by offering mental health services to youth and families using a Wraparound model of care that offers individualized, holistic support.

Studies reveal that nearly 80% of children involved in child welfare suffer from mental health issues, which are often compounded by the traumas and instability of foster care. After entering the system at ages 5 and 7 due to neglect and drug exposure at home, a set of siblings were bounced around several placements and agencies for two years due to their intense behaviors.

In April of 2020, the siblings were referred to Haynes' Wraparound Program with concerns of escalating behaviors such as fighting at school and home, angry outbursts, inappropriate sexualized behaviors, and tantrums. Their case was marked "urgent" due to the risk of losing another placement and forcing another transition.

The siblings engaged with the services and progress was being made when their current foster parent needed to move out of state and could no longer keep the siblings in her care. They were once again relocated to a new placement, in a new city, with a new school. Fortunately, the Wraparound team was able to follow them to their new placement, becoming a consist factor in their lives and creating an opportunity to build strong relationships.

Like so many youths in foster care, they fell behind academically and socially due to frequent transitions. Neither was meeting their grade standards and making friends was a challenge, putting further stress on their sibling relationship. Working with our Wraparound team and Child and Family Services, they focused on practicing communication and social skills. Using a trauma-informed approach, our therapist was able to help them work through the loss of their mother. Over time, their behavior and relationship saw improvement.

Now, after two years in our Wraparound Program, the two have made one final transition to live with a family member nearby. Our team continues to work with them on their academic, social, and emotional progress and report improvements in independent play, using coping skills, self-regulating, and the ability to play sports with peers. Due to the success of this final transition and how much progress has been made, they are expected to graduate Wraparound services in the coming weeks.

152 youth and families received Mental Health Services in 2021

- 60% received services from our Outpatient Care Program
- 7% received Prevention and Early Interventions (PEI) Services
- 28% benefitted from our Wraparound Program to assist in a successful return to home or placement with a foster family.
- 23% received Intensive Home-Based Services

The progress demonstrated by this sibling pair is a testament to the resilience of youth and their ability to adapt and overcome difficult scenarios when given the proper tools. Haynes Family of Programs and David & Margaret Youth and Family Services is proud to have supported over 150 children and families, including 42 foster children, with mental health services in the past year. Together, we can help youth and families manage their mental health in positive, sustainable ways.

Fostering Safety & Stability

John and Vicki Hoffner have been making a difference as foster parents with David & Margaret for over two years. They accepted their first placement of two school-aged boys in January of 2020 after completing their certification process with David & Margaret's Foster Family and Adoption Agency (FFA).

The parents adopted a little girl from the foster care system years ago, but Vicki shares they "still felt the need to give back and be a part of a child's life." They knew there were more children in need of a loving home and understood they could be the ones to provide it.

John had recently retired as the Program Manager at the City of Pasadena Water and Power Department, and they decided to use the extra time as an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children in foster care.

At the beginning of their placement there were a few challenges. The brothers had experienced trauma before coming to the Hoffner's home and it manifested in anxiety and disruptive behaviors. But with the consistent love and care provided by the Hoffners, as well as mental health services and support from David & Margaret, the boys were able to thrive in their new environment.

"They're adjusting well," Vicki expresses. "Through the security of having a regular routine and knowing what to expect, you can see them being able to be kids now. I think a lot of it is just not having to be scared of what's going to happen next."



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A stable home can make all the difference for youth in foster care. It provides a safe foundation for healing and allows children the freedom to simply be children instead of worrying about their safety or having their basic needs met.

These days things are much more peaceful. The Hoffners have watched the boys rebuild their confidence and heal from their pain. John supports the kids through the mornings and afternoons as they work on their schoolwork, tutoring, and individualized education program classes, while Vicki works as a licensed psychologist. In the evenings when they don't have visitation appointments with their bio-family or meetings with their supportive and helpful social worker, they enjoy walks with their dog, family dinners, reading, and thorough bed-time routines.

"It's very fulfilling," John shares, reflecting on how the boys have grown while in their home.

"There are so many kids who need a family," Vicki adds. "You know, you think we're missing out on shows, traveling, hanging out with adult friends, or whatever, but this is much more satisfying. The laughter quotient alone that comes with kids in your home is worth it all."



David & Margaret
FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION AGENCY

Drew's Brain Arcade Brings Bliss to Students

Since the opening of Drew's Brain Arcade in 2018, students at Bliss Academy have had an opportunity that has been out of this world. When you walk into Drew's, you step into an innovative adventure land of learning and fun. Seeing a wall of computers, a Nintendo Switch and an interactive wall game leaves our students in awe. Little do they know they are entering a new form of classroom, specifically built to target skills that are in areas of common deficits for students with autism. Speech and language, social skills, and sensory processing were the forefront of the vision for Drew's Brain Arcade. Bliss students do not learn in traditional styles, so we go above and beyond to meet their needs.

Students use the computers for our language arts curriculum. The curriculum guides students through individualized lessons designed as computer games to improve reading skills. Students are assessed frequently for pacing and data is monitored to check for understanding. Since the program looks and sounds like a video game, the student's attention is at an all-time high during reading instruction. The result of the curriculum has demonstrated improvements in reading levels, independent work skills, comprehension, and speech.



Social skills such as play, conversation, emotion, and self-regulation are all being taught to students using a Nintendo Switch, usually the first area the students gravitate towards. Many students have been able to meet and exceed their Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) social skill goals thanks to a collaborative bowling game. Whether it's a high five, a fist bump or, in today's world, an elbow bump, our students are learning to cheer each other on!

If you hear joyous cries coming from the back of Drew's Brain Arcade, then you know students are playing with the interactive wall game. A projector hangs down and displays a variety of over 100 games on the wall for students to choose from. The games are designed so that students are on their feet doing a gross motor activity while keeping focused on the target skill and playing with a partner. You often see two students running and jumping around, working hard to accomplish a shared goal with a big smile on their faces.

Transitioning back to in-person school was a challenge for most. Our students were used to being home and isolated, so to be back in a structured environment surrounded by others took some adjusting. Reopening Drew's Brain Arcade became a retreat for students. Slowly but surely, they began to sit at the computer for longer periods of time working on reading and language skills then we started to see faint smiles and nudges at each other. At Bliss, we are beyond thankful to have Drew's Brain Arcade to facilitate the skills we know are within each of our students. The smiles and laughter are once again filling our classrooms and hallways thanks to Drew's Brain Arcade and the generous support of the Andrew Winfield Richards Foundation.

Stronger Together: Joan Macy School & Renaissance Community Prep

The 2021-2022 school year looked a little different this year, not because of virtual classes or wearing masks, but because Joan Macy School and Renaissance Community Prep joined forces on the David & Margaret campus. The new, larger cohort of students from 1st-12th grade has been a huge success. Students are progressing academically, socially, and vocationally through individualized lesson planning and community-based learning.

Twelve students applied and now hold jobs on campus, six of whom have been accepted for employment through the Department of Rehabilitation. To be eligible for the work program, a student must maintain excellent school attendance, be passing all their classes, and demonstrate appropriate school behavior. Through the work program, students learn useful skills, responsibility, and time management.

One student is involved in the adult transition program to develop independent living skills. He is learning how to create a weekly menu, shop for all the ingredients, and prepare food for himself. Additionally, he is also learning to do his own laundry, clean the kitchen and bathroom, along with other household chores, all while attending specific classes to continue working on reading, writing, and math.

There is so much to celebrate at Joan Macy School/Renaissance Community Prep! Three of our students have already applied and been accepted into local junior colleges thanks to their hard work and dedication. These are excellent students who are working towards a bright and better future for themselves. We look forward to many more successes in the years to come as we continue to expand our programs to better meet the needs of our youth.



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HAYNES
FAMILY OF PROGRAMS

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David & Margaret
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

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2022 Annual Golf Classic!

After a two-year hiatus, we're coming back on **June 6th** with our annual golf classic, described by players as the region's top non-profit tournament!

Proceeds benefit children, youth, and families at Haynes Family of Programs and David & Margaret Youth and Family Services.

Visit our Tournament Website for more details and to register: LeRoyHaynesGolf.com

Thank you to our Presenting & Hospitality Sponsors for your support!

Special Thanks to Golf Classic Chairman, Kevin Hardy

