

Hanna Center

THE HAWK

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024



CARE MEETS COMMUNITY

CARE, TREAT, HELP

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE

A DESTINATION DESIGNED FOR WELL-BEING

Sonoma Valley itself is an invaluable contributor to our system of care. The calming beauty of our 90-acres has been a part of our transformative platform of services since we moved here 75 years ago.

We have often thought of the quiet space as a therapeutic buffer for the youth on campus. These days, however, our land is an invitation to the community. The oak-dense landscape has afforded us the opportunity to expand our programs and respond to the mental health, residential, and recreational needs of our community.

This summer, for the first time since Covid closures, the campus was full of hundreds of campers, counselors, and families. The Mental Health Hub continues to increase capacity to provide support. We have opened more and more spaces for foster youth and residential students at Hanna Academy from across California.

As I write this, I can hear a campus full of people of all ages and I am grateful that we have the space for each one of them to grow.

With Appreciation,



Cameron Safarloo, President and CEO



Board

Chris Sanders, *Chair*
Therese Nugent, *Vice Chair*
Mary Carroon, *Secretary*
Joshua McFerron, *Treasurer*

Bob Smith
Chris Lynch
Dr. Erin Skiffer, *Psy.D.*
John Gurney

Jon Parker
Ken Callander
Randy DeVoto
Bishop Robert Vasa

Leadership Team

Marisa Binder, *Vice President of Grants and Corporate Relations*
James Dixon, *Vice President of The Mental Health Hub at Hanna Center*
Catherine Donahue, *Vice President of Finance and Facilities*
Leslie Antonelli Petersen, *Vice President of Advancement*
Malcolm Huneidi, *Director of People Operations*
Scott Singer, *M.A., Vice President of Residential Programs*
Meredith Standing, *Vice President of Marketing, Research, and Recreation*



SCHOLARSHIP DAY

SUPPORT FOR A LIFETIME OF SUCCESS

Hanna Center has a long history of supporting alumni in their pursuit of higher education.

There is no expiration date— alumni are always eligible to apply for a scholarship, and each year, nearly \$250,000 in funds are awarded to former students. A scholarship fund, established in 1952, has supported hundreds of alumni in their educational endeavors.

To be eligible for the ‘Sisters of St. Francis Scholarship Program,’ candidates must successfully complete the program, demonstrate a desire for further education, submit a written application, and undergo an interview. Trish Goodwin, Director

of Transitional Programs and Alumni Relations, describes Scholarship Day as inspiring, sharing that “Everyone lucky enough to take part in the scholarship interview day consistently comes away feeling motivated and uplifted.”

Former Hanna students have graduated from various institutions, including UC Berkeley and Howard University. This year, nearly 30 alumni attended Scholarship Day, with goals ranging from trade school to doctorates in diverse fields.

The pursuit of higher education is a crucial step towards successful, sustainable, productive lives, no matter the applicant’s age.



CHRISTIAN W.
2020 GRADUATE

“Hanna’s life lessons helped me build my own barbershop, pursue college, and shape a future of resilience and success.”



MARCUS M.
2021 GRADUATE

“From Hanna’s structure to SF State’s challenges, I’m grateful for the foundation that built my confidence and skills.”

MENTAL HEALTH HUB COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

BRINGING NEW WARMTH AND CREATIVITY TO HANNA'S CAMPUS

A community art project has uplifted Sonoma Valley's Community Mental Health Hub, bringing joy and calm to clients and staff. The project engaged local residents to create art that would make the Hub feel more welcoming. Partnering with the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art and artist Pat Meier-Johnson, the project enlisted Teaching Artist Mikey Hsu Leavey to guide participants in creating 12x12-inch art pieces for display.

Various community groups have contributed to the project, including the Sonoma Mentoring Alliance mentors and mentees, the Sonoma Valley Hospital leadership team, Vintage House seniors, and Museum visitors. Using a variety

of mediums, they created Matisse-inspired pieces, origami, and colored butterflies, which were assembled into vibrant mosaic displays. The artwork reflects the individual visions of its creators while harmonizing into a cohesive whole. The impact has been profound, with clinicians reporting that the artworks enhance the therapeutic environment at the Hub.

The project's success has inspired ongoing art sessions and plans for expansion, involving more community groups and potentially Hub clients. Stay tuned for more information about our opening event to celebrate the collaborative artwork, which has not only beautified the Hub but also strengthened community bonds.





TRAUMA-EQUIPPED TRAININGS

Hanna Institute has launched a Trauma-Equipped Training program in collaboration with Head Start California aimed at early childhood educators. The course equips educators, parent educators, home visitors, and support staff with skills to manage escalated behaviors in children aged 0-5, understand underlying causes, and practice self-care during challenging days.

With over 300 learners across 30 Head Start programs enrolled, the program is making a significant impact on California's most vulnerable children and families. Recently, the Institute partnered with the Illinois Head Start Association to expand the course to more programs and plans to reach additional states this year.

SUPPORTING CAREER GROWTH

NEW ON-CAMPUS WORK-EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

A new work experience program was recently launched at Hanna Center, offering on-campus jobs to residential participants, including transitional aged foster youth, ages 16 to 21, as well as Legacy and Hanna Academy residential students. These roles teach residents skills like culinary prep, landscaping, housekeeping, and gardening. Youth receive a stipend for participation, half of which is saved for them to receive upon leaving Hanna's program.

"Many foster youth have not had work experience yet," says Monica Edwards, a vocational coordinator at Hanna's Career Guidance Center. "They've focused on surviving day-to-day, but now they're learning the basics of employment and gaining self-confidence. It's incredibly rewarding to see them grow and succeed."

The Career Guidance component of Hanna's Residential Program helps participants develop essential job skills, such as interviewing and writing professional emails and resumes. Transitional aged youth must commit to working or attending school full-time to participate, ensuring a balanced lifestyle.

"It's very meaningful to be part of their lives at this age," Monica says. "Most of these kids just need a chance—we're going to see them fly."





HANNA SUMMER CAMPS SHINE

SUNNY SUMMER FUN IS BACK!



Hanna Camps offer connection, skill-building, and good old fashioned fun!

Hanna's full-day Recreation Camp provided a classic summer experience with non-stop activities emphasizing sportsmanship, arts, and physical activity, while morning Specialty Camps allowed campers to skill-up in a singular sport.



a tradition of connection. This full-circle growth into leadership embodies the spirit of Hanna.

Our staff felt energized by the growth of our participants, while parents and kids praised the pool time, rec center activities, and high-quality instruction:

"The only thing my child didn't like was having to leave every day!"



This year, over 170 campers from more than 150 families joined us, with 250+ activity signups. Over half of our staff were former Hanna campers, building

Thank you to everyone who made this summer so special! Stay tuned for updates on fall enrichment programs and winter camps at hannacenter.org/rec.



A LEGACY OF SACRIFICE

75 YEARS OF SUPPORTING HANNA

Rick Airudi's father was a dedicated donor to Hanna since shortly after our founding 75 years ago—a tradition Rick has continued since his father's passing.

Growing up in a post-World War II military family in Redwood City, Rick learned the importance of service and community from his parents. His father, Claude, a Marine Corps veteran and Silver Star recipient, returned from the war deeply affected by the trauma of combat, but remained committed to supporting others.

Rick recalls that despite the lack of services for veterans at the time, his father and other veterans contributed to a thriving community.

Claude's commitment to Hanna Center was unwavering. Even with a modest income, he donated \$5 a month, driven by support Hanna provided to several sons of his fallen comrades. Rick continued the tradition of donating to Hanna, and has even served on our board. "Hanna is among a number of other organizations



Claude Airaudi

that I value, each of which exists to improve young people's lives and their future opportunities," says Rick.

"I honestly cannot think of a more worthy cause."



JOIN US THIS VETERANS DAY! LET'S TEE UP A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR ALL

This year we celebrate 25 years of the Classic with a scenic round of golf held in the Valley's premier course, the exclusive Sonoma Golf Club.

Through our historic Golf Classic, we will honor our veterans while raising funds for our community services. These critical funds will enable us to expand our impact, helping thousands of individuals and building resiliency in our community.

Enjoy an 18-hole round of golf along with raffle prizes, on-course competitions, a silent auction, recognition of our veterans, and more!

Learn more and register online at:
HANNACENTER.ORG/GOLF



ALUMNI DAY

THE BEST DAY OF THE YEAR

Graduates from as far back as the 1949 gathered to catch up with old friends and staff at our annual Alumni Day on August 4th. Over 200 guests gathered together to participate in this cherished tradition. It was a day of camaraderie, affection, and laughter amongst former staff, alumni, and their families.



CONTACT INFO



17000 Arnold Drive
Sonoma CA 95476



info@hannacenter.org



707.996.6767



hannacenter.org



Hanna Center

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS IN SONOMA

Hanna Center transforms the lives of youth, families and communities impacted by trauma and adversity through resilience, connection and spiritual wellness.