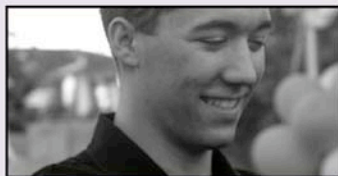


Bill Wilson Center *NEWS*

counseling • housing • education • advocacy

WINTER 2004



BILL WILSON CENTER RECEIVES LEGAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH (LACY) HONORS AWARD



Bill Wilson Center recently received the Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY) Honors Award. Each year LACY hosts a luncheon to celebrate an individual and an organization within Silicon Valley

that demonstrate a passion and commitment to improving the lives of children. LACY, a program of the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, has been providing free legal representation to children in need since 1990.



Sparky Harlan (left) and Debbie Pell (right) accept the LACY award.

Bill Wilson Center and LACY have been partners in serving the needs of youth for many years. LACY provides

free legal expertise to homeless youth at Bill Wilson Center's shelter. At the same time, Bill Wilson Center acts as a valuable resource for many LACY clients. Together, Bill Wilson Center and LACY work together to help clients find solutions to their personal and family problems.

"We are pleased to honor the great work that Bill Wilson Center does in the community," says Erika Brown of the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley. "Bill Wilson Center has been a valued collaborator with LACY."

What's New at

CONTACT CARES

Have you ever had a problem that you felt you could not talk to anyone about?

Many people have had the desire to reach out to someone who will not judge them. Someone they know will be objective with no preconceived opinions about the struggles they are facing. Maybe they are a 16 year-old teenager who just found out they are pregnant, or a single father of three who just got laid-off from his job. Either way they feel that their problems are too big to handle on their own and they want to reach out for help.

That's where Contact Cares comes in. Founded in 1970, Contact Cares has been listening to Silicon Valley for over 30 years as a 24-hour multi-purpose helpline. Individuals of all ages, facing a multitude of various personal struggles, call the helpline which provides listening and counseling, crisis intervention and referrals to other community resources.

The struggling economy has forced the closure of many nonprofit organizations that provide vital services to the community. Contact Cares was in danger of closing until the board decided to look for a merger partner. Bill Wilson Center knew the value of the services Contact Cares provides and felt that it would be a favorable addition to Bill Wilson Center's counseling services.

In August 2004, Contact Cares became an official Bill Wilson Center program.

"We are very excited about what this change will mean to Contact," said Sparky Harlan, Bill Wilson Center Executive Director. "Bill Wilson Center has the superstructure that Contact needs to move forward. With most of the administrative needs of Contact taken care of elsewhere at Bill Wilson Center, Contact volunteers and staff can focus on service delivery and telephone counselor training and support."

Contact Cares is a unique program in that telephones are staffed 24-hours by trained volunteers who receive extensive training so they are prepared to offer the appropriate support and referrals to community resources the callers need.

"Our volunteers are the heart and soul of the program," says Deryk Clark, Contact Cares Program Coordinator. "They are true professionals who take their work seriously but are always caring and compassionate."

Contact Cares provides the following services:

Crisis Line (408) 279-8228

This 24-hour line is available to individuals of all ages. Callers receive listening and counseling, crisis intervention, and referrals to community resources.

24/7 Hotline for Youth Ages 7-24 (888) 247-7717

This 24-hour line is available to youth ages 7 to 24. Youth can call for any reason, even if they just need help with their homework.

Jobkeeper (408) 297-5437

A support hotline and information referral for welfare recipients reentering the workforce.

HAND Hotline (888) 908-4263

Helping After Neonatal Death helps parents, their families and their healthcare providers cope with the loss of a baby before, during, or after birth.

Anti-Hate Hotline (408) 279-0111

A service, partnered with the Human Relations Commission, for listening, reporting and follow-up of incidences of discrimination and hate crimes.

THE CENTRE FOR LIVING WITH DYING

After three long years of watching the love of his life lose her battle with cancer, Daniel finally had to come to terms with his grief. He was so focused on taking care of his wife that he never took the time to work through the pain and trauma of watching his loved one die.

Fortunately a friend told Daniel about The Centre for Living with Dying. Although it was hard for him to seek help – he was always the one taking care of everybody else – he called The Centre.

Greeted by warm and caring staff, Daniel was matched up with a volunteer grief counselor. The volunteer listened to Daniel as he talked about the many feelings that he experienced as a result of the grieving process.

The Centre for Living with Dying has been helping people like Daniel for nearly 30 years. The Centre provides emotional support to adults and children facing life-threatening illness or the trauma of

having a loved one die. The Centre also provides crisis intervention services as well as educational services on grief and loss. Whether clients choose individual counseling or grief groups, they are gently given tools for coping with loss and trauma.

Volunteers are the strong foundation of The Centre. The Centre clients can request to be matched with a volunteer who provides on-going grief support. The client and volunteer set up a mutually convenient time to meet, usually one hour per week. The sessions provide the client with a safe place to share their feelings without judgment.

The Centre for Living with Dying became a Bill Wilson Center program in August.

The Centre is a significant addition to the support services Bill Wilson Center provides. The merger will enable the Centre's work in grief and loss to continue, and to grow.



The Centre for Living with Dying Services include:

Grief Counseling

Emotional support is provided for adults and children who are facing a terminal illness or the death of a loved one, in a group or one with one format. Specialized groups are available for Widow, Widowers and Partners, Survivors of Suicide (SOS) and for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Healing Heart

Offering peer group grief support for children, adolescents and teens, facilitated by screened and trained volunteers, and unique for its extensive weekly parent/caregiver involvement.

Crisis Intervention

In preparation for or following a death or a traumatic incident the program provides on-site counseling at schools, businesses and community organizations.

Community Education

Workshops are provided that relate to grief, death, trauma, peer support training and debriefing to healthcare professionals, emergency personnel (POST certified) and other individuals.

Awards

YOUTH RECEIVES NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARD

"Abbie is mature and responsible, and I can count on her to represent Safe Place in a professional manner at all times," says Lyndsey Marks, Bill Wilson Center's Safe Place Coordinator.

Abbie Korman was the recipient of the "Tomorrow's Promise" Youth Volunteer Award which is awarded by National Safe Place. Each year young people across the country share their time and talents with Safe Place programs. Abbie has dedicated countless hours reaching out to her peers and community promoting the Safe Place program. Abbie is an active volunteer in Safe Place Community Outreach (SPCO), the youth-leadership component of Safe Place.

National Safe Place Conference in Louisville, Kentucky to receive the award. Together they presented the SPCO program to other national Safe Place staff and volunteers so that they may implement the program in their communities.

"Abbie leads by example and doesn't seek recognition for her efforts," says Lyndsey. "I'm so glad to see her recognized with this award."



Abbie Korman (left), recipient of "Tomorrow's Promise" National Youth Volunteer Award along with Safe Place Coordinator, Lyndsey Marks (right).

Abbie and Lyndsey attended the

Congratulations Abbie!

WHEELS TO WORK PROGRAM



Victor's only possession, his car, was also his home. When Victor's car was impounded, he moved in to Bill Wilson Center's Transitional Housing Program, but without a car he was unable to get to school and work. Fortunately for Victor, outreach worker Steve Nordseth had a program called Wheels to Work. The program provides scooters, bikes, or skateboards to youth at the Drop-In Center who are working and need transportation.

"Due to recent budget cuts, the Valley Transportation Authority is no longer subsidizing bus passes," says Steve. "We receive five VTA passes each month which we must share with the 40 to 50 youth who come to the Center each day."

"I began looking online for people who were giving away bicycles," says Steve. "Next thing I knew people were donating scooters and skateboards. The program has been a great success."

If you have a bike or scooter that you wish to donate to the Wheels to Work Program please contact Steve Nordseth at (408) 925-0224.

Announcements

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

CHUCK BLAIR

DAVID LANG

CRAIG PAMPEYAN

Bill Wilson Center is pleased to announce the addition of three new board members, Craig Pampeyan, David Lang and Chuck Blair. Both David and Chuck are former members of the board of The Centre for Living with Dying, and were a part of the negotiations team that worked on the merger of The Centre with Bill Wilson Center. Craig was formerly a Contact Cares board member.

David Lang is the U.S. Operations Controller at Trimble Navigation, and is an animal lover and sings in the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus.

David was on The Centre for Living with Dying Board of Directors for 10 years and served as Treasurer. David is pleased to be a part of the Bill Wilson Center board as he feels that he can advocate for The Centre's services while supporting Bill Wilson Center's programs for youth and families.

"David is compassionate and analytical. His financial skills will be a valuable asset to our Board," stated Sparky Harlan, Executive Director for Bill Wilson Center.

Chuck Blair is a Realtor Associate for Keller Williams Realty. Before becoming a Realtor, Chuck owned a party store. One of his first encounters with The Centre for Living With Dying was when he donated tents and party necessities. Chuck has been involved with the Centre ever since, serving in fundraising and administrative capacities for the past 15 years, including a stretch as President of the Board.

Now that Bill Wilson Center has incorporated the Centre for Living With Dying's programs, Chuck is looking forward to increasing the services offered in this important area.

"Chuck combines strong people and administrative skills," commented Sparky Harlan, Executive Director for Bill Wilson Center. "These talents, along with his energy and creativity, will be valuable on our Board."

Chuck and his wife have been foster care parents to many youth over the years. In his spare time Chuck loves to travel and read.

Craig has worked for Hewlett-Packard for 23 years and is currently Director of Strategic Planning Worldwide. His experience in business development and operations will be a valuable asset as Bill Wilson Center continues to seek new opportunities to reach more members of the community.

"I grew up in a family that was very active in the community," said Craig. "I understand the special issues nonprofit organizations face."

Craig became involved in Contact as a result of his volunteer work with H.A.N.D. (Helping After Neonatal Death), which uses Contact to answer their calls.

A BILL WILSON CENTER CHRISTMAS

*'T was the night before Christmas
And all through Bill Wilson Center
Were scattered ten
Rowdy belligerent children*

*There was Brittany
With her bad attitude
And Chad who was one
Really smelly dude*

*There was Jack saying
He was fifteen
And Amber who
Was hardly seen*

*Playing video games was Hector
Who fancied himself a player
And Kathy who was a tease
Cause she knew anyone would date her*

*Sitting on the couch was Lisa
Blonde haired and blue eyed
And small little Hamid
Looking hella fried*

*Dave was seen raging
Up and down the hall
And Jennifer who had
Just got back from the mall*

*These kids all wore frowns
As far from glad as could be
In fact a few teetered
On the edge of misery*

*When came many individuals
All with lots of heart
Sharon, Noriko and Shazad
Just for a start*

*They came in multitudes
And bounds
They would stop and help
Any youth they found*

*The youth were at first
Apprehensive and cautious
But soon yielded
To what they taught us*

*This gave everyone
A good-hearted feeling
Many's heart soared
Right through the ceiling*

*There was a dinner prepared with
Stuffing, turkey and ham
And who should show up
But ILP's David and Pam*

*The festivities lasted
Well into the night
And ended without
One argument or fight*

*Looking back on this
I'm glad to have been there
And have been apart
Of the Bill Wilson Center*

— By a youth from Bill Wilson
Center's Runaway and Homeless
Youth Shelter

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

The Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) for their wonderful silent auction on behalf of Bill Wilson Center. CREW has raised funds at their annual holiday luncheon for many years! We appreciate their on-going support of our services for youth and families.

TrueWind Music for their Eclectic Evening of Music for the benefit of Bill Wilson Center. This very successful event featured Chuck McCabe, Judy Hackett (accompanied by Verne Schnaidt and Scott Bailey), Sherry Austin, Bev Barnett and Greg Newlon, and Primary Colors (Nate Pruitt and Rick Vandivier). We appreciate the support of these musicians, especially Bev Barnett for organizing the evening!

A special thank you goes to **Century 21 Champion Real Estate** for their third successful golf tournament supporting Bill Wilson Center. This year they raised \$7,700! Century 21 Champion's Margot Hessling and Cyndi Garbers did a wonderful job of organizing the tournament.



Volunteer!

BE A BILL WILSON CENTER VOLUNTEER!

If you are interested in contributing your time, partner with Bill Wilson Center. The following are examples of volunteer opportunities:

WORK WITH YOUTH

Street Youth Supporter: Work in our Drop-In Center for street youth by helping out with food preparation, linking youth with available resources and building positive bonds. Weekday shifts and Saturday afternoon needed.

ILP Facilitator: Work with foster youth one-on-one to develop independent living skills to prepare youth for when they leave the foster care system.

WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY

Contact Cares Volunteer: Contact Cares volunteers are needed to staff 24-hour crisis lines. Telephones are staffed 24-hours by trained volunteers prepared to offer support in times of crisis, stability in times of confusion, empathy in times of pain, and referrals in time of need.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER TRAINING DATES

Volunteer Orientation

Thursday, January 13, 2005

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

at

Bill Wilson Center
3490 The Alameda
Santa Clara, CA 95050

For more information and directions,
call Victor Garza at (408) 850-6138

Individuals are required to participate in volunteer orientation before attending training dates.

Grief Counselor: Volunteers in the Centre for Living With Dying program provide one-on-one grief support to individuals who are going through the grieving process.

Volunteers take part in a thorough training in order to provide the client with the support they need. To volunteer as a grief counselor please contact (408) 980-9801.

How do I become a Volunteer?

1. Call our Volunteer Coordinator at 408-850-6138, to find out the date of the next volunteer orientation.
2. Attend volunteer orientation.
3. Complete a volunteer application, including finger print check and a personal interview.
4. Participate in volunteer training.
5. Select a volunteer assignment and join us.

Do you have a compassionate heart?

*Are you willing to be present
to someone in grief?*

*Would you be open to learning
more about this healing journey?*

*The Centre for Living with Dying,
a program of Bill Wilson Center,
invites you to attend a*

Get Acquainted Coffee

Wednesday, January 19, 2005

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

at

554 Mansion Park Dr.
Santa Clara, Ca 95054

For more information and directions,
call Eileen at (408) 980-9801

Email: thecentre@billwilsoncenter.org

SAVE THE DATE! WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2005

Join Bill Wilson Center on Wednesday, April 27, 2005 from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Wyndham Hotel in San Jose. This event will bring BWC friends together for a free, fundraising luncheon featuring a client speaker, a new Bill Wilson Center video, a wonderful sit-down lunch, and the opportunity to help people in need.

You're invited to come and learn more about what we are doing in the community. Attendees will be asked to consider making a contribution; there is no minimum gift requested. It will be our job to inspire people to want to give!

Want to become more involved? Become a Table Captain! Table Captains are crucial to the success of Bill Wilson Center's luncheon. They invite their colleagues, friends and family members to join them at their table. It's easy and you can feel great pride in making a real difference for teens and families in need.

For more information, to RSVP, or to sign on as a Table Captain or Corporate Sponsor, contact Kathie Sheehy, Donor Relations, at 408-850-6129 or ksheehy@billwilsoncenter.org.

LOOKING FOR ANOTHER WAY TO HELP BILL WILSON CENTER?

We love being able to keep you updated on what we're doing here at Bill Wilson Center, but you could help us by sharing your email address. By sending the newsletter, annual report, and an occasional Enews by email, we will be able to get the news to you quickly, and lower our cost, maximizing our funds for our services. We'll also save a few trees!

We will not spam you. We will not send daily updates. We do not and will not share any information with others, whether that be your address, phone – or email. If you'd like to be added to our ENews list, send an email to apurdum@billwilsoncenter.org with the word "subscribe". Please note that you can unsubscribe at any time.



Bill Wilson Center

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