



# NEWSLETTER

## WINTER 2019

HOPE AMISDT A STATE OF CRISIS

### MISSING



#### MARY HOWE

AGE: 15  
HEIGHT: 5' 2"  
WEIGHT: 100 lbs (small frame)  
EYES: Blue  
HAIR: Brownish Blonde, curly, mid-back  
BIRTHDAY: 19-Nov-1979

#### Runaway

Missing since: 10-Oct-1993  
Last seen: Young High School, Hays CA

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Clear, fair skin  
Silver jewelry  
Long, natural fingernails  
Smokes Camels

If seen, Please contact

Family



THEN 1995, AGE 14  
STARTED THIS WORK 1999, AGE 19  
NOW 2019, AGE 40

### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Twenty years ago a coworker of mine told me she had found the perfect job for me. What was she talking about? I was happy in Oakland, learning the art of pulling espresso and holding my tongue amongst the 20-something punks and queers, some of which are still my dear friends today. I was 19 years old, just off the streets and probation, and had successfully ended my long and complicated relationship with drugs, but had no real vision of what I wanted to do with my life. I lived in a one-bedroom apartment with four other weirdos, building a community that could support me and fulfill me the way drugs once had. At that coworker's urging, I interviewed with the Haight Ashbury Youth Outreach Team, and the rest is history. Every single day I love my work, and am deeply grateful for all it has provided me. The human connection, camaraderie and true acceptance I experience and witness every day are the most profound moments and rewards of life.

Homelessness has been an issue in San Francisco for decades, but as the landscape has dramatically changed in recent years, it has polarized our city; it is the topic of every neighborhood meeting, political debate and the media is obsessed. It affects all of us. The conflict continues to be how to address such a massive and systemic problem in a meaningful way. The continued approach of criminalization of visible poverty is not benefiting anyone, it just perpetuates inequality. We have more anti-homelessness laws than any city in our state, despite the fact it is proven ineffective, a waste of resources and offers no solutions. For the young people we have the honor to work alongside, we bear witness to the immense difficulty of what it is actually like to be experiencing homelessness. We regularly see how people are seen and treated as problems, instead of as people with problems.

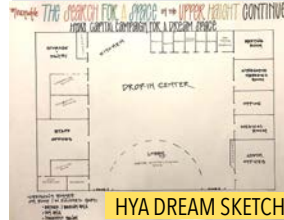
But change is coming. In November, voters elected Chesa Boudin as District Attorney. A longtime public defender, he has already pledged not to prosecute cases involving consensual sex work, public camping, or blocking sidewalks, and he vows to continue the fight against the criminalization of homelessness. We are optimistic that this different approach can lead us all in a new direction and focus political will to create actual solutions, like housing.

Despite homelessness becoming more and more of a political issue, the Haight continues to be left behind. Since 2015, eight Navigation Centers have opened, with six currently operating in the central and eastern parts of the city. Yet not has been one placed in District 5, and the long-promised youth Navigation Center never materialized. We are hopeful that with incoming D5 Supervisor Dean Preston this will change. Since HYA lost the lease to our drop-in center six years ago, we've struggled to secure the physical space we need to best serve our participants. Our current pop-up evening drop-in center at the historic Haight Ashbury Free Clinic site is at the top of 26 stairs, making it inaccessible for people with disabilities or injuries. And, the central room is so small that during a rush, there are not enough chairs or space for people to get the respite and one-on-one case management they need.

Continued on the next page

### HYA's HOLIDAY WISH LIST

Tonight as I sat on the stairs outside our evening site I was reviewing a draft of the newsletter. A newer participant saw the photos of me and asked me how I was able to get off the streets and create HYA. They asked me if things were as hard and mean in SF in the 90's. I said they were different, being homeless is always hard, but people were kinder, they were not as hostile and hurtful towards folks then. They said "thank you so much for making such an amazing space available to us, this is really huge you help with everything. I can be totally honest with you all. It's a place we can come and be treated like a human and feel safe for a couple hours. We need more people like you.. y'all keep it real."



We like this spot on Stanyan



Also this spot on Haight



The drop-in couches!!!

I told them how we used to have a space of our own, that it was on the street level and had showers. They asked, "were there couches to chill on?" This made me almost cry. That is exactly what the drop-in was, a reprieve, a space to be welcomed exactly as you were. Get your basic needs met enough that it was possible to look and work towards a better future.

I remember the last day of the drop-in, vividly. With pain in our hearts and pits in our stomachs, we (along with six news crews) waited for the Christmas Miracle. It was our hope

that someone would save the day and buy us our home or a new one, or the property owners would change their minds, obviously that did not happen.

But it still could happen. The good news is there are still plenty of spaces available in the Haight. With so much wealth in this city, with so much energy and discussion about the "situation with homelessness" it is time to stop talking and take action. Can you help HYA find a home again? Can you show our young people that we care and that we know change is possible when given the right opportunities?

Letter from the Director continued from cover

The issue is only getting more urgent, not less. The *New York Times* reported this month that homelessness in San Francisco jumped 30 percent from 2018 to 2019. While there are hundreds of dedicated service providers working overtime to serve this population, we're facing numbers we've never seen before. At HYA, we have struggled to hire and retain staff due to the unaffordability of the Bay Area. Quite simply folks cannot afford to live here at the wages we make.

But this year, one extremely generous donor made a brighter future for HYA possible, with a significant multi-year donation that truly changed our trajectory. The donation allowed us to immediately increase the existing staff's wages and begin to build our infrastructure.

It couldn't come at a better time. HYA's programming doubled with the unexpected acquisition of a transitional-aged youth housing program. As we also shifted to our own 501c3 status earlier this year, increasing our administrative capacity to meet these changes was essential for us to continue to fulfill our mission with the ethos and heart that we are known for.

This growth has already begun. In the last month, we hired a brilliant and motivated development associate, and are in the midst of hiring a finance department. These new roles have been a longtime goal of ours and will allow us to strengthen our core and build towards a more balanced agency.

At 19, I never thought at 40 I would still be here. I've literally grown up at HYA, still to many, my role as executive director is not clear, I guess I just don't have the image down quite yet. I can't help but laugh when I think of a participant inquiring to the outreach team if "the lady who sits on the stairs is the boss" and upon confirmation saying "She's pretty down for an elderly lady". Youth still confide in me their secrets, heart breaks, struggles and actual age. The neighborhood police still run my name and give me warnings for violating the sit lie law. However, there will come a day when it will be time for me let some other younger visionary take my place, and because HYA will have an infrastructure someone may actually want to.

In this reflective time, as I greet the young people walking up the stairs past me at our evening site, I feel so grateful we have created a space that feels welcoming and safe, a place where they know they can come exactly as they are and get reprieve from the stress and pressures of the street. I think about how I and my peers did not have such a place. I think not only about their present circumstances, but of the potential of their future. I think about how HYA has the privilege to be a part of their journey. You never know who that person will become. You all — as our supporters and donors — make that connection possible. We could not do it without you.

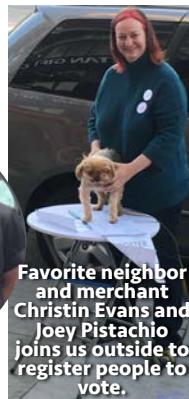
Regardless of if you are able to donate to HYA this year or not, please take action. The next time you are walking down the street and are tempted to avert your eyes from someone who makes you feel uncomfortable, instead acknowledge them. Say hello, share a smile. On a rainy day as you're leaving your home, grab that jacket or sweater you never wear and give it to someone. When you're getting your morning coffee buy an extra one for the person sitting outside.

These gestures may seem small or insignificant, but I assure you, they are not. These moments are sadly incredibly rare for people experiencing homelessness. Instances of connection provide hope, and these little actions have positive ripple effects. These moments give power to people who often feel they have none. This shifting of energy is how we begin to bring people in instead of push them away, this is how change happens.

In Solidarity,

*Mary Howe*

Broken leg and can't get up the clinic stairs? Dr. Borne doesn't let that stop her from providing medical care and emergency Tarot readings!



## STAFF

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
MARY HOWE

**OPERATION MANAGER**  
TOIVO OLLILA

**PROGRAM MANAGER OF STREET TEAM**  
KENN SUTTO

**OUTREACH COUNSELORS**  
ERICK SALAZAR  
SASKIA BISCOE  
ALE DELPINAL

**PROGRAM MANAGER OF HOUSING**  
KARIN ADAMS

**HOUSING CASE MANAGERS**  
MELISSA MATHENEY  
AMIRAH BASHIR  
MICAH JORGENSON

**LOGISTICS COORDINATOR**  
MORGAN DELORENZO

**POLICY & ADVOCACY COORDINATOR**  
SHIRA NOEL

**DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE**  
NUALA BISHARI

**MENTAL HEALTH TEAM**  
**HARM REDUCTION THERAPY CENTER**  
MAURICE BYRD LMFT  
JIA BROUSSARD ACSW  
JASON BROWN LCSW  
JOEY HESS ACSW  
MASA FISHER MD  
DIANA VALENTINE LCSW

**MEDICAL TEAM**  
DR KATIE RYAN AKA DR AWESOME  
**STREET MEDICINE TEAM**  
DR. DEB BORNE  
SHANNON DUCHARME  
KRISTEN MATTESON RN  
REBECCA PFIEFER-ROSENBLUM RN  
ANDREA SANCHEZ RN

## MOST IMPORTANTLY OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

LISA ADLER, STEPHANY JOY ASHLEY,  
ALEX BAZAZI, FRANK CASTRO,  
TOSH CHENETTE, DANNY HARDING,  
JULIE HARELMAN, HANNAH HOROVITZ,  
PATRICK MANN, VANESSA MCMAHAN,  
CARRIE ROSE MILLER, JASON NORELLI,  
COUPER ORONA, LIESL PICCOLO,  
DAVID SPARKS, SUZANNE MBS RIVECCA,  
GABY RODEZNO, TORI TALAVERA,  
ELIZA 'OB' WHEELER

Thank you to Huckleberry's Cole Street Youth Clinic, Page Street Library, HealthRIGHT 360 and DISH's Minna Lee for sharing their spaces with HYA so that we have the opportunity to provide services indoors. And to our collaborators DOPE Project, Harm Reduction Therapy Center, Glide, Downtown Streets and SFPDH's Street Medicine Team, together we are able to provide the care and opportunity our community deserves.



# FROM THE DESK OF PROGRAM MANAGER KENN SUTTO

A few months ago, Housing Program Manager Karin Adams made a sign that hangs in our main office. It says "Our Sentences, Our Conversations, Our Work Should Always Begin and End with the Participants." I look at that poster a lot. I think in the best ways we can, HYA carries out that approach day in and day out. I see my coworkers — the hardest working people I have ever met — come here and give all they can, unfaltering in their dedication to being there for our participants. Earlier this year one of the outreach counselors (OC's) spent all day and long into the night with a participant who was having a physically and emotionally intense medical procedure done. The counselor was still with the person at the hospital, near midnight, when I texted them "You're a champ for staying with them so long." The counselor wrote back, "No, they are the champ. I'm just here for them." We are here for them. And it's an honor.

There is grace, beauty and humility in this work that transcends words. To sit with a young person and build a relationship is a powerful and humbling experience. When people who've been through so much trauma in their lives trust you, laugh with you, and tell you things they may never tell their friends it's a hard-earned reward. These relationships we build take time and patience. Sometimes people I talk to who aren't familiar with our work, ask me, "you just help them get housed or off drugs or whatever and then it's over right?" No.

As the crisis of inequality and homelessness that runs rampant continues unabated, and — as the last Homeless Point in Time count showed — more and more people become homeless, there is a constant push for solutions and added pressure to focus on "outcomes." Bureaucracies and systems of coordinated services are important to help end homelessness, and I sincerely believe HYA is doing our best to help young people navigate resources to get the results they want. But I'm also thankful that HYA's role has never been to solve anyone's life. Our services are not meant to shunt people from one thing to another. We are there on a street corner, coffee shop, courtroom, hospital, or on the phone to bear witness, listen, celebrate their hard fought successes, or just to talk about music and dogs. We don't pass judgement or tell people what to do, and we don't have the answers to anyone else's life. The young people are their own experts, we are just there support and help as we can.

Building relationships with young people who've been marginalized, undergone intense trauma, and who have often been repeatedly let down is long, slow work, but like almost everything in life, it is that investment in time, compassion, and humility that results in real progress. This year I have sat with young people as they opened up and analyzed their own experiences and displayed immense

growth and perspective in their lives, coping mechanisms, and belief in themselves. This translates into different things for different people, from being ready to exit homelessness, to quitting drugs, to finding a path toward better mental health and happier relationships.

This year, a young man who stopped using heroin and got off the street told me that he couldn't have done it without HYA. I told him, "no, you did all this; you made these changes." He laughed and said "yeah I know you have to say that, but really, thank you. It wouldn't have been possible without you all." It never ceases to move me when a participant says something like that to me. And I think he's right, HYA did help him immensely by being there for him week after week and giving support in a myriad of ways. But I also know that he is the prime mover of his own life, and he made the growth he wanted to have happen. All of this begins and ends with him, and all the rest of our participants.

Our participants — who deal daily with cold, hunger, police harassment, having all their stuff stolen, not having access to clean water or a bathroom, mistreatment by housed folks, traumas past and present — are astoundingly resilient. The other day on outreach with Outreach Counselor Erick Salazar and Therapist Joey Hess, we ran into two youth coming out of Golden Gate Park. We chatted about the impending rain and what food we'd have at the Needle Exchange that night. The youth started doing this thing where they said celebrity names with an over stylized french accent. They were cracking each other up, and pretty soon we were all laughing super hard. It struck me, in that moment, of how resilient the folks we serve are. Both these kids are overcoming all sorts of things, and were very cold and wet the night before. They both had every reason to be down and out and self pitying. But instead they had tenacity and humor, and were able to crack jokes and create a beautiful, sweet moment.

I'll never know all of anyone's story — you can't. But I am grateful for the bits and pieces of lives that our participants share with us from the rough, silly and sad stuff, and everything in between. And going forward, we will work to always do better by them, and honor their trust in us. In 2020, we probably won't solve homelessness in San Francisco. But we can do the best we can. After all, that's what the participants are doing. And it all begins and ends with them.



Sometimes Kenn does have the whole world in his hands

Ale (holding newborn Sixta), Toivo, Amirah, and Erick



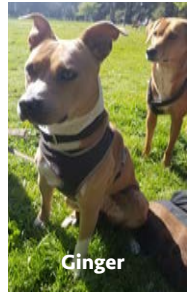
## 2019 STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

- When a participant saved Kenn and Maurice's lives by calling them over right before a car jumped the curb hitting the fire hydrant they were next to
- Successfully exiting 4 participants from the Sunset to permanent housing and more working towards that transition
- Getting to walk with a 24-year-old youth who's been houseless since 16 through the process of getting her first apartment!
- When the cops did not show up (for the first time ever) at a memorial lasting 6 hours
- Tons of people continuing to get trained on OD prevention and Naloxone. Kids saving each other's and strangers lives all the time
- Many new and amazing staff! And youth very excited to be on our interview panels
- Ale had a baby!
- Opening the HIVE, the Housing Team's office on Haight, that we also use as a "drop by" twice a week. It's been a fantastic venue to have more time to spend with youth. The response has been very positive!
- After 12 years, separating from our fiscal sponsor to become our own 501c3
- When Eliza successfully picked a lock using a Youtube video
- I'm very proud of the advocacy I've seen of HYA staff with participants around other providers, health services, housing, and legal issues – including being there for criminal court support and helping participants successfully maintain their housing in the face of possible expulsion.
- When a participant threatened to sue us over not providing milk with our famous peanut butter balls.
- Youth organized a protest of the Sit/Lie law
- Taking a bunch of kids to see The Last Black Man in San Francisco
- Having lots of successful mediations and meetings with family members to reconnect w/ their youth
- Watching Roadkill use her voice and become a fierce advocate for the community
- Getting raises
- When the only cups we had at our clinic said "URINE COLLECTION CONTAINER"

"HYA cared enough about me, consistently enough, that eventually I took note and started to care about me too. I wouldn't be here if I hadn't learned how to give a shit about myself and my use, because in caring enough about those things the only logical conclusion is to get clean. I can't begin to articulate how thankful I am." - Trish A.



"I wrote a paper for a class awhile back about all the great stuff you guys did for me when I was on the road. The most important thing to me was the support you gave me when my dog was wrongfully accused of biting someone. You guys not only helped us by getting us to court dates, getting court clothes, showers, putting together petitions... you even held money for me so that I could get Memphis out of the pound, and came to court to testify that she wasn't aggressive. We got Memphis back, and the guy who claimed she bit him perjured himself. I would have never stayed sane and got my best friend back if it wasn't for you guys.



She turns 14 in a few months. We are long retired and live in Minneapolis. We are doing extremely well. Thank you for all of the small things too. But thank you most of all for keeping me and my best friend alive." - Jessica I.



"HYA provided me with much-needed help gaining access to asthma medication, access to showers, clothes, and a replacement sleeping bag when mine was falling apart. They treated me with dignity and respect when I was on the street and passing through, and the classes that I took with them on how to resuscitate and administer Narcan have helped me keep 4 people from going under until paramedics could report to the scene. They are a genuine beacon of hope and human compassion that passes no judgement and is not trying to force any agenda on those that seek help from them. That is rare and beautiful. I wish that there was a nation wide HYA network. It truly is an amazing organization." - Katye K.

"HYA guided me when I was on the street for a total of 9 years. HYA helped me get Narcan which allowed me to save countless friends' lives. Without HYA, I would have continued to use my dirty-ass dull needles over and over again. You guys helped me get medical services when I had abscesses. To this day you guys are the reason I STAY inspired to do my own harm reduction. I fucking love you guys and what you stand for." - Caitlin A

"HYA has done so much for so many kids and young adults that have found themselves struggling on the streets. I can't even begin to express the amount of gratitude and thanks that they deserve. This amazingly non-judgmental, loving, organized group of humans have been so helpful in not only giving kids a safe place to relax and eat, but they also help people with housing, jobs, and drug programs. No matter what happens they have been able to keep logs of kids coming in and out of the Haight, and they help keep documents and contact information safe for people without a place to store them, SAVING PEOPLE when it comes to wanting to get their shit together.

HYA is also sadly the first place we go to confirm that any of our street family has passed away. They notify family members and friends, and also organize a memorial service for anyone that has passed through this service.

Without them, there's no doubt in my mind that this city and the kids that have come and gone would be completely lost."



"When HYA took over [the housing program] from Taking it to the Streets they did everything in their power to help as best they could. If I needed anything, I knew all I had to do was ask and if it was within their power they would do it. When I moved out of the housing program they helped with the arrangements of shipping my stuff and train tickets. I actually felt like I was listened to and heard, which is nice since I don't usually feel like I am." - John C



"HYA has literally saved my life a few times. Medical care (antibiotics without going to the hospital) wound care, etc. When I first came to San Francisco the drop-in was very helpful. Just talking to you guys. Shit, you've even written me in jail. You work so hard to help people. You rock." - Toby T.

"When I was 17-19 and extremely strung out in the city I knew I could go to the HYA in the morning and eat, use the internet for email. And call home. Wash up. Just chill on the couch and watch those old Simpsons videos. I just knew no matter what I had been through the night before I had a place to go in the morning where I was safe." - Nicole G.



"I wouldn't have survived without HYA. I was young and at risk. They helped me with my basic needs and gave me a chance for opportunity beyond that. When I had no one, they were there." - Dianna T



# THE PARTICIPANTS

*I'll be 30 in less than a month. It isn't that I didn't think I would make it to 30, but I certainly wasn't planning for a long and happy, healthy life... HYA cared about me when I didn't care for myself, and they do this for every one of us, the old faces and the new. The people at HYA are our friends. They help "at risk" youth without the scorn of judgement and then encourage and help us find the means to lift ourselves up when we're ready. They continue to care for, regardless of outcomes. A friend of mine used to say "The HYA is my mom," and that's because these people have been a home, a place to feel safe for thousands of people. They save lives, sometimes literally, sometimes just by causing people to realize they are worth love and change. The work they do, the medical care, drug and mental health intervention, the food, the socks, their presence, it isn't just a JOB- it is a consistent act of compassion, it's a purpose. The HYA is a hero, to me, and to so many people before my time and long after.*

*So if you can, please send them a dollar and know that it bought someone antibiotics, a pair of shoes, funded a park clean up, or put gas in their van that carries supplies. Know that it actually can change someones life because*

*I was one of them. - Cassandra B. (Written for a Facebook fundraiser)*



Erick and Saskia just grillin' and chillin'

*You guys are the shit, I love y'all so much. You guys always had my back, letting me hide in your office when I had a bad trip or when my ex was putting hands on me. Thank you guys so much for all your help and support. Love y'all from North Carolina - Roxie C.*



Mary & Audra, then, 2007

*"HYA was practically the only place I could go and not feel like a piece of meat or a piece of shit. It cared for me until I cared for myself and fought for me to fight for myself. Letters to jail, accepting phone calls, going to court dates ... free snacks 'cause you know no dollars went to food, and if it wasn't free, I didn't eat. Mary and co. showed me what it feels like to show up for others and myself. It made getting clean and giving back look desirably punk rock.*

*Mary's been there for me when I was doing ok, doing well, doing horrible and doing fabulous... without judgement or pressure to be anywhere other than where I was and anybody other than who I was." - Audra M.*



Mary & Audra, now, 2019

*"HYA treated me like a person worthy of safety and support when I didn't even care about making it to see tomorrow. Without the external reminders of my worth, I would have felt no reason to pick myself up to where I am today." - Charlie T.*



Clover and Victor already in the holiday spirit

*You guys were always there for me when I was down and out on Haight Street. You made me feel at home when I was at my lowest point and I'm forever grateful to call you my friends and family. - Kirk R.*

*"If it wasn't for the support y'all give I wouldn't have my housing, mental health certificate and drug alcohol certificate and be a city employee." - Nick L.*

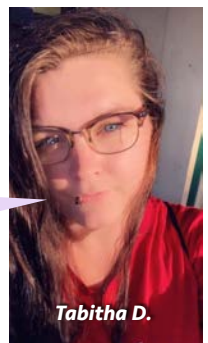
*"When I got stabbed in my hand you guys helped me with bandages, made sure that I kept it clean. Really appreciate it then and now." - Henry R.*



*"Volunteering with HYA was truly the most transformative experience of my life. Seeing the work that the incredible staff and volunteers do, inspired me to pursue a career working with folks experiencing homelessness. The work that HYA does is something special; no other organization really listens to and centers the experiences of participants the way that HYA does. The fact that they are so committed to centering participant experience and participation makes it a rare place that actually embodies the principles of harm reduction and social justice. Not only is participant experience valued in terms of outreach and services, you also see it in the tireless advocacy of HYA which makes sure that their voices are heard by policy makers who's actions that directly effects their lives, and the lives of the many folks who are living on the street. The fierceness and dedication of Mary and all the HYA staff are a daily inspiration to me, and are a powerful model of the change that can happen when we respect, uplift, and honor the lived experience of youth." - Paige C. (Former HYA Volunteer)*



*When I was homeless and pregnant y'all made sure I didn't have to sleep on the street.  
You've helped me with the recent issues i've had with my housing program.  
You always treat homeless people with respect and make us feel like we're actually humans.  
You guys are awesome, keep doing the awesome work.*



Tabitha D.

## FROM JANUARY - OCTOBER 2019, THE ~~homeless~~ HOMELESS YOUTH ALLIANCE:

During **Street Outreach** staff made **4,189 contacts** with youth, giving them basic needs, hygiene supplies and socks;

**359** youth attended our **Friday Groups** at the library;

**389** individual youth utilized **Case Management** services;

Those 389 youth attended 824 Case Management Meetings over **611 hours**;

During **Case Management** staff accompanied youth to **49** appointments for **benefits**, **27** appointments for **housing enrollment/advocacy**, **29** court dates, **7** intakes into inpatient drug treatment, supported **20** youth after a violent assault, **46** hospital visits, and were present at **1** birth.

**4,065** people received syringes during our **Syringe Access** site. Those folks reached an additional **2,769** through satellite deliveries;

**4,126** people who don't inject received other **supplies** and/or **support** during our **Syringe Access** site;

**337** people received **Naloxone** prescriptions at HYA's **Syringe Access** program and there were 146 reported uses= **146 lives saved**;

Our **Medical Clinic** (open to all) during Syringe Access site had **1,007 visits**;

In the first 21 months of our **Suboxone clinic** we had **51 people enroll** and **73% continue** with their treatment.

AND

In the past 9 months our **Mental Health Team** engaged with **439 individuals** on outreach and during syringe access services.

Therapists had **256 sessions** with **103 youth**;

*I'm Leroy. HYA provided me, other **Dogs** and **cats** too about **7,620 bags of food**, **treats**, **muzzles**, **leashes** and an **obscene amount of love**.*



## HOW ARE THINGS GOING AT THE SUNSET: HYA's HOUSING PROGRAM? BY: KARIN ADAMS



**KARIN**  
PROGRAM MANAGER



**AMIRAH**  
NALOXONE FAIRY/CM



Good times w/ Nate  
**Karin and Tiff**



**MELISSA**  
CASE MANAGER



**MICAH**  
CASE MANAGER

In the fall of 2018, HYA made the decision to assume leadership of an already operational Transitional-Aged Youth temporary Housing Program in crisis, located in a single-room occupancy hotel. We answered the urgency of this call principally in an effort to ensure these young people – many of whom engaged with HYA — maintained their current housing. We've spent the past year in the steepest learning curve of our organization's history, but we cannot be more grateful for this opportunity to co-create a housing program unlike anything we or San Francisco has seen before.

The sudden removal of the previous service provider caused a significant disruption to the program and its residents. Thus, repair and stabilization were the top priorities the past year. This meant prioritizing the mending of relationships between participants and service providers, improving living conditions, and creating a safe(r) environment. We have focused on developing a program that holds true to HYA's ethos of participant-centered care, bringing to life the mantra "nothing about us, without us."

### Program Overview:

**Harm Reduction (HR) Model:** Harm reduction accepts, for better and or worse, that licit and illicit drug/alcohol use, poverty, "isms" and privilege, are part of our world and chooses to work to minimize their harmful effects, rather than simply ignore or condemn them. HYA supports program participants where they are at, are available to discuss their needs, and help navigate personal/environmental triggers.

**Mental Health Care:** Therapists co-facilitate a weekly group on the stairwell (there is no common area) that serves as a consistent space to laugh, eat pizza, address issues in the house, and build community. Participants can further engage in individual or couples therapy, and psychiatry as needed.

**Case Management:** Participants are required to engage in one-on-one case management. This time is when the really deep work happens. As relationships grow, youth are more open to have conversations about their

current circumstances and moving beyond them. Exit placements can be done through permanent supportive housing, independent housing, substance use treatment programs, or in re-establishing connections with family and friends.

**Making Room to Celebrate:** It's easy to get lost in daily tasks, however it's immensely important to make the time to celebrate. This includes birthdays, people transitioning out of the program, being approved for benefits and participants getting a new job or going to school. Making this space allows for participant witnessing and possible inspiration, intentional time for closings, and celebration for what's been achieved.

**Community Meetings:** These are held monthly with all available program participants at the nearby Minna Lee's community room. They have been an imperative space to garner participant feedback, laugh, disagree, try again, and build a different/new/healthier sense of community.

**Everyday Necessities:** HYA provides weekly pantry bags of food and monthly grocery gift cards. Bus passes are distributed ensuring people can easily travel to and from appointments. We also hold weekly laundry sessions nearby, accompanied by the laundromat owner's personal soundtrack of 80s and '90s love songs.

Historically, youth we work with tended to shy away from available housing in the city because they didn't feel welcome as they were, or had fear around safety and isolation. They often felt more security sleeping outside within their identified communities. This housing program is our chance to work towards changing this narrative, and establishing something different.

But there is much more work to be done. We need fierce advocacy at local and federal levels that informs decision makers about the realities of youth's lives and the systems that often fail them. We are looking forward to be a part of the solution.



# HYA DONORS: DECEMBER 2018 - NOVEMBER 2019

Apologies if you donated and we omitted your name or recognized you incorrectly. Still all these years later we are not perfect, go figure.

## \$100,000 +

SAN FRANCISCO DEPT. OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH/CHPEP  
SAN FRANCISCO DEPT. OF  
HOMELESSNESS &  
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING  
MR & MRS KEITH GEESLIN

## \$25,000+

MAY & STANLEY SMITH  
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## \$10,000+

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BROADWAY CARES EQUITY  
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JUDITH HELLMAN  
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SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY  
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NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
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AUDRA KUNKLE +  
AUDRA MEUSX  
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DORON NOYMAN  
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MOYER+ Msp  
BRAD SHAPIRO 40  
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MIRRIAM BRADEN +  
ANDREA BROWN MJK  
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JASPER REAL-ENUFF 40  
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APRIL SLONE 40  
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SARAH D. STMARY 40  
THE SUNDAHLS +  
FRANK TANAKA  
CHARLIE TOLEDO 40  
ALEX TURNER 40  
DANA WILLIAMS  
JOSEPH WILSON 40  
JEFF WOZNAK

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AAA 5  
ANNE AABOE 40  
METTE ADAMS 40  
AMAZON SMILE FOUNDATION  
JIM ANDERSEN +  
LELANI ANN 40  
ERIN ANTUNEZ + 40  
VAN ASHER 40  
MARIA BAKER 40  
MATTHEW BECK  
JUDITH S. BEE 40  
CZARINA BEHREND 40  
AYANNA BENNETT 40  
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CARLINA HANSEN  
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CHARLES HAWTHORNE 40 +  
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ROBIN POLLINI +  
BRIDGET PRINCE 40  
WENDY PUTKA  
ALLI REED +  
JOYCE RIVERA 40  
MARISSA RIZZY 40  
EMMA ROBERTS +  
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CHRISTINE RODRIGUEZ 40  
KEMI ROLE  
VALARIE ROSE 40  
ERIN RUCH 40  
GRETCHEN SANTAMOUR 40  
NUALA SAWYER +  
NAOMI SCHÖENFELD 40  
SHOSHANNA SCHOLAR 40  
SARA SHORT 40  
BETSY SHOWALTER  
MARK SIMMS 40  
BEN SIZEMORE +  
NIKKI SLOATE 40  
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RUMELI SNYDER +  
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AMANDA SPEZZANO  
SHELLY CONTRETAS SPARKS 40  
SHARON STANCLIFF 40  
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REBECCA WATSKY  
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MICHELLE WELSH  
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CARRIE BUGG WILSIE 40  
BRANDI WILSON +  
WHITNEY WIRT 40  
DAN WOOD 40  
MARTIN WRIGHT  
MENA ZAMINSKY 40  
ANDY ZEVALLOS 40  
ANONYMOUS (500+)

## DONOR KEY MULTIPLE YEAR DONORS + AIDS WALK

### 40 MARY'S 40TH BDAY

M MEMORIAL FUNDS IN HONOR OF PETE  
MORSE, SUSAN POFF, IAN MITCHARD  
MURPHY JOSEPH KOTT, HILLARY SMITH,  
SAM SADOWSKI, MICHAEL CAMPBELL,  
CRAIG FISH GOLDSMITH, TERRELL  
TERRY, GEORGE COLBURN.

## FACEBOOK GIVING ALERT

We benefit greatly from donations  
through Facebook. Unfortunately we get  
no information when the check comes.  
This is upsetting because we want to  
know who our supporters are,  
acknowledge them and include people on  
our mailing list. So please if you campaign  
for HYA or see someone else doing so,  
notify us by sending a message through  
our page or email us at  
development@homelesssyouthalliance.org



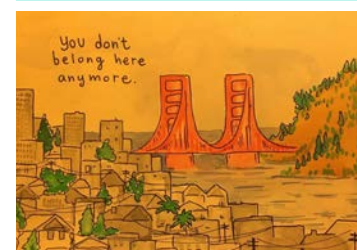
Recently the world lost a true SF native, Evan Larsen aka Spesh. You probably see his art everyday and just don't know it's his. I learned we used his drawing of someone having a "bad trip" in a health zine we made. "He was a brilliant artist and a reliable source of smiles and good humor" says his friend Jesse who organized this fund to inspire his spirit and good nature to live on. So far his community has raised \$18,317. To learn more or make a donation visit: [maximumfun.org/evan](http://maximumfun.org/evan)

## \$5,000

Anonymous  
Maximum Fun Inc.  
\$1,000  
William Adelman  
Carolyn Unger  
\$100 - \$250  
Joseph Abeyta  
Anthony Berkowitz  
Christopher Conway  
Danielle Dragon  
Charles Ertola  
Sean Farbolin  
Katherine Herrmann  
Lisa Kahlman  
Dan Kurtz  
Jan O'Brien  
Davin Pavlas  
Mark Schwartz  
Megan Sorenson  
Andrei Soroker  
Brian Stryker  
Elizabeth Lees Taggart  
Jonathan Ursprung  
Claudia Vieck

## \$1 - \$99

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Christian Allgood  
Marcelo Aviles  
Donald S Baldwin  
Ross Blocher  
Kimberly Blue  
Joseph Bradley  
Mark Brink  
Christopher Burton  
Maya Castleman  
Richard Clark  
Ian Conwell  
Jennie Deal  
Neil Egan  
Dominic Elefante  
Alicia Elliot  
Jessica Ellis  
James Fallows  
Christian Fisk  
Elijah Spector  
Ben Stanfield  
Sidone Straughn-Morse  
Noah Snyder  
Jamie Stella  
Zoe Tambling  
Brian Tanaka  
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Ryan Trost  
Sue Trowbridge  
Winifred Tyson  
Mark Usher  
Brandi Valenza  
Andrew Waddington  
Leslie Walstrom  
Christina Weber  
Stuart Wellington  
Ellen Wetmore  
Glenn Williams  
April Word  
Eric Wood  
Lawrence Wright  
Anonymous (59)





# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

HYA can only continue to do its vital work with the support of the community. We are so grateful for the generosity of foundations, city departments and organizations who have supported us over the years, but as we continue to grow and search for a new home, we must rely more heavily on the generosity of compassionate individuals, like you. We welcome skill based donations as well.

Any monetary donations will be put straight to work helping youth experiencing homelessness.

## THE FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATES SOME OF THE POWER YOUR DOLLAR HOLDS:

**\$10 BUYS 40 SETS OF TOOTHBRUSHES, FLOSS AND TOOTHPASTE**

**\$20 GETS 4 COLD WEATHER PACKS, WITH A PONCHO, HAND WARMERS, AND A TARP**

**\$30 PURCHASES 25 PAIRS OF SOCKS, A HOT COMMODITY WE ALWAYS RUN OUT OF**

**\$50 BUYS 40 HYGIENE KITS WITH SHAMPOO, BODY WASH, RAZORS, HAIRBRUSH, AND COIN TOWELS**

**\$100 PROVIDES 50 "DOGGIE BAGS" OF DOG FOOD FOR THE MANY COMPANIONS OF OUR PEOPLE**

**\$250 PAYS FOR 60 PAIRS OF NEW UNDERWEAR**

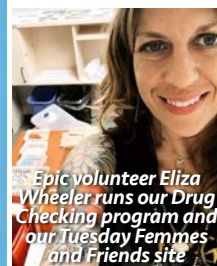
**\$500 PAYS FOR 33 SLEEPING BAGS, A VERY IMPORTANT COMMODITY**

**\$1,000 PROVIDES ONE MONTH OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR OUR MEDICAL CLINIC**

**\$5,000 ALLOWS US TO PROVIDE FOUR MONTHS OF HEALTHY, NUTRITIOUS FOOD**



Friday site crew:  
Jason, Maurice & Frank



Epic volunteer Eliza  
Wheeler runs our Drug  
Checking program and  
our Tuesday Femmes  
and Friends site

## IN-KIND DONATIONS

We gladly accept in-kind donations. Goods including clothing, food, hygiene supplies, books, dog food, pet care supplies, sleeping bags, tents, tarps, blankets and giftcards are gratefully accepted — and are tax deductible.

## SPREAD THE WORD

Regardless of your ability to give to HYA, you can do our participants a great service by telling friends, family, colleagues, and strangers about HYA's work. As our former staff therapist Jen Plummer says, "The media is so lopsided about homeless kids. It's important for anyone who supports HYA to talk to your friends and family about the fact that these kids are individual people, not a threat to be lumped together. It's important that anytime anyone can get the message out, they talk to people."



A special thank you to Jill and Keely of United Streets who provided some kick ass and much appreciated hair cuts (in the rain) at one of the Haight Street Health Fairs.



Sometimes Melissa retreats to the safety of a box



Saskia preparing supplies for Friday Art Group



Fish's Memorial, Photo by Mi Zhou



HYA's 2019 AIDS WALK TEAM Raised over \$5,000

Bilal Mafundi Ali, Maddie Hanson, Monica Cromarty, Mary Howe, Dr. Awesome, Ciera Wawers, Karin Adams, Sebastian Pandey, Kevin Hardesty, Laura Guzman, Eliza Wheeler, Jason Norelli

Not Photographed: Toivo Ollila & Krys Gerdes



Mariah



WHEN YOU JUST CANNOT DECIDE WHICH PHOTO IS THE BEST SO YOU USE ALL FOUR...

WE WELCOME DONATIONS AT ANY TIME, IN ANY AMOUNT, THROUGH OUR WEBSITE AT [homelessyouthalliance.org](http://homelessyouthalliance.org)

OR BY MAIL: DONATIONS BY CHECK CAN BE MADE OUT TO [Homeless Youth Alliance](http://Homeless Youth Alliance) AND MAILED TO: **PO Box 170427 San Francisco, CA 94117**