

INSIDE Out

Parent Info Link

Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall

NOV. 2007

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE! Expressive therapy nets multiple benefits in youth



Young men residing in the B9 living unit learn a complex series of dance steps in a routine developed and led by Ehud Krauss.

Internationally acclaimed dancer/instructor Ehud Krauss is dedicated to promoting dance as an art form in the community and as a catalyst for personal devel-



opment and academic achievement in youth. Under his guidance the minors at Juvenile Hall experience a range of motion and routines that engage their enthusiasm for dance.

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Flower Lady Brings Flowers, Food & Love



Megan Williams, the "Flower Lady" is a petite Vietnamese woman with a large heart and the resolve of a warrior. A single mother with three children, she has been raising money and soliciting volunteers to help her bring flowers and food

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Minors Create Flower Centerpieces for Loved Ones

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“My mother kept the flower arrangement I made for her last year. It sits on the mantle above the fireplace. I know she will save this one too.” — Gabriel



Thomas T. Nguyen the owner of Castro Point, a new restaurant in Mountain View, heard her request for donations on a Vietnamese radio station and stepped in to help. He told her that from then on he would purchase the flowers and food so she could devote her energies entirely to the young people.

“I admire her greatly,” said Nguyen. “Traditionally in Vietnamese households, if a child ends up in trouble with the law, the parents hide the fact and often shun the

to the young people at our JH for fifteen years. It started in her hometown Martinez in a small juvenile detention center. Megan decided that she would find a way to bring love to the young people detained in the facility. She began raising money to purchase flowers so the minors could make small arrangements for their loved ones on Thanksgiving, Christmas, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. She also brought them holiday food and solicited volunteers by email and radio announcements.

The program was so successful that Megan expanded it to reach all the minors in all the living units at SCC’s Juvenile Hall.

Over six years ago, businessman

child.” Megan is demonstrating to all of us that these teens need and deserve our love and kindness. I’m proud to be part of her flower and food program.” And the staff at JH is thankful to have her too!



Working in the Catalyst for Youth JH garden promotes teamwork and camaraderie among the young men who also enjoy catching the sun’s rays.

G2 Minors Attend Girls for a Change 5th Annual Summit



Four young women and two JH staff members joined more than 1,750 participants at the 5th Annual Girl Summit hosted by Girls For a Change (GFC) at the San Jose Convention Center on October 30, 2007. Throughout the day, they were inspired by speakers and performers, social change workshops, and (most importantly) each other.

GFC is a national organization founded in Silicon Valley in 2002 that empowers girls to create social change. They invite young women to design, lead, fund and implement social change projects that tackle issues girls face in their own neighborhoods. GFC provides the tools, resources, partnerships and support girls need to gain the voice, ability, and problem-solving capacity to realize their full potential.

“It was great to see girls from the entire SF Bay area coming together with such enthusiasm and excitement about what was being offered — tools and resources that could change their lives.”

—Dwight Richardson
Supervising Group Counselor

GFC kicks off each year with a Girl Summit, a one day confer

ence where girls and mentors-gather to learn about social change and are empowered to take action.

Supervising Group Counselor Dwight Richardson’s favorite part was hearing keynote speaker Carissa Gonzalez telling her story [see below] because it related to the minors that he brought to the Summit. “It gave them an opportunity to see that even given where they are, they can make other choices to change their life. The message they took

back is: ‘If she did it, maybe I can too.’”

Chris and Anna, two minors in living unit G2 found the Summit’s workshops and speakers inspiring. “I liked them all but especially the painter,” said Chris who is interested in pursuing an art career.

“I want to work with them when I am released,” shared Anna who will leave JH soon and plans on calling the local GFC resource person.

Keynote speaker at Girl’s Summit turns her life around after a caring Juvenile Hall Counselor reached out

Keynote speaker Carissa Gonzalez Phelps graduated from UCLA with a law degree and an MBA in June 2007. She was one of only a handful of students to complete the dual degree program. Today she is a senior investment analyst in private equity. Carissa’s road to success is eye-opening. When she was a child, she was abandoned at the juvenile hall in Fresno. Thrown into group homes, Carissa ran away and ended up on the streets. Homeless and alone, she begged and stole to survive. With no one to turn to, she was forced into the dark world of prostitution. She was 12.



Carissa started to turn her life around when a caring juvenile hall counselor reached out. He inspired Carissa to believe in her own potential. Carissa finished high school, attended community college and ultimately transferred to CSU Fresno, where she graduated summa cum laude. Carissa enrolled in law school with the goal of changing the world for at-risk youth. Today she is sharing her story to raise awareness for a population that she feels has been invisible for too long.

Spotlight on Group Counselor Yolanda Hernandez



There is an old idea that each person enters the world “called” and that reading your life backwards can reveal interests and impulses tied to that calling. Looking back on her life from her current position as a JH Group Counselor, Yolanda Hernandez can see the twists and turns of destiny at work. She had intentionally stayed away from criminal justice as a major while attending San Jose State because she was raised in a gang infested area and wanted no part of it. Instead she chose Sociology as her major and Mexican American Studies as a minor.

“Immigration was my passion,” said Yolanda. “I wanted to help solve the myriad of immigration issues that plagued so many in the Mexican American community.”

She discovered her love for young people when she was a Chicano history teacher in a high school summer school program in Castroville for four years. “I loved inspiring them and encouraging them to follow their dreams,” said Yolanda

That was her first experience in working with youth. And when she graduated from college in 2004 her two passions merged when she accepted a part time job at Juvenile Hall. Yolanda soon discovered that there were a lot of immigration issues that arose in conjunction with working with the parents of minors being detained at the facility and that she could help.

Her JH career started in “Girls Receiving” where she admitted minors into the facility. She was also made part of the response team, a group of employees who come to the aid of other staff when required.

“I was proud to be chosen as part of the response team,” shared Yolanda. “I worked side by side with experienced counselors who were very supportive and I learned a great deal in a short amount of time. After six months Yolanda was placed into G1 where she had a great mentor in counselor Maria Carrasco.

“She gave me her knowledge and experience as well as the space to make mistakes and learn from them,” recalls Yolanda. “And I also talk to God on a regular basis and ask for help and guidance. I have a strong connection with him.”

In G1, the minors are a mix of the most challenging girls—the ones who have committed the most serious crimes or who have failed other programs as well as the new girls who must find a way to adjust.

“The girls have experienced so many things that I feel protective toward them. I like knowing that we can keep them safe and reassure them that they are going to be okay.” She also enjoys teaching them social skills and works to boost their confidence and self esteem.

Yolanda’s colleagues—Juan Zamudio, Cindy Choi and Julissa Preciado—also contribute to her happiness on the job. “They are really fun to work with and the minors like to see us relaxed and joking around with them and each other. They also see us giving each other space if we are having a less than stellar day” she said. “The girls see all of us being real, and that is often a new experience for them.”

Today Yolanda plays an active role in JH. In September she created the first program specifically to honor the independence and culture of Latin America, bringing in Aztec dancers, drummers and a Folklorico dance team. It was a big hit with the minors and staff alike and will be an annual event.

During her off time, Yolanda spends time with family and friends, plays indoor soccer and enjoys traveling, but it is here at JH that she engages her heart and creative energies with a devotion to the minors’ welfare that inspires all who know her.

Heart of Chaos Visual Art Program Fuels Creativity in Youth



From working on a potter’s wheel under the guidance of sculptor Rubin Reyes to exploring abstract expressionism, each week young men decide what they want to try.

Emerging artists from the artisan collective Heart of Chaos (HOC) have been sharing their love of art with young men from the B9 & the B7 housing unit since April 2006. From calligraphy lessons by Bay Area scribe Pam van Dyck to throwing bowls on a wheel, this weekly art session is a program designed to engage and develop the creative talents of these youth.

What makes the program unique is that HOC volunteers and guest artists not only offer art lessons in a specific medium each week but they also encourage the young people to decide for themselves what they feel like creating that evening. Sometimes a few join the class just to listen to music and talk to the HOC volunteers.

Other times they’ll choose to draw, paint or create a collage. And working with clay is always a favorite activity.

“I dropped out of art class in high school,” said one minor, “because the teacher wouldn’t let me begin a drawing where I wanted to. When I tried to follow her method, I couldn’t do it. I like this program because these guys just help me create what I want.”

Heart of Chaos is a youth-created, and led artisan collective and the primary enterprise in Catalyst for Youth’s “incubator” initiative which supports entrepreneurial efforts by teens and young adults.

For more information & pictures or to volunteer as a guest artist please visit www.catalystforyouth.org and www.heartofchaos.net



(LEFT) Minors from B7 work on a panel that symbolizes their life before coming to Juvenile Hall, the transformation during their stay and then realizing their dreams upon release. (MIDDLE) HOC volunteer and artist Juan Flores teaches the minors in B9 how to make a pinch pot. (RIGHT) HOC Director and visual artist Anabella Pinon (right) talks about the drawings by the minors after introducing a session of drawing to different kinds of music.

Dance, Dance, Dance continued from page 1



Ehud Krauss founded Zohar Dance Studio in 1979, and it is his artistic vision from which all artistic activities and programs continue to evolve. As part of his vision for children to apply the benefits of dance education to their academic advancement, Krauss initiated IndepDANCE in 1986 which is offered to K-8 children in under-served communities. In 1995, he started the Juvie Jazz program for incarcerated youths in our facility. Krauss was requested in 2000 by the San Mateo County Office of Education to extend the IndepDANCE program to include children with special needs (including autism and ADD) in San Mateo County. Krauss has participated in national conferences to discuss how IndepDANCE might serve as a model program in other communities worldwide.

In 1995 Krauss brought “Juvie Jazz” to our minors to make dance and its positive benefits available to them. Each week he gives these young men and women the opportunity to express themselves in a positive and creative activity that encourages them to work together and grow as individuals. He not only fosters in them a love of the arts and the pride of achievement, he helps them develop discipline, a standard of excellence and ultimately a belief in themselves. The program has received local, national and international attention for its innovation and positive results.

Dance is a form of expressive therapy, a use of movement for emotional, mental, social, behavioural and physical conditions. The healing attributes of dance are based on the understanding that the body and mind are essentially “one” (called bodymind) which means that the state of the body affects mental and emotional wellbeing in significant ways.

Expressive arts such as Krauss’ dance program have a unique power to engage young people and motivate them toward excellence. In fact, each year the programs developed by Krauss inspire hundreds of youth reaching across social, ethnic, and economic boundaries and include teens facing physical and emotional challenges. Based on its success here in JH, Juvie Jazz has been introduced with workshops in the San Francisco Juvenile Hall and regular classes in the San Mateo Juvenile Hall.

A documentary project, “The Master Class”, will feature Krauss and his teaching methods with “at-risk,” special needs, and incarcerated youths. See www.zohardancecompany.org



Dance Sessions end with a rigorous cardiovascular jump rope session.

SCC Probation Department’s Volunteer Programs in JH

Alcoholics Anonymous: Group meetings for minors with alcohol abuse problems

Alateen Alannon: Group meetings for minors who are related to people with alcohol abuse issues.

The Beat Within: A weekly publication of writings and artworks by minors in local JHs.

Catalyst for Youth Garden: A horticulture therapy program that revolves around planting and tending a garden within the compound of buildings that comprise the Juvenile Hall facility.

Fashion Design: A design and sewing class for female minors implemented by Catalyst for Youth volunteers.

Flower Programs: Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas volunteers under the direction of Megan Williams come in to assist minors with making flower arrangements for family members.

Foster Grandparent Programs: Volunteers over the age of 60 who provide supportive care, training, companionship and social contact with minors.

Furry Friends: Pet assisted therapy services where volunteers will bring in animals for minors to interact with.

Girl Scouts: Program that targets gang prevention for females.

Hair Care: Hair cut services are provided for all minors on a rotating schedule.

Health Realization (HR): A teaching model that is used in prevention, intervention, and treatment. HR teaches about how the human mind works, how the individuals’ experience of life is created and how much each person uses or misuses his/her ability to think. HR is taught on a weekly basis to designed living units.

Heart of Chaos Expressive Arts Program: Teaches a variety of mediums to several living units.

Narcotics Anonymous: Group meetings for minors with drug abuse problems.

Planned Parenthood: Program that targets teens who are at risk for teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and violence. Week long workshop educates minors about family life and issues surrounding intercourse.

Religious Services: An assigned Chaplain oversees all religious services provided for minors.

Santa: On Christmas volunteer Mr. Wallau assisted by several elves pass out Christmas presents to all the minors in custody.

Zohar Dance Company: Internationally acclaimed dancer/teacher Ehud Krauss instructs minors on various forms of high energy dance.

Contacts (all numbers are in the 408 area code)

- Asian American Recovery Services 271-3900
- Asian American for Comm. Involvement 975-2730
- CYO: California Youth Outreach 280-0203
- Catalyst for Youth: 269-3356
- FLY: Fresh Lifelines for Youth 299-7789
- Friends Outside 295-6033
- Gardner Family Care Corp. 287-6200
- MACSA 928-5820
- Juvenile Hall Visiting 278-5810
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Inside Out Newsletter

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Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall Mission Statement

The Mission of Juvenile Hall as a detention facility is to provide an environment where the safety and security of the minors is our highest priority. We ensure that our youth receive the nutritional, educational, medical and mental health services as mandated by the state. While upholding the orders of the Court, we thereby contribute to the common effort of protecting the community. Further, we are committed to a standard of excellence in humane treatment.

Goals and Aspirations—With Dedication We Pledge to Strive For:

Professionalism – We act with fairness, consistency and without bias, while facing the daily challenges of working with delinquent behavior.

Positive Role Modeling – We believe it is through our actions and guidance that we make the greatest impact.

Integrity – We strive to maintain honest, ethical and moral behavior within and outside of our profession of working with delinquent behavior.

Individual Worth – We value the importance of the individual while respecting cultural diversity.

Professional Development – We recognize that continuous education and training create the most effective staff.

Enrichment in Programming – We extend our positive influence throughout the community and within our institution through the development of socially beneficial programs.

Community Involvement – We recognize the value of and utilize the community resources to side in our effort to effect positive change in our youth.



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