

San Francisco Foster Youth Fund



NEWSLETTER | FALL 2015

Join Us for Wine Tasting on October 22

JOIN THE San Francisco Foster Youth Fund as we **honor Steve Arcelona** at this year's 13th annual wine tasting fund raiser. Steve recently retired after 13 years as a deputy director at the Human Services Agency, culminating 40 years of dedication to improving social services in San Francisco. He also served on the SFFYF Board and even in retirement is lead organizer of our annual charity softball tournament.

This year's event will be on **Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 5:30 pm** at our special venue: The South Beach Harbor Club near Pier 40 on the Embarcadero,

San Francisco. Returning wineries from last year's event include August West, Bluxome Street Winery, Sandler Wine Co., Playwright Wines, Vins des Temps and Cameron Hughes—all paired with wonderful appetizers and desserts.

Don't miss this opportunity to show our appreciation to Steve Arcelona for all of his outstanding work in the community as well as his continued support of SFFYF. You may even be lucky enough to walk away with a deal on one of our great auction prizes! A special thanks to our sponsor Think Results Marketing.

Donation is \$50 per person. To



Steve Arcelona and his wife Sheila.

purchase a ticket, contact Eileen Cavan at (415) 557-5678 or Janice Walcott-Ayers at (415) 503-2059, or pay online at sffosteryouthfund.org.

Dupree's Success Story

I MET DUPREE when he was 10 years old. Due to his extensive exposure to violence and abuse, he was understandably distrustful of others. As a result, he struggled to deal with his emotions and form relationships. Usually after a “honeymoon” period in a new foster home he would exhibit defiant behavior—a test to see if his caretaker would give up on him. Unfortunately, many foster parents “failed” his test and I inevitably would have to pick him up and take him to another home.

Since then, Dupree has made tremendous progress and met people who have positively affected his life. One of them, his foster mother Jackie, provided him with a home where he felt safe and valued, and SFFYF paid for his annual participation in a trip with her family. His high school teacher Mrs. Cortez



Dupree receiving the Kong Chow Scholarship.

helped him focus on his education and succeed. During Dupree's senior year, he enrolled in an ROP Fire Science class, and he attended the senior prom with his girlfriend of several years with the help of SFFYF, which paid for his tuxedo.

Today, Dupree is 19 years old and is earning his certificate in fire technology at Los Madanos College. He then plans to enroll in the Fire Academy. He was concerned about having the financial resources to cover the cost of tuition and

books. Through the SFFY, Dupree was notified of a scholarship opportunity. He applied for the Kong Chow Scholarship and was ultimately chosen to receive \$800 and meet Mayor Lee. He is grateful he has the opportunity to pursue a career in fire fighting so, as he says, he can “help others.”

BY BONNIE FRIEDMAN

Remember SFFYF at Combined Charities Campaign time! See page 3 for details.

Duane Deacon, A Friend to Foster Children

DUANE DEACON, a passionate supporter of foster kids, passed away on May 9th and bequeathed to the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund \$10,000. Duane worked for decades with foster children as a San Francisco Human Services Agency social worker.



Duane served on the SFFYF board in the 1990s. "The main thing I remember about him was his kindness," said his friend Dwayne Kinner. "He got involved with the Fund because he had a connection with kids." Duane worked with Dwayne Kinner to create the Fund's annual softball tournament. "He was always there in the early morning to help me chalk the foul lines," said Dwayne.

Even after retiring to Sea Isle, New Jersey, Duane drove across country every year to help out with the tournament. "Every year Duane took a different route, driving with his cat, Oscar," said Dwayne. "When he arrived he would tell us about his adventures along the way. That was Duane. He was a gabber. He always had a story to tell, an adventure to share."

The SFFYF Board is grateful for Duane's generosity. As a social worker, he understood that foster children often lack normal opportunities for enrichment that create happy memories and expand horizons. Because of Duane's kindness, an additional 51 foster children will be able to go to camp, or 58 to receive lessons, or 72 to participate in sports. His bequest is consistent with his life of kindness and generosity to others. To read more about Duane, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/osmslly>.

2015 Mae Louise Mays Annual Softball Tournament

THE SAN FRANCISCO FOSTER YOUTH FUND would like to thank the 500+ players who participated in the Mae Louise Mays Charity Softball Tournament on June 20th. Congratulations to the winning team, the Sheriff's Department. It was a lovely day with friends and colleagues having fun together for a good cause. Every penny the Fund raised from the tournament will go directly to foster children, making it possible for them to participate in enrichment activities, to attend school graduations, and to get support for college costs.



Human Services Agency team mugging for the camera.

Summer Camps Make Kids Resilient

Last year the Fund made it possible for 96 foster youth to go to camp. This article by psychologist Michael Ungar, excerpted with permission, addresses the benefits of the camp experience.

SUMMER CAMPS are perfect places to help children optimize their psychosocial development. After all, summer camps are places where children get the experiences they need to bolster their range of coping strategies. There are the simple challenges of learning how to build a fire, going on a hike, or conquering a high ropes course. There are the much more complex challenges of getting along with a new group of peers, learning how to ask for help from others, or taking manageable amount of risks without a parent following after you.

Camps that pull this off and make kids, especially teens, put away the makeup, stash the iPods, get a little dirty and even a little frustrated while having fun and making new friends, are the kinds of camps that offer children the best of what they need. Looking at those experiences from the vantage point of research on resilience, we know camps help children develop great coping strategies when they provide seven things all children need:

- New relationships with peers—and with trusted adults other than their parents.
- A powerful identity that makes the child feel confident in front of others.
- Camps help children feel in control of their lives.
- Camps make sure that all children are treated fairly.
- At camp kids get what they need to develop physically.
- Camps offer kids a chance to feel like they belong.
- Camps can offer children a better sense of their culture.

That's an impressive list of factors that good camping experiences provide our children. Whether it is a subsidized day camp in a city or a luxurious residential facility up in the mountains, camps can give our kids a spicy combination of experiences that prepare them well for life. Add to that experience the chance for a child's parents to reinforce at home what the child nurtures at camp, and maybe we'll find in our communities and schools amazing kids who show the resilience to make good decisions throughout their lives.

Where Your Money Goes

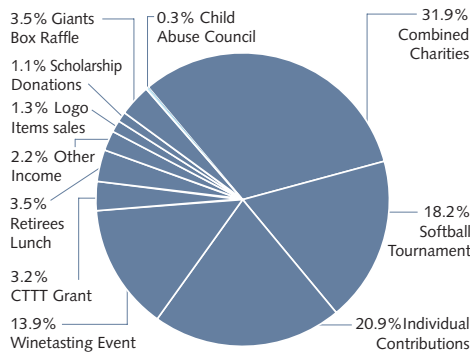
WITHOUT THE SUPPORT of donors like you, many San Francisco foster children would miss out on activities that other children take for granted. So far in 2015, the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund has approved 300 grants for a diverse range of enrichment activities. We supported summer camps, including camps focused on sports, science, and Native American culture; school activities such as prom, graduation, senior trips and college tours; classes and lessons such as swimming, gymnastics, dance, keyboard, music, martial arts, sign language, and computer app building; and San Francisco Police Activities League cadet training. We even helped an emancipating youth pay for a cosmetology mannequin training head.

We paid for sports participation, including basketball, soccer, baseball and football and skateboarding registration and sports equipment. We paid for amusement parks, concert tickets, and therapy dog registration fees. We assisted with family visits and travel to Lake Tahoe, Phoenix, Houston, Las Vegas, Mexico, and New York City.

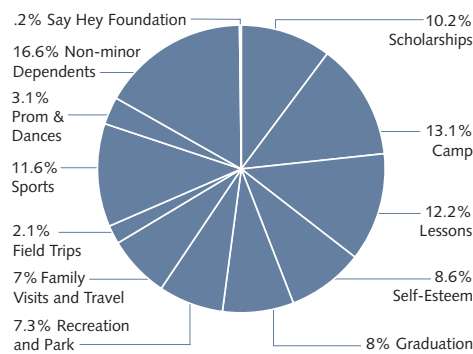
We are also expanding our support to non-minor dependents who are aging out of foster care by helping cover expenses such as transportation, necessary work clothing, moving costs, and more prior to their first paychecks at new jobs.

Financial Overview for 2014

INCOME: \$93,390



EXPENDITURES: \$73,535



With the help of our generous donors, the Fund will be able to continue to enrich the lives of San Francisco's vulnerable children for many years to come.

Scholarship Program

THE SAN FRANCISCO Foster Youth Fund has continued to award a limited number of scholarship grants to former foster youth from San Francisco who are attending four-year colleges. In 2010 Assembly Bill 12 extended foster care in California to the age of 21, recognizing the tremendous risks facing foster youth who are transitioning to adulthood. However, the bill did not provide foster youth with the help necessary to cover the range of costs associated with going to college.

The Board asked the San Francisco Child Protective Services workers for referrals of young adults in foster care who are attending four-year college programs. This is a significant commitment from the Fund, an extension of its earlier, limited scholarship program, but consistent with its goals of supporting foster youth in making successful transitions to adulthood. We received about a dozen referrals of students and we will be sharing their accomplishments in future newsletters. The Fund is pleased to be able to help these students and grateful to our donors who have continued to support our scholarship program. We are determined to provide these scholarships for many years to come.

It's Combined Charities Campaign Time!

The San Francisco Foster Youth Fund has always relied on the generosity of employees of the City and County of San Francisco. The annual City Employees Combined Charities Campaign allows employees and retirees the opportunity to donate, either by payroll deduction or one-time check, to their favorite causes. In 2014, almost 32% of the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund's donations came through this campaign, amounting to nearly \$30,000, a very significant portion of our total income.

The Combined Charities Campaign forms are distributed in October. You can support foster children by writing "San Francisco Foster Youth Fund" in the Local Independent Charities section of the form. Our charity number is L2408. You can contact Eric Hoberg at eric.hoberg@sfgov.org or 415-557-5378 with questions. The SFFYF Board, and the youth we support, are deeply grateful to city workers and retirees.

Retirees Lunch

This year's retirees' luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 15th, at noon. For a change of pace, we will be meeting at Max's Opera Plaza at 601 Van Ness, on the patio.

There are three entrees to select from: chicken salad, deli turkey sandwich or fettuccine Alfredo. Each selection is \$20. Instructions will be included with your invitation. Please plan to join us as we catch up with colleagues and support the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund!

The Retirees Lunch is an annual tradition started in 2010 by retired child welfare manager Karen Sescher. We appreciate the support from our retired colleagues!

The Foster Youth Fund Is on Facebook

Join our page on Facebook! Just type the Fund's name in the Facebook search box to find us. The more people that join and spread the word, the more support we can gather.

Visit Us Online

Learn more about the Fund and the impact of your support and donations online at www.sffosteryouthfund.org or email us at fyf2013@gmail.com.

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Clean Out Your Garage, Help Foster Kids

The Fund has registered with the Community Thrift Store at 623 Valencia Street, San Francisco as a designated charity. Books, furniture, gently used clothes, housewares—take your old stuff down to the Thrift Store and say that you want to donate it in the name of the San Francisco Foster Youth Fund. When the item sells, they will give a significant portion of the sales price back to the Foster Youth Fund.



San Francisco Foster Youth Fund
P.O. Box 460086
San Francisco, CA 94146-0086

(PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN)

You Are Invited!

- Yes, I'll attend the Wine Tasting on Thursday, October 22, 2015.
Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (\$50 per person) Number of people attending _____
- No, I am unable to attend, but will help with a donation of \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Please mail your check and this form to:

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