

## A COUCH IS NOT A HOME

## **CORE VALUES**

## **Guiding Principles**

As the agency works to help youth build their skills and resiliency, Bill Wilson Center has defined fundamental principles that guide its work. At the core of all programs are eight guiding principles:

#### No Fail

Everyone can be successful. We keep trying.

#### **Least Restrictive Environment**

We help people solve problems at the family and the community level; public institutions are the last resort.

#### Diversity

We provide services that meet the cultural and linguistic needs of our whole community. We value our unique ethnic diversity as well as the LGBTQ community and non-able body community. Our clients, staff, and volunteers reflect our community.

#### Strength-Based

We look for the positive in each person and build on those assets.

#### Youth Development and Leadership

We support youth. We help build leadership skills by involving youth in programs and planning for their future, many services are youth-led.

#### Advocacy

We work on improving systems that do not meet the needs of youth and families.

#### Collaboration

We work with others to provide a continuum of services; we focus on all the needs of the individual, including health, housing and well-being.

#### **Families Matter**

We help keep families together and build reconnections to families. We recognize that "families" come in all shapes and sizes.



Mission

Bill Wilson Center supports and strengthens the community by serving youth and families through counseling, housing, education, and advocacy.



Vision

We are working to prevent poverty in the next generation by connecting youth to education, employment, housing and positive relationships. We are working toward ending youth and family homelessness by 2020.

#### **Board of Directors**

(July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017)

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A 501(c)(3) community-based agency located in Santa Clara, The agency was launched in 1973 with two programs in Santa Clara: the Family and Individual Counseling Center, and School Outreach Counseling. BWC now has more than 40 years of experience developing, implementing, and delivering services to the community. BWC is the only agency in the county focused on providing specific programs and services that address the needs of homeless, systems (foster and juvenile justice), and transition-age youth, all of which are underserved populations. Our geographic range runs throughout Santa Clara County, from Palo Alto in the north to Gilroy in the south.

## LEADERSHIP

#### A Message from the CEO

This past year, Bill Wilson Center took on the herculean effort of counting Santa Clara County's homeless street youth and couch-surfers. We took a three-pronged approach to this initiative, which resulted in some staggering results. First, we worked with the County to ensure a more exact count for the federal government's Point-In-Time Count. We trained volunteers for the headcount and spent months in advance identifying the sites where homeless street youth hung out. Our targeting efforts found 2,530 homeless youth ages 13-24 living on the streets or in shelters – a 175% increase from 2015.

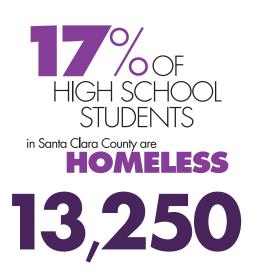
Second, to complement the federal count, we released the most comprehensive study ever completed in Santa Clara County on the impact on homelessness in our community by "couch surfing" high school and community college students. Survey results indicated that 17% of local high school students are hopping from couch to couch instead of sleeping at home. What this means is that 13,250 high school students in the county are couch surfing every night of the week. And, just as staggering, 44% of the community college students, ages 18-25, said they had been homeless at some point or knew a classmate who had been during a six month time period.

Lastly, we partnered with the University of Southern California to do an in-depth survey of more than 200 homeless youth at our Drop-In Center. We found that 55% of the youth reported being kicked out of their home by family members, and with the high cost of housing in Santa Clara County, 18% were homeless because their family was homeless.

This is why Bill Wilson Center is working toward ending youth and family homelessness in Santa Clara County. But we need your help. We urge everyone who has, or knows someone who has, a couch surfer in their house to sit down and have a conversation with that young person. Tips for having a conversation can be found on our **acouchisnotahome.org** site.

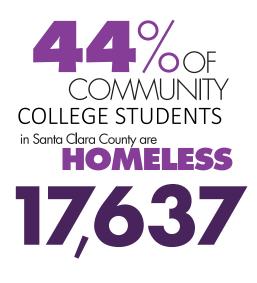
*Every young person deserves a place to call home.* 

Sparky Harlan





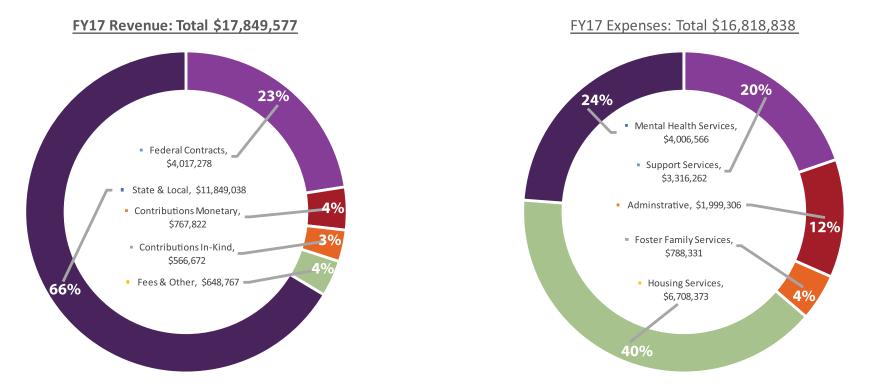
are living on the streets or in shelters in Santa Clara County



## **BWC BY THE NUMBERS**

6,232 people participated in our counseling, housing, education, foster care, mental health, shelter and basic needs programs.

Bill Wilson Center's Crisis Lines and Street Outreach programs connected with more than **30,500** people.



#### **Outcomes & Impact**

•93% (221) of youth at BWC's Crisis Residential Center were reunited with family or exited to a stable placement.

• 286 young adults and their children received housing services from BWC. These young parent families avoided homelessness and were able to move into safe and stable settings.

• **154** students and their families on the verge of homelessness received services enabling them to improve their housing stability through our Family Advocacy Services program. This enabled **89%** of the youth to remain in school and improve their grades.

• 5,142 first responders (fire, police, 911 dispatchers, etc.), school and government workers, and community members received training from BWC's Centre for Living with Dying on how to respond when critical incident stress becomes an occupational and life hazard.

## **OUR DONORS** (Gifts & Pledges)

**\$100,000 +** Housing Trust Silicon Valley

#### \$50,000 - \$99,999.99

Kathryn Edwards Sobrato Family Foundation Valle Monte League

#### \$25,000 - \$49,999.99

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#### \$10,000 - \$24,999.99

Applied Materials Foundation Cirque du Soleil Cisco Systems Hunger At Home San Jose Mercury News Linda and William Patrick Sullivan

#### \$5,000 - \$9,999.99

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Adopt-A-Family Warehouse

#### \$2,500 - \$4,999.99

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BWC Night at Cirque du Soleil

#### \$1,000 - \$2,499.99 (continued)

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Gifts of all levels are critical to the success of our work and we thank all our donors for their generous support. Due to space limitations, this list includes donors who contributed or pledged at the level of \$1,000 or more between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 Every attempt has been made to assure the accuracy of this list and we apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions.

Contact Pam Fitzgerald at (408) 850-6129 or pfitzgerald@billwilsoncenter.org for any changes.

## **PROGRAMS & SERVICES**



Santana Row BWC Wine Stroll



**BWC Foster Family Holiday Party** 



**Building Dreams** 

#### **Counseling Services**

Centre for Living with Dying Contact Cares Crisis Line Critical Incident Stress Management Family & Individual Counseling Healing Heart Parent-Child Interaction Therapy School Outreach Counseling

#### **Education**

Family Advocacy Services Intern Training Program School Outreach

#### **Foster Care Services**

Adoption Program Foster Family Agency Transitional Housing Placement Program Transitional Housing Program Plus FC Treatment Foster Care of Oregon Volunteer Case Aide



Green Light Walk

## **Programs & Services**

#### **Housing Services**

Crisis Residential Center Maternity Transitional Living Program Peacock Commons Supportive Housing Quetzal House Rapid Re-Housing Transitional Housing Placement Plus Transitional Housing Placement Program Transitional Housing Program Young Adult Shelter

#### **LGBTQ Services**

BWC Connections Drop-In Center Getting to Zero HIV Prevention LGBTQ Host Homes LGBTQ Transitional Housing Program

## **1** Bill Wilson Center

#### **Juvenile Probation**

Competency Development Services Direct Referral Program Probation Diversion & Rehabilitation Services

#### **Mental Health**

Therapeutic Behavioral Services Transitional Age Youth Services Family and Children Services Status Offender Services

#### **Support Services**

Drop-In Center Fatherhood Works Foster Youth Independent Living Program Parenting Classes Safe Place System of Care for Human Trafficked Minors



Drop-In Center LGBTQ Open House

BWC Drop-In Center Open House



Your gift of a tax-deductible donation to Bill Wilson Center is one way you can join our fight to prevent homelessness in Santa Clara County. Help us support and strengthen the community by serving youth and families through counseling, housing, education, and advocacy.

Bill Wilson Center depends on the support, generosity and commitment of the community, individual donors, as well as public and private funds. There are many ways that you can show your support and help us ensure that youth and families receive the services they need.

#### Donate Online and on your Smartphone

Make a secure online donation through MobileCause. The safety and security of your payment information is our highest priority. Every piece of user data held by MobileCause is guarded by *100% Payment Card Industry* compliant systems.

**Donate by Mail** (checks only please) Bill Wilson Center, 3490 The Alameda, Santa Clara, CA 95050

**Donate Person-to-Person** Call (408) 850-6129 to make a credit card donation.

#### **Building Dreams Luncheon**

This annual event is our largest fundraiser of the year. More than 400 guests attend to hear first hand accounts from our clients and about the services BWC provides. Reserve your seat today or become a table host by contacting Pam at pfitzgerald@billwilsoncenter.org.



Accredited



#### Donate Appreciated Stock

Check with your financial advisor about the benefits you can receive when you give appreciated stock. Contact Pilar Furlong at (408) 850-6132 or pfurlong@billwilsoncenter.org to discuss donating stock.

#### Give through your will or other estate planning method

Create a lasting legacy that supports BWC's services for families and youth, while setting an example for your children and grandchildren about the importance of giving. Contact Pilar Furlong at (408) 850-6132.

#### Join our Annual Holiday Giving Program

Our annual Adopt-A-Family Holiday Giving Program helps to make the holiday season a joyful one for children in the Santa Clara County foster care system. We served more than 1,600 deserving youth last year.

# TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

## **CALL TO ACTION - START A CONVERSATION**

#### Eighty-six percent of couch surfers wish they had someone to talk to or check-in with for emotional support.

Remember when we used to sit down and have conversations and not just quick texts and postings on social media? That is what we are suggesting here... have a conversation with the couch surfer in your house. Be gentle and supportive. Don't jump in and interrogate. Use reflective speaking. When someone answers and you are not sure what the answer means, rephrase it back.

Go to **ACouchIsNotAHome.org** or **CouchesDontCount.org** for tips on starting a conversation with a couch surfer.

Crisis lines are available to recieve support and advice 24/7/365.

BWC Contact Cares 1-408-850-6125

CA Youth Crisis Line 1-800-843-5200

National Runaway Safeline 1-800-786-2929



www.ACouchIsNotAHome.org www.CouchesDontCount.org