



General Agency Information

1800 N. Gravenstein Hwy • Sebastopol, CA 95472 • (707) 823-7300 • www.tlc4kids.org

TLC Child and Family Services is a non-profit organization that annually serves over 500 children, young adults and families in Northern California. TLC provides comprehensive quality foster care and adoption services, emergency shelter, residentially-based services, special education services, transitional housing and counseling.

Our mission, simply stated, is to provide children and young adults, with a nurturing, motivating home environment that successfully connects them to positive self-esteem, family and community involvement and ultimately, independent living.

There are nearly 70,000 children in California's foster care system who will never return to their original families. These children are waiting for the one thing they need the most: a permanent, loving family. Statistics show that children without homes will often not complete high school. Children without love will be under-employed or will have difficulty keeping a job. And without a stable adult in their lives, there is a 50-50 chance that they will be homeless or incarcerated within two years of leaving foster care at the age of 18.

Since 1975, TLC Child and Family Services has been a guardian of the futures of these children. We are proud to share some of our recent accomplishments:

In 2009...

- We successfully placed 124 foster children in 73 foster homes. 24 of those children were able to return to their natural home, a relative's home, or an adoptive home. We finalized 28 adoptions.
- We operated the only Children's Emergency Shelter program for Mendocino County, serving 94 children who were removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect.
- Our Transitional Housing Placement Program guided 56 teens toward independence and integration into our community.
- Our fully accredited Journey High School educated 85 students with emotional and learning disabilities and helped 7 students earn their diploma.
- Our three residentially-based programs provided structured care and counseling to 56 teens with emotional and learning disabilities. Most teens reunited with their families or went on to independent living.

We have made great strides with these accomplishments, but there are so many more children that need our support, and yours, over the next year and beyond.

Sincerely,

Jim Galsterer, MFT
Executive Director

Have you thought about opening your heart and your home to a child in need? There are thousands of children in California who are waiting for someone to care. Someone they can call Mom or Dad . . . a forever family. Perhaps it is you and your family!

TLC Child and Family Services is licensed by the State of California Department of Social Services to provide foster and foster-adopt homes for foster children from birth to 18 years of age. Typically, our foster children come from Northern California, predominantly Sonoma County. We have an excellent outcome record that successfully discharges most foster children placed in our care to their biological parents or to an adoptive home.

Our agency goals are dedicated to:

- Develop foster and adoptive homes capable of responding to the emotional and behavioral needs of neglected and abused children.
- Provide education, support and therapeutic services to those families.
- Create an individualized plan for each child placed with our foster and adoptive families that consider the child's physical, emotional, educational, social and spiritual needs.



We offer support to foster and foster-adopt families that include:

- Generous payments
- Low fee adoption services
- Ongoing social worker services
- Ongoing parent training seminars and support groups
- Financial assistance (AAP) for children until age 18
- Adoption planning, placement, and assistance through the finalization process
- Resources for respite care
- Bi-weekly (or as needed) meetings with each child and family with TLC social workers
- Post-adoption services

We can also provide adoption home studies to families pursuing domestic adoption and post placement visits and reports.

For more information on becoming a Foster Care Family, contact Rolf Van Leeuwen, MSW at (707) 823-7300, extension 220.

For more information on Adoptions, contact Denise Miney, LCSW, at (707) 823-7300, extension 234.

Giving Children a Path to Follow . . .

TLC Child and Family Services residential programs have provided safety, shelter, and support to adolescents for over 30 years. Located in beautiful Sebastopol, in the heart of rural Sonoma County, our three Level 12 residences serve adolescents with a wide range of psychological and emotional needs. Our residential facilities include: Phoenix, home to ten boys ages 13-18; Coast, home to eight girls ages 13-18; and Orchard, a co-ed independent living skills program for youth ages 15-19. Our homes maintain superior standards and are accredited through the prestigious California Alliance for Children and Family Services.

TLC's strength-based treatment philosophy of "Connections to Self, Others and Community" infuses the treatment within each residence. Adolescents participate in ongoing assessment of their strengths and needs, and develop goals that focus on skill set areas that need improvement. Participation in the consistent and structured milieu setting offers residents the opportunity to develop positive coping skills, improve communication, and initiate community involvement. The average length of stay is 9-12 months depending on each individual's treatment plan and discharge goals.

Residential treatment at TLC incorporates behavioral and relational approaches while providing a strong therapeutic container including individual, family and group therapy. Therapeutic services are available through our Outpatient Mental Health Services or Extended Education Program. Psychiatric care is provided as clinically indicated.

TLC promotes family involvement from the beginning of treatment by encouraging regular communication among family members and onsite visitation as early as the first week of residence. Participation in family therapy is an integral part of the reunification process where parents or guardians and their adolescents develop the necessary skill sets to prepare for home visits. As residents engage in our program and participate in family therapy, they earn community-based outings and home passes with their families (up to two weekends per month). TLC provides independent living skills training, permanency planning, and guidance for adolescents who do not have family reunification opportunities.

For more information please contact Jessica Scow, MSW; Intake Coordinator for Residentially-Based Services at 707-823-7300, extension 250 or send an e-mail to jscow@tlc4kids.org.



*“Our primary focus is to strengthen each individual’s connection with
Self, Others, and Community . . .”*

Journey High School is a state certified private high school located on the TLC Child and Family Services campus in Sebastopol, CA. Founded in 1988, Journey High School offers highly specialized instruction to 48 students eligible for special education services in the areas of emotional disturbance, learning disabilities, and attention-deficit disorders.

Students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) specifying a non-public school setting are eligible to attend Journey High School. Journey High School provides a unique and effective educational environment for students in grade 9-12. The 9-12 grade curriculum complies with California state and district standards. Electives offered include dance, drumming, art, culinary arts, woodshop and more. In addition to academics, Journey offers students opportunities to explore creative arts, career education programs and community service outings. Journey hosts an annual spring prom, seasonal dances, and Diversity Week.

Personal attention is a hallmark of Journey High School Educational programs are tailored to each student's abilities. TLC staff works closely with the district and local schools to implement Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals and, if appropriate, reintegrate students into public schools. Classroom sizes are approximately 8-12 students with one teacher and a classroom aide.



“Personal attention is a hallmark of Journey High School”



The staff at Journey High School includes five special education certified teachers, four teacher aides, onsite social workers, and school counselors. Journey High School's clinical services are an integral part of the highly individualized educational program for each student. Both individual and family therapy, as well as after school therapeutic groups, are provided by the Extended Education Program or TLC's Outpatient Mental Health Services. Teachers and clinical staff work closely together to resolve the academic, emotional and behavioral challenges of each student.

For further information regarding Journey High School, please contact Ina Perlman, Special Education Director, (707) 823-7300 extension 211.

Fostering Connections is a service offered through TLC Child and Family Services since January 2008. Fostering Connections is a group of clinicians in the community committed to long-term psychotherapy for present and former foster children and youth. These children have often had multiple caregivers, multiple social workers assigned to different phases of placement and, in many cases, multiple placements. Each new placement makes it harder for the child to settle in and trust the connection to a new adult. Most have undergone trauma and neglect, further disrupting their ability and willingness to trust.

Clinicians who have joined Fostering Connections believe that entering into a long-term therapy relationship, focused on exploring the individual's inner world, can be deeply healing and sustaining and can aid these youth's ability to form sustaining connections with others. Clinicians in Fostering Connections commit to seeing one foster child or youth in their private practice, for as long as is necessary, without charge. Currently, 25 clinicians are volunteering their time for Fostering Connections as clinicians and consultants and 17 current and former foster children and youth are being seen.



The children and youth receiving therapy through this program are being given a special gift that benefits them as they grow and develop.

Fostering Connections Goals:

- To provide 25 foster children/youth with therapy over the next year.
- To establish Fostering Connections as a continuing education provider for the Board of Behavioral Sciences and the Board of Psychology and provide two training events annually for clinicians working with foster children and youth.
- To establish consultation groups in the southern and eastern parts of Sonoma County. Currently, there are consultation groups in Santa Rosa, Healdsburg, and Sebastopol.

For more information regarding Fostering Connections or if you are a counselor wanting to volunteer time, please contact Cori Herzig, Psy. D. at (707) 823-7300.

TLC Child and Family Services works to ensure that all foster youth have the opportunity to experience a safe, supported transition from foster care. Through the housing program, along with an academic enrichment program, counseling and community education, we help youth to gain the skills to live independently and succeed on their own.

TLC provides services to young adults, 16 to 24 years of age who are preparing to age out of foster care or who have recently aged out of care. Once discharged from foster care, there are limited public or community-based services available for these young adults. Instead of receiving support and guidance during this critical transition, former foster youth are without housing, a source of income, adult encouragement, or community support. Without these critical resources, youth are significantly more likely to experience homelessness, poverty, low educational attainment and poor health than other youth their age



Ask yourself, “If I were an adolescent in foster care and had no parents or guardians, how would I succeed in independent living?” Many of us remember that stressful age and the challenges of making good choices for our future.

In 2005, TLC Child and Family Services began operating the Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) with the County of Sonoma Social Services Department to assist foster care adolescents between 16-19 years of age transition into successful independent living in their community. In 2007, the Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP-Plus) program was inaugurated with goals of continued support and assistance in independent life skills to young adults, ages 18-24. Between the two programs, TLC is licensed to work with 30 THPP adolescents and contracted to work with 15 THP Plus young adults. TLC can also accept referrals from other counties for these programs.

Transitional Housing Programs give young adults the opportunity to learn critical life skills from professional staff. Once accepted into the program, a host home, apartment or rental unit is provided as well as furnishings. TLC works with and needs motivated landlords and homeowners to find safe, clean and affordable housing.

Participant eligibility requirements for both programs include: must be referred by the County of Sonoma Social Services Department, must be between the ages of 16-19 years for THPP and 18-24 for THP-Plus, must demonstrate maturity and readiness for independent living, must attend a high school, GED program, junior college, vocational program or have a job, must be committed to a drug and alcohol free lifestyle, and must agree to participate actively in individualized life skills plan development.

For further information on the THPP or THP-Plus programs, please contact Lisa Rohe, Psy.D. Transitional Housing Placement Program Director at (707) 528-3020, extension 202 or send an e-mail to lisa@tlc4kids.org.

Foster Family Agency: Foster Care & Fost-Adopt Program Children's Emergency Shelter

In 1994, TLC's Foster Family Agency (FFA) program expanded after a merger with the Mendocino Youth Project's foster family program. As a result, TLC opened a regional office in Mendocino County in Ukiah. This regional office currently supports our Mendocino & Lake county foster care and adoption services and the Mendocino Children's Emergency Shelter.

Emergency shelter care is defined as the 24-hour/day care of children, for a period of up to thirty days, who are being removed from parental custody because there have been allegations of abuse, neglect or abandonment. It also includes children who are dependents of the Juvenile Court under Welfare & Institutions Code Section 300 and who need to be removed immediately from an existing foster home or group home placement.

TLC started the emergency children's shelter in Mendocino County in 1999. The Emergency Children's Shelter provides 24-hour temporary emergency care to up to 14 children per day, aged birth to 18 years, who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, abandonment, and/or neglect. All children referred are given assessments including emotional, behavioral, medical and academic components. TLC social workers assess each child's progress on a weekly basis. Aides are available to assist foster families with transportation and recreation for these children.



The Children's Shelter Foster Care Program provides children with 24-hour substitute therapeutic family care in private homes. These loving, warm, accepting and stable homes care for children who must be temporarily separated from their permanent home. The Foster Care Program recruits families from diverse backgrounds to fulfill each child's ethnic background. The Program provides training and support for potential parents. There are special qualifications for these foster care homes. There must be one parent at home at all times and there should be no more than one biological child in the home. All other licensing requirements for foster parents apply.

Jacob Kessner, M.A., is the Program Director for the Children's Emergency Shelter. For more information regarding this program, call (707) 621- 0518.

Jeff Killebrew, M.A., is the Regional Director for Adoption and Foster Care Services. For more information, please call the regional office at (707) 463-1100.



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If providing a home, education and nurturing for foster children matters to you, consider a gift to TLC Child and Family Services.

Last year, TLC touched the lives of more than 500 vulnerable foster children and youth through our comprehensive services. These children come to us with tremendous needs. Untangling their lives is a complex process, but with the support of compassionate people like you, who steadfastly believe in the potential of every young person, we can restore hope and trust. Giving each child the opportunity they deserve to reach their full potential is at the heart of our agency's mission.

TLC Child and Family Services relies on the generous support of ordinary people, enlightened businesses, dedicated foundations, committed community organizations and caring individuals like you. Your gift legacy directly helps foster children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected have a brighter future!

Please consider supporting our annual Golf Tournament fundraiser event by donating now. For more information about TLC, you can visit our website at www.tlc4kids.org.

We thank you for your consideration in making a difference... one child at a time.

Sincerely,

Jim Galsterer, MFT

Executive Director

Phone: (707) 823-7300, extension 300

Cell: (707) 888-7755

E-mail: jim@tlc4kids.org

TLC Accomplishments & Goals:

Recent ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2009...

- We successfully placed 124 foster children in 73 foster homes. 24 of those children were able to return to their natural home, a relative's home or an adoptive home.
We finalized 28 adoptions and provided adoptive parents with support groups and education.
- We operated the only Emergency Shelter Care program for Mendocino County, serving 94 children who were removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect.
- Our Transitional Housing Placement Program assisted 56 teens guidance towards independence and integration into our community.
- Our fully accredited Journey High School educated 85 students with emotional and learning disabilities and helped 7 students earn their diploma.
- Our three residentially based programs provided structured care and counseling to 56 teens with emotional and learning disabilities

2010 ANNUAL GOAL: \$ 100,000

Transitional Housing Programs, \$ 25,000

TLC operates Transitional Housing Programs for Sonoma County for youths and young adults, ages 16-24. We work towards finding housing, furnishing an apartment, paying rent, and providing support for independent living.

Fostering Connections, \$ 25,000

Fostering Connections, a new program this year, provides counseling to foster children in Sonoma County at no cost. Staffing is provided by volunteer counselors (MFT, psychologists) who donate their professional time weekly to work with a foster child as long as is needed.

Journey High School Remodel, \$ 50,000

TLC's Journey High Schools provides 48 students with special education. Our gymnasium currently has poor acoustics which makes it difficult to have assemblies or use the gym for public purposes. TLC has an onsite lunch program staffed by a professional chef who provides organic, healthful hot lunch choices for our students. We wish to turn this kitchen into a culinary kitchen that can be used as a vocational training experience for our Journey High School Students and for the 40 youths enrolled in our transitional housing programs. *A benefit of completing the remodel to our gymnasium sound system and kitchen would allow us to rent the facility to the community and raise money for service projects for foster children and their families. The gymnasium can hold 200 people.*

There are many ways to give to TLC. Here are some ideas:

<i>Gifts of Cash</i>	<i>Gifts of Securities</i>	<i>Gifts of Real Estate</i>	<i>Gifts of Life Insurance</i>
Making a donation of cash is as simple as writing a check or authorizing a charge on your credit card. From your standpoint, it's no fuss, no bother. So Donate Now!	How can you make a secured long-term investment in today's volatile stock market? By making a sizable gift of appreciated stock, bonds or mutual fund shares to TLC, you can receive an income tax charitable deduction and capital gains savings and, most importantly, invest in the welfare of our community.	Using real estate, such as your house, farm or commercial property, to fund a gift allows you to preserve your cash assets, receive significant tax and income advantages, and make a larger charitable gift than anticipated.	Donating your life insurance could be a wonderful way to fulfill your desire to support our work. By making TLC Child and Family Services the beneficiary of an existing policy, you make good use of your resources and expand your ability to make a significant gift.

<i>Gift Matching at the Workplace</i>	<i>Gifts to our Annual Campaigns</i>
Many companies offer a variety of programs for employees to be active in their communities. One is through a workplace-giving program, a charitable solicitation program conducted at places of employment. If your company offers this giving option or wishes to start a matching gifts program, please consider TLC.	<p>TLC Children's Enrichment Fund enables TLC to grant wishes of children and families for a child's enrollment in summer camp, sports activities, individual and family counseling, college tuition, housing, and employment training.</p> <p>TLC Growth Fund enables the agency to invest strategically in our youth, staff, and innovative programs. This fund is the primary source of flexible, discretionary dollars for top priorities to strengthen and enhance the agency's continuum of care.</p>

As with all financial considerations, we encourage you to consult with a qualified attorney or a professional estate planner for advice on which giving option best fits your particular circumstances.

Only with your help can we improve the future of foster children, their families and their future in our communities.



Donation Form

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I am interested in making the following donation (select from the list of financial donations or gifts, below):

Cash Contribution:	Other Giving Opportunitites:
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime, \$2000 plus <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor, \$1000-1999 <input type="checkbox"/> Trustee, \$500-999 <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter, \$200-499 <input type="checkbox"/> Friend, \$ _____ I want to make a monthly pledge of \$ _____ per month for this fiscal year.	<input type="checkbox"/> Gifts of stock, bonds, securities. <input type="checkbox"/> Gifts of real estate or life insurance. I am interested in the following opportunities: <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a community volunteer or mentor a teen. <input type="checkbox"/> Be a corporate Sponsor at our annual Golf Tournament. <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute a silent or live auction item to our Golf Tourament <i>TLC will contact you with regards to your interests.</i>

First/Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Individual or Corporate Donation: Company Name: _____

I will make my donation by:
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit card: Please bill my ___ Visa Card ___ Mastercard for \$ _____ Number: _____ Exp Date: _____ CVV Code: _____ Billing address (if different from above): _____ Authorized Signature: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Check: Make check payable to TLC Child and Family Services in the amount \$ _____. Mail to: TLC Child and Family Services, 1800 N. Gravenstein Hwy, Sebastopol, CA 95472.

I would like my gift acknowledged as in memory of or in honor of:

First/Last Name: _____

Please Notify: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

We appreciate your tax-deductible gift. Your gift will help foster care children, their families and our communities to thrive. TLC is a 501 (c)(3) organization, # 68-0008634, for tax deductible purposes.