



SONOMA COUNTY CHILDREN'S VILLAGE DISSOLVES, PASSES LEGACY ON TO TLC CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES



January 17, 2020

Dear friends and supporters of the Sonoma County Children's Village,

We are starting 2020 with big news and changes, lots of optimism and somewhat bittersweet feelings. We, the Board of the Sonoma County Children's Village, have decided on the next phase for our organization: We are dissolving the Sonoma County Children's Village (SCCV) and have chosen to entrust TLC Child and Family Services, a nonprofit that is very much aligned with our goals and values, with our funds to continue to improve the lives of foster youth in Sonoma County. We fully trust TLC's strong leadership, history of innovation and excellence, and dedication to foster youth and foster/adopt families to use our restricted gift of \$2.5 million wisely, effectively and efficiently.

TLC is in the process of establishing the Sonoma County Children's Village Legacy Fund to start a new service based on our most cherished program - helping current and former foster youth up to age 24 afford orthodontic and dental treatments. In addition, they may use the funds to develop new models of service and support to foster youth and the foster community. All programs funded through TLC's new SCCV Legacy Fund will be open to all Sonoma County foster youth and not limited to TLC clients.

Why did we take this step?

After the Sonoma County Children's Village had closed and sold its group homes for foster children and young adults transitioning out of the foster care system, we, as a small all-volunteer board, devised and also ran our new programs. As our programs grew and required more and more time to administer, this became unsustainable, and we discussed hiring staff. We soon realized that we did not want our funds to be eaten up quickly by administrative costs, and we also did not want to create another structure of administration, overhead and fundraising efforts to compete with Sonoma County's almost 3,000 other nonprofits, with several of them serving the same target population as SCCV.

We therefore decided to search for a nonprofit that we would trust to take over our funds and put them to the best possible use for our foster youth. This organization would have to be aligned with our vision and mission, have a strong track record of serving foster youth in caring, supportive and evidence-based ways, have the capacity and leadership to use our substantial funds wisely and effectively, and be willing to continue the part of our work that we have found uniquely fills an unmet need: Helping to finance orthodontic and dental treatments for current and former foster youth. After much vetting, consideration and discussions, we found this organization in TLC Child and Family Services.

Who is TLC Child and Family Services?

TLC Child and Family Services is a nonprofit organization (Tax ID #68-0008634) that annually serves over 600 children, young adults and families in Northern California. Its main campus is located outside of Sebastopol, CA on seven acres of rural property complete with an apple orchard. TLC provides a continuum of evidence-based treatment and relationship-focused care to youth and families: comprehensive quality foster care and adoption services, residentially-based services, special education services, transitional housing and counseling.

TLC has taken on a leading role with the local Finding Families Collaborative as well as the Sonoma County Foster Youth Coalition and is on the cutting edge of policy developments at the local, state and national levels. This gives us the confidence that any future programs they develop from the SCCV Legacy Fund will be grounded in community collaboration as well as current and upcoming policy realities while building on their 40 year history of pioneering supportive services for our most vulnerable community members. We encourage you to check out <https://tlc4kids.org> for more information and would be delighted if you followed and supported their work going forward.

Several of our board members will join TLC's SCCV Legacy Fund Advisory Committee to help steer the use of funds in the Legacy Fund.

Last and not least, the rock memorializing Georgia Moses, whose tragic fate inspired the creation of the original Sonoma County Children's Village, will find a new resting place on TLC's beautiful campus.

Looking back

After the original Sonoma County Children's Village closed its nurturing group home in the fall of 2015, SCCV has supported foster youth in other ways, directly touching the lives of **174** current and former foster youths - and counting. Here are some highlights of our funding efforts:

- **53** foster youths received orthodontic or dental treatments
- **48** attended trauma-informed sleep-away summer camp
- **17** foster youths attended art camps and classes
- **23** current and former foster youths received education support
- **31** current and former foster youths received specialized therapy, gymnastics or piano classes, and other individual support and enrichments
- **2** sibling groups were placed together because of our support to their foster families
- Many former foster youths will be able to find a supportive home in **CSN's Sanctuary Villas** and from there a brighter future, thanks to SCCV's \$803,000 contribution to their capital campaign.

In addition, the strong community involvement in SCCV over the years has increased awareness for foster youth and their needs in Sonoma County, benefitting foster youth in a myriad of ways.

We will forever be grateful to Lia Rowley and all the many volunteers and supporters who made their vision of the Sonoma County Children's Village a reality, and those who continued to support foster youths in the next iteration of the organization. The legacy, and the memory of Georgia Moses, now live on in the trusted hands of TLC and its Sonoma County Children's Village Legacy Fund.

To all of you: our sincere and heartfelt thanks.

For the children,
The Board of the Sonoma County Children's Village