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TLC Receives \$2.5 million Gift from Dissolving Sonoma County Children's Village to Continue SCCV Legacy of Improving the Lives of Foster Youth

TLC will create Sonoma County Children's Village Legacy Fund to help provide orthodontic care and other future services, expanding its reach to all Sonoma County foster youth

Dateline: Sebastopol, California— The Board of the Sonoma County Children's Village (SCCV) announced today that it has gifted all of its assets totaling \$2.5 million to TLC Child & Family Services (TLC). SCCV elected to dissolve in late 2019 and had been searching for the right organization for its extraordinary gift: A nonprofit whose mission and values align with its own and that has the leadership, vision and organizational capacity to take its work of improving the lives of foster youth to the next level. After extensive vetting, they decided on TLC. In operation for over 40 years, TLC provides foster care and adoption services, transitional housing for youth 16-24 aging out of foster care or who are homeless, residential and mental health services and a high school.

The restricted gift requires TLC's new SCCV Legacy Fund to fund orthodontic treatments for current and former Sonoma County foster youth up to age 24, continuing to meet an urgent need that had been uniquely filled by SCCV. TLC is free to use any remaining funds for new models of service and support to foster youth and the foster care community. All programs funded through the SCCV Legacy Fund will be open to all Sonoma County foster youth, expanding the reach and impact of TLC's work beyond its current clients throughout the foster care community in the county.

“We feel very grateful and excited to be passing on our legacy and resources to TLC,” said SCCV Board President Jackie Crook. “As an all-volunteer run organization, we had come to another crossroads. We decided that, rather than spending our precious funds on building out our own organizational capacity, we would dissolve and gift our resources to the right nonprofit that has all the necessary structures in place. **We fully trust TLC, with its formidable leadership, history of innovation and excellence, and its caring and results-driven approaches, to use our restricted gift wisely, efficiently and for the greatest impact in the foster care community.**”

“We are deeply honored that SCCV entrusts us with their legacy,” said Sue Rataj, Board Chair of TLC. “We intend to be worthy stewards of these funds. **It will be a privilege to continue and build on the orthodontics and dental program that SCCV has pioneered in recent years to ensure that foster youth in Sonoma County receive these much-needed services.** In addition, we will carefully consider other new offerings that can benefit all Sonoma County foster youth. We understand the challenges facing foster youth in our community and are thrilled to be in a position to help more youth going forward, thanks to the SCCV Legacy Fund”.

“The SCCV Legacy Fund is an amazing opportunity for us to positively impact more foster youth in Sonoma County,” agrees Susan Fette MFT, CEO of TLC. “There are many needs and possibilities: In the wake of the fires, suitable housing and homes for foster youth and the availability of mental health professionals have decreased, creating tangible shortages in crucial areas where we could increase support. With current changes in policy towards keeping children in their families whenever safely possible, there are also exciting opportunities for innovative new models of service that can positively change the trajectory of would-be foster youth through early, holistic intervention. TLC’s new SCCV Legacy Fund Advisory Committee will prudently evaluate the different opportunities to identify where we can have the largest impact for the most Sonoma County youth.”

“One of the many things that attracted us to TLC is the leading role they have been playing in the Sonoma County foster care community,” added SCCV Board President Jackie Crook. “Their constructive collaboration with other agencies and organizations in the space will be a vital factor in making any programs coming out of the SCCV Legacy Fund successful. We cannot wait to see how TLC will continue the SCCV legacy of improving the lives of Sonoma County foster youth!”

About TLC Child and Family Services

<https://tlc4kids.org>

Operating for over 40 years, TLC Child & Family Services is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that annually serves over 600 children, young adults and families in Northern California. TLC provides comprehensive quality foster care and adoption services, residentially based services, special education services, transitional housing, and mental health services.

Our main campus is located outside of Sebastopol, CA on seven acres of rural property complete with an apple orchard. On this site, we employ over 100 staff members who have an extensive background in social work, special education, counseling and child development. We provide comprehensive services to six Northern California counties including Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, Marin, Solano and Lake.

Our mission is to empower families, children, young adults and their support systems to cultivate resilience and authenticity by fostering healthy relationships.

About Sonoma County Children's Village

Until its dissolution in early 2020, SCCV was an active nonprofit in Sonoma County improving the lives of current and former foster youth so they can become well-adjusted, healthy and productive adults.

SCCV funded specific needs of individual foster youth that otherwise would have gone unmet, including but not limited to orthodontic and dental care and specialized therapies. It supported trauma-informed programs that enrich the lives of foster youth, helped fund supportive housing for former foster youth, and was proud to support the foster care community in a variety of ways. SCCV had undergone significant changes: Until the fall of 2015, SCCV had offered nurturing, family-style group homes to children in foster care on its Santa Rosa campus for almost a decade. After closing its group homes, SCCV was run by its all-volunteer board, with minimal paid support from contractors. SCCV was financed by donations from the community.



Call Susan Fette, (707) 634-9932 or Jessica Quigley (707) 634-9045 for more information, a phone interview or to schedule an on-site visit to our facilities.