Sunset Youth Services

Fostering long-term stability and growth in high-risk youth, young adults, and their families through caring relationships and supportive services since 1992.
Friends,

Our fiscal year began with great promise. We completed our cafe renovation and donors helped us purchase our first mobile recording studio. Pandemic struck. Then George Floyd was murdered, sparking protests against police brutality across the globe.

Our world grew small. We sheltered in place and swiftly moved youth programming online, and then adapted our timing to better meet the needs of youth who are painfully disconnected on weekends. We mobilized with partners to provide thousands of meals to hungry families each week. We closed tech gaps for school children, redistributed studio equipment so youth leaders could make music from home, and met with kids on Zoom, social media, by phone, and in socially-distanced meetups.

Even so, the isolation and toxic stress have been crippling for already destabilized families. At the writing of this report we've lost the lives of 6 young people in 6 months: DJ, EJ, Jace, Omar, Avan, and Pesa. We've created memorials for a grieving youth community and bewildered families. We continue to do the most important thing any of us can do on any given day—loving well those we've been given.

Even in the shadow of such sorrow and the year's many crises—our youth make music, show up for each other, speak their truths, march for justice, and show us that a different world is possible. We’re thankful for them, for the many wounded healers who work with us to light the way, and for your support, which makes this work possible.

Love,
Who We Serve

We support the most vulnerable and disconnected youth in the city.

Most SYS young people experience:

- Poverty
- Childhood trauma, abuse, abandonment, or neglect
- Unsafe neighborhoods
- School suspension or expulsion
- Incarceration or high-risk of systems involvement

WHERE SYS YOUTH LIVE

Ethnicity

- African American: 38%
- Latinx: 22%
- Multi-Racial: 17%
- Asian: 8%
- White: 6%
- Pacific Islander: 3%
- Middle Eastern: 2%
- Other: 4%

Gender

- Female: 20%
- Male: 78%
- Genderqueer/Non-binary: 0.6%
- Other: 1.4%

Age

- 11-13: 1%
- 14-17: 20%
- 18-24: 70%
- 25+: 9%

Where SYS youth live

We support the most vulnerable and disconnected youth in the city.
WHAT WE DO

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We bring digital arts programs to public schools as an outreach to high-risk youth.

JUVENILE HALL

We help young offenders re-enter society through partnerships with Juvenile Hall, Young Adult Court, and other justice stakeholders.

NEIGHBORHOODS

SYS builds strong families, supports healthy communities, and helps young people chart a stable path to adulthood.

FAMILIES

We help youth positively connect with their neighborhoods through local employment opportunities and arts events that showcase their talents.

We are a member of the Sunset Family Resource Center and offer parenting classes to support teen parents and high-risk families.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

WEEKLY SUMMER TRIPS & EVENTS

25TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIPS

MOBILE RECORDING STUDIO

WHAT WE DO
Healthy attachments create safety, security, and a sense of well-being. We provide a caring web of relationships woven throughout our programs. Connected youth are better equipped to thrive in school, at work, in families, and in other social systems.

**DIGITAL ARTS & TECHNOLOGY**

- **220** youth artists worked on creative projects, gaining skills in songwriting, digital audio recording and engineering, beat sequencing, DJ instruction, live sound, photography, and video shooting and editing
- **158** youth projects completed entirely online due to SF’s Shelter-In-Place order

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

- **26** Upstar Records youth interns were trained and mentored as marketing associates, sound mixers, sound engineers, and music producers
- **21** Clear Path justice-involved young people worked to remove barriers, gain job skills and experience with employment partners like Cal Academy
- **13** Cafe youth interns learned restaurant-readiness skills, safe food handling and preparation, and earned their Food Handler’s Card
- **18** youth engaged in additional employment projects such as car restoration, radio production, healthcare, and sound engineering
## JUSTICE SERVICES

- **92%** non-recidivism rate—the percentage of youth who did not reoffend while in our programs

- **110** young people received ongoing case management and barrier removal to break patterns of violence, navigate the justice system, and participate in SYS programs

## FAMILY SUPPORT

- **45** families received crisis support, case management, referrals to community services, and supplemental groceries

- **40** weekly hours of phone and video support calls

- **48** families in parenting classes learned to identify needs, brainstorm options, and establish positive parenting goals

## HEALING ARTS

- **48** online sessions created emotional and relational safe spaces, reduced episodes of personal violence, and promoted healing and growth

- **28** young people engaged in trauma-recovery groups with mental and behavioral health activities
On March 16, 2020, the Mayor issued SF’s Shelter-in-Place order, and we closed our youth center, suspending all center-based programming. The shutdown triggered immense instability for families already in crisis. Without the safe haven of our youth center and with schooling moved online, youth and teen parents began to experience overwhelming isolation, stress, and disconnection. Our response was immediate and comprehensive.

- **2,200** Hot meals delivered weekly
- **88** Supplemental food boxes delivered weekly
- **9** Crisis response partners helped address the critical needs of our youth and families
- **214** Instagram Live videos engaged young people in song creation, performance, and vital discussions
- **23** Upstar Challenges kept youth connected, making art, and processing their feelings
- **35** Workforce Development Youth accessed pandemic & unemployment resources with staff guidance
- **Storytelling Time on Facebook Live** connected families with young children to Family Support
- **Mindfulness practices, videos, and Healing Arts sessions** helped ground and regulate youth and families
- **We brought relationships on the road with our Love Parades**, visiting isolated youth and families to let them know we care
YOUR DONATION AT WORK

Income

- Private Foundations & Corporations: 13%
- Individual Donors: 11%
- Gala: 5%
- Public Funders: 71%

Total: $2,231,919

Expenses

- Administration: 11%
- Fundraising: 9%
- Programs: 80%

Total: $1,925,325

YOU MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE!

Our Faithful Individual Donors
We're humbled by your generosity and sacrificial giving. Thank you!

Public Funders
Dept. of Children, Youth & Their Families
First 5 San Francisco
Grants for the Arts
Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development

Private Foundations and Corporations
301 Battery LLC
AAA
Advent
Altria Client Services, Inc
Amazon
Bay Area Community Resources
BCSF, Inc
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Miranda Lux Foundation
Musicians Union Local No. 6
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San Francisco Parks Alliance
Solid Rock Construction and Fine Carpentry, Inc
Take Two Software
The Clorox Company
United Health Group
YEF (YMCA)

Faith Communities
Cornerstone
Crescent City Church of the Nazarene
Northern California District Church of the Nazarene
Oakland Bayview Fellowship
Reality San Francisco
Santa Clara Church of the Nazarene
Santa Cruz Church of the Nazarene
Sunset Ministry
WHO WE ARE

STAFF

Executive Team
Dawn Stueckle, Co-Founder, Executive Director
Delvin Mack, Co-Founder, Director of Operations
Ron Stueckle, Co-Founder, Director of Justice Services

Justice Services
Natalie Rodriguez, Case Manager
Kaitlin Wahl, Case Manager
Brandon Carter-Hicks, Case Manager
Marcus Martin*, Case Manager

Digital Arts & Technology Program
Joel Tarman, Director
Wendy Baker, Facilitator
Rymo Cortado, Creative Lead
Miguel Navarro, Creative Lead
Pedro Reyes, Creative Arts Specialist
Beronica Zelaya*, Creative Arts Specialist

Workforce Development Program
Lisa Litsey, Director
Vicky Fashho*, Employment Coordinator
Mutans Dajani*, Life Skills Coach

Family Support Services
Maria Dajani*, Family Success Coach
Carrie Peng, Family Success Coach

Healing Arts Program
Erika Pappas, Director

Development, Communications and Finance
Mary Loebig Giles, Assoc. Director, Dev. & Comms
Melissa Laureta, Dev. and Comms Associate
Debbie Shen, Executive Assistant
Marissa Majid, Bookkeeper

*Former SYS youth

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GUIDESTAR GOLD SEAL OF TRANSPARENCY 2020

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