



INSIDEOUT

Center for Positive Prevention Alternatives, Inc.
A Non-Profit Corporation

Serving the Stockton/San Joaquin County Community Since 1969

Bright Future for Casa Resident

Rachel W. is a young woman with plans. Someday she would like to work with children as a teacher, a counselor or maybe a psychiatrist. Reaching that goal will take determination and hard work, but Rachel's life has given her plenty of opportunity to practice those things.



Before coming to CPPA's Casa de la Paz, Rachel had spent time at the Mary Graham Children's Shelter and in three foster care placements. Her experiences there were not too bad. She liked the Shelter and all but one of her foster homes. She stayed with one family two separate times. She left these placements because, as she puts it, "I was wild. I just wanted to do things."

In the system

Like most foster youth, Rachel's background made it hard for her

accept authority. She lived with her Dad, until he kicked her out at age 13, and then she went to live with her Mom. She stuck it out for two years, but her step-father was physically abusive and she left when she was 15. Rachel attended six different high schools and 16 schools altogether. She had been in the system for two years when she found a home at Casa.

A new home at Casa

"It was hard at first, because I'd never been in a group home before," Rachel explains, "but because of Casa's philosophy, I wasn't so afraid of someone yelling at me or putting their hands on me." Casa helped Rachel mellow out. As she says, "For a lot of kids, Casa is right. CPPA let me go to my same school, paint my walls, put things up, make it my own living area. Casa doesn't have a lot of rules, but it is structured."

Although Rachel turned 18 this spring, she was allowed to stay at Casa until she finished high school. Despite all the different schools, she always managed to keep her grades up. She had seen what not getting an education can do to people, so Rachel stuck with it. She opted to stay in a mainstream school rather than taking the easier route of a continuation program and she worked toward meeting her graduation requirements. Determination and hard work. On June 1, Rachel graduated with her class at Stockton's Stagg High School.

The future beckons

What's next for this Casa achiever? Rachel isn't leaving her future to chance. After exploring several options, she signed her enlistment papers for the U.S. Army in April. Rachel says it was "a way to better myself and get a good education." The military will pay for school while she is in the service and she will have a generous Montgomery G.I. Bill award when she completes her service.

Regulations require Rachel to leave Casa on the day she graduates from high school. Although she has a lot to do this summer, packing and storing all her things, she is up to the next challenge. Rachel will stay with an aunt and uncle in

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Director's Perspective



Linda J. Mascarenas

Well it is summer: half the girls at Casa are in summer school, one is working full time and two are looking for work. Here at CPPA we are trying to keep this group of six girls busy on a tight budget. It's not an easy task. It used to be that I had time in my life to volunteer and work on campaigns and help out more in the community. Since CPPA opened Casa, it has consumed most of my time. Despite these challenges, believe it or not, CPPA wants to open a second group home.

I wish you could travel the path of these children who have been in the system for many years. You would be amazed at some of the issues they have had to cope with in their short lives. Being able to make a difference in their troubled lives is tremendously rewarding. I am proud to inform you, for example, that one of our Casa girls graduated high school and is off to join the Army. Another turned 18 and decided to make her way out into the world. We see her occasionally and she has her struggles, but she is on her own after thirteen years in the foster care system. These successes remind me that all the time and effort are worthwhile.

Our two homeless shelters are full of kids who have fallen through the cracks. They are not in trouble with the law, so

CPPA Wish List

The items on this list are frequently in need of replacement at the residences.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| pillows | outdoor mat |
| regular garbage cans | mop & mop heads |
| brooms | bathroom plunger |
| kitchen drain boards | bathroom waste baskets |
| bathroom mat sets | towels |
| 13 gallon trash cans for the kitchen | |

probation cannot help them. While many have been mistreated at home, they have never officially been social services children. They are youth who, for many reasons, cannot live at home. Some do not have homes to return to. Most of them are struggling to make it on their own. It is not an easy life at only 16 or 17 to have to keep up with school and hold down a job. When the youth work, it is not for spending money or another new outfit, it is to earn the money they need to make a life for themselves and, in some cases, for their children.

Although we offer many other services, I seem to tell you most about our residential programs. Maybe it is because I want you to believe that we do have children in our own community who are homeless. I want you to understand how desperate their lives are. We at CPPA have a commitment to these children and we will continue to help them in the best way we can.

Every issue I invite you to come on over and have a cup of coffee and see what we do. Maybe if you spent a little time with me, you too would want to help our children. Have a great summer!

CPPA's Mission:

Strong communities are built by people who make good decisions for their own lives. CPPA helps youths and adults acquire the skills and personal characteristics they need to create positive environments for themselves, their families and their communities. CPPA, dedicated to preventing self-destructive and socially negative behaviors, respects the individuality and honors the strengths of every client.



CPPA Welcomes New DV Program Manager

Tiffany Cardoza has recently joined the CPPA staff as its new Domestic Violence Program Manager. Tiffany earned her B.A. in psychology at California State University, Stanislaus, and has worked in community services for many years. Her background includes work in the areas of domestic violence, substance abuse and prevention of teen substance abuse.

New DV Program Manager Tiffany Cardoza

In her role as Program Manager, Tiffany administers the Domestic Violence Offenders Intervention Program and the Anger Management Program. "The programs are effective for those who want help," Tiffany comments. She adds that the groups are well-structured and the program over-all is well-integrated to serve its clients. She has been working to improve the manual used by program participants and facilitators, adding some new lessons and creating lesson plans for every topic covered in the 16- and 52-week courses.

CPPA's participation in a statewide evaluation of California batterer intervention systems adds an interesting facet to her responsibilities. The study is being conducted by the Judicial Council of California and involves 67 programs in five counties. The goal of their investigation is to test the effectiveness of state-mandated programs for domestic violence offenders. Program participants complete a survey at intake, three to five weeks later and when they complete the 52-week program. The initial surveys are being administered now and participants will be tracked for the next year. Results of this study may give Tiffany and her program staff new insights into the effectiveness of the DV Program and provide guidance for improvement.

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Visit CPPA on the web at www.cppainc.org

Casa youth's bright future

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Livermore for a few weeks, then report to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri for basic training. She has chosen a career as a "human intelligence collector" (interrogation specialist) because she enjoys the mental and psychological aspects of human behavior. She will train for this specialty at Fort Huachuca, Arizona for just over 23 weeks following basic.

Rachel is happy with her success and looking forward to her future. She knows that not all foster youth do as well. "People give up," she observes. "You have to believe in yourself and see the glass as half-full." Good advice for all of us.

Good reasons to stay in school

Higher education is one of the most effective ways that parents can raise their families' incomes. Over the past two decades, parents with less education have been losing economic ground.

Most children in low-income families have parents without any college education.

- ❖ 26% of children in low-income—7.6 million—have parents with less than a high school diploma.
- ❖ 35%—almost 10.3 million—have parents with a high school diploma, but no college education.
- ❖ 38%—over 11.2 million—have parents who have at least some college education or more.

Higher education leads to higher earnings.

- ❖ 84% of children whose parents have less than a high school diploma live in low-income families.
- ❖ 56% of children whose parents have a high school diploma, but no college education, live in low-income families.
- ❖ Only 24% of children whose parents have some college education or more live in low-income families.

If parents have low education levels, full-time employment does not protect their families from low earnings. Among children whose parents work full-time and year-round:

- ❖ 75% of children whose parents have less than a high school diploma live in low-income families.
- ❖ 45% of children whose parents have a high school diploma, but no college education, live in low-income families.

Only 17% of children whose parents have some college education or more live in low-income families.

(For further information on poverty and its effects on children, contact the National Center for Children in Poverty at www.nccp.org.)



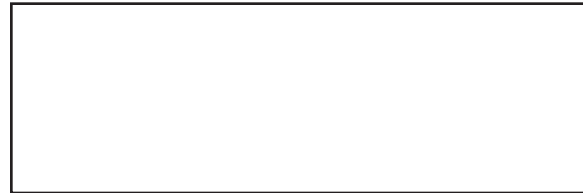
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*CPPA Youth Services Program
 Manager Georgiana Robinson, who
 celebrates "Bring Your Daughter to
 Work Day" most days, is seen here
 with little Emma.*