



InsideOut

Family & Youth Services of San Joaquin County
(formerly Center for Positive Prevention Alternatives, Inc.)

Serving the Stockton/San Joaquin County Community Since 1969

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New name, same mission

From Board President Wayne Hose

It's official! The Center for Positive Prevention Alternatives, Inc. is now Family and Youth Services of San Joaquin County. Our name has changed, but our mission and commitment to service remain the same.

The Board of Directors adopted this change to better reflect the agency's work in the community. The name change has been approved by the California Secretary of State's office and the Internal Revenue Service has issued a letter documenting the agency's status as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit under the new name.

As you can see, the agency also has a whole new "look" to go along with the new name. Erin Mills, who owns and operates Think Marketing of Beverly Hills, generously donated her staffs' time to help Family & Youth Services change its image. Designer Darren Frale created the new logo, along with suggestions for its use in agency materials. Members of the Board of Directors and agency staff are pleased with the results and very grateful for their help.

Changing an agency's name is a big job, but Family & Youth Services' staff is making good progress. Internal documents have been revised, as well as most of the agency's public materials. Think Marketing has agreed to re-design the Family & Youth Services brochure sometime this summer. The agency's email and web domain have also changed—the website is now located at www.fayssjc.org. Look for a new web design later this year.

Family & Youth Services will continue to offer the quality programs that have distinguished its nearly 40 years of service to San Joaquin County. The Board of Directors works hard to guide this work and a dedicated staff carries it out, but none of it would be possible without the ongoing support of our community. Thank you for your belief in us and for your commitment to meeting the needs of San Joaquin County's families and youth.



Tribute

by Linda J. Mascarenas-Colgan

Warren Parker, now somewhat reclusive and always eccentric, sits in his home in Doyle, CA, 45 miles in either direction between Susanville and Reno. Through his life, he has taken the road less traveled. Born in Chicago, he grew up in the San Francisco Mission District, raised by a single working mom and often left to care for himself. He spent his teenage years as a ward of the court, in and out of juvenile halls, reform schools and CYA. In 1955, at the age of 20, he was sentenced to ten years in San Quentin for possession of marijuana. While in prison, Warren won awards for his artwork, poetry and music. He was a positive role model for other inmates.

In 1965, Warren was released from prison and found a lonely, unfriendly world. One night he came out of a bar, looked up the street and saw an old man vomiting in the



Warren and Linda

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Director's Perspective

Well, how do we look? I am excited about the new name and the new logo. I also had a new picture taken that I am not too excited about! I think the name better describes who we are and what we do. Don't get me wrong, I love CPPA too, but I believe it's time we move into the modern age. The logo was designed by Erin Mills

Linda J. Mascarenas-Colgan

and her team at the "Think Marketing Agency" out of Beverly Hills. We are very pleased with their professional and modern design. This month since I wrote the story on Warren I won't make you read two long articles by me. Just remember, my door is always open to you. Come on by, have a cup of coffee and we can solve the problems of the world. Have a great summer!

Thank You Youth & Family Services Supporters!

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Congratulations, Rhaisa!

On May 30 long-time Opportunity House resident Rhaisa B. graduated with her class from Weston Ranch High School in Stockton. High school graduation is a landmark for any young person, but Rhaisa can be especially proud of the enormous effort that it took to get this far.

In late November 2006 Rhaisa came to Family & Youth Services looking for a safe place to stay. She was admitted immediately to the Safe House Emergency Shelter and, eventually, moved to the Opportunity House Transitional Living Program. Rhaisa wasn't "running away from home." She left behind family conflicts that could not be resolved, no matter how hard she tried. Far from running away, Rhaisa was looking for a way to move forward with her life.

At first Rhaisa was lonely, "because I didn't have my sisters and I was really close to them." Her other big challenge was coming to terms with having to stand on her own two feet. Family & Youth Services' staff have "always been supportive," Rhaisa comments. "Your Case Manager helps you accomplish the goals you set for yourself. She also helps you have a positive attitude, which can be hard when you're surrounded by negativity."

Sometimes Rhaisa was sad. Her mother didn't call. "I was disappointed not to get support from my family, but it motivated me too." No matter how hard things got, Rhaisa continued to go to school. Every morning she got to the bus stop by 6:20 AM to catch the bus that would get her to school on time at 7:00. Sometimes, "it was hard not to give up. I had to keep my goals in mind and just keep trying. Trying to be happy—you know, 'the pursuit of happiness.'"

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Visit Youth & Family Services on the web at www.fayssjc.org

Tribute to Warren

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gutter. He looked the other way and saw another old man in the gutter. Suddenly he could see his future; he did not want to end up one of those old men. He relocated to Stockton, the home of his mother. Determined to change his life, he continued his art, poetry and music. Warren had several art shows at local galleries, married and worked at the cannery to support his wife and son.

Change is possible

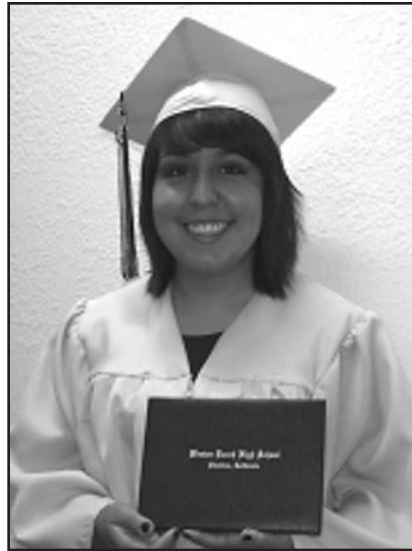
Although Warren had begun to change his life, he looked around at some of his friends and realized they were throwing their lives away to drugs. Warren and several others got together and started Friends, Inc., a drop-in crash pad, health clinic, coffee house and counseling agency. Warren and his friends opened the program out of his home and later moved to the old Stockton Armory on the corner of Harding Way and California Street. The success of Friends gave Warren the courage to continue in the people-helping field. He watched young people change their lives and move away from delinquent lifestyles. In 1971, Warren moved to the mountains to stop drinking and try to save his marriage. His passion for his work never faltered; he continued as a trainer and consultant to others in the youth field.

In 1973 Warren was asked to take over the operations of the nearly failing and defunded “Stockton House,” now the successful Family and Youth Services of San Joaquin County. Warren turned the agency around, bringing it back to life as “Eastside Opportunity House” serving the eastside community of Stockton. The agency grew from a thirty thousand dollar budget to nearly a half million when he retired in 1996. Through his years with the agency, he worked with youth and their families, served on many boards and committees, advocated for the rights of youth and always had a positive approach. Warren believed in the kids everyone else had given up on. He was always ready to fight for the underdog.

Proud legacy

In 1975 Warren received a full pardon from Governor Brown. Warren was ecstatic. He finally received recognition for turning his life around and helping youth and their families turn their lives around. The agency continued to grow and serve youth and families throughout the county. In 1979 Warren and the board changed the name of the agency to Center for Positive Prevention Alternatives. When Warren retired in 1996, he left a legacy of successful youth work and he continues to believe in the work of Family & Youth Services. When Warren retired, his goals were to continue his artwork, play in the “World Series of Poker” in Las Vegas and raise horses—all of which he has accomplished.

Continued next column



Rhaisa's proudest moment

Happy graduation

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The smile on Rhaisa's face when she talks about her future shows that she's making good progress in the area of happiness. Next fall she will begin college at California State University, Stanislaus in Turlock, where, supported by financial aid and a work/study job, she plans to study biology. She hopes to pursue her interest in choral music, as well. Rhaisa hasn't set a definite career path yet. She knows that she has time to decide. And, Rhaisa has definitely shown that she has what it takes to meet whatever goals she sets for herself.

Congratulations, Deante H., on your high school graduation!

Warren

Continued from previous column

Warren is one of my best friends and as he sits in Doyle reminiscing about his life, talking politics and doing his artwork, I find myself reflecting on all the years we have known one another. He recently was evaluated in San Francisco for a liver transplant, which could save his life, but they told him he was not sick enough and he was beyond the age of 70. In typical Warren fashion, if he could not get a liver, he wanted to go home to Doyle to be with his horses, sit outside in the sun and do his art. I can see my friend is tired and traveling a rough road, yet he still has a smile and is full of mischief. Yes, he took the road less traveled by and that has made all the difference.



**Family & Youth Services of
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(formerly CPPA)
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Family & Youth Services of San Joaquin County

Mission:

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

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