

JULY 2010 E-NEWSLETTER

From the Director

The Contra Costa County Children and Family Services' Independent Living Skills Program held its 22nd Annual Recognition Dinner in June. The Annual Recognition Dinner is held in honor of the graduating class of 2010 and youth who are transitioning out of the Contra Costa County Child Welfare System (CWS).

Of the 125 youth transitioning out of the CWS, 74 were on hand to participate in the festivities accompanied by family, friends and supporters. Scholarships and certificates were presented, and ILSP graduate speakers spoke about overcoming their hardships to become achievers and of their ambitious goals yet to be achieved. The Assistance League of Diablo Valley announced their 5 scholarship recipients, gave certificates to the 31 youth that received the Senior Sponsorship and provided 100 Duffel Bags equipped with first-time apartment supplies and a \$75 Target Gift Card. Judge Lois Haight issued a total of 16 scholarships from her Foundation. Volunteers and Emergency Team in Action (VESTIA) honored 4 youth with scholarships of \$1000 each. Of the 125 youth leaving care, 83 are leaving with their high school diploma. Most of the youth plan to continue their education; the majority will be attending community college and seeking employment to make their way through this tough transition period.

The night is the culmination of hard work, determination, and commitment that occurs every year. Throughout the year, care providers, agencies, departments, programs, school districts, and community-based

organizations collaborate to meet the needs that are in the best interest of the youth.

It's always a pleasure to attend this annual event, and this year was no exception. It symbolizes what can be accomplished when the community comes together to support our youth.

Joe Valentine, EHSD Director



Staff Presentations to the ILSP
Class of 2010



The Happy Graduates!



BayAreaNewsGroup



Community Services Bureau Named One of the Top Workplaces in the Bay Area

In partnership with the Bay Area News Group, Workplace Dynamics LLC, an independent research company, conducted a comprehensive survey of Bay Area companies to determine the Top Workplaces in the area. Employees were invited to respond to a series of 18 questions rating the organization in areas such as leadership, compensation, training, workplace flexibility and diversity. All surveys were completed anonymously.

As a result of the survey, 60 companies were nominated. The Community Services Bureau (CSB) ranked very highly compared to other companies in areas of staff training and development, opportunities for growth and learning, being well informed about what is going on in the organization, and feeling the organization does things efficiently and well. Bay Area News Group published the nominated companies in Contra Costa Times, Oakland Tribune and San Jose Mercury News on June 20 and June 27. In addition, highlights and marketing/recruitment ads were published for each of the nominated agencies. CSB will also receive a Certificate of Recognition and the logo of the Top Workplaces to use in their marketing communication during the course of the next year.



Demonstrating Why CSB Is A Top Workplace in the Bay Area!

Do You Want To Twitter?

We here at the EHSD E-Newsletter want to be right on top of everything ... so we're going to start to Twitter. What does that mean? Watch for your invitation to follow us on Twitter, and let's find out together!

Enjoying the Summer Weather?

Remember to stay hydrated - like our friends below - while you're out and about during these hot, hot days.

