Center for Human Services (CHS) is a nonprofit agency serving youth and families since 1970. Our mission is to change lives and build futures through programs that strengthen and support youth and families. We provide proven prevention, education, treatment, counseling and shelter services in Stanislaus County.

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  Modesto, CA 95350
- **ONLINE:** Visit centerforhumanservices.org/newsletter to read the online version of Center Line and to learn more about us.

**Connect With Us**

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When I first took the position as a Family Advocate in Outreach, I had an image of myself similar to that of a cartoon character with a backpack and boots, out walking the streets. As it turns out, I wasn’t that far off.

Outreach is not a typical eight to five office job. Some days consist of being under a freeway overpass, hiking along the Tuolumne River or engaging with the homeless at Beard Brook Park. Engaging can mean sharing a meal with someone, saying hello with a friendly smile, sitting in someone’s tent as they express their defeat or even placing someone at a safe shelter for the night.

One of my first interactions was in September of 2018 with a young man named John, a 21-year-old who recently became homeless after his mother kicked him out for using marijuana. John first landed at the Modesto Gospel Mission shelter, but it was not long before he found himself back on the streets without shelter and safety. New to the area, he found that being a young adult alone in a foreign town was terrifying.

He spent months working with community support agencies, while learning to overcome his addictions. He is now on his journey to recovery and has been clean since November 24, 2018.

John recently moved into Center for Human Services’ Pathways program, a supportive services program for young adults 18 to 24 years old. Residents can stay at Pathways for up to 24 months at no cost. During this time they receive weekly case management, substance use and mental health counseling, life skills training and many additional supportive services.

During the course of his homelessness, John was faced with many adverse situations: sleeping outside or in his friend’s vehicle with unpredictable weather, being bullied and assaulted, and trying to secure employment so that he could improve his living situation.

“I did everything in my power to keep my record clean,” he said. John is proud of his story and how he overcame his situation. “I want to tell my children one day, ‘be like me’ and not ‘don’t be like me.’”

John is just one of many youth experiencing homelessness in our community and an example of how partnerships, hard work and perseverance can pay off.

I continue my day-to-day work, regularly looking for ways we can help the homeless. For teens ages 13 to 17, the answer may be Hutton House, CHS’ shelter for teens. There, they can take hot showers, enjoy freshly prepared meals, or participate in group activities. For up to three weeks at a time, they can have a safe place to rest as we work to reconnect them to their natural system of support.

It isn’t easy work, but changing lives and building better futures rarely is. Every form of outreach and engagement has the potential to make an impact on someone.
Sometimes, in the course of our lives, we encounter a person, a moment or an experience that changes our life trajectory. For 37-year-old Jill Baker, that experience was actually a place - Hutton House, Center for Human Services’ temporary housing program in Modesto for teenagers facing homelessness or crises.

Between the ages of 13 and 16, Jill was in and out of Hutton House countless times.

“I went back time and time again because it really was my safe place and I knew that I was going to get the things that I needed and most desperately wanted - someone to talk to, someone to listen to me, someone to give me a set of boundaries and tell me that, not only would it get better, but that someday maybe my family would be more connected,” Jill recalled.

Her parents worked many hours and were hardly ever home, and her older sister moved out at 15 years old, leaving Jill to fend for herself. She sought attention by using drugs and alcohol and running away from home.

Jill’s parents took her to Hutton House the first time and they received family counseling to learn different tools to help them connect better, but it was a temporary fix. Jill returned to Hutton House many times after that - sometimes on her own in the middle of the night; other times her parents or the police took her there.

“I could show up any time,” Jill said. “There are clothes, there’s food, somebody to listen to you and give you advice. The staff there really do make you feel like they’re there for you. They really make it personal. It’s not just one layout that everybody gets.”

Hutton House Program Manager Valrie Thompson worked with Jill and her family 24 years ago.

“I can hear her voice in my head,” Jill reminisces, laughing to herself. “Valrie would ask me a question and I would give my smart-aleck 13-year-old remark and then she would say, ‘Well, how’s that working out for you?’ Now it totally makes sense. I use it on my kids, I use it with my employees at work.”
After three years of stints at Hutton House, couch surfing with friends, and getting deeper into trouble, Jill’s parents and Hutton House staff knew they had to find a more permanent solution. At 16 years old, Jill moved to Oregon to live with her grandparents. She earned her high school diploma at a continuation school there and returned to California when she was 18. After 10 years in the Bay Area where she had her first daughter, Jill, her husband and her baby moved back to Modesto in 2008.

She didn’t have a job, so she returned to the one place in Modesto she considered home - Hutton House, first as a volunteer, then as an employee.

“It was extraordinary to come full circle and work at Hutton House,” Jill said. “So many times kids would say, ‘You don’t understand. You just work here.’ And I would giggle in my head thinking, ‘Man, I was totally you,’ and I did share a few times about my personal past as a client there to show that there is that sense of hope and things won’t always be the way you feel it is at that time.”

Jill worked at Hutton House for five years, providing hope, mentorship and delicious meals to dozens of teenagers. She now manages a local restaurant, is pursuing her dream of having her own catering business, has rebuilt her relationship with her mother, and is raising three daughters. She says Hutton House saved her life and, in turn, molded her into the consistent and reliable mother she is today.

“I feel like both experiences - being a child there and also working there - made me a much better parent, a more resourceful parent. I know that if I’m ever in need, I know exactly where I can go for help, whether it’s Hutton House or Center for Human Services as a whole.

For more information, visit centerforhumanservices.org/huttonhouse
Twin sisters Carolyn and Celeste Warren remember much of their childhood in homeless shelters.

“We went to a different shelter every week,” Celeste recalled. “Whole different place, whole different people. We went to the Mission, Hutton House, Haven of Peace in Stockton, Family Promise.”

Friends or extended family members would take them in briefly; sometimes on their own or with their mother. Their parents used drugs and alcohol and, at times, ended up in jail, leaving the girls to take care of themselves and other family members.

“We were still having to take care of the whole family,” Carolyn said. “You don’t want to see your mom sleeping outside. She was still in a shelter. Even when we were younger, we already had to grow up. Our sister would call us because our mom got arrested again. Or a doctor would call us because she was going suicidal.”

When Celeste was 18, her friend who lived at Pathways suggested she live there too. Pathways is Center for Human Services’ transitional living program in Modesto that provides apartments at no cost for homeless 18-24 year olds.

“When I first moved in, I was so grateful,” Celeste remembers. “I didn’t know that I could ever get a place on my own.”

At the time, Carolyn was living with a boyfriend, but joined Celeste at Pathways when she was 20.

Each Pathways resident is required to follow rules to stay there for up to 24 months, including chores, getting a job, and saving $3,000 for housing after they complete the Pathways program. The residents also work with Pathways mentors to establish goals to accomplish during their time there. The sisters’ goals included getting their driver licenses and cars and paying off credit card bills. Both completed their goals in just months.

“Pathways is a place where you literally grow and become independent,” Carolyn said. “It trained me to to think five steps ahead now, that there’s consequences to what I do.”
From my car, to cleaning, to organization - we learned how to do it at Pathways and we wouldn’t have been able to survive otherwise.”

In addition to life skills, Carolyn and Celeste are grateful for the relationships they built with Pathways staff.

“They didn’t make us feel like it was just their job to have to take care of us or comfort us,” Carolyn said. “It felt more like family.”

“Both of these young women came to Pathways with an open heart to do some changing,” said Paula Harter, Pathways Program Manager. “They had some tough lessons to learn, but they learned. The best thing about both of them is their pure determination to be successful and to never give up. Although they have suffered greatly, they will never sound or act like a victim. They both have integrity and keep their word. I am so grateful to have met and loved them.”

Since graduating from Pathways, both Carolyn and Celeste live in apartments in Modesto, continue to work, and plan to finish their college education. Now at 24 years old, Celeste wants to become a police officer and Carolyn aspires to work at Pathways one day to serve as a guide and give hope to young adults who are like she once was.

“Just because your parents or your family was at a bad point doesn’t mean you can’t make it, doesn’t mean that you should subject yourself to drugs or gangs,” Carolyn said. “People blame their parents so often. We’re living proof that you don’t have to be like that.”

“Pathways is a start to a better life,” Celeste said. “Being here will make you learn things and appreciate things and realize there are so many resources out there for everybody - it doesn’t matter what you’re going through. It’s a start to make you feel like you’re your own person. I’ve never been so happy and stable in my life.”

For more information, visit centerforhumanservices.org/pathways
WAYS TO GIVE

Center for Human Services is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that provides quality prevention, education, counseling and shelter services for youth and families. We are thankful for the many ways our community supports our work. Here are some different ways you can support CHS:

**TIME**

Become a volunteer in one of our many programs by lending a helping hand to our staff, sitting on a fundraising committee or inquire about our active Board of Directors.

**TALENT**

Offer to share one of your talents and create teachable moments with the people we serve and our employees. You could help teach a class, provide general maintenance and repairs at our facilities and more.

**TREASURE**

Provide monetary support by giving through the Annual Campaign, sponsoring or attending a special event like Edible Extravaganza, donating in-kind goods or supplies or by making a planned gift.

More ways to give

- **PLANNED GIVING**
- **EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS**
- **STOCK GIFTS**
- **CREATING YOUR OWN FUNDRAISER**

GET IN TOUCH:

For more information, please contact our Development Department at (209) 526-1476 or chsdev@centerforhumanservices.org.

DONATE ONLINE

Make a secure donation online with a one-time, monthly, or annual campaign gift:

centerforhumanservices.org/donate

MAKE A GIFT BY MAIL

Checks, made out to Center for Human Services, can be mailed to:

Center for Human Services
2000 W. Briggsmore Ave., Ste. I
Modesto, CA 95350
WHY I GIVE  Q&A WITH DIANNE GAGOS, Center for Human Services Donor

Q. When and why did you first get involved with CHS?
A. I was invited to an open house tour of Hutton House and met Monica Ojcius [former Development Director]. I was so impressed and asked her what other services CHS provided. She and I hit it off and I immediately wanted to learn more.

Q. Why do you continue to give to CHS - whether your time, talent or treasures?
A. I believe every baby born into this world should be given love, support, education and healthy care. We know that’s not always the case. I do believe that CHS works hard to fill those gaps and I admire and support that.

Q. Are there particular CHS programs that resonate with you? If so, why?
A. I’m especially drawn to Hutton House and Pathways. Again, they are supporting young people by giving them a safe place to stay, and teaching them life skills – things many of us take for granted. They are taking today’s homeless youth and giving them the tools and support they need to be tomorrow’s successful adults.

Q. Why is it important for you to be involved in our community?
A. Whether it’s time, talent or money, I think we as humans have a responsibility to try to make our little (or large) corner of the world a better place. I am the daughter of farmers and the wife of a farmer, and firmly believe – “One must take care of the land and the land will take care of you.”

Q. Why is it important for community members to support CHS?
A. These services can’t survive without community support – and the leadership of the organization needs the emotional and physical support, as well as financial.

Q. Is there anything else you’d like our readers to know about CHS or your role as a donor?
A. The challenges today of being raised in a less than stable environment are greater than ever. CHS teaches how to “parent”, how to keep oneself clean, ones dwelling clean and to be healthy, all things very basic to many but not to all. Education in and out of the classroom and a safe place to stay are simply so important.
Eat, drink and do good! The 32nd Annual Edible Extravaganza gave over 1,000 people a chance to do just that with 50 of the best restaurants, caterers and drink vendors in the region. This past year, the Mercedes Benz of Modesto VIP Lounge offered VIPs and sponsors an exclusive place to savor special dishes, cocktails and champagne. Save the date for our next Edible Extravaganza on September 12, 2019!

Thank you to Golden 1 Credit Union for donating $50,000 to our Pathways Transitional Living Program. This contribution will help us continue to provide apartments and guidance at no cost to young adults experiencing homelessness.
For the fifth year in a row, Modesto Subaru selected CHS as their local charity for the Subaru Share the Love event. CHS and Subaru staff collaborated on their second music video together to ask the community to “give a little bit.” Thank you to Modesto Subaru for their commitment and generosity to CHS and for donating $60,860 to us!

Thanks to partnerships with iHeart Radio and the Modesto Police K9 Association, we collected hundreds of toys at the Christmas for Kids Toy Drive. These toys brightened the holiday season for CHS clients at our Family Resource Centers in Ceres, Oakdale, Patterson and Newman, as well as to families who come to our behavioral health clinic at our main office in Modesto.

Hundreds of crab lovers gathered at our 6th Annual Oakdale Crab Feed and Auction to support our Oakdale Family Resource and Counseling Center. Many guests burned off the feast by dancing the night away and others went home with amazing prizes!
Center for Human Services acknowledges the support of our funding partners who underwrite, in part, the quality services provided to children and families. Partners include but are not limited to: Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services, First 5 Stanislaus, Community Services Agency, Probation, various school districts, foundations, Federal and State agencies. We are grateful to all of our funders for fostering the health and well-being of our communities through their support of Center for Human Services’ shelter, prevention, intervention, treatment & counseling services.
# How We Serve

Center for Human Services **changes lives, builds futures and helps families** through quality programs and services for youth and families in Stanislaus County. Each year we serve tens of thousands of children, individuals and families through **several core program areas**.

## Changing Lives

### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
- **Community Counseling** - no or low cost counseling services
- **Support Groups** - depression and anger management support groups
- **Parent Mentor Program** - support services for parents
- **LMFT & LCSW training site** - in association with local universities

### SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT
- **Substance Use Treatment** - teen and adult alcohol and drug abuse treatment
- **First Step** - outpatient treatment for pregnant and parenting women with children 5 years of age and younger (A partnership with Sierra Vista Child & Family Services)

## Building Futures

### SHELTER SERVICES
- **Hutton House** - temporary housing and support for 13-17-year-old youth in crisis and their families
- **Pathways** - transitional housing, life skills and employment support for 18-24-year-olds experiencing homelessness

### YOUTH & SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES
- **Alcohol and Other Drugs** - prevention, intervention & education programs
- **Community Youth Connection** - youth-run, adult supported community service group operated by Hutton House
- **Counseling Services** - youth, individual and family sessions
- **Resiliency and Prevention Program (RaPP)** - youth development program to improve students’ well-being
- **Student Assistance Program** - education, prevention and intervention for students K-12

## Helping Families

### FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS
- "One-stop shops" providing services and support to families
  - Ceres Partnership
  - Oakdale Family Resource and Counseling Center
  - Patterson Family Resource Center
  - Newman Family Resource Center

### PARENT CAFÉS
- Structured discussions at schools and Family Resource Centers where parents and caregivers talk about the challenges and victories of raising a family to learn ways to strengthen their own.

### FATHER INVOLVEMENT
- Bonding experiences and boot camps for new dads to strengthen the role of fathers in their children’s lives.

# Call
Call (209) 526-1476 or Visit centerforhumanservices.org
Our Locations

We are proud to have **over 250 employees** working across Stanislaus County. Person by person, CHS staff are working to strengthen individuals and families.

**CHS Main Office and Community Counseling Clinic**
Main Office - (209) 526-1476
Clinic - (209) 526-1440

**First Step Perinatal Substance Abuse Program**
(209) 527-3270

**Hutton House (Teens & Families) and Pathways (Young Adult) Housing Services**
Hutton House - (209) 526-1623

**Youth Services & Mental Health Programs at School Sites**
Youth Services - (209) 526-1476
Mental Health - (209) 526-1440

**Family Resource Centers in Ceres, Newman, Patterson and Oakdale**
Ceres - (209) 541-0101
Newman - (209) 862-0295
Patterson - (209) 690-3100
Oakdale - (209) 847-0420

Call (209) 526-1476 or Visit centerforhumanservices.org