We’re Building Brighter Futures through a Youth Navigation Center, with help from leading donors (pg. 3)

So long and farewell, a Q+A with Taryn Muralt, Emeritus Director of Youth and Shelter Services (pg. 5)
WAYS TO GIVE

CHS is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. We are thankful for the many ways our community supports our work. Here are some different ways you can support us:

TIME  Become a volunteer
TALENT  Share one of your talents
TREASURE  Provide monetary support

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, payable to Center for Human Services, can be mailed to:

Center for Human Services
2000 W. Briggsmore Ave., Ste. I
Modesto, CA 95350
“I never thought I would be homeless.” At the age of 17, Stephanie faced a new reality: she, her parents, and her four siblings would have to live in their car.

It was a matter of unfortunate timing and circumstances, as they were evicted to make room for the landlord’s daughter. Unable to find another affordable home in time, most of the family slept in the car while Stephanie traveled from couch to couch at friends’ homes.

At the time, she thought, “I feel hopeless and helpless. It’s draining, and I feel lost a lot of the time. I’m just trying to find ways to survive.”

Months after becoming homeless, she was referred to Hutton House by her family’s counselor at Sierra Vista Child & Family Services, which provided more stability for her. While she had to be watchful of threats to her safety when she was on the streets, she said, “I feel safe at Hutton House. No one can find me or hurt me.”

Hutton House also assisted Stephanie in getting to school, which had previously required a one hour walk. Still, going to school contributed to her stress as she simultaneously faced the trials that come with homelessness.

“It’s hard going to school. It’s hard to focus,” she said. “I don’t want to go, I am losing sight of the importance of school.”

During her time at Hutton House, she maintained contact with her family and would see them when they stopped by for drop-in services or for a family meeting.

At the age of 18, Stephanie had officially aged out of Hutton House and transitioned to Pathways, which offers supportive services and housing for young adults as they save money and work towards self-reliance.

With long-term life goals in mind and a case manager supporting her along the way, Stephanie looks forward to achieving greater stability and independence in her time at Pathways.
Building Brighter Futures
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you to our **Lead Gift Donors** for their generous support of our Youth Navigation Center!

Center for Human Services is building a Youth Navigation Center (YNC) to end youth homelessness in Stanislaus County. We’ve launched a capital campaign to raise $1.5 million for the construction and development of this facility, scheduled to open in June 2021.  
Visit centerforhumanservices.org/capitalcampaign

“The Youth Navigation Center will expand the offerings of CHS, increasing the Center’s ability to support our youth and assist them in improving their situation.”
— DILLON OLVERA, PRESIDENT AND CEO

“The youth in our community have no better advocate than Center for Human Services. The center will be used to enhance those in need.”
— JOHN & JUNE ROGERS, MARY STUART ROGERS FOUNDATION
“Our family sees the Youth Navigation Center as a vital strategy toward a healthy community. It is critical to provide the resources needed to help our youth break the cycle of homelessness.”

— THOMAS GALLO, VICE PRESIDENT STRATEGIC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

“Stanislaus Community Foundation has been a funder to local nonprofits since 2002. Throughout our history, we’ve supported innovation and a systems approach to our most challenging problems, including homelessness. The Youth Navigation Center is a solution that addresses multiple issues for local foster and homeless youth - it’s truly a game changer that will impact many lives.”

— MARIAN KAANON, PRESIDENT AND CEO

“At a time when youth homelessness is rising at an alarming rate, this unique project is precisely what is needed to address this crisis. The Porges Family is proud of its longstanding support of Center for Human Services and we look forward to seeing this facility up and running to support those in our community in need.”

— EVAN PORGES, PORGES FAMILY FOUNDATION
Q. How did you get your start at CHS?
A. I was hired as the Program Manager for the Student Assistance Program (SAP) in July 1999. Interestingly, I found out later that I was not the first choice for the position! Life has a way of working out, doesn’t it?

Q. Did you believe you would come this far?
A. When I started at CHS, I wasn’t thinking about how long I’d be with the agency, but 21 and a half years and going into retirement? That was not anywhere in my thinking. I am fortunate to have received so many opportunities to grow at CHS. I give credit to Cindy for consistently believing I could do things I wasn’t so sure I could; our senior leadership team who have been my sounding boards, shoulders to cry on and ongoing inspiration; and all the beautiful, caring, competent people who have let me be their “boss”. They’re the ones who have done all the work and made me look good!

Q. What does the Youth Navigation Center (YNC) mean for our community?
A. Our intention for the YNC is that every youth or young adult in our county has a safe place to sleep and someone to help them get back home or into their own home. We want youth to know the YNC is a safe place they can come, where staff will help them resolve issues so they don’t have to run away or be on their own with no place to call home. My immediate hope is that it becomes operational sooner than later! Presently, we have no dedicated emergency shelter for older youth ages 18-24 in Stanislaus County. The ONLY way to end youth homelessness is to have homes.

The YNC will, and already is, modeling how to end homelessness. It can’t be solved through discrete, independent operated programs. Homelessness is a systemic problem and has to be addressed that way. There has to be an overarching understanding and agreement about the causes and a commitment to seek out what’s working with the population being served. The youth will let us know what works.

Q. What will you miss the most about CHS?
A. My co-workers are a given. They have sustained me throughout my time at CHS. Beyond that, like I said, I’ve never not worked but I think I might miss the sense of purpose and feeling that I’m contributing to making the world a better place. As much as I’m wanting a life with less deadlines, I know they motivate me and I think I’ll miss the satisfaction and relief I feel when I meet deadlines. I experience pride being a part of CHS. It’s a cliché but so true - no longer being a part of something bigger than myself will be hard.

Q. What are you looking forward to the most in retirement?
A. Seeing how it feels not to work. I started babysitting at age 12, had lots of part-time jobs through school and then joined the workforce in full for 42 years. I’m excited to see who I am without the structure of work.
NEW LEADERSHIP

As we bid farewell to Taryn, we welcome two long-time CHS employees to our Senior Leadership Team to carry on her legacy.

DAVID COLLINS
Youth Services Program Director

David joined CHS in 2001 as a Student Assistance Specialist. Over the next three years he worked in five different schools in Modesto, Ceres and Patterson before becoming the Resource Development Coordinator. Later he transitioned to Student Assistance Program Coordinator, Youth Services Manager and now, Program Director. David credits the positive, supportive work environment and strong accountability to results at CHS for his professional growth. He’s passionate about education, science, data and serving the youth in our community. In his spare time David welcomes all challengers to a game of Geek Out.

EMILY WEBSTER
Youth Navigation Center Director

Emily began with CHS in 2004 as a Student Assistance Specialist in the Youth Services Department shortly after graduating with her Bachelor’s Degree from CSU Stanislaus. She moved into various leadership positions within Youth Services before transitioning to the Youth Navigation Center Director in 2020. Emily is passionate about helping people, and promoting change and growth within her community. She looks forward to working with her team to open the Youth Navigation Center and help end youth homelessness in Stanislaus County.

NEW BEGINNINGS

We are building a Youth Navigation Center (YNC) that will engage, stabilize and prepare vulnerable youth for brighter futures through shelter, housing and comprehensive drop-in services. These services will be available to any youth in Stanislaus County between the ages of 13-24 experiencing crisis, housing instability and/or homelessness.

HOUSING, SHELTER AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Emergency shelter, transitional housing, supportive services, case management and counseling

LOW BARRIER SHELTER

A new 24-bed facility will provide emergency shelter for young adults ages 18-24 who are or may become homeless

DROP-IN CENTER

Services include showers, lockers, meals, resources and referrals to accommodate an additional 20-30 youth and young adults daily
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.

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS WHO HELPED MAKE A SUCCESSFUL EDIBLE EXTRAVAGANZA AT HOME.

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