

PATHWAYS

Welcome, Vonza Thompson

NEW CEO NAMED

After an extensive nationwide search, the Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Vonza Thompson, MA, MFT, CPRP, has been appointed President & Chief Executive Officer of Fred Finch Youth Center. Ms. Thompson brings with her a wealth of experience, most recently as President & CEO of Momentum for Mental Health a Santa Clara County based organization that annually provides mental health services to over 3,000 youth, adults, and older adults. She has enjoyed a distinguished career in managing mental health services for more than three decades. A Bay Area resident since 1973, Ms. Thompson is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner, having received her Master of Arts degree in counseling psychology from the University of Santa Clara. She completed her undergraduate work at Western Oregon University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education.

“I believe in the mission of Fred Finch and its commitment to innovative, effective services.”

When asked what drew her to Fred Finch, Ms. Thompson replied, “The agency’s bold and practical strategic directions enable it to assist more youth, families, and communities to achieve their unique goals. Although it is difficult to leave Momentum, now is a good time for me to move on in my career. I look forward to the opportunity as the new CEO to lead Fred Finch into exciting new directions and to supporting its excellent current programs.”



Current Board Chair, Gay Searcy remarks, “While we are sad to say goodbye to John Steinfirst, we are confident that we have selected just the right person to lead Fred Finch into the future.”

Incoming Board Chair David McGrew notes “John’s legacy of a committed Board, high-caliber executive team, managers and staff, will enable Ms. Thompson to continue her well-established commitment to excellence in providing mission-based services that are client directed, culturally and clinically competent.”

Ms. Thompson officially assumes her new role at Fred Finch on March 24, 2008.

Board of Directors

Gay Searcy, Ph.D., <i>Chair</i>	Bishop Beverly J. Shamana, <i>Ex-officio</i>
Michael S. Ward, Esq., <i>Immediate Past Chair</i>	Mariana Torres
George Atkinson	Juve Vela, Ph.D.
Gordon Baranco	Richard J. Walter, <i>Treasurer</i>
Pamela Braswell	Rodney Wray
Alden Briscoe	<i>President and CEO</i>
Rev. Renae Extrum-Fernandez, <i>Ex-officio</i>	John F. Steinfirst, LCSW
Rev. Douglass Fitch, <i>Second Vice Chair</i>	<i>Chief Operating Officer</i>
Kweli Gibson, <i>Secretary</i>	Kathie Jacobson, LCSW
James Harris	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>
Chet Hewitt	Jon d'Alessio, MBA, J.D.
David McGrew, <i>First Vice Chair</i>	

Advisory Board

Carole Ward Allen	Stephen M. Judson, Esq.
Dr. Wise Allen	Rod Martin
Dion Aroner	Joseph Martinez
Mayor Tom Bates	Alameda County Supervisor
Richard Benson	Nate Miley
Tangerine Brigham	Senator
Alameda County Supervisor	Don Perata
Keith Carson	Catherine Ralph
Wilma Chan	Drew Robarts
John Chen	Doreen Rothman, Ph.D.
Essie Coleman	Stephen Rothman, Ph.D.
Merlin Edwards	Richard Spees
Rev. John Emerson	John Streetz
Michael Faber	Julie Stuhr
Assemblywoman Loni Hancock	

Pathways is published semi-annually.
© 2008 Fred Finch Youth Center

Design: Ison Design

Printing: Inkworks Press

Printed on 100% recycled paper with 100%
post-consumer waste



Past and present members of the Fred Finch Board of Directors present a gift to John Steinfirst

A Night to Remember

On November 15th, friends, family members, colleagues, and government officials convened at The Bellevue Club in Oakland to pay tribute to retiring CEO John Steinfirst's numerous accomplishments over his nearly 20 years at the helm of Fred Finch. The event raised more than \$112,000 to help support Fred Finch's programs and services for transition-aged youth. In addition, the Board of Directors announced that one of the campus buildings was being renamed in honor of John.

The evening combined wit, some very good roasting, and both sentimental and serious observations. There was no shortage of presenters, with the list topping out at more than 20. In fact, so many people had wanted pay tribute to John that speakers had to be grouped together in order to accommodate everyone — a true testament to John Steinfirst's impact not only on Fred Finch, but on the field of social services as a whole.



John Steinfirst and Mary Jane Gross, Founder and President of Stars Behavioral Health Group



FFYC Board Member Mariana Torres listens as John Steinfirst addresses the crowd



Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates presents a Proclamation to John Steinfirst



The crowd cheers as John Steinfirst finishes his closing remarks

OPENING UP A

World of Opportunity

The transition into self-sufficiency is not an easy one, and is a challenge for any young adult, but for the youth of Fred Finch Youth Center there are additional obstacles to overcome. Many are struggling with developmental disabilities and emotional disturbances, homelessness or a lack of familial support. All of our clients have hopes and dreams for the future, but an added difficulty is that many do not have the financial means to pursue these goals. In 2002, a scholarship fund was established to alleviate this financial worry, thus opening up a world of opportunity for FFYC clients. The Marra Foundation has so generously funded our Marra Scholarship program with a total of \$60,000 in grants. These scholarships provide financial support for clients who wish to further their education and embark on a career path.

Tish Momirov, President of the Marra Foundation, has found the scholarship program, which the foundation has solely funded for the last six years, to be a very worthwhile endeavor. She comments, "even in the very easiest of circumstances, the transition from adolescence into adulthood can run into a lot of bumps. When resources are scarce, a small thing like not having enough money for schoolbooks can cause a stumble, and not succeeding can start to seem foreordained. In reality, an infusion of money here and there to realize your goals can make a big difference. That is why the Marra Foundation funds the scholarship program at Fred Finch."

These scholarships pay for anything from college tuition to bus passes to a new computer for school. Many of our clients can barely cover the cost of transportation needed just to attend school or work each day, something that many of us take for granted. As Susanna Marshland, Division Director for FFYC's Transition Age Youth programs, notes, "most young adults in America enjoy the financial support of their families well into their 20's, but FFYC client families, if they are still involved with

their child, often cannot afford to assist their children, thus, the Marra Scholarships go a long way. I think particularly of a hard-working young woman who left an exam in tears because she couldn't afford the fee for the exam booklet. There was no scholarship program at her school that could possibly meet her need, but Marra was there to assist her in purchasing supplies." These are just some of the barriers that our clients encounter, which the scholarship reduces dramatically.

Throughout the year, program staff nominate youth who show a desire to attend college or enroll in a training program and would benefit greatly from some financial aid. Marshland comments, "staff enjoy the opportunity to recognize youth accomplishments by providing concrete assistance to them." With guidance from their counselor or clinician, nominated clients develop a plan for what they would like to accomplish if they are awarded a scholarship. It is amazing how much brighter their futures become when these youth finally have the means to invest in it, and thrive. With this support, award recipients take steps toward enhancing their education and building a career, rather than continuing to jump from one minimum wage job to the next. Fred Finch's mission is to help our youth gain a sense of independence and to function at their highest potential, and the Marra Scholarship has become such a great tool to work toward this goal.

Since the creation of the Marra Scholarship Award, 30 clients have been awarded scholarships and have benefited immensely. One award recipient calls the scholarship he received "a blessing because I have never received money for my education before." These scholarships have made a significant and lasting impact, and have literally provided life-changing experiences, as so many of our youth would not have been able to further their educational and career pursuits without this support.

- A **\$1,500 grant** has made it possible for *Derek* to start his first year at Laney College. He was able to purchase his books, a computer for school, and afford transportation expenses.
- *Gabriella* received a **\$1,000 award**, which allowed her to receive tutoring for reading and writing. As English is her second language, these tutoring sessions were very important to her academic success and helped with both the language barrier and her learning disabilities.
- **\$500** will allow *Jessica* to purchase books, school supplies, and cover her transportation costs as she attends her first semester at the College of Alameda. Her goal is to transfer to a four year university and earn a degree in Social Welfare.
- *Michelle* was able to pay for a GED course and exam fees with her **\$320 award**. As well, she purchased art supplies for a program that provides commercial arts job training to homeless and at-risk youth.
- *Shanna* has completed Phlebotomy Technician Courses, and paid for transportation costs and school supplies with her **\$2,700 scholarship**. She has now obtained a CPT-I certification in Phlebotomy, which will greatly improve her career options.
- **\$1,500 paid** for *Lance's* EMT certification classes. His goal is to become a certified Fire Fighter/Paramedic, just like his father, and these courses were essential to reaching this goal.

* Names have been changed in the interests of anonymity.

Responding to Clients' Needs

Fred Finch Youth Center enjoys a long history of being on the cutting edge of change and developing innovative programs. Once again, in many of the counties we work in, Fred Finch has taken the lead in a statewide initiative. Within the last six months, FFYC has taken on an exciting and much needed effort in order to better address the complex needs of the population that we currently serve. Fred Finch recognizes that the majority of adolescents, young adults and family members participating in our programs have co-occurring disorders. Co-occurring disorders refer to individuals with both mental health and substance use disorders. The term "co-occurring" is a recognition that individuals with mental health and substance use (MH/SU) disorders also have other complex health and social problems that must be addressed as well.

continued on page 6

Our Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors who contributed between July and December 2007.

MONTHLY DONORS

Gordon Baranco and Barbara Gee • Phillip Merrick • David and Helen Roach

BEQUESTS

Frank and Velma Butler

HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Marilyn A. McCaffrey, in memory of Gertrude Woolridge Hartwig • Patsy W. Penney, in memory of Gertrude Woolridge Hartwig • Rhoda G. Stewart, in memory of Alma Smith • Coralou B. White, in memory of Gertrude Woolridge Hartwig

IN HONOR OF JOHN F. STEINFIRST

Anonymous • Sanford and Irene Blovad • John and Kathy Blum • Robert and Frederica Breuer • Tangerine M. Brigham • Ruth and Fred Brousseau • Catherine E. Burns • Paula and David Byrens • Yanek and Mary Chiu • Kenneth Collins • Jon W. d'Alessio • John and Janice Emerson • Karen M. Ens • Albert Fraenkel • Jane Freund • William and Susan Friedlander • Peter and Laurie Grad • Mary Jane and Benton Gross • Gary and Barbara Haber • Larry Hanover • Holly Hartley • John and Julia Howard • Caleen Norrod Johnson • James and Mary Jones • Stephen and Doreen Judson • Rich and Ann Lanzerotti • Paula E. Leslie • Mary and Peter Lopez • Susan McGovern • David and Julie McGrew • Stevie J. McNeal • Mike's St. Joseph Pharmacy • Theron O'Connor and Demaris Brinton • James O'Donnell and Martha Haywood • Thomas and Jeanne Olson • Henri and Rachel Parens • Esther M. Ratterree • Drew and Margaret Robarts • Doreen and Stephen Rothman • Michael Schoenholz and Deborah St. Pierre • Gay Searcy and Peter Langhoff • Ann Sebastian • Livia Sohn and Geoff Nuttall • Gussie Stewart • W. Gene Story • John M. Templeton • Helen D. Tousignant • Edward and Ellen Walker

\$10,000 AND ABOVE

Anonymous • The California Wellness Foundation • Kaiser Permanente • The Marra Foundation • Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Orton • John F. Steinfirst and Sharon Collins • Wallis Foundation

\$2,500 TO \$9,999

Anonymous • Al & Ruth Braswell Family Foundation • Jon W. d'Alessio • Emergency Service Restoration, Inc. • Equine Therapy Fund, in memory of Cordelia Anne Brinton of Community Foundation Sonoma County • Gallagher Properties • In-N-Out Burger Foundation • Los Altos United Methodist Church • Barbara Nemer • Willard and Josephine Salmons • Larry Young and Mary Kaye Vangelos

\$1,000 TO \$2,499

Allen Enterprises • Cintas Corporation • Grainger • Grocery Outlet • Heffernan Insurance Brokers • Hoffman Southwest Corporation • Jack and Billie King • Men's Warehouse • The Morrison & Foerster Foundation • Roto-Rooter Concord • Roto-Rooter Fairfield • Roto-Rooter San Francisco • Roto-Rooter Santa Clara • Alan and Gail Searcy • Gay Searcy and Peter Langhoff • SMG • Rhoda G. Stewart • John and Jacqueline Streetz • United Methodist Women Los Altos • Richard Walter and Susan Suzuki • Waste Management

\$500 TO \$999

Accountemps • Jean E. Brady • Linda C. Butler • Chubb & Son Inc. • David W. White & Associates • Laverne Ecklund • Jan W. Feller • William and Susan Friedlander • Stephen and Doreen Judson • Lynnewood United Methodist Church • Midway Ford Truck Center, Inc. • Alicia M. Powell • F. Stanley Seifried • W. Gene Story • Michael Ward and Olivia Lang • WHCI Plumbing Supply Company • June Young-Donahue

\$250 TO \$499

Asbury United Methodist Church • Bank of the West • Stephen Berg • John and Kathy Blum • Patricia L. Boylan • Tangerine M. Brigham • Ruth and Fred Brousseau • California Nevada Conference • California-Nevada United Methodist Foundation • George and Elizabeth Gaebler • Mary Jane and Benton Gross • Gary and Barbara Haber • John and Julia Howard • James and Mary Jones • Rich and Ann Lanzerotti • Mary and Peter Lopez • James O'Donnell and Martha Haywood • Thomas and Jeanne Olson • Henri and Rachel Parens • Melody Phipps • Riverport Insurance Company • Drew and Margaret Robarts • Doreen and Stephen Rothman • Michael Schoenholz and Deborah St. Pierre • Dianne Sierra and Christine Pattillo

• Livia Sohn and Geoff Nuttall • Gussie Stewart • John M. Templeton • United Methodist Church of Castro Valley

\$100 TO \$249

Joanna Aamodt • Wise and Joan Allen • Asbury United Methodist Women • Paul Bail • Sanford and Irene Blovad • Pamela Braswell • Robert and Frederica Breuer • Catherine E. Burns • Paula and David Byrens • California-Nevada Conference of the U.M.C. • Calvary United Methodist Church • John and Alice Cassidy • Yanek and Mary Chiu • Kenneth Collins • Concord United Methodist Church • Congregation B'nai Shalom • Melani M. Conti • Sharann M. Corkery • William and Tobina Dalton • Lawrence and Glen Doyle • Easterhill United Methodist Women • El Cerrito United Methodist Women • Stephen Elliott and Kim Risedorf • John and Janice Emerson • Robert S. Fairson • Forrests Music • Albert Fraenkel • Joanne Gibson • Barbara Glaze • Peter and Laurie Grad • Patrick and Mildred Hanley • Scott and Bridget Hardy • Holly Hartley • Heffernan Insurance Brokers • Ric Hulett and Dianne Fishwild • George and Evelyn Hunt • Caleen Norrod Johnson • Garrett K. Kaneko • Henry and Jo Ann Kearns • John King • Herman and Jaydene Koberle • Paul and Barbara Lefcourt • Paula E. Leslie • Alice Litov • Lloyd and Donna McBeth • Roberta McCoy • Susan McGovern • David and Julie McGrew • Jean McGuire • Stevie J. McNeal • Mike's St. Joseph Pharmacy • Tim and Roberta Montgomery • Moore West Federal Credit Union • Susie Nakagawa • Morton Newman • Randal Newsome • Brian O'Callaghan • Marjorie Otto • Esther M. Ratterree • David and Helen Roach • Merle and MaryLou Robinson • Roto-Rooter Plumbers San Rafael • Louis Q. Sager • Jane E. Smith and Harold Hutchings • William and Connie Stephens • Annie Sweetnam and Alan Swope • Jeanette S. Thurman • Trinity United Methodist Women, Sunnyvale • Edward and Ellen Walker • Coralou B. White • Paul Wierdak • Steve and Margie Williams • Aida R. Willis • XL Insurance • Vera and Marshall Zaidel

IN-KIND GIFTS AND VOLUNTEERS

Gordon Baranco and Barbara Gee • Cattlemens • Deloitte Consulting LLP • El Sobrante United Methodist Church • NOMADS • Remcho, Johansen & Purcell • San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church • John Steinfirst and Sharon Collins

Special thanks to those who participated in our 2007 Holiday Gift Drive!

Donations do not reflect event ticket purchases.

The beautiful Callippe Preserve
Golf Course in Pleasanton

Kick-Off For Kids Golf Tournament Raises More than \$32,000 for Youth!

More than 110 golfers gathered on October 23rd for a spectacular day of golf and festivities. After some heavy rains the week before, participants enjoyed some glorious fall California weather with bright skies and temperatures in the 80's. Our new choice of venue, Callippe Preserve Golf Course in Pleasanton, received rave reviews from everyone who played the challenging course. "I hope everyone is as excited as I am about returning to Callippe next year and making our tournament even more successful," remarked Tournament Chair Martin Alvarez of Roto-Rooter, Inc.

The tournament, hosted by Oakland Raiders kicker Sebastian Janikowski and punter Shane Lechler, drew both current and former Raiders players such as quarterbacks Daunte Culpepper and Andrew Walter, long snapper Jon Condo, and defensive tackle Josh Shaw. Alumni in attendance included Daryle Lamonica, Jeff Barnes, Mervin Fernandez, Marv Hubbard, and Rod Sherman.

After playing 18 tough holes of golf including several contests, participants quenched their thirst in the lounge and browsed through a silent auction. Guests



Tournament Co-Host Shane Lechler and
George Duden

then enjoyed a barbeque dinner and awards ceremony, followed by a live auction. High bidders in the auctions took home sports and music memorabilia, fine wines, jewelry, a trip to see the Raiders on the road in Kansas City, and many other prizes.

We extend a heartfelt thanks to our tournament sponsors:

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Roto-Rooter

MVP SPONSOR

John F. Steinfirst and
Sharon Collins

TOUCHDOWN SPONSORS

Emergency Services Restoration
Kaiser Permanente

MEDIA SPONSORS

Tri-Valley Herald
The Valley Times
Star 101.3 FM

Left, top: Golfers get ready to hit the course
Left, bottom: Raiderettes and golfers Dave
McGrew, Phil King, and Bregy Van Cleve

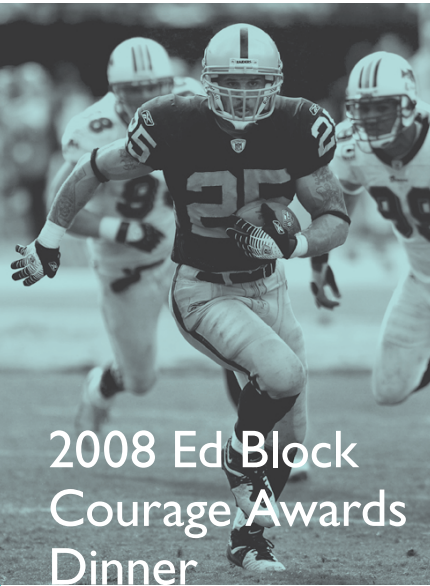


IN THIS ISSUE OF PATHWAYS

- New CEO Named
- Creating Opportunities for Youth
- Treating Co-Occurring Disorders
- 2007 Kick-Off For Kids Golf Tournament



3800 COOLIDGE AVE.
OAKLAND, CA 94602



2008 Ed Block Courage Awards Dinner

Join us as we celebrate our 10 year partnership with the Oakland Raiders. The event features the presentation of the Ed Block Courage Award to this year's winner **Justin Fargas**. Not only do we raise critical funds for kids in need, but we also pay tribute to some of Fred Finch' bravest youth for their courage, perseverance, and resilience.

April 28, 2008

Hilton Oakland Airport

Reception and Silent
Auction 6:00 pm

Dinner and Awards
Program 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Live Auction 8:00 pm

For more information please
contact Sara McGlynn, at
saramcglynn@fredfinch.org
or 510-485-5239.

Clients Needs continued from page 4

Using our now well-established Training Department, Fred Finch has contracted with Zia Partners, an organization led by Kenneth Minkoff, M.D. and Christie Cline, M.D., M.B.A. Minkoff and Cline are international co-occurring disorders experts and have worked with more than 35 behavioral health organizations in North America. Their focus is to support FFYC in becoming more welcoming, accessible, and effective in addressing the needs of consumers with MH/SU disorders. The goal is to augment and enhance our staff's treatment philosophies and practices with an increased knowledge based on this high-quality training program. Zia Partners advocates the "Continuous, Comprehensive, Integrated System of Care" (CCISC) for all clients. **The likely outcome here at Fred Finch will be more effective programs with empowered staff, and consumers and families that will have the tools necessary to create and sustain recovery.**

The most recent effort to initiate change throughout the agency has been the kick-off trainings on co-occurring disorders. Eventually, staff will complete the COMPASS (Comorbidity Program Audit and Self-Survey for Behavioral Health Services) training tool which identifies how different programs are integrating treatment and areas for improvement. Currently, we are nominating Change Agents for each program and forming a change effort group. Change Agents are individuals who will provide leadership to their teams by practicing and incorporating the skills of integrated treatment into their work, and will then teach and model these skills to others. By creating a collaborative learning environment for our staff and empowering them to play an active role in developing treatment and recovery plans for their clients, we are ensuring that the care we provide is delivered with the utmost empathy and compassion for all involved.