

Save The Date

■ Breakfast with the Executive Director

December 3, 2009
7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
1150 Sutter Street

Please join us for this unique opportunity to meet Larkin Street's ED, Sherilyn Adams, tour our Drop-In Center and learn more about Larkin Street Youth Services.

To attend, please RSVP to Logan Knight, (415) 673.0911 ext. 315

■ Volunteer Information Session

January 7, 2010
6:30 p.m.
1150 Sutter Street

During November and December we are hosting one-time group and holiday gift drive opportunities. Please contact us to sign up to help with the holidays. If you are interested in becoming an on-going volunteer in our programs, please join us at the January Information Session.

volunteer@larkinstreetyouth.org or call (415) 673.0911 ext. 221

■ Paving The Way Gala

March 4, 2010
6:00 p.m.
The Four Seasons San Francisco
www.pavingthewaygala.com

■ The Bay Area CFO of the Year Awards

Nominations are open. Nominate for CFO of the Year at www.cfowards.org

Dinner & Awards
May 26, 2009
6:00 p.m.
The Four Seasons San Francisco

Sign Up for the Larkin Street E-Letter!

Get up to date information about our programs, youth and events by signing up for the Larkin Street e-letter.

To Sign Up, provide your email online, via email or via the phone at:

Online: www.larkinstreetyouth.org/contactus
Email: ngarroutte@larkinstreetyouth.org
Phone: (415) 673.0911 ext. 305

The mission of Larkin Street Youth Services is to create a continuum of services that inspires youth to move beyond the street. We will nurture potential, promote dignity, and support bold steps by all.

Ways to Give



Larkin Street thanks the Until There's A Cure Foundation for their continued support of our HIV programs.

The Bracelet...

Wear it in memory of those who have fought the war called AIDS.

Wear it as a reminder of those who today continue this fight.

Wear it in support of vaccine development that will stop HIV infection.

Wear it Until There's A Cure!

To buy The Bracelet, visit www.until.org

Donate to Larkin Street

Give a gift to Larkin Street through the annual fund, planned giving, corporate matching gifts, honor and memorial gifts, or gifts of stock.

Donate now online: www.larkinstreetyouth.org/donate
Email: klowry@larkinstreetyouth.org
Call: (415) 673.0911 ext. 301

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YOUTH SERVICES

STREETWISE

a publication of larkin street youth services

FALL 09



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701 Sutter Street-Suite 2
San Francisco, CA 94109

anniversary
YOUTH SERVICES



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Message from the Chair and Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We want to start by thanking all of you, our funders and supporters, for your continuing loyalty to our youth and to the work we are doing with them here at Larkin Street. Your belief in us is fundamental to the success of the agency, and more importantly to the success of our youth.

As you would expect, our youth are feeling a significant impact from the recession, some of which you'll read about in the Research & Evaluation update: There has been a **79% increase in the number of homeless, runaway, and at risk youth** we have served over the past five years. Just over the past year, we experienced a 25% increase in the number of youth who accessed our emergency services. In the **2008-09 Fiscal Year we served 3,621 youth, representing over 86,000 nights off the streets. This was a 12% increase** over the previous year. Clearly, as the economy struggles, the need for Larkin Street services increases.

But in spite of all this, our youth continue to inspire us with their resilience, their energy, and most impressively, their hope. You'll see that in 2008-09 a greater number of our youth engaged successfully in education. Those who used our services to find employment were paid at greater than the federal and state minimum wage. **Most importantly, 80% of the youth served in our transitional housing moved into stable housing at program exit, up from 74% in the preceding year.** This is a remarkable testament to the significance of your support, to the effectiveness of our staff, and above all to the talent and determination of our youth.

And speaking of talent, you'll read about this in the article about the **Youth Art Performance** which we held last July at a theater space offered to us by the San Francisco Academy of Art. To an engaged and interactive audience of friends, family, staffers, and volunteers, our youth sang, danced, read poetry, and so much more. They performed with an indomitable energy and will, defying what for so many of them are the tragic life circumstances that first brought them to Larkin Street. In the words of Toby Eastman, our Chief of Programs, **"The Youth Performance was a reminder that our work allows and inspires them to be the 'rock stars' and shining stars that they are!"**

Your continued support will allow us to sustain these successes. Quite frankly, without your continued support, we will be facing increasingly difficult tradeoffs with respect to the services we provide our youth.

Here's something to consider: go to the Holiday Wish List in this edition. Take a look at the list and pick an item or two to purchase, like a warm sweatshirt or iTunes gift card, which will bring a smile to a young person's face during the holidays. Bring it to our offices and we'll wrap it up for one of our kids...who will take it with them and know that someone from the community cares about them. Any and all support you and we can provide our youth at this time is more important than ever.

With respect,

Chris Brahm
Chair, Board of Directors

Sherilyn Adams
Executive Director

Holiday Gift Drive

Help us brighten the holidays for homeless youth



You can make this a memorable holiday for our kids by getting involved in our gift drive.

Sponsor a holiday gift drive at your work, community center, or faith-based organization. Gather gifts from your friends and family.

Help us provide **gifts to more than 400 youth** staying in our emergency shelters and transitional living programs. Your generosity will have a direct and positive impact on the youth that we serve.

Shop for items listed below and bring new, unwrapped gifts to our site. Visit our wish list online and have them shipped directly to us: www.wishlistr.com/larkin-street-youth-services.



Thank You!

Gifts	Personal Care Items	Clothing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MP3 players Backpacks Umbrellas Muni tokens / BART passes 2010 Day Planners Journals Home Electronics Small appliances School & Art Supplies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toothbrushes/ Toothpaste Deodorant Lip Balm Shampoo/Conditioner Lotion Disposable razors Hair dryers Shaving cream Brushes/combs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jackets Rain Panchos Hooded Sweatshirts Shoes, sneakers Jeans/Pants Knit caps, gloves, scarves Sweaters Socks/Underwear <i>Plus-size clothing is especially needed</i>
Household Items	Gift Cards	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alarm Clocks Dishes Pots & Pans Utensils Towels Bedding (Twin size)/ Blankets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clothing (<i>Macy's, Old Navy, Ross, GAP, Payless Shoes</i>) Groceries (<i>Safeway, Trader Joe's</i>) Restaurants (<i>CPK, Starbucks, Peet's Coffee & Tea, Chevy's</i>) Music & Entertainment (<i>Amoeba, Amazon.com, Borders</i>) Movie Passes Personal Care/Household (<i>Walgreens, Rite-Aid, IKEA</i>) 	

Donations accepted at 1138 Sutter Street (between Polk and Larkin) weekdays between 9:30am and 4:30pm
In order to distribute gifts in time we ask that all donations be turned in by: **Tuesday, December 15, 2009**

Contact: Audrey Muntz at (415) 673.0911 ext. 221 or amuntz@larkinstreetyouth.org
Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law

Good Bye Ol' Blue

By Peter Carpou, Art Program Manager

I remember the day in the early 90s when I first met her. I was with the rest of the Larkin Street staff at a reception at the "new" St. Mary's Church at the top of the Geary Street Hill. When I arrived, there she was in the parking lot accompanied by then Secretary to the Executive Director, Bill Parkes. With signage in Spanish and English, a red cross signifying medical aide and the Larkin Street name, our brand new, sparkling blue, agency van was a big deal.

Since her inception, the Blue Van has borne many a trip to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Mt. Diablo day hikes and Muir woods. She was the draft horse for the Day Labor program. And the Nighthorse of the Outreach Program, from which many supplies of condoms, bleach, socks, food, candy, information and the dedicated staffpersons and volunteers arrived and left. And in my care, the van took countless art exhibitions to and from their destinations.

She was hot-wired, started with a screwdriver and commandeered by at least two clients in a Cannonball Run style joy ride. One of these joy rides occurred

when clients got out of the van to work on the then new Hemlock Alley mural, a joint project between Larkin Street and Precita Eyes Muralists. When the last client was about to exit the van, and I was about to close the side-sliding door after him, he jumped in the driver's seat and vamoosed the scene. Days later, the van was retrieved by Tim Berndt and myself in the toulies of San Jose.

Often, when driving the vehicle at night through nether regions of the "TL" and other parts of San Francisco, a knowing nod or wave to the van was recognition of what she often brought: caring people doing positive things. Still others would look in bewilderment at the signage and seem to be pondering the notion of "homeless youth" within San Francisco. It was the enduring face to a still young and not greatly known agency. And that is all the living that the interior and exterior "funk" of the Blue Van embodies.

Fare thee well, Ol' Blue.

Note: The Larkin Street Blue Van finally saw its last day of helping youth off the street this fall. A new vehicle will join our fleet as the Day Labor "Draft Horse" carting our youth work crew to various job opportunities.

Q & A

Jessalynn, Larkin Street Intern



Q: What were you doing before you came to Larkin Street?

A: Before coming to Larkin Street I was kicked out of my foster care placement and had no where to go. Without a consistent place to live, I was struggling with trying to find work, taking care of my son and attending college full time. But without a stable home or a support system, I felt vulnerable and lost. I knew there was opportunity and services out there for me, but I didn't know how to find it and how to access resources that were available to me.

Q: How did you hear about Larkin Street?

A: I was working with the staff at the Independent Living Skills Program and they referred me to Larkin Street. I had always felt that no one believed in me and was constantly told I couldn't do anything or be anyone. But when I came to Larkin Street they believed in me! All of the staff encouraged me to be my best. I applied for and received housing through Larkin Street's LEASE program for former foster care youth. Once I was housed through LEASE everything began to fall into place.

Q: What were some of your goals you set and accomplished?

A: I went from no income to working two jobs at 60-70 hours per week. I was enrolled in school full time at Heald College and maintaining a 4.0 grade average and made the Dean's List. I was able to do all this because I was housed. My Case Manager told me about the Access Scholarship through Larkin Street which I was granted. This funding allowed me to focus on school and my grades which in turn opened the door to more scholarships.

Q: What are you doing now?

A: I have since transferred to City College Guardian Scholars Program and hope to transfer to State in the spring to continue studying social work. For over a year, I have been working for the Homeless Prenatal Program in the city providing services to women and families. I also am interning at Larkin Street and providing parenting classes to other youth. As a former foster care youth and mother, I am able to share my experience, be a role model and give back to the community. I feel that we all have the duty to give back.

Three years ago I couldn't imagine where I am today. Larkin Street is a beacon of hope and light for youth and without the critically needed funding, that light would be dim for the thousands of youth who rely on their services. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Larkin Street.

Research & Evaluation

Research & Evaluation: FY 2008/2009 Statistics

Between July 2008 and June 2009 Larkin Street provided services to 3,621 youth, approximately 64% of San Francisco's homeless youth population. As we continue to see an increase in demand for services, the youth continue to amaze us with their perseverance and the huge strides they make towards independence.

Youth Served – Increase in demand for services

- There has been a 79% increase in the number of youth served over the past five years
- Approximately 2,310 youth accessed emergency services, a 25% increase in the number from last year
- We provided over 86,000 nights off the street to 712 youth through our residential programs

Youth Educational Achievements in 2008/2009

- Almost half of youth come to Larkin Street without a high school diploma or GED
- Over 110 youth were re-engaged in education through Larkin Street's on-site high school
- Ninety-one percent of youth who attempted a GED test component were successful

Youth Employment Achievements in 2008/2009

- Seventy-five percent of youth are unemployed at program entrance, 85% of those youth are looking for work
- HIRE UP placed 111 youth in jobs at an average starting wage of \$10.82 an hour, higher than both the federal and state minimum wage

Youth Successes

- Among the youth served in our transitional housing 80% moved into stable housing at program exit
- Over 90% of youth said they were happy with the services they received at Larkin Street

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Larkin Street Happenings



Awards

Mary Huss Awarded Jay Cuetara Volunteer of the Year Award

Larkin Street awarded Mary Huss, Publisher of the San Francisco Business Times, with the Larkin Street Youth Services Jay Cuetara Volunteer of the Year Award. This award was established to honor people who have made an extraordinary contribution of their time and talent to improving the lives of young people. The board of directors presented the award to Mary at the September board meeting.

The award was named after Jay Cuetara, a former Board member and now an Honorary Board member, who has been a model of this kind of dedication to Larkin Street. Past recipients are Supervisor Bevan Duffy and John Baum, Lawyer.

Sherilyn Adams Awarded Most Admired CEO

Sherilyn Adams received the San Francisco Business Times' Most Admired CEO Award for the non-profit category. Sherilyn will be presented with the award on November 19, 2009 at an event and ceremony hosted at the Hilton San Francisco. Sherilyn is among 14 awardees and is being recognized for her work as Executive Director of Larkin Street Youth Services.

Larkin Street Supporters

From individual and group volunteers, to proceeds from third party events, to groups that host gift drives — the community's support of our programs and youth continue to make a lasting impact. Thank you!

SF Safari Disc Golf Tournament



The San Francisco Disc Golf Club raised \$1,750 through their annual SF Safari Disc Golf Tournament hosted in Golden Gate Park. This is the second year Larkin Street benefited from the tournament with \$1,000 raised last year. Thank you to Jeff Faes, the SF Disc Golf Club organizers, sponsors and participants.



Bridgespan

Continuing on from the partnership built during the development of Larkin Street's Strategic Plan in 2003, Bridgespan volunteers gave an afternoon of time and energy to beautify two of Larkin Street's sites this September. Spearheaded by Katherine Roubos, one of HIRE UP's ongoing volunteer tutors and a Bridgespan employee, the group of 13 enthusiastic volunteers included employees that assisted in the strategic plan as well as those learning about Larkin Street Youth Services for the first time. The afternoon started with an informational question and answer session with Executive Director, Sherilyn Adams, and ended with the completion of two major beautification projects. Volunteers gardened at Avenues to Independence and did a deep clean and reorganization of the Haight Street Referral Center, saving valuable staff time that could be spent directly serving the youth. Annola, HSRC counselor who supervised the project, commended the group, saying "They did a tremendous job today. It was a pleasure having them all [here]. They were warm, engaging, and eager to assist."

To host an event or gather friends for a fundraiser on behalf of Larkin Street, please contact Wendy Borden Langley, Special Events Manager at (415) 673.0911 ext. 306 or events@larkinstreetyouth.org

To participate in a group project or become an one-time or on-going volunteer, please contact Audrey Muntz, Volunteer Program Manager at (415) 673.0911 ext. 221 or volunteer@larkinstreetyouth.org

Youth Art Performance a Smashing Hit

The Larkin Street Arts Program presented the Second Annual Performing Arts Night on August 19, 2009. More than 20 youth performed at this unique event attended by over 100 of Larkin Street's young clients, friends, benefactors, board of directors and foundation supporters. The youth showcased a variety of talents this year, conducting dance routines, singing, musical acts, theater performances, rap and poetry readings. Theater space was graciously donated through The Academy of Art University for the second consecutive year.

The Youth Performing Arts Night is the result of youth who take part in the Larkin Street Arts Program which is made possible through the support of the Academy of Art University, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Intersection for the Arts and a variety of guest artists. By engaging in the robust Larkin Street Arts Program, at-risk and homeless youth are able to address and, often-times, overcome the challenges they face while also exploring their talents and even possible career opportunities.



"Performing Arts Night was the best thing that Larkin Street has ever done with the time that I have spent here. All the acts were amazing. I have seen people with so many different types of skills. The support by the fans made it even better. The night was a night of relevance and exposure of what we are, as well as what we do. Thank you to all that made the night possible from the workers to the performers and from the audience to the critics. Without you this would not be possible!"

- Ukoma, performer

