Hello Friends of Huckleberry Youth Programs,

I am deeply honored and extremely excited to join the Huckleberry Family as the new Executive Director. As a native San Franciscan, I recognize the overwhelming contribution Huckleberry has provided to the youth and families of San Francisco and Marin Counties. Having spent the last 15 years working with youth and families, I am passionate about social justice and restoring equality to an unbalanced society. I feel fortunate to have found a warm, welcoming, creative new home.

I would like to thank Bruce Fisher for his years of service, youth advocacy, inspiration, and tireless enthusiasm. I’m excited to take the helm at Huckleberry Youth Programs and am extremely appreciative of Bruce’s support during this time of transition.

We are in an interesting time of change. Youth culture is emerging, again, as a powerful and central component of our society. The landscape of education, healthcare, finance, and philanthropy are shifting rapidly. As a result, nonprofits must adjust their organization and service delivery models. With a strong foundation and innovative thinking, Huckleberry is uniquely poised to take advantage of these shifts and step forward with strength and pride.

In just a few short years, Huckleberry will be celebrating 50 years of positive impact on youth. We have a lot to celebrate starting with the establishment of the first youth homeless shelter in the nation that spawned a cascade of changes in youth services across the country. Each subsequent Huckleberry program has served as a model for healthy youth development. The biggest successes are the thousands of youth and families whose lives have been transformed by care, support and guidance, who are now participants in our communities rather than victims of them. We have moved people from a determination to survive to an ability to thrive and I cannot imagine what our community would look like if Huckleberry never existed. Over the past month, I have spoken with multiple youth who now have an educational and vocational roadmap as a result of their involvement with Huckleberry. I have had the opportunity to witness our counselors help families rebuild connections and reduce chaos in their lives.

However, we are far from being done. Too many youth remain disconnected from our communities. As a leader in the community, Huckleberry must continue to empower youth in this new era. By reconnecting adults to youth and by expanding Huckleberry’s commitment to service, our impact on the future can only grow broader and deeper.

From my position, our future path looks bright and the best is yet to come. Please join me as we continue to restore dignity and hope, and inspire all youth to flourish.

Warm regards,

Douglas Styles
With the help of a pro bono team of seasoned experts, Huckleberry has embarked on a media campaign that showcases our mission to a broader audience in the Bay Area. The campaign includes three bus sides and a thirty second PSA which will run on local television and AM/FM radio. The PSA features actual Huckleberry clients as well as Huckleberry staff and can be viewed at www.huckleberryyouth.org. Another component of the campaign is Huckleberry’s new tagline, “Where There’s Huckleberry…There’s Hope.” The theme of HOPE is prevalent in the campaign - the hope that Huckleberry provides to our clients, allowing them the opportunity to shine and realize their dreams.

Special thanks to Marc Marvin and Chuck Guest of Marc & Chuck Creative Direction, Ellen Young Media, Kaboom Productions, and everyone who volunteered their time and expertise to this amazing campaign!

Huckleberry’s bus sides can be seen on MUNI and Golden Gate Transit buses in SF and Marin.

In 1991, the Children’s Amendment was passed by San Francisco voters. This landmark legislation was put on the ballot with signatures gathered by a grassroots community coalition that included Huckleberry’s Bruce Fisher and Mollie Brown and allocated public funds for early education and childcare, afterschool programs, youth development and violence prevention. The Children’s Amendment is the largest source of public funds for Huckleberry’s San Francisco programs.

With the legislation up for renewal, once again a community coalition came together to discuss ways to strengthen the oversight of the fund and advocate for underserved populations. The newly renamed Children and Families First Initiative includes an increase in the fund’s allocation to include services for disconnected Transitional Age Youth (TAY) ages 16-24, a large demographic served at the Huckleberry Youth Health Center in the Haight. (Currently the legislation only includes services for youth up to age 18.) Please join Huckleberry in VOTING YES ON THE CHILDREN & FAMILIES FIRST INITIATIVE in Nov. 2014.
“BE REAL, BE READY” – STANDARDIZED 9TH GRADE HEALTH CURRICULUM IN SAN FRANCISCO

The brainchild of our long-term DPH partner (and clinic director) Michael Baxter, “Be Real, Be Ready” is an important effort to standardize the health education curriculum for all SF 9th graders. The first program of its kind in the State of California, the Adolescent Health Education Curriculum (AHEC) is a 17-part health series including topics ranging from Anatomy, Birth Control, and HIV to Gender and Identity, Substance Use, and Sexual Violence Prevention.

Huckleberry was invited, along with other community-based organizations, to partner with the SF Unified School District and SF Dept. of Public Health in development and implementation of the curriculum. Huckleberry Health Educators are responsible for working with teachers to present the “Be Real, Be Ready” curriculum at our designated high schools including Washington, Lincoln, Galileo, Ida B. Wells, and Wallenberg. The curriculum is available in English, Spanish, and Chinese and ensures that 9th graders have a common knowledge base of health topics that will pave the way for more focused trainings in critical health issues through grade twelve.

In the spring of 2013, Jackie Davis, our Director of Community Health-Marin, was invited by Dominican University as a guest lecturer on trends in teen pregnancy and adolescent healthcare. Impressed with Jackie’s breadth of knowledge, Dominican asked her to teach an introductory course for Public Health majors. Her courses for undergraduate public health majors have included: Foundations of Public Health, Evidence-Based Public Health & Evaluation, and Principles of Health Behavior.

This summer, one of Jackie’s students will be placed at Huckleberry Teen Health Program as an intern to design an evaluation plan for a pilot program in health education which will take place next school year. In this pilot program, four of Jackie’s students will be interning as Huckleberry health educators. “It’s a nice way to further the Huckleberry partnership with Dominican while being hugely rewarding for me professionally,” says Jackie.
In the spring of 2014, 38 seniors graduated from the Huckleberry Wellness Academies in San Francisco and Marin representing the third graduating class for Marin and the fifth for San Francisco!

These graduates worked extremely hard during their final years of HWA. As juniors, they participated in HWA tutoring and SAT/ACT prep and improved their scores by an average of 250 points!

HWA will continue to support these graduates as they transition into college. Currently, 79% of HWA alumni are still enrolled in college - 18 are enrolled in a 4-year college and 12 are enrolled in a 2-year college.
“I wasn’t doing great,” Martin says of his freshman year of high school. He got suspended from school and, “didn’t want to do homework.” During his sophomore year, Martin joined the soccer team and his coach urged him to attend a meeting hosted by Huckleberry at his school. Martin joined the Huckleberry Wellness Academy and eventually it felt like family. “The staff was always so happy to see me and they would stop whatever they were doing to help me. I started really looking forward to meetings,” he said. While in HWA he was able to pursue his passion for medicine by doing HIV research at the Gladstone Institutes during his junior year.

When Martin graduated, he applied to approximately 20 colleges. “Shauna and Erika, my Huckleberry case managers, stayed up until midnight to help me meet the application deadlines.” He was disappointed when he wasn’t accepted to his choice of 4-year schools and enrolled in City College of San Francisco. After achieving a 3.8 GPA at City College, he reached out to Vicky Valentine, Senior Director of HWA, for assistance in applying to UC schools. “I was ready to apply again and got into a bunch of schools – several UCs, Rochester, and Boston.”

“Huckleberry is not just looking to help you now. They are looking to help you so that you’re better off for the future,” says Martin. He will begin his junior year of college at UC San Diego this fall and will pursue a career in medicine and economics to become a, “doctor with a business perspective.”

HAWA HELPS YOUTH ACHIEVE THEIR COLLEGE DREAMS BY PROVIDING:

- Academic guidance and tutoring
- SAT/ACT preparation
- Exposure to health professions
- Internships in healthcare settings
- Weekly meetings to discuss emerging community and global health issues
- College tours
- Leadership development
- Assistance with college applications, as well as scholarship and financial aid applications
- Parent education and support
Run for the Roses 2014

RUN FOR THE ROSES 2014 was our most successful wine tasting and auction to date! As California Chrome took home the Kentucky Derby crown, YOU helped us raise over $200,000 for Bay Area youth! Huckleberry would like to extend a special thank you to the event’s Honorary Chair, Dan Duckhorn. Thank you also to the wineries who poured, our in kind donors, and all of our guests who made our SOLD OUT Kentucky Derby event truly spectacular! SAVE THE DATE FOR 2015 – SATURDAY, MAY 2!

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL BENEFIT
KURIOS: CABINET OF CURIOSITIES
THURSDAY - DECEMBER 4, 2014 - 8 PM

Cirque returns December 4th to benefit Huckleberry for the ninth time with the UNITED STATES PREMIERE OF KURIOS™: CABINET OF CURIOSITIES. What if you could alter reality at will? Delve into a world of curiosity where seeing is disbelieving: the world of KURIOS™ - Cabinet of Curiosities from Cirque du Soleil®. The show immerses you in a mysterious and fascinating realm that disorients your senses and challenges your perceptions, leaving you to wonder: “Is it real, or just a figment of my imagination?”

Stay tuned for more information on ticket prices. Purchasing your tickets through Huckleberry for this special benefit will support our programs!

For more information and for sponsorship opportunities, contact Betsy Hausman at bhausman@huckleberryyouth.org or at 415.668.2622 ext. 224.

Thank you to our generous Table Captains

Turf Club - $5,000
BLACKROCK

Millionaires Row - $3,000
Chris & Jackie Gallo/Joseph & Sarah Gallo
Reich & Tang
John and Junie Sullivan

Dyann Tresenfeld
SEI

Grandstand - $1,750 - $2,000
The Dreyfus Corp./The Bank of New York Mellon Corp.
Rose Bentley
Jackie Fagerlin

Bruce Fisher & Marlene Litvak
The Gery Gomez Family
Joel & Betsy Hausman
Bernie & Gail Nebenzahl
Thao Nguyen
Jerry Peters
Jared Polsky & Debbie Levy
Jeff Sosnaud & Jean Curran, MD

Eric & Brooke Tao
Tiburon Sunset Rotary Club
Union Bank/M. Bamonte
The Voigtsberger Group
The Willie L. Brown, Jr. Institute
Infield ($1,000)
Invesco Ltd.

Photos from left to right:
1. Board member and Table Captain Thao Nguyen (second from left) and guests.
2. KQED’s Michael Krasny pictured with his daughter Lauren. Michael and his wife Leslie were the Co-Chairs of our 2013 Run for the Roses Event. Thank you to the Krasny Family for their many years of dedication to Huckleberry.
3. Huckleberry’s Brooke Tao, 2014 Honorary Chair Dan Duckhorn, and Huckleberry Board V.P. John Sullivan.
4. Huckleberry Board Member and Table Captain Jackie Fagerlin (second from left) with some of her guests.
SAVE THE DATE FOR A RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR BRUCE FISHER!

Bruce Fisher passed the Huckleberry Executive Director torch to Douglas Styles on July 1, 2014. We would like to acknowledge Bruce’s 26 years of dedication to Huckleberry Youth Programs.

Please join us Friday Evening
October 10, 2014
at the City Club of San Francisco.
Invitations to this event will be mailed in the coming weeks.

Bruce and Huckleberry CARC Staff.
Founded on the belief that adolescence is a dynamic and challenging time of life, Huckleberry Youth Programs’ mission is to educate, inspire, and support underserved youth to develop healthy life choices, to maximize their potential, and to realize their dreams. Since 1967, we have accomplished this by providing San Francisco and Marin youth and their families with a network of services and opportunities offered by caring peers and adults.