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**Memo: Youth Development Council & Homeless and Runaway Youth**

March 16, 2017

Dear Sal Esquivel,

I am writing on behalf of Maslow Project, we provide wrap-around support services for homeless Jackson and Josephine County youth, aged 0-21, and their parents/guardians. We have seven Board members: all community leaders. Maslow Project, including the children and families we serve, are your constituents.

*We want to thank you for supporting your constituents -- both your providers, and the children who live in your community. Our mission is to keep children safe when they are with us, and to succeed in bringing enough stability into the lives of the youth we serve - so they are able to remain in, and graduate from, school; helping them move toward a brighter, more sustainable future.*

Our early interventions have a strong preventive element. We weave a trauma-informed approach through all of the services we offer, which also helps mitigate the effect of Adverse Childhood Experiences. Our services are delivered through three primary venues: school-based programs, at our Resource Center, and through street & community outreach, including: Essential/Emergency Needs & Safety-Net Services, Street & School-based Outreach, Family & Youth Advocacy, Case Management, and Enrichment/Harm Reduction Opportunities.

**During our 2015-16 program year -- we served 2,305 unduplicated children, youth, and guardians:**

- The average age: **10 years old**, most homeless with their family
- **487 aged 0-5**
- **622 aged 6-15 priority youth**, who were connected to the education system
- **505 aged 16-22:**
  - **118 were Opportunity Youth**, who began case management services when they were disengaged from employment and education
  - **111 of these youth engaged in the education system, career readiness, or youth development activities throughout the course of the year**

**Outcomes:**

- **92% of our case managed youth remained enrolled in school all year**
- **66% of our case managed high school seniors graduated on time;** a rate that is **MORE THAN 4X HIGHER THAN THE STATE AVERAGE** for homeless high school seniors
- **73% were linked to positive 2 or more positive youth development supports**

**MASLOW**  
**PROJECT**  
Stabilize • Engage • Thrive

**An Example of Success:** For some of the homeless youth Maslow Project works with, things get worse before they begin to get better. It takes time, courage, strength, and a lot of hard work to make big changes in your life at such a young age. This was the case with Amber, she was only attending classes intermittently and using drugs when her mother kicked her out of her home. This was devastating to Amber, who was the primary care-taker for a brother with special needs. Amber's drug abuse worsened, and Maslow Project staff were concerned for her health.

During this difficult time, Maslow Project's Case Manager continued to work with Amber: helping her re-enroll in school, finding a safe place to stay, and making sure she had food, clothes, and hygiene supplies. Maslow's Case Manager also helped Amber stay engaged in her drug treatment program, and became a part of her trust network. Maslow supported Amber as she moved away from the abusive relationships in her life.

Since then, Maslow staff have done a lot of celebrating with Amber: helping her mark her one-year and two-year drug-free anniversaries, and attending both her high school graduation and her graduation from drug court. Today, Amber is working two jobs and is saving money to move into a place of her own. She is thinking about enrolling in college, and eventually working with animals. We are so proud of the tenacity and resilience of this young woman!

We invite you to visit our website <http://www.maslowproject.com/> or like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MaslowProject>.

***These children have come so far -- we can't stop helping them now. Please come visit us to see for yourself, you have an open invitation any time!***



Mary Ferrell  
Executive Director