



November 23, 2016

Mayumi Taylor  
1821 Encinal Avenue, Apt. A  
Alameda, CA 94501

Dear Mayumi,

As a supporter of Sunny Hills Services and its East Bay division, BAYC, you know that the youth we serve have endured more disruption, neglect or abuse in their young lives than most of us could ever imagine.

Their experiences in foster care, the juvenile justice system, as sexually exploited youth or their sexual orientation have traumatized them, resulting in behavioral and mental health issues that affect their education, relationships and ability to lead happy, productive lives. Your donation helps to fund our work to empower children, youth, and, when possible, their families, to overcome obstacles so they can change course. Consider the story of Joe.

As a young boy, Joe was abused and neglected by his teenage mother, who was addicted to alcohol and suffered from mental illness. Alameda County authorities placed Joe in foster care when he was just three years old. By the time he was 17, Joe had experienced 28 foster care placements and attended 20 schools. He was only reading at a 4th-grade level.

Joe had grown to 6'4" and was prone to violent outbursts, so people were afraid of him, prompting his social worker to characterize him as 'trouble.' Our team arranged for Joe to move into **Esser House**, our group home in Hayward, and the move started a transformation in Joe, who developed positive relationships with the staff, learned to control his temper and began to attend school regularly. Joe then moved to our transitional housing program in Hayward, where he learned independent living skills and had a roommate who was also in the program.

Today, Joe has a high school diploma, relocated to a new city and has an apartment with roommates. He has a job and has also reconnected with his grandmother and other family members whom he had not seen in years. He is proud of himself for being on his own.

*We are committed to doing whatever it takes to make a difference in the life of a traumatized child or youth.* This commitment requires a village of support, in people and resources, to provide these most vulnerable youth with the tools and compassion they need to meet life's challenges and learn to thrive. While we partner with county agencies and local organizations to provide our programs and services, private support helps us fill the gaps. Your previous gifts helped make that critical difference, such as preventing a youth from being homeless, providing transportation assistance, funding clean and appropriate clothing for school or work, or allowing

*Sunny Hills Services/BAYC*

a youth to participate in enrichment opportunities that offer therapeutic and educational benefit, such as sports, music and art classes. Your gift helped to change a young life.

We hope you will continue to be a part of the village of support with Sunny Hills by including us in your year-end charitable giving. Your generosity and compassion will help to create better and brighter futures for children and youth who have greater needs than most.

Sincerely,

Mary Denton  
CEO

Alex Volpe  
Executive Director, Alameda County

**P.S.** Make your gift online by visiting [www.SunnyhillsServices.org/giving-opportunities.html](http://www.SunnyhillsServices.org/giving-opportunities.html)