Lincoln Child Center promotes the resiliency and success of children, youth and families impacted by trauma, poverty and other challenging socioeconomic circumstances, through coordinated mental health, education and family support services.
Letter from the C.E.O.

Dear Friends,

We have officially moved! Our headquarters is now located at 1266 14th Street in West Oakland. As we have shifted our services to better meet the needs of children and youth in their homes, schools and communities, we have seen great results, with more children remaining with families, and in their schools.

We have just completed Lincoln’s plan for the next three years with these goals: 1) increase access to services for children and youth regardless of funding 2) better measure results and outcomes for our services 3) strengthen our infrastructure so we attract the best staff and provide high quality services and 4) effectively communicate Lincoln’s mission to better reflect what we are doing today and what we hope for in the future.

Our new mission statement is “Lincoln Child Center promotes the resiliency and success of children, youth and families impacted by trauma, poverty and other challenging socioeconomic circumstances through coordinated mental health, education and family support services.” This mission better reflects how we think about coordinated mental health, education and family support services to the communities we serve. I am extremely proud of our dedicated employees who work tirelessly to help us achieve our mission.”

Christine Stoner-Mertz, LCSW
President and C.E.O.

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Lincoln Program Highlight

Summer is in full swing and parents are looking to keep their children busy! Lincoln’s Helping Open Pathways to Education (HOPE) Alameda program, which provides school-based early intervention and prevention mental health services to at-risk children, youth, and families in Alameda County, offers a 5-week therapeutic activities program each year to keep their students engaged during their summer break. For about 4-hours a day, the elementary school-aged children learn coping skills to navigate the school environment and to process problems at home. One parent says, “The program has been helpful to my child because it shows my son how to react and sit down and express his emotions...express himself. Just don’t go ahead and get angry and irritated.”

The HOPE Alameda vans pick up around 40 students at their homes each morning and take them to Fruitvale Elementary. Through group therapy sessions and other activities, students learn about social skills, coping mechanisms, communicating effectively, and expressing themselves. There are also group outings like swimming at an indoor pool, and at the end of the 5-weeks, an overnight camp in Manresa State Park. For most of the students, this is their first time camping, setting up tents, having a bonfire, and participating in camp activities. Being in a new setting also opens up new learning opportunities. “One of the students was afraid to sleep in his tent and started to cry,” one staff person remembers. “It gave us (the staff) the opportunity to work with him on managing his fears and being away from his family.”

Another staffer explains, “It’s not just recreational. The purpose of summer camp is to have activities that the families wouldn’t typically do and use those as opportunities to build skills in coping with issues such as depression and anxiety.” In addition, the students get the chance to develop friendships outside of their school. At the end, students reflect and share with one another on what they learned and experienced at camp.

A special thank you to our partners who make HOPE Alameda possible: S.H. Cowell Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, OUSD & Alameda County!

OPEN HOUSE! Saturday, October 11th

This fall, we invite you to see our new home at our Fall OPEN HOUSE! Please SAVE THE DATE for Saturday, October 11th. The fun-filled day will include music, games, giveaways, food, and information about what Lincoln’s been up to, and more! This free event is open to the community. Please bring your family and friends to come see who we are and what we do!

In 2012, we made the decision to return to our West Oakland roots and continue our mission to promote the resiliency and success of children, youth and families. Earlier this year, we made the official move from our Lincoln Avenue campus which had been our home since the 1920s to 1266 14th Street in West Oakland.