



# HANNA Hanna Boys Center Happenings



HANNA BOYS CENTER NEWS ■ WINTER 2008

## Follow On Care — Life After Hanna

One question often asked is, "What happens to the boys once they leave Hanna Boys Center?" To prepare for that time, we help each student and his parents set up long-term goals to smooth the transition from Hanna to the larger world. And when we say good-bye to a boy, he knows that he'll always be part of the Hanna family, and he can call us whenever he needs our counsel. Hanna commits itself to each boy for a lifetime.

### A Conversation with Hanna Alum, Bill Conley

It was 1983 when Bill Conley arrived from San Francisco in Sonoma, coming to tour Hanna Boys Center. While Bill was only an 11-year-old boy, he was already having challenges with his school work and his family life. He and his single mom were not getting along, and there was no dad in the picture to help provide structure or guidance.

When recently asked what brought him to Hanna Boys Center 25 years ago, Bill said, "It was my grandmother." When Bill's grandmother saw that he was struggling and needed a change, she found Hanna. Bill remembers, "On the



drive to the Center, my grandma told me about Hanna and why she wanted me to go there." After seeing the Center and going through the interview process, Bill decided that he wanted to be at Hanna too.

Bill was at Hanna for three years, until he was age 14. "Hanna provided me the structure that I lacked at home. I was given guidelines, expectations and discipline that I desperately needed. In school, I got individual attention in small classes. I was being supported by counselors and teachers like I never had been before."

Bill explained that Hanna Boys Center was more than a "program," it was an extended family. "The people who work at the Center are more than staff; they treat the boys like family. It is far beyond just a

job to them, and it made all the difference in my life."



**Billy Conley, Boy of the Year 1985–1986**

With the help of Hanna's scholarship program, Bill returned to San Francisco and attended Sacred Heart High School and then the University of San Francisco. Bill has worked for the San Francisco Police Department in the Southern Precinct for the past 13 years, and he has recently been promoted to Sergeant.

Bill continues to stay connected to Hanna as many alums do. Bill stops by the Center whenever possible to touch base with his Hanna family. He refers to staff

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## Notes from Father Crews ...



As rewarding as it is to see a Hanna boy graduate from our program, it is gratifying to hear from them as they make their journey through life. Below are a few notes about our alumni that I would like to share with you.

**Edwin** came to us from Hunter's Point, a real rough spot in the Bay Area. He had a tough time adjusting to the country and culture of Hanna Center. He made it through graduation five years ago. He has kept in touch since then and last semester was awarded a scholarship to Europe because of essays he has written. He was able to travel around and learn more about writing. A real success story.

And there is more. One of his neighbors in Hunter's Point, a boy who is 14 years old, asked if he could come to Hanna. **Andy** ended up coming here thanks to Edwin's influence. He has been here for three months, and he is also quite a writer.

About three weeks after he arrived, he wrote me a note in a sealed envelope. He wrote: *"I hope you are sitting down when you read this. Thank you very much for allowing me to come to Hanna. For the first time since I can remember, I don't have to look over my shoulder wondering when I was going to be stabbed or shot. I can sleep at night. For the first time since I can remember, my mom isn't worried every time I leave the house that she will*

*never see me again alive. Thank you. Thank you and God bless all of you. P.S. I'll bet you don't get many notes like this!"* That note sure made my day.

I received another letter that inspired a lot of us. This one was from **Kevin**, who graduated from Hanna two years ago to live in Southern California. He wrote: *"You and your staff taught me the skills and traits that have helped in all aspects of life. Since I have been away from Hanna, I have learned many more lessons that one must encounter before they are truly mature. Good thing I learned a lot of lessons from you, otherwise I probably would have taken things differently. You really did show me what it is like to have a family, and I have the deepest appreciation for you because of that. I am graduating somewhere around the end of June, and will be attending Pierce College. This is the next big step for me, and is the first step in the real world. You have helped me a lot, and I thank you for your contributions and lessons in my life. Thank you for everything you have done for me, and thank you for leading me in the right path."*

These are a few highlights of our alums and goings on at the Center. Each of you are a part of these successes. Thank you for all that you do for the sake of our boys. God bless you.

  
Rev. John S. Crews, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

## Renewing Your Support in 2009

**D**uring these economically challenging times, everyone is responding to changing financial situations while continuing to try and meet everyday needs. At Hanna Boys Center, we too must continue to meet our everyday needs.

However, due to the economic climate and the stress it causes in families, we must respond to an increased demand for our services, which includes youngsters staying longer in our program.

That's why your renewal gift at the beginning of the year is so very important. Your generous donation will continue to help support Hanna's life-changing program, and give you the

satisfaction of knowing you are making a difference — one child at a time.

As we enter our 60th year, we strive to give a boy a safe and nurturing environment away from the pressures of home and community, help him to focus on his own unique set of problems, and provide him with the skills to overcome them.

The individualized attention at Archbishop Hanna High School provides the students with the ability to improve academically. The Sports and Recreation program gives an athletic boy the opportunity to shine on the ball field. Our Clinical program teaches a youngster how to relate with

his family and community in a positive way. And our Campus Ministry program teaches a boy that faith can see him through the tough times. Each area of our program provides the tools and encouragement a boy needs to succeed, one step at a time.

Without the generosity of loyal friends, like you, Hanna could not be successful in providing for these programs so desperately needed by the boys and their families who come to us for help. Your gift touches the lives of our youngsters every day, helping them to make the changes necessary to succeed in life. We hope you'll make your annual renewal gift today — we are counting on you! ❖

# Life After Hanna

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members like Mr. Young as a surrogate father. "While Billy was with us at Hanna he knew it was the best thing for him at the time. He was respectful and had a positive attitude. I am so proud of him and always look forward to seeing him," said Louis Young, Lead Coordinator at Hanna.

When asked what Bill would like to tell the current boys at the center he said, "Focus on what you have. Utilize what Hanna has to offer you. Make a decision to better yourself, follow Father Crews' rules, and you will do well in life."

Bill finds himself putting the lessons he learned at Hanna into action while raising his own children. He said he gives his twin two-year-old boys and nine-year-old daughter the structure in their lives that made such a positive difference to him at Hanna. The Hanna Family is so proud of Bill and his family, and thanks his grandmother for bringing him to Hanna 25 years ago.

## Brothers Find Hope at Hanna

John and Robby grew up on the streets of Dayton, Ohio. Their unstable and violent environment often forced them to fend for themselves, getting by the best they could.

One evening, an aunt called from California. She told them that if they ever needed anything, to just let her know. John told her they needed a stable place to live. She told them she would see what she could do. The boys shrugged off the offer, having been lied to and disappointed all their lives. Within ten hours, their aunt was at their door to bring them back with her to live in California.

While living with their aunt, the boys started getting into trouble

once again. Their aunt suggested Hanna Boys Center might be a good place for the boys to start fresh. In September of 2006, they joined the Hanna family. Coming to Hanna was a relief for both boys. As Robby says, "It's a place to keep me away from danger."

The boys settled in right away and have excelled in the program. Both are excellent sportsmen. When asked what he liked best about Hanna, Robby said "sports." He plays basketball, baseball, volleyball and football. Chosen the Most Valuable Player for Hanna's 8th grade championship basketball team, he was also an All-Star for the Sonoma Dragons football team.

Robby is very close to his older brother John. "He got me into sports. Whenever I need him or am feeling down, he is there for me. I always listen to what he has to say." Robby has plans to return to Ohio after graduating from Hanna to attend Ohio State University. After that, he wants to join the Marines.

John takes his responsibilities as an older brother very seriously. He sees himself as his brother's role model, and he does his best to keep a very high standard in all that he does. John has played on two championship teams — baseball and basketball. You will find John's name on the wall of the Hanna Gym, having earned the record for five different sports activities at Hanna. John's hobby is writing and performing rap music. He has produced a CD of his songs that he is going to send to a record producer, "just to see where it goes." John also plans to attend Ohio State University. John aspires to be a writer, and judging by his work so far, he is sure to succeed.



**John**



**Robby**



**John and Robby**

John and Robby have found a home and a family at Hanna Boys Center. "We all pitch in and help each other out. It's a chain reaction; everyone helping each other spreads throughout the campus. It's one big family. ❖"

# 2009 HANNA'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 3rd Annual Evening with the All-Stars

*April 25 at Hanna Boys Center*



## Spring Open House & Festival

*May 17 at Hanna Boys Center*



## Napa to Sonoma Wine Country Half Marathon

*July 19 in Sonoma, California*



## Infineon Raceway Grand Marshal's Dinner

*August 21 in Sonoma, California*



## 17th Annual Golf & Tennis Classic

*September 18 at Silverado Golf & Country Club*

*South Course in Napa, California*



## Charles Schwab Cup Championship

*October 28-November 1 at Sonoma Golf Club*



## Christmas Open House & Craft Fair

*December 6 at Hanna Boys Center*



Visit [www.hannacenter.org](http://www.hannacenter.org) for  
more information.

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## Hanna Boys Center

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# Into the Future at the Evening with the All-Stars

**Saturday**  
**April 25**  
**5:00-11:00 pm**

**Hanna Boys  
Center**

**17000 Arnold Dr.  
Sonoma**

Join us for this 3rd Annual event! DINNER by Park Avenue Catering. DANCING to the Richard Olson Orchestra. Cocktails, silent & live auctions and fun with the Hanna All-Stars!

Tickets: \$150 each (tables seat eight)  
Sponsor Table for 10: \$2,000

Plan an All-Star weekend in Sonoma—ticket, sponsorship, lodging and golf package information at our website: [www.hannacenter.org](http://www.hannacenter.org) Or, contact Tamara at 707-933-2504 or [tdunn@hannacenter.org](mailto:tdunn@hannacenter.org).

# Hanna Boys Center

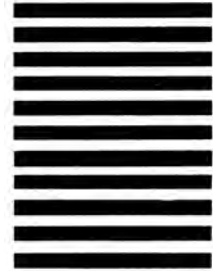
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