The year was 1944 and as Allied troops fought back Hitler’s army in the Battle of The Bulge, across the world in the capital of California a group of concerned citizens decided to take a crucial step that would change the course of history. The personal history and lives of thousands of children over the next 70 years hung in the balance. The Sacramento community, through a joint effort of the Sacramento Rotary Club and the Jr. League of Sacramento, would choose to create a place where hurting children could receive help, find safety and begin to heal. This special place, the Children’s Receiving Home of Sacramento (CRH), celebrates its 70th year anniversary next year.

Since its inception, CRH remains a safe haven and a beacon of hope for over one thousand abused and neglected children each year. That’s a lot of mouths to feed, hugs to give, and tears to dry. That’s also over 70,000 children whose lives have been changed for the better by the gentle caring of staff, kindness of volunteers, and support of community partners; all of whom know that how we care for our weakest and most vulnerable reflects the core of who we are as a city, and a people.

We can’t erase the terrible trauma experienced by the children and youth who enter our shelter each year, but together we can impact the future each of them will have. Something we have learned at CRH is that children are incredibly resilient. They can overcome trauma, learn a better way to treat each other, complete their education, and find a pathway out of poverty, drug abuse and family violence.

Our work here is incredibly rewarding; we have seen our children grow up to become successful adults in our community who work, employ others, educate our children, and raise their own families. They are your friends, neighbors, and people you do business with. They are the recipients of a community’s commitment to care for those who cannot care for themselves.

We’ve seen success a thousand times over in the lives of our former residents and we can say without reservation the course of history has been changed.

~ David Ballard, LCSW
CEO

www.crhkids.org
Hi, my name is Jennifer Green. I was a resident of the Children’s Receiving Home from 1985–1986. I didn’t know it at the time, but the Receiving Home was a pivotal changing point in my life.

My story begins at the age of five. My father was an alcoholic, and while drunk, would use me as a punching bag; my mother stood by and did nothing. The abuse started as physical beatings, and eventually became emotional and mental as I grew older. I lived in constant fear and was in survival mode all of the time. My parents were skilled in covering up the abuse with my father threatening me on what would happen if I ever told anybody, and my mother making sure the bruises on my arms, legs, and back were covered up. In a drunken rage, on two separate occasions (age seven and again at age thirteen) my father was almost successful in taking my life. In both cases, my mother managed to get him to stop before it was too late.

On the day I showed up to the Children’s Receiving Home, I had spent the entire previous night being kept up all night, with my father punching me with his fists and hitting me with his belt. He told me (as he done so many times before) that I wouldn’t amount to anything that I was stupid and nobody would ever want me. I went to school in my pajamas, changed into some old gym clothes that were in my locker, and put on makeup to hide the swelling (a routine I was all too familiar with), but it didn’t work because I was sent to the principal’s office, and this time everything came out. Soon I was taken to the Children’s Receiving Home, scared and sure that my father might get in and make sure he finished the job, because now, everybody knew.

Despite the fact that I was defiant, scared, confused, and angry the staff at CRH were kind to me. They reassured me that my father wasn’t going to hurt me anymore.

The Children’s Receiving Home provided the first real structure in my childhood. I gave the staff a run for their money and, though I resented the rules at the time, CRH impacted my life in a positive way. It became the jumping off point into a lifetime of healing. I eventually left CRH for a more permanent placement, where I ultimately emancipated out of the system at age 18.

Today, I am a very busy mother of two wonderful sons. My oldest graduated high school in May 2013, and my youngest is in the seventh grade. Both keep me busy with sports, scouting, and their various other activities. I also work full time as a successful Financial Consultant for a major firm. I have since returned to the Receiving Home to give back as an alumni volunteer. I hope that my success in life will encourage CRH youth and that they, too, can overcome an abusive past and look forward to a better future.
Linda Saelee grew up in a home with a father who was an addict and a mother with mental health challenges. Along with her nine siblings, Linda was removed and placed in foster care. Linda had gone through several foster homes and group homes each time trying to fit in to someone else’s family, but felt she was not getting the attention and support she needed. When she came to CRH, a shy sixteen year old lacking confidence in herself and in adults who had failed her, she was behind on the credits she needed to graduate at eighteen and unsure of what she wanted her future to hold after high school. By her own admission, she had no desire to excel in school or life. During her stay in our shelter, Linda’s father passed away which caused Linda to start thinking about what she wanted to do with her life. She chose to join the Independent Living Program at CRH. At first, she kept her emotional walls up around her as protection from further disappointment, but slowly began to trust and open herself up to new experiences. Within a few months in ILP, Linda was learning to cook meals, use public transit, schedule her own doctor appointments and was helping around the CRH campus wherever she could.

Eventually Linda wanted to leave her independent study classes and return to a regular high school close to the CRH campus. She joined afterschool sports, went to volleyball camp and was chosen to attend a summer leadership camp. During these activities, Linda was always supported and encouraged by ILP staff to try something new; most of the things Linda tried, she excelled at. With a newfound confidence in herself, Linda began assisting staff in touring the ILP dorms for potential donors. She discovered she enjoyed being in front of a crowd and sharing her experiences as a youth in foster care. The next step was for Linda to look for a part-time job. ILP staff coached Linda on interviewing skills and helped her build a resume. By reaching out to local business owners, ILP staff made that all important first connection for Linda to help open employment doors. Within a short time Linda was working at a retail job over her Winter break and has since landed a permanent retail job that works around her college class schedule. Yes, Linda is now attending college and did graduate with the class of 2013 at the age of eighteen!

Currently, Linda shares an apartment in CRH’s transitional housing program. She enjoys living more independently as an adult, yet sometimes returns to chat with her social worker about the challenges of young adult life. Roommate squabbles, health insurance questions... like most young people, Linda finds it nice to have someone to give her that occasional support. It is hard to say where Linda would be today without the Children’s Receiving Home; one thing is for sure, the vibrant and intelligent young lady we know today is not the same Linda who came to CRH just two and a half years ago. Linda is proof that caring staff matter in changing lives, that donor support matters in funding programs like the Independent Living Program, and that a community coming together to benefit children does makes a HUGE difference in the future of children in foster care.

Special Thanks to Cristina Ion for helping CRH get chosen for an $18,000 donation from

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Fiscal Year July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

Each year CRH acknowledges cash donations received during the prior, just ending fiscal year with no mention of the amount given. For all in-kind donations, which are literally too numerous to acknowledge individually, we are very appreciative. Thank you.

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Legacy Giving, It’s Our Stake in the Future

Ralph & Dottie Linden

When you grow up as we did, you think everyone has a family. You know they’re all different, but you just don’t realize the extremes. We’ve been blessed to have a great childhood, education, career and now retirement. Everything we are and enjoy started with our families’ strengths, values, work ethics, high standards and unwavering love and support. Our families were everyday folks, blessed with simple, yet extraordinary riches of the heart. They lived through wars and the depression with very little means, yet gave so much more to us that helped us thrive and prosper. We’d like to pass that legacy on, not only to our family, but to those who haven’t had those same blessings.

Since we learned about the Children’s Receiving Home of Sacramento in 1997, we’ve had a real education about how other children live who come from families different than ours. We have been advocates and donors ever since. We’ve admired the way CRH has been there to help thousands of children and families get a better chance at the future. Having served in the CRH Guild, on the CRH Board of Directors and now on their Community Council, I continue to be impressed with how the CRH team constantly assesses the changing needs of these kids and their families and comes up with the programs they need to help get them on the right path. They don’t even know who the kids are that will need their help, they just know they’ll need it and how beneficial it will be to helping a brighter future for each of them. We’re also very impressed with the no-frills approach to their programs that wastes no resources on non-essentials, and applies the maximum amount of your donations towards serving the kids and their families.

The CRH Endowment Fund and Legacy Giving Circle of donors is a way for us in the community who have supported CRH in the past to ensure it will be there for future generations of kids. Admittedly, we had previously thought of a vehicle like this being something only “wealthy” people do. However, the more we thought about it, it seemed like something WE and a lot of other ordinary folks would want to do. Leaving a gift of any size in our will is our way of continuing our commitment to CRH and the kids and families they serve as well. It also lets our family who will survive us be part of our family tradition of always “taking care of family” and CRH is part of ours.

Every child deserves the love and strength of a family.... This is our way of saying to the kids at CRH that we’re part of their family and we’ll continue to be there for them.

We won’t live forever; however our values and support for CRH kids will endure.

If you’d like to discuss becoming a Legacy Circle member, please call Tanya Kravchuk at 916-349-7530 x23. There are a number of ways you can participate. You can talk with your advisors or, if you like, we can even arrange for a complimentary (one-hour) consultation with a Planned Giving Financial Consultant or Lawyer.

Legacy Giving, It’s Our Stake in the Future
OUR MISSION: The Children’s Receiving Home of Sacramento is committed to positively impacting the lives of children, youth, and families affected by abuse, neglect, behavioral health issues, and trauma in California.

FALL2013

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