As we reach the 70th anniversary of the Children’s Receiving Home (CRH), it is a time that calls upon us to pause and reflect on the value and meaning of who we are and what we have done. What have these 70 years of caring for hurting children meant?

In this, the 70th year of the Receiving Home, I will personally mark my 18 year anniversary as CEO of CRH. What a privilege and honor this has been for me. Not once in all those years was there an easy or simple day, but on the other hand—never a bad day either. Given the importance of what we do, the limited and precious time we have to do it, and the critical impact our efforts have on the long-term life trajectories of children and families, how could we give less than everything? Do we win them all? No, we do not. Do we leave anything on the table in trying? No, we do not.

This year was a year of intense effort, and at times—even struggle. The issues experienced by the children we serve grow more acute each year. Children need help to work through uncertainty, disappointment, and anger. Finding the best practice to effectively involve family members in treatment, and help solidify these families, adds an entirely different dimension to the work we do.

Diversifying our services to answer the current needs of children, paying attention to the business of funding streams, budgets, contracts, and all the moving pieces it takes to successfully run an effective nonprofit takes some doing. Do we win them all? No, we do not. Do we leave anything on the table in trying? No, we do not. All struggles—seen and unforeseen—are of value even if we may fall short. It is why we came here. It is what we have been called to do.

So, again I ask, what does this all mean? What difference have we made? Some things I know for certain.

This year I saw young people continually cared for even as they went through a depth of trials you and I can only imagine. I saw former residents coming back to say how much the Receiving Home meant to them—even though they did not recognize it at the time. I saw young people successfully graduate from high school, go to college, or join the armed forces, all because they had someone believe in them—perhaps for the first time. I saw kids of all ages sleep through the night, feel safe, and realize that someone cared for them. And, through all of this, our second-to-none staff brought their best game, even on the hardest days, and with children not always in a space to listen or hear. I saw excellent work. Indomitable spirits. Success. Not without struggle, or without failure now and then. But never with anything less than full effort.

I saw, in short, miracles. And that is who we are, what we do, and the difference we have made with 70 years of unfailing effort, all to the good of the children and families who need it most, at the very time they need it most. That reality—both in history and today—is the ongoing legacy of the Receiving Home.

On behalf of the children and families that I am so honored to represent and that we are so privileged to serve, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your caring and support—for the first 70, and for the next 70 years to come!

- David Ballard, LCSW
CEO

www.crhkids.org
The Children’s Receiving Home of Sacramento celebrates 70 years of providing care and shelter to the community’s most vulnerable children.

1944
The Children’s Receiving Home is established by a joint venture between the Junior League and Rotary Club of Sacramento. 12 children were served at the historic Drescher house at 1423 H St.

1948
The Children’s Receiving Home is notified that a new location will need to be found. Their first location was slotted for demolition to make way for a theater. The Receiving Home moves here to 2822 X St.

1957
The Receiving Home is now serving an average of 16 children per day. The late 50’s were a financially demanding time, and the United Way (formerly United Crusade) and Junior League came through with some timely gifts.

1965
Due to an impending freeway overpass project, the Receiving Home is notified that they will need to find a new location. Here, an artist’s rendering shows the Receiving Home in its current location. Construction was completed on the new facility in 1965 and they were able to serve 45 children per day.

1969
The Children’s Receiving Home celebrates its 25th anniversary. Firmly established in their new location on Auburn Blvd., they start looking towards expanding their facilities.

1970
The Receiving Home has four horses on the property which children get to ride regularly.

1977
The Receiving Home’s growth continues. It is now licensed to serve 70 children, with 55 employees.

1976
The 20/30 Club of Sacramento makes a very generous donation of an in-ground swimming pool to the Receiving Home.

1984
Some kids engage in a favorite pastime at the Receiving Home – playing pool, as well as a fun dance class.

Caring Through the Generations 1944-2014
The 20/30 Club of Sacramento makes a very generous donation of an in-ground swimming pool to the Receiving Home.

1984
Some kids engage in a favorite pastime at the Receiving Home—playing pool, as well as a fun dance class.

1984
A child receives a present from Santa, something that many children don’t experience until coming to the Receiving Home.

1994
The Children’s Receiving Home celebrates 50 years of serving the community’s most vulnerable children.

2002
With help from HomeAid, ground is broken as campus is expanded and improved yet again. Projects included the Acorns cottage for children ages 1-5 which won an award for HomeAid.

1992
Pictured here is Candy, a recent graduate of the innovative ILP program which began in 2010. Candy is currently attending college.

1976
of Sacramento makes a very on of an in-ground swimming the Receiving Home.

1958
Pictured here is the logo of the Receiving Home’s Guild. The Guild was very active in the 80’s and 90’s and spearheaded many charitable projects on behalf of the Receiving Home.

1997
The Children’s Receiving Home welcomes its current CEO, David Ballard, LCSW.
Thank you to all those who gave to CRH this past fiscal year. Your contributions have allowed us to continue to make a difference in the lives of children and youth in crisis. We are very appreciative of your support!

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our mission without
your support.
The Next Generation of Success
I recently sat down for a chat with Christian, a 2014 graduate from our Independent Living Program. Christian is headed to CSU San Francisco this fall. -- Kellie Dockendorf, CRH Development and Communications Manager

Where were you living before coming to the Children’s Receiving Home’s Independent Living Program (ILP)? I was with my mother, but she was always abusive and the reason why I couldn’t live at home. My mother would break down the door of my bedroom to get to me. There was no safety at all. I actually decided to report to my teacher at school because I really couldn’t take it anymore. I stayed in the shelter program at CRH for four months before I entered the Independent Living Program at age 16.

What made you decide to come in to ILP at Children’s Receiving Home? I’d been thinking about emancipating for a long time, and it seemed like ILP would be a program that could reaffirm the life skills I already had. Even since I was a kid I would watch other families and parents and learn by observation what “normal” behavior was. I wanted to learn these skills for myself.

What were your goals coming in to ILP, and were you able to accomplish them? At first, I just wanted to move out on my own— emancipate out of foster care. Then, improving my grades was a goal. It was easier for me to study in ILP and after I saw how the staff had faith in me, I knew I wanted to be the best ILP graduate that had come through the program. I wanted to show everyone I would be a success. Only time will tell if I am. My grades improved to a 2.96 GPA—good enough to get into San Francisco State University. I’ve also been able to improve my interview skills, learn financial literacy, how to save, and that credit cards can be risky. So far, overcoming the obstacles I had makes achieving my goals feel better than I ever expected.

Are there special challenges you feel you have as a youth in the foster care system? Yes, for sure. I think a lot of people believe kids are in foster care due to their own behavior and that they’re bad kids. Another challenge is the feeling of loneliness—foster youth feel like no one can relate to their struggles and what they’re going through. I found being around other kids in foster care helps to know you’re not alone.

What made the biggest difference in your life while in ILP? I don’t think I would have decided to go to college if I hadn’t come to ILP. I had time to think about myself and what I wanted to do for my life. Going on the college road trip in October 2012 helped me immensely. After seeing the campuses and the tours, I saw myself attending a four-year college. It helped push me to do better in my senior classes and take harder classes to prepare for college.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years, 10 years? In 5 years I see myself graduated from college and on my way to grad school. I’m thinking about becoming a doctor. To be honest, I love school. It has always been a home away from home—or really just a home, since I couldn’t call the place I lived home. In 10 years, I might be writing a book about my experiences. I also would, of course, donate to the Receiving Home. I believe all kids in foster care should eventually give back to the foster care system, to their community, and to their world. The state helped raise us—like our parents should have—and it’s good to give back for what we received.

2013-2014 Financial Summary
During fiscal year 2013-2014, nearly 1,200 children and families were served by CRH.
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.

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