



# InsidersReport

## Wants To Be “Normal”

Mandy Bates, EBAC Program Director, believes 13 year old Serena’s story of abuse was the worst she had heard in her years working with vulnerable youth. Unable to be reunited with her family, she was continually in and out of residential treatment and foster homes. One time she was found wandering the streets of San Francisco with her head bleeding.

Last fall, Serena was placed in EBAC’s New Haven Day Treatment program where she expressed that she just wanted to be “normal”. Through painstaking group and individual therapy and coordinated care, the EBAC staff built Serena’s trust and assured her that she was normal. What was not normal was what she had been through.

Though she had never been in a regular school setting, Serena responded so well to her new supportive environment that she was able to graduate from the 8th grade in June having been fully mainstreamed into standard classrooms. This fall Serena will get the “normal” high school experience she has wanted!

### Quotes From Children:

- “Thank you for being there for us.”
- “Thank you for never giving up on us.”
- “You helped me overcome my anger.”

### Quotes From A Parent:

**“I like coming here (for family therapy) because when I come here I am angry and when I leave I am not angry anymore.”**

## The Executive Minute

The beginning of the school year is a very busy time for EBAC as we restart our many school-based programs. Because of our supportive donors and funders, we are adding more services for our community’s children this year. I am pleased to announce that at the request of Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services, EBAC is managing the new school-based health center opening at Frick Middle School in Oakland.

We are also expanding our mental health services to schools in the San Leandro Unified School District where we will provide “counseling enriched” services for children in need of services somewhat less intensive than those provided through our day treatment programs.

With help from our vital community partners, EBAC continues to grow as the need for our expertise expands. Since 2004, our staff has expanded from 100 to 150 professionals. We look forward to each new opportunity to help build brighter futures and stronger communities.

Warm regards,  
Steve Eckert, LCSW, Executive Director, [steve@ebac.org](mailto:steve@ebac.org)



## Advocating For A Child

A mother was extremely worried because her 7 year old son was losing weight and no-one could figure

out why. This mother’s language and literacy challenges made it almost impossible for her to find the resources necessary to address her son’s worsening health problem. Finally, she was referred to EBAC’s Fremont Healthy Start program where a multi-lingual Family Resource Specialist made an appointment for the boy at an emergency medical clinic. The doctors determined his weight loss was caused by medication he was taking. With a new prescription and a set of needed eye glasses, this child was thriving and back in school in no time thanks to EBAC’s advocacy for him.



## Reducing Probation Violations

The clinicians and case managers of EBAC's Probation Mental Health program focus on empowering youth to take charge of their lives and the decisions they make. The success of this approach is evident. While 44% of EBAC youth clients violated their probation conditions in the month prior to their involvement with EBAC, this number decreased by more than half to 18% three months after their first service contact with EBAC. After these teens had been working with EBAC staff for 14 months, 0% were violating the terms of their probation.

## An 8 Year Old With Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

On the edge of expulsion, this 3rd grader's behavior at school was inappropriately provocative. The EBAC mental health clinician onsite at this school advocated strongly for family therapy to help the mother better cope with stress. She also advocated for a psychiatric evaluation for the child which resulted in the creation of a new Individual Education Plan for the student.

Now the child is in a new environment that will support his education despite the behavioral struggles that had kept him from thriving and learning in mainstream classrooms. This entire process took 2 years, but the EBAC clinician never gave up on this child.

### Quotes From School Faculty:

**"Your positive presence and unconditional support helps guide both student and teachers on a daily basis."**

## New Partnership

First 5 Alameda County has teamed with EBAC by funding three new projects. The Little Steps to College Program at Hawthorne Family Resource Center will develop and increase literacy and social-emotional skills in Mam (Indigenous Guatemalan) and Latino children ages 3-4 and their families to help them prepare for Kindergarten.

Through a Quality Counts Grant, First 5 Alameda County and EBAC's Therapeutic Nursery School will work together for the next two years to implement a social emotional curriculum and to enhance the existing educational curriculum for the children at TNS who experience severe emotional and behavioral difficulties. Finally, a Facilities Grant is funding needed improvements and expansion of our nursery school building.



## Save The Dates

**Masquerade Ball October 29th**

**Holiday Shopping @ Stella Carakasi  
November 16th 6pm – 9pm  
5410 College Avenue, Oakland**

**Walk to Remember  
May 12, 2012 @ Lake Merritt**

**60th Anniversary Party  
May 19, 2012**

Details at [ebac.org](http://ebac.org), [info@ebac.org](mailto:info@ebac.org) or 510.268-3770 ext. 118

Help thousands of children everyday through a planned gift, car donation, or even a real estate transaction.

## Legacy Society

Leave a lasting legacy by including EBAC in your estate plans and becoming a charter member of the Legacy Society.

**Turn your real estate transaction into a donation to EBAC**

Contact Jack if you or someone you know is thinking of buying or selling. 415.302.7787.



Like us on Facebook to learn more about the impact EBAC has on our community's children and families.

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