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standing, support, discipline. Well, in an odd way that's exactly what IGC is; my "parent."

When I was 16, I was removed from my mother's custody and placed in the court system. I hadn't attended school consistently past eighth grade. So when I got to my group home I was required to take GED classes. I finished about the time I was eighteen. Around the same time the funding from the county stopped and I had to pack my bags and move out. Without a lot of options, or guidance, I did what every other eighteen year old woman would do. I hopped on a freight train and continued to hitchhike throughout the U.S and Canada. (This was not before I had been nominated for the If Given a Chance Scholarship).

Shortly after 9-11 I decided to return to California and go back to school. Unfortunately, my actions as a teenager and young adult left me without the ability to receive assistance from state and federal educational programs. On a whim I re-wrote to IGC and pleaded my case. I desperately wanted to go back to school and could not find the extra money to get started. Writing: "Please, give me a chance."

A few weeks later I received a letter stating: "Ok. We will give you a chance, but here is the deal..." Now four crazy school years later I am ready to transfer to some of the top schools in our state. I have a 3.7 GPA, volunteer, work 40+ hours a week and manage to still have somewhat of an adventurous side. If not for the guidance and acceptance of IGC I would not be where I am today in my education or my life.

"If Given a Chance" has made me accountable for my actions in school, which in turn has helped me tremendously to recognize accountability in other areas of my life. I have to have a plan, follow through, or explain why it's changed. And the best part of all, when I fall down, all I have to do is ask and I'm back on my feet again. When I get an A, change my educational plan, or apply to Universities, it's "If Given a Chance" that I call. They are the "parent" of my education. With their continuous support and understanding, I KNOW I will continue to make them proud.

Catrina Hockney
If Given a Chance Cohort 2001
Diablo Valley Collge

If Given a Chance Endowment Begun!

If Given a Chance has been honored and humbled by the support of this community. Without your volunteer time and your generous financial gifts, we could not have the impact we have on the lives of incredible young people.

As with any organization, building an endowment allows for planning for the future, not simply surviving the day. We desire to ensure that future generations of young people have the opportunities If Given a Chance provides. Recently we received a very generous gift that helped form the foundation of our endowment fund. Although

the family, which made the gift, wishes to remain anonymous, they have issued a challenge to the community to match their initial gift. The donor's hope is that they will continue to support our work and the community will join them and us in assuring the future of many young people.

As one member of the family said, "This is an organization which focuses on the success of young people who have faced tremendous obstacles in their lives. How can we not take this opportunity to reward their courage by providing the means to fulfill their educational goals?"

Join us in growing the If Given a Chance endowment to ensure that future generations are given a chance to pursue their dreams and fulfill their hopes.

"As with any organization, building an endowment allows for planning for the future, not simply surviving the day."

"I cannot imagine a more worthwhile cause and I continue to feel so honored to be a recipient."



NEWSLETTER

A Donor Perspective

A conversation with Warren Winiarski, Founder, Stag's Leap Wine Cellars

What is it about If Given that has captured your imagination?

The If Given a Chance organization immediately caught my attention because it focused its outreach on those who are worthy of help, but are also not likely to get it from the existing community services.

It also focuses on education as the means to help individuals to achieve a fulfilling destiny for themselves.

What do you believe you are achieving when you donate to If Given?

Donating to If Given a Chance provides the material resources needed to support that self-fulfilling destiny for the individual, and to provide the community with a positive contributing member who might otherwise be a burden to himself and others.

How have you seen lives changed by If Given?

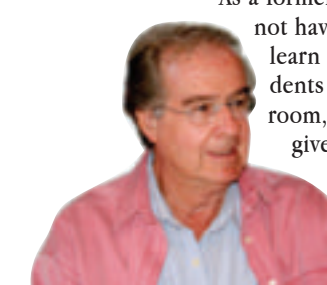
It is amazing to see how the award of a scholarship (which is seen by the recipients as showing others' faith in them) can inspire them to awaken from despair and call out the energy to strive to succeed. It is truly wonderful to see how their lives are transformed.

In what ways do you think If Given is unique?

As remarked above, If Given a Chance gives opportunity to young persons whose educational potential is not being realized because they have not been given a chance.

The If Given a Chance Foundation is fairly small. Why have you made it an important part of your life and giving?

As a former educator, who did not have the opportunity to learn the paths my students followed to the classroom, this organization gives me a chance to help many realize their potential to improve their lives.



First Annual Chance Encounter

If Given a Chance has learned a very important thing from the students we work with. Every single student has shared with us that there was one significant adult who believed in him or her, encouraged him or her, supported them, and held them accountable. Although it took the personal courage and drive of the student to overcome the obstacles they have faced, this significant adult provided the encouragement and support they needed to complete their initial journey of repair while assisting them in preparing for the road to adulthood and life-building stages of development.

These adults deserve honor and accolades but even more importantly they must be held up as



examples for the rest of us. Chance Encounter has been created to celebrate these adults. This first year we chose Harris Nussbaum as our very first honoree. Harris implemented the Peer Support Program, created cross-age mentoring programs, taught our students psychology, helped make community service "cool," and has championed youth in every way, especially those who had no champion. On September 23rd, 2007, we, along with co-sponsor the Napa Valley Register, hosted Chance Encounter with Harris Nussbaum.

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If Given a Chance exists to recognize youth who have demonstrated exceptional courage in overcoming extraordinary personal challenges, and to provide guidance and financial assistance so they may achieve their educational potential.

Who are our recipients?

57% have experienced abuse

39% have faced neglect

31% have witnessed domestic violence

44% have survived substance abuse issues

31% were in the Justice System

25% came from foster care

70 students are currently attending 34 schools: UC Berkeley, Stanford, Napa Valley College, Cal Poly . . .

Wish to support If Given A Chance?

Send your donation to:

If Given a Chance
P.O. Box 2607
Napa, CA 94558

For estate planning or to donate stock
please contact the Executive Director,
Jim King at:

Phone: 707-260-5656
E-mail: chance@napanet.net

How you nominate someone:

Applications are distributed, and posted on our website at in October. The applications are due in February. All students must be nominated by an adult.

Wish to Volunteer?

Phone: 707-226-8890
E-mail: sking@can-v.org

Want to learn more about If Given A Chance?

If Given a Chance
P.O. Box 2607
Napa, CA 94558

www.ifgivenachance.org

E-mail: chance@napanet.net
Phone: 707-260-5656



Introducing the CAN Program

Each year If Given a Chance chooses between 25 and 30 young people to receive our scholarship for college or training. Of all the students chosen over our 13-year history, 79% have continued on after the first year of college. That means 21% of our recipients have attended one year, or less, of college or training. While in comparison to the overall retention rates of the California Community College system, this is quite good, "Community colleges have very high turnover. Half of the students did not attend after their first year¹." However, it is not good enough. If Given a Chance has proposed to provide support, guidance and encouragement to our recipients in order to assist them in reaching their goals. Completion of training or a college degree is the most obvious manifestation of those goals. We surveyed our students to determine the barriers and challenges they experienced as they pursued their education. We also met with representatives of Napa Valley College, VOICES, Independent Living Program (Aldea), Napa Valley Unified School District, and the College Bound Network² to profit from their experience and insights. What emerged was that the students were lacking in both preparation for entering college and independent living. We identified core issues and developed the CAN program.

The CAN Program, CAN: Communicate, Advocate and Navigate. Communicate your needs Advocate in order to seek the services for which you are eligible Navigate the college campus and independent living. If Given a Chance will partner with Napa Valley College to create CAN,

a course designed to equip the students with the tools they will need. The students will receive college credit for attending. Napa Valley College will provide an instructor, classroom and "lab" space while additional workshop leaders will be subcontracted from various programs such as; Independent Living Program, VOICES, and On the Move. College Bound Network will partner in developing the Time Management portion of the workshops.

This program will be required of our scholarship recipients starting the summer of 2008.

The Executive Director of If Given a Chance, Jim King, in conjunction with Napa Valley College Dean of Financial Aid/EOPS, Jill Schurtz, will provide oversight and coordination of the program. There will be rigorous California Community College standards that have to be met and maintained in order for CAN to be offered as a credit class. The Executive Director and Student Liaison, Isadora Asch, will participate in various aspects of the workshops. Through team building exercises such as ropes course, the students will form a cohort. This will create an atmosphere conducive to a peer-to-peer support system. The Executive Director and Student Liaison will participate in order to share knowledge and gain trust as "members" of the cohort.

¹Public Policy Institute of California: California Counts- Population Trends and Profiles, Vol. 8, Number 2, November 2006

²College Bound Network is a group of organizations from throughout the Bay Area which either prepare students for college, i.e. Summer Search, or provide funding and/or support for the college student, i.e. If Given a Chance

CAN Workshops for If Given a Chance Recipients

Workshop	Supplemental Content	Supplemental Content
Time management	Balancing your life: academics, extracurricular, social, work	How to use a daily planner
Money management	Banking, balancing a checkbook, budgeting, taxes	Financial aid/Scholarships/Loans
Study Skills	How to access your instructor, tutors, learning labs. Note taking for college.	Using the Internet
Emotional issues/stress management	Critical thinking/problem solving. How to tell when you need help and where to get it	Responsible sexual behavior
On your own at last/ Oh gosh, I am all alone	How to be a roommate, transportation, laundry and cooking tips	Personal integrity, ethics and why they matter
Navigating a college campus	College supplies, getting started Returning students, lessons learned	What your parents really need to know
If Given a Chance	Timelines and requirements	Resources

First Annual Chance Encounter (cont'd)

Our Assembly member Noreen Evans, Senator Pat Wiggins and Congressman Mike Thompson all created resolutions honoring Harris, with the resolution from Congressman Thompson being read into the Congressional Record from the floor of the US Congress.

Many of Harris' past students attended, most of whom he had nominated for an If Given a Chance Scholarship. Harris turned the event into a "teachable moment" and refocused the spotlight on those in attendance, particularly on the students.

Our community is enriched by these amazing individuals who make room in their lives and hearts for the many lost souls and walking wounded among our young people. We must acknowledge those who made this event a success:

Copia: American Center for Wine Food and the Arts, Melissa Teaff Catering, Rombauer Vineyards, Napa Printing and Graphics, Harlan Estates, Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, Vineyard 7&8, Shafer Vineyards, John & Dorothy Salmon, Julia Levitan & Lee Broad, Mary Butler, Carmen Martinez-Calderon, Rich Melton, Ron Cox, Warren and Barbara Winisarski, Koerner Rombauer, Felix Bedolla, Bruce Miroglio, Kent Gardella, Mike and Liza Pearson, Greg Bennett, and Ambassador Kathryn and Craig Hall. Special thanks to our MC/Auctioneer Dan Monez and Barbara Nemko.

You never know what good you can do or lives which will be changed by a Chance Encounter...

Student Check-In

Dear Friends at If Given a Chance,

Things have been very busy this semester. My seizures are continuing to get better but stress triggers grand mals sometimes. I spent about a month in a wheelchair this last semester after a seizure at school which caused vertigo that was so bad I couldn't walk. I still have paralysis after my seizures and have to use the wheelchair periodically.

I have one more semester to finish my bachelor's in Psychology and I am getting really excited to be done with school. I can't believe I've made it! James and I are wanting to start a family after I graduate, of course we have to deal with the seizures which isn't too fun. Even though I have a lot on my plate I can truly say I have never felt so happy in my life. Things for me are really good right now. I am proud to say that I made it through another semester with straight "A's,"

"You never know what good you can do or lives which will be changed by a Chance Encounter..."

"If Given a Chance has been a miracle in my life. You have been the only constant source of encouragement I've had through my academic career."

If Given a Chance has been a miracle in my life. I don't know how I would have gotten my degree without your support. You have been the only constant source of encouragement I've had through my academic career. Thank you!

Katrina Brady, If Given a Chance Cohort 2005, Sonoma State University

Dear If Given a Chance,

It looks as though my final undergraduate semester will be an enjoyable one, which is especially appreciated while I am filling out graduate school applications as we speak.

Thank you again for your support of the youth of Napa. This scholarship helped me tremendously both financially and otherwise. I cannot imagine a more worthwhile cause and I continue to feel so honored to be a recipient. This organization truly gives me hope; hope for myself, for fellow recipients, and for the city of Napa as a whole.

*Katy Buckner
If Given a Chance Cohort 2004
Loyola Marymount University*

Dear If Given a Chance,

My name is Ashley Cox and I am a student at U.C. Berkeley. I am halfway through my fourth and final year here at Cal and I will be graduating in May with a BA in Art History. My college experience has been extremely challenging, academically and personally, but I gained so much from my experiences in college and I look forward to pursuing a master's degree in the near future. I will be taking a year off after I graduate, a much deserved and needed break, and working. I hope to attend graduate school in the Fall of 2009 for a master's program in either Art Administration or Education with a teaching credential. The If Given a Chance scholarship has made it possible for me to be at Cal and I am so thankful for the financial and emotional support I have received. I can only hope that I am one day in a position where I will be able to help out students like me.

Thanks again for all the support,
*Ashley Cox
If Given a Chance Cohort 2004
U.C. Berkeley*

Dear If Given a Chance:

Throughout the last several years of my education, "If Given a Chance" has been my "surrogate parent." I'm not talking about science, I'm talking about education. Surrogate in this text will mean stand-in, and parent, for me, is under-

Upcoming Events

April 1st . . . might be time for a Spring Fling: watch for news!

May 9th our annual Awards Dinner at the Napa Valley Marriott

September brings the 2nd Annual Chance Encounter

