



HAYNES /
FAMILY OF PROGRAMS



David & Margaret
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2026

DEAR FRIENDS,

I am excited to share with you an individualized view of the wonderful successes our clients have enjoyed over the past year. While we share a few, they are a sampling of the hundreds of children and youth we serve each year. Their determination, resilience, desire to overcome and their ability to keep going despite the trauma and pain they have endured is amazing. Please take a moment to read their stories of finding focus, moving forward, getting that spark, making it happen, taking action and planning for the future.

These are truly incredible feats, and these incredibly special individuals are backed by staff with relentless optimism, continuous innovation, deep passion for this work — and the understanding that better outcomes are possible when we stay persistent. This is the true spirit of Haynes Family of Programs (HFP) and David & Margaret Youth and Family Services (D&M). I am so proud of how the team rapidly adapted in the face of funding and policy challenges to drive continued excellence and growth this year.

This year Haynes Family of Programs celebrates its 80th Anniversary, which is an amazing feat in itself considering the evolution of the foster care system and ever-changing government regulations. Haynes Family of Programs along with our sister agency David & Margaret Youth and Family Services combine with almost 200 years of experience. We are blessed to have that substantial depth of expertise and to make a significant impact on our local communities and others across the State.

Whatever the next 200 years may bring, I know that HFP/D&M will continue to innovate and evolve, fueled by our passionate team of experts. Thank you for your continued trust and support, and for sharing the foundational belief that every child and family deserves the gift of Unconditional Care. In a world full of uncertainty, our commitment is one thing that will never change.

Daniel S. Maydeck
President & CEO

CONTACT US



info@leroyhaynes.org
909.593.2581



info@davidandmargaret.org
909.596.5921



FINDING HIS FOCUS



Before Hunter came to Renaissance/Joan Macy, he was dealing with some intense family problems that impacted his ability to participate in classes. The stress at home made it difficult for Hunter to regulate his emotions, resulting in frequent outbursts and a lack of focus.

After transferring, Hunter began working closely with staff on his emotional regulation. He learned new ways to cope when he became agitated or overwhelmed, like breathing exercises and redirection. Smaller class sizes allowed for more personalized attention and fewer triggers to disrupt his learning.

As Hunter was developing his emotional regulation skills, his relationships with staff, peers, and even his family started to improve. He established himself as one of the most trusted students on campus, becoming the one that teachers turned to for errands and friends came to for support.

Getting through the days without outbursts allowed Hunter to finish off his high school career strong. His change in attitude gave him the courage to enroll at a junior college, with plans of transferring to a university after completing his general education courses. "He has a bright future ahead of him," says our Director of Education, CC Schumm. "He is very smart and is capable of doing very well."



HE HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD OF HIM.

-CC Schumm, Director of Education



FINDING HER SPARK

For most of her time at Renaissance/Joan Macy, Maya kept to herself. She was quiet, reserved, and didn't engage much with other students or staff. This can be quite common at our nonpublic school, as many students come from challenging home environments and troublesome school experiences.

Small class sizes with high staff-to-student ratios in tandem with individualized learning plans helped Maya adjust over time, but it wasn't until she joined the Vocational Arts Program that she started to come out of her shell.

The Vocational Arts Program at Renaissance/Joan Macy was created not only to teach valuable, transferrable skills to students, but also to build confidence and broaden career possibilities. That is exactly what happened for Maya when she discovered welding.

THE HANDS-ON WORK IGNITED SOMETHING NEW IN HER.

She began opening up more, improving her skills, and gaining courage she never knew she had.

Before the Vocational Arts Program, Maya was unsure about her path beyond high school. Now, she has graduated with a newfound poise and is on her way to get certified and begin her career as a welder!



KEEP MOVING FORWARD

For years, Max's family navigated the same reality many parents of nonverbal children face. Simple communication, like answering a question or ordering a meal, can turn into a frustrating meltdown.

Max is a student at Bliss Academy, Haynes Family of Program's school for kids with autism and other developmental disabilities. He's nonverbal and communicates using an AAC device, a tablet designed to build sentences by typing words and selecting symbols.

At school, Max's day is structured around individualized instruction with consistent Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) support, but his family knew that progress only mattered if it made the transition home.

Following a parent training on strategies to use at home, Max's teacher designed a plan for winter break to extend his school routine into his family's daily life.

They started with identification, utilizing the same skills and device Max used in class. Max's mother would pull up pictures of cakes on Pinterest and ask him to describe the different shapes and styles.

Max was hesitant for the first few days, but soon he began correcting his own errors, communicating without being prompted, and pointing out all types of objects from images and real life.



BLISS ACADEMY

SCHOOL FOR AUTISM AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

During a session one day, Max's mom noticed that he seemed tired and asked how he was feeling. Without hesitation, Max gestured to his belly and selected "feeling sick" on his tablet to let his mother know he had a stomachache.

Their progress didn't stay confined to their living room. By the end of winter break, Max's family ventured out to a place they hadn't been to in a long time: Chick-fil-A.

For the whole visit, Max was able to sit in a noisy restaurant, communicate his order, and enjoy a meal with his family without a single interruption or meltdown. His parents, whose 20th anniversary was that same week, said it was the best gift they have ever received.

This summer, the family drove seven hours to Yosemite, putting them through the biggest test yet. Max didn't just get through the trip, he was, in his mother's words, "super happy" the entire time.

"There is always light at the end of the tunnel," Max's mom shared after their trip. "We found it, and we keep moving forward — because we have strong support from the Haynes community."



**THERE IS ALWAYS LIGHT AT THE END
OF THE TUNNEL, WE FOUND IT, AND WE
KEEP MOVING FORWARD.**

-Max's Mother, Bliss Academy Parent

BENSON DOESN'T WAIT FOR SPACE TO OPEN UP. HE MAKES IT.



Entering foster care at the tender age of five, Benson and his two baby brothers cycled through more than 30 foster homes over the course of five years. By age 10, Benson was “too old” to be placed with his brothers and was sent to a group home by himself. For the next eight years, Benson bounced around ten different group homes, losing contact with his brothers entirely.

By eighteen, Benson was aging out of the system, the same way thousands of foster youths do every year, with no safety net, no family to rely on, and no guarantee of what came next. He started applying to every transitional housing program he could find.

COMPASS WAS THE FIRST TO CALL HIM BACK.

Following his application and interview, Benson moved into a transitional apartment in the community and began working with his COMPASS team to build life skills, start a savings account, and get connected to resources to support his educational and career aspirations. Benson was already enrolled at Mt. SAC, and working as a student ambassador for the Next Up/REACH program, supporting other foster youth on campus.

When the pandemic shut down Mt. SAC’s campus, Benson didn’t wait for things to reopen. He picked up his phone and he started posting online as a passion project. His content went viral, revealing a new talent and career opportunity.

He brought those skills back to his on-campus job, building up the program’s page on social media alongside his student ambassador work, and was soon hired on for the part-time social media manager position he created himself.

After over a decade of separation, Benson went to visit his aunt one day in 2021 and found his two little brothers, now teenagers, living there.

HE IMMEDIATELY JUMPED BACK INTO BIG BROTHER-MODE.

He took on a mentorship role with his siblings, providing advice, encouragement, and setting a good example for them as they approached independence.

By 2023, Benson made the transition into COMPASS’s Permanent Supportive Housing program and transferred to Cal State Fullerton to



get his bachelor's degree in communications, all while holding onto his position at Mt. SAC. With his rent subsidized by COMPASS and a case manager helping him build a budget, he was able to save over \$8,000, helping fund moving costs for his new place.

Just as he was settling into his jam-packed life as a part-time employee, full-time student, brother, and mentor, Benson's case manager saw an opening he knew was made for him: a social media internship through COMPASS's workforce training program. The placement was at Dave & Maggie's Store and Café, an on-campus social enterprise open to the public and built for exactly this kind of hands-on job training.

Before accepting the internship, Benson met with the Development team at Haynes to discuss the new role. Partway through the conversation, he mentioned that he brought up the meeting with his brothers, who had recognized the name Haynes. He took a chance and asked the Vice President of Development, Jane Woods, if she recalled their names.

Instantly, Jane was taken back to the moment those two young boys arrived on campus many years ago. Right then, Benson sent a screenshot of Jane's staff photo from the website to his brothers, who immediately remembered her too.



NOBODY IS GOING TO SAVE YOU, YOU HAVE TO KEEP GOING.

-Benson, COMPASS Participant

This wasn't even the first time their paths had intertwined since. Years after the brothers left Haynes, and long before their reunion, Jane ran into them again by chance, out at a Dave & Buster's.

TO THIS DAY, SHE CALLS IT DIVINE INTERVENTION.

Benson landed the internship. Within a few months, the creativity, flexibility, and incredible work ethic he demonstrated made such an impact that he was hired as a part-time employee at Dave & Maggie's.

These days, Benson is just one semester away from graduating with his communications degree, juggling his roles at Mt. SAC and Dave & Maggie's, and still showing up for his brothers as they graduate from high school and enroll in trade school. Not long ago, he brought them back to Haynes for the first time in years, not as clients or case files, but as young men walking through the place that once took care of them, alongside the brother who never stopped.

When asked what advice he'd give to other young people navigating the system, Benson didn't hesitate. "Nobody is going to save you," he said before pausing and adding, "you have to keep going." It isn't about being saved. It's about putting in the effort and moving forward. That is what Benson has done every step of the way and it's exactly what COMPASS was built to support.

ADULTHOOD IN ACTION

When Devon entered COMPASS' Transitional Housing Program in spring last year, he was ready to take on more responsibilities as an independent young adult and work towards his dream of owning a motorcycle. Together with his case manager, they set a realistic savings goal that allowed him to set some money aside while still covering his other bills and expenses.

After months of working hard at his job and sticking to his budget, he had saved nearly \$10,000 of his own money — enough to fulfill his dream and purchase a motorcycle!

Thanks to his careful preparation, Devon had taken the initiative to complete the various duties that come with motorcycle ownership: he completed the safety course and got certified, filed for the right permits, obtained insurance coverage, and braved the DMV to get the title transferred to his name. He also went the extra mile, advocating for a secure parking spot in his apartment's garage — at an additional cost— to protect his investment.

BUT, EVEN WHEN YOU FOLLOW ALL THE RULES, ADULTHOOD CAN BE FULL OF SURPRISES AND SETBACKS.



In the fall, Devon's motorcycle was stolen due to delays in garage access. For a young person newly on his own, who had worked so hard to achieve their goal, a loss like this could easily have undone months of progress.

Instead, Devon demonstrated resilience and problem-solving skills. He filed a police report, worked directly with his insurance company, and secured a full payout. He then used that money to purchase a replacement bike and new insurance coverage, and soon he was back on the road!

Today, Devon is balancing his first semester of college with the everyday demands of independent living. He's stayed engaged with his case manager, kept up with his budget, and is already thinking ahead about how to strengthen his grades next term.

His story is a reminder of what's possible when a young person is given the tools, coaching, and encouragement to stand on their own two feet, setbacks and all.

FROM THE GROUND UP



Young adults aging out of foster care face difficult odds, especially when it comes to obtaining a college degree. Jordan is one of the few who overcame those odds, and did it while working full-time!

Jordan was already enrolled at a state university pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering when they applied to COMPASS. At the time, Jordan was facing a number of personal challenges that made it extremely difficult to focus on studying and work towards independence.

With the assistance of COMPASS, Jordan got connected to mental health resources to help get back on the right path. Through therapy, medication, and support, Jordan was learning how to manage their mental health more effectively.

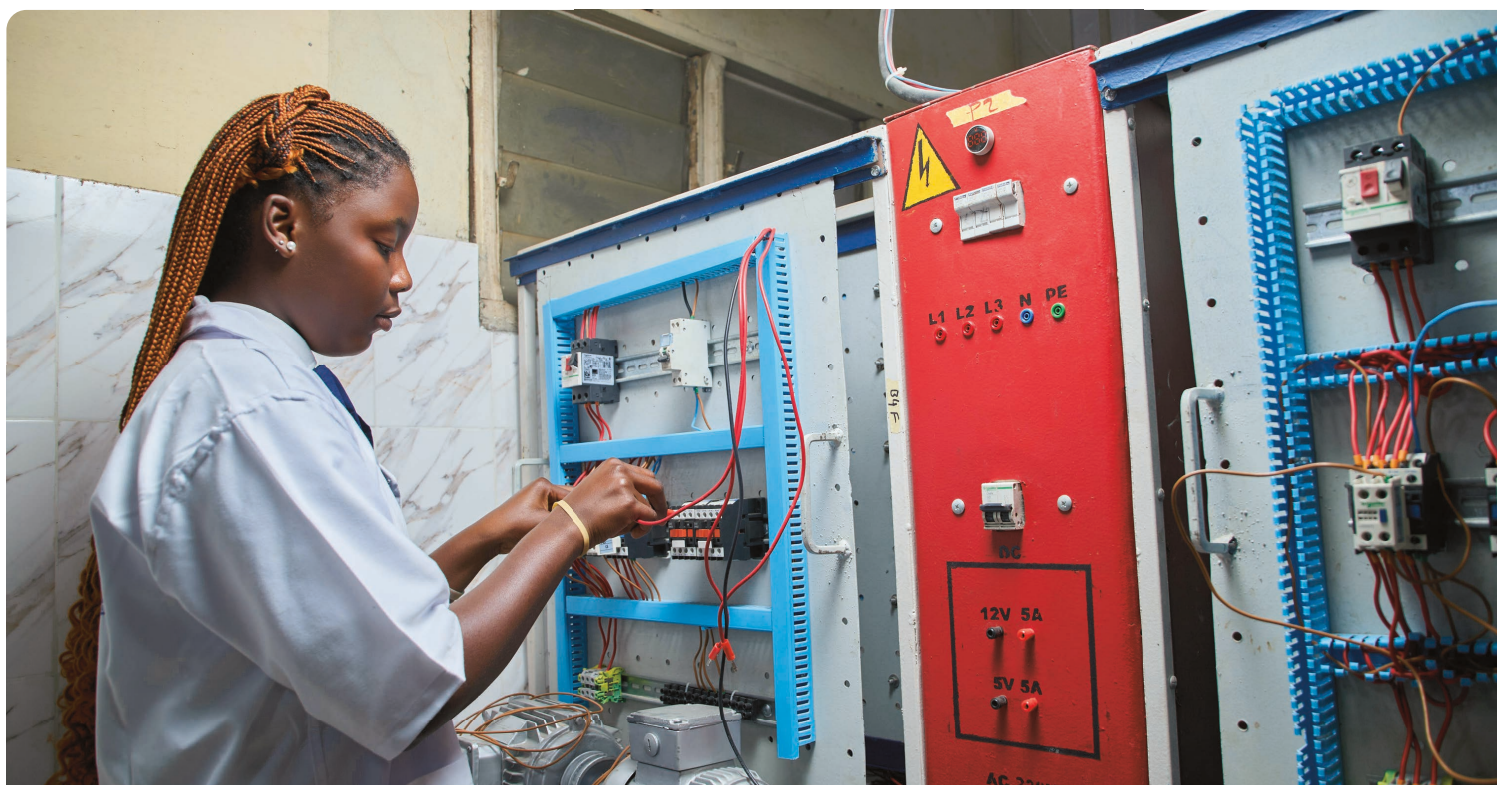
Jordan then linked with the COMPASS Education

and Employment Specialist, who helped to find a full-time position as an electrical assembly technician. Not only was the job relevant to Jordan's degree, but it also came with further opportunities for career growth.

Adding a full-time job to an already-full class schedule is not easy, but Jordan's positive attitude, strong work ethic, and support from COMPASS helped along the way.

Now, Jordan has graduated and is on track for a promotion to full-time electrical engineer, making the years of persistence finally pay off.

**WITH THE RIGHT SERVICES AND
A STRONG SUPPORT SYSTEM,
YOUNG ADULTS AGING OUT OF
FOSTER CARE CAN REWRITE THE
ODDS.**





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FAMILY OF PROGRAMS



David & Margaret
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

233 Baseline Rd.
La Verne, CA 91750

leroyhaynes.org

1350 Third St.
La Verne, CA 91750

davidandmargaret.org



PLOTTING A STEADY ROUTE

Elijah came to COMPASS, like many do, when he turned 18 and needed extended foster care services. He started off working closely with COMPASS' Education and Employment Specialist, who helped him get enrolled in college and find a job.

After turning 21, he transitioned into the Transitional Housing Plus Program and hit the ground running.

Since making the transition, Elijah has maintained full-time employment at a local car dealership alongside a full courseload as a college student. His discipline and drive have not gone unnoticed — he was recently promoted at his job and received an 11% raise!

As Elijah's professional career began to flourish, he set a goal for himself to start saving money and work towards financial stability. Working with his case manager on a budget, Elijah saved over \$6,000 of his own money in under a year.



COMPASS Programs
— at David & Margaret —

He has also shown the same thoughtfulness in his academic pursuits, making the decision to shift his college major from an automotive degree to sociology to better align with his long-term career goals.

***ELIJAH'S STORY EXEMPLIFIES
WHAT COMPASS WAS BUILT TO
MAKE POSSIBLE.***

Beyond housing, it is the financial literacy, structure, and support that let a young adult manage a job, a degree, and a future all at once.

