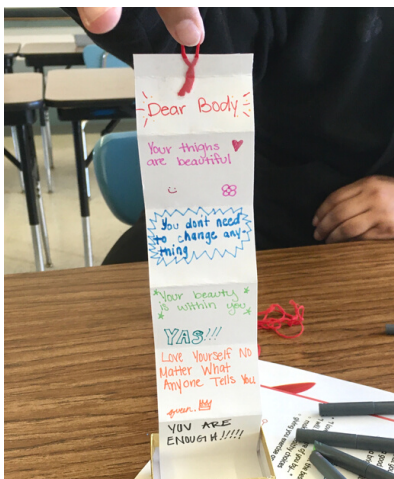


OTTP-SF

THE OTTP-SF QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FUNDRAISER

Join us for our annual Youth Empowerment Fundraiser on Thursday, May 12th at 7pm. This year the event will be held at Fourth Bore Restaurant in Orinda, CA, and will include appetizers, drinks, live music, an opportunity drawing, and an exciting online and live auction. Proceeds will be used to cover a loss of funding at Ida B. Wells High School due to significant school district budget cuts. The services OTTP-SF provides at Ida B. Wells support students with a variety challenges, including working to re-engage youth who are chronically truant or unable to access school due to mental health symptoms. The loss of funding will mean a loss of vital mental health support for these students, who are already experiencing so much adversity. Proceeds will also support client needs such as food and groceries, transportation to therapy sessions, warm clothing, art and play therapy supplies, job interview attire, and more. **[Click here to register for the event](#)**, and stay tuned to learn more about our wonderful auction items. We can't wait to see you there!



EXPANSION IN THE EAST BAY

A non-profit called Lincoln Families has contracted with OTTP-SF to provide mental health occupational therapy services for their HOPE program. They have a lovely portable building in the school yard of Laurel Elementary School set aside for therapy services. The OTTP-SF team has been collecting donations of rugs, pillows, toys, and a sofa to make it a warm and welcoming space for students and their families.





NEW FUNDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

It has been an exciting time for OTTP-SF's Employment Program. The program utilizes an evidence-based model called Individual Placement and Support (IPS). Using this model has led to great employment outcomes for the youth we serve, but it is also very staff intensive. The occupational therapists working in this program not only meet with clients, but they are also part of, and work closely with, the client's mental health team. In addition, they meet with employers on behalf of the client and at the client's worksite. As a result, occupational therapists are limited in the number of

clients they can serve, and it is challenging to keep up with the need, leading to long wait lists.

OTTP-SF's Employment Program is funded through the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and we have been looking for additional funding to hire another occupational therapist for the team. Recently, we advocated for MediCal dollars to be included in our out-patient mental health services contract to provide vocational services, and it was added. Being able to utilize MediCal funding to address clients' barriers to employment will

make a huge difference in the employment program, and will allow OTTP-SF to hire another occupational therapist. Ultimately, this will mean we will be able to serve more clients and help them to meet their employment goals!





SUCCESS STORIES

A quiet speaking youth working with the Employment Program struggled with social anxiety and OCD. She was often difficult to reach because she had trouble responding over the phone, but her OTs developed a thumbs up thumbs down messaging system that helped her to grow more comfortable communicating through text. Over time, this system helped her to develop the confidence to respond in complete sentences.

This young person was highly motivated to work and possesses many great skills, including being a good listener and having great focus. With the support of her Vocational Specialists, she was connected with a corporate kitting company. She was excited about working with the company



because it is sustainable and woman run and owned, which are values that are important to this young person. She did a few days of on call work, in which she excelled. The company even emailed her Vocational Specialists after her first few days to give this feedback: "We loved having her join us for a few weeks, and are hoping to reach out to her if we need any help in the future."

The company has now hired her for a 2 day a week permanent position! To

combat worries about communicating over the phone for work, her Vocational Specialists helped her create a few templates to text to people at work when needed. The youth is currently thriving in her new role and her team has shared this feedback about her abilities: she is dedicated to her given tasks and always willing to see things to the end, she was able to quickly pick up on her role and did not need to be shown twice how to do something or where something was located, she works very efficiently, she is careful and seldom makes mistakes, she is great at listening to directions and following them, and she is able to remain focused during longer, more monotonous tasks. We are so happy to see this amazing youth succeeding in her work environment!