



# WESTCOAST CHILDREN'S CLINIC

*Helping children discover who they are  
and what they can become.*

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November 16, 2009

Dear Friend:

In 1979, a group of child and family psychologists founded WestCoast Children's Clinic. The mission was simple: to provide therapy to children and families who otherwise couldn't afford it, and to sustain the vision – train the next generation of community-minded clinicians. They started with one child, one family, one hour at a time in the small space of a church basement with little more than a few toys, a desk, and a single phone line.

Thirty years later, we continue to fulfill, and build on the original mission of WestCoast's founders. A common goal throughout our work is to give voice to children's experiences so the adults who care for them can understand who they are, what they have been through, and ultimately help them lead healthy and productive lives.

WestCoast has grown into a multi-site, multi-service agency and has provided mental health services to over 10,000 children and families, who otherwise would have gone without. We have also trained 350 doctoral and master's level clinicians – many now practice locally, and some have gone on to start their own non-profits.

WestCoast helps children and foster youth who range in age from just a few days old, to youth transitioning to adulthood. Getting to our clinics can be a large barrier for families and children – therefore all of our services are mobile and flexible. We travel to homes to provide therapy to children, and give practical guidance to parents. At schools, we help teachers understand our clients and manage their difficulties in class. We attend court as child advocates, and help youth find places to live as they age out of foster care, and face the real possibility of being homeless. We work street-side to help girls who are sexually exploited build confidence and the resources to leave the men who sell them.

Recently, we have begun to use our own research in clinical practice to strengthen programs, and innovate new ones. With this data, we also advocate for public policy changes that will help keep families together safely and improve child welfare practices as a whole.

Although our progress is impressive, it does not relay the kind acts, genuine connections, and commitment that staff members, Boards of Directors, and our donors have made to Bay Area children over these 30 years.

It is because of your generosity that we have been able to meet the needs of so many children and families, and train more than a generation of practitioners. Your donation this year will both honor our 30 years of service, and provide the promise for 30 more.

On behalf of our staff and Board of Directors, thank you for all of your support, and may this year be healthy and happy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SK', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stacey Katz, Psy.D.  
Executive Director

**[To donate now to the WestCoast Children's Fund, click here.](#)**



Press Release Issued: April 23, 2009

**WESTCOAST CHILDREN'S CLINIC PARTNERS WITH  
MOTIVATING, INSPIRING, SUPPORTING AND SERVING  
SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH (MISSEY)**

*A Collaboration to Prevent the Exploitation of Children*

WestCoast Children's Clinic ([www.westcoastcc.org](http://www.westcoastcc.org)), a community psychology clinic serving youth and families in the Bay Area, announced today that it will partner with MISSEY, a non-profit based in Alameda County. The collaboration joins two community based groups that can now further help commercially sexually exploited children. There are two components to WestCoast Children's Clinics involvement: data collection and analysis; as well as mental health services for this population of exploited youth. This complements the mission of MISSEY in addressing the specialized and complex needs of commercially sexually exploited youth through advocacy, specialized treatment, and recovery services; in addition to professional training and data reporting. WestCoast Children's Clinic's partnership with MISSEY represents a continuing commitment to children that communities often fail to protect.

"Whether we are aware of it or not, children are being bought and sold for sex - sometimes in our own neighborhoods. Our partnership is really the best marriage between an advocacy organization and a community psychology clinic," said Stacey Katz, Executive Director of WestCoast Children's Clinic.

In this partnership, WestCoast Children's Clinic has three priorities: 1) increasing the understanding of how complex trauma impacts these youth, 2) helping commercially sexually exploited girls regain a sense of themselves through intensive case management, and 3) collecting relevant and useful data on commercially sexually exploited children.

According to Katz, "the faster we can collect data on the children who are most vulnerable to exploitation - the faster we can stop it."

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