

FELTON JULY 2019 NEWSLETTER

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FSA
Family Service Agency
of San Francisco

Lives Transformed



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Felton Spotlight: San Francisco Suicide Prevention Merges Into Felton Institute



San Francisco Suicide Prevention has merged into Felton Institute, bringing together two of the most enduring mental health and crisis intervention agencies in Northern California. The partnership aims to provide continuous care and services for people in suicide crisis and emotional distress.

“We are excited that our agencies are coming together with the opportunity to expand the capacity of our service continuum. As we integrate, we bring our unique experiences, unified around a shared commitment to save and improve lives. San Francisco Suicide Prevention (SFSP) and Felton Institute have long traditions of executing life-enhancing programs that strengthen communities, and we anticipate that our combined resources will have even greater impact,” said Al Gilbert, President and CEO of Felton Institute.



The merger was finalized on June 7, 2019, with the formation of an advisory committee consisting of nine of the original eleven members of the former San Francisco Suicide Prevention (SFSP) board and two members joining Felton's board. All SFSP employees have become Felton employees. The SFSP office remains open in its San Francisco location and continues providing all SFSP hotline and outreach programs. The suicide hotline receives more than 300 calls a day, saving lives 24/7. San Francisco Suicide Prevention has an incredibly large and committed volunteer base, lovingly built over many decades. The united agencies are working together to preserve and enhance the strengths of SFSP's existing services.

"Our two organizations share values and missions. As anchors in the San Francisco mental health provider community, Felton and San Francisco Suicide Prevention serve the same populations, and this merger allows us to serve them even better," said former SFSP Board Chair Peter Rojo.

"This merger provides needed infrastructure to provide ever expanding innovative mental health programs for those in need. We felt partnering with Felton Institute will support the continuum of mental health and support services many clients need, so they may enhance and stabilize their lives," Rojo added.

City health officials are welcoming the merger. In a news release, San Francisco Department of Public Health's Director Dr. Grant Colfax stated, "The merger of San Francisco Suicide Prevention and Felton Institute will strengthen and preserve crucial prevention, outreach, case management, and crisis intervention services for San Franciscans with mental illness and substance abuse issues, benefitting people who are experiencing homelessness and people who are housed. These two organizations have a strong track record of providing quality services to those in need, and it is great for San Francisco that they are joining forces."

The opportunity of the merger first came about in 2018, with the retirement announcement of SFSP's executive director Eve Meyer. Rojo explains that the board saw the opportunity to transform, grow and elevate the work that Meyer established under her 30-year leadership.

Both organizations have a long history of service, rooted in San Francisco. San Francisco Suicide Prevention was founded in 1962 by the late gay Episcopalian priest Bernard Mayes.



Felton Institute, founded in 1889 and named for its maverick executive director Dr. Katharine "Kitty" Felton, is the oldest nonsectarian, nonprofit social service provider in San Francisco.

With the merger, both agencies are aligned to serve an even larger and diverse demographic in age, orientation and race. Currently, Felton offers more than 50 programs all over the San Francisco Bay Area, including Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Marin and Monterey counties.

Felton Institute has a current budget of \$30 million. Felton president and CEO Al Gilbert says that 95% of the funding comes from federal, county and state contracts. Meanwhile, the 2019 budget of San Francisco Suicide Prevention is \$1.4 million. Half of it comes from the City and County of San Francisco and the other half is from private contributions.

SFSP's 24-hour crisis line is (415) 781-0500. Its HIV Night line is (415) 434-2437 or 1-800-273-2437. For the crisis text line, text MYLIFE to 741741.



For more information, visit
www.felton.org or www.sfsuicide.org

Felton Institute Celebrates New Alameda Site with an Open House



Thursday August 15th, 2019
From 11:30AM till 3:30PM

You are cordially invited
to our Open House In Alameda, CA.
We are celebrating the new Felton Institute
Alameda County Headquarters!

Light refreshments will be served.



RSVP

Let us know if you will join us
communications@felton.org

Felton Institute has a new site in Alameda County! We invite you to celebrate with us on Thursday, August 15, 2019, between 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Special guest speakers Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft and Supervisor Wilma Chan are scheduled to bring greetings at the short program that begins at noon with a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Alameda Chamber of Commerce.

Directors and team members from Felton's Divisions: Early Psychosis - (re)MIND and BEAM, Adult Division, Senior Division, Justice Related Services, Research and Training, and Children, Youth and Family will be on site sharing information about Felton services.

A salsa dancing lesson will be offered at 2:00 p.m.

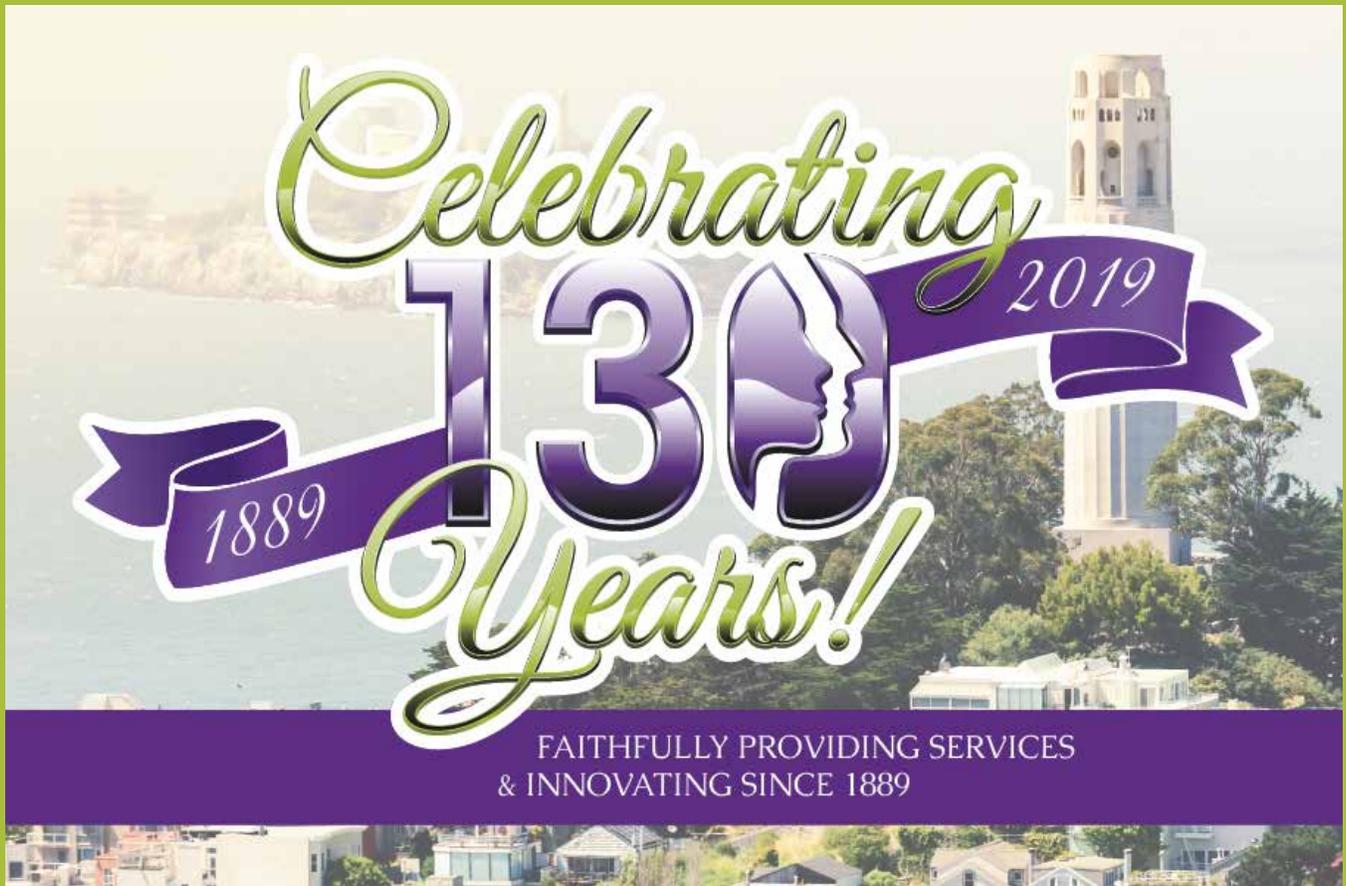


In 2018, Felton purchased the building, which was originally occupied by Argosy University. Many members of the administrative staff moved in during late February. As the oldest nonsectarian, nonprofit social service provider in San Francisco, Felton Institute runs over 50 programs, with special emphasis on the needs of low-income families, children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Our innovative services and programs are offered at more than 17 locations all over the San Francisco Bay Area, including Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Marin and Monterey counties.

Felton Institute President and CEO Al Gilbert sends his greetings, "We at Felton Institute are so excited to join Alameda's thriving community at the magnificent 1005 Atlantic Avenue site. The building has such rich history, and we are honored to continue our 130 years of service. We look forward to outstanding collaborations of impact here."

Please RSVP and let us know if you plan to attend the Open House by emailing us at communciations@felton.org.

SAVE THE DATE: Celebrating 130 Years
Of Innovation in Social Services



We invite you to join us for Felton's 130th Anniversary Celebration on
October 30, 2019, at the War Memorial Green Room at
401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

More exciting details to come!

Felton's Casa Adelante Ceremony Video

In May, we shared that Casa Adelante, a new 100% affordable housing development in the Mission District, broke ground on the site of a former bakery at 1990 Folsom Street in San Francisco's Mission District.

The builders and architects will transform a vacant and underutilized property into a beautifully designed, mixed-use development. Felton Institute is excited that our early care and education program will open an additional site in the new development location, adding to the future success of families in the Mission neighborhood.

This 143-unit project is a joint effort between the Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA) and the Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC).

Enjoy highlights from the ceremony!



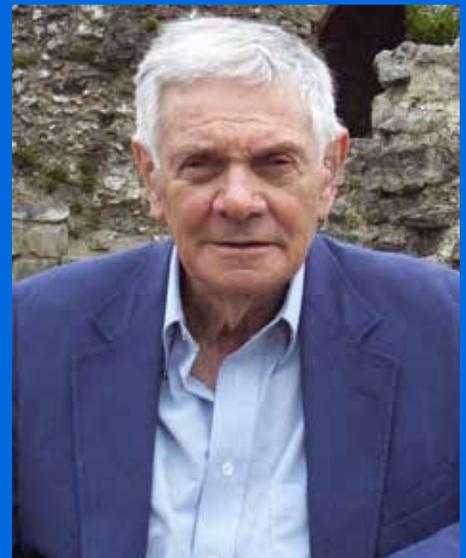
[VIEW VIDEO ON YOUTUBE](#)

Felton and You: Transforming Lives and Saving Lives

Felton Institute is dedicated to its main mission of “transforming lives” and coming to the aid of citizens in crisis. The merger of San Francisco Suicide Prevention into Felton further deepens that mission, uniting two of the most enduring mental health and crisis intervention agencies in Northern California.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are approximately 44,000 suicide deaths in the United States annually and about 100 of these deaths occur in the City of San Francisco . Suicide is ranked as the 10th leading cause of death.

San Francisco Suicide Prevention (SFSP) has been operating for the past 57 years and has an incredibly large and loyal volunteer base, receiving more than 300 calls a day and saving lives 24/7. The organization was founded by British journalist and Episcopalian priest Bernard Mayes. Upon his arrival in 1960, San Francisco had the highest suicide rate in the country. Targeting the LGBTQ community and using the code name Bruce, Mayes distributed matchbooks with his phone number on it. The first office was in the basement of a Tenderloin apartment building, whose manager initially believed Mayes was running an escort service.



Today, SFSP has a long history of service and has grown into a network of over 500 crisis centers. SFSP has trained over 6,000 youth members in recognizing warning signs and in suicide de-escalation.

SFSP aims to help people find a treatment that encourages them to end suicidal thoughts and start finding healthier ways to cope. Mental health conditions are often seen as the cause of suicide, but suicide is rarely caused by one single factor. Other contributing factors are related to relationships, substance abuse, physical health, career and financial problems. Many people who die of suicide are not diagnosed with a mental health condition at the time of death. Whether this is because the mental health issues miss diagnosis early, the fact remains that continuing mental health care after the initial cry for help is critical. Suicide is preventable.

The merger with Felton provides a continuum of service and the next step after the period of crisis and frustration. The two agencies now have the unique opportunity to provide those in critical need with their next step - connecting them with case managers and social workers who can find appropriate services and programs. Felton runs more than 50 programs in the San Francisco Greater Bay Area, covering a spectrum of services from case management to mental health programs.

“Our two organizations share values and missions. As anchors in the San Francisco mental health provider community, Felton and San Francisco Suicide Prevention serve the same populations, and this merger allows us to serve them even better,” noted Peter Rojo, former Chairman of the Board for San Francisco Suicide Prevention and current Felton board member.



If you or someone you know is in crisis, consider contacting the Suicide Prevention Hotline at 415-781-0500. You can also text MYLIFE to 741741 for 24/7 confidential support.

Know the 12 Suicide WARNING SIGNS

- Feeling like a burden
- Being isolated
- Increased anxiety
- Feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Increased substance use
- Looking for a way to access lethal means
- Increased anger or rage
- Extreme mood swings
- Expressing hopelessness
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Talking or posting about wanting to die
- Making plans for suicide

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- Photo Credit: Bernard Mayes, 2006. Wikimedia Commons.
 - Photo Credit: Felton President and CEO Al Gilbert, left, praised the merger with San Francisco Suicide Prevention and is joined by Felton’s Phyllis Hogan, training and volunteer/intern coordinator; Dolores Terrazas, children, youth, and families division director; and Peter Rojo, former SFSP board member who now serves on Felton’s board. Photo: Charlie Wagner at The Bay Area Reporter

If you know someone at risk and are concerned about someone, here's what you can do:

- Ask someone you are worried about if they're thinking about suicide.
- Keep them safe. Reduce access to lethal means for those at risk.
- Be there with them. Listen to what they need.
- Follow up to see how they're doing.
- For families in need or in crisis, encourage them to reach out and call the San Francisco Suicide Prevention Hotline at 415-781-0500.

For many people, suicide prevention simply means being able to talk to someone. Having a support system of friends, family, and people who understand is the first step in prevention. While it feels safer to allow professionals and therapists to handle the case, community and non-professionals support is also very important. Checking in about suicidal thoughts as a friend can help the person-at-risk get a different perspective. You can make a difference.

In support of suicide prevention efforts, we ask that you consider a donation to Felton Institute and San Francisco Suicide Prevention. Combining forces and resources, the two agencies pledge to continue to transform and save lives.

To donate, text **FELTON** to 41444 on your mobile device, it's quick and easy. You may also donate to SFSP and Felton online:

DONATE TODAY!



DONATE



Help transform your community!

FELTON INSTITUTE | felton.org



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