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### **Sunny Hills Services' Gang Prevention Program Receives Petaluma Community Foundation Grant**

San Anselmo, CA. April 5, 2013 – Sunny Hills Services' Community Engagement and Youth Development (CEYD) program was recently awarded an \$8,000 grant from the Petaluma Community Foundation in recognition of their work toward improving the lives of youth in the community.

In 2008, in response to the need to address gang activity in the region, Sunny Hills Services began providing gang prevention and intervention services to at-risk youth. Workshops offered in middle and high schools help youth to develop the assets and competencies that reduce absenteeism and the risk of delinquency, improve their grades and engage them productively in their families, schools and communities. Youth who complete the CEYD program achieve, on average, a full point gain in their GPAs. In the next year, CEYD will serve approximately 140 youth in Petaluma.

Bob Florez, CEYD's Program Director and a youth development and gang prevention specialist with more than 18 years of experience said, "The Petaluma Community Foundation has been an advocate of our program since day one. Thanks to their generosity and commitment to the community, CEYD will be able to continue to reach young people who need our support."

Sunny Hills Services and other 2013 grant recipients will be honored at the Petaluma Community Foundation's Annual Denny Murray Grant Award and Community Celebration on Saturday, April 20, 2013.

*CEYD is a program of Sunny Hills Services. The agency was established in 1895 and is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Sunny Hills Services provides a full spectrum of residential, special education, mental health and community-based services to children and families throughout the Bay Area.*

