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Sunny Hills Services receives \$5,000 grant from Community Foundation Sonoma County

--Grant will provide Better & Brighter Futures to vulnerable youth & families in the ACT program--

San Anselmo, CA. July 2, 2013 – Sunny Hills Services is pleased to announce an award of \$5,000 from the Basic Human Needs fund of the Community Foundation Sonoma County. Funding will help the Sunny Hills Services Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program provide immediate assistance to families in crisis.

The ACT program is a collaboration of Sunny Hills Services, Sonoma County Juvenile Probation, the Sonoma County Juvenile Court and Sonoma County Mental Health. It is a community-based program created to address the mental health needs of juvenile offenders and their families. It is estimated that 50–75 percent of incarcerated youth have a diagnosable mental health disorder. Many of these youth continue to enter and remain involved in the juvenile justice system due to inaccessibility of mental health services and a comprehensive treatment plan. ACT uses a collaborative, wraparound approach to treatment that operates across the mental health, juvenile justice, child-welfare and education systems.

The majority of the youth and families served through ACT live in poverty and struggle to cover even their most basic needs. They are often in crisis – out of food at the end of the month, unable to afford transportation to school, a medical appointment or court appearance and unable to keep their electricity and heat on.

The Basic Human Needs funds will help pay for rent, food, monthly bus passes and other necessities for approximately 50 ACT clients and families, providing immediate assistance to families with nowhere else to turn. “It is far easier to achieve a successful outcome with a client whose most basic needs are met,” said Ariel Spindell, MFT, Program Director of the ACT Program. “We’re extremely

grateful to the Community Foundation Sonoma County for providing this dedicated revenue source – it's sure to make a profound difference for many youth and families.”

ACT is a program of Sunny Hills Services, a non-profit organization that has been serving children and their families since 1895. Its mission is to engage vulnerable children and youth, enrich their connection with family and community and empower them to lead healthy, rewarding lives. Sunny Hills provides a full spectrum of residential, special education, mental health and community-based services to children and families throughout the Bay Area.