June 16, 2022

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors and City Council:

I have asked our staff, volunteers, donors and clients to share their personal stories and affiliation with our programs and services with you. I believe that is the best way to communicate the toll this loss of funding will have on your constituents.

I have been told on a number of occasions that the long history of our agency and partnership with local government doesn’t matter. I believe it does matter that concerned citizens got together and founded our agency based on unmet needs. I believe it matters that the need for our services has been affirmed again and again and that we have met all contractual requirements and objectives.

I ask you to take a moment to look at the documents I have included with this letter. Look at the list of community members who were involved at the beginning. Note that Francis Silliman, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Olin Carl White, Mayor of Santa Cruz are in the picture of our office opening in 1958. That is our legacy. That matters.

Please look for additional funding for our clients and clients at risk from other agencies in your budgets.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Bianchi
Executive Director
Committee for a  
Family Service Agency,  
1134 Soquel Ave.,  
Santa Cruz, California

February 12, 1957  

Dear Friend:

We, the Santa Cruz County Council of Social Agencies' Committee for the Formation of a Family Service Agency, are writing to you because we believe that you and the members of any organization with which you may be affiliated will be interested in joining us in the further exploration of an idea which we are convinced is of continuing and vital importance to our community ......... the establishment of a Family Service Association and Agency.

If you are not professionally engaged in the practice of social work, you may not know exactly what is meant by "Family Service Agency". In a nutshell, it is an agency staffed by professionally trained and experienced social workers, backed by a broad Community Association and Board of Directors, financed by memberships, contributions, endowments and community chests, and having standards of operation approved by the Family Service Association of America. Its goal is two-fold; the preservation of family life and the prevention of family breakdown. It exists because all people have troubles, and because happy families are not only a goal in themselves but, also, because happy, self-maintaining families mean lower costs to the community in terms of delinquency, hospitalization, and, even, imprisonment.

Certainly there are innumerable community agencies, organizations, and institutions which share this all-important goal. Family Service Agencies do not presume to be "the only answer", but do provide opportunity, by the way of skilled individualized counselling, for a family to work out constructive solutions to their problems. Frequently, just one assist out of a complex situation enables a family to go on managing its own life.

Perhaps you yourself have been asked some of these typical questions which people have brought to such agencies:
"Why don't I get along on my job? I can't seem to hang on to one."
"We disagree about how to handle the children -- which one of us is right?"
"I'm going to have a baby -- and I'm not married. Can you help me?"
"My mother's sick and can't stay alone, but my husband won't have her. I can't think what to do."
"My child isn't getting along in school. How can I make him study?"
"My wife wants a divorce. I don't."
Many people, having learned of a Family Service Agency within reach, some of their own initiative after thinking, alone, about some problem for a long time. Others are referred by doctors, lawyers, ministers, schools, law enforcement and other social agencies, who sometimes do not find it possible to give the time it takes to approach in this way a person in trouble. Many persons, with this sort of help, have been found to make better use of the service offered by the referring person.

Many people throughout Santa Cruz County have expressed an interest in this idea, and support a plan for its further exploration. Should you or your group, wish further information, please feel free to contact any member of the Committee. Speakers are available for any interested group. Individuals interested in working toward the establishment of a Family Service Agency in Santa Cruz County and wishing to become members of this committee are most welcome. Please contact any member of the Committee for information as to how you can best help.

Sincerely yours,

COMMITTEE FOR FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY

Rev. Elmer S. Andersen, Chairman
Mrs. Georgia Brauer
Mr. Michael Dowdall
Mr. Fred C. Stevens
Miss Theta Cole
Miss Marian Hilts
Mr. Amadeus Tarquinio

We the undersigned urge the immediate formation of a county wide, community committee for the purpose of further exploration of the ways and means of establishing a Family Service Agency in Santa Cruz County:

Opal Adams
Ralph E. Berry
Harry Brauer
Alma Carlson
Sydney B. Carr
James Cunningham
R. S. Ferguson, M. D.
Molly Galbraith
A. M. Ghahremani
Cleo E. Gilletti
Frances Gregory
Hamilton Grover
Robert E. Illeryworth
Herbert Johnson
Berthram F. Kleil
Roselyn Larsen
Norman S. Lien
Vincent D. Locatelli
Walter G. Merrill
John Mc Bain

Home L. McGray
Mr. Paul Moser
Mrs. Paul Moser
Lawrence W. Rawson
Miriam Sessions
Dorothy Shurgart
Genevieve M. Smith
Raymond W. Smith
Doris Kay Stekka
Elaine Walbroek
Sheila Waldron
Paul E. Walters
Alice Earl Wilder
Avery L. Wood, M. D.
Lois B. Wood
Florence R. Wyckoff
Mr. James A. Wyckoff
Mrs. James A. Wyckoff
Hubert Wyckoff
Santa Cruz dignitaries gave a welcome to the new Family Service agency Thursday in open house ceremonies at 1545½ Pacific avenue. All have a hand in holding a $500 check donated by the Santa Cruz Rotary club to give the non-profit organization a start. They are, from left, Mrs. Thomas Schnee, member of the Family Service association; Dr. Paul S. Kurtz, association president; Francis Silliman, chairman of the board of supervisors; Mayor Olin Carl White, and Harry Lucas, president of the Rotary club. Richard Gilbert, a psychiatric social worker, will interview persons with marital troubles or child behavior problems. Office hours are Mondays and Tuesdays from 6 to 10 p.m.