

Aspiranet Receiving Centers: Cherish Center and Harmony House



Receiving Centers

**Monterey County Cherish Center and
Contra Costa County Harmony House**

Aspiranet Receiving Centers are designed to provide a safe haven (for up to 24 hours) for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and/or neglect, or have experienced a disruption in foster care placement. Both Receiving Centers provide care for children/youth during the first hours of removal from their homes. The Cherish Center and the Harmony house are bright, cozy atmospheres that simulate a home environment, with amenities such as: bedrooms, kitchen area, washer and dryer, bathing facilities, storage area, large living room with play area, and office space. There are also open cubbies full of toys, arts & crafts materials, movies, games, and books, which are available for children/youth staying at the Receiving Centers to use at any time.

While offering a safe space for children, the Receiving Center staff are prepared to handle the trauma that children/youth are experiencing when they are first brought in to the centers. Childcare staff provide supervision and care to all children entering the center, as well as assist them in their transitional process of changing homes. Each center conducts physical health assessments which are done by professional nursing staff. Behavioral health assessment and assistance are

provided by local county behavioral health clinicians as requested. Ongoing staff training includes topics such as early childhood development, crisis intervention, health hazards, mental health issues, substance abuse, and teen education.

The goal of the Aspiranet Receiving Centers is to support children during the crisis of home-removal by insuring their safety and well-being while placement decisions are coordinated by the County Workers. The Receiving Centers work in partnership with County Child and Family Services, Behavioral Health, and the Public Health/Visiting Nurses Association. It is the goal of the Receiving Centers' trained childcare staff to identify and provide:

- Immediate basic needs
- Physical and mental health assessments
- The provision of a welcoming and comfortable living space
- Age-appropriate activities
- Food that meets dietary needs
- Bathing facilities and personal hygiene products
- Laundry services

Key Facts

- Over 3,200 children/youth served
- Successful public-private partnership
- Trained para-professional childcare workers
- Nurse assessment and assistance
- Behavioral health assessment

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Aspiranet Receiving Centers also provide Child and Family Services workers with a fully-equipped office space that enables them the ability to immediately start identifying appropriate placement options. Office spaces are also made available to Nurses and Behavioral Health staff in which they conduct physical exams and private mental health assessments respectively.

These options may include a parent, relative, family friend, foster home, or group home. On-site facilities are of great value to Child and Family Services workers, Nurses, and Behavioral Health staff.

The main funding source for both programs has come from county contracts. Both Receiving Centers also receive funds from private donors and foundations.

Aspiranet Receiving Centers are part of a continuum of care that promotes lifelong connections for the children we serve. The Receiving Centers provide the child with a safe space while providing the County Social Workers the time and space to identify and coordinate the best placement option for the child. Ideally, children are reunited with family or close kin, but if these options are unavailable to the child/youth the County Social Worker will pursue the least restrictive out-of-home option available. Receiving Center staff help bridge the gap between the child/youth and their next home by helping him/her through the initial trauma of being removed from home while plans are made for a new placement.



www.aspiranet.org/receivingcenters

Respect, Integrity, Courage, and Hope

Aspiranet
800.439.1905
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To learn more about **Aspiranet Receiving Centers**, please call:

Cherish Center, 831.444.3654

Harmony House, 925.753.2157

Or, visit us on the web at www.aspiranet.org/receivingcenters.

Aspiranet Receiving Centers are currently available in Monterey County and Contra Costa County.

Aspiranet is registered as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with locations throughout California. Our vision is to take collective action to support communities and families as they love and care for children.