A Day with Dolores Huerta  
Civil Rights Icon Visits the Hanna Community

There is nothing more powerful than when a community comes together! On September 12, hundreds of Sonoma Valley residents arrived to the Hanna campus to welcome social justice luminary, Ms. Dolores Huerta. An instrumental force behind the United Farm Workers of America with Cesar Chavez, Ms. Huerta has long been a devoted advocate for minority groups across the country, fighting for social change in communities big and small. As a guest of the Hanna Institute, Ms. Huerta joined our community for a day as part of the Breakfast Speaker Series, addressing a sold-out crowd in the Hanna auditorium. Her remarks focused on uniting as a community, finding power with a shared voice and providing for the community needs. Eighty-nine years young, Ms. Huerta’s words were quiet but powerful. Following her talk, attendees queued up for an hour to have a chance to meet the revered civil rights icon.

By midday, Ms. Huerta ventured across town to Sonoma Valley High School to inspire their students and staff. As evening rolled around, Hanna hosted a special community event that featured food trucks, games, and art activities for children and families in the community. There was also entertainment in the auditorium, including poetry readings, a traditional Mexican youth orchestra, and folklorico dancers. Dolores Huerta again addressed the audience — this time in Spanish — encouraging all to consider strengthening their community and work to defend and protect civil rights.

It was a proud day for Hanna, bringing the communities together and empowering all to fight for progress. Ms. Huerta’s presence on campus is just one of many ways that Hanna is leading the way to advocate for more healthy and resilient communities.

Many thanks to the sponsors who made the day possible:

St. Joseph Health  
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SONOMA RACEWAY

See more images of the event on page 4

From the CEO

When I look around the campus here at Hanna I’m overcome with gratitude. I’m grateful for the boys who come to our school, who have shown up ready to make changes in their life, changes that are really tough. I am also grateful for the opportunity to work with caring and talented staff who struggle through the change process with our guys. And I’m equally as grateful to all of you, our community of donors, who make the work we do here at Hanna possible.

Since 1945 Hanna has played an important role in transforming the lives of thousands of brave young men — helping them turn a corner, seize opportunities, and seek out the best for themselves and their families. We aim to help every young person we can, and no one is ever turned away from Hanna because of an inability to pay.

Hanna is 100% funded through philanthropy. Every young man who wants to come to Hanna to do the hard work necessary to alter the trajectory of their life can join us and their families don’t need to worry about the financial hardship that often comes along with private programming.

Thank you for supporting Hanna, and for allowing us to create lasting change in the lives of our young people.

Case in point: one Hanna student we serve endured so much trauma

Continued on page 3
Drone Club

Thanks to a gift from an anonymous donor, Hanna students are busy learning the “ins and outs” of flying drones, taking aerial photography, and earning their proverbial wings. This generous gift enabled the purchase of a fleet of high-tech, high-flying devices. A group of Hanna students have formed a club to support and cultivate interest in this new technology. Students are learning the basics of flight that utilizes the beauty and open space of the Hanna campus, making early launches and mishaps a little bit more forgiving. We look forward to seeing how students combine their new aeronautical skills and creativity, and cannot wait to see more of Hanna from the sky.

Running with Father Boyle

Hanna Students Take on the Homeboy 5k

Homeboy Industries was founded in 1988 by Father Greg Boyle, S.J., to address the devastating impact of gang violence on communities and to provide an alternative to the young people that fall victim to gang life. For more than 30 years, Homeboy Industries has opened their doors to thousands of young people looking for something better, and in the process have changed countless lives. From tattoo removal and substance abuse treatment to wraparound services that facilitate healing and growth, Homeboy Industries provides challenging and transformative work, much like our mission at Hanna. To support and partner with this fantastic organization, 16 Hanna students and staff made the trek to Los Angeles for a community service trip that culminated with a 5km walk/run. This annual event is an important fundraising initiative to support Homeboy Industries as well as build awareness of their vital programs that have been shared in cities across the world.

Hanna was represented by students that were chosen for this trip to acknowledge their hard work; from their efforts in the classroom to their commitment to their individual program and leadership in supporting their peers. All of the students volunteered to help make the event a success, while also working up a sweat as participants. Being part of an event like the Father Boyle Run is a great way for Hanna students to see themselves in a bigger community that is dedicated to building resilience and staying on the path towards a better future.

Staff Perspective

Leslie Petersen, director of Hanna’s community relations and one of the chaperones for the trip, shared her perspective on the event.

“Some of the students had never stayed in a hotel before and it was amazing to see them in a new place, experiencing different cultures and foods, and overall just getting out of their comfort zones. We weren’t the ones being helped, but instead we were there to help someone else and that was a really great experience.”

By being part of the run, by meeting Father Boyle and the people who work at Homeboy Industries, Hanna students experienced first-hand the energy it truly takes to change one’s own life.

“Having access to the drones has been a lot of fun for the students. Our future plan is to develop a racing course for competitions and write programs for synchronized multi-drone flights.”

Ron Bilberry, Hanna Teacher
Meet Tyree
A Hanna Student Story

Students at Hanna are consistently empowered with access to new opportunities and freedom to pursue their individual interests. Tyree has experienced firsthand how Hanna's supportive environment can change everything for a young man. Most recently, Tyree traveled with his Hanna brothers to Los Angeles to volunteer and participate in the Homeboy Industries 5km Run. Meeting Father Boyle was a highlight of the trip for Tyree, who had a chance to talk to the Homeboy Industries founder who has played such an important role in helping young people who have been impacted by gangs. For Tyree, the trip and the new connections he made have had an immediate impact. “Father Boyle was such an inspiration, and I want to be like him… I want to be someone that people can look up to someday.” There's no doubt that a young man like Tyree will continue to grow and serve his community in the future. In fact, he is already well on his way.

Tyree, an 11th grader at Hanna, was struggling in a rough neighborhood in Oakland. He and was struggling at school and said, “I was doing the bare minimum at school and was getting all C’s. But my Mom brought me to Hanna, I think because she knew I was capable of more.”

A lot has changed for Tyree since his first day at Hanna. He is now an A student. He participates on multiple Hanna Hawks athletic teams, has two jobs and he’s a budding entrepreneur, pouring his creativity, passion, and perspective into a unique new clothing line. “I want to work as hard as I can now, so I don’t always have to work hard – and I want to be an inspiration to others.”

TENTR (short for “The Elephant in the Room”), Tyree’s clothing line, currently includes hoodies, sweatshirts, and t-shirts, all available from his online shop. Tyree manages every aspect of the business, including building up his brand’s awareness on social media. “When I heard what ‘elephant in the room’ meant, it really resonated with me. It’s the idea that it’s the thing no one wants to talk about, and I loved the concept — and wanted to create a clothing line around it.”

Seizing opportunities to build a better future, Tyree is taking his experiences here at Hanna and following his dreams. His future is bright, and we just know that he will be inspiring others for many years to come.

Check out Tyree’s business, TENTR Clothing Company, at www.tentrclothing.com

“I was doing the bare minimum at school and was getting all C’s. But my Mom brought me to Hanna, I think because she knew I was capable of more.”

Continued from page 1

throughout his life: the tragic death of his father; the marginalizing struggles of dyslexia; experimenting with drugs in middle school; attempting to drop out in 9th grade... but his mother wouldn't give up on him — and that's how he arrived at Hanna.

At Hanna, he was introduced to counselors and teachers who really cared for him and invested in his success. Over time, he found our education and support system was helping him confront past trauma and current challenges in a healthy way: he was taking responsibility, growing, and beginning to thrive. From the little things like waking up on time and keeping his room clean to doing his homework, making friends and — most importantly — having a brighter vision of his future.

It’s clear that Hanna has helped him develop positive tools for facing adversity. Our team has understood how his past has shaped who he is today but have not let that limit their sense of who he can become. He has been able to address that past in order to grow and found opportunities to make that growth a reality. We’re proud of how far he’s come and can’t wait to see him join the ranks of our accomplished Hanna alumni.

Thank you for continuing to support our work. Your contributions are helping to ensure that young people have the opportunity to face their pasts, to overcome those challenges, and to head out into the world ready for what’s next.

Sincerely,

Brian Farragher
CEO of Hanna Boys Center
Upcoming Events

December 5, 6:00pm-8:00pm 2019
Institute Networking Event: Rhythmic Mind - Therapeutic Hip Hop
Group process, lyric writing and beat production to help healing and transformation.

January 29-31, 2020
The Hanna Institute Summit
A three-day conference at Hanna Boys Center about trauma-informed care.
Sign up at hannainstitute.org

April 18, 2020
‘Evening with the All-Stars’ Gala
The 14th annual event is Hanna’s biggest night of the year. Last year, donors came together to raise more than $600,000 for the youth that Hanna serves.

For more information or to register for any event, visit us at hannacenter.org.

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Build a Future.

Learn more about Legacy Giving Opportunities with Hanna Boys Center.

hannacenter.planmygift.org