



# The Hawk

## Beyond Hanna

### Realizing One's Potential

For teens, sorting out what to do after high school can seem like a daunting task. Is it college, working, trade school, following in the footsteps of family members? It's hard to figure out. And the age old saying 'you only know what you know,' certainly applies in this circumstance.

But for our Hanna students, breaking away from what they know can be critical.

While they're here, Hanna students do the work necessary to change the trajectory of their lives, and we support them, helping them define what success for them individually looks like. It's an amazing process to watch unfold, and for two of our current seniors, their path forward, and success looks very different than what they would have imagined for themselves.



### Meet Nick and Jose.

Nick, a senior, had never played a musical instrument before arriving on our campus. At Hanna, he discovered a passion and a talent he didn't know existed until he started in Ms. Neese's music class.

And next year, he hopes to attend a four-year program where he can study music and work towards his dream of becoming a composer for film and tv.

Ms. Neese saw potential in Nick right from the start. "He gravitated right away to the guitar, and I knew there was something inside of him that music could help bring out. Over time he learned the language of music through theory and used instruments as a pathway for this potential to come out of him. It's not always music in people – but what we do here is try to find what it is for each of our students that will allow them to realize their unique talents and interests."

### That is success.

Like Nick, Jose has plans. He has his sights set on becoming the first in his family to attend college when he graduates this summer. His teachers are thrilled; they saw his potential from the start. And that support and encouragement has allowed Jose to see that potential in himself. He's currently applying to a variety of schools in California and, the more he learns about college, the more excited he gets.

*Continued on page 2*

## Around Campus:

### Student Stars in the Wood Shop



Our students at Hanna understand the difference giving makes – and they're putting their skills to work to raise money for Hanna and for the programs that have helped them.

**HANNA STARS are available by emailing [mbinder@hannacenter.org](mailto:mbinder@hannacenter.org) or calling 415.412.8431.**

Each star is \$50 and comes complete with festive white lights. All funds raised support the youth on campus. Only local orders (in Sonoma County) can be taken at this time

### New Chicks Arrive in the Ag Program



*Continued on page 3*

Nick



Jose



"We know these kids are full of incredible possibilities, and it's a magical experience to watch them discover that and start to believe in themselves through this process," explains Ms Rucker, who teaches Language Arts and gets to witness these transformations firsthand.

Over the next year Nick and Jose will focus on their schooling, while also working through the practical side of college applications—including college tours and sorting through financial aid packages.

Knowing what they know now, Nick and Jose understand that they have a bright path ahead of them, limited only by their imaginations.

## Meet Cameron Safarloo

### Hanna's New CEO

If past is prologue, new Hanna CEO Cameron Safarloo isn't going to let his own story repeat itself. His focus is squarely on the future, but personal experiences have a way of leaving their mark. Growing up in Iran, his parents instilled a commitment to education for Cameron and his siblings. Education was a proven path toward success, not only in a career, but in life.

For Cameron and his older sister, that meant leaving home and emigrating to the United States when he was 13 in the pursuit of education. It was a challenging time but Cameron and his sister were fortunate to meet a number of selfless individuals willing to lend a helping hand and to offer kindness, wisdom, and encouragement along the way.

Cameron quickly found academic success – completing high school and enrolling as an undergraduate at Wentworth Institute of Technology. Following college, he entered the private sector as a civil engineer where he enjoyed a successful career with plenty of upward moves. Cameron eventually made his way to Chicago and found his next challenge: earning an MBA from Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management.

Professional success notwithstanding, Cameron felt a call to make a real difference in the community. His earliest years in the U.S. left a profound impression and he wanted



to ensure his work had impact. So he made his way into the nonprofit world, knowing that, when the time came, he needed to be able to look back on his career and point to meaningful work that helped others. A decade later, he has plenty to be proud of, having contributed to a variety of organizations and causes that address issues he experienced as a young person.

Cameron's long-standing commitment to education and deep understanding of the importance of kindness and care are central to his mission and vision for Hanna's future. He was initially drawn to our organization by the passionate and collaborative approach of our team and Board, as well as



the beautiful infrastructure on campus. However, he's now focused on running the organization efficiently — putting to work all his private-sector success and personal drive to serve youth and the community. For Cameron, it's about tangible impact. He's committed to ensuring that young people at Hanna have the support, resources and care needed to navigate critical teen years, while also identifying productive educational and career pathways, and addressing and treating the effects of trauma. Cameron says,

**“goodness is transmittable, adversities are transmittable too.”**

Looking ahead, he's excited and confident that Hanna's enhanced efficiencies and unwavering commitment to youth will translate to even greater impact for our youth and community.

## Working in the Community

### Summit @ Home

Our team works tirelessly to support the mental health of youth on our campus and beyond – and one of the many ways we've been doing this is through a virtual professional development series called the Summit @ Home.



The heart of the 2021 Summit @ Home is youth: new ideas and techniques for helping youth whose lives have been affected by trauma. And in the most recent Summit @ Home video we are talking about traumatic grief. With so much loss during COVID we're working to make sure there's tools to talk to youth about loss.

Although the topic is serious, the video is lighthearted and engaging. It was created to encourage conversations about mental health and to show people that those conversations don't have to be scary.

Please view the most recent video at [www.hannainstitute.org/summit/](http://www.hannainstitute.org/summit/)

## Around Campus:



Our Ag Program on campus prepares our youth for a potential career in agriculture but also teaches them how to care for animals, about global agriculture, and where their food comes from.

Recently a new brood of chicks arrived, and the students have been caring for them in our ag classroom with the support of Ms Bjorklund who oversees the program.

## Hanna Hawks Basketball Team is Back!



The Hanna Hawks basketball team has been on hiatus since COVID hit in March of 2020. We are thrilled to get the team back up and going and just recently started practices. Mr. Jackson, our school principal, has coached the team for 22 years and has a full roster ready to go.



## Leave a Legacy. Build a Future.

Learn more about Legacy Giving Opportunities with Hanna Boys Center

[hannacenter.planmygift.org](http://hannacenter.planmygift.org)

Hanna is pleased to offer all donors, supporters and alumni an online tool that makes writing your will, and making bequests easy – and best of all it's FREE.

Click on, "How to Give" on the Hanna web site:

[hannacenter.org](http://hannacenter.org)

## Donor Profile: Tom Federico

Tom, a long-time supporter of Hanna and a Guardian Angel through his monthly giving, recently made his first Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) gift to Hanna.

A QCD is a transfer of funds from your IRA made directly to a qualified charity. It can satisfy your required monthly distribution and count as a tax-free gift. It's one of the many giving options available to donors.

### Tom. Tell us about yourself.

In general, I've always been lucky. I got a good education, good training with the Navy (Navy Pilot) and a good job after I spent 8 years in the Navy. I worked for the same company for 36 years. We made concrete pipe for water mains and sewer mains, and I worked in sales, covering the California territory.

### What do you love most about Hanna?

I like what you're doing for the boys at Hanna by getting them going on the right path. I like that you teach them responsibility – like with the animals through your Ag Program and I like that they have something to care for through those programs.

### How did you first learn about giving through QCDs?

I read something in the paper about giving through QCDs. I'm sorry I didn't learn about it earlier as I've been taking out my required monthly distribution for 22 years, and I would have given through QCDs sooner. During the pandemic, I was doing a lot of reading and learned about it. I have two IRAs with different companies, and I quizzed them about it. Schwab has a checking account where you can write checks out of your IRA, so that's what I did. But I like giving monthly, too.

For more information on QCD gifts, visit: [hannacenter.org/charitablequalifieddistributions](http://hannacenter.org/charitablequalifieddistributions)

