



Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services

Sonoma County Upstream Investments Resolution of Alignment

Aligning Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services' Practices and Activities With the Sonoma County Upstream Investments Initiative

WHEREAS, the County of Sonoma is sponsoring a community-wide strategic initiative called Upstream Investments with the following **mission**: To facilitate the implementation of prevention-focused policies and interventions that increase equality and reduce monetary and societal costs for all residents of Sonoma County.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments **vision** for all residents of Sonoma County is that poverty is eliminated and all people have an equal opportunity for quality education and good health in nurturing home and community environments.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative is designed to target the following **factors**:

Social and economic factors

Poverty and racial/ethnic disparities
Community conditions
Public opinion, public policy, and laws

Family and individual factors

Family dysfunction
Negative peer influences
Early antisocial behavior

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative seeks to promote four community **goals**:

1. The whole community is engaged in supporting the healthy development of children.
2. Community members have access to education and training and are adequately prepared for the challenges of the future.
3. All community members are well sheltered, safe, and socially supported.
4. Sonoma County has a thriving diverse economy that produces economic security for all.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Initiative seeks to expand **funding** for Model Upstream Programs and also seeks to promote **organizational practices** that support the Upstream Vision.

WHEREAS, the Upstream Investments Strategic Initiative promotes the implementation of **outcomes-based practices** including Evidence-Based Practices, Promising Practices, and Emerging Practices.

A division of the Humane Society & SPCA of Sonoma County

Post Office Box: 1296 • Santa Rosa, CA. 95402-1296

Ph: 707-542-0882, ext. 213 • Direct line: 707-577-1913 • Fax: 707-284-2037 • Web: www.forgetmenotfarm.org

WHEREAS, the following 22 **indicators of success** will inform the community about the success of Upstream Investments.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Reduced child maltreatment | 12. Improved higher education |
| 2. Reduced youth binge drinking | 13. Improved housing affordability |
| 3. Reduced youth drug use | 14. Reduced homelessness |
| 4. Reduced youth depression | 15. Reduced juvenile arrests |
| 5. Reduced youth tobacco use | 16. Reduced adult arrests |
| 6. Reduced teen births | 17. Reduced domestic violence |
| 7. Reduced obesity | 18. Reduced gang membership |
| 8. Improved pre-school attendance | 19. Improved youth connectedness |
| 9. Improved 3 rd grade reading | 20. Reduced poverty |
| 10. Improved 3 rd grade math | 21. Reduced unemployment |
| 11. Improved high school completion | 22. Improved health insurance rates |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services shares the Upstream Investments **mission, goals**, commitment to improving the **indicators of success**, and **vision** and has aligned its organizational practices with the Upstream Investments Initiative as follows:

1. Since its inception in 1992, Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services has helped thousands of Sonoma County at-risk children and youth break the cycle of abuse. Located on the grounds of the Sonoma Humane Society, the Farm offers animal-assisted and horticultural therapeutic activities that provide a haven for children, plants and animals to bond, learn and heal with one another. Many young clients served have multiple foster care homes and chaotic, disrupted lives. Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services' Farm Therapy Program teaches children with diagnoses such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Depression, Anxiety, and Attachment Disorder how to value and care for living beings, develop respect for all life forms, and create a compassionate way of behaving and relating to others and the earth, that is the antithesis of their violent experience. Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services' Foster Youth Development Mentoring Program matches youth with mentors to guide them into adulthood. We support academic standards, allow youth to experience animal welfare work and provide employable skills with career-oriented resources such as a veterinary hospital, animal adoption program, and a sanctuary farm. Research indicates that foster youth are disproportionately involved in substance abuse, delinquency and truancy. Lacking an intact family, the foster youth we serve need adult mentors to help prepare them for adulthood, increase their self-confidence and develop decision-making skills.
2. Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services' Farm Therapy Program and Foster Youth Development Mentoring Program positively impact the following Upstream Investments indicators of success:
 - a. Reduced child maltreatment
 - b. Reduced youth depression
 - c. Reduced youth obesity

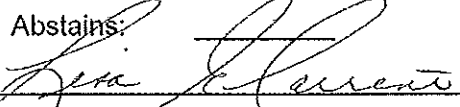
- d. Reduced juvenile arrests
 - e. Reduced domestic violence
 - f. Reduced gang membership
3. Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services is committed to submitting its Farm Therapy Program and Foster Youth Development Mentoring Program to the Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs.
 4. Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services dedicates 100% of its funding to providing programming that supports the Sonoma County Upstream Investments community goals.
 5. Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services' planning practices, organizational policies, budgeting, resource deployment, and contracting all reflect the Upstream Investments mission and vision.
 6. Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services collaborates with First 5 Sonoma County, the Mental Health Services Act, and Prevent Child Abuse Sonoma in a partnership that promotes Upstream Investments.
 7. Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services promotes community-wide knowledge and understanding of Upstream Investments by linking to SonomaUpstream.org; including our alignment with Upstream Investments in our organizational publications; mentioning our Upstream Investments alignment in presentations to community organizations; and sharing our Upstream Investments alignment with our staff, mentors, parents, and the school personnel with whom we interact.

Approved and adopted the 18th day of October 2013.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors of Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services.

Following Roll Call Vote: Ayes: 5 Absent 1

Nos: _____

Abstains: _____


Signature
 Lisa G. Carreño, President, Board of Directors
 Forget Me Not Farm Children's Services