



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
May 24

LAUNCHING NEW SONOMA YOUTH FOR HEALING JUSTICE PROGRAM

Sonoma, CA - A new program – Sonoma Youth for Healing Justice- has launched thanks to a generous \$50,000 grant from the Catalyst Fund.

The Program is a student led initiative, supported by the Hanna Institute. Local high school students will work together to improve the mental health of all youth in Sonoma through collective healing in the community. The terms Healing Justice is both a term and movement that aims to address widespread generational trauma from systemic violence and oppression by reviving ancestral healing practices and building new, more inclusive ones.

With the funds from the Catalyst fund the team has been able to create the program, manage it, and offer all student participants an \$800 stipend to take part. The program will run for 8 weeks from June 23 – August 11. Students will get together weekly for 3 hours a week (3:30 – 6:30 PM). The application deadline is June 20th, 2010.

Teens in Sonoma need this work more now than ever. They have struggled to deal with the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic – the isolation, fear, and the disruption online learning - along with structural inequities, the recent fires, and ongoing disenfranchisement of marginalized communities have all resulted in physical and emotional tolls that self and community care aims to address and remediate

"What does it mean to be someone who works or lives or moves through spaces in Sonoma Valley? An area that has witnessed and experienced so many threats and frankly tragedies whether it's the wildfires, the pandemic, matters of racial injustice, anti-blackness and anti-immigrant sentiment and how it is that it has really impacted our community. We are trying to create a collective care space where we can come and have conversations around what does it mean to be a Healing Justice responder and how is it that we can with love, kindness, compassion, intentionality and urgency respond to issues that are impacting our classmates or colleagues."

This work wouldn't be possible without the generous support of the Catalyst Fund, an organization aspiring to improve our community's response to the COVID-19 crisis. "When Dr. Dominguez came to us to talk about how together we could impact youth in the Valley we felt passionate this project is one of

the ways we can really make a difference. We're working to make a difference in any areas that might be slipping through the crack – and as a community we all need to be concerned about how COVID has impacted the mental health of teens in Sonoma.” Catalyst Fund representative

To apply to take part in the Healing Justice Program please visit www.hannainstitute.org

-30-

For more information:

Kelly Exner

Communications, Hanna Boys Center

707.933.7031

kexner@hannacenter.org

The **Sonoma Valley Catalyst Fund**: A novel crisis requires a novel response. Sonoma Valley Catalyst Fund aspires to improve our community's collective response to the Covid-19 crisis. Catalyst is a temporary, philanthropic fund created to find and fill the gaps that won't be filled by the usual funding and actions. Catalyst was initiated by leaders of the Sonoma Valley Fund, endorsed by Impact100 Sonoma and seeded by Community Foundation Sonoma County, which provided a lead matching grant of \$150,000 along with fund management and administrative services.

The **Hanna Institute** raises awareness about child trauma and early adversity while promoting the recovery and growth of individuals, organizations, and communities. As a leading provider of trauma-informed care training in Sonoma County and Northern California, Hanna Institute is dedicated to advancing nonviolent communication, social justice and trauma recovery through public awareness, supporting strong parent-child bonds, and teaching strategies for self-care and recovery to enable transformative rebirth in our communities.