



PRESS RELEASE

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- I. **DATE OF PRESS RELEASE:** May 21, 2013
II. **ANNOUNCEMENT:** Horizons Family Counseling Celebrates 40 Years

Horizons Family Counseling Interim Manager Lynn Gardner is pleased to announce the **40th Anniversary Celebration of the Horizons Program on May 22, 2013 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Livermore Library.** Past clients of Horizons and the community-at-large are invited to attend. “We are happy to welcome the community and previous or retired staff to help us share in this historic accomplishment. Horizons has weathered four decades of service to the Tri-Valley community during very turbulent times, staff cuts and fiscal uncertainty in the country. Through it all, our dedication to the youth and families in the Tri-Valley has never wavered and our impact on the quality of life, crime reduction, and prevention has saved money for the City of Livermore and the Livermore Police Department. It’s time to celebrate our past accomplishments as we look towards the future and our 50th Anniversary,” said Ms. Gardner.

Horizons is a division of the Livermore Police Department whose mission is to provide effective, proven, caring and affordable services and programs to meet the mental health needs of youth and families in Livermore and the Tri-Valley area. Horizons began as a recreational program for youth on April 1, 1973. Over the years, its services have increased and developed, and the agency has served thousands of families with its programs. “Horizons offers a wide variety of services to our community,” said Ms. Gardner. “We offer case management and counseling services to families at our family counseling clinic, and individual and group counseling is offered to all students at each of the five Livermore middle schools through our clinical training program in partnership with LVJUSD. We also run “Path to Picasso,” an art program for at-risk youth each summer. Much of the public art seen in Livermore was created by students participating in this program. Horizons also offers a “Strive to Succeed” program in which High School seniors at Del Valle high school are introduced to working professionals in various careers, to help them develop career plans and goals of their own. “Crossroads to Change,” a program for building self-esteem and leadership skills in middle school girls, has grown and expanded over the past several years. Horizons also works in partnership with the Alameda County Probation Department to support youth on Probation as a member of the Delinquency Prevention Network for Alameda County.”

Ileana Soto, Interim Clinical Director, remembers the days, 8 years ago, before we began offering the Parent Project® to parents (and teens) of our Horizons families. “We knew we were somewhat effective and had developed expertise in helping families with at-risk teens; however, the addition of the Parent Project® Program allowed us to give parents specific tools that most of us did not learn in our families: how to work with a strong-willed teen! “I am proud that Horizons, the police and the City support this program,” said Ileana Soto, “and I am proud to have worked at Horizons for 20 years!”

At the 40th Anniversary celebration on May 22nd, a silent auction will be hosted to benefit Horizons. Many local businesses have already made generous donations of services and gifts for this event. If you or your organization would like to support this event, or to R.S.V.P. for the event, please e-mail Lynn Gardner at lgardner@cityoflivermore.net

Beverages and light appetizers will be served.