Our Programs and Services Include:

• Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs
• Mental Health Services
• Independent Living Skills Training
• Therapeutic Behavioral Services
• Foster Care & Adoption
• Wraparound Program
• Charter High School
• Aftercare Services
• Family Finding
• Resource Families

Our Mission
Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services provides innovative and individualized treatment, education, and support services to children, young adults and families to better their lives.

Who We Are
Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services has provided care to generations of troubled youth enabling them to lead meaningful, successful, and independent adult lives.

Founded in the Highland Park community of Los Angeles in 1906, Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services is one of the largest and oldest non-profit child welfare organizations in California with 12 locations in Los Angeles County.

We welcome all clients and families regardless of gender, race, age, religion, disability, marital status, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. We also provide specialized services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth as well as to victims of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).

We are nationally accredited by the Council On Accreditation (COA).

Your Support is appreciated...
As a tax-exempt organization, your charitable contributions to Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Consider a contribution designed for a specific program or project of your interest or simply benefit the our endowment fund, the income of which is annually allocated to necessities not supported by our funding sources. Contributions may be paid over multiple years and/or paid by credit card.

We welcome designated gifts in your estate plan (will or living trust).

For more information, please contact our Development Department at (323) 443-3022 or email: development@oyhfs.org

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To make a donation, please contact,
Jennifer D’Alvarez
Chief Advancement & Communications Officer
Email: jdalvarez@oyhfs.org
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Our Wish List
(New or almost new items only please)

• Sports Equipment
• Handheld Electronic Games
• School Supplies and Backpacks
• Gift Cards for Best Buy and Target
• Alarm Clock Radios
• Digital Cameras
• Socks, Gloves, Scarves and Hats
• Wallets, Purses and Belts
• Toiletries
• Books
• Duffle Bags
• Journals

Accreditations & Affiliations

Our Programs and Services Include:
Our Programs

**Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs)**
The main campus houses up to 85 boys between the ages of 12 and 21 referred by county probation departments throughout California. Residents and their families are actively involved in individual, group and family therapies to address the issues that brought them to placement.

Additionally, ancillary therapies are available including, but not limited to, Art, Movement, Music and Pet Therapy. Therapists, youth care counselors and educators are assigned to each client and their families to craft individualized treatment plans.

**Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS)**
We offer TBS to children, adolescents and their families to ensure that the client can remain in the least restrictive environment possible and can transition between treatment levels when necessary.

**Recreation and Leisure Activities**
The Recreation Department provides a variety of on- and off-grounds activities for the residents in an effort to help teach them the meaning of healthy, pro-social leisure time activity.

**Four Community Based Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs**
Community-based STRTPs throughout Los Angeles County (two of which are for girls) offer residents an alternative approach to the main campus. Some residents are graduates of our main campus who no longer need its more formal structure thereby enabling a quick transition into mainstream community living.

**Foster Care & Adoption Services**
Our Foster Family & Adoption Agency (FFA) was established to find loving, safe, temporary and permanent homes for infants, children and teens.

Professional social workers and staff recruit, train and certify foster and adoptive parents and provide regular follow-up care.

**Mentoring**
A caring, trusting relationship between a youth and an adult mentor can provide enlightenment, incentive and encouragement in all areas of a youth's life, including educational attainments, professional aspirations and an appropriate model of healthy adult living. Mentors can provide tutoring and educational assistance, guiding and supporting higher educational, vocational and career goals while becoming a supportive, caring adult figure.

**Project Fatherhood**
Project Fatherhood is designed to help fathers become more involved in their children's lives. Residents who are fathers meet in this support group to develop strong paternal relationships with their sons. Additionally, there is a "Significant Others" group for relatives (aunts, grandparents, older siblings) to meet in a supportive setting and foster improved relationships with the residents.

**Optimist Charter School**
Optimist Charter School opened in the fall of 2013 and is authorized by the Los Angeles County Office of Education. It features a one to ten teacher/student ratio and is WASC accredited.

Students are offered accredited academic classes as well as electives. A workability program is also offered whereby students can work part-time in our cafeteria, maintenance or laundry departments or in our auto shop.

Special Education needs are respected and Optimist Charter School is a member of the LAC-SELPA.

**Family Finding**
Children in the foster care system often feel completely alone without parents or extended family for support or a sense of belonging. Our Family Finding Program attempts to locate, connect and establish relationships between foster children and family members who have been lost and may be able to provide new direction and stability to a child.

**Mental Health Services**
In partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, we offer individual and family counseling sessions for our residential and foster family placed children and their families, as well as community based services for children and families in need. The goal is to improve self-esteem while assisting with adjustment issues and family relations. Program graduates and their families who reside in Los Angeles County receive follow-up via Aftercare services.

**Community Mental Health Programs**
Optimist's Community Mental Health Programs are in place to stabilize families and avoid institutional placement of their children. The clinics are located in Los Angeles, Woodland Hills and Palmdale and we also offer treatment services to those incarcerated in L.A. County Juvenile Halls. Additionally, we provide comprehensive mental health services in several school settings.

**Wraparound Program**
Wraparound is a community based program designed to assist with keeping the family together and to avoid out-of-home placements. The program utilizes a team approach to provide services in the home and community and attempts to do "whatever it takes" to support the child remaining in the home and with the family. A therapist, parent-partner, case manager, and wrap facilitator make up the agency's treatment team.

Visit our website at www.OYHFS.org for additional information about Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services.