



**FSA**  
Family Service Agency  
of San Francisco

*Lives Transformed*



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## SPOTLIGHT: Jared Walker Felton LEAD Case Manager



Jared Walker, Case Manager for Felton's LEAD Program, has a warm and affable manner, and he is firmly dedicated to seeing people improve their lives.

The second of four boys, he grew up in Fairfield, CA, halfway between San Francisco and Sacramento. Jared fondly remembers that his mother gave his brothers, Casey, Vincent, Anthony and him unconditional love. "One of my mother's favorite quotes that I often heard growing up was from Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, 'Thin love ain't love at all'. We are a family with lots of group hugs. Kindness was one of the key values with which we grew up."

"After graduating from Fairfield's Vanden High School, I attended San Francisco State University... go Gators!" Jared

recalls enthusiastically. "At San Francisco State, finance was my major. I thought I would go to Wall Street and become a financier or hedge fund manager. Business has always been of interest to me, especially the stock market. I loved "The Big Short" and "The Wolf of Wall Street". As a kid, I started a landscaping business and sold my own clothing brand out of the trunk of my first car (a pearl white Nissan Maxima), so I have always been entrepreneurial."

Jared joined the Felton team's LEAD program just under a year ago. Prior to coming to Felton, he worked in San Francisco City Hall and then with Project Rebound, which helps formerly incarcerated people enter the California State University system.

"When I heard about the opportunity with the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, (LEAD), from a friend who serves on Felton's board, it was something that spoke to my heart. Getting a second chance can be such a powerful thing in people's lives. LEAD's mission of diverting people with substance abuse issues away from the criminal justice system and into case management and social services, connected with me at a deep level. I want to create change in a compassionate way. And after meeting with our President and CEO Al Gilbert, my supervisor Dr. Robin Ortiz, and others from the Felton staff in my interview, I knew that's what Felton was all about," Jared says.

"The array of services Felton provides and the quality of the people I work with really makes Felton exceptional in my eyes. My coworkers, Alejandra Cuspinera and Clarence Hardy, are highly educated and very talented people with a heart for their job. Also, I have had the opportunity to view the amazing work being done at Young Adult Court (YAC), FEST (Felton Engagement Specialist Team) and several other programs, and I was really inspired about the impact Felton is having on the lives of some of the most underserved people in San Francisco and other Bay Area cities."

Watch Jared discuss Felton's LEAD Program [here](#).

The LEAD team members spend a lot of time on the streets with clients, most of whom are homeless, and have complex mental health and/or substance abuse issues. Jared notes, "It can be difficult to see the situations that they are living in and dealing with up close and personal. We celebrate with them during their successes and struggle with them through their setbacks. Going through those ups and downs right along with our clients can be tough. But oftentimes, it's bringing that smile to a person's face on a hard day that makes it all worthwhile. It feels great to have the opportunity to be there for people who often feel ignored by the world."

In Jared's spare time, he does a lot of mentorship with youth, especially young men of color. He enjoys being the positive influence that a lot of children are missing in their lives. Having overcome many obstacles, Jared rejoices when others do the same. His personal motto in life comes from the late great Booker T. Washington, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome."

## San Mateo City Council Honors Felton



In celebration of May as Mental Health Awareness Month on Monday, May 7, 2018, the Mayor and City Council of San Mateo, California, presented Felton Institute with a proclamation acknowledging and commending Felton Institute for responding to the mental health needs of youth and adults in the community by providing forward-thinking services, treatment advocacy and support for individuals and families in San Mateo. Felton President and CEO Al Gilbert, Director of Felton Early Psychosis and Bipolar Early Assessment Management (BEAM) Programs Adriana Furuzawa, Program Director Bruce Adams and Family Support Specialist Mike Krechevsky were there to receive the proclamation. Before the recognition, Al, Adriana and Mike made a presentation to the City Council and the chamber audience.



During the ceremony, San Mateo Mayor Rick Bonilla stated that he, like many in San Mateo, has had experience with someone struggling with the reality of mental illness. He added, "When I learned of Felton's presence in our city, I was very happy, because

this institution is working hard to reach people with perhaps even unknown mental illness, who may only suspect they have some issues, and maybe some people have made some comments to them, but it's enabling them to be able to find a way to deal with their mental health difficulties early and before they become severe. They are able to come out of the shadows of mental illness and able to live a full and productive life."

After receiving the proclamation, Al Gilbert noted, "It's amazing being honored for Mental Health Month here in San Mateo, and being recognized for the little piece of the work that we do to support the community here in San Mateo. Our psychosis programs have been extremely effective and the response that we've gotten from the county has been great. They've expanded our programs so that we can include services to people diagnosed with bipolar illnesses as well, so we are hugely appreciative of being recognized for our work, knowing that what we do is really important for the community."

Today Felton's San Mateo site is hosting its annual open house in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month. The team has created several stations and interactive exercises to provide an opportunity for clients, public officials and community partners to learn more about Felton's comprehensive services.



## Felton's Monterey Site Collaborates with SanaMente

Mental Health Awareness Month, also referred to as Mental Health Month, has been observed in May in the United States since 1949. On May 9, 2018, Felton's Early Psychosis Program in Monterey hosted a SanaMente psychoeducational workshop for Spanish speaking clients and their families at Harden Foundation in Salinas. "It was a well-received event of impact," said Felton Monterey's Early Psychosis Program Manager Anna Ballas. "The workshop was translated and prepared by Felton Monterey staff and California State University, Monterey Bay volunteer Corina. It was great to disseminate SanaMente campaign materials to the Latino community. The setting at the Harden Foundation was beautiful."



Each Mind Matters is California's Mental Health Movement comprised of millions of individuals and thousands of organizations that share a vision of creating a community where everyone feels comfortable reaching out for the support they deserve.

Lime green is the national color of ribbons worn in support of Mental Health Awareness and Each Mind Matters, known as SanaMente in Spanish, includes the ribbon in their logo. The workshops focused on the theme "Deeper Connections: From Small Talk to Real Talk," with a goal of strengthening social support networks and helping people experience healthier, happier lives. This year, Each Mind Matters offered its first fully bilingual toolkit in English and Spanish, aligned with efforts to better reach California's diverse Latino population through SanaMente.

## Felton Hosts Korean and New Zealand Delegations



Korean delegation and Felton staff



Ann Stout and Felton Staff

On Wednesday, April 25, 2018, Felton had the pleasure of hosting more than 25 representatives who work for the government of Yongin-si in South Korea. The delegation, visiting as part of a United States tour, represented a wide variety of offices within the major city's government.

The delegation presented a brief video of what life is like in the major city within the Seoul capital area and

asked many questions regarding the economics associated with running all the Felton programs.

Because the visitors were interested in innovative ways to better serve Korea's older adults, Felton Senior Division Director Cathy Spensley, Amy Yu, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Program Director, and Tieu Ly, Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Program Manager presented illuminating information about the services Felton provides for senior citizens.

The group was especially impressed with the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs that connect older generations with younger generations through a volunteerism model. For more information about Felton's Foster Grandparent Program, watch [here](#).

On Friday, May 4, 2018, Felton's Children, Youth and Family (CYF) division was delighted to host two different delegations from New Zealand. Ann Stout, an instructor with 17 years of experience who currently works with pregnant and parenting teens at Waiopahu College in Levin, (just North of the Capital city of Wellington on the North Island), sought creative ways to better engage Family Support Services. Having toured the entire CYF facility in the Mission District, Ms. Stout was fascinated with the wide array of services that Felton offers to the public. Ann was exceptionally inspired by the foodbank and plans to implement one for her program's clients and families.

Wendy Lee, the Director of the Educational Leadership Project (Ltd) in Hamilton, New Zealand, lead her group through a vibrant round-table discussion with leaders from the Felton Early Care and Education program and representatives from San Francisco State University. The meeting and facility tour that followed offered multiple opportunities for all to share successful program ideas and educational approaches.



David Anderson - CSUSF, Wendy Lee - ELP, Lorraine Sands - ELP, Catalina Thompson - ELP, Tania Bullick - ELP, Anne White - CSU Channel Islands



## Felton and You

In June, dozens of Hilltop High Students who are clients of Felton's Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPP) will receive their diplomas. That milestone will set a foundation for a bright future. Felton's innovative and comprehensive services have provided life-transformative support for so many who are having incredible impact in our communities and paying it forward in a major way. In 2017, Felton's COO Yohana Quiroz, a graduate of the TAPP Program and Hilltop High, gave the keynote address. Please watch [here](#).



Yohana Quiroz

In 2016, Felton Board Member Veronica Garcia, a graduate of TAPP Program and Hilltop High, gave the keynote address. Please watch [here](#).



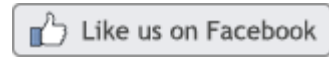
Veronica Garcia

These testimonials speak to the extraordinary impact that a donation like yours has when invested in one of Felton's programs. The imprint of that gift in the soul of each Felton client lasts for a lifetime.

We invite you to support Felton as we continue our mission to transform lives and transform the world.

Thank you for your generosity.

Your generous donations transform lives. Thank you!



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