



# Felton Institute Newsletter

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**SPOTLIGHT**

**02**

*Charlotte Pinkney*



**FEATURED ARTICLE 08**

*Felton continues the work of Vice  
President-Elect Kamala Harris*



**FELTON AND YOU**

**11**

*Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020*



TRANSFORMING LIVES  
& INNOVATING SINCE 1889



## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

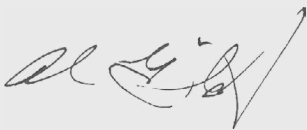
# Saving Lives

In this season of such great need I am humbled by and thankful for Felton Institute's ability to respond to the needs of so many of our community's most vulnerable. As an essential service provider, Felton is fiercely committed to responding to the many calls for our services including:

- Creating a [learning hub](#) with internet access, and academic and social enrichment for children from low income families struggling with remote learning
- [Telehealth programs](#) for our senior population
- Operating the [San Francisco Suicide Prevention 24-hour hotline](#)
- Mental health services for the [Deaf Community](#)
- Programs promoting [social justice and reentry services](#)
- [Outreach to the unhoused](#) surviving a global pandemic; and
- The many [clinical counseling services](#) for those experiencing breaks in their mental health.

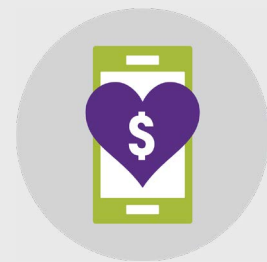
On December 1, the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, Felton Institute will join the world in celebrating Giving Tuesday, a day of gratitude and giving. On this Giving Tuesday I ask for your assistance in expanding our service reach with your generous donation. Together we can meet the challenge of 2020, a very rough year.

In gratitude,



Al Gilbert  
President and CEO  
[Felton Institute](#)

## WAYS TO GIVE



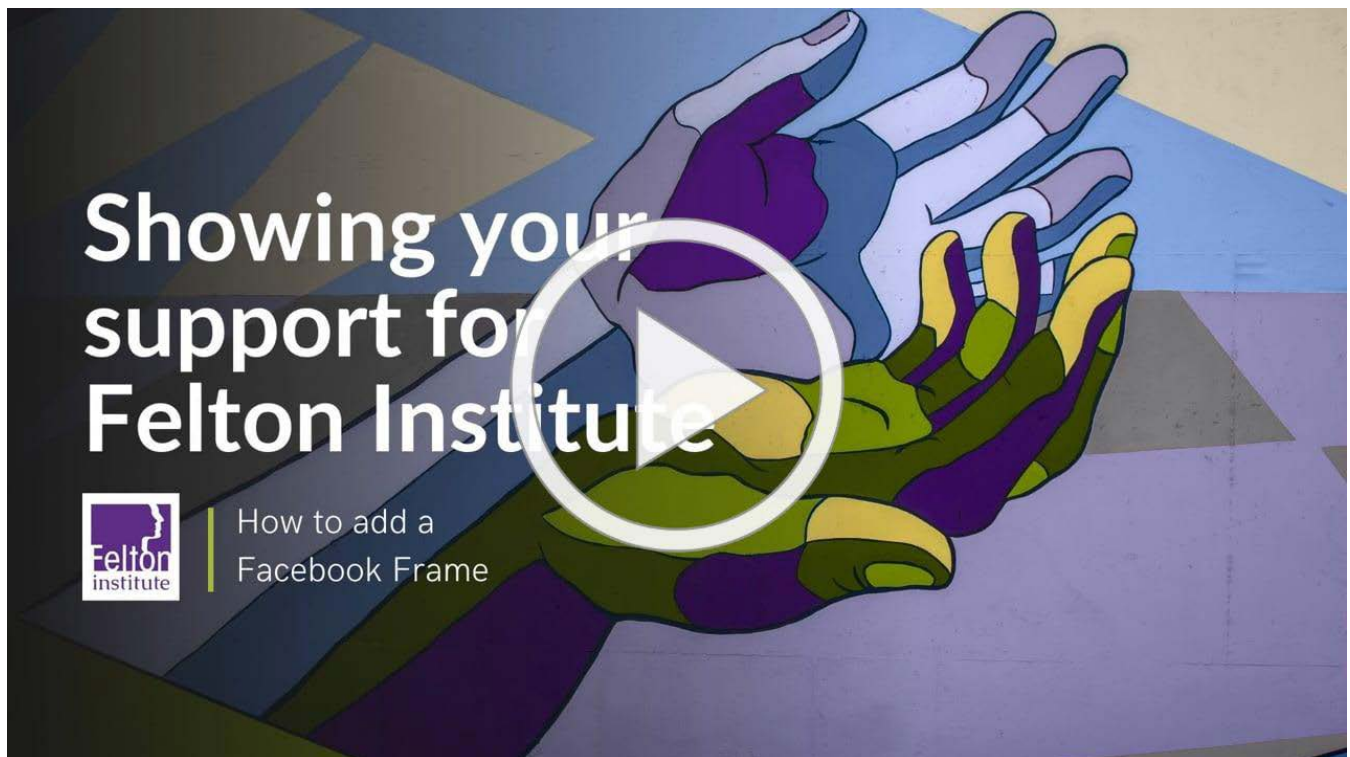
Text "FELTON" to 41444



Visit [felton.org/donate](https://felton.org/donate)

# Showing Your Support for Felton with Facebook Frames!

How-to tutorial on how to add a Felton Facebook frame to your Facebook Page's profile picture:



1. Go to your Facebook Profile or [www.facebook.com/profilepicframes](https://www.facebook.com/profilepicframes).
2. Click "Add Frame".
3. Search for a frame by typing in "Felton Institute"
4. Choose the frame you want to use from the results and add a personalized description. For example: *I donated to Felton Institute and you can too! Text "FELTON" to 41444 or visit <https://felton.org/donate> #GivingTuesday #FeltonInstitute*
5. Set up the Felton Facebook Frame for 1 day (starting Nov 30 - Dec 1) and click **Use as Profile Picture**.

## SPOTLIGHT

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# Charlotte Pinkney

Early Care and Education (ECE)  
Children, Youth & Family Division



Felton Institute wishes to celebrate Charlotte Pinkney for her incredible dedication, loyalty, and service of 30 years to this agency. Charlotte first came to Felton in the Spring of 1990 as a substitute teacher. She has supported, supervised, and taught at various Felton programs throughout her teaching career, including the Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPP). Currently, you can find Charlotte at the 2730 Bryant St. office as a floater, supporting various early education classrooms under Felton's CYF Division. She is greatly valued, known for her enthusiastic disposition and vibrant character.

Originally hailing from Palatka, Florida, Charlotte has many fond memories of her childhood, deeply rooted in religion and family values. Tragedy struck when she lost both her parents at a young age and had to move to California to live with relatives. The San Francisco Bay Area has been her home ever since.



A dedicated educator at heart, Charlotte believes every child is unique and deserves the chance to reach their full potential. “Queen Charlotte,” as students fondly call her, provides a caring, inspiring and engaging atmosphere that fosters her student’s emotional, intellectual, and social development. In addition to her educational training at City College of San Francisco, Charlotte draws from her real-life experiences to provide her students with a greater understanding of the world around them.

“Working with children is extremely rewarding, and you continue to find joy in the little things.” Beyond academic lessons, Charlotte hopes to provide inspiration and serve as a mentor to all her students. As the TAPP program supervisor for two years, Charlotte says her work with teenage mothers was especially meaningful because she felt responsible for keeping them on their paths to attending college, despite the challenges of parenthood. Charlotte always stressed the importance of hard work and keeping faith. “One lesson I wanted to leave with them is to never give up on their hopes and dreams, and always to be the best they can be.”

Documented in her recently released autobiography “God Smiled On Me; Watch Me Rise,” Charlotte tells her story as a domestic violence survivor and single mother of three. “I decided to write down my story of domestic violence to step up and show my support

to other women.” She advised her students, “By prayer, and just being bold... run for your life, and never look back!” This philosophy is expressed in Charlottes’ book [currently available on Amazon](#).

Last year, Charlotte was presented with a Certificate of Honor on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco. Charlotte says it was a privilege to be recognized by the city she has dedicated her life to. The certificate of recognition reads, “Congratulations on your 30 years of education and service! As a hardworking single mother of three kids, a domestic violence survivor, and author of “God Smiled on Me,” you are an inspiration to us all. We’re so proud of how fervently you have been serving students and families across San Francisco.”

In her spare time, she enjoys hanging out with her adult children Damaya, Dominic, and Sidney. Her other hobbies include cooking, dancing and watching comedy shows. Never too old to stop dreaming, this vivacious teacher confides that she still hopes to build her media empire and star in her own TV show one day, perhaps within the next 30 years. Charlotte laughs about how her three decades at Felton just flew by, and how she loves Felton for being “a big organization with a family feel, that always puts family first.”

We salute you, Charlotte!

*For more information about [Felton’s Early Care and Education \(ECE\) Program](#), please visit the ECE program page or email [admissions@felton.org](mailto:admissions@felton.org).*



# ECE Community Hub: Innovating Education in COVID-19



## LEARNING VIA DIGITAL DEVICES

Keeping students on track with online learning!

Distant learning creates unique hurdles for teachers and students. It is particularly challenging for elementary students who lack the necessary resources to support remote study. One temporary solution to this COVID-19 created problem is the Community Hub program.

The Community Hub program is a new innovative concept aimed at helping San Francisco students with distance learning. Under a larger initiative and in partnership with other agencies, Felton Institute piloted the “Early Care and Education Community Hub.” It targets underserved students, ages 6-13 years, children of essential workers, those entering Kindergarten, or younger siblings (ages 0-5) of children attending ECE programs.

The ECE community hub is one of 45 hubs launched by The San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF) in response to the learning needs of SFUSD students during COVID-19. Other community hubs are housed inside community centers, recreation facilities, and libraries.

Felton’s Chief Operating Officer and CYF &TAY Division Director Yohana Quiroz called the pilot program launch a success and hoped to enroll more children to serve a total of 24 students. The program is free and open to children who meet income, need, and eligibility under the California Department of Education (CDE), General Childcare Program.

Yohana Quiroz elaborates, “During these unprecedented times, Felton is excited to partner with the Department of Children, Youth and their Families, the Office of Early Care and Education, and First Five San Francisco to launch the ECE Community Hub to serve underserved children living in public housing without reliable internet, have special needs, are English language learners and whose parents are working as essential workers with in-person distance learning supports, including access to Chromebook, WiFi connectivity, and meals while meeting their social and emotional needs in a fun and engaging environment.”

During the pilot stage, the programs will support at least 100 children citywide engaged in SFUSD distance learning curriculum, offering students a place to be during the school day to help get logged into school and allow their parents to go to work.

The programs provide three meals and snacks, distance learning supports, enrichment, physical activities, and support youth with their social-emotional development.

Afternoon programming has a strong focus on Social Emotional Learning, incorporating game playing and fun activities to build community, personal connections, and socialization. This center is a safe place for students to get much-needed interaction with other kids within county and city pandemic health guidelines like wearing masks during the day and practicing social distancing.

As the program continues to roll out in San Francisco, officials say the educational assistance program will help over 6,000 children with their distance-learning needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Felton is ready to serve.



*For more information about the Felton ECE Community Hub, please contact Gaby Perez, Admissions Coordinator [admissions@felton.org](mailto:admissions@felton.org) or 415 282-1090.*

# Felton continues the work of Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris

Felton Institute is proud to continue the criminal justice reform work of Vice President Elect-Kamala Harris through the Young Adult Court Program (YAC).



*Photo caption: Young Adult Court Graduation, January 2019. (left to right) Felton Institute Case Manager Ashli Rocha, YAC graduate Alonso, and YAC Judge Bruce E. Chan*

Established in San Francisco in 2005, the Back on Track program was created by then District Attorney Kamala Harris to address the needs of low-level drug offenders and interrupt a cycle of incarceration and release that did not address underlying behavioral health and substance use issues. Now one of the preeminent collaborative courts in the county, [San Francisco's Young Adult Collaborative Court](#) has evolved out of Harris' vision to serve as a diversion program for eligible young adults, ages 18-25 who have charges ranging from misdemeanor to felony.





Kamala Harris  
@KamalaHarris

Back on Track gave people a chance to get back on their feet. Their hope for the future gave me hope.



11:12 PM · Sep 26, 2020 · Twitter Media Studio



Kamala Harris  
@KamalaHarris

After I started Back on Track as District Attorney of San Francisco, a lot of people questioned why I was helping young people arrested for first-time drug crimes. I knew in order to stop re-entry we needed to focus on jobs and redemption—not jail.

Rooted in research and science on the young adult brain, the [YAC Collaborative Court](#) acknowledges the unique challenges that the 18 to 25-year-old age group presents – great impulsivity, less planful behavior and advance problem-solving – which can lead to interactions with a justice system that may disproportionately impact young men of color.

Over the past 15 years, Felton Institute has continued to innovate and expand on the initial services of Back on Track, now providing a clinical case management model that addresses essential social service needs, behavioral health and substance use issues, and building supportive family relationships, among other challenges in conjunction with our key partners: [Goodwill Industries](#) and [Sunset Youth Services](#).

Engagement in and graduation from [Young Adult Court](#) can substantially improve the developmental and life trajectory for a young person accused of an offense. Beginning or continuing young adulthood with a criminal record imposes incredible challenges on a young person, from limiting their housing options to negatively



Kamala Harris  
@KamalaHarris

Fourteen years ago today, when I was DA of San Francisco, Lateefah and I started Back on Track—a program that provided opportunities for young people involved in the criminal justice system to get them out of the system for good. It's time we take this program nationwide.



Kamala Harris  
@KamalaHarris

Back on Track, a program I piloted as San Francisco District Attorney to prevent recidivism among nonviolent, low-level drug defendants, has been implemented in cities across America. Back on Track is just the start of what real criminal justice reform looks like in this country.

impacting their opportunities for education and employment. In contrast, graduation from [YAC](#) can allow the same young person options beyond these limitations, as well as a tremendous growth in skills. For example, engagement with the [Young Adult Court](#) provides an opportunity for the young person to improve their daily functioning (time management, problem-solving), emotional wellbeing, and relationships with others. There's no one-size-fits-all template for engagement in [YAC](#). Each participant has a plan catered to their individual needs and abilities. Typical goals to graduate from [YAC](#) may include securing and maintaining employment or enrolling in education or training opportunities.

For many [YAC](#) clients, Felton is their first contact with a mental health clinician, and this opportunity can open doors to addressing issues that may have roots in previous traumatic events that have gone unattended.

# IN AMERICA



87%  
**18-24**  
years olds

who are incarcerated  
are rearrested after release



The goal of Felton's Young Adult Court (YAC)  
Program is to **break** the cycle of recidivism

# AS OF SEPTEMBER 2020

Felton's Young Adult Court (YAC) has produced:



**87%** OF OUR YAC  
GRADUATES AVOID  
REARREST



**CALL US  
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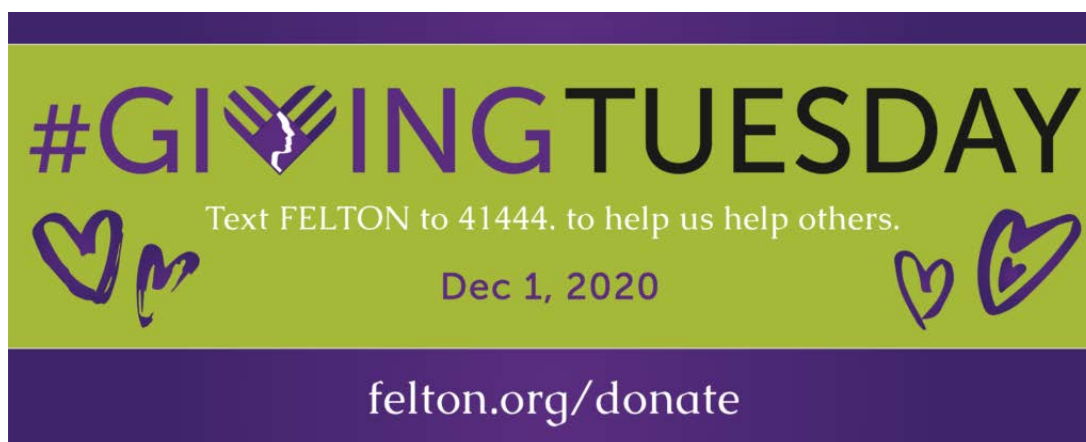
Judge Bruce Chan was the Supervising Judge of San Francisco's Criminal Court in 2014-2015 and has presided over [YAC](#) since it began as Back on Track. Per Judge Chan, the revolutionary aspect of the program is consolidating clinical case management, vocational and life skills case management accompanied by judicial oversight all in the same place. He said, "The court is here to support the clinicians, and the clinicians are here to support the legal professionals. The accountability comes through the court aspect. Everyone is willing to step out of their traditional role to make the program work."

Partner agencies include the [Superior Court](#), [Office of the District Attorney](#), [Office of the Public Defender](#), the [Department of Public Health](#), [Adult Probation Department](#), [Department of Children, Youth and their Families](#), the [San Francisco Police Department](#), and [Leaders in Community Alternatives](#). The court strives to align opportunities for accountability and transformation with this age group's unique needs and developmental stage.

*For more information about the Felton's Young Adult Court (YAC) Program, please contact YAC Case Management Program Manager Celina Hennessey at [chennessey@felton.org](mailto:chennessey@felton.org).*

## Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020

Most enjoy the warm, satisfying feeling that accompanies assisting someone in need, but did you know how impactful it can be to improving your health.



Scientific studies attest to the benefits of giving - not just for recipients but for the giver's health. There are many reasons why people give their time and money to their favorite nonprofit or foundation. Some may do it for the tax write-offs. Some feel the need to give back to the community. The truth of the matter is, giving feels good.

Giving is good for our health. Research shows there is a direct line between altruism and happiness. The study indicates altruistic behavior releases endorphins in the brain, producing a positive feeling known as the "helper's high." Happiness experts say doing good activates the brain's regions associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust. Between election anxiety, COVID-19, and more, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and stressed. Do something good for others. Your brain will thank you for it!

Felton Institute's "Giving Tuesday" on Dec. 1st is an opportunity to experience the joy of giving. On this global day of giving, join millions of people coming together to make a big difference and a big impact by paying it forward.

Giving to Felton Institute means you help us serve thousands of individuals in five counties across Northern California who need social and mental health services. Felton provides more than 50 programs in 11 languages focusing on helping low-income and at-risk individuals of all ages, races, and ethnicities, including those at risk for suicide and people living with disabilities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Felton Institute continues delivering critical life transformative mental health and social services for our community. Our staff members provide essential services such as family support, resource and referral, telehealth, and clinical services, including crisis assessment and intervention, case management, therapy, rehabilitation services, and crisis hotlines. Felton Institute reaffirms its commitment to operate as an essential activity as defined by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

*You may choose to give to Felton Institute today by texting FELTON to 41444 on your mobile device. You may also visit our website [felton.org/donate](https://felton.org/donate) to donate online.*

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# Make a *Donation* to Felton Institute today!

Help Felton continue creating impact in the Bay Area by making a [monthly or yearly commitment](#).

**All contributions are tax-deductible.**

Felton Institute is a tax-exempt organization registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit under EIN 94-1156530.



**DONATE**

*Help transform your community!*



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