



"I like to draw lots of houses. Enough for everyone!"

Maurice, age 9



"We see DrawBridge as a crucial part of the kids' recovery. Thank you for all that you give!"

Maya, Site Coordinator



DrawBridge  
PO Box 2698  
San Rafael, CA 94912



*DrawBridge provides art programs for homeless and other at-risk children in an environment that fosters their sense of joy, creativity and exuberance.*



"We give them friendship and laughter.  
It changes them."

DrawBridge Volunteer



The guiding force behind the distinctive DrawBridge philosophy and curriculum is our profound respect for both the innate wisdom of the children we serve and their emotional need to express themselves.

### THE EFFECTS OF HOMELESSNESS ON CHILDREN

- *More than half of children from homeless families have never lived in a permanent home, and most experience multiple upheavals each year*
- *Homeless children are sick and hungry twice as often as non-homeless children*
- *Nearly 70% of homeless children suffer from chronic illness*
- *Almost 50% have emotional problems such as anxiety and depression*
- *Homeless children experience developmental delays at four times the rate of other children*
- *Homeless children are twice as likely to repeat a grade in school, and are significantly more likely not to finish high school*

### FORMERLY HOMELESS TEEN PROGRAM

DrawBridge provides opportunities for formerly homeless teens to impart their knowledge and experience to other vulnerable children. The teens participate in training and build a sense of responsibility and self-esteem as they work in DrawBridge art groups throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

#### Board of Directors:

Cindy Morris  
Pamela Morton  
Joe Rico  
Jane Spray  
Marya Wintroub  
Steve Wasserman  
Carol Zimmerman

"DrawBridge is my second family.  
No one can take that away from me."

Minh , age 15

## HOW DOES DRAWBRIDGE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

DrawBridge provides expressive arts programs for more than 1700 children annually in seven Northern California counties of Alameda, Marin, San Francisco, Sonoma, Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz. At DrawBridge they paint their story, they tell their story in words and that story is heard. At DrawBridge, children draw their dreams.

Each of our 25 weekly or semi-weekly art groups lasts up to two hours. Through painting, ceramics, drawing, photography and collage, the children communicate feelings that range from isolation, fear, anger and shame to those of joy, enthusiasm, and hope—all natural states of childhood and adolescence.

Our highly skilled facilitators and volunteers receive ongoing training and support. They show up consistently and form healthy relationships with the children while also seeking to achieve the following positive outcomes:

- *Foster stability in the lives of the children.*
- *Deepen their sense of trust.*
- *Help the children develop a sense of connectedness to the community.*
- *Give the children opportunities to experience group cohesiveness and to be a valuable part of a team.*
- *Help the children develop compassion, self-discipline and a sense of self-worth.*

Through DrawBridge, children learn to articulate their unique stories, discover meaning in their lives, build a sense of community, and realize their potential and individualism.



[www.drawbridge.org](http://www.drawbridge.org)

415-444-0930