



San Mateo County Probation Department Margaret J. Kemp Camp for Girls



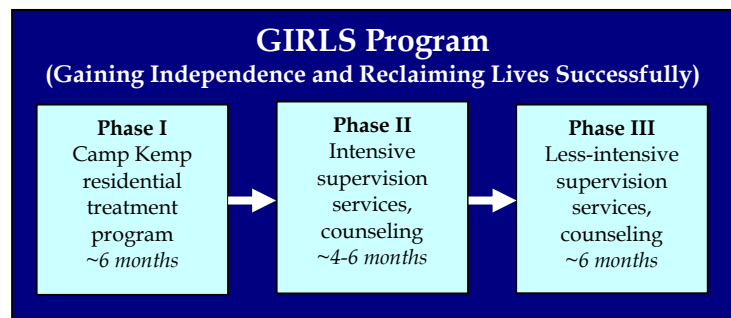
MISSION

We believe our girls are valuable and worthy of our communities' support. We provide sustainable resources that promote the process of healing, educating, and empowering each girl to achieve her greatest potential in her community.



In the 1990s, San Mateo County, California matched a nationwide trend of increasing numbers of young women arrested for crime and delinquency. The profile of female probationers has grown in complexity; the “average” girl on probation today is coping with abuse and neglect, substance abuse, mental illness, gang involvement, lack of educational opportunity, and poverty.

GIRLS. Responding to mounting research findings that gender-responsive services and programming are key to success for girls, the Probation Department launched the GIRLS Program (Gaining Independence and Reclaiming Lives Successfully) in 2001. The program involves three stages:



- Phase I - An individualized, 180-day residential program (Margaret J. Kemp Camp for Girls)
- Phase II - An intensive supervision phase as girls transition to the community; and, when girls are ready,
- Phase III - A step-down period of services with fewer Probation contacts.



Camp Kemp. Camp Kemp is a 30-bed facility that includes a school, activity rooms, a gym, dorms, administrative offices, and a kitchen and dining hall. The Camp’s programming and operations are based on the following evidence-based guiding principles for the supervision and treatment of female offenders:*

- Acknowledge that gender makes a difference;
- Create an environment based on safety, respect, and dignity;
- Develop policies, practices, and programs that are relational and promote healthy connections to children, family, significant others, and the community;
- Address substance abuse, trauma, and mental health issues through comprehensive, integrated, and culturally-relevant services and appropriate supervision;

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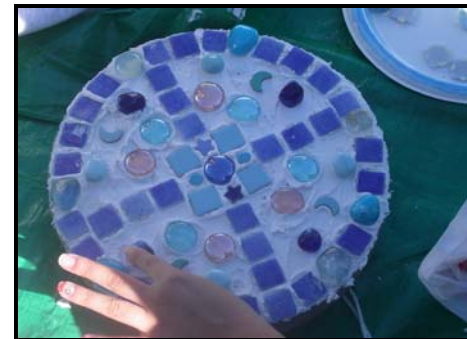
- Provide young women with opportunities to improve their socioeconomic conditions; and
- Establish a system of community supervision and reentry with comprehensive and collaborative services.

Treatment Services. Girls at Camp Kemp receive intensive mental health services, including a comprehensive assessment and individual, group, and family therapy. Girls and their families also participate in Multi-Family Group, a 16-week program focused on building healthy relationships. Mental health services are delivered through a collaboration of the County Mental Health Division and two community-based providers, Youth and Family Enrichment Services and Rape Trauma Services.



In the course of their programming at the Camp, girls address a number of issues. These may include:

- Trauma
- Anger management
- Impulse control
- Communication skills
- Healthy relationships
- Body image
- Healthy teen dating
- Self-care strategies
- Healthy eating
- Employment
- Safe sex and HIV
- Grief and loss
- Domestic violence



Education and medical services are provided on site. Probation collaborates with community-based agencies and other County agencies to provide an array of programming:

<p>Yoga, art, and journaling classes (CBO <i>The Art of Yoga</i>)</p> <p>"Girls Circle" <i>Relationship-based communication model of group sharing and problem-solving</i></p>	<p>Independent Living Skills Program (Community College District)</p> <p>"Seeking Safety" <i>Intensive small group therapy for girls recovering from rape and abuse</i></p>	<p>"VOICES" <i>Evidence-based curriculum designed to build self-esteem</i></p> <p>Book Club (Library System, CBO Latina Literature Project)</p>
<p>Alcoholics Anonymous (on site)</p>	<p>Playwriting (CBO <i>Each One Reach One</i>)</p>	<p>Mentoring (CBO <i>Building Futures</i>)</p>

Each girl is teamed with a Court Appointed Special Advocate. During school breaks, the girls have the opportunity to go on field trips. In the past, the group has toured college campuses, attended shows and plays, and taken rafting trips and hikes.

As girls near the end of their stay at Camp Kemp, Camp staff and GIRLS program Probation Officers begin transition and discharge planning. Back in the community, girls continue with mental health counseling and other services. If necessary, a girl may return to the Camp for brief respite care stay, or to participate in programming.

For more information about Camp Kemp, contact Glenda Miller, Director, Margaret J. Kemp Camp, 650-312-8894, gmilller@co.sanmateo.ca.us.

* Barbara Bloom, Ph.D; Barbara Owen, Ph.D; and Stephanie Covington, Ph.D. "Gender-Responsive Strategies, Research, Practice, and Guiding Principles for Women Offenders." U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Corrections, July 2003 (<http://www.nicic.org/pubs/2003/018017.pdf>).