

**River Oak Center
for Children**

Category: winner, medium-size not-for-profit company
Nature of organization: mental health, children's services
Senior executive: Mary Hargrave, president and chief executive officer
Senior HR leader: Sherri Cerles, human resources director
Location: Carmichael, Elk Grove and Sacramento
Founded: 1966
Employees in Sacramento area: 197



Mary Hargrave



Sherri Cerles

River Oak's "Big Ideas" are its guiding principles:

Big Idea 1 – Children deserve to be nurtured and to have their needs met.

Big Idea 2: Parents want what's best for their children.

Big Idea 3: Families deserve respect and understanding.

Big Idea 4: Good systems connect people, resources and opportunities.

Benefits and programs

River Oak is dedicated to providing training and development opportunities to help employees excel in their careers.

River Oak's free online

Big ideas guide agency

training system – Essential Learning – gives employees 24-hour access to a catalog of accredited courses they may take. They're further encouraged to participate in trainings, conferences and workshops to enhance their job skills.

Tuition assistance is provided for eligible employees.

Community and values

In May 2009, River Oak kicked off its first Walk Across America Team Challenge.

Employees who chose to participate formed walking teams of six and were issued pedometers to track their daily steps and compile them for a team total each week.

Participants received goodie bags with healthy snacks, a water bottle, a calorie counter booklet, recipes, exercise tips and a table for converting activities into steps.

Nearly 75 percent of the agency participated in the event.

Halfway through the competition, a health food potluck and rally was held to recap and motivate future progress.

The top three teams to walk the farthest distance in six weeks were presented with trophies at a special awards ceremony, and individual awards were presented.

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Turning Point Community Programs has offered a path to mental health since 1976. We provide psychiatric services, support and advocacy for people working to overcome the effects of mental illness in Sacramento, Stanislaus, Merced, Yolo, Placer.

We are Proud Sponsor of the
2010 SWEL Awards

..and we congratulate all the nominees for the Sacramento Workplace Excellence Leader Awards

**TURNING POINT
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

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