



## Morrison's Miracles

*Many of you already know that Morrison Child and Family Services does amazing work. Today we would like to share what we call "Morrison's Miracles" with you. These miracles occur daily but are difficult to discuss and subtle to recognize. We want to start sharing some of these moments with you so that you better understand the critical nature of the work we do and impart the success of our clients. Please share Morrison's Miracles with those you know who care about children and the overall health of families in our community.*

*Rosemont Treatment Center & School is one of the largest secure residential treatment centers for troubled teen girls in the Pacific Northwest. The program is a leader in providing gender-specific services for girls, helping them rebuild their self-esteem and gain the knowledge and skills necessary for a healthy and successful future.*

Home instability. Neglect and abandonment. Drug and alcohol abuse. Sexual abuse at the hands of a trusted adult. Self-harm. The death of the only parent she had ever known by heroin overdose. Sandy\*\* had experienced all of these things by the age of 12 when she tried to kill herself.

In and out of foster homes most of her life, Sandy, age 13, arrived at Rosemont attired in her normal uniform of black clothing. For weeks, Sandy had refused to attend school or engage in treatment. She directly challenged the Rosemont staff with her intelligence and her convictions. With time, staff were able to validate Sandy's feelings and provide support and a daily structure. Sandy began to engage in daily treatment groups, some focusing on drugs and alcohol. Rosemont staff worked with Sandy to develop the ability to make safe and effective decisions when feeling threatened or distressed. Supported by staff, Sandy began practicing the strategies she'd learned to stop harming herself.

At Rosemont Sandy learned to express all of her emotions, including the ones that previously lead to substance use. She credits her drug and alcohol treatment for, in her words, "saving my life." Now 14, Sandy is living in a foster home, doing well in school and is committed to the work of staying clean and sober.

*\*\*Names and certain events have been changed to maintain confidentiality and to protect the children and families we serve.*