

# 125 Years of Transforming Lives

From our origins as an orphanage to pioneering mental health services, family stabilization, foster care, adoption, mentoring, and juvenile justice intervention, SSYAF has continuously evolved to meet the changing needs of youth and families. We provide a full continuum of care and ensure that every young person has the opportunity to be a part of a safe, permanent, and loving family. Through innovation, collaboration, and unwavering dedication, we have helped thousands of youth find healing, stability, and lifelong connections. As we continue this mission, we honor those who have shaped our story and remain committed to strengthening communities for generations to come.

1900



Jane Lathrop Stanford donates the Stanford Mansion and stock to establish the Stanford Lathrop Memorial Home for Friendless Children.

1906



The Sisters of Mercy continue providing a safe haven for abandoned and orphaned children.

1978



California purchases the Stanford Mansion designating it a State Historic Park.

1983



Bobbie Rowlands and Alan Haley establish Sierra Adoption Services in Nevada County.

1994



Leadership transitions to trained social service professionals, ensuring children receive care in their own neighborhoods while staying connected to their communities.

1998



Foster care and community-based family services expand.

2003



Focus shifts to finding families for young people in long-term foster care with complex needs.

2006



Residential care homes close prioritizing family-based care.

2009



Wonder, Inc., a mentoring program for youth impacted by foster care is acquired.

2012



The Family and Youth Partnership program launches, emphasizing voice and choice for families.

2014



National accreditation is earned for meeting the highest standards in administration, services, and management.

2019



Stanford Youth Solutions and Sierra Forever Families merge to form Stanford Sierra Youth & Families, expanding services in Northern California.