



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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019-006: one.Charter Elementary Announcement

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**TLC's Co-Founder Retires from School, but Mission to Educate Students in Transition Lives on**  
*one.Charter Elementary - TLC Academy continues to educate and support vulnerable students more than 25 years after Sara Garfield co-founded TLC School for the homeless*

Since the original TLC (Transitional Learning Center) School for the homeless was founded in 1992, co-founder Sara Garfield has been an advocate for homeless children and a valuable partner with the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) in providing a high-quality education and other services to some of San Joaquin County's most vulnerable students. As she retires from the day-to-day operations, the SJCOE would like to recognize Garfield for her years of service to the school, which will carry on the tradition of ensuring that students in transition will have the opportunities they need to thrive in school and prepare for their futures. Garfield will remain the director of the TLC Foundation, which will continue to provide support for the school though it will no longer employ members of its staff.

"The San Joaquin County Office of Education would like to thank Sara Garfield for her work in starting and sustaining a partnership that has touched the lives of thousands of students," County Superintendent of Schools James Mousalimas said. "We will continue to provide the services and environment that have made the school special for these students, and we look forward to continuing to work with Sara and the TLC Foundation to enrich the lives of our students."

Garfield was involved with the school from the very beginning, before it first opened in collaboration with the SJCOE, St. Mary's Dining Room, and California State University, Stanislaus.

The SJCOE and Garfield continued to work together over the years as partners as school names, and locations changed. When it was first founded, the school was named the TLC (Transitional Learning Center) School. It is currently a charter school operated by the SJCOE: **one.Charter Elementary - TLC Academy**. In recent years, the TLC Foundation has provided part of the funding and staffing at the school. With the start of the current school year, the SJCOE is now entirely responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school and its staffing. The foundation is still providing financial support to help provide counselling and other services.

The school continues to offer unique services tailored to meet specific needs of its students, including transportation, counseling, and furnishing some of the basic needs essential to students and families in transition.

The clothes closet remains and will continue to collect donations of clothing and school supplies for students and their families. Over the years, the foundation provided transportation that made it possible for students in sometimes unstable living conditions to have reliable access to a ride to school. The foundation has donated the van to the SJCOE, which will continue to transport children to and from school. The County Office also added a new foster youth mentor position, bringing the total mentors for foster youth at the school to two. All the staff at the school are currently employed



by the SJCOE. The foundation, however, continues to support the services provided by these employees, splitting the cost with the SJCOE to hire the on-site music therapist for students. The school remains in the same downtown Stockton location it has been since at 2009, hosted by Stockton Unified School District at 22 South Van Buren Street, Stockton.

Garfield said she is grateful to the individuals, organizations, volunteers, and supporters who helped create and aid the school over the years.

"It has been an incredible 27 years serving the thousands of homeless students who came to us so eager to learn and love, despite their difficult life circumstances. The children have been my greatest teachers and will forever be in my heart," Garfield said. "TLC Academy is in great hands, and now I look forward to continuing my work at the TLC Foundation supporting homeless youth in our community."

The foundation will continue to support students at the school as well as provide scholarships and other help for other students in need. For more information about how to donate, call the school at (209) 468-9494 or email the foundation at [oneTLCschool@yahoo.com](mailto:oneTLCschool@yahoo.com).

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