













Butterfly graphic creates a focal point, color and continuity and turns a gray before into a vibrant after

Mental illness is not the topic that springs brightly to mind when we think of children. Giggles, love and happy play are more like what we imagine. The goal of mental health care is to make those images come true even for the ill child.

With that in mind, San Antonio's Southwest Mental Heath Center gave us a low-budget request—lift the depressing grayness from its brochure, and give its difficult subject a sense of lightness and hope along with real clarity.

Key to the makeover was a little butterfly that gave us the focal point, color and continuity we needed. Have a look.



Before

About kids and mental health

ourselves and the world around us While nearly everybody feels down ionally, a persistant "blue" mood might be

not just adults who are affected by mental alth problems. Children suffer too. That especially tragic, because every young rson deserves the right to feel good about mselves. To be happy. To feel a sense of selfrth.To be productive

ntal, emotional or behavioral problems that ct kids and their families include depression ety, and disorders such as bipolar, conduct, ılsive, and substance use disorders. ne is immune. Mental illness affects childrer backgrounds. However, high risk factors de: physical problems, intellectual disabilities rth weight, family history of mental and ve disorders, poverty, separation, and er abuse and neglect.

There is hope for children and youth

care services to improve the health of children and adolescents, support the family through the patient's recovery and work with the community to refer patients and their families to additional resources. Our confidential and comprehensive treatment is Interdisciplinary treatment teams are directed by psychiatric physicians, Family involvement in treatment planning is an important part of

Acute Care: 24-Hour, intensive inpatient hospitalization for children and adolescents with severe psychiatric disorders designed to stabilize

Residential Inpatient Care: A highly structured environment for patients with chroni or treatment-resistant disorders.

Partial Hospital: A less restrictive day patients with severe behavioral disorders requiring more structure and intervention than outpatient care.

Outpatient Services: Individual and family psychotherapy, medication management and comprehensive psychological assessment services to help diagnose and evaluate a child's

The need for services is growing

every year. Nearly ten percent of young people have a serious emotional life Two-thirds of the children who need help won't get it.

Without appropriate treatment, mental health problems can lead to school failure, family discord, alcohol and drug abuse, violence, ja and even suicide.

Help is available. Effective interventions and drug treatments exist. And with help, a child car learn to cope with his or her illness - and live a happy, productive life.

Treatment is cost effective, too. One study showed that \$1 invested in prevention and intervention saves \$7 in juvenile justice and welfare costs. We know it is more difficult and more costly to resolve problems later. The early years represent our best chance to averdown the road.

We can help. If you're concerned about a child's behavior or mood, please call us at (210) 616-0300. Don't let anything stand in the way of your child's healthy future. You can help, too, Your support of Southwest Mental Health Center can help a child recover

Not quite designed

Three-panel brochure is the office workhorse, but the problem with panels is that we tend to "design" simply by filling them up (right)!



One . . .

+14/0	two

About hish and mortal health	there is hope for children and youth	The month to
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done!





The before is a letterfold brochure that was designed by filling panels with text. Although every panel tells a different piece of the SMHC story, to the reader it all looks alike.

Inside

Horizontal bar

creates panel-topanel continuity but adds nothing to the design or the stories. And while blue is everyone's favorite color, it's chilly and therefore inappropriate for this project, which requires warmth, humanity and touchability.

About kids and mental health

tal health is how we feel about urselves and the world around us. While nearly everybody feels down occasionally, a persistant "blue" mood might be the warning sign of diagnosable mental health

It's not just adults who are affected by mental health problems. Children suffer too. That is especially tragic, because every young person deserves the right to feel good about themselves. To be happy. To feel a sense of selfworth. To be productive.

Mental illness is a disease that can prevent this. Mental, emotional or behavioral problems that affect kids and their families include depression, anxiety, and disorders such as bipolar, conduct. eating, attention deficit-hyperactivity, obsessive compulsive, and substance use disorders. No one is immune. Mental illness affects children of all backgrounds. However, high risk factors include: physical problems, intellectual disabilities, low birth weight, family history of mental and addictive disorders, poverty, separation, and caregiver abuse and neglect.

There is hope for children and youth

outhwest Mental Health Center offers a wide range of specialized mental health care services to improve the health of children and adolescents, support the family through the patient's recovery and work with the community to refer patients and their families to additional resources. Our confidential and comprehensive treatment is tailored to meet each patient and family's needs. Interdisciplinary treatment teams are directed by psychiatric physicians. Family involvement in treatment planning is an important part of overall care.

Acute Care: 24-Hour, intensive inpatient hospitalization for children and adolescents with severe psychiatric disorders designed to stabilize a crisis situation.

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The need for services is growing

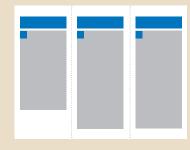
in five children is affected by a iagnosable mental health problem every year: Nearly ten percent of young people have a serious emotional disturbance that severely disrupts their daily life. Two-thirds of the children who need help won't get it.

Without appropriate treatment, mental health problems can lead to school failure, family discord, alcohol and drug abuse, violence, jail and even suicide

Help is available. Effective interventions and drug treatments exist. And with help, a child can learn to cope with his or her illness - and live a happy, productive life.

Treatment is cost effective, too, One study showed that \$1 invested in prevention and intervention saves \$7 in juvenile justice and welfare costs. We know it is more difficult and more costly to resolve problems later. The early years represent our best chance to avert serious mental health and social problems down the road.

We can help. If you're concerned about a child's behavior or mood, please call us at (210) 616-0300. Don't let anything stand in the way of your child's healthy future. You can help, too. Your support of Southwest Mental Health Center can help a child recover and succeed in life.



Headlines and drop caps stand atop the panels like tombstones, clinically identifying each section but offering neither cheer nor welcome. Be careful when using more than one drop cap; readers are extremely good pattern seekers and will "connect" the caps instantly—which means they'll want to know what they spell!

Colored subheads punctuate the gray. Although they're bigger, bolder and even a different style from the text, the differences are not great enough; the page still looks gray. To punctuate effectively, differences must be very different.







The color cover is a point of interest, but the boy is the only child in the brochure, and the hard-edged, rectangular layout tends to isolate him further.

Outside

A legacy of service

ervice. Southwest Mental Health Center has grown from a downtown orphanage into a regional provider of specialized mental health services for children and adolescents. Our name and work have changed over the years, but our emphasis has always remained the well-being of children.

Today, Southwest Mental Health Center is the only nonprofit specialty hospital of its kind in South Texas-and the last hope for many children and families struggling with mental

Southwest Mental Health Center is dedicated to providing effective mental health services to children, adolescents and their families to help them overcome the disabling effects of mental illness, and improve their ability to function successfully at home, at school, and in the community.

Through our dedicated staff and individualized treatment programs, we are giving troubled children a better chance in life to develop to their full potential. Ultimately, we are making our communities safer and more liveable, as fewer children will experience the downward spiral of serious mental disturbance in their adolescent and adult years. Together with a caring community, we can ensure that every child who needs help gets it.

SMHC at a glance

Established: 1886 Location: South Texas Medical Center Child & Adolescent Programs:

Innatient Acute Care

Recreational Areas

- Sub-acute Care
- Outpatient Services
- Partial Hospital Program Assessment and Evaluation Services

Facilities: Campus includes a 40-bed Hospital. Partial program, Outpatient Clinic, Activity and Education Building, Dining Hall, Swimming Pool &

Licenses: Texas Department of Health Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation

Accreditation: Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations Affiliations: University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Trinity University, St. Marv's University. Our Lady of the Lake University Northside ISD

Funding: Medicaid, Commercial Insurance, Mental Health Authorities, United Way and Private Contributions

IRS Status: Not-for-profit 501(c)(3)







It's a rectangular world Generally speaking, when a subject needs softening you want to avoid rectangular elements. (A) Although he's in a meadow, the rectangular frame acts as a corral, isolating and confining the boy inappropriately. (B) Note the photo, text blocks, blue bar, headlines and logo are all rectangles.



There's the story!

Make a theme

5 of 13

Same information, same space, but the makeover brings the brochure new life. It now has a community of children, and stories that were invisible are clear and inviting.

After





What a change!

A hierarchy of elements from big to small share space comfortably in this multi-faceted layout. Different column widths tell the Southwest story with pace and inflection, tying the elements together while keeping them apart. Butterfly provides a point of focus as well as color and shape, which softens the natural rectangles of the page. Oranges and yellows are warm, happy colors, and green is the color of hope and new life. On the cover (far left), our young patient is not alone but getting the care she needs.





The cover image is the key message-maker; it sets the tone and establishes the reader's frame of reference. Image and headline are seen together and must work as one.

Take

seriously.

We do.

JTHWEST MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Outside

who needs help gets it.

SOUTHWEST MENTAL HEALTH CENTER SMHC at a glance A LEGACY OF SERVICE Established: 1886 Over our many years of community **Location:** South Texas Medical Center Child & Adolescent Programs: service, Southwest Mental Health Center your child's mental health Acute Care has grown from a downtown orphanage Residential Innatient Care into a regional provider of specialized Residential Inpatient Care Partial (Day) Hospital Outpatient Treatment Services Psychological Evaluation Services mental health services for children and adolescents. Our name and work have changed over the years, but our Facilities: Secure, family-friendly campus includes emphasis has always remained the wella 40-bed Hospital, Outpatient Clinic, Activity and Education Building, Dining Hall, Swimming Pool & Recreational Areas being of children. Today, Southwest Mental Health Center is the only nonprofit specialty Licenses: Texas Department of Health, Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation hospital of its kind in South Texas—and the last hope for many children and Accreditation: Joint Commission on Accreditation of families struggling with mental illness. Southwest Mental Health Center is dedicated to providing effective mental Affiliations: University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Trinity University, St. Mary's University, Our Lady of the Lake University, Northside I.S.D. health services to children, adolescents and their families to help them overcome the disabling effects of mental illness, and improve their ability to function successfully at home, at school, and in the community Through our dedicated staff and individualized treatment programs, we are giving troubled children a better chance in life to develop to their full potential. Ultimately, we are making our communities safer and more live able, as fewer children will experience the downward spiral of serious mental disturbance in their adolescent and adult years. Together with a caring community, we can ensure that every child

SOUTHWEST MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Before



After



Simple images are more powerful

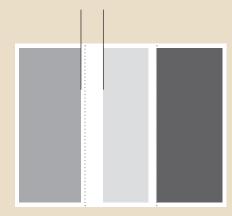
(Above) The self-absorbed boy in the meadow is not only alone—a problem of mental illness—but the photo is complex, with many competing lines and surfaces, and the point of the message is lost. In contrast is the clarity of the after. The girl is at peace in the nearness of a caregiver, a key concept in the brochure. Note the simplicity of the image; despite radical cropping, a few strong lines tell us everything we need to know—and provide a smooth backdrop for the headline.



Panels handle separate jobs

The three outside panels are seen independently, and each has a different job. The cover panel draws the reader in; the back panel provides key data at a glance.





Follow the panels, but differentiate

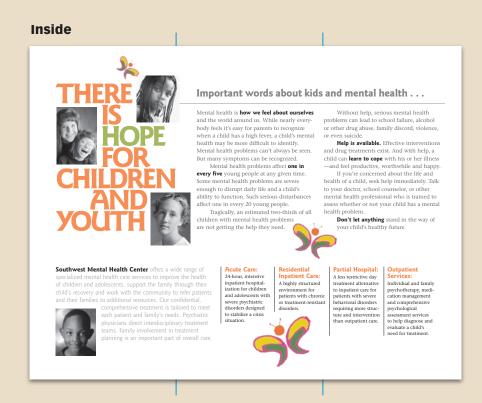
To visually differentiate the outside panels, each has been given a unique value: medium, white, dark. Because bullet points and choppy paragraphs (center panel) can be messy, they should be cushioned by wide, empty margins. Common typography (note the headline style) is a point of unity among the differences.





A multi-faceted presentation

Varying column widths, type sizes, values and colors express levels of conversation and give the reader many points of entry. Note the folds are disregarded.



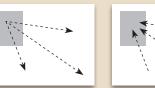
8 of 13

Note the flat edges

A page anchored by hope

The most important statement in the brochure anchors the design. Set in all caps on extremely tight leading (54/39) and carefully wrapped around three photos, the headline is an umbrella to which everything else will relate and leaves no doubt what the hospital stands for.

The layout starts at the headline . . .



... and everything relates back to it.







Careful typography creates stories within stories. Pull out key thoughts in a contrasting typeface and darker value; the reader can then browse lightly or read deeper.

Important words about kids and mental health . . .

Mental health is **how we feel about ourselves** and the world around us. While nearly everybody feels it's easy for parents to recognize when a child has a high fever, a child's mental health may be more difficult to identify. Mental health problems can't always be seen. But many symptoms can be recognized.

Mental health problems affect **one in every five** young people at any given time. Some mental health problems are severe enough to disrupt daily life and a child's ability to function. Such serious disturbances affect one in every 20 young people.

Tragically, an estimated two-thirds of all children with mental health problems are not getting the help they need.

Without help, serious mental health problems can lead to school failure, alcohol or other drug abuse, family discord, violence, or even suicide.

Help is available. Effective interventions and drug treatments exist. And with help, a child can **learn to cope** with his or her illness —and feel productive, worthwhile and happy.

If you're concerned about the life and health of a child, seek help immediately. Talk to your doctor, school counselor, or other mental health professional who is trained to assess whether or not your child has a mental health problem.

Don't let anything stand in the way of your child's healthy future.

A complex story has many facets

The designer can make reading easier and more interesting by breaking a story into visual parts. Left, with no editorial input at all, a "browser level" was created for the reader simply by highlighting key words in an ordinary galley of type. Note below the number of key thoughts that have been highlighted on the page; each labels and clarifies a different facet of its story.





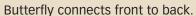


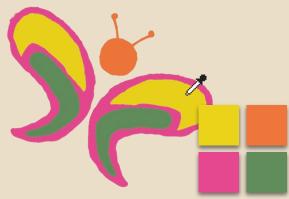


Before&After.

Fluttering across the heavy topic is a hopeful little butterfly. This was key to the makeover. The butterfly provided the color palette and visual continuity from section to section.







Color, continuity—and touchability

A theme is a color or shape or image that ties the elements of the brochure together by giving them a consistent—or repetitive—look and feel. In this case, the butterfly was duplicated and placed intermittently throughout the brochure, and its simple color palette was picked up in the headlines. Just as important as its visual properties are its message-making qualities; the butterfly is light, non-threatening and touchable, and its presence represents hope to those in the dungeons of mental illness.

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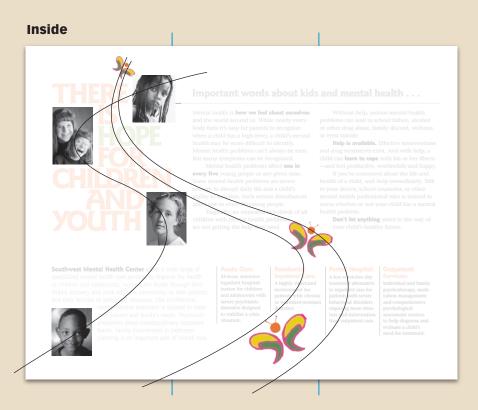


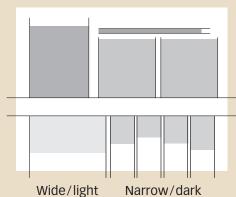




On a page of rectangles, a curvy counterpoint

Finally, graphics carve esses atop the rectangular page, gracefully connecting top to bottom. Similar sizes make all seven objects work in unison.





Mechanical and organic The variety of column widths and type sizes keep the page engaging and the eye moving. Note above the page is first divided top to bottom, then each section is divided again; note especially the unusually narrow columns at the bottom. Left, overlaying the rectangular format are three butterflies from large to small and the children's photos, which follow sweeping S curves and provide a softening counterpoint to the layout.

Article resources





Typefaces

- 1 (a-c) ITC Goudy Sans Book a) 9/14 pt, b) 9/11 pt, c) 12/14 pt
- 2 (a-h) ITC Goudy Sans Bold
- a) 18/14 pt, b) 9/11 pt,
- c) 36/30 pt -25 letterspacing,
- d) 54/39 pt -50 letterspacing,
- e) 12/14 pt, f) 20/14 pt, g) 11/14 pt,
- h) 12/12.5 pt
- 3 (a-c) ITC Stone Serif Medium
- a) 10/14 pt, b) 8/10 pt, c) 8.5/11.5 pt
- 4 Trajan Regular | 8/9.5 pt

Southwest Mental Health Center 8535 Tom Slick Drive San Antonio, Texas 78229 www.smhc.org

Colors

- C10 M9 Y12 K4
- CO M60 Y80 KO
- C27 M0 Y72 K18
- CO MO YO K40
- CO MO YO K60
- CO MO YO K70







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Before & After has been sharing its practical approach to graphic design since 1990. Because our modern world has made designers of us all (ready or not), Before & After is dedicated to making graphic design understandable, useful and even fun for everyone.

John McWade Publisher and creative director **Gaye McWade** Associate publisher Vincent Pascual Staff designer **Dexter Mark Abellera** Staff designer

Before & After magazine

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For paper-saver format

Print: (Specify pages 15-21)





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Key to the makeover was a little butterfly that gave us the focal point, color and continuity we needed. Have a look.

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One . . .

two...

done!



Problem: It all looks alike

every panel tells a different piece of the SMHC story, to the reader it all looks alike. The before is a letterfold brochure that was designed by filling panels with text. Although



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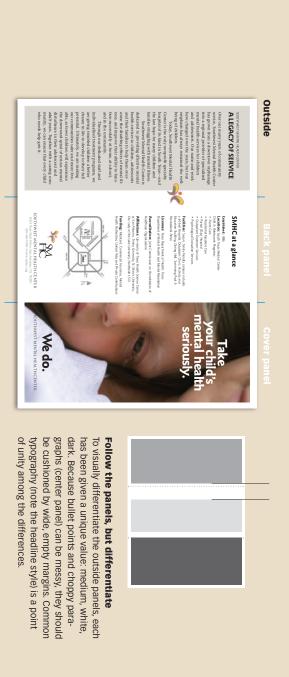
Cover image is key

frame of reference. Image and headline are seen together and must work as one. The cover image is the key message-maker; it sets the tone and establishes the reader's



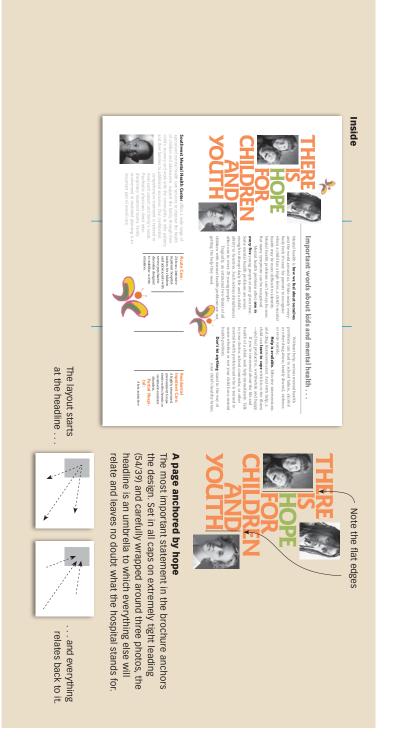
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Bi-level typography

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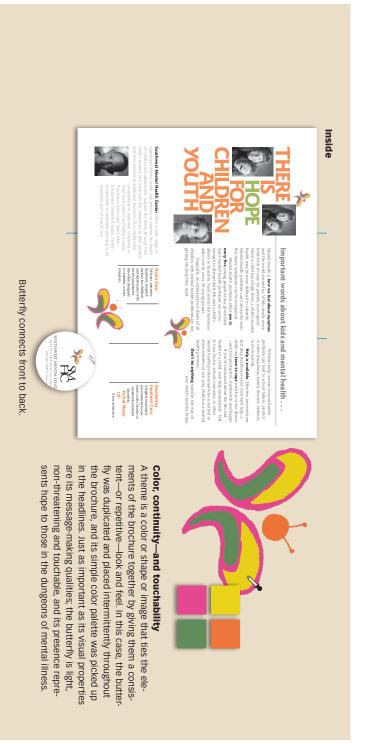
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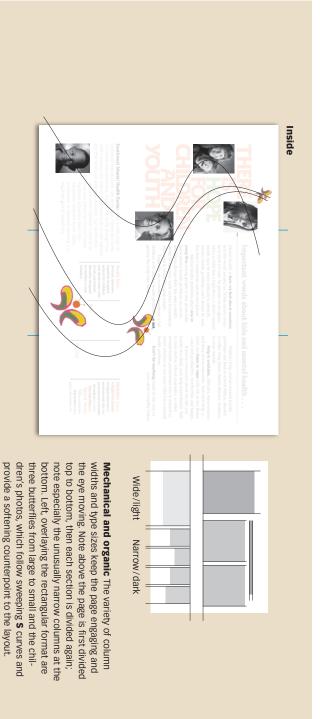
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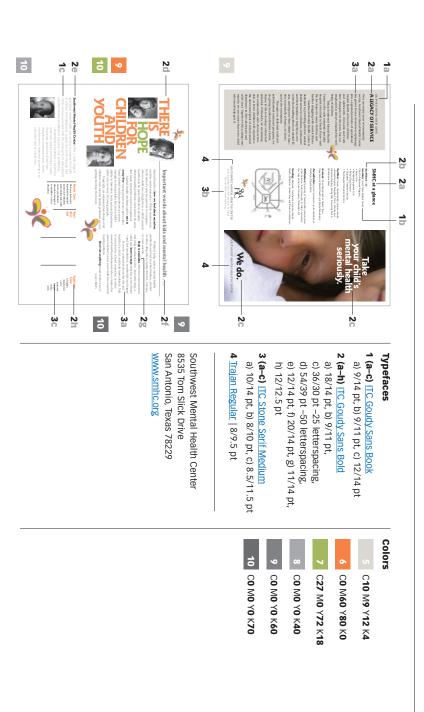


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