

EARLY EDUCATION WING OPENS AT THE HELP GROUP'S NEW AUTISM CENTER



We are pleased to announce that The Help Group's new autism center and campus, located in Sherman Oaks, opened its early education day school wing on Monday, November 8th.

In addition to the day school, other major components of the campus include: an Intervention Center; a Research, Training & Conference Center; and a Theater & Arts Complex, which will open in January.



This new campus provides the additional facility infrastructure that enables The Help Group to offer the most comprehensive, innovative and seamless system of autism spectrum disorders programs and services in the United States.

A special edition of HelpLine will be published in February featuring all of the exciting news of the opening, along with a big thank you to all of those who helped to make our new campus a reality. There's much to share with you as we open these new doors of opportunity to children with autism and their families.



DOUG HERZOG, JASON & KATHLEEN KATIMS TO BE HONORED AT THE 2010 TEDDY BEAR BALL



DOUG HERZOG



JASON & KATHLEEN KATIMS

At its Teddy Bear Ball on Monday, December 6th, 2010, The Help Group will honor three outstanding individuals. Doug Herzog, President of MTV Networks Entertainment Group, will receive the *Help Humanitarian Award* in recognition of his far-reaching humanitarian achievements, including Comedy Central's *Night of Too Many Stars: An Overbooked Concert for Autism Education*. Jason Katims, executive producer and head writer of the TV show *Parenthood*, who has contributed greatly to autism awareness, and Kathleen Katims, parent advocate in support of children with autism and their families, will receive the *Champion for Children Award*. This year's Gala Chairs are Peter Berg, Brian Grazer, Ron Howard, Judy McGrath and Ken Solomon.



Doug Herzog is a highly respected veteran of the entertainment industry with an impressive

continued on page 3

The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

"Deck the Walls"
for
The Help Group Children
at your local
Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf
this holiday season!

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A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

As the holiday season approaches, we are pleased to share our newest edition of HelpLine with you!

It is wonderful to be able to report to you that the early education day school wing of our new autism center/campus recently opened. This state-of-the-art campus also includes an intervention center, research & training center and a theater & performing arts complex that will be officially opening in January. Please look for our special edition of HelpLine in February highlighting our new campus.

Throughout these pages, you can glimpse at a sampling of The Help Group's wide range of programs & services and special events. And, you can read about the amazing organizations and individuals who do so much to help build brighter futures for the kids.

The African proverb that says it takes a village to raise a child is so true. We are immensely grateful for the special village that our board of directors, administration, governmental colleagues, philanthropic friends and volunteers have created for the children, adolescents & young adults we serve and their families.

Best wishes for a very happy holiday season!

Gary H. Carmona ~ Dr. Barbara Firestone

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CONTENTS

Early Education Wing Opens at the New Autism Center.....	cover
2010 Teddy Bear Ball Honorees.....	cover
"Deck the Walls" at The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf®.....	pg 3
19th Annual Golf Classic.....	pg 4
Hasbro Boundless Playground at the New Autism Center.....	pg 5
Teddy Bear Tea ~ An Affair of the Heart.....	pg 6
ADVANCE LA Transition Program.....	pg 7
Silver Lining ~ New Resale Boutique.....	pg 7
The Help Group – UCLA Research Alliance.....	pg 8
Summit 2010 Convenes Leading Experts.....	pg 9
13th Annual Teddy Bear Ball.....	pg 10
Bangladeshi College Student Visits The Help Group.....	pg 12
Summit View School Graduate.....	pg 12
"Kids Like Me" Day Camps.....	pg 13
The Help Group Hosts "Excellence in Employment Awards".....	pg 14
2010 Autism Awareness Month Campaign Partners.....	pg 15
Gelson's Raises Funds & Awareness.....	pg 15
"Through Our Eyes: A Celebration of Young Artists".....	pg 15
Classroom Sponsorships.....	Pg 17
Milken Festival for Youth Kick Off.....	Pg 17
"Love Where You Live" Shopping Benefit.....	Pg 17

TEDDY BEAR BALL - continued from cover

GALA CHAIRS



Peter Berg



Brian Grazer



Ron Howard



Judy McGrath



Ken Solomon

track record of major television successes. In 2006, he was named president of the newly formed MTV Networks Entertainment Group. He has overseen a multi-platform portfolio of brands featuring Comedy Central, Spike TV and TV Land while working at MTV. Under his leadership, Comedy Central launched a major humanitarian effort, *Night of Too Many Stars*. This biennial event, hosted by *The Daily Show's* Jon Stewart, gathers the nation's leading comedians for a night of stand-up comedy to support autism education. The Help Group is proud to be one of the recipient organizations of this year's efforts.

Jason Katims is a prolific producer, writer and playwright. Widely recognized for his highly acclaimed NBC series, *Parenthood*, Jason is also the executive producer and head writer of the Emmy-award winning *Friday Night Lights*, for which he has received numerous accolades, including a Peabody Award and the Humanitas Prize. He has also served as the executive producer on multiple television series, including *Boston Public*

and *Roswell*, and as an executive story editor on *My So-Called Life*. Kathleen Katims has dedicated herself to creating a bright future for her 14-year-old son Sawyer, who attends The Help Group's Village Glen School. She is passionate about building understanding and awareness of autism in the community. As parents, Kathleen and Jason have decided to speak openly and candidly about their family's experiences. In *Parenthood*, one of the storylines focuses on a couple raising a son with Asperger's Disorder. Using their personal experiences as a touchstone, *Parenthood* provides insight into the very real struggles and triumphs of families facing the challenges of autism spectrum disorders.

The Teddy Bear Ball will begin with a 6:30 pm cocktail reception. The dinner program and live auction will follow. Always a highlight of this special evening, The Help Group Children's Choir will perform along with celebrity friends. Please join us at The Teddy Bear Ball to celebrate the holiday season for the benefit of the children!

For reservations and information, please contact Janice Pitler at 818.779.5212 or visit our Web site at www.thehelpgroup.org.

THE COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF WILL "DECK THE WALLS" FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE HELP GROUP



For the 9th year, The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf® is sponsoring its "Deck the Walls" program in support of The Help Group's efforts on behalf of children with autism and other special needs. This wonderful holiday program runs from November 26th through December 31st in 200 stores throughout California and in the Western United States. Mel Elias, Coffee Bean & Tea

Leaf President & Chief Executive Officer, said, "We take great pride in the fact that the entire The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf family shares a commitment to children with special needs and to the important work of The Help Group. Giving back has always been a high priority for all of us at Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf."

Customers can participate by purchasing one or more holiday stickers, priced at \$1 each, in order to "Deck the Walls" of their local Coffee Bean

& Tea Leaf. One hundred percent of the sticker purchases will benefit The Help Group. Another way customers can participate is by purchasing The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf's Winter Dream Tea® and Holiday Blend Whole Bean Coffee retail products. Coffee Bean will donate \$1 from the sale of each of these items to The Help Group.

On Tuesday, November 9th, The Coffee Bean hosted a special open house from 4 to 7 pm in its stores to kick off the holiday season and to raise funds for The Help Group. Customers had the opportunity to purchase specialty holiday drinks for \$1 each with 100 percent of the proceeds donated to The Help Group.

"We are thankful that The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf has chosen to partner with us once again in support of our efforts on behalf of the children," said Dr. Barbara Firestone, President & CEO of The Help Group. "The magic of the holiday campaign and 'Deck the Walls' lasts long beyond the holiday season, helping the children fulfill their potential to lead positive, productive and rewarding lives. We are honored to be part of The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf family."

19TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC ~ A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The Help Group's 19th Annual Keyes European Mercedes-Benz Teddy Bear Golf Classic and Lockton Insurance Brokers Awards Dinner brought together friends old and new on June 7th at Valencia Country Club. The Los Angeles business community turned out to score a "hole in one" for the children of The Help Group.

The Help Group presented its *Help Fore Children Humanitarian Award* to Wells Fargo in recognition of its extensive philanthropic giving, which has touched lives of thousands of children and families across the country. Michael Marino, Executive Vice President of the Wells Fargo Real Estate Group Southwestern Division, accepted the award on behalf of Wells Fargo.

Keyes European Mercedes-Benz was the tournament title sponsor for the 14th consecutive year. Lockton Insurance Brokers, LLC sponsored the awards dinner for the 4th consecutive year. Golf Classic Chairs included Howard Tenenbaum, Vice President of Keyes Motors, Inc., and Judd Swarzman, both Help Group board members, as well as Charles Toppino, President, Five Tops, Inc.

Major sponsors included: Caruso Affiliated; Eastdil Secured; Dr. Nancy & Jonathan Glaser and The Zenith.

Back by popular demand, Peter Tilden, host of *The Peter Tilden Morning Show* on KABC 790 TalkRadio, entertained the audience as emcee during the dinner and live auction. Gary H. Carmona, Chairman of the Board of The Help Group, and Dr. Barbara Firestone, President & CEO, thanked donors, sponsors and players at the awards dinner for making the event such a tremendous success. Dr. Firestone remarked, "Today is more than just a golf event, it's a symbol of everyone's collective commitment to building brighter futures for kids with special needs. This evening we honor Wells Fargo, known worldwide for its extraordinary spirit of philanthropy. Wells Fargo makes a truly significant impact by giving back to nonprofits in all of the communities it serves."

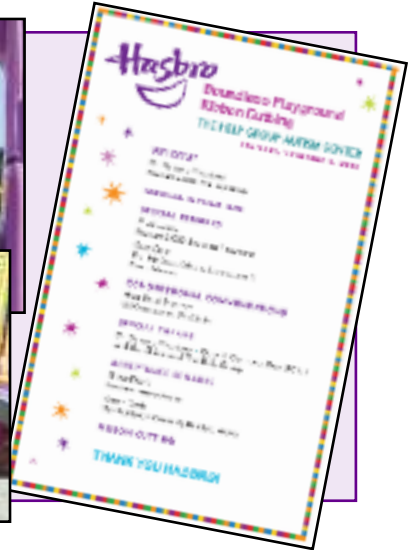
In accepting the Humanitarian Award on behalf of Wells Fargo, Michael Marino described the company's longstanding commitment to philanthropic engagement in areas where Wells

continued on page 17



1. Dr. Barbara Firestone, Gary H. Carmona, Mike Marino, Jesse Sharf 2. Larry Abramson, Howard Tenenbaum 3. Judd Swarzman 4. Donald A. Mullane 5. Jonathan Firestone, Dr. David Firestone 6. Mike Marino 7. Peter Tilden, Howard Tenenbaum 8. Joy & Jerry Monkarsh, Help Group Board of Directors 9. Dr. Susan Berman 10. Jeff Johnson, Mike Marino, Todd Popovich, Steve Jaffe 11. Gary H. Carmona, Brian Baumgartner 12. Brent Nishikawa 13. Gary H. Carmona, Jesse Sharf 14. Chris Conway, Sean Hsueh, Bill Prigge, Richard Yee 15. Kevin Pivnick, Steve Spector, Jesse Sharf, Jonathan Epstein 16. The Help Group Children's Choir 17. Nader Abdelmaseh, Matt Dababneh 18. C. Clark, Mark Nieman, Bob Peters, RJ Noonan

HASBRO BOUNDLESS PLAYGROUND AT THE HELP GROUP'S NEW AUTISM CENTER BRINGS THE JOY OF PLAY TO CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS



On Thursday, November 4th, The Help Group, Hasbro, dignitaries, special guests and dozens of very happy children took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new Boundless playground. This dynamic and engaging play space, designed for children with autism, was made possible by a generous gift from the Hasbro Children's Fund and is located at The Help Group's new, state-of-the-art autism center in Sherman Oaks.

In her welcoming remarks, Dr. Barbara Firestone, The Help Group President & CEO, thanked Hasbro, "We are so grateful that the children of The Help Group have joined the more than 4 million children worldwide who have been given the gifts of hope, play and a helping hand by Hasbro.

You truly set the bar very high for what it means to be an outstanding corporate citizen." Gary H. Carmona, Help Group Board Chair, and Dr. Firestone were joined by two students, who presented Hasbro and Hasbro Studios with artwork made by the children. The Help Group Children's Choir performed a special

song of tribute to Hasbro, "Way to Go, Hasbro," which received a standing ovation from a very enthusiastic audience. In his acceptance remarks, Steve Davis, President of Hasbro Studios, said, "We're thrilled to be here to help the Hasbro Boundless playground get off to a phenomenal start. We are so very, very impressed with the great work of The Help Group—we are inspired by the children and the great progress they make here." Karen Davis, Vice President of Community Relations for Hasbro, Inc., commented, "We are very fortunate to work for a company that allows us to do these kinds of things and try, in our own way, to make an impact where we can."

Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA) commended Hasbro, commenting, "A company has to do business, but a company doesn't have to do what you've done, which is to support kids with special needs, especially to sponsor this playground." Fred Leone, President & CEO of Boundless Playgrounds, spoke about the process of designing a play space for children with autism spectrum disorders. "This is our most unique project to date. Boundless Playgrounds learned a lot here that we'll be able to use again and again. This is going to have a lasting impact." Gary Cole, actor, parent advocate and The Help Group's Celebrity Spokesperson, spoke from the heart when he said, "As a parent, I am indebted to people here, and others like them, who dedicate themselves to seeing the world through another pair of eyes—and those eyes belong to our kids. This beautiful environment will nurture interaction, teach behavior and allow kids to grow."

When the ribbon was cut, students raced onto the brightly colored playground, where they laughed and played along with the grown-ups creating a truly unforgettable experience for everyone present!

song of tribute to Hasbro, "Way to Go, Hasbro," which received a standing ovation from a very enthusiastic audience.

1. Hon. Brad Sherman, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Steve Davis, Karen Davis, Gary H. Carmona 2. Students of The Help Group 3. Hon. Brad Sherman, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Gary Carmona, Steve Davis, Karen Davis, Fred Leone, Gary H. Carmona 4. Hon. Brad Sherman, Steve Davis, Karen Davis 5. Margaret Loesch, Wayne Charness 6. Student of The Help Group 7. Fred Leone 8. Gary Cole 9. Steve Davis, Help Group Student 10. Louis Price 11. The Help Group Children's Choir

TEDDY BEAR TEA ~ AN AFFAIR OF THE HEART

Dr. Cheryl Saban, acclaimed philanthropist, family advocate, author and psychologist, was the keynote speaker at The Help Group's 3rd Annual Teddy Bear Tea ~ An Affair of the Heart held March 17th at the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills. Dr. Saban shared the powerful and thought-provoking message of her book, *What is Your Self-Worth?: A Woman's Guide to Validation*.

For the 2nd consecutive year, The Teddy Bear Tea was graciously hosted by Nadine Schiff-Rosen, who serves on The

grown-up table." Dr. Saban also discussed the recent establishment of her Women's Self Worth Foundation, which provides grants to organizations that work toward the empowerment and advancement of women.

Tea co-hosts Teddi Cole and Julia Baumgartner spoke with great warmth and enthusiasm about their experiences as parents of children who attend The Help Group's Summit View School. Tea co-host Therese Gamba introduced The Help Group's Opportunity Fund, which provides scholarships and support for



Help Group's Circle of Friends Philanthropic Board with her husband, Fred Rosen. "I've come to know The Help Group for its commitment to leading the way for young people who are facing challenges," she said. "Thank you for being here today in support of this wonderful organization."

In her keynote address, Dr. Saban delivered a wake-up call for women to claim their own self-worth, take responsibility for the outcomes in their lives and become change makers, both locally and globally. "We need to value ourselves, own our opinions, let our own lights shine and embrace the fact that we do have a valid, viable and highly capable voice and we do deserve a seat at the

young people with special needs served by The Help Group—some of whom have been victims of abuse and neglect or come from the foster care system or from economically disadvantaged circumstances.

Describing the event as a veritable "Power Tea," Dr. Barbara Firestone, The Help Group President & CEO, said, "There's a real energy in this room today. It's the power of commitment to kids and giving back and to ensuring that all children have brighter futures." Dr. Firestone announced the upcoming opening of The Help Group's new state-of-the-art autism center, which is dedicated to education, research, parent & professional training and outreach. She also spoke of The Help Group's robust efforts

continued on page 17

1. Therese Gamba, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Cheryl Saban, PhD, Nadine Schiff-Rosen, Teddi Cole, Julia Baumgartner 2. Margaret Loesch, Cheryl Saban, PhD, First Lady Sharon Davis 3. Heidi & James Gray 4. Cheryl Saban, PhD 5. Ann Costello, Jamie McGurk 6. Nadine Schiff-Rosen 7. Sherri Zahedi, Dr. Susan Berman, Nata Preis, Julie Connella 8. Dr. Barbara Firestone, Susan Kennedy 9. Julia Baumgartner, Teddi Cole 10. Therese Gamba, Bonnie Star 11. Cheryl Saban, PhD 12. The Help Group Children's Choir 13. Heather Brezny, Grant Brezny 14. Opportunity Fund Tea Bear 15. Stacey Siegal

ADVANCE LA TRANSITION PROGRAM FOR POST-HIGH SCHOOL YOUNG ADULTS

To answer the increasing demand for transition services for post-high school young adults, The Help Group is pleased to announce the arrival of ADVANCE LA. This exciting new program, designed for young adults with autism spectrum disorders, ADHD and other learning differences, helps facilitate a successful transition to post-secondary options by providing comprehensive support services that are individually tailored to participants.



Lee Chernotsky with Student

Training and support focuses on several key areas, including time and money management, self-advocacy, personal hygiene, transportation and developing appropriate peer and work relationships. "ADVANCE LA life skills coaches serve as a GPS system for young adults learning to navigate the world outside of high school," says Program Director Lee Chernotsky. "We are here to provide participants with the opportunities to learn, develop and enhance the skills necessary for them to be successful and ADVANCE forward on whatever path they choose."

Program participants are receiving life coaching while enrolled at UCLA, California State University, Northridge, American Jewish University, Occidental College and local community colleges. Others are coached in the workplace or as they seek employment.

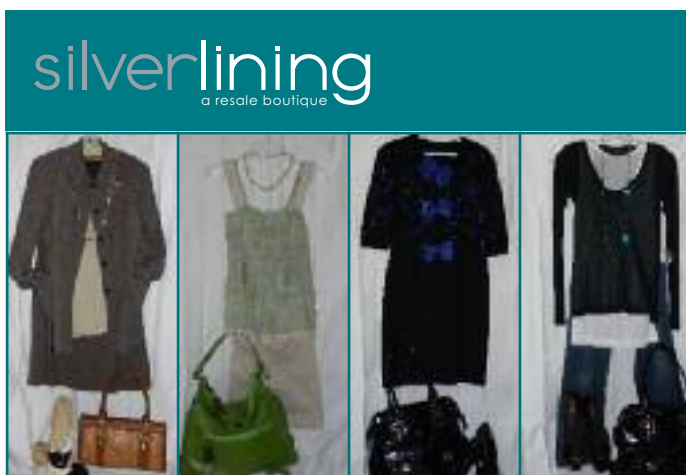
According to one parent, whose 20-year-old son participated in the ADVANCE LA Summer Institute, "The enthusiasm, compassion and supportive atmosphere created by the staff were so impressive. I wish I could bottle it and uncork it whenever reassurance is needed that there are knowledgeable people out there who truly care."

For additional information on the program, as well as upcoming orientations, please contact Lee Chernotsky at 818.779.8370 or lchernotsky@thehelpgroup.org.

NEW RESALE BOUTIQUE GIVES STUDENTS REAL-LIFE WORK EXPERIENCE

The Help Group is excited to announce the winter opening of its Silver Lining Resale Boutique adjacent to its Culver City Campus. Silver Lining will be the first resale store of its kind—offering new and gently used designer clothing, shoes and accessories for men, women and children at affordable prices while simultaneously serving as a vocational training center for students with social and communication disabilities, including autism and related disorders. This valuable work experience will assist students in developing the life skills and tools they will need to gain employment and increase their level of independence and self-confidence.

"This is one of the many new initiatives being launched at The Help Group that seeks to broaden the range of opportunities for young people with special needs. This venture has the added beauty of benefiting the students, those who donate to the store and our community—a silver lining for all," said Dr. Susan Berman, Chief Operating Officer of The Help Group.



So during this holiday season, please think of Silver Lining for your shopping needs, or take a moment to clean out your closet for a donation and ask your friends to do the same. By filling Silver Lining with your new or gently used designer articles, you will be giving the gift of hope to many.

To donate items, or for more information on Silver Lining, please contact Heather Humphrey at 818.779.5272 or hhumphrey@thehelpgroup.org

Silver Lining is located at 12095 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90066

THE HELP GROUP – UCLA RESEARCH ALLIANCE BRINGS RESEARCH TO THE CLASSROOM



Autism Research Alliance



Long the domain of university labs, autism research is taking the critical next step into the real world of special education classrooms. Investigators from The Help Group – UCLA Autism Research Alliance are exploring answers to some of the long-standing questions about how best to treat children with autism.

“The classroom is an ideal environment to study interventions for children with autism,” said Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson, Director of the Alliance, “but the majority of autism research takes place in a laboratory setting. By transitioning research out of the lab, we can test the true benefit of our interventions for children with autism in a natural environment and open the door to exciting new possibilities.”

Currently, 12 cutting-edge Alliance studies are underway, including:

- Research into studying how children with autism can be more successful in school
- Improving the social skills and independence of young adults with autism
- Using play and joint attention to improve language skills for preschoolers with autism
- Improving social skills and friendship quality for teens with autism
- Understanding the positive impact of music education
- Using brain imaging to understand how children with autism process emotion in music
- Studying how children with autism recognize complex emotions in faces
- Exploring therapies to reduce social anxiety in school children and adolescents with autism
- Helping parents utilize evidence-based treatments for preschool children with autism
- Understanding how children with autism hear and process sounds in their environments
- Examining the differences in development among adolescents with autism from those with mild intellectual disabilities or typical development

Through this groundbreaking approach to research, investigators are examining pressing issues confronting children with autism and their families. “While a lot of studies are focusing on the causes of autism, or potential cures, it’s important to research new and innovative ways to treat children now,” says Charity Vanderveer, whose son Dublin graduated from The Help Group’s Young Learners Preschool. “It’s only through treatment that our children will have the opportunity to become the best they can be and reach their fullest potential.”

In an effort to help their children with autism, parents often pursue a myriad of treatments; however, without research to validate a specific approach, a true measure of value can be elusive.

One example of translational research being done by the Alliance includes testing the effects of treatment in joint attention skills for young children with autism at The Help Group’s Young Learners Preschool. Joint attention skills include showing, pointing and sharing an event or object with another person in an effort to share the experience. Children with autism tend to lack this ability. Research indicates that if joint attention skills are improved, language development may follow. The progress of participating Young Learners students will test this hypothesis.

The Alliance is a unique partnership between The Help Group, a leader in autism education, and UCLA’s Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, an Autism Center for Excellence. Through the pioneering vision of Dr. Barbara Firestone, President & CEO of The Help Group, and Dr. Peter Whybrow, Director of the Semel Institute, the Alliance has grown into one of the most innovative autism research partnerships in the United States.

For more information about the research projects currently in progress through The Help Group – UCLA Autism Research Alliance, please contact Dr. Liz Laugeson at 818.779.5554 or elaugeson@thehelpgroup.org.

SUMMIT 2010 CONVENES LEADING EXPERTS IN AUTISM, LEARNING DISABILITIES & ADHD

More than 500 professionals and parents attended *The Help Group Summit 2010 – Advances and Best Practices in Autism, Learning Disabilities & ADHD* on Friday, October 1st and Saturday, October 2nd at The Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. Sponsored by First 5 California and First 5 LA, this state-of-the-art annual conference featured more than 30 of the nation’s leading experts speaking on research and best practices. Dr. Barbara Firestone chaired the conference along with Dr. Peter Whybrow, Director, UCLA’s Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at The Geffen School of Medicine, and Dr. Robert Bilder, Chief, Medical Psychology-Neuropsychology at the Semel Institute.

At the first day’s luncheon convocation, Dr. Firestone thanked First 5 LA and First 5 California for their generous support of the

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Summit Chairs Dr. Robert Bilder, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Dr. Peter C. Whybrow

conference. On behalf of First 5, Yolanda Bosch, Chief Administrative Officer, First 5 LA, spoke about the importance of the Summit and its positive impact on parents and professionals in the field. Dr. Firestone and Dr. Bilder presented the *Distinguished Professional Award* to Dr. Connie Kasari, Professor, Psychological Studies in Education at UCLA, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the field of knowledge in autism. Dr. Kasari is one of the initial members of The Help Group – UCLA Autism Research Alliance.

At the end of the luncheon, Dr. Firestone gave a heartfelt tribute in memory of Dr. Paul Satz, Summit Co-Founder and Chair Emeritus/Founder of The Help Group – UCLA Neuropsychology Program. Dr. Satz was a Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences and the founder of the Neuropsychology Program at UCLA’s Semel

continued on page 16



In Memoriam: Dr. Paul Satz

September 12, 1932 - June 20, 2010

Recognized as a luminary in his field, Dr. Paul Satz was a Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences and the founder of the Neuropsychology Program at UCLA’s Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior and Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital.

Dr. Satz was renowned for his pioneering research on brain-based behavior relations and is acknowledged as one of the founders of the discipline of neuropsychology. One of his many accomplishments during his 21 years at UCLA (1981-2002) was the establishment of the UCLA Neuropsychology Program, which is one of the world’s largest and most successful training programs for clinical neuropsychologists.

His contributions to the understanding of normal and abnormal brain development, including authorship of more

than 300 scholarly publications, continue to have a tremendous impact on a number of diverse disciplines. A dedicated teacher and mentor, Dr. Satz’s influence continues through the ongoing work of his more than 200 trainees – many of whom have gone on to make major contributions in the field.

In collaboration with Dr. Barbara Firestone, Dr. Satz established The Help Group – UCLA Neuropsychology Program, where he served as chief for nine years, as well as The Help Group’s Annual Summit on autism, learning disabilities and ADHD.

At the UCLA Semel Institute’s memorial program, Dr. Firestone remarked, “Over the years, I absolutely marveled at the breadth of Paul’s contributions to the field, his extraordinary intellect, his clinical acumen, his research endeavors, his commitment to excellence and his uncanny ability to share his wisdom and sage counsel with others.”

Dr. Satz will be deeply missed.

13TH ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR BALL HONORS BRIAN

The International Ballroom of the Beverly Hilton was filled with the spirit of the holiday season as hundreds of friends and supporters gathered for The Help Group's 13th Annual Teddy Bear Ball on December 7th, 2009. The Help Group presented its *Help Humanitarian Award* to Brian Goldner, President & CEO of Hasbro, in recognition of his far-reaching philanthropic leadership and commitment to children's causes. Parent advocate Mary Urquhart received the *Champion for Children Award* in recognition of her heartfelt spirit of giving and volunteerism, which has helped to create brighter futures for children with autism. Writer-director Max Mayer received the *Spirit of Hope Award* for raising important public awareness and understanding through the sensitive portrayal of a young man with Asperger's Disorder in his acclaimed motion picture *Adam*.

Brian Grazer, Cheryl & Haim Saban and Bill Urquhart served as co-chairs of the event. Major Sponsors included Hasbro Inc., Cheryl & Haim Saban – The Saban Family Foundation, Mary & Bill Urquhart, Keyes Automotive Group, The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf®, the Milken Family Foundation, WME Entertainment, Qantas Airlines and Universal Studios.

Actor Ben Stiller lit up the evening with his warmth and humor, singing an unforgettable impromptu rendition of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" with The Help Group children, at their request. To recognize this year's honorees, he led the evening's tributes, highlighting their humanitarian spirit and introducing the retrospective of past honorees, whose friendship and caring have touched the lives of many Help Group children. Long after the curtain closed, Ben graciously stayed on and, to the excitement of the more than 40 members of The Help Group Children's Choir, signed autographs and posed for pictures with the children.

Actor Gary Cole, The Help Group's National Celebrity Spokesperson and parent of a child with an autism spectrum disorder, spoke of the important work of The Help Group saying, "I know firsthand what an invaluable resource The Help Group is for children and families. My wife Teddi and I are so grateful that our daughter Mary attends a Help Group school and that we've had the opportunity to take part in The Help Group's autism awareness efforts." He introduced The Help Group's new video, eloquently narrated by *Good Morning America's* Robin Roberts.



1. Dr. Barbara Firestone, Max Mayer, Mary Urquhart, Brian Goldner, Gary H. Carmona 2. Barbara & Brian Goldner 3. Mary, Christine, Brian & Bill Urquhart 4. Max Mayer 5. Ben Stiller 6. Christine Taylor, Gary Cole 7. Zachary Levi 8. Governor Gray & Sharon Davis, Hon. Zev & Barbara Yaroslavsky 9. Dean Schramm & Hon. Wendy Greuel 10. Mike & Susan Berk, Sheila Lasky, Linda & Judd Swarzman, Joy & Jerry Monkash 11. Jodi & Howard Tenenbaum 12. Dr. David Firestone 13. Michelle Tushnet, Perry Katz 14. Drs. Susan & Barry Berman 15. Margaret Loesch, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Brian Goldner, Gary H. Carmona 16. Mel Elias 17. Ken Solomon 18. Chris & Jamie McGurk 19. Dick & Ann Costello 20. Diane Lampert, Joseph Sprung 21. Ben Stiller & Christine Taylor 22. David & Sonia Salzman 23. Andy & Amy Heyward 24. Michael Rosenberg 25. Ben Stiller, The Help Group Children's Choir 26. Dr. Sarah & Jeremy Milken 27. Samantha & Jonathan Firestone 28. Christine Taylor, Ben Stiller, The Help Group's Children's Choir 29. Zachary Levi, Help Group Student 30. Louis Price 31. Zachary Levi, The Help Group's Children's Choir

BRIAN GOLDNER, MARY URQUHART AND MAX MAYER



children and families. It serves as a model that deserves all of our support...This is an organization and a team that is all about creating a great future for every child." At the conclusion of his remarks, he surprised The Help Group with his announcement of Hasbro's generous donation of a state-of-the-art Boundless playground to The Help Group's new Autism Center opening in 2010.

With great poise, Christine Urquhart, teenage daughter of Mary Urquhart, lovingly introduced her mom. Mary was joined on stage by her son, Brian, who has been the inspiration of all of her efforts on

behalf of children with autism spectrum disorders. Brian graduated from The Help Group's Village Glen High School last spring. Addressing the audience, Mary said, "As I look around the room, I am overwhelmed by the support of our friends...You are the reason that we have felt comfortable in every situation regardless of how difficult things have been at times. Throughout the last 18 years, we could depend on your love and support. That means everything...Thank you Bill, our friends, family and The Help Group."

Adam producer Leslie Urdang introduced her colleague and friend, Max Mayer, and read a letter written by a young man with Asperger's Disorder who found hope in the film's message. In his acceptance remarks, Max shared, "I am deeply honored and humbled if our movie has helped in some small way to support people on the spectrum and those who love them...Thank you so much to everyone at The Help Group for your work, for your love and knowledge, for your perseverance and, finally, for your awe-inspiring desire to help."

With a musical tribute to the honorees, the multi-talented Zachary Levi, of the TV show *Chuck*, joined by the children's choir, gave a heartwarming performance of "Wonderful World." Zachary's easy charm and interaction with the kids created a very special moment that captured the spirit of the evening. For the grand finale, all of the honorees, celebrity guests and the children sang "Winter Wonderland" to a cheering audience ~ it was a truly memorable evening!



Gary H. Carmona, Help Group Chairman, and Dr. Barbara Firestone, President & CEO, thanked everyone for their generous support and commitment to The Help Group's efforts on behalf of the children and presented the awards to each of the honorees. Dr. Firestone remarked, "It's that special time of year when we take pause to think about the true meaning of the holiday season...the compassion and caring of our honorees Brian, Mary and Max give us great cause to celebrate."

Actress Christine Taylor joined Gary Cole in a salute to The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf® and its President & CEO, Mel Elias, recognizing eight years of support of The Help Group through its annual "Deck the Walls" holiday in-store giving program and through its hosting of The Help Group's Autism Awareness Month campaign. During the spirited live auction segment, Dr. Susan Berman, Help Group COO, and Dick Costello, Help Group Circle of Friends Philanthropic Board member, introduced The Help Group's Opportunity Fund, which drew very generous financial support from the audience. Raul Pastor, a Help Group graduate, movingly shared what the Opportunity Fund has meant to him.

Margaret Loesch, President & CEO of the Discovery-Hasbro Joint Venture The Hub, introduced Brian Goldner and lauded his professional and philanthropic achievements. In his acceptance remarks, Brian said, "Hasbro's employees have been a force in the playful development of the whole child and their families. Giving to kids and giving back to communities is in Hasbro's DNA. The Help Group is an organization that mirrors this commitment to



BANGLADESHI COLLEGE STUDENT PLANS TO SHARE HER EXPERIENCES AT THE HELP GROUP IN HER COUNTRY

Last year, Azmina Karim, a student in Bangladesh's Asian University for Women, came up with an idea to make a documentary on teaching children with autism as part of a semester-long research project. There was only one problem—she couldn't find a program that had a formal teaching process, let alone one that had met with much success.



*Azmina Karim,
Help Group Student*

"There were a lot of things I thought Bangladeshi people needed to know," she said. "But I didn't want to tell them they were wrong until I knew what was right."

Still hoping to find a place where she could learn more about autism spectrum disorders, Azmina broadened her scope. Her search for information eventually led her to a summer internship with The Help Group.

She traveled from her hometown of Chittagong directly to Los Angeles, where she spent four weeks learning best practice teaching methods and observing summer classes, according to Pamela Clark, Director of The Help Group's Autism Schools.

"We wanted to give her some hands-on experience in the classroom with the kids, having behavioral specialists and teachers model for her the different strategies we're teaching," Clark said. "She received the same kind of in-service we give our teachers."

Every day brought new lessons about autism spectrum disorders, and Azmina quickly learned the crucial difference evidence-based interventions, such as social skills education and Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), can make in the life of a child. Despite wanting to stay longer, Azmina traveled home after her internship, eager to share what she'd learned with university faculty and teachers who work with special needs children.

"We have so many things to learn here, in a developed country, that we can take back to our communities in Bangladesh," she said. "The situation here is totally different—if parents came here, they would find it to be like a kind of heaven."

Pam Clark said she hopes Azmina's visit plants the seeds of what's being done at The Help Group in a nation where many children are underserved or undiagnosed. "The ideas and tools she took back can be used in a broader sense, not just for kids with autism, but other special needs as well. This is a first step toward really bringing changes to areas where change is needed most."

SUMMIT VIEW SCHOOL GRADUATE TAKES MAJOR STEP TOWARD REALIZING HER DREAM TO BECOME A DOCTOR

In 2007, Allie Vaccaro was a high school freshman struggling with poor grades due to her learning differences. She had issues with self-confidence and believed that her ambition to become a doctor would never be realized. "I didn't think there was a place that would ever help me," Allie recalls. That's when Allie's mom, Andra, heard from family friends about a school named Summit View.



Allie Vaccaro

Summit View School is dedicated to helping students with a wide range of learning differences. Its K-12 curriculum includes a highly individualized educational approach, small class size and hands-on learning. In this stimulating and motivating environment, students build their self-confidence and acquire the skills needed to experience achievement and success. Summit View's WASC-accredited college prep high school program gives students the opportunity to develop the skills they will need for college.

It was just the kind of environment in which Allie could thrive. In a matter of weeks after her enrollment, her grades and her outlook began to improve. "Everything changed," says Andra Vaccaro. "She came home really excited because she could finally understand what was going on."

During her time at Summit View, Allie blossomed both academically and personally, taking part in several extracurricular activities, playing on sports teams and editing the yearbook. She even spoke at the school's graduation ceremony in June.

But her successes didn't end there—today, Allie is enrolled as a freshman in UC Irvine's pre-med program. Her dream of becoming a doctor is one step closer to coming true.

This type of success story is common for students at Summit View, where 97 percent of graduating seniors attend college. "The combination of academic and emotional support helps students achieve their fullest potential," says Nancy Rosenfelt, Director, Summit View Schools.

"There's always a place for someone," Allie says. "That somewhere was here for me."



SUMMIT VIEW SCHOOL
Where Students with LEARNING DIFFERENCES EXCEL

Summit View School is WASC accredited and

offers an individualized K-12 academic curriculum for students with learning differences. For more information, call 877.943.5747 or visit www.summitview.org.

THE HELP GROUP'S "KIDS LIKE ME" DAY CAMPS OFFER ENRICHING & FUN-FILLED EXPERIENCES FOR CAMPERS

Kids like me



All kids need opportunities to have fun, make friends, learn new skills, connect with others and enjoy a sense of belonging. That's what *Kids Like Me* day camps are all about! These camps include Village Glen Camp, Camp Sunshine, Camp Discovery and Teens on the Go. They are created especially for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders and other special needs.

Campers enjoy a variety of fun-filled activities, including art, music, drama, outings and special events. All programs are overseen by highly trained professionals and are designed to address specific ages and ability levels.

Kids Like Me is currently enrolling for winter sessions that will run December 20th through the 23rd. For more information on the day camp programs, please visit www.thehelpgroup.org or contact Nicole Webb at 818.779.5188 or nwebb@thehelpgroup.org.

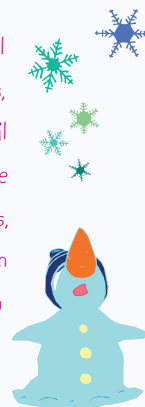
HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE



On Saturday, December 11th, 2010, The Help Group will be hosting a Holiday Carnival for more than 700 disadvantaged and disabled children served by its Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention, Mental Health and Residential Treatment programs. The carnival is a heartwarming, fun and interactive day with face painting, a petting zoo, arts & crafts, rides, plenty of food, a visit from Santa Claus and much, much more!

We invite you to help brighten the holiday season for these young people with a donation of new, unwrapped toys, books or games. You can also participate by joining us as a volunteer. For more information, please contact Cheryl Raver, Director of Community Affairs & Special Events, at 818.779.5212.

IDEAS FOR TOYS (\$10-\$15 price range) Action Figures, Arts & Craft Sets, Baseball Bats, Baseball Gloves, Baseballs, Basketballs, Board Games, Books, Crayons & Coloring Books, Dolls, Dominoes, Footballs, Jewelry for Young Girls, Jewelry-Making Kits, Kites, Legos, Nail Polish Kits, Make-up Kits, Puzzles, Rubber Stamp Kits, Science Toys, Scrapbooking Kits, Sidewalk Chalk, Soccer Balls, Stuffed Animals, Tea Sets, Teddy Bears, Teen Purses & Wallets, Tie-dye Kits, Train Sets, Trucks, Volleyballs, Watches, Yo-yos



THE HELP GROUP HOSTS THE CALIFORNIA SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUTISM & RELATED DISORDERS "EXCELLENCE IN EMPLOYMENT AWARDS"

On April 23, 2010, The Help Group hosted the inaugural California Senate Select Committee on Autism & Related Disorders "Excellence in Employment Awards" reception at its Sherman Oaks Campus. The award honors individuals, organizations and businesses that are leading the way in providing employment opportunities for people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other special needs. The honorees were nominated by the North Los Angeles Autism Regional Taskforce (NLAART)—one of the 12 regional taskforces established by the Senate Select Committee.

Sen. Carol Liu (D-La Canada Flintridge), Senate Select Committee Member, and Dr. Barbara Firestone, Chair, the Statewide Coordinating Council of Autism Taskforces, Chair, NLAART and President & CEO, The Help Group, presented the awards to 10 recipients: Anne Altman, International Creative Management; The Gott Family, Danny's Farm; Jons Marketplace; Eric Amundson & Joclynn Benjamin, Leaps N Boundz; Steve Jameson, Los Angeles Daily News; Joey Travolta, Inclusion Films & Team Diversity Media; Vons; Gil Zaharoni, Symmetry Electronics; Rick Ziegler, Manager, Vons Store #77; and Kathleen Oliva, Manager, Sun Valley Blockbuster Video.

Eighty-four percent of individuals with autism in California are under the age of 22. Within the next five years, an unprecedented number of teenagers with ASD will become adults. Currently, there is a significant gap of employment opportunities for these young people, with an unemployment rate higher than 90 percent. The Senate Select Committee is developing public policy to address the compelling need.

The California Senate Select Committee on Autism & Related Disorders, chaired by Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, is a bipartisan, 14-member committee formed to promote policies and legislation that will better assist individuals with ASD and their families. Three Select Committee members, Senators Carol Liu, Alex Padilla (D-Pacoima) and Fran Pavley (D-Santa Monica), represent the North Los Angeles area. For more information, see www.senate.ca.gov/autism.

"We are honored to recognize these fabulous employers who have demonstrated their commitment to young people with disabilities by providing them with meaningful jobs in the mainstream of our lives," Sen. Liu said at the awards ceremony.

"Today we celebrate the potential of young people with autism and other special needs to lead productive and rewarding lives in our communities—and we're here to honor those who give these

young people the chance to succeed," Dr. Firestone told the enthusiastic audience of taskforce members and other guests.

Colby, an individual with autism, has worked for the past 12 years at International Creative Management under the mentorship of award recipient Anne Altman. Everyone was very moved when he said, with great dignity and pride, "I love coming to work every day. Thank you to everyone here for making opportunities like this possible."

Members of The Help Group Children's Choir and long-standing friend Louis Price, former lead singer of The Temptations, closed the festivities with a very uplifting and inspiring performance of "Put a Little Love in Your Heart" and "I Believe I Can Fly."



1. Dr. Barbara Firestone, Sen. Carol Liu
2. Award Recipient Anne Altman, ICM, Colby Pittard
3. Michael Cooney and Award Recipient Joey Travolta
4. Pamela Clark, Director of The Help Group's Autism Spectrum Disorders Schools, Award Recipient Rick Ziegler, Manager Vons Store #77, Sen. Liu
5. Debby Webb, Executive Program Administrator, The Help Group, Award Recipient Kathleen Oliva, Manager Sun Valley Blockbuster Video

THE HELP GROUP THANKS ITS 2010 AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH CAMPAIGN PARTNERS



In recognition of National Autism Awareness Month in April, The Help Group's *Learn the Early Signs of Autism* brochures were made available to the public, in English and Spanish, by these terrific organizations:



THE COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF®

GELSON'S MARKETS
(see below for related story)

MENCHIE'S FROZEN YOGURT

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The Help Group thanks the following corporate partners for distributing autism awareness information in their company news publications:

- STEWART TITLE ■ LOCKTON INSURANCE BROKERS
- ATLANTIC EXPRESS TRANSPORTATION CORP. ■ FIRST 5
- ZENITH INSURANCE CO. ■ 50 WAYS TO SAVE OUR CHILDREN
- AMERICAN BUSINESS BANK ■ COMMUNITY BUSINESS BANK ■ DELL
- KINECTA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ■ TOSHIBA ■ DELTA-T GROUP, INC.
- COMMUNITY CLINIC ASSOCIATION, LA COUNTY ■ PILATES STUDIO CITY

GELSON'S RAISES FUNDS & AWARENESS

During the month of April, Gelson's Markets raised both awareness and funds in support of The Help Group.



Brochures detailing the early signs of autism and other autism facts were available at the registers at all 18 Gelson's store locations throughout Southern California. Shoppers had the opportunity to make a \$3, \$5 or \$10 contribution to support The Help Group's autism education and outreach programs at checkout.

The Help Group thanks Gelson's for this wonderful program, launched in 2006, and for its commitment to the children and families of our community. Look for this program again at your local Gelson's Market next April!

BEAR GIVERS SPONSORS "THROUGH OUR EYES: A CELEBRATION OF YOUNG ARTISTS" AT JAMES GRAY GALLERY

In honor of National Autism Awareness Month, The Help Group launched the *Through Our Eyes: A Celebration of Young Artists* exhibition at the James Gray Gallery in Santa Monica's Bergamot



Station Art Center. This premier exhibit opened on March 20th and ran through April 18th. Sponsored by the New York-based nonprofit Bear Givers, the show featured 71 wonderfully imaginative canvases created by the students of The Help Group's Village Glen School.



With campuses in Sherman Oaks and Culver City, California, The Help Group's Village Glen School serves children and adolescents with social and communicative challenges, including Asperger's Disorder, high-functioning autism and nonverbal learning disabilities. According to Dr. Barbara Firestone, "It was incredibly rewarding to see the pride of the students and their parents as they showed the world their creativity and talent. The outpouring of support for the kids made it a magical evening. We are immensely grateful to Bear Givers for its generous support and to James Gray Gallery for hosting this exhibition."



continued on page 16

1. Rebecca R., Artist 2. Phillip S., Artist 3. Dr. Barbara Firestone, Joseph Sprung, Heidi Gray, Diane Lempert, 4. Jerrold & Joy Monkarsh 5. Dr. Martin Lasky, Sheila Lasky 6. Diane Lempert, Jennifer Morgan, Maureen Garza, Kelly Kotowski, Pat Sandler, Joseph Sprung

THROUGH OUR EYES ART EXHIBIT - continued from page 15

Joseph Sprung, Founder and Chairman of Bear Givers, said he was thrilled by the tremendously positive response the young artists received. "This exhibit gave so many people a chance to see what

these students can do and how The Help Group nurtures their talents," Sprung added. Bear Givers President Diane Lempert noted, "Every child, no matter what developmental challenge they may have, is gifted and talented and has the ability to create something beautiful."

"The turnout was incredible," said gallery owner James Gray. "To have sold nearly half the pieces on opening night was just fantastic." Heidi Gray, the gallery director, reflected on the impact the event had on the young artists. "The *Through Our Eyes* exhibit is one of those memories that a child carries with them for the rest of their life. The entire experience with The Help Group and Bear Givers has been so inspirational. James and I are so happy to have had the opportunity to be a part of this project."

The Help Group is delighted to announce that the student's art, again sponsored by Bear Givers, will return to the James Gray Gallery for a new exhibition on March 26th, 2011.

The **Help Group** because every child deserves a great future

We invite you to become our friend



The Help Group is now on Facebook. Please join us to stay up to date on all of our events and latest news.

www.thehelpgroup.org

THE HELP GROUP'S SUMMIT - continued from page 9

Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior and Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital. At last year's Summit, The Help Group was proud to salute Dr. Satz with the naming of the Paul Satz Fellowship in his honor.

The Help Group thanks all of the presenters for sharing their insights and expertise at Summit 2010.

SUMMIT 2010 PRESENTERS

David G. Amaral, PhD
Distinguished Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Director of Research, UC Davis M.I.N.D. Institute

Linda Andron-Ostrow, LCSW
Director, Focus on All Child Therapies (F.A.C.T.)

Bruce L. Baker PhD
Distinguished Professor & Chair, Department Chair, Clinical Psychology, UCLA

Jan Blacher, PhD
Professor, Graduate School of Education, UC Riverside

Deborah E. Budding, PhD
Private Practice, Psychotherapy, Diplomate, American boards of Pediatric & Professional Neuropsychology

Michael G. Chez, MD
Director, Pediatric Neurology, Sutter Neuroscience Institute & Sutter Memorial Hospital, Professor, Pediatric Neurology, UC Davis Medical Center

Dana Chidekel, PhD
Private Practice

Pamela Clark, MA
Director, The Help Group's Autism Schools

Pamela J. Crooke, PhD, CCC-SLP
Faculty, Communicative Disorders & Sciences, San Jose State University
Social Cognitive Specialist & Speech Language Pathologist, Social Thinking Center, TSP

Marcos Di Pinto, PhD
Pediatric Neuropsychologist, Department of Pediatric Psychology, Children's Hospital of Orange County

Jack M. Fletcher, PhD
Distinguished University Professor of Psychology, University of Houston

Alexander Gantman, PsyD
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences, UCLA Semel Institute

Peter F. Gerhardt, EdD
Director, Upper School, McCarton School, New York

Irva Hertz-Picciotto, PhD
Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences School of Medicine, UC Davis

Jodi Johnson, MA
Associate Director, Disability Resources & Educational Services, California State University, Northridge

Connie Kasari, PhD
Professor, Psychological Studies in Education, UCLA

Elizabeth Laugeson, PsyD
Director, The Help Group - UCLA Autism Research Alliance, Clinical Instructor, UCLA Semel Institute

Philip Levin, PhD
Program Director, The Help Group - UCLA Neuropsychology Program, Assistant Clinical Professor, UCLA Semel Institute

Pat R. Levitt, PhD
Director, Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute, Provost Professor of Neuroscience, Pediatrics Psychiatry & Pharmacy, Chair, Dept. Cell & Neurobiology, Keck School of Medicine of USC

Sandra Loo, PhD
Assistant Professor-In-Residence, Division of Child Psychiatry & Center for Neurobehavioral Genetics, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Maja J. Mataric', PhD
Professor of Computer Science, Neuroscience & Pediatrics, Founding Director, USC Center for Robotics & Embedded Systems, Director, USC Robotics Research Lab, Senior Associate Dean for Research, Viterbi School of Engineering

David Miklowitz, PhD
Director, Integrative Study Center for Mood Disorders, Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, UCLA Semel Institute

Julie Mosk Morris, PhD
Coordinator, Learning Disabilities Program, UCLA

Derek A. Ott, MD
Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Division of Child Psychiatry, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Ricki G. Robinson MD
Private Practice, Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics

Edward Roth, PhD
Assistant Dean & Director, Disability Services & Programs, USC

Fred W. Sabb, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Principal Investigator, BrainTest Project, UCLA Semel Institute

Jonathan Sebat, PhD
Assistant Professor, Chief, Beyster Center for Molecular Genomics of Neuropsychiatric Diseases, Department of Psychiatry, Department of Cellular & Molecular Medicine, UC San Diego

Judy Van de Water, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, UC Davis School of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy & Clinical Immunology GBSF

Bina Varughese, MS
Coordinator of Educational Services, Summit View School

Louis Vismara, MD
Policy Consultant, Senator Darrell Steinberg Board of Directors, UC Davis M.I.N.D. Institute

Jeffrey Wood, PhD*
Assistant Professor, Psychological Studies in Education, UCLA

For Summit presentation handouts, please visit www.thehelpgroup.org.

CLASSROOM SPONSORSHIPS

The Help Group gratefully acknowledges the following donors for their sponsorship of classrooms during the past year. These classrooms have been named in honor of their donors or their designees:

Donna & Peter Calamari
Andrew & Peggy Cherng
Dr. David Firestone
Brian Goldner
Max Mayer
Robert Orci
Steve Wilson

If you are interested in sponsoring a classroom, please call 818.779.5212

KICKING OFF THE MILKEN FESTIVAL FOR YOUTH, VILLAGE GLEN STUDENTS ANNOUNCE THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS



Pamela Clark, Director of The Help Group's Autism Schools, Help Group Student

Love WHERE YOU Live

Shopping Benefit to Support **The Help Group**

For the 7th consecutive year, Bloomingdale's selected The Help Group to participate in its annual Shopping Benefit. The "Love Where You Live" event took place October 20th and 21st at four Los Angeles-area Bloomingdale's locations. The benefit celebrated L.A. nonprofits with two days of shopping, entertainment, prizes, storewide savings and the opportunity to support one or more of the 10 participating nonprofit organizations.

TEDDY BEAR GOLF - continued from page 4



Honoree Michael Marino

Fargo does business. "We're part of the community, and we spend time in the community. That's why we're glad to have found The Help Group. It really is a terrific place—the kids are so positive and the staff is so caring—we're happy to support the good things going on there."

Jesse Sharf, partner and co-chair of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's Century City Real Estate Department and last year's golf classic honoree, was presented with the 2010 *Joe Angello Volunteer Award*, which salutes individuals who take volunteerism to heart. He was recognized for his personal involvement in local charitable organizations and for the hand of friendship he has extended to the children of The Help Group.

Our many thanks to everyone who helped make this event a great day on the greens on behalf of the children!

TEDDY BEAR TEA - continued from page 6

in recognition of National Autism Awareness Month in April.

Parent speaker Heather Brezny, whose 5-year-old son, Grant, attends The Help Group's Village Glen School, spoke movingly about the difficulties faced by her family as Grant struggled with his developmental delays and the feelings she experienced when he was diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. With great pride, she shared the significant strides that Grant has made and said, "I truly believe finding The Help Group was the turning point in Grant's life." It was a touching moment when Grant appeared on stage to present a bouquet to his mother.

The afternoon was highlighted by two heartwarming performances from The Help Group Children's Choir, whose musical talents drew tremendous applause from the crowd. At the conclusion of the afternoon, Dr. Saban graciously signed books for an appreciative audience. The Help Group's Teddy Bear Tea was truly

"An Affair of the Heart."





Educating Children with **AUTISM**



**OUR NEWEST CAMPUS
IS NOW OPEN!**

SPECIALIZED DAY SCHOOLS PRE-K – 12TH GRADE

**Village Glen
School**

**Bridgeport
School**

**Sunrise
School**

**Young Learners
Preschool**

Founded in 1975, The Help Group is dedicated to helping young people with autism and other special needs fully realize their potential. It is the largest, most comprehensive nonprofit of its kind in the United States and is recognized as a leader in the field of autism. The Help Group offers a wide range of innovative autism spectrum disorders programs, and each day, 950 students ages 3 – 22 attend its autism day schools.

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ABOUT THE HELP GROUP

The Help Group is dedicated to the education, treatment and outreach of children with autism and other special needs:

SPECIALIZED DAY SCHOOLS

Village Glen School for students with social and communicative disorders, including Asperger's Disorder and high-functioning autism. The **PACE Program** is available for gifted students. The **Beacon Program** educates students with behavioral challenges.

Young Learners Preschool for Autism for children with autism spectrum disorders.

Bridgeport School for students with social, communicative and mild cognitive delays.

Sunrise School for students with autism and related developmental disabilities.

Summit View School for students with learning differences.

Coldwater Canyon Prep for students with learning differences, attentional and emotional issues.

Harbor School West for students with issues related to mood disorder, lack of motivation and withdrawal.

Pacific Schools for students with emotional and behavioral disabilities.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS

The Mental Health Services Program provides psychiatry, individual, family and group therapy, case management, day treatment services for at-risk preschoolers and after-school enrichment for at-risk children as well as vocational services.

The Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders features multidisciplinary assessment, consultation, intervention, family support, after-school programs and camps for children with autism and Asperger's Disorder. This program offers seminars for parents and professionals and promotes public awareness of autism spectrum disorders.

Stepping Stones Preschool Program for children with behavioral and emotional difficulties offers a therapeutic day treatment program for preschoolers who are challenged by special needs.

The Speech and Language Disorders Program and Occupational Therapy Program provide comprehensive assessment and intervention services on current research and best practices in individual, small group and classroom settings.

The Help Group - UCLA Neuropsychology Program is an innovative partnership of The Help Group and UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute. This program provides neuropsychological assessments and consultations for children, adolescents and young adults and enriches the field of knowledge through its research and educational endeavors.

The Help Group - UCLA Autism Research Alliance is an innovative partnership between The Help Group and UCLA's Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior. It is dedicated to enhancing and expanding clinical research into autism spectrum disorders education and treatment and to contributing to the development, greater understanding and use of best practice models by educators and clinicians.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Programs include child and family counseling, family preservation, teen parenting counseling, parent education and family reunification counseling.

The Wraparound Program is a strengths-based, family-focused program used by communities to support children and families with complex needs.



Village Glen Commons is a therapeutic boarding school for adolescents on the autism spectrum with challenges in the areas of socialization, communication and peer relations.

Project Six creates therapeutic living opportunities in nurturing, home-like settings. With a full continuum of integrated services, these programs promote personal and interpersonal development, vocational and independent living skills for adolescents and young adults.

ADVANCE LA provides comprehensive and individually designed support services to help post high-school young adults with autism spectrum disorders reach their full potential in college and/or employment settings.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Graduate & Post-Graduate Training Programs

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Distinguished Lecturer Series

The Help Group Summit - Advances and Best Practices in Autism, Learning Disabilities & ADHD

INITIATIVES

The Help Group National Autism Foundation

The Help Group Autism Awareness Campaign

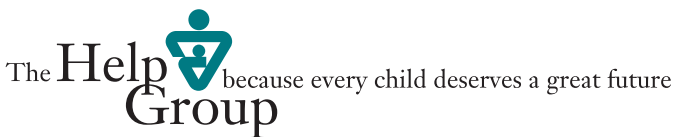
Helpline

Managing Director: Cheryl Raver
 Managing Editor: Sara Cardine
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 Van Nuys, CA



Founded in 1975, The Help Group is the largest, most innovative and comprehensive nonprofit of its kind in the United States serving children with special needs related to autism spectrum disorders, learning disabilities, ADHD, mental retardation, abuse and emotional problems.

The Help Group's seven specialized day schools offer pre-K through high school programs for more than 1,300 students. The Help Group's wide range of mental health and therapy services, child abuse and residential programs extends its reach to more than 6,000 children and their families each year. With more than 800 staff members, The Help Group's state-of-the-art schools and programs are located on five major campuses in the Los Angeles area.

The Help Group is highly regarded for its high standards of excellence, unique scope and breadth of services. Through its public awareness, professional training and parent education programs and efforts at the state and national levels, The Help Group touches the lives of children with special needs across the country and in other parts of the world.

At the heart of its effort is the commitment to helping young people fulfill their potential to lead positive, productive and rewarding lives.

Village Glen School • Bridgeport School • Sunrise School
 Young Learners Preschool for Autism

Village Glen Commons Boarding Option • Kids Like Me Day Camps
 Camp Discovery • ADVANCE LA

The Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders
 The Help Group National Autism Foundation
 The Help Group - UCLA Autism Research Alliance

Summit View School • Coldwater Canyon Prep
 The Help Group - UCLA Neuropsychology Program
 Pacific Schools • Harbor School West
 The Help Group Child & Family Center • Project Six

CULVER CITY • SHERMAN OAKS • VALLEY GLEN • VAN NUYS
 PHONE: 877.943.5747 • FAX: 818.779.5295 • www.thehelpgroup.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Teddy Bear Ball

honoring

Doug Herzog

President, MTV Networks Entertainment Group

Jason Katims

Exec. Producer
 "Parenthood"

Kathleen Katims

Parent
 Advocate

The Beverly Hilton Hotel

December 6, 2010



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The Help Group Holiday Carnival

Sherman Oaks Campus

December 11, 2010



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The Teddy Bear Tea

Four Seasons Hotel, Beverly Hills

March 15, 2011



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Through Our Eyes Art Exhibit

Sponsored by Bear Givers

James Gray Gallery, Bergamot Station Art Center

March 26, 2011



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Keyes European Mercedes-Benz Teddy Bear Golf Classic

Valencia Country Club

May 23, 2011

