

MICROSOFT AWARDS FOURTH MAJOR GRANT TO THE HELP GROUP



Microsoft empowers young people with special needs by helping them to develop their school and workplace skills through the power of technology. Dr. Barbara Firestone, Help Group President & CEO, is pleased to announce that Microsoft has awarded a most generous YouthSpark product grant to The Help Group. This grant is the fourth in a series, beginning in 2011, that supports The Help Group's efforts to strengthen and expand its technological abilities in support of students with autism and other special needs.

Microsoft's most recent grant for our "Youth Achieving More Through the Power of Technology" initiative will further enhance The Help Group's ability to promote student digital literacy, learning, achievement and preparation for educational and vocational opportunities. "We are most grateful to Microsoft for recognizing the potential of our youth," commented Dr. Firestone. "Microsoft's spirit of philanthropy quite literally opens new doors of opportunity

(Continued on Page 3)

JAY BORZI TO BE HONORED AT THE KEYES FOR KIDS GOLF CLASSIC



The 26th Annual Keyes for Kids Golf Classic is pleased to announce that Jay Borzi, Managing Director at Eastdil Secured, will be the recipient of the *Help Fore Children Humanitarian Award* in recognition of his outstanding humanitarian spirit and commitment to the children. The Golf Classic and Lockton Insurance Brokers Awards Reception will take place on Monday, September 25th at Valencia Country Club.

Dr. Barbara Firestone remarked, "We are thrilled to present our Help Fore Children Humanitarian Award to Jay in celebration of his commitment to giving back to help others. He and his wife Carol have such big hearts that touch the lives of the children."

The Help Group is most grateful to Jay and the Golf Classic Chairs for their philanthropic leadership and tremendous efforts that will surely score a hole-in-one for our young people at this already sold out, over-the-top success!



FACES OF PROMISE
Coming this Fall



SUMMIT 2017
Features leading experts



TEDDY BEAR BALL
Honored Mark Greenberg



TEDDY BEAR TEA
Featuring Dr. Robin Berman

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A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS

We are delighted to share this summer edition of HelpLine with you.

2017 is an exciting year for The Help Group. Microsoft recently awarded a fourth major grant to our organization to help maximize our children's potential through technology.

We're pleased to announce that Jay Borzi, Managing Director at Eastdil Secured, will be honored at this year's 26th Annual Keyes for Kids Teddy Bear Golf Classic.

In October, The Help Group's Summit 2017 will bring together leading experts in autism, ADHD and learning disabilities.

Faces of Promise: Looking Beyond Autism will be released this upcoming fall.

This issue of HelpLine features highlights from our Teddy Bear Ball, a very special evening honoring Mark Greenberg, President & CEO, EPIX, and our Teddy Bear Tea, a wonderful afternoon with guest speaker Dr. Robin Berman, author of *Permission to Parent: How to Raise Your Child with Love & Limits*. This past March, The Help Group's *Paws and Pals for Kids with Autism* program was showcased on the premiere episode of "Cesar Millan's Dog Nation."

We are most grateful for your friendship and commitment to the children.

Best regards,

Gary H. Carmona ~ Dr. Barbara Firestone

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CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

- Celeste Alleyne
- Brenda Battista
- Linda Bell Blue
- Bruce Berman
- Hon. Howard & Janis Berman
- Carole Black
- John Brady
- Ann Costello
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MICROSOFT AWARDS FOURTH MAJOR GRANT TO THE HELP GROUP (CONT'D FROM COVER)

In 2011, The Help Group presented its Corporate Philanthropy Award to Microsoft at the Teddy Bear Ball, and in 2014, The Help Group presented Microsoft with its Champion for Children Award. Celeste Alleyne, Director, US Citizenship & Public Affairs, accepted both awards on behalf of Microsoft. "Over the past several years, I've seen first-hand how The Help Group has developed cutting edge programs that are helping young people to prepare for the jobs of tomorrow," Celeste Alleyne remarked. "Microsoft is proud to partner with The Help Group and to support an organization shaping brighter futures for so many."

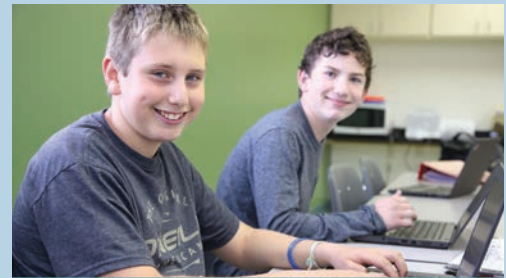
Microsoft YouthSpark

Microsoft established its YouthSpark program in 2012. A global program, it's designed to help young people imagine and realize their futures by providing access to computer science opportunities, empowering them to achieve more for themselves, their families and their communities. YouthSpark is a company-wide initiative with a goal of helping over 300 million young people around the world prepare for their next steps by focusing on access to education, employment and entrepreneurship.

To date, Microsoft has awarded The Help Group with grants valued at \$2,400,000. The Help Group is most grateful for Microsoft's extraordinary philanthropic commitment, and looks forward to acknowledging their spirit of giving in the upcoming school year.



Celeste Alleyne, Mary Shapp, Corporate Vice President, Microsoft Philanthropies, Dr. Barbara Firestone



Students of The Help Group's STEM³ Academy

SOLD OUT!

THE HELP GROUP'S KEYES FOR KIDS TEDDY BEAR GOLF CLASSIC LOCKTON INSURANCE AWARDS RECEPTION



HONORING **JAY BORZI**

Managing Director
Eastdil Secured

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

GOLF CLASSIC CHAIRS

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Warren de Haan • Jonathan Firestone • Michael Hackman
Jonathan Klein • Michael May • Michael Rosenfeld
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Summit 2017 is designed for
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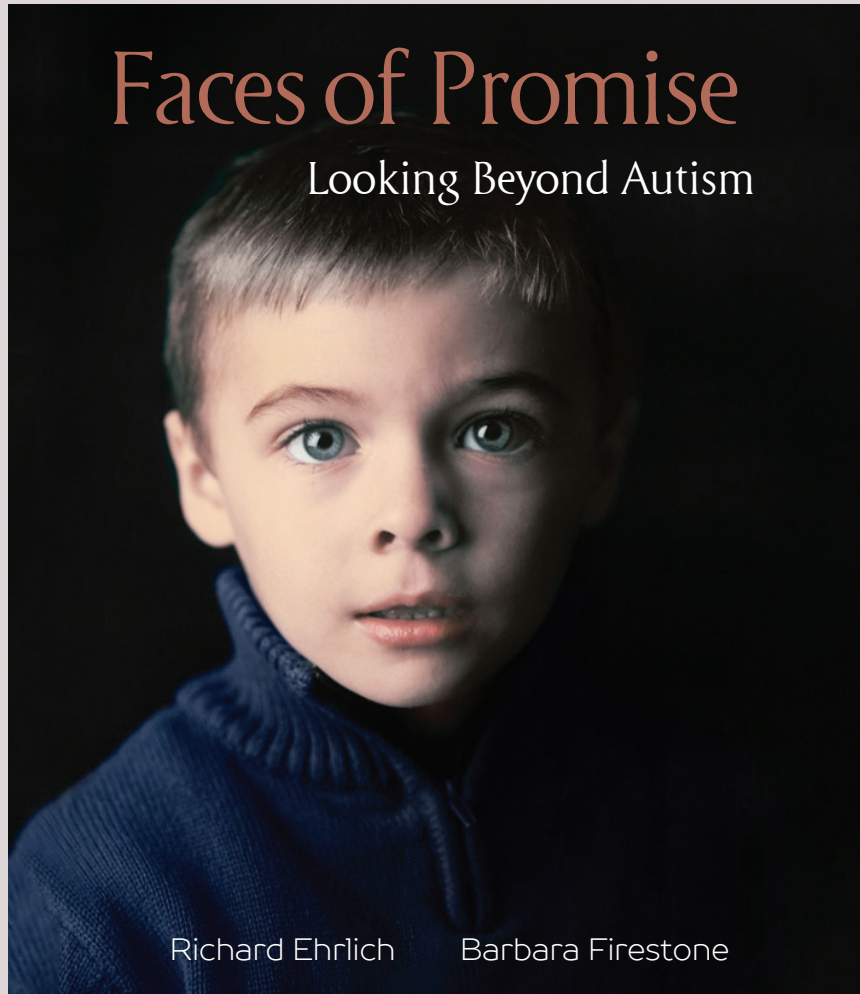


MAJOR SPONSORS



The **Help Group**  because every child deserves a great future
www.thehelpgroup.org  

Coming This Fall



About Faces of Promise

Faces of Promise is a collaboration between Dr. Richard Ehrlich, a fine art photographer and physician, and Dr. Barbara Firestone, Help Group President and CEO. This photo essay book celebrates the dignity, beauty and promise of children on the autism spectrum.

...

We dedicate Faces of Promise to the children and their families. Let us do all that we can to help ensure that all young people living with autism can experience their birthrights.

www.thehelpgroup.org

Dignity, hope, opportunity, and love
are the birthrights of all children

PAWS AND PALS HIGHLIGHTED ON PREMIERE EPISODE OF "CESAR MILLAN'S DOG NATION"

"Cesar Millan's Dog Nation," featured The Help Group's *Paws and Pals for Kids with Autism* program on its premiere episode on the Nat Geo WILD network. The new series follows world-famous dog behaviorist Cesar Millan and his son Andre Millan as they team up on a road trip across America. In each city, the father-son-duo visit organizations that are working with dogs and making a difference in the communities they serve. The Help Group was selected as one of the non-profit organizations to be featured on the show.

In the episode, Dr. Jason Bolton, The Help Group Vice President, welcomed Cesar and Andre and gave them a tour of The Help Group's Sherman Oaks campus. Throughout the tour Dr. Bolton explained, "Dogs provide a calming influence, and for kids who have challenges, that state of calmness is really important because it allows them to be ready for learning. They also develop a bond with the dogs. When kids with autism engage with dogs they tend to socialize with each other more."

While at The Help Group, Cesar and Andre witnessed first-hand what Cesar described as "the healing powers of dog therapy with kids with autism."

"My heart melted today. It hits a personal spot because I have family members with special needs." Andre remarked, "It's phenomenal to see such an elaborate program for the kids, and the power dogs have to change people."

Our thanks to Cesar and Andre Millan; the exceptional production team of "Cesar Millan's Dog Nation," and to all of the *Paws and Pals For Kids With Autism* volunteers.

(See related story on page 7)



HELP GROUP - USC COLLABORATION NOW COMPLETING ITS THIRD YEAR



Village Glen students at California Science Center



OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE INITIATIVE

The Help Group – USC Occupational Science Initiative is dedicated to developing evidence-based intervention programs for children with autism spectrum disorder through the guidance of an interdisciplinary team of researchers, educators and clinicians.

The Initiative recently completed the third year of its innovative partnership. In the area of animal assisted-intervention, Help Group Occupational Therapist and post-doctoral resident from USC, Claire Bazley, under the mentorship of Dr. Olga Solomon, Assistant Professor, USC Chan Division, implemented and tested a social skills curriculum for students who participated in The Help Group's Paws and Pals program. Their extensive work will result in a classroom activities manual for teachers and therapists.

In addition, the Initiative rolled out the second year of its community-based pilot program. The program aims to optimize Village Glen elementary age students' social interactions in a museum setting, and help them to better access their science curricula. This project is a joint endeavor of Dr. Mary Lawlor, Associate Chair of Research & Professor, Dr. Emily Ochi, Assistant Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy of USC's Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, and a class of USC masters level Occupational Therapy students and The California Science Center.

"The USC Chan Division has developed dynamic, interdisciplinary partnerships with community organizations like The Help Group," said Dr. Sarah Bream, Associate Chair of Academic & Community Program Support and Development. "With the goal of extending learning beyond the classroom, we're pleased to take part in generating new programs and collecting outcome data that can translate into practical, real-world interventions for children with autism."

(See related story on page 6)



(L-R) USC post-doctoral resident, Claire Bazley, Paws and Pals volunteer with students



THE HELP GROUP'S STEM³ ACADEMY TAKES HOME TOP PRIZE



This spring has been a very exciting one for the STEM³ Academy. In February, the high school students visited Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems. Along with 30 other high school teams, the students were part of National Engineers Week and a coding competition.

Each year in celebration of National Engineers Week, Raytheon hosts a series of challenges to encourage young students to pursue engineering degrees. This year on their El Segundo campus, teams of high school students were given a tour of their laboratories, and then were challenged to build a distance tracking mechanism similar to the technology used in popular video games such as Pokemon Go! STEM³ Academy students were the top programmers with the fastest time, winning the competition. Our congratulations to the team!

Additionally, a Netherlands public broadcast media company, BNNVARA, visited the Sherman Oaks campus. They recognized the school's unique curriculum and how STEM³ is helping students develop job-related skills, in addition to the social skills necessary for more positive outcomes after graduation.

Congratulations to all of the 2017 STEM³ Graduates! The school had a 100% graduation rate -- all 14 graduates will go on to college!

STEM³ Academy is Expanding!

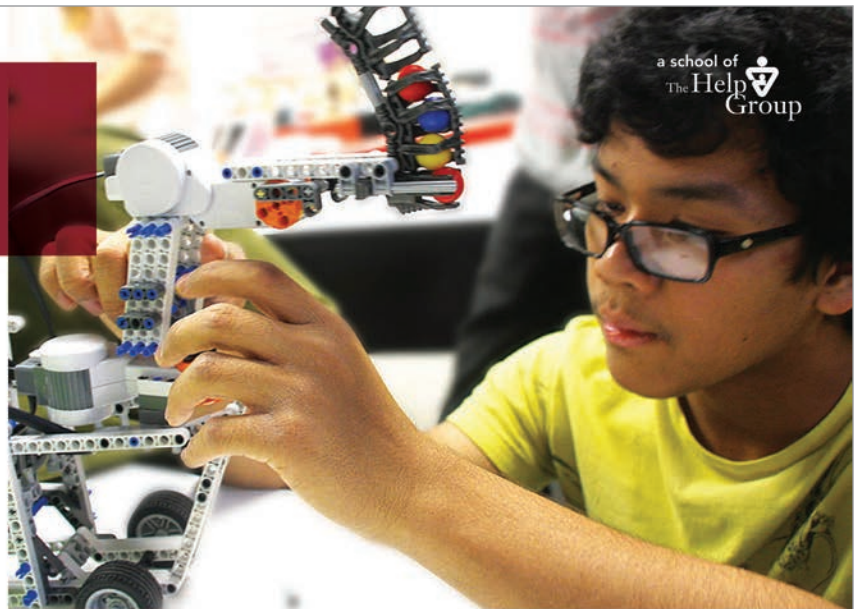
Sherman Oaks **NEW**
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ADVANCE LA BRINGS TOGETHER CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH AND BEST PRACTICES FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH DIVERSE NEEDS

Advance LA's 2017 Conference #CONNECT



On Friday May 5th, 2017 at American Jewish University in Los Angeles, Advance LA assembled 30 nationally prominent experts whose research helps young people with autism, learning differences, and ADHD in their transition to college, the workplace, and beyond.

Advance LA's mission is to provide resources, support, and training to young adults with a wide range of needs -- including learning disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, executive functioning difficulties, ADHD, and other social, emotional and behavioral challenges including substance abuse recovery.

This year's conference, CONNECT, featured three basic tracks: Academics & Career, Relationships, Diagnostic Considerations & Interventions, and Mindful Awareness. Keynote speaker, Amy Banks, MD, Director of Advance Training at the Jean Baker Miller Training Institute, Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College, opened the conference with a presentation titled "The Science of Connection for Young Adults with Diverse Challenges."

Throughout the conference, all of the speakers presented ways to encourage and guide young adults as they pursue academic and vocational tracks that lead to meaningful and rewarding lives.

The conference luncheon featured prolific journalist and author Judith Newman who spoke about her upcoming book, "To Siri With Love." Dr. Barbara Firestone and Dr. Susan Berman presented The Help Group's *Professional Achievement Award* to Tom Komp, LCSW, in recognition of his outstanding expertise and his commitment to children and families.

A big thank you to all of the speakers and this year's sponsors -- Center for Discovery, Optimum Performance Institute (OPI), Evoke Therapy Programs, and Lindamood-Bell.

1. Dr. Amy Banks, Keynote Speaker 2. Dr. Susan Berman, Help Group Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Diane Flannery, Senior Director of Design & Strategy, Dr. Jason Bolton, Vice President of Programs 3. Dr. Amy-Jane Griffiths, Conference Speaker 4. Judith Newman, Special Lunch Speaker 5. Dr. Susan Berman, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Help Group President & CEO, Tom Komp, Senior Vice President 6. Dr. Don Grant, Conference Speaker

THE HELP GROUP'S ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR BALL HONORS MARK GREENBERG

On March 6th, The Help Group hosted its 19th Annual Teddy Bear Ball at the Beverly Hilton Hotel International Ballroom to benefit children with autism and other special needs. On this festive evening, The Help Group was pleased to present its Help Humanitarian Award to Mark Greenberg, President & Chief Executive Officer of EPIX.

Gala Chairs for the event included Bob Bakish, Chief Executive Officer, Viacom; Gary Barber, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, MGM; Kevin Beggs, Chairman, Lionsgate Television Group; Jon Feltheimer, Chief Executive Officer, Lionsgate; Michael Burns, Vice Chairman, Lionsgate; Brad Grey, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Paramount Corporation, Mike Hopkins, Chief Executive Officer, Hulu; Michael Kassan, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Medialink; and Sandra Stern, President, Lionsgate Television Group. Gala Co-Chairs included Dick Costello, Jamie & Chris McGurk, David Salzman and Ken Solomon.

Tom Papa, one of the top comedic voices in the country, emceed the event and delighted more than 500 guests with highlights from his EPIX original stand-up special, "Human Mule."

Gary H. Carmona, The Help Group Board Chair, and Dr. Barbara Firestone, welcomed and thanked the guests for their generosity and friendship. The festivities were kicked off by Louis Price, former lead singer of The Temptations, and The Help Group Children's Choir, who sang "Can't Stop The Feeling."

The evening featured a special performance by the highly acclaimed American hip-hop recording artist, actor, and film producer Common. Common performed "Glory," his and John Legend's Academy and Golden Globe award-winning song from the movie Selma. With accompaniment by The Help Group Children's Choir, the unforgettable performance received a standing ovation.

Throughout the event, Chris McGurk, Help Group Board Member & Gala Co-Chair, and Ken Solomon, Circle of Friends Board Member, Director, Help



WITH SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY ACADEMY-AWARD WINNER COMMON



Group Board of Directors & Gala Co-Chair, each spoke about their personal commitment to supporting the children of The Help Group.



Dr. Susan Berman, Help Group COO, and Dick Costello, Help Group Board Member & Gala Co-Chair, presented the Dr. Adam Opportunity Fund to the guests. The fund helps to support young people facing challenging circumstances and provides them with greater opportunities for a brighter future. Student speaker Alondra shared her brave story of resilience with the audience. With the help of the Opportunity Fund, Alondra will be attending college in the fall.



Mike Hopkins, Hulu CEO and 2015 *Help Humanitarian Award* recipient and Ken Solomon, Chairman & CEO, Tennis Channel, introduced the honoree retrospective and welcomed Mark Greenberg to the family of Help Group honorees.



Dr. Ernest Wilson, former Walter Annenberg Chair & Dean of The Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism at USC, introduced his friend and colleague Mark Greenberg. After the introduction, Dr. Firestone and Gary H. Carmona presented Mark with the *Help Humanitarian Award*, and saluted him for his humanitarian spirit and commitment to building brighter futures for the children of The Help Group. As a tribute to Mark, the choir sang, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."



In accepting the award, Mark Greenberg said, "There is no question that the families and children of The Help Group know more than anyone about the strength of the human spirit. They remind us of the extraordinary power of basic kindness."



The Help Group is grateful to our remarkable honoree, Mark Greenberg, and to everyone who joined us for this time-honored celebration of the humanitarian spirit and the beauty and potential

1. Mark Greenberg 2. Mark Greenberg, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Gary H. Carmona 3. Gary Barber, Mark Greenberg, Jon Feltheimer 4. Mark Greenberg, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Mike Hopkins, Gary H. Carmona 5. Mark Greenberg, Leland Orser, Tom Papa 6. Dr. Barbara Firestone, Sandra Stern, Mark Greenberg 7. Common 8. Chris McGurk 9. Student Speaker Alondra, Dick Costello 10. The Greenberg Family 11. Dr. Ernest Wilson 12. Tom Papa 13. Lissa & Ken Solomon 14. Dr. Barbara Firestone, Joy Monkash 15. David Salzman, Gary H. Carmona 16. Common and The Help Group Choir 17. Julia Duncan, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Councilman David Ryu, Dr. Susan Berman 18. Celeste Alleyne, Ron Frierson 19. Peggy & Barry Nagoshiner 20. Mike & Susan Berk 21. Dr. Barbara Firestone, Wendy Greuel 22. The Team from EPIX 23. Louis Price and The Help Group Choir 24. Kari Van Gundy 25. Drs. David & Barbara Firestone 26. Gerry Rosenblatt, Barbara Singer



The Help Group's 10th Annual Teddy Bear Tea ~ An Affair of the Heart ~ was an unforgettable afternoon featuring special guest speaker Dr. Robin Berman, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and highly acclaimed author of *Permission to Parent: How to Raise Your Child With Love and Limits*. The event was hosted by Jamie McGurk, Producer at Off Balance Productions and member of The Help Group Circle of Friends Philanthropic Board, and Celeste Alleyne, Director of US Citizenship & Public Affairs at Microsoft.

Dr. Barbara Firestone opened the afternoon by thanking the guests for their remarkable kindness and for attending the Teddy Bear Tea -- a decade-long tradition that is a celebration of the dignity, beauty, and potential of our young people.

Co-host Jamie McGurk extended a warm welcome to guests and shared that The Help Group has held a special place in the hearts of herself and her husband, Chris, for the past 17 years. She further expressed, "From the beginning, Chris and I have been incredibly moved by The Help Group's mission and accomplishments."

Co-host Celeste Alleyne remarked that she has seen first-hand how The Help Group



CELEBRATES REMARKABLE WOMEN



has developed cutting edge programs that help young people prepare for the jobs of tomorrow. "It was an incredible experience to visit The Help Group's, STEM³ Academy in Sherman Oaks and see the many wonderful initiatives taking place at this one-of-a-kind, state-of-the-art, nationally-acclaimed school," commented Celeste.

During the event, the upcoming fall release of *Faces of Promise: Looking Beyond Autism* by Dr. Firestone was announced. The book, a collaboration with Richard Ehrlich, a fine art photographer, is a celebration of the beauty and promise of young people on the spectrum in images and words.

As is our tradition, Dr. Susan Berman, The Help Group COO, invited the attendees to support The Help Group's Dr. Adam Opportunity Fund. The fund provides food, clothing, shelter, scholarships, vocational training, summer camps and after-school enrichment programs to more than 4,000 underserved children and their families. Dr. Berman asked Alondra, a student speaker, to once again share her story of resilience and grit as she did at the Teddy Bear Ball.

Special guest speaker Dr. Robin Berman enlightened guests with her advice on how to foster children with greater self-esteem and respect.

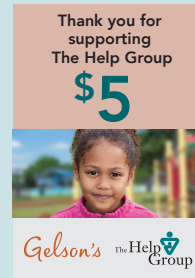
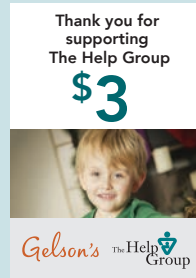
Other highlights of the afternoon included uplifting performances by The Help Group Children's Choir and a book signing by Dr. Berman at the close of the tea.

1. Celeste Alleyne, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Jamie McGurk, Dr. Robin Berman 2. Lucy Lean, Susie Nathan, Rabbi Judith Halev, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Margie Keyes, Sabina Faubel, Debra Alexis-Drake, Lynne Levitan, Stacey Siegel, Heidi Menke 3. Dr. Robin Berman 4. Jamie McGurk 5. Student Speaker Alondra, Dr. Susan Berman 6. Celeste Alleyne 7. Dr. Robin Berman, Kari Rosenblate 8. María López, Celeste Alleyne, Ron Frierson 9. Angella Nazarian, Nadine Watt, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Sarah Milken, Lani Fauvre 10. Ines Garcia Romero, Gena Acosta, Susan Klein, Jodi Wing, Jamie McGurk. Back row Dr. Barbara Firestone 11. Dr. Robin Berman, Susan Kennedy 12. Hillary Milken 13. Sarah Milken, Melissa Klein 14. Lori Michaels, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Tammy Ratner 15. The Help Group Choir 16. Dr. Sara McCracken, Dr. Mary Bauman, Pamela Clark 17. Sheri Zahedi, Rula Hernandez, Elena Brewer 18. Judy Wolf

THE COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF®, GELSON'S MARKETS, ONEODDBIRD AND NBC4 MARKING NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH



John Fuller, President & CEO of The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf®, and Dr. Barbara Firestone with Coffee Bean staff



Gelson's campaigning at it's 18 Southern California locations

The Help Group was once again pleased to launch its annual Autism Awareness Campaign in partnership with longstanding supporters The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf® and Gelson's Markets.

In recognition of National Autism Awareness Month in April, The Help Group held its annual "Learn the Facts and Early Signs of Autism" campaign. Research has shown that early identification and intervention can result in significant positive outcomes for many children with autism.

For 18 years The Help Group has partnered with The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf® to help promote autism awareness. Throughout April, The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf made "Learn the Facts & Early Signs" brochures at more than 200 participating locations in California.

Gelson's Markets, for the 11th consecutive year, hosted a fundraising campaign in support of The Help Group's autism programs. Copies of the "Learn the Facts & Early Signs" brochures were available in 18 Southern California locations, and customers were able to donate to The Help Group at store registers.

Lori Samuels, oneoddbird's owner and longtime philanthropic friend, generously donated 50% of all California sales during the month of April to The Help Group's autism education and applied research programs. For the past 6 years, Lori Samuels has graciously donated a portion of every sale to The Help Group.

For the third year, NBC4 and Telemundo 52 Los Angeles aired PSA's with anchors Daniella Guzman and Dania Elvir throughout Autism Awareness Month.

Our many thanks to The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf®, Gelson's Markets, Lauri Samuels and oneoddbird, NBC4 and Telemundo 52 Los Angeles for their ongoing commitment and efforts on behalf of children with autism and their families.

The "Learn the Facts & Early Signs" brochures are available in English and Spanish, and additional copies can be requested by calling 877.943.5747.

Dr. Barbara Firestone, Lori Samuels, oneoddbird's founder and owner

NBC4 and Telemundo 52 PSA's featured anchors

THE HELP GROUP'S FESTIVAL OF ARTS SPONSORED BY BEAR GIVERS FEATURES 150 YOUNG ARTISTS



Diane Lempert, President, Bear Givers

This past May, for the eighth consecutive year, The Help Group presented *Festival of Arts: A Celebration of Young Artists* sponsored by the New York based nonprofit Bear Givers. The show featured two exhibits of our students' art: *Through Our Eyes*, a collection of over 150 original paintings, and *The Art of STEM*, displaying award-winning robotics.

The Bear Givers' EmpowerArt program creates opportunities for young artists from around the country to experience the joy of creating art, and seeing it showcased at a special exhibit.

The exhibits were on display at the Santa Monica Art Studios, a historic hangar at the Santa Monica Airport. The space provided a unique gallery setting for students to display their creative offerings.



The afternoon's festivities celebrated The Help Group's schools' arts programs and STEM³ projects, and included a special reception in honor of the young artists from Village Glen, Bridgeport and STEM³ Academy Schools. Dr. Barbara Firestone welcomed the young artists, and their families and faculty and friends, and remarked, "Congratulations to each and every one of our talented young artists for all of their creativity and love of art. We are very proud you."

Diane Lempert, President of Bear Givers, shared congratulatory remarks and addressed the student artists, saying, "Each time I visit your exhibition, I am invigorated, inspired and uplifted by your artwork – this is the eighth time I've seen the world through your eyes, and it's a beautiful world."

Dr. Firestone acknowledged Joseph Sprung, Chairman and Founder of Bear Givers, and thanked Bear Givers for its longstanding commitment to empowering young people through the arts, and its abiding support. She remarked, "Bear Givers believes art is a positive way to empower young people to discover all the talent, the beauty and potential they possess."

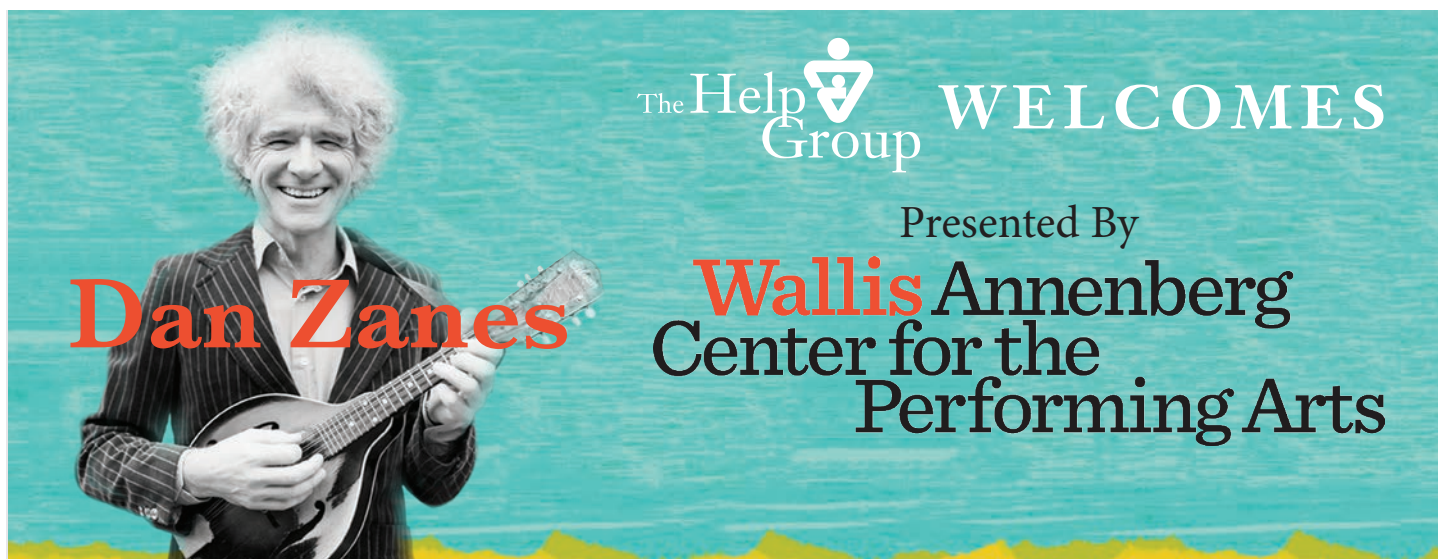


On behalf of The Help Group, Dr. Firestone thanked all of the faculty who mentor and work with students throughout the year, including Dr. Ellis Crasnow, Dr. Kelly Kotowski, Tia Bruno, Jenn Slade, Frank Morales, Melinda Salazar, Erica Luis, Alijae Hendricks and Carla Vilamil.

At the close of the afternoon, a Help Group parent expressed, "It's wonderful to see our children take pride in their creations and in their abilities, and the Festival of Arts show provides a powerful outlet for self-expression and self-discovery."

Congratulations to every young artist for such a terrific exhibition!

DAN ZANES PERFORMS AT THE HELP GROUP



Award-winning musician, Dan Zanes, performed at The Help Group's Autism Center this past spring. Students from Early Ed, Bridgeport School and Village Glen School all enjoyed the show. Dan brought along a special guest, Claudia Eliaza, Director of Music Therapy at the Community Center of Boston, to perform with him.



With his band, Dan Zanes and Friends, Dan has toured the world and played to enthusiastic crowds. He is a Grammy Award winner whose acclaimed music has been featured on "Sesame Street," Playhouse Disney, Nickelodeon, HBO Family and Sprout. Time Magazine referred to Dan as "the family-music genre's most outspoken and eloquent advocate."

A special thanks to Dan, Claudia, The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, and Mark Slavkin, Director of The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, for giving our kids such a rewarding experience.



(Left to Right) Mike Slavkin, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Dan Zanes, Claudia Eliaza

A GREAT DAY FOR OUR YOUNG ATHLETES AT MIRMAN SCHOOL



Jason Vaske, Dan Vorenberg, Dr. Susan Berman, Dr. Sara McCracken, Varduhi Shirinyan

On March 9th, more than 70 students from The Help Group’s Early Education programs participated in the 3rd annual Special Olympics Young Athletes Festival hosted by Mirman School.

Greeted by the cheers of Mirman School students, faculty and staff, the Young Athletes were energetically welcomed onto the Kotzubei Family Athletics field through the hallmark “tunnel of love” with signs that read, “Welcome to Mirman School” and “Go, Young Athletes!”

“It was an incredibly emotional experience to walk through Mirman’s ‘tunnel of love,’” said Dr. Susan Berman, Help Group COO and former Board Chair at Mirman School. “Our students and our staff were thrilled to be embraced by the Mirman community. It warmed my heart to see the two schools that are such an integral part of my life come together in such a meaningful way.”

The Help Group partnered with Special Olympics of Southern California three years ago with the goal of starting a specialized sports curriculum in its autism schools. In an effort to expand the program, The Help Group collaborated with local schools, and a School Partnership Program with Special Olympics was established. The program unifies students with and without special needs through sports and school activities and promotes acceptance and respect for all young people.

Two years ago, Mirman School made The Help Group’s Young Athletes Festival part of its *Helping Hands Day of Service* – a school-wide community service event. This year’s Young Athletes Festival was a great way for Help Group students to showcase all that they learned in the program, and for Mirman School students to support the Young Athletes.

“The day was absolutely amazing and it showed on all the athletes and students’ faces,” remarked Teresa Borunda, Senior Manager, Sports & Programs, Special Olympics Southern California, Los Angeles & San Gabriel Valley Regions.

Pamela Clark, Director of Autism Schools at The Help Group, thanked Special Olympics and Mirman School students and staff for all of their tremendous efforts. “This is such a wonderful opportunity for our students and they thoroughly enjoyed their day. Each year I am more and more impressed with Mirman School’s students. Their enthusiasm for our Young Athletes to succeed was so apparent. They were absolutely wonderful with our students,” said Pamela Clark.

Our heartfelt thanks to Mirman School’s Dan Vorenberg and Dr. Dena Scott for hosting such a terrific event, to Help Group and Mirman School coaches for preparing the students for game day, to Mirman School students Will, Emerson and Riley, who took the lead in helping to coordinate classmates, and to Special Olympics Southern California – LA & SGV Regions – for creating such an opportunity for our students to shine.





Leading the Way for Young People with **SPECIAL NEEDS**



- Village Glen School
- Bridgeport School
- Bridgeport Vocational Education Center
- Young Learners Preschool
- Sunrise School
- Summit View School
- Westview
- North Hills Prep
- Parkhill School
- *Our Newest School*
- **STEM³ Academy**

Founded in 1975, The Help Group is the largest, most innovative and comprehensive nonprofit of its kind in the United States serving children, adolescents and young adults with special needs related to autism spectrum disorder, learning disabilities, ADHD, developmental delays, abuse and emotional challenges.

The Help Group's ten specialized day schools offer pre-K through high school programs for more than 1,600 students. Its broad range of mental health and therapy services and residential programs extends its reach to more than 6,000 children and their families each year. With more than 900 staff members, The Help Group's state-of-the-art schools and programs are located on five campuses in the Los Angeles area.

ASSESSMENT

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

18+ PROGRAMS

COACHING

SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING

PARENT EDUCATION

AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

DAY CAMPS

CULVER CITY | SHERMAN OAKS EAST | SHERMAN OAKS WEST
VALLEY GLEN | VAN NUYS

877.943.5747 | www.thehelpgroup.org  



VERY SPECIAL INNOVATION FAIR

NOVEMBER 4TH, 2017 10AM - 2PM AT THE STEM³ ACADEMY CAMPUS

A free, family-friendly showcase of discovery and imagination that is equal parts science fair, high-tech exhibition, art show, and community carnival.

HOSTED BY **STEM³ ACADEMY**

For more information: Erika Maya // emaya@thehelpgroup.org // 818.779.5166

INVENTION
DEMONSTRATION
ART
TECH
DRONES
BUILDING
BOTS
HANDS-ON
ENGINEERING



ABOUT THE HELP GROUP

The Help Group is dedicated to the education, treatment and outreach of children, adolescents and young adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other special needs

SPECIALIZED DAY SCHOOLS

*Our Newest School...*STEM³ Academy provides an innovative and rigorous K-12 curriculum for students with social and learning differences, including autism, who have a passion for STEM fields and may benefit from experiential learning approaches. **

*With a 98% college acceptance rate...*Summit View School is a college-preparatory program for students with learning differences who possess average to above-average intellectual capabilities.*

Village Glen School is a college preparatory program that serves students K-12 with high-functioning autism and challenges in the areas of socialization, language development and peer relations. The Pace Program offers honors and AP classes for gifted students. The Beacon Program provides additional positive behavior support for students with behavioral challenges.*

Young Learners Preschool uses an evidence-based and interdisciplinary approach to intensive early intervention for children ages 2.9 to 5 with autism spectrum disorder.

Bridgeport School provides basic skills education, community based instruction and vocational training, for students ages 5 to 22 with mild to moderate cognitive delays and challenges with social communication and/or language development.

Bridgeport Vocational Education Center is for young adults with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental differences, ages 18 to 22, providing vocational skills training, including supported job placements.

Sunrise School is a functional life skills program serving students ages 5 to 22 with moderate to severe cognitive delays associated with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities.

The Help Group's Westview is a college preparatory program for students with mild emotional issues, ADHD and learning differences.

The Help Group's North Hills Prep offers a college preparatory curriculum while supporting students with social emotional challenges.*

The Help Group's Parkhill School is an intensive therapeutic program serving children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral challenges.

*A WASC accredited school

**WASC accreditation in process

MENTAL HEALTH & CLINICAL PROGRAMS

These programs provide a continuum of comprehensive outpatient services for children and families, including assessment; individual, family and group therapy; case management; psychiatric services; parenting groups; in-home counseling; school-based mental health counseling; REACH - after-school day rehabilitation; Stepping Stones - an intensive day treatment for children ages 3 to 5 and therapeutic behavioral services. Wraparound is an innovative program designed to maintain at-risk children in their homes and avoid placement in institutions or other restrictive settings.

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER PROGRAMS

The Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder features multidisciplinary assessment, consultation, intervention, family support groups, as well as seminars for parents and professionals.

Paws and Pals for Kids with Autism is a volunteer-supported pet intervention program designed to engage young people with social and communication challenges.

RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Kids Like Me provides after-school enrichment, social skills groups and day camps designed specifically for children and adolescents with ASD and other developmental challenges. Teens on the Go is a travel camp for young people with ASD. club I.a. TEEN provides a supported social network for teens with ASD.

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Community Employment Program assists adolescents and young adults with social-emotional and/or mental health challenges with the special guidance, skills and support needed to obtain and maintain successful employment.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Project Six is a therapeutic boarding option for teens ages 13 to 17 with Asperger's Disorder, ASD, mood and anxiety disorders, and learning differences.

Project Six Adult Residential Program provides community-based group homes for adults with developmental disabilities.

18 + PROGRAMS

Advance LA provides one-on-one life skills coaching for teens and young adults with unique challenges in their transition to independence.

Live. Advance. LA. offers a supported living experience on a college campus for young adults ages 18 to 29 who are learning the skills needed to transition to independence.

club I.a. facilitates activities for young adults designed to enhance social skills, meet people with similar interests and develop long-lasting friendships.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & RESEARCH

The Help Group - UCLA Neuropsychology 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 dedicated to enhancing and expanding clinical research in the education and treatment of ASD and to contributing to the development, greater understanding and use of best practice models by researchers, educators and clinicians.

The Help Group - USC Occupational Science Initiative is dedicated to developing evidence-based intervention programs for children with ASD through an interdisciplinary team of researchers, educators and clinicians.

Managing Editor - Lisa Rozati

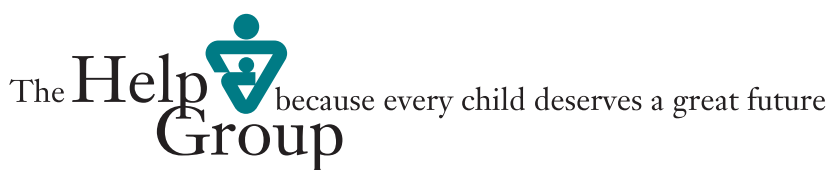
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The Help Group is widely regarded for its high standards of excellence, unique scope and breadth of services. Through its public awareness, professional training and parent education programs and efforts at the state and national levels, The Help Group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

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

Schools

Village Glen School · Bridgeport School · Bridgeport Vocational Education Center · Sunrise School
Young Learners Preschool · STEM³ Academy
Summit View School · Westview · North Hills Prep · Parkhill School

Programs

The Help Group - UCLA Autism Research Alliance · The Help Group - UCLA Neuropsychology Program
The Help Group - USC Occupational Science Initiative · Advance LA · Live.Advance.LA.
Project Six/The Commons · Kids Like Me Recreational Programs & Camps · club l.a./club l.a. TEEN
Paws and Pals for Kids with Autism · The Help Group Child & Family Center
The Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder

Campuses

CULVER CITY · SHERMAN OAKS EAST · SHERMAN OAKS WEST
VALLEY GLEN · VAN NUYS

www.thehelpgroup.org  

For more information on these and other events, please call 818.779.5212

UPCOMING EVENTS



Keys for Kids Teddy Bear Golf Classic

Honoring Jay Borzi
Valencia Country Club
September 25, 2017



The Help Group SUMMIT 2017

Advances and Best Practices in
Autism – ADHD – Learning Disabilities
Skirball Cultural Center
October 13 - 14, 2017



Innovation Fair

November 4, 2017



Annual Holiday Carnival

The Help Group - Sherman Oaks
December 9, 2017



*We invite you
to follow us on
Facebook...*

