

## TEDDY BEAR BALL TO HONOR KEVIN BEGGS AND BRIAN & SUSAN KENNEDY



**Kevin Beggs**  
Chairman of Lionsgate Television Group

The Help Group is pleased to announce that Kevin Beggs, Chairman of Lionsgate Television Group, will be the recipient of its 2014 *Help Humanitarian Award* in recognition of his outstanding humanitarian achievements and his wonderful commitment to the children of The Help Group. The Help Group will present its *Corporate Philanthropy Award* to Brian and Susan Kennedy of Regency Outdoor Advertising for their abiding friendship and most generous support of our efforts on behalf of the children. Both awards will be presented

at the 2014 Teddy Bear Ball, which will take place on Wednesday, April 23rd at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in the International Ballroom.



**Brian & Susan Kennedy**  
Regency Outdoor Advertising

This year's Gala Chairs are Jon Feltheimer, Michael Burns,

Sandra Stern and George Lopez, and Co-Chairs are Jamie & Chris McGurk, David Salzman and Ken Solomon. Harry Winston, Inc., last year's *Corporate Philanthropy Award* honoree, joins the event as a major sponsor of the Ball (see related article, page 3).

Kevin is the Chairman of Lionsgate Television Group, where he oversees development and production of all scripted and non-scripted programming for broadcast, cable, and digital platforms worldwide. Under his leadership, the television division has become a leading supplier of programming, with an impressive slate that includes Nashville, Mad Men, Anger Management,

continued on page 3

## NEW EDUCATION BUILDING OPENS ITS DOORS AT CULVER CITY CAMPUS



Recognized as a leader in the field of autism education and services, The Help Group is committed to bringing help, hope and opportunity to children and their families. We are thrilled to announce our newest education building located on our Culver City Campus is now complete.

This building will serve 200 children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder.

The new facility at the Culver City Complex includes state-of-the-art classrooms, science, media/computer, and "Innovation" labs, and an arts studio. The 8000-square foot rooftop recreation area has been designed for physical education, performing arts, and open-air classroom activities, as well as a play structure for younger students.



Dr. Barbara Firestone, President & CEO of The Help Group, said, "After months of planning and construction, it's incredible to see this building take on a life of its own as it is filled with children taking steps toward realizing their fullest potential. We are most grateful to all who helped have helped to make this vision a reality."



Special edition of Helpline coming soon featuring complete coverage of the opening of our Education Building!

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

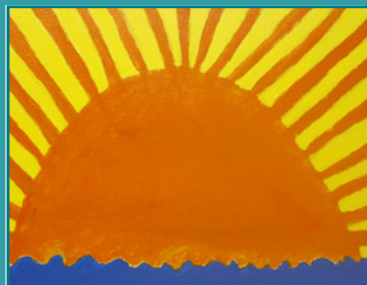
- Gary H. Carmona  
Chairman of the Board
- Dr. Barbara Firestone  
President & CEO
- Susan Berk  
Director
- Robert Dorman  
Director
- Dr. David Firestone  
Director
- Perry Katz  
Director
- Dr. Martin Lasky  
Director
- Jerrold Monkarsh  
Vice Chair Emeritus
- Joy Monkarsh  
Secretary
- Barry N. Nagoshiner, CPA  
Vice Chair & CFO
- Ken Solomon  
Director
- Judd Swarzman  
Director
- Howard Tenenbaum  
Executive Vice Chairman
- Richard M. Zelle  
Director

**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS BOARD**

- Dick Costello
- Stephen Davis
- Mel Elias
- Jonathan Glaser
- Doug Herzog
- Margaret Loesch
- Chris McGurk
- Jamie McGurk
- Jerrold Monkarsh
- Joy Monkarsh
- Fredric D. Rosen
- Nadine Schiff-Rosen
- Bruce Rosenblum
- David Salzman
- Sunny Sassoon
- Ken Solomon
- Anne Sweeney
- Howard Tenenbaum

**EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION**

- Dr. Barbara Firestone  
President & CEO
- Dr. Susan Berman  
Chief Operating Officer
- Tom Komp  
Senior Vice President
- Michael Love  
Senior Vice President



Art by Help Group Student

**A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS**

Dear Friends,  
There is so much exciting news to share with you in this spring edition of HelpLine! Here are just a few highlights.  
We are thrilled to announce that we have opened our new autism education building on our Culver City Campus, allowing us to serve more children and their families. Later this month, on April 23rd, we are looking forward to our Teddy Bear Ball, when we will present our Help Humanitarian Award to Kevin Beggs, Chairman of Lionsgate Television Group and our Corporate Philanthropy Award to Brian and Susan Kennedy ~ Regency Outdoor Advertising.

In recognition of National Autism Awareness Month this April, The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf® and Gelson's are once again hosting The Help Group's "Learn the Facts" campaign. The Help Group's Advance LA will hold its 3rd annual "Resilience" conference with its dynamic program for parents and professionals on May 2nd at American Jewish University.

As always, we thank you for your support of our efforts to build brighter futures for the children!

Best regards,  
Gary H. Carmona ~ Dr. Barbara Firestone

**CONTENTS**

New Education Building Opens in Culver City.....Cover  
 Teddy Bear Ball 2014.....Cover  
 Harry Winston Hope Collection™..... 3  
 The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf® and Gelson's Support Autism Awareness .....3  
 7th Annual Teddy Bear Tea .....4  
 Advance LA Resilience Conference.....5  
 Keyes for Kids Teddy Bear Golf Classic .....6-7  
 Upcoming Arts Programs.....8  
 Summit View Students Selected as Finalists in NASA Competition .....9  
 Annual Help Group Carnival .....9

**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS**

- Linda Bell Blue
- Bruce Berman
- Hon. Howard & Janis Berman
- Carole Black
- Lisa & John Brady
- Ann Costello
- Susanne & Greg Daniels
- Suzanne & Robert Davidow
- Hon. Gray & Sharon Davis
- Jane & Michael Eisner
- Samantha & Jonathan Firestone
- Elizabeth & Lee Gabler
- Therese Gamba
- Ann & Jim Gianopulos
- Dr. Nancy Glaser
- Barbara & Brian Goldner
- Brian Grazer
- Hon. Wendy Greuel & Dean Schramm
- Quincy Jones
- Ronnie & Michael Kassan
- Kathleen & Jason Katims
- Susan & Brian Kennedy
- Gail & Paul Koretz
- Ron Meyer
- Wendy & Barry M. Meyer
- Lori & Michael Milken
- Lowell Milken
- Sandra Milken
- Sarah & Jeremy Milken
- John Nogawski
- Dawn Ostroff
- Ande Rosenblum
- Patty Elias Rosenfeld & Michael Rosenfeld
- Cheryl & Haim Saban
- Sonia Salzman
- Lori & Ted Samuels
- Ellen & Richard Sandler
- Debbie & Sunny Sassoon
- Stacy & Jesse Sharf
- Hon. Brad & Lisa Sherman
- Stacey Snider
- Lissa Solomon
- Hon. Darrell Steinberg
- Philip H. Miller
- Steve Tisch
- Mary & Bill Urquhart
- Claire & D. Michael Van Konyenburg
- Hon. Antonio R. Villaraigosa
- Hon. Zev & Barbara Yaroslavsky
- Barbara & Stanley Zax

**TEDDY BEAR BALL - CONT FROM COVER**



Nurse Jackie, Orange is the New Black, and Saint George to name just a few. Kevin also holds key leadership roles in several industry organizations and charities.

Brian and Susan Kennedy have been members of The Help Group family for many years. Brian founded Regency Outdoor Advertising 40 years ago and currently serves as its President. Regency generously sponsors citywide billboard campaigns for The Help Group year after year.

"We are thrilled to salute Kevin Beggs and Brian & Susan Kennedy ~ they are such great friends to our organization and to our children," said Dr. Barbara Firestone.

Each year, the Teddy Bear Ball is attended by hundreds of prominent entertainment and community leaders and features special performances by children of The Help Group and their celebrity friends. Charles Esten, comedian, actor, singer and current star of Nashville, will be performing at this year's Ball.

For reservations and event information, please contact Julie Hirschberg at 818.779.5212 or visit our website at [www.thehelpgroup.org](http://www.thehelpgroup.org)

**GALA CHAIRS**



Jon Feltheimer Michael Burns Sandra Stern George Lopez

**GALA CO-CHAIRS**



Chris McGurk Jamie McGurk David Salzman Ken Solomon

**HARRY WINSTON HOPE COLLECTION™ SUPPORTS THE HELP GROUP**



Two years ago, The Help Group was honored to have been selected as a beneficiary of The Harry Winston Hope Collection™, a philanthropic initiative developed to support seven leading charitable organizations in its Salon communities in the United States.

Harry Winston donated 100% of the retail sales price of the limited edition Harry Winston Hope Collection bracelet sold in the Beverly Hills Salon to The Help Group. The support received from Harry Winston was used to establish The Harry Winston Media Studio, equipped with state-of-the-art multi-media technology at the Sherman Oaks Campus. At the 2013 Teddy Bear Ball, The Help Group had the privilege of presenting its *Corporate Philanthropy Award* to Harry Winston in recognition generosity and commitment to the children.

The Help Group is pleased to share that as part of its continued collaboration with the Harry Winston Brilliant Futures Charitable Program, it has been selected to be a beneficiary of the new Harry Winston Hope Collection™ charm. Following the successful launch of the limited edition Harry Winston Hope Collection™ Bracelet, the charm, retailing at \$2,000, features a sleek white gold and engraved mother-of-pearl design set with a delicate Winston diamond at the center. It can be worn as either a pendant, or as part of a charm bracelet.

Harry Winston will donate 20% of the retail sales price of each Harry Winston Hope Collection™ charm sold in the Beverly Hills Salon to The Help Group. Dr. Barbara Firestone said, "We are so grateful to Harry Winston for its ongoing support of our efforts on behalf of children with special needs."

**THE COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF® AND GELSON'S HELP SPREAD THE MESSAGE**



The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf® and Gelson's are once again promoting The Help Group's autism awareness campaign during National Autism Awareness Month this April.

Copies of The Help Group's "Learn the Facts" brochures will be on display in The Coffee Bean's 178 stores in the western United States, and The Help Group's digital campaign will be featured all month on the in-store television monitors, as well as on The Coffee Bean's social media outlets.

Gelson's will host its annual autism awareness and fundraising campaign for The Help Group at its 18 markets throughout Southern California. Customers can pick up copies of the "Learn the Facts" brochures and will have the opportunity to make donations to The Help Group at the checkout counter.

Dr. Barbara Firestone said, "In light of the new autism prevalence data from the CDC that estimates 1 in every 68 children is affected by autism, it's so important to provide the public with the very latest information. We thank The Coffee Bean and Gelson's for their commitment year after year to helping spread awareness and understanding of autism."

## 7TH ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR TEA~AN AFFAIR OF THE HEART

The Help Group's 7th Annual *Teddy Bear Tea ~ An Affair of the Heart* was truly an inspirational afternoon featuring keynote speaker, Malissa Feruzzi Shriver, an impassioned advocate for arts education in schools. The Tea was graciously hosted by Jamie McGurk and co-hosted by Therese Gamba and Judy Wolf.

Dr. Barbara Firestone began the event by thanking all those in attendance, "The compassion and caring of everyone gathered here today creates a wonderful valentine for our young people." Dr. Firestone extended her heartfelt appreciation to all of the Tea patrons, sponsors and guests for their generosity and friendship.

Jamie McGurk, Circle of Friends Philanthropic Board member, welcomed guests and explained why she and her husband Chris, who also serves on the Circle of Friends Board, have had such a longstanding commitment to The Help Group. "From the beginning, we were deeply touched by The Help Group's mission. Over the years it's been wonderful to see so many children benefit from the schools and programs. Their sense of dignity continues to inspire us year after year."

Co-host and parent speaker Judy Wolf is a dedicated mom to her three children. Inspired by her daughter Katie who attends The Help Group's Sunrise School, Judy is passionate about making a difference for children with special needs. In her remarks, Judy shared, "At Sunrise School Katie has thrived and continues to do so. It is a place where many things are possible... Katie, my family, and I are blessed and fortunate to have found this wonderful world."

Dr. Susan Berman invited the audience to support The Help Group's Dr. Adam Opportunity Fund that provides food, clothing and shelter to children and families served by the broad range of Help Group schools and programs, as well as providing scholarship support, mentoring, college counseling, vocational training, and internships. The fund has helped more than 2,000 young people and their families since it was created in 2003. Dr. Berman introduced Nikili, a current Help Group student who lives in one of The Help Group's residential homes. Nikili shared that when she came to The Help Group, she finally found home. Thanks to the support and encouragement of The Help Group's staff and the Opportunity fund, Nikili looks forward to attending college and a bright and promising future.

To cap off the afternoon, special guest speaker, Malissa Feruzzi Shriver inspired the audience with her remarks and spoke of the power each person has to become an "agent of change" and make a difference for others. Malissa spoke about the path that led to her advocacy efforts in arts education throughout California and the United States, and why she is so committed to doing everything possible to provide children with the opportunities to realize their fullest potential.

Other highlights of the program included heart-warming performances by The Help Group Children's Choir, which captured the hearts of the audience and truly made the afternoon an *Affair of the Heart!*



1. Malissa Feruzzi Shriver 2. Dr. Barbara Firestone, Malissa Feruzzi Shriver, Therese Gamba, Jaime McGurk, Judy Wolf 3. Jaime McGurk 4. Nikili, Dr. Susan Berman 5. Judy Wolf 6. Sandra Stern 7. Ann Costello 8. Sarah Milken, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Angella Nazarian 9. Melissa Varo, Samantha Firestone, Meredith Weiner 10. Malissa Feruzzi Shriver, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Renee Vogel, Vivan Tran, Maryam Mehrani, Margie Keyes, Claudia Antoine, Kaela Austin, Mon Li Gerson, Dee Clay, Stacey Siegel 11. Joy Monkarsh 12. Wendy Greuel 13. Christina Schwarzenegger, Katherine Schwarzenegger 14. Barbara Yaroslavsky 15. Heidi Monkarsh, Stacy Sharf, Patty Elias Rosenfeld 16. Gail Koretz 17. Karen Shapiro 18. The Help Group Children's Choir

## REGISTRATION OPEN FOR ADVANCE LA'S 2014 RESILIENCE CONFERENCE

Please join us at The Help Group's 3rd Annual Advance LA Conference, RESILIENCE, for parents and professionals.

As young adults with autism spectrum disorder, learning disabilities, Asperger's Disorder, executive functioning challenges, and other social or emotional issues prepare to transition to college, the workforce, and beyond, they often experience a lack of resources and guidance to help them along the way. Advance LA is a program of The Help Group that specializes in preparing these young people for a successful future. This year's conference, RESILIENCE, will bring together experts from diverse fields to join us in exploring strategies for enhancing resilience as we support young people in their preparation for a successful transition to college, the workforce, and beyond.

Registration is now open for the conference, which will be held at American Jewish University on Friday, May 2nd.

Notable conference presenters will include Keynote Address speaker ANDREW SHATTÉ, PHD, Professor, College of Medicine at University of Arizona; Brookings Institution Fellow; Former Professor of Psychology at University of Pennsylvania; Founder and President of Phoenix Life Academy; Chief Science Officer at me Quilibrium; Co-author of The Resilience Factor; CRAIG B.H. SURMAN, MD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School; Scientific Coordinator of the Adult ADHD Research Program at Massachusetts General Hospital; Co-author of FAST MINDS: How To Thrive If You Have ADHD (Or Think You Might); and CAROL SCHALL, PhD, Director of Virginia Autism Resource Center at Virginia Commonwealth University; Author of Autism and the Transition to Adulthood: Success Beyond the Classroom.

For more information about the conference or to register to attend this year's event, please visit [www.advancela.org/conference](http://www.advancela.org/conference)

Alyssa Bower, M.A. | [abower@thehelpgroup.org](mailto:abower@thehelpgroup.org) | 818.212.9822 | [www.advancela.org](http://www.advancela.org)

# KEYES FOR KIDS TEDDY BEAR GOLF CLASSIC HONORING JOHN C. BRADY SCORES A HOLE IN ONE FOR THE KIDS OF THE HELP GROUP

It was a beautiful day at the Valencia Country Club for the 22nd Annual Keyes for Kids Teddy Bear Golf Classic on September 23, 2013 to benefit the children of The Help Group. The enthusiasm and generosity of everyone who supported this year's Classic created a record-breaking, sold-out success!

Following a great day on the greens, The Help Group presented its *Help Fore Children Humanitarian Award* to John C. Brady in recognition of his humanitarian spirit and for his commitment to children's causes at the Lockton Insurance Brokers Awards Reception.

Golf Co-Chair and 2009 honoree Jesse Sharf, partner & co-chair of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's Century City Real Estate Department, gave a spirited introduction of his longtime friend and colleague John Brady and welcomed him to The Help Group family.

John is Managing Director and Portfolio Manager for Oaktree Capital Management, which was a grand sponsor of the event, along with John and his wife Lisa. John is an acknowledged industry leader with more than 20 years of experience across a range of real estate investments and property types. Throughout his distinguished career, John has always been generous and compassionate in lending a hand to those in need. As a family, the Bradys have dedicated themselves to giving back and helping those less fortunate.

In his acceptance remarks, John acknowledged his family, friends and colleagues in attendance for their outstanding support of The Help Group, "Thank you for joining me in support of this remarkable organization. They do amazing work on behalf of kids with special needs, and I'm



so glad to support their efforts."

Board Chair Gary H. Carmona and Dr. Barbara Firestone expressed their appreciation to all event sponsors and donors. "Today's Golf Classic is a testament to the tremendous spirit of generosity of our philanthropic community. On behalf of the entire Help Group family, thank you so much."

To recognize the Brady Family for their support, Dr. Firestone announced the arts center at the new education building in Culver City will be named the "Brady Family Arts Center." Honoring the family she said, "John and Lisa have made service to others a Brady family affair – and believe like we do in creating brighter futures for young people."

Special thanks to Michael Hackman, Founder & CEO of Hackman Capital, who graciously returned for the second year in a row to serve as auctioneer extraordinaire during the evening reception.

This year's Co-Chairs included Victor Coleman, Chairman & CEO, Hudson Pacific Properties; Jonathan Firestone, Managing Director, Eastdil Secured; Michael Hackman, Founder & CEO, Hackman Capital; Jonathan Klein, Managing Director of Fortress Investment Group; Michael Rosenfeld, Founder & CEO of Woodridge Capital Partners and 2011 Golf honoree; Jesse Sharf; Judd Swarzman, Judd Swarzman & Associates and Help Group Board member; Howard Tenenbaum, Vice President of Keyes Automotive Group & Help Group Board Executive Vice Chair; and Michael Van Konyenburg, President, Eastdil Secured.

Our heartfelt thanks to all our friends who so generously sponsored the 2013 Golf Classic and made it such a resounding success!

1. Jonathan Firestone, Jesse Sharf, John Brady, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Michael Hackman 2. The Keyes Team 3. Michael Rosenfeld, John Brady 4. Michael Hackman 5. Gary H. Carmona, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Lisa and John Brady and family 6. Judd Swarzman 7. John Brady 8. Jesse Sharf, Michael Hackman 9. John Brady 10. Victor Coleman 11. John Brady and Oaktree Capital Management 12. Tim Noonan 13. Jeffrey Karsh, John Brady, Jesse Sharf, Michael Rosenfeld 14. The Help Group Children's Choir



### THE HELP GROUP'S UPCOMING AUTISM ARTS PROGRAMS



proudly present  
**AN INTERACTIVE CONCERT**  
 for Individuals with Autism and their Families

◆ **ADMISSION IS FREE** ◆

FEATURING **CASSANDRA KUBINSKI**



**Sunday, May 18th, 2014 at 2:00PM**

**THE HELP GROUP AUTISM CENTER THEATER**  
 13164 Burbank Blvd, Sherman Oaks, California 91401

For more information please visit  
[www.musicforautism.org](http://www.musicforautism.org)  
 or  
[www.thehelpgroup.org](http://www.thehelpgroup.org)

**The Help Group**  
 is pleased to invite you to

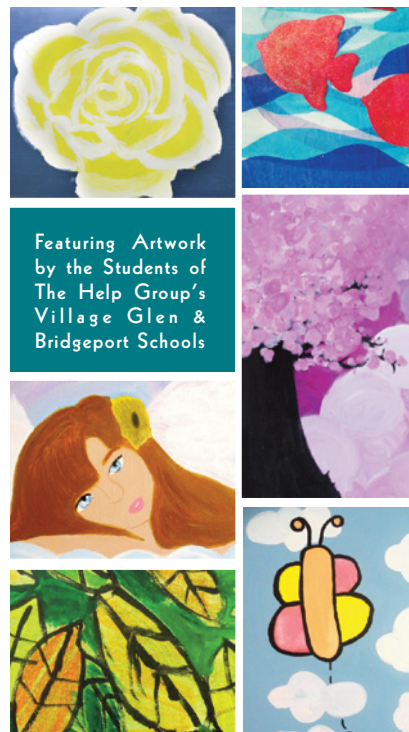
**Through Our Eyes**  
 A Celebration of Young ARTISTS

Special Reception  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
 1pm - 3pm

Exhibition & Reception  
 Sponsored By  
**Bear Givers**

Exhibit runs  
**Friday Jun. 6th - Fri. Jun. 13th**

**JNA Gallery**  
 Bergamot Station Art Center  
 2525 Michigan Ave, Building D4  
 Santa Monica, CA 90404  
 310.315.9502  
[www.jnagallery.com](http://www.jnagallery.com)



Featuring Artwork  
 by the Students of  
 The Help Group's  
 Village Glen &  
 Bridgeport Schools

## APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

### LEARN the FACTS

**Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), commonly referred to as autism, is a group of brain-based developmental disabilities characterized by language/communication problems, impaired social interaction, and repetitive, rigid behaviors and interests.**

- Autism is estimated to affect 1 in every 68 children in the United States; 1 in every 42 boys; 1 in every 189 girls.
- No two individuals with autism are the same. There is a wide spectrum of symptoms that range from mild to severe.
- Autism occurs in children of all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Research suggests that the causes of autism are complex and include genetic, biological, and environmental risk factors.
- An increased prevalence in autism has been influenced by greater awareness, improved expertise in diagnosis, and an expanded definition though a true increase in the number of children with autism cannot be ruled out.
- Symptoms of autism can often be detected at 18 months or earlier, and some of the early warning signs may even be recognizable within the first year of life.
- When parents first suspect their child is developing differently, they should discuss their concerns with their pediatrician and ask for an autism screening or referral to a qualified autism professional
- Early identification and intensive early intervention can result in significant positive outcomes for many children with ASD.
- Individuals with autism can make gains throughout their lives with the support of evidence-based educational and therapeutic programs tailored to meet their challenges and strengths.
- 84% of individuals with autism in California are under the age of 22. There is a significant need for services to help young people successfully transition to adulthood with the greatest levels of independence possible.

Important history is in the making for autism as science, public policy, advocacy, best practices in education and treatment, and awareness efforts expand and intensify. Advances in these areas will improve the quality of life for individuals with autism and their families.

### SUMMIT VIEW STUDENTS SELECTED AS FINALISTS IN NASA COMPETITION

This spring, a team of four high school students from Summit View was selected as one of only five finalists in a national competition to build and test designs for radiation shields for NASA's new Orion spacecraft. The competition is part of the Exploration Design Challenge (EDC), developed by NASA and Lockheed Martin, with support from the National Institute of Aerospace (NIA).



Congratulations to Team LORE - Greg Unger, Ethan Ashena, Cameron Molina and Tyson Clark and to their chemistry teacher, Carol Cao, for her leadership and guidance on this project.

For the next phase of the competition, each of the final five teams will be assigned a mentor from NASA to help them refine their design and build a prototype, which will be tested by engineers at NASA's Langley Research Center before the winning design is chosen. Thanks to the generosity of



the competition's sponsors, all four Summit View students and their teacher will travel to Washington, D.C. for the live announcement of the winning team on Friday, April 25th. The winning team's design will be launched into space on Orion later this year.

Summit View Director Nancy Rosenfelt shared, "We are incredibly proud of our students for this outstanding achievement. These young men exemplify the best of the Summit View spirit - their thirst for knowledge, their drive and determination to succeed, and their unlimited potential. What a great way to begin their road to college!"

### ANNUAL HELP GROUP CARNIVAL BRINGS THE JOY AND MAGIC OF THE SEASON TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



On Saturday, December 14th, The Help Group held its annual Holiday Carnival to make the season brighter for more than 1500 children and their families served by The Help Group's Family-Centered Support Programs, Mental Health & Clinical Programs and Residential Services.



This year's guests enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon of carnival games, rides, food, arts and crafts, a petting zoo, face painting and a visit with Santa Claus. Thanks to the generosity of our major sponsors The Zenith, Hasbro, Ruggieri Construction, Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation and The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf®, The Help Group's Sherman Oaks Campus became a magical winter wonderland for the benefit of families from economically disadvantaged circumstances.



Longtime Help Group supporter Hasbro continued their tradition of donating toys so that every child could take home a wonderful present. Bear Givers, which sponsors the "Through our Eyes" art show every spring for The Help Group's Village Glen and Bridgeport schools, donated 750 bears to the youngest Carnival guests. One of the many heartwarming scenes of the afternoon was watching teens from the Kids Like Me club i.a. TEEN program for young people with autism and other social-communication challenges pass out bears to the little children attending the Carnival.



Returning this year by popular demand was the "Silverlining Clothing Corner." Families were able to fill bags with donated clothing, including warm winter coats and shoes, provided by The Help Group's Silverlining Designer Resale Boutique & Vocational Training Center.



"The Holiday Carnival is such a special day for the families served by The Help Group," said Dr. Barbara Firestone. "Our heartfelt thanks to all our sponsors, volunteers and staff for making this year's event a wonderful experience for the children and their families."



The Help Group **Leading the Way for Young People with Special Needs**



- ASSESSMENT
- MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
- RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS
- 18+ PROGRAMS
- COACHING
- SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING
- PARENT EDUCATION
- AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT
- SUMMER & WINTER CAMPS

- Village Glen School
- Bridgeport School
- Bridgeport Vocational Education Center
- Young Learners Preschool
- Sunrise School
- Summit View School
- North Hills Prep
- Coldwater Canyon Prep
- Parkhill School

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 disorder, learning disabilities, ADHD, developmental delays, abuse and emotional problems.

The Help Group's nine specialized day schools offer pre-K through high school programs for more than 1,500 students. Its broad 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 950 staff members, The Help Group's state-of-the-art schools and programs are located on seven campuses in the Los Angeles area.

CULVER CITY | SHERMAN OAKS EAST | SHERMAN OAKS WEST | VALLEY GLEN | VAN NUYS NORTH | VAN NUYS SOUTH | WEST HILLS

877.943.5747 | [www.thehelpgroup.org](http://www.thehelpgroup.org)

**THE HELP GROUP'S**  
**EDUCATIONAL, RECREATIONAL, AND SOCIAL**  
**SUMMER PROGRAMS 2014**  
 June 16th - August 22nd

- THE HELP GROUP'S SUMMER CAMPS 2014**  
PRESCHOOL THROUGH YOUNG ADULTS
- STEAM GRADES 1-12**  
Village Glen School Summer Academic Programs
- TEENS on the go! 2014 TRAVEL CAMPS**  
come explore SAN DIEGO & SEATTLE
- kids like me AFTER-SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAM**  
An afternoon of new skills, friends, and fun

Designed to challenge, excite, and support children and young adults with autism spectrum disorder and other special needs ages 3-21.

[www.thehelpgroup.org](http://www.thehelpgroup.org) | Contact: [summerinfo@thehelpgroup.org](mailto:summerinfo@thehelpgroup.org)



**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**

**Village Glen School** for students with social and communicative challenges, 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 ages 2 1/2 to 5 with ASD.

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

**Bridgeport Vocational Education Center** provides young adults with special needs ages 18 to 22 with instruction in independent living skills and vocational opportunities.

**Sunrise School** for students ages 5 to 22 with moderate to severe global delays associated with ASD and other developmental disabilities.

**Summit View School** for students with learning differences.

**Coldwater Canyon Prep** for students with learning differences and accompanying ADHD and social-emotional challenges.

**North Hills Prep** for students with emotional or motivational challenges, learning differences or problems with attention.

**Parkhill School** for children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral challenges.



**PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

The **Mental Health & Clinical Programs** provide psychiatry, individual, family and group therapy, case management, after-school enrichment for at-risk children and vocational services.

**Stepping Stones Preschool Program** provides a therapeutic, nurturing and enriching environment for children ages 2 1/2 to 5 who need early intervention for social, emotional, behavioral, neurological and/or psychological challenges.

The **Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder** 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 ASD.

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 the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior and 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.

**Family-Centered Support Programs** include child and family counseling, teen parenting counseling, parent education and family reunification counseling. **Wraparound Program** is a strength-based, family-focused program used by communities to support children and families with complex needs. **Full Service Partnership** is a community-based program that provides intensive mental health services to children ages birth to 15.

**Project Six/The Commons** is a therapeutic boarding option for teens ages 13 to 17 with a variety of diagnosis and behaviors, including Asperger's Disorder, ASD, mood and anxiety disorders, learning differences and emotional and behavioral challenges.

**Advance LA** provides coaching, residential living and social and recreational opportunities for teens and young adults who are facing 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.** and **club i.a. TEEN** provide a supported social network for young adults and teens who are on the autism spectrum or need assistance in developing and maintaining friendships.

**Silverlining Resale Boutique & Vocational Training Center** provides students with special needs the opportunity to learn and develop valuable work experience and job skills that contribute to their knowledge, self-confidence, employability and future independence.

**Kids Like Me** provides after-school enrichment, social skills groups and summer, winter and spring day camp programs. **Teens on the Go** is a travel camp for young people with ASD.



Managing Editor  
**Karen Swift**

Graphic Designer  
**Dennis Valansi**

Photo Editor  
**Julie Hirschberg**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Graduate & Post-Graduate Training Programs

Distinguished Lecturer Series

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

Advance LA Innovate Conference



**Administrative Office**  
 13130 Burbank Boulevard  
 Sherman Oaks, California 91401

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 PERMIT NO. 718  
 Van Nuys, CA

The Help Group because every child deserves a great future

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 disorder, learning disabilities, ADHD, developmental delays, abuse and emotional problems.

The Help Group's nine specialized day schools offer pre-K through high school programs for more than 1,500 students. Its broad 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 950 staff members, The Help Group's state-of-the-art schools and programs are located on seven campuses in the Los Angeles area.

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 children 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.

- Village Glen School · Bridgeport School
- Bridgeport Vocational Education Center · Sunrise School
- Young Learners Preschool for Autism · Project Six / The Commons
- The Help Group - UCLA Autism Research Alliance · Advance LA · Live.Advance.LA.
- The Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Kids Like Me Recreational Programs & Camps · club l.a./club l.a. TEEN
- Paws and Pals for Kids with Autism
- Silverlining Resale Boutique & Vocational Training Center
- Summit View School · Coldwater Canyon Prep
- North Hills Prep · Parkhill School
- The Help Group - UCLA Neuropsychology Program
- The Help Group Child & Family Center

Culver City · Sherman Oaks East · Sherman Oaks West  
 Valley Glen · Van Nuys North · Van Nuys South · West Hills

PHONE: 877.943.5747 · FAX: 818.779.5295

[www.thehelpgroup.org](http://www.thehelpgroup.org)  

## UPCOMING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



**Teddy Bear Ball Honoring Kevin Beggs and Brian & Susan Kennedy ~ Regency Outdoor Advertising**

The Beverly Hilton Hotel  
 April 23



**Advance LA Resilience Conference**

American Jewish University  
 May 2



**Music for Autism Concert**

Help Group Autism Center  
 May 17



**Through Our Eyes Art Exhibit Sponsored by Bear Givers**

JNA Gallery  
 June 6-13



**The Miracle Project**

Help Group Autism Center  
 June 7



**Keys for Kids Teddy Bear Golf Classic**

Valencia Country Club  
 September 22



**The Help Group SUMMIT 2014  
 Advances and Best Practices in  
 Autism Learning Disabilities ADHD**

October 17 & 18

For more information on these and other events, please call 818.779.5212 or visit [www.thehelpgroup.org](http://www.thehelpgroup.org)