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

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, 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.”

NEW EDUCATION BUILDING OPENS ITS DOORS AT CULVER CITY CAMPUS

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

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS BOARD

Art by Help Group Student

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS BOARD

Gary H. Carmona
Chairman of the Board
Dr. Barbara Firestone
President & CEO
Dr. Susan Berman
Chief Operating Officer
Tom Komp
Senior Vice President
Michael Love
Senior Vice President

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Barbara Firestone
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Gary H. Carmona – Dr. Barbara Firestone

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

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Bruce Berman
Hon. Howard & Janis Berman
Carole Black
Lisa & John Brady
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Susanne & Greg Daniels
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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

HARRY WINSTON

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 of its ongoing commitment to the children.

The Help Group is pleased to share that as part of its continued support 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™ Charm, 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.”

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The Help Group’s 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 Jaime 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!

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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 all 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 extraordinare 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!
• Symptoms of autism can often be detected at 18 months or earlier, the first year of life.

• Eighty-four percent 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.

• 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.

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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 Vantini, 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 guests. Families were able to fill bags with donated clothing, including two 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 Rosenfield 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!”

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.

Important Notary 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.
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.

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.

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

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

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

www.thehelpgroup.org | Contact: 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 strengths-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 Sib/The Commons is a therapeutic boarding option for teens ages 13 to 17 with a variety of diagnoses 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.

Manager 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 Innovative Conference
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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 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.

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

Keyes 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