

NEW EDUCATION BUILDING AT CULVER CITY CAMPUS NEARING COMPLETION

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES



The Help Group is pleased to announce that its newest education building will open its doors at the Culver City Campus later this year to help address the growing need for education programs for young people with autism spectrum disorder.



The new building includes state-of-the-art classrooms, science, media/computer, and "Innovation" labs and an arts studio that will serve as a platform for the cutting-edge "STEAM" curriculum – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (see related article, page

six). This facility also features an 8000-square foot rooftop outdoor space which has been designed for physical education, performing arts, and open-air classroom activities, as well as a play structure for younger students.

The addition of this building at the Culver City Campus enables The Help Group to expand its Village Glen, Bridgeport, and Young Learners Preschool programs and establish the Sunrise School program, which has been serving students on the Sherman Oaks Campus for more than 30 years.

Thank you to all our supporters who are joining us to make this vision a reality!

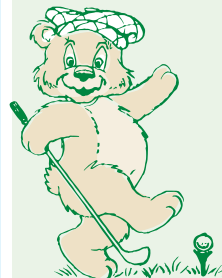
JOHN C. BRADY TO BE HONORED AT GOLF CLASSIC SEPTEMBER 23

The 22nd Annual Keyes for Kids Teddy Bear Golf Classic and Lockton Insurance Brokers Awards Reception honoring John C. Brady will be held on Monday, September 23, 2013 at the Valencia Country Club. The Golf Classic has met with an enthusiastic response and is already an over-the-top success.



John C. Brady

This year's Help Fore Children Humanitarian Award will be presented to John Brady in recognition of his outstanding



spirit of philanthropy and for the hand of friendship that he has extended to the children of The Help Group. Mr. Brady is Managing Director and Portfolio Manager for Oaktree Capital Management. With extensive experience across a range of real estate investments and property types for more than 20 years, he is an acknowledged leader in the industry.

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THE HELP GROUP PRESENTS

SUMMIT 2013

Advances and Best Practices in
AUTISM ■ LEARNING DISABILITIES ■ ADHD

A CUTTING EDGE CONFERENCE FEATURING 30 LEADING EXPERTS

Friday, October 25 & Saturday, October 26

Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles

See story on page 3

THE 16TH ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR BALL SALUTES HASBRO, STEPHEN DAVIS, HARRY WINSTON, INC. AND DR. SUSAN BERMAN



Randy Soto, Harry Winston VP of Retail, US Salons, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Help Group Pres. & CEO, Stephen Davis, Hasbro Studios President, Dr. Susan Berman, Help Group COO, Gary H. Carmona, Help Group Board Chair

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Art by Help Group Student

A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

It's our pleasure to share this edition of HelpLine with you! Here are a few highlights of what is happening at The Help Group.

We are delighted to report that construction on our new autism education building at our Culver City Campus will be completed by the end of the year. The next edition of HelpLine will feature all the exciting news about this wonderful new facility.

Our Teddy Bear Ball honoring Stephen Davis, Harry Winston, Inc. and Dr. Susan Berman was truly a night to remember, and we are very much looking forward to our next philanthropic event on September 23rd, the Keyes for Kids Teddy Bear Golf Classic honoring John Brady, which is nearly sold out.

We are grateful to our terrific community of friends who support our efforts on behalf of children with special needs. Thank you for being part of our partnership of caring!

Best regards,

Gary H. Carmona ~ Dr. Barbara Firestone

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

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- Mary & Bill Urquhart
- Claire & D. Michael Van Konynenburg
- Hon. Antonio R. Villaraigosa
- Hon. Zev & Barbara Yaroslavsky
- Barbara & Stanley Zax

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TEDDY BEAR GOLF CLASSIC - continued from cover

Dr. Barbara Firestone remarked, "We are thrilled to be honoring John Brady, who has such a special place in his heart for our kids, and we are immensely grateful to our Golf Classic major sponsors and chairs for their commitment to The Help Group."

Golf Classic Co-Chairs are Victor Coleman, Chairman & CEO, Hudson Pacific Properties; Jonathan Firestone, Managing Director, Eastdil Secured; Michael Hackman, CEO, Hackman Capital; Jon Klein, Managing Director of Fortress Investment Group; Michael Rosenfeld, CEO of Woodridge Capital Partners; Jesse Sharf, partner & co-chair of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's Century City Real Estate Department; 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.

A great day on the greens will be followed by the *Lockton Insurance Brokers Awards Reception*. We extend our many thanks to all who have supported our Golf Classic!

For more information, please contact Julie Hirschberg at 818.779.5212, or visit www.thehelpgroup.org.



The Help Group's
22nd Annual
KEYES FOR KIDS
Teddy Bear Golf Classic
and
LOCKTON INSURANCE BROKERS
Awards Reception

Honoring
JOHN C. BRADY
Managing Director, Head of Global Real Estate
Oaktree Capital Management, L.P.

GOLF CLASSIC CHAIRS
Victor Coleman
Jonathan Firestone
Michael Hackman
Jon Klein
Michael Rosenfeld
Jesse Sharf
Judd Swarzman
Howard Tenenbaum
Michael Van Konyenburg

VALENCIA COUNTRY CLUB • MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

TEDDY BEAR GOLF CLASSIC CHAIRS



Victor Coleman



Jonathan Firestone



Michael Hackman



Jon Klein



Michael Rosenfeld



Jesse Sharf



Judd Swarzman



Howard Tenenbaum



Michael Van Konyenburg

The Help Group's *Summit 2013: Advances and Best Practices in Autism, Learning Disabilities and ADHD* will be held at the Skirball Cultural Center on Friday, October 25th and Saturday, October 26th. The conference will feature 30 leading experts in basic and applied research, and evidence-based best practices in assessment, intervention and treatment.

This year's featured speakers include Dr. Thomas E. Brown, Associate

Director of the Yale Clinic for Attention and Related Disorders; Dr. Connie Kasari, Professor of Psychological Studies in Education and Psychiatry, UCLA; and Dr. Maureen Lovett, Director of the Learning Disabilities Research Program at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

The Summit is attended by more than 600 professionals, parents, undergraduate and graduate students each year. The program provides a rich and informative experience to its attendees. Continuing education credits are available for psychologists, speech pathologists, social workers and therapists, occupational therapists, and behavior analyst practitioners. Early bird online registration is available through September 30th at www.thehelpgroup.org.

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**EARLY BIRD
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Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles

Program Information & Online Registration Available at www.thehelpgroup.org  

SUMMIT CHAIRS

- Barbara Firestone, PhD
- Peter C. Whybrow, MD
- Robert M. Bilder, PhD, ABPP

FEATURED SPEAKERS

- Thomas E. Brown, PhD
- Connie Kasari, PhD
- Maureen Lovett, PhD, C.Psych

PRESENTERS

- Jane Tavyev Asher, MD
- Bruce Baker, PhD
- Robert M. Bilder, PhD, ABPP
- Jan Blacher, PhD
- Erna I. Blanche, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
- Susan Bookheimer, PhD
- Xavier E. Cagigas, PhD
- Dan Campbell, PhD
- Pamela Clark, MA
- Michael Enenbach, MD
- Jeff Gilger, PhD
- Irva Hertz-Picciotto, PhD, MPH
- Shafali Spurling Jeste, MD
- Elizabeth Laugeson, PsyD
- Michael Leon, PhD
- Philip Levin, PhD
- Sandra Loo, PhD
- Maja Mataric, PhD
- Daniel Openden, PhD, BCBA-D
- Albert "Skip" Rizzo, PhD
- Eric Sailers, MA, CCC-SLP
- Cynthia Schumann, PhD
- William Sharp, PhD
- Bina Varughese, MS
- Louis A. Vismara, MD
- Jeffrey Wood, PhD



VILLAGE GLEN'S STEAM CURRICULUM LEADS THE WAY IN CUTTING-EDGE AUTISM EDUCATION

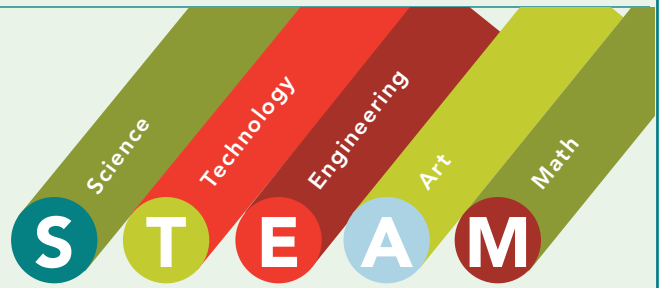
This summer Village Glen School introduced STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math – an exciting new multi-disciplinary curriculum that incorporates hands-on, project-based learning to prepare our students for success in the 21st century by encouraging creativity, critical thinking skills and problem solving strategies. Students this summer took classes in Robotics, The Physics of Fun (an exploration of physical concepts such as friction, gravity and acceleration at work in fun constructions such as roller coasters), and Innovation (a class in which students had to find creative solutions to assigned problems given minimal set resources). Fall course offerings include two Robotics Engineering classes, AP Biology, AP Statistics, and other STEAM related options.



A key element of the new STEAM program is its Innovation Lab, where students have everything they need to apply lessons toward real-life problem solving: walls made from erasable white boards to write and conceptualize projects, movable tables and chairs to reconfigure the Lab as needed, and access to a wide range of tools and materials. Teachers



Village Glen High School Principal Dr. Ellis Crasnow, teacher James Phelan and students



and students from Village Glen School’s Elementary, Middle and High School will use this dynamic, engaging space to explore and test classroom theories and concepts.

According to Dr. Susan Berman, “We pride ourselves in anticipating the needs of the community and designing innovative, evidence-based, empirically designed programs for our students. Implementing an integrated STEAM curriculum will give our Village Glen students with high-functioning autism and Asperger’s Disorder the skills and tools they need to compete and succeed in a rigorous college environment and the demanding 21st century workforce.”

Dr. Diane Flannery, Help Group Director of Program Design, elaborated further, “The STEAM curriculum harnesses the strengths of our Village Glen students – their interest in technology, their problem-solving skills, and their ability to focus and hone in on a given task – while creating opportunities to address some of the social challenges that can accompany high-functioning autism. Working in teams on projects gives the students practical experience in communicating and collaborating with their peers, learning how to give and receive constructive criticism, and developing a sense of resilience and flexibility. These are all real-world transferrable skills that our students will take with them when they graduate from high school.”

The response from Village Glen students to this new program has been overwhelmingly positive. High school student Liam explained, “Because of the STEAM program, I was really excited to come back to school this fall.”

To learn more about Village Glen School, visit www.villageglen.org.

STUDENT-RUN STORE LULU’S REOPENS AT THE SHERMAN OAKS CAMPUS

The Help Group’s Bridgeport Vocational Education Center recently launched the grand reopening of Lulu’s – a student-run store on the Sherman Oaks Campus. Lulu’s offers a variety of breakfast and lunch items for purchase, as well as gift items such as greeting cards and fashionable accessories.

“We are so proud of our Bridgeport Voc. Ed. Center students for their efforts to make Lulu’s the successful, thriving business it has become, and we encourage all visitors to The Help Group’s Sherman Oaks Campus to stop by and support our students,” said Pamela Clark, Director of Autism Schools.



Lulu's is located in the lobby of 13130 Burbank Blvd. and is open weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

THE 16TH ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR BALL SALUTES HASBRO STE

It was a festive night at the International Ballroom of The Beverly Hilton as hundreds of friends and supporters gathered to celebrate the humanitarian spirit at The Help Group's 16th Annual Teddy Bear Ball on Monday, April 22nd. On this special evening, The Help Group presented honors to Stephen Davis, president of Hasbro Studios, Harry Winston, Inc. and Dr. Susan Berman, The Help Group COO.



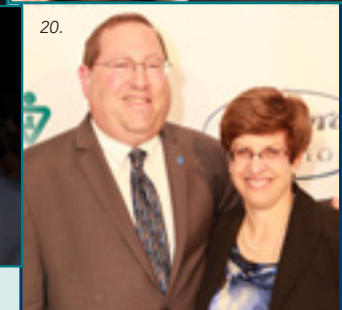
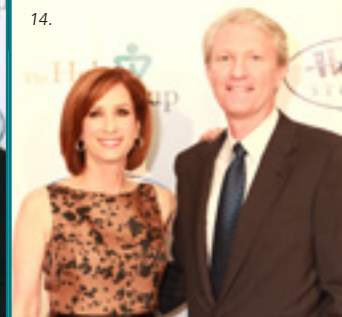
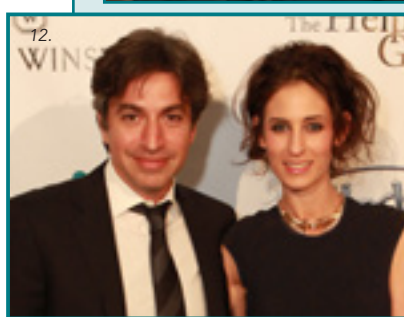
Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa served as Honorary Gala Chair, and Gala Chairs were Peggy Davis, Margaret Loesch, Jamie & Chris McGurk, Sonia & David Salzman, Lissa & Ken Solomon and Randy Soto. Major sponsors included Hasbro & Hasbro Studios, Harry Winston, Inc., Cheryl & Haim Saban and The Saban Charitable Support Fund, The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf®, Keyes Automotive Group, and The Hub TV Network.

Todd Newton, Emmy Award-winning host of The Hub TV Network's "Family Game Night", served as the emcee for the evening that featured musical performances by three-time Grammy Award-winner Debby Boone and Louis Price, former lead singer of the Temptations, and The Help Group Children's Choir.

Gary H. Carmona, Help Group Board Chair, and Dr. Barbara Firestone, Help Group President & CEO, expressed their great appreciation to the honorees and to everyone who helped make the evening such a tremendous success. "You are all our partners in helping to make the children's dreams come true," said Dr. Firestone.

Margaret Loesch, founding President & CEO of The Hub TV Network, member of The Help Group's Circle of Friends Philanthropic Board, and 1998 Help Humanitarian Award honoree, introduced Help Humanitarian Award honoree Stephen Davis. "In both his personal and professional life, Stephen is focused on giving children richer, happier lives."

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Davis shared, "There is nothing more important in a child's world than to know they are loved and supported, encouraged to believe that there is truly nothing they cannot accomplish, no obstacle they cannot scale, and above all for every child that there is hope, always hope, for the brightest of futures. That is what The Help Group is all about. And that's



1. Randy Soto, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Stephen Davis, Dr. Susan Berman, Gary H. Carmona, Firestone, Dr. Susan Berman, Gary H. Carmona 5. Anne Sweeney, Kelsey Grammer, Randy Soto & Family 9. Ken & Lissa Solomon 10. David & Sonia Salzman 11. Ann & Dick Costello 12. Morgan Fairchild 13. Louis Price & The Help Group Children's Choir 14. Children of The Help Group 15. Mike & Susan Berk 16. Joy Monkarsh 17. Andrea Ficzynski 18. Morgan Fairchild 19. Louis Price & The Help Group Children's Choir 20. Children of The Help Group 21. Louis Price & The Help Group Children's Choir 22. Children of The Help Group

STEPHEN DAVIS, HARRY WINSTON, INC. AND DR. SUSAN BERMAN



why I have such a soft spot in my heart for this organization."

Anne Sweeney, Co-Chair of Disney Media Networks and President of Disney-ABC, member of The Help Group's Circle of Friends Philanthropic Board, and a previous Help Group Humanitarian Award honoree, introduced Corporate Philanthropy Award honoree Harry Winston, Inc.

The Help Group is honored to have been selected as a beneficiary of the Harry Winston Hope Collection™ Bracelet, part of a new philanthropic initiative developed to support seven leading charitable organizations in Harry Winston Salon communities in the United States. Harry Winston is generously donating 100% of the retail sales price of the limited edition Harry Winston Hope Collection™ bracelet sold in the Beverly Hills Salon and at the Teddy Bear Ball to The Help Group.

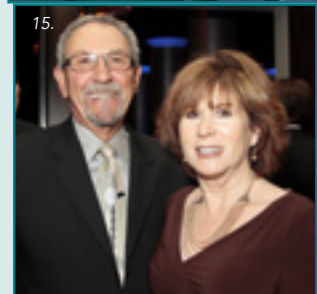
The support received from Harry Winston will be used to establish the Harry Winston Media Studio for the students of The Help Group.

Ms. Sweeney remarked, "This new state-of-the-art Media Studio will give so many kids the great gift of an intuitive, interactive, and responsive learning environment. And it will help kids unlock their potential the same way Harry Winston jewelry reveals the full potential of a diamond."

Dr. Firestone introduced Dr. Berman, recipient of the Champion for Children Award, and her friend and colleague of 30 years. "Susan's contributions are at the very heart of what The Help Group is today, and her ongoing vision and leadership will be at the very heart of The Help Group's continuing evolution. In accepting her award, Dr. Berman remarked, "Every day, I am reminded of the true heroes of The Help Group – our families, whose love and hope for a brighter future for their children inspires us to new heights, and the courageous young people whom we serve, whose tenacious spirit in the face of challenge stirs our souls and nourishes our efforts."

Debby Boone enchanted the crowd with a stirring performance of her iconic hit "You Light Up My Life," and a charming medley of songs from "The King and I" and "The Sound of Music" with the Choir. Guests were also entertained by an opening number by Louis Price and the Choir and Price's soulful rendition of "Stand By Me."

To cap off the evening, all of the honorees and presenters joined Debby Boone, Louis Price, and the Children's Choir onstage for a reprise of "Ain't No Stoppin Us Now" – an inspiring ending to a memorable evening!



2. Debby Boone & Help Group Student 3. Stephen Davis & Margaret Loesch 4. Dr. Barbara Firestone, Susan Moseley 6. Dr. Susan Berman & Debby Boone 7. Todd Newton 8. Dr. Susan Berman & Mel Elias & Vanessa Moshay 13. Stephen Davis, Cadence Davis, Peggy Davis 14. Jamie & Chris Gorham 19. Drs. Barbara & David Firestone 20. Councilmember Paul & Gail Koretz

SUMMIT VIEW ALUMNI SUCCEED IN COLLEGE AND BEYOND



Summit View School offers a college preparatory program to students with specific learning disabilities on two campuses, one in West Los Angeles and one in the San Fernando Valley. Ninety-seven percent of Summit View graduates attend a wide array of competitive public and private colleges in California and throughout the United States.

In this edition of Helpline, we're pleased to spotlight the achievements of three Summit View graduates.

Nicholas Burns just graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies. Nick was an active student during college, where he served as historian and photographer for the University of California Rally Committee, an organization founded in 1901 to foster school spirit. Nick was recognized for his service to the Rally Committee with the Cal Alumni Association Leadership Award, a prestigious, merit-based scholarship presented to Cal students who demonstrate innovative, motivational leadership in the university community.

Paulina Kamiel, a 2007 alumna of Summit View Valley, graduated this spring with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology, magna cum laude, from



Nick Burns proudly earned his diploma from UC-Berkeley



Paulina Kamiel with Camp Sunshine camper. A senior camp staffer said, "Paulina is just wonderful with the children – a natural."

California State University at Monterey Bay. Paulina has found her calling working with children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). She spent her second summer on The Help Group's Sherman Oaks campus volunteering at Kids Like Me Camp Sunshine for children with moderate to severe ASD, and is planning to apply to graduate school this fall to become an occupational therapist.

John Bethune, Summit View Valley Class of 2009, is currently a student at the University of Arizona. John's experiences at Summit View helped prepare him for life at the university and beyond. "Summit View School gave me the tools, resources, help and support that allowed me to be successful up to this point in my life," he said. "What I learned at Summit View will help me continue to be successful in years to come."

John has joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, the college-based program for training commissioned officers of the United States armed forces, and has found it to be a positive addition to his life. This summer, John attended a leadership course at Ft. Lewis, Washington. When he graduates from the University next summer, he will be commissioned as an officer in the Army.

Nancy Rosenfelt, Director of Summit View School, shared, "Our goal is to help our students become self-reliant learners and advocates and to use the skills they learn at Summit View throughout their lives. John, Paulina and Nick are thriving as young adults, and we are so proud of their success."



John Bethune pictured here in his ROTC uniform.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST SUMMIT VIEW GRADUATES

"THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY IS QUITE EMOTIONAL, AS STUDENTS RECALL ENTERING SUMMIT VIEW UNSURE OF THEIR FUTURE, AND LEAVE NOT ONLY WITH COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES BUT A SENSE OF PRIDE AND SELF-ASSURANCE."

- **Nancy Rosenfelt**
Director of Summit View





SUMMIT VIEW SCHOOL

Where Students with LEARNING DIFFERENCES EXCEL

COLLEGE FAIR

FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 10am - 1pm

Meet with admission representatives from a wide range of colleges and universities to discuss admission process, support services, and other information pertinent to the college selection process.

Summit View Valley Glen Location

6455 Coldwater Canyon Avenue | Valley Glen, California 91606

12101 W. Washington Boulevard | Culver City, California 90066

Ph: **818. 623 .6300** Email: collegefair@summitview.org

www.summitview.org

Summit View School offers a college preparatory program to students with learning differences and is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

ADVANCE LA'S 2013 INNOVATE CONFERENCE EXPLORED THE TRANSITION PROCESS FOR TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS

As teens and young adults with autism spectrum disorder and other special needs prepare for the transition to college, the workforce, and increased independence, they often experience a lack of resources and guidance to help them along the way. **Advance LA**, a program of The Help Group that specializes in preparing these young people for a successful future, recently hosted the 2013 Innovate Conference at American Jewish University. The conference was a two-day event: day one provided an opportunity for parents and professionals to collaborate on ways to effectively navigate the transition process, and day two was filled with educational and creative workshops for teens and young adults.

Day one of the conference was held on Friday, April 26, and brought together parents and professionals to explore viable strategies to ease the transition between high school and the next step for young people. There were a number of distinguished speakers who gave inspiring and educational presentations on topics related to the transition process. A few notable presenters included Keynote Address speaker Erik Carter, PhD, Associate Professor of Special Education at Vanderbilt University; David Finch, author of The New York Times Best Seller, *The Journal of Best Practices: A Memoir of Marriage, Asperger's Syndrome, and One Man's Quest to be a Better Husband*; and Richard Guare, PhD, BCBA, with Colin Guare, co-authors of *Smart but Scattered Teens: The "Executive Skills" Program for Helping Teens Reach Their Potential*.

Conference attendees also enjoyed a lunchtime presentation from celebrated playwright Ken LaZebnik, whose acclaimed drama "On the Spectrum" serves as a testament to the need for increased awareness about autism spectrum disorder. In addition, two of the play's actors — Dan Shaked as Mac and Jeanie Hackett as Elisabeth—gave a highly anticipated performance for attendees.

On Saturday, April 27, **Advance LA** held the first conference of its kind designed specifically for teens and young adults. The conference featured a number of hands-on interactive workshops that provided attendees



Erik Carter, PhD, Associate Professor of Special Education at Vanderbilt University, delivers Friday's Keynote Address

with the opportunity to learn transition skills and also aimed to spark their passions and develop their interests while interacting with peers.

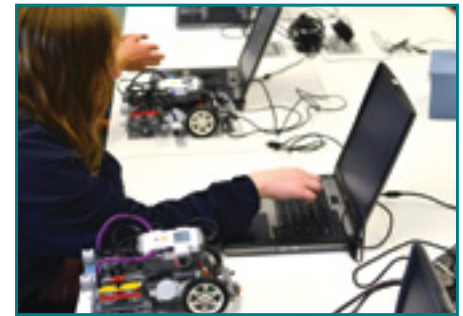
Instructive workshops were conducted on topics such as searching for a job, which walked attendees through the process of resume writing and interviewing; managing stress, which provided participants with strategies and techniques for dealing with stress in a healthy way; and college exploration and success, which guided the young adults through the college search and application process. Creative workshops included anime, where participants created original works of art; robotics, which featured a team of researchers who brought robots for the young adults to interact with; and a music jam, which allowed attendees to explore their musical passions. At the end of the day, participants enjoyed a mixer that included a live band, ice cream social, games and prizes.

"There are very few resources available that specifically address the needs of these young people and their families," said Diane Flannery, Day two of the conference aimed to provide teens and young adults with the opportunity to explore new interests, make friends and work together in a supportive setting to learn strategies for tackling the transition process."

For more information about **Advance LA's** transition services, visit www.advancela.org



One of Advance LA's coaches shows off the custom bicycle generously donated by Pure Fix Cycles



A hands-on programming workshop taught participants about the latest advances in technology

Live. Advance. LA.

TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

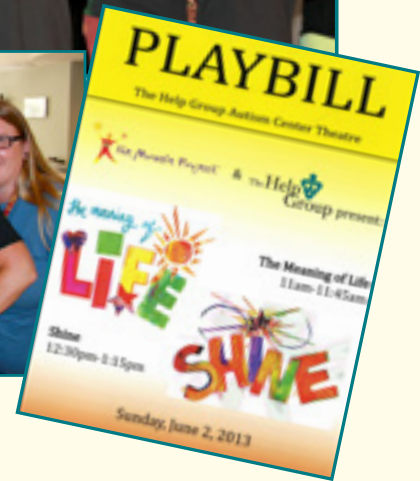
Preparing young adults facing unique challenges for a successful future

Alyssa Bower, M.A. | abower@thehelpgroup.org | (310) 440-0201 | www.advancela.org



PERFORMERS SHINE IN THE MIRACLE PROJECT SPRING SHOW

The culminating production of the spring season of The Miracle Project was held on Sunday, June 2nd at The Help Group's Autism Center Theater on its Sherman Oaks Campus. The Miracle Project is an acclaimed theater arts program that gives children and teens with autism and other special needs the opportunity to express themselves through music, dance, acting, story and writing. The afternoon featured two plays created by the program participants over the course of the 20-week workshop, "Shine" and "The Meaning of Life." Bravo to the cast, crew and volunteers who helped make these shows such a terrific experience for students and audiences alike!



"The Meaning of Life" Director Jason Weissbrod; Dr. Barbara Firestone, Debby Webb, Help Group Senior Executive Administrator; Elaine Hall, Founder & President of The Miracle Project; Ryan Berman, COO, The Miracle Project; Amanda Deming, Producer, The Miracle Project; and Nicole Webb, Help Group Kids Like Me Program Director.

STUDENTS AT VILLAGE GLEN SCHOOL ENJOY THE MAGIC OF THE ARTS

The students of the Help Group's Village Glen School in Sherman Oaks were treated to three very special visitors this spring - Ari Berk, award-winning writer, folklorist, artist, and Professor of English at Central Michigan University; his wife, Kristen McDermott, Professor of English Literature at Central Michigan University; and harpist Elizabeth-Jane Baldry. Ari is the son of longtime Help Group Board member Susan Berk.

Ari and Kristen, co-authors of the recent *William Shakespeare: His Life & Times*, led Village Glen High School and Middle School students in a dynamic Shakespeare workshop, which included a history lesson, as well as a spirited enactment of scenes from *Macbeth*. The workshop was followed by an interactive session on the role of mythology and folklore in history.

Later that morning, Ari captivated the Early Elementary students with a reading of his newest book, *Nightsong*. Elizabeth-Jane Baldry, an accomplished harpist, added to the day's enchanting atmosphere with her beautiful music.

Ari spoke for Kristen and Elizabeth-Jane when he shared, "We are thrilled to be a part of the amazing work The Help Group is doing, and look forward to visiting again soon."

Dr. Barbara Firestone presented artwork hand-painted by the children of The Help Group to thank Ari, Kristen and Elizabeth-Jane for the wonderful program, "We are so grateful to you for sharing your talents with our students and nurturing their creativity. Thank you for a magical day!"



Dr. Barbara Firestone, Ari Berk, Kristen McDermott & Elizabeth-Jane Baldry

SUMMER MUSIC FOR AUTISM CONCERT AN ENCHANTING AFTERNOON FOR ALL

Broadway came to Sherman Oaks on July 14th when Scott Harlan, Julie Garnyé and Dianne Fraser, three incredible performers with an impressive list of credits, appeared at The Help Group's Autism Center Theater for "Broadway our Way," the summer Music for Autism concert. These accomplished singers entertained concertgoers with an uplifting afternoon of music.

Since 2011, The Help Group has partnered with Music for Autism, a New York-based organization dedicated to enhancing quality of life and raising public awareness through autism-friendly, interactive concerts developed specifically for individuals with autism and their families. The concerts, held in the United States and United Kingdom, feature professional musicians, including Tony Award winners, Grammy-nominated classical artists and Pulitzer Prize winners.



Dr. Barbara Firestone said, "Music for Autism concerts are a wonderful opportunity for families to come together to experience the joy and power of music. We are so pleased to host these concerts here at The Help Group."

The audience was treated to a variety of Broadway show tunes from musicals such as "The Sound of Music," "Wicked," and "Gypsy." The program featured "concert time" when audience members listened and danced to the music; "conducting time" when everyone was invited to conduct a waltz and then a march; and ended with "percussion time" when volunteers passed out instruments and led concertgoers around the room. The grand finale "It's a Small World" had everyone up and playing their instruments in time to the music ~ the perfect ending to a fabulous show!

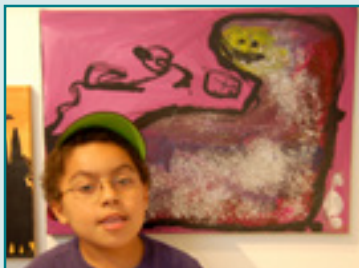
We are looking forward to our next Music for Autism concert on Sunday, October 13th at 1:00 p.m. featuring the musical ensemble Quattro.

THROUGH OUR EYES EXHIBIT CELEBRATES YOUNG ARTISTS

The Help Group and Bear Givers were proud to present the 4th annual student art show *Through Our Eyes: A Celebration of Young Artists*. Bear Givers, a New York-based nonprofit organization, has generously sponsored the show for four years through its Empower-Art Program for children.

The commitment and enthusiasm of Joseph Sprung, Bear Givers Founder and Chairman, and Diane Lempert, Bear Givers President, make this event possible year after year. "The students' pride and excitement at having their artwork professionally displayed, admired, and sold are overwhelming," said Mr. Sprung. "Bear Givers is delighted to support the *Through our Eyes* art show for the students of The Help Group."

Artwork created by students from Village Glen School and Bridgeport School was on display April 26th through May 3rd in the main space of the JNA Gallery at Bergamot Station in Santa Monica. All proceeds



from the sale of artwork benefited the schools' arts programs. Gallery owner James Gray remarked, "My wife Heidi and I are so impressed by the talent and creativity of these young people."

A special reception in honor of the young artists was held on Sunday afternoon, April 28th. Dr. Barbara Firestone welcomed guests, "We'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to Bear Givers for their continued support of this wonderful art show and to James and Heidi Gray for hosting the show in their gallery. We are so proud of all our young artists!"

It was a warm and wonderful afternoon for the students and the many family members who attended the reception. "My daughter has been working hard all year on her painting, and it's so exciting to see her finished creation hanging in this beautiful gallery," shared one parent.

Congratulations to our 118 student artists whose artwork was featured in this year's show!

STUDENTS PRESENT THEIR MILKEN FESTIVAL FOR YOUTH SERVICE PROJECTS

Help Group students at both the Sherman Oaks and Culver City Campuses presented their year-long community service projects at the Milken Festival for Youth in May. The Milken Family Foundation Festival for Youth helps teach young people, including those living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods and those with special needs, that everyone can make a difference to the well-being of society. The Festival accomplishes this by channeling youngsters' time, energy and creativity into constructive service projects aimed at improving the communities where they live.

This year students completed projects for the Ocean Park Community Center, Soles4Souls, tornado victims in Oklahoma and animal rescue organizations.



ELS FOR AUTISM HOSTS YOUTH GOLF CLINIC FOR STUDENTS

The Help Group extends its heartfelt thanks to golfer Ernie Els, world-renowned championship golfer, dedicated autism parent and autism awareness advocate, and his team for hosting our Village Glen students at the 2013 Els for Autism



These smiles say it all!

Golf Challenge at Trump National Golf Club, Los Angeles. Students from the Culver City Campus had the opportunity to spend a day on the greens attending a golf clinic with pros from the club. It was an amazing day for the children!



The Help Group's **silverlining** Designer Resale Boutique Student Training Center

Silverlining is enabling Help Group students to learn and develop valuable vocational experience and skills that contribute to their knowledge, self-confidence, employability and future independence.

All store proceeds benefit The Help Group's vocational programs for students with autism and other special needs.



12211 Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 90066 ph. 310.574.7893 | www.silverlining.org | silverlining@thehelpgroup.org
Monday 11 - 6 Tuesday 11 - 6 Wednesday 11 - 6 Thursday 12 - 6 Friday 11 - 6 Saturday 11 - 6 Sunday 12 - 5



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



Sunrise School expanding to
Culver City, Fall 2013

**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.

ASSESSMENT

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

18+ PROGRAMS

COACHING

SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING

PARENT EDUCATION

AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

SUMMER & WINTER CAMPS

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

877.943.5747 | www.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 **Face 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 l.a. and **club l.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.

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



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The Help Group  because every child deserves a great future

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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.

- 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
- The Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Kids Like Me Recreational Programs & Camps · club I.a./club I.a. TEEN
- 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

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www.thehelpgroup.org  

For more information on these and other events, please call 818.779.5212 or visit www.thehelpgroup.org

UPCOMING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



**Keys for Kids Teddy Bear Golf Classic
 Honoring John C. Brady**
 Valencia Country Club
 September 23



Music for Autism Concert
 Help Group Autism Center
 October 13



**The Help Group SUMMIT 2013
 Advances and Best Practices in
 AUTISM · LEARNING DISABILITIES · ADHD**
 Skirball Cultural Center
 October 25 & October 26



The Help Group Holiday Carnival
 Sherman Oaks Campus
 December 14th

We invite you to join us...



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
THE HELP GROUP