

TEDDY BEAR BALL HONORS HULU'S MIKE HOPKINS AND THE HELP GROUP'S TOM KOMP

The Help Group kicked off the holiday season on December 9 at The Beverly Hilton Hotel. On this festive evening The Help Group presented its *Help Humanitarian Award* to Mike Hopkins, Chief Executive Officer of Hulu, and recognized Tom Komp, Senior Vice President of The Help Group, with the *Champion for Children Award*. Gala Chairs for this year were Rich Battista, Executive VP of Time Inc.; John Landgraf, President and General Manager of FX Network; Steve Mosko, Chairman of Sony Pictures Television; Eric Shanks, President, COO and Executive Producer of FOX Sports; and Ben Sherwood, Co-chair, Disney Media Networks and President, Disney-ABC Television Group. Teddy Bear Ball Co-Chairs were Ken Solomon, Help Group Board Member, and Help Group Circle of Friends Board members, Dick Costello, Jamie & Chris McGurk and David Salzman.



L-R: Sheri Hopkins and *Help Humanitarian* honoree, Mike Hopkins, Meg Komp and *Champion for Children* honoree, Tom Komp

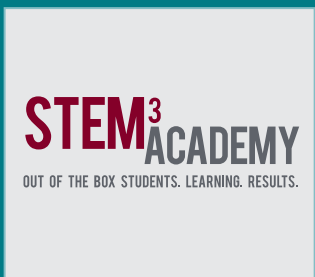
Major sponsors of this year's Ball were Hulu, AMC Networks, 21st Century Fox, Keyes Automotive Group, Bumble and bumble, The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf®, colori, Regency Outdoor Advertising and *Variety*.

Louis Price, former lead singer of the Temptations, and The Help Group Children's Choir opened the evening with a holiday medley. Michaela Watkins and Tommy Dewey, stars of the Golden Globe nominated show "Casual" were the night's emcees – lending their talent and their support to the success of the event.

Dr. Barbara Firestone, The Help Group President & CEO, expressed delight in her welcoming remarks. "It is wonderful to be with all of you this evening to celebrate the beauty, dignity and potential of the children ~ it's a time to celebrate the humanitarian spirit and the commitment to caring of our two remarkable honorees Mike Hopkins and Tom Komp who help us to create brighter futures for our young people."

(Continued on Page 6)

STEM³ ACADEMY EXPANDS TO INCLUDE MIDDLE SCHOOL



The new Middle School program is the first of its kind in the country

INNOVATIVE NEW PROJECT ADDED TO THE INITIATIVE



Pilot program implements a science and social skills curriculum

THE HELP GROUP LAUNCHES ILLUMINATE CONFERENCE



Best practices for young people with social, emotional and behavioral challenges

CHEERING ON OUR HELP GROUP ATHLETES



More than 300 students participate in the Special Olympics program

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A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this edition of Helpline featuring a host of Help Group happenings ~ Here are a few highlights.

Our Teddy Bear Ball honoring Hulu’s Mike Hopkins and The Help Group’s Tom Komp was truly a magical evening. We greatly appreciated the outpouring of enthusiasm and support for the gala. April is Autism Awareness Month and our corporate partners The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf® and Gelson’s are once again supporting our awareness campaign in their Southern California locations.

This school year we opened STEM³ Academy for high school students with social and learning differences. The demand has been so high that we are now open to grades six through 12.

In addition to the animal-assisted intervention program, our partnership with USC’s Occupational Science Division has expanded with a new pilot program to foster a science and social skills curriculum.

This year our Holiday Carnival brought the magic of the holiday season to more than 1300 children and families – our thanks to our sponsors, staff and volunteers for making the day so memorable. The Help Group expanded its offerings to professionals with the Illuminate Conference designed to shine a light on research and best practices for young people with social, emotional and behavioral challenges. Our partnership with Special Olympics Southern California now serves more than 300 students throughout our autism schools and offers exciting sports programs.

Thanks ever so much for your friendship and commitment. Looking forward to touching base again soon.

Best Regards,

Gary H. Carmona ~ Dr. Barbara Firestone

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FIRST STEM HIGH SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS WITH SOCIAL AND LEARNING DIFFERENCES EXPANDS TO GRADES SIX THROUGH 12

In January 2016, The Help Group's newest school, STEM³ Academy, the first of its kind in the country, started serving middle school students with social and learning differences who excel in science and technology. The mission of the STEM³ Academy is to connect the particular strengths of students with social and learning differences with an innovative and rigorous STEM³ (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum that positions them for lifelong success. The school opened its doors to high school students for the first time last August, and was already seeing demand for expansion to include grades six through eight.

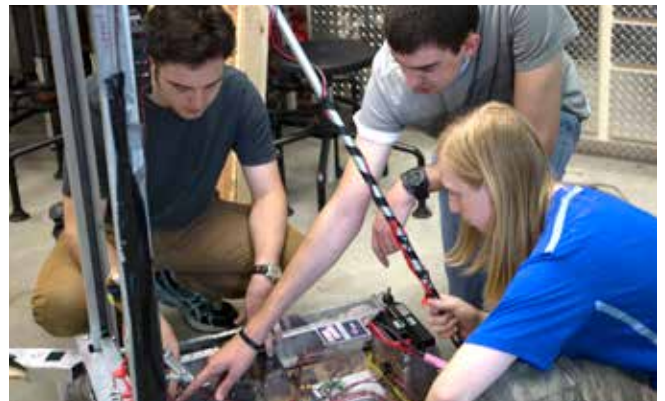
Studies report as many as 85 percent of adults with social and learning differences are either underemployed or unemployed. "Now, with a middle and high school STEM curriculum, STEM³ Academy is transforming our students' lives and preparing them for future careers and lifelong success," said Dr. Susan Berman, Help Group, COO. There will be more than 8.65 million STEM jobs available by 2018, and a 28 percent increase in the number of students with social and learning differences enrolled in undergraduate STEM fields. She continued, "At STEM³ we believe that, when given the opportunity, our students will align their passions with their natural talents, and that there is a place for our students in tomorrow's workforce."

STEM³ Academy offers an award-winning robotics program, a wide range of AP classes, courses in computer programming, digital arts and videography, as well as entrepreneurship programs and internships. Much of the learning incorporates group work to facilitate social interaction. Both required and elective classes encourage participation and cooperation among students as they ready themselves for a world in which collaborating and making presentations are as essential as keyboarding and coding. Students develop this literacy through in-class projects, internships, senior projects and personalized education plans. In addition, all students have access to a state-of-the-art Innovation Lab equipped with a CNC machine, 3D printer, CAD machines and electronics.

"The middle school curriculum will be designed to provide a solid foundation for more rigorous classes later on, offering both required classes and electives that engage students as well as ground their education," said Dr. Ellis Crasnow, Director of STEM³ Academy.

STEM³ Academy offers open enrollment throughout the year, a residential program to house out-of-state students, and door-to-door transportation for local Southern California students.

For more information or to schedule a tour, visit www.stem3academy.org



STEM³ ACADEMY

OUT OF THE BOX STUDENTS. LEARNING. RESULTS.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO OPEN IN FALL 2016

ART TECH

BUILDING BOTS
DRONES
ROBOTICS
ENGINEERING
HANDS-ON LEARNING
GREAT GIVEAWAYS
FOOD AND MORE!

VERY SPECIAL INNOVATION FAIR

MAY 21ST, 2016 10:00AM – 2:00PM AT THE STEM³ ACADEMY CAMPUS

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

HOSTED BY STEM³ ACADEMY

For more information please contact Tamika DeCambra at tdecambra@stem3academy.org or 818-623-6386

ART TECH

BUILDING BOTS
INVENTIONS
3D PRINTING
DIY DEMONSTRATIONS
GREAT GIVEAWAYS
FOOD AND MORE!

THE HELP GROUP LAUNCHES FIRST ANNUAL ILLUMINATE CONFERENCE



The Help Group launched its inaugural **Illuminate Conference** on February 26 at California State University, Northridge. The day-long conference for professionals and parents focused on research and best practices for young people with social, emotional, or behavioral challenges.

The Illuminate Conference is the latest addition to The Help Group's roster of successful and established annual conferences, which include the long-running Help Group *Summit: Advances and Best Practices in Autism, Learning Disabilities and ADHD* and the *Advance LA Conference: Cutting-Edge Research and Best Practices for Young Adults with Special Needs*. Widely recognized for the scope, depth and caliber of its conferences, The Help Group is committed to sharing the very latest developments in basic and applied research and evidence-based practices related to the assessment, intervention, and treatment of children and young adults with special needs.

"We designed the Illuminate Conference to focus on some of the most difficult problems faced by today's young people with special needs," said Dr. Jason Bolton, Vice President of Programs at The Help Group. "We are pleased to have featured 15 leaders in our field, sharing their expertise on critical topics affecting our children and their families, along with best practices to promote motivation and change."

Dr. Robin Kay, Acting Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, delivered the keynote address for the conference. Sandi Conley introduced The Hawn Foundation's signature program, MindUP™. Building on more than 10 years of success, MindUP™ offers a social and emotional learning curriculum and training program, which provides a framework for creating positive and supportive environments for children and adolescents.

After the plenary session, attendees were able to choose from a series of break-out sessions covering topics ranging from self-acceptance, grief and support, handling school avoidance, and trends with transgender youth. The Help Group assembled a diverse group of speakers from organizations including the Integrity Treatment Program, the Rape Treatment Center, LA Rise, the Child Guidance Center, UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute and Hospital, and the Our House Grief Support Center.

This conference was made possible through the leadership of Elin Bradley, Director of Therapeutic Schools and Residential Treatment and with the significant contributions of Olga Zysman, Senior Director of Outpatient Programs and Services at The Help Group.



Elin Bradley with Conference Presenters



Dr. Jason Bolton, Olga Zysman, Tom Komp, Dr. Karen Enyedy, and Iga Gaj



Keynote Speaker Dr. Robin Kay and Dr. Jason Bolton



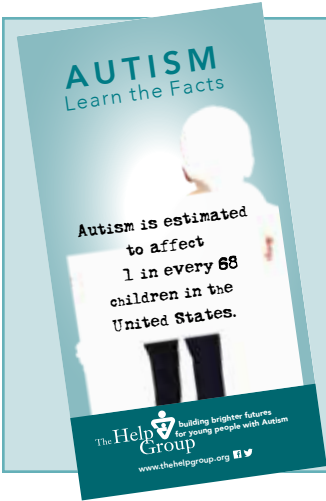
Plenary Speaker, Sandi Conley

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Lori Getz, MA
Yeshia Blakeney
Jason Bolton, PhD
Karen Enyedy, PhD
Robin Kay, PhD
Harriet Kerr, LCSW
Kristin Laurino, LMFT, BCBA
Janet Lazar, LMFT

Karissa Provost, LMFT
Marta Shinn, PhD
Therese Stephano, LMFT
Cheryl Teplinsky, LCSW
Angela Weeks, MA
Sara Vitorino, PhD
Denee Jordan, PsyD
Olga Zysman, MFT

THE HELP GROUP'S AUTISM AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FEATURED AT THE COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF® AND GELSON'S



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 with basic facts, as well as early signs of autism will be available in 193 Coffee Bean stores in the western United States. Gelson's will host the campaign at its 18 supermarkets throughout Southern California. Customers can also make donations to The Help Group at the Gelson's checkout counter.

Dr. Barbara Firestone said, "Year after year, Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf and Gelson's have been wonderful partners in helping to spread information about autism to countless families. We are most grateful to The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf® and Gelson's for their commitment and support."



THE HELP GROUP - USC OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE INITIATIVE INTRODUCES NEW PROGRAM



OCCUPATIONAL SCIENCE INITIATIVE



L-R Top: Pamela Clark, Jason Winburn, Stephanie Davidowitz, Katharine Mendivil, Dr. Emily Ochi, Dr. Mary Lawlor, Gretchen Bazela.
L-R Bottom: Julie Peterson, Jennifer Kovacs and Monica Stephen.

The Help Group - USC Occupational Science Initiative has announced its next project to develop opportunities for advancing community-based social participation for children with autism spectrum disorders.

Under the direction of Dr. Mary Lawlor, Associate Chair of Research and Professor at the University of Southern California's Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, this pilot program will implement a science and social participation curriculum in classrooms at The Help Group's Village Glen School and during outings at the California Science Center, an experiential science museum located in Exposition Park adjacent to the USC University Park Campus in Los Angeles.

The science and social skills curriculum will be based upon the educational and therapeutic goals of students with autism and other special needs in the fourth through sixth grades. Lawlor will coordinate a team of USC occupational therapy faculty, graduate students and practitioners, in collaboration with Help Group educators and occupational therapy staff, to lead The Help Group students in a series of field trips to the California Science Center throughout the spring months. These trips will

be specifically structured to optimize the students' social interactions in a museum setting, as well as to help them better access their respective grade-level science curricula.

"We are delighted to be collaborating with The Help Group and California Science Center in developing, implementing and appraising an innovative approach to learning through exploring new frontiers in science and enhancing social participation, both for students at USC and students at The Help Group," Lawlor said.

This project is a replication of an original program designed by Dr. Ellen Cohn, Clinical Professor at the Department of Occupational Therapy at Boston University in collaboration with the Boston Public Schools and the Museum of Science in Boston. The program was designed to support students impacted by autism spectrum disorders to engage in informal science learning, socially interact with each other and with educators, and feel included in a community setting.

Assisting Lawlor will be USC's Dr. Emily Ochi, Assistant Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy; Dr. Jesus Diaz, Assistant Research Professor; Monica Stephens, Occupational Therapy Doctorate resident; and Dr. Jenny Kovacs, postdoctoral fellow. "Our graduate students at USC are excited by this remarkable opportunity to work directly with students at The Help Group to foster science learning and facilitate engagement and community participation through the field trips to the California Science Center," Ochi said.

"It's university partnerships, like this initiative with USC, that inform best practice methods in our classrooms and keep us at the cutting edge of evidence-based interventions," said Dr. Barbara Firestone. "We are proud to continue to expand this partnership with the USC Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy."

The Help Group - USC Occupational Science Initiative, formed in 2015, is dedicated to developing evidence-based intervention programs for children with autism spectrum disorder through the guidance of an interdisciplinary team of researchers, educators and clinicians. A previous example of the initiative's programming includes the integration of animal-assisted interventions into the classrooms at The Help Group's five autism schools in order to help meet the educational and therapeutic needs of students. Leading the effort in animal-assisted intervention is Dr. Olga Solomon, Assistant Professor at USC's Division of Occupational Science and Therapy.

THE 18TH ANNUAL TEDDY BEAR BALL HONORS HULU'S

(Continued from Cover)



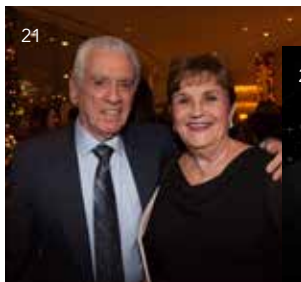
Gary H. Carmona, Help Group Board Chair, introduced *Champion for Children* honoree Tom Komp and spoke of Tom's extraordinary professionalism and of his many contributions to the mission of The Help Group. Dr. Susan Berman, Help Group COO, remarked that Tom is a shining example of the difference one person can make and that he has touched the lives of countless children and families through his wisdom, compassion and loving spirit. Dr. Berman quoted from "Wicked" the musical, "People come into our lives for a reason bringing something we must learn... Because I knew you, I have been changed for good." Dr. Firestone took to the podium and remarked that Tom's career has been a precious gift to the organization and to the many children and families who are served. "His dedication has been steadfast and determined and his accomplishments have been many – Tom is a man of great heart, great wisdom and great commitment. He is the embodiment of what it means to be a true champion for children."

Tom expressed gratitude for his career with The Help Group and his supportive family and friends. "There are several things I could never have predicted when I took the job here 23 years ago," Tom said. "I could never have predicted The Help Group would grow from 185 students on one campus in 1992 to over 1,600 students on six campuses in 2015. ... And in a totally different vein, that I would have parents say things like, 'I just want you to know how well our child is doing in your school. For the first time in his life, he has friends.'"

Louis Price returned to open the second half of the evening with a Motown Medley that rocked the room. Dr. Berman and Dick Costello spoke about and encouraged guests to support the Dr. Adam Opportunity Fund. To date, the Fund has provided scholarship support, mentoring, college counseling, vocational training, internships and even basic food, clothing and shelter to more than 3,500 children and families. Student speaker



MIKE HOPKINS AND THE HELP GROUP'S TOM KOMP



Ashley spoke of the compelling challenges she has confronted and her plans to attend college with the help of the Opportunity Fund – a dream come true.

Rich Battista, Executive Vice President of Time Inc. and President of *People* and *Entertainment Weekly*, and longtime Help Group supporter, took to the podium to introduce *Help Humanitarian Award* honoree, Mike Hopkins. Rich commented that Mike illustrates that nice guys don't always finish last. "Mike debunks the myth, especially in this town, that nice guys can also be highly respected, tough, smart, steadfast and tenacious, and still come out on top. And just like in business, Mike handles himself with grace and modesty -- and every organization he is involved with, is much better for it. Yes, he's a nice guy, and yes, he's a winner -- and I can't think of a more deserving person to honor tonight."

In the awards presentation, Dr. Firestone thanked Mike for carrying the banner for The Help Group's young people and believing in their potential. "You so easily connected with our children and it's easy to see how much you care about their well-being. I know that giving back, paying it forward and volunteerism are a family affair in the Hopkins family. We salute you for your humanitarian spirit, your commitment to caring and for being that nice guy that Rich referred to who "finishes first." In our book you "finish first" in helping children with special needs," said Dr. Firestone.

In his gracious acceptance remarks, Mike shared, "When I think of a humanitarian, it usually is not someone like me — someone who spends their day trying to get people to watch more television." He continued, "I think about people who put their lives, their hearts, their souls and their time into helping others each and every day. The people that should truly be honored tonight are the teachers, the counselors, the administrators, the volunteers and most important of all – the parents and students of The Help Group. You see, these folks wake up in the morning with one thing in mind – helping kids with special needs to make progress, to learn, to achieve things once thought impossible and to lead productive lives."

To cap off the evening, the honorees and celebrity guests joined the children for a reprise of "Winter Wonderland." Our many thanks to all who supported this special evening.

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|--|--|--|
| 1 Mike Hopkins | 11 Michaela Watkins, Tommy Dewey | 22 Barry Nagoshiner, Peggy Nagoshiner |
| 2 Dr. Susan Berman, Tom Komp, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Gary H. Carmona | 12 Gary H. Carmona, Rochelle Carmona | 23 Drs. Barbara & David Firestone |
| 3 Tommy Dewey, Sheri Hopkins, Mike Hopkins, Michaela Watkins | 13 David Salzman, Sonia Salzman | 24 Kari Van Gundy |
| 4 Rich Battista, Kevin Beggs, Mike Hopkins, Jon Feltheimer | 14 Tom Komp, Joy Monkash | 25 Marc Siegel, Monica Rodriguez, Jackie Bridgett, Mark Flaisher, Stacey Siegel, Rick Friedman, Howard Tenenbaum, Assemblymember Matt Dababneh, Scott Abrams |
| 5 Rich Battista | 15 Howard Tenenbaum, Gary H. Carmona, Sheila Lasky, Dr. Martin Lasky | 26 Louis Price, The Help Group Choir |
| 6 Jamie McGurk, Chris McGurk | 16 Susan Berk, Mike Berk | 27 Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas |
| 7 Meg Komp, Tom Komp, | 17 Perry Katz, Shanna Schopfer | 28 Gail Koretz, Councilmember Paul Koretz |
| 8 Jeffrey Schlesinger, Mike Hopkins | 18 Celeste Alleyne, Curtis Silver | 29 Gerry Rosenblatt, Barbara Singer |
| 9 Sandra Stern, Dr. Barbara Firestone | 19 Dick Costello | |
| 10 Ann Costello, Dick Costello | 20 Student speaker Ashley, Dr. Susan Berman | |
| | 21 Judd Swarzman, Linda Swarzman | |

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOCCER GAME DAY HOSTED BY CAMPBELL HALL



The Help Group's partnership with Special Olympics Southern California now serves more than 300 students throughout The Help Group's autism schools. The engaging sports program encourages participation and leadership for all students through the power of sport and introduces competition in collaboration with community schools.

At the start of the 2015-2016 school year, students with autism and other special needs from Village Glen, Bridgeport and Sunrise

"It's been a wonderful experience for our students to take part in the Special Olympics program this year," said Pamela Clark, Director of Autism Schools at The Help Group. "We are tremendously grateful to our friends at Special Olympics and to Campbell Hall for an event that made such a positive impact on our students."

Sports coaches at The Help Group were instrumental in supporting the roll-out of the program. "There is no better feeling as a volunteer coach at than to teach kids the

The Help Group's new Special Olympics athletes to participate at a phenomenal, state-of-the-art facility," shared Laura. "This was a win-win," said Kim. "It's important for students to have the experience of partnering, encouraging, and playing with peers who are different. And it is equally important for athletes to be celebrated by their peers."

Our special thanks to Laura Mayo and Kim Villa along with the remarkable administration and staff at Campbell Hall, Rev. Canon Julian P. Bull, Toya Holiday, Jan Weiss and Stefanie Wilson, and volunteers from Special Olympics Tri-Valley and DirectKix Soccer.



Campbell Hall Students welcoming Help Group athletes



Laura Mayo, Coach Mike, Pamela Clark

Schools participated in the Special Olympics School Games. The program's curriculum culminated with a Soccer Game Day event hosted by Campbell Hall School in North Hollywood. The special occasion marked the tremendous accomplishments of more than 80 Help Group student athletes, and included more than 140 Campbell Hall student volunteers who lent a hand to making the day a memorable one for the athletes and their families.

importance of team effort, dedication and determination and the heart it takes to win not only in sports but in life," said Coach Mike Shirley.

Leading up to game day, Laura Mayo, Regional Director, and Kim Villa, Program Specialist, SOSA Santa Clarita & Tri-Valley worked with the freshman class at Campbell Hall School along with teachers, and administrators to host the day. "It was great to create an opportunity for



THE HELP GROUP SPREADS THE CHEER OF THE SEASON AT ITS 2015 HOLIDAY CARNIVAL



On Saturday, December 19, The Help Group hosted its annual Holiday Carnival to make the holidays brighter for more than 1300 children and families served by The Help Group's Family-Centered Support Programs, Mental Health & Clinical Programs and Residential Services.

Hasbro continued their tradition of donating toys to ensure that every child took home a wrapped present. Thanks to the contributions of friends and supporters, the Sherman Oaks Campus was turned into a winter wonderland for families from economically disadvantaged circumstances who reveled in games, arts & crafts, rides, lots of treats & sweets and a visit from Santa Claus.

The young people from The Help Group's Kids Like Me club I.a. TEEN program for teens with autism and other social-communication challenges were on hand to help distribute gifts and longtime supporter, The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf® served up coffees and hot chocolate on the crisp winter afternoon. The Help Group's Silverlining Designer Resale Boutique & Vocational Training Center set up its annual Clothing Corner and made available children's and adult clothing, shoes and accessories at no cost to families. Our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors and to our staff and volunteers for donating their time and caring to make the day truly a special one for so many children and families.

Special Thanks to our Carnival Supporters!

**HASBRO * THE ZENITH * ANTHONY & JEANNE PRITZKER FAMILY FOUNDATION
RUGGIERI FAMILY * THE COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF® * FIRESTONE FAMILY * LASKY FAMILY
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STEM³ GRADES 6-12 ACADEMY

1ST OF ITS KIND

OUT OF THE BOX STUDENTS. LEARNING. RESULTS.

For bright, curious, technology-driven students that may have social and/or learning differences
STEM³ Academy will ignite passions and create limitless opportunities for hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math learning and real world experiences as it inspires young people to achieve life-long success.



ROLLING ADMISSIONS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPENING FALL 2016

For more information please contact Dr. Ellis Crasnow ecrasnow@thehelpgroup.org | 818-623-6324 | www.stem3academy.org

2016 MUSIC FOR AUTISM CONCERT SEASON BEGINS



Orchestrating Stronger Lives

Now in its sixth concert season, The Help Group in partnership with Music for Autism kicked off their first concert of the year in March. "An Afternoon with Brad Ellis and Friends" created a magical program for an auditorium filled with a wonderful audience of young people and their families. The performance of Broadway classics by acclaimed composer, arranger and musical director, Brad Ellis, and talented vocalists Eydie Alyson and Kelly Lester, was met with enthusiasm by all and was capped off with a beautiful encore. Music for Autism concerts are interactive, free to the community and held in cities throughout the US. Our thanks to Brad, Eydie and Kelly and our volunteers for enriching the lives of so many children and their families through music. For more information about the next Music for Autism concert please visit:

www.musicforautism.org



Kelly Lester, Eydie Alyson, Brad Ellis



Help Group Dir. of Public Affairs, Bradley Shahine, Dir. of Autism Schools Pamela Clark, Music for Autism CEO, Elizabeth Santiso and Dr. Barbara Firestone

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



Village Glen School

Bridgeport School

Bridgeport Vocational Education Center

Young Learners Preschool

Sunrise School

Summit View School

Westview

North Hills Prep

Parkhill School

Our Newest School Stem³ Academy

ASSESSMENT

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

18+ PROGRAMS

COACHING

SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING

PARENT EDUCATION

AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

SUMMER & WINTER CAMPS

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

The Help Group's ten specialized day schools offer pre-K through high school programs for more than 1,600 students. Its broad range of mental health and therapy services, child abuse and residential programs extends its reach to more than 6,000 children and their families each year. With more than 980 staff members, The Help Group's state-of-the-art schools and programs are located on six campuses in the Los Angeles area.

CULVER CITY | SHERMAN OAKS EAST | SHERMAN OAKS WEST | VALLEY GLEN | VAN NUYS - SATICOY | VAN NUYS - SHERMAN WAY

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 Asperger's Disorder, high-functioning autism and nonverbal learning disabilities. The Pace Program is available for gifted students and offers honors and AP classes. The Beacon Program educates students with behavioral challenges.

Young Learners Preschool for children ages 2.9 to 5 years with autism spectrum disorder.

Bridgeport School for students 5 to 22 with mild to moderate cognitive delays and challenges with social communication and/or language development.

Bridgeport Vocational Education Center serves young adults ages 18 to 22 and bridges the gap between high school and adult independence.

Sunrise School serves students ages 5 to 22 with moderate to severe global delays associated with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities.

Summit View School for students with learning differences who possess average to above-average intellectual capabilities.

STEM³ Academy is the first high school and middle school of its kind to connect the particular strengths of students with social and learning differences, including autism, with an innovative and rigorous curriculum that positions students for future success.

The Help Group's Westview serves students with learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit and/or mild emotional and social issues.

The Help Group's North Hills Prep offers a WASC-accredited college preparatory curriculum while supporting and challenging creative learners in a nurturing and inclusive community.

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

MENTAL HEALTH & CLINICAL PROGRAMS

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

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER PROGRAMS

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

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

RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

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

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

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

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.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

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

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

18 + PROGRAMS

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

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

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

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & RESEARCH

The Help Group - UCLA Neuropsychology Program provides neuropsychological assessments and consultations for children, adolescents and young adults and enriches the field of knowledge through its research and educational endeavors.

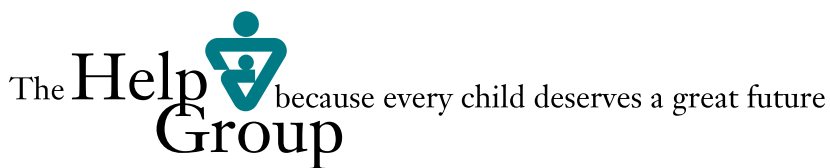
The Help Group - UCLA Autism Research Alliance is dedicated to enhancing and expanding clinical research in the education and treatment of ASD and to contributing to the development, greater understanding and use of best practice models by researchers, educators and clinicians.

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



Administrative Office
 13130 Burbank Boulevard
 Sherman Oaks, California 91401

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

The Help Group's ten specialized day schools offer pre-K through high school programs for more than 1,600 students. Its broad range of mental health and therapy services, child abuse and residential programs extends its reach to more than 6,000 children and their families each year. With more than 980 staff members, The Help Group's state-of-the-art schools and programs are located on six 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 young people with special needs across the country and in other parts of the world.

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

Schools

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

Programs

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

Campuses

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

www.thehelpgroup.org  

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



Festival of Arts
 A Celebration of Young Artists
 The Help Group Autism Center
 April 10, 2016



Teddy Bear Tea
 Four Seasons Los Angeles
 At Beverly Hills
 May 3, 2016



Resource Fair
 6th Annual Special Needs Resource Fair
 The Help Group Autism Center
 May 15, 2016



Very Special Innovation Fair
 STEM³ Academy Campus
 May 21, 2016



Teddy Bear Golf
 Valencia Country Club
 September 26, 2016



The Help Group SUMMIT 2016
 Skirball Cultural Center
 October 14 - October 15, 2016



Teddy Bear Ball
 The Beverly Hilton Hotel
 December 7, 2016



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

