

## JOHN NOGAWSKI, SENATOR DARRELL STEINBERG AND MICROSOFT, INC. TO BE HONORED AT THE 2011 TEDDY BEAR BALL

The Help Group is pleased to announce that John Nogawski, President, CBS Television Distribution, will be the recipient of its 2011 *Help Humanitarian Award* in recognition of his outstanding philanthropic spirit and commitment to children with special needs. That same evening, The Help Group will present its *Champion for Children Award* to California Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg and its *Corporate Philanthropy Award* to Microsoft, Inc. The 15th Annual Teddy Bear Ball will take place on Monday, December 5 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel International Ballroom.



Hon. Darrell Steinberg

This year's gala chairs are Julie Chen & Leslie Moonves along with co-chairs Nancy O'Dell & Keith Zubchevich, Linda Bell Blue & Steven Blue, and Lissa & Ken Solomon. O'Dell, co-host of



John Nogawski



*Entertainment Tonight*, will also serve as the emcee for the evening's festivities.

As President of CBS Television Distribution, Nogawski oversees all areas including syndication sales, advertising sales, programming and development, marketing, research, legal and business affairs. CBS Television Distribution is the pre-eminent company in television syndication, producing and distributing 12 first-run series including such notable shows as *Judge Judy*, *Dr. Phil*, *Rachael Ray*, *Wheel of Fortune*, *Jeopardy!*, *Entertainment Tonight* and *The Insider*.



Microsoft, Inc.  
Celeste M. Alleyne

The Help Group will recognize Senator Steinberg for his long-standing and

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### "Deck the Walls"

for  
The Help Group  
children  
at your local

**Coffee Bean  
& Tea Leaf<sup>®</sup>**

this holiday season!



see story on page 3

## Microsoft<sup>®</sup>

### MICROSOFT GRANT GIVES KIDS TOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

Students with autism and other special needs can benefit greatly from learning through technology. The Help Group is most grateful to have been named the recipient of a generous product grant from Microsoft, Inc. of \$500,000, which will fund *Tools for the Future: The Help Group Technology Project*.

This grant will enable The Help Group to significantly expand its technology tools and resources for its students. Through new features and enhanced performance, the software will enable students to better use technology for learning, achievement, and meeting academic standards.

The software will also help students gain the necessary skills and technical knowledge so critical in vocational and higher-education settings. The Help Group will be also able to utilize Microsoft's latest products to substantially increase the security, availability, scalability, efficiency, and manageability of the network infrastructure. This software will enable students and staff to more effectively communicate, collaborate, and share information.

"Microsoft gives special meaning to corporate philanthropic excellence – we are most appreciative of their magnanimous and impactful gift" commented Dr. Barbara Firestone.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

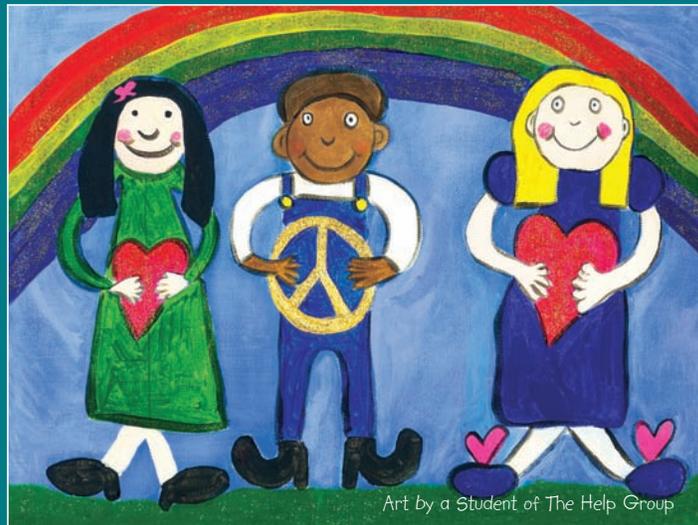
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The Help Group  
wishes you a very  
**Happy Holiday Season**  
and  
**Wonderful New Year**  
filled with  
**Peace and Love!**

*Gary H. Carmona ~ Dr. Barbara Firestone*



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## CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Bruce Berman  
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Marlee Matlin  
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Kathy & Charles P. Toppino  
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Claire & D. Michael  
Van Konynenburg  
Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa  
Jerry Weintraub  
Hon. Jack Weiss & Leslie Kautz  
Hon. Zev & Barbara Yaroslavsky  
Barbara & Stanley Zax

**TEDDY BEAR BALL** - continued from cover

trailblazing leadership on behalf of children with special needs and their families. His landmark autism insurance coverage bill was recently signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown.

Microsoft, Inc., through its corporate Citizenship and Public Affairs strategic software grant process, has provided a 500,000 dollar product donation to support The Help Group's *Tools for the Future Technology Project*. Its generous support has enabled The Help Group to expand its technology tools and resources for its students. Celeste M. Alleyne, West Region Citizenship and Public Affairs Director, will be accepting the award on behalf of Microsoft.

**GALA CHAIRS**



Julie Chen



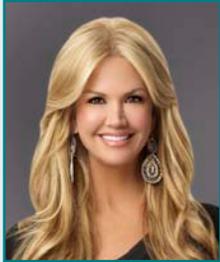
Leslie Moonves

"The stars will be shining brightly on December 5 as we salute the humanitarian spirit of John Nogawski, Senator Darrell Steinberg and Microsoft. Their heartfelt commitment to children helps to create brighter futures for so many," said Dr. Barbara Firestone, President and CEO of The Help Group.

Each year, the Teddy Bear Ball is attended by hundreds of prominent entertainment and community leaders and features special performances by children of The Help Group and their celebrity friends.

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

**GALA CO-CHAIRS**



Nancy O'Dell



Keith Zubchevich



Linda Bell Blue



Steven Blue



Lissa Solomon



Ken Solomon

**THE COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF TO "DECK THE WALLS" FOR CHILDREN OF THE HELP GROUP**



Your next cup of coffee or tea could warm the heart in more ways than one. Thanks to the generosity of The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf® (CBTL), the "Deck the Walls" campaign, now in its 10th year, will support The Help Group's efforts on behalf of children with autism and other special needs. Customers can participate by purchasing one or more holiday stickers for \$1 each and "Deck the Walls" at their local CBTL. 100 percent of the funds from customers' sticker purchases will be donated to The Help Group. Additionally, The Help Group will receive \$1 from each sale of the Winter Dream Tea® and the Holiday Blend Whole Bean Coffee.

"In the spirit of giving, we are pleased to once again host the 'Deck the Walls' holiday campaign in support of the children of The Help Group," said Mel

Elias, President & Chief Executive Officer of CBTL and Help Group Circle of Friends Board Member. "We thank our *The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf®* team and our customers for their commitment to this special program each year."

On November 8, CBTL held special open houses where customers had the opportunity to purchase specialty holiday drinks for \$1 each, with all sales donated to The Help Group. The "Deck the Walls" campaign begins November 24 and continues through January 1 at CBTL's 174 retail locations in California and the Western United States.

"Each year, CBTL lights up the season with its wonderful 'Deck the Walls' campaign –that radiates the true spirit of the holidays and raises significant funds to benefit the children. As always, we are immensely proud and grateful to be part of the CBTL family," said Dr. Barbara Firestone.

## "KIDS LIKE ME" HOLIDAY CAMPS SPREAD SPECIAL CHEER!

The Help Group **kids like me**  
engage. experience. explore.

**December 19th thru 23rd**

**WINTER DAY CAMPS for Children and Teens with Autism Spectrum Disorders & other Special Needs**

**VILLAGE GLEN CAMP**

**CAMP SUNSHINE**

**TEENS on the go!**

**PLUS: Weekend Travel Camp December 16th thru 18th**

**LOCATION**  
The Help Group's Sherman Oaks Campus

**AGES 3-18**

Free transportation will be provided from The Help Group's Culver City Campus

Contact Nicole Webb  
nwebb@thehelpgroup.org  
818.778.7136  
www.thehelpgroup.org

Jake, an eight-year-old boy with autism spectrum disorder who attends a local public school, had difficulty making and keeping friends and often ate lunch by himself. Due to his social skills challenges, he was often teased by other students. Jake was very lonely, rarely had after-school playdates and was becoming increasingly isolated and withdrawn. His mother, hearing about The Help Group's Village Glen camp, signed Jake up for the 2011 summer session. By the end of August, Jake had made tremendous strides. With the support of highly skilled and well-trained counselors and a program especially designed to meet his unique needs, Jake thrived. His mother reports that Jake has maintained relationships with several of the youngsters he met this summer and has made significant progress with his peers at school. He eagerly awaits seeing his buddies this December at The Help Group's Village Glen Winter Day Camp and he says he looks forward to spending time with "kids like me!"

## IT'S BETTER TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE!

The Help Group's  
**silverlining**  
a designer resale boutique | student training center

This holiday season, why not take a moment to clean out your closets and fill a bag...or two with gently used designer clothes and donate them to The Help Group's exciting resale boutique, Silverlining.

Silverlining offers a wide array of used and vintage designer and fashionable clothes, shoes and accessories for men, women and children. Created to be an innovative vocational training center, Silverlining offers invaluable work experience to students of The Help Group schools. It is designed to increase their level of independence and self-confidence and to help them gain the life skills tools needed to secure employment.

Since its exciting grand opening in March of 2011, Silverlining has become a well-known haunt for fashionistas from all over Los Angeles. The very popular "Girl's Night Out" events offer a fun-filled evening of great food, prizes, special in-store discounts and the latest selection of fashions. Seasonal promotional events and ever-changing store windows keep Silverlining fresh and current, and

customers have delighted in the store's updates posted on Silverlining's Facebook page.

In a relatively short period of time, Silverlining has become a shopping destination site. An outpouring of private donations plus the support of companies such as American Rag Cie, Buffalo Exchange, Ed Hardy and Charlotte Tarantola coupled with articles on noted fashion blogs and websites such as Bargains LA, Westside LA and Retail Design Diva, have contributed to the store's success.

Our student staff is enthusiastically readying the store for the holidays and each generous contribution will find its way onto our racks and shelves with all proceeds benefiting programs of The Help Group. So share in the heartwarming feeling of giving and be sure to check out our merchandise, nothing looks better for the holidays than when you wear a good cause.



## HASBRO DONATES HUNDREDS OF GIFTS FOR ANNUAL HOLIDAY CARNIVAL

For more than two decades, The Help Group has transformed its Sherman Oaks campus into a winter wonderland for its annual Holiday Carnival. This year's heartwarming event will help bring the joy of the season to 700 children from economically disadvantaged circumstances served by The Help Group's Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention, Mental Health, and Residential Treatment programs. The carnival will take place on Saturday, December 10, 2011, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. On this fun-filled, festive day, the children will enjoy everything from a petting zoo to rides, games, arts and crafts, music, lots of food, and much more.



“One of the best parts of the afternoon is the visit from Santa and the gifts that each and every child receives,” says Help Group’s COO, Dr. Susan Berman. “It’s quite a feeling to see all those smiling faces.”

We are pleased to announce that for the second consecutive year, Hasbro Children’s Fund has most generously donated gifts for ALL of the children who will be attending the carnival. The Help Group is most appreciative to



Hasbro for its ongoing support and commitment to the children. Just last year, Hasbro donated a state-of-the-art boundless playground to The Help Group’s new Autism Center.

Hasbro believes that “every child is born with the sparkle of hope in their eyes and sometimes, because of life’s challenges, that hope has been diminished. Our mission is to assist these children in triumphing over their critical life obstacles and to bring the joy of play into their lives.”

We thank Hasbro, all of our carnival sponsors and volunteers who will make this a day to remember for the children!

*If you are interested in carnival sponsorship and/or volunteer opportunities, please contact: Julie Hirschberg at 818.779.5282 or email [jhirschberg@thehelpgroup.org](mailto:jhirschberg@thehelpgroup.org).*



## 'TIS THE SEASON TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS!

One of the nicest ways to enjoy the holidays is surrounded by friends, but for teens and young adults with social challenges this can be difficult. The Help Group responded to this need and created its newest social program, club i.a.

Club i.a. TEEN, for adolescents 13 to 17 years old, and club i.a., for young adults ages 18 and older, are specially designed for those students with autism spectrum disorder who need assistance in developing and maintaining friendships. The clubs provide a great opportunity to make connections with young people who share similar interests and the activities are structured to ensure a positive experience for all participants.



The clubs kicked off with Halloween festivities and subsequent events have featured a fun-filled bowling bash, an afternoon of mini-golf and pizza parties. This holiday season our club i.a. TEEN youth will volunteer at The Help Group's annual Holiday Carnival and our club i.a. participants will enjoy a holiday bus tour that takes them through the city.

These clubs provide opportunities for personal growth, social awareness and friendships in a supported setting designed to appeal to the interests of the participants.

Both programs are part of Advance LA, which provides individualized support services including one-on-one life skills coaching and workshops for young adults with unique challenges in their transition to adulthood. Events fill up quickly, space is limited.

Email [runderwood@thehelpgroup.org](mailto:runderwood@thehelpgroup.org) or phone 818.947.5595 for details.

The **Help Group** **Leading the Way for Young People with SPECIAL NEEDS**



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

The Help Group's seven specialized day schools offer pre-K through high school programs for more than 1,400 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 850 staff members, The Help Group's state-of-the-art schools and programs are located on six campuses in the Los Angeles area.

- Assessment
- Mental Health Services
- Residential Programs
- Transitional Programs
- Life Skills Coaching
- Social Skills Training
- Parent Education
- After-School Enrichment
- Summer & Winter Camps

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## MICROSOFT - continued from cover

Founded in 1975, Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realize their full potential. Microsoft and its partners provide people around the globe with technology, tools and opportunities to help them address society's toughest challenges, transform communities and realize their potential.

According to West Region Citizenship and Public Affairs Director, Celeste M. Alleyne, "In Southern California, Microsoft Citizenship and employees volunteer and provide support to organizations such as Goodwill, LA Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, LA Urban League, Magic Johnson Foundation, Tavis Smiley Foundation and The Help Group—just to name a few. Our focus is on education, youth and learning and helping to empower youth to follow their passion. We are thrilled to support the children of The Help Group and see their dreams realized."

Thank you, Microsoft, for supporting The Help Group's efforts on behalf of children with special needs!



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**Kristine Lopez**  
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## ABOUT THE HELP GROUP

**The Help Group is dedicated to the education, treatment and outreach of children with autism and other special needs:**

### SPECIALIZED DAY SCHOOLS

**Village Glen School** for students with social and communicative disorders, 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 with autism spectrum disorders.

**Bridgeport School** for students with social, communicative and mild cognitive delays. The **Bridgeport Vocational Training Center** provides young adults with independent living skills training and vocational opportunities.

**Sunrise School** for students with autism and related developmental disabilities.

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

**Coldwater Canyon Prep** for students with learning differences, attentional and emotional issues.

**North Hills Prep** for students with social and emotional challenges.

### CLINICAL PROGRAMS

**The Mental Health Services Program** provides psychiatry, individual, family and group therapy, case management, day treatment services for at-risk preschoolers and after-school enrichment for at-risk children as well as vocational services.

**The Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders** 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 autism spectrum disorders.

**Stepping Stones Preschool Program** for children with behavioral and emotional difficulties offers a therapeutic day treatment program for preschoolers who are challenged by special needs.

**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 UCLA's Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior. It is dedicated to enhancing and expanding clinical research into autism spectrum disorders education and treatment and to contributing to the development, greater understanding and use of best practice models by educators and clinicians.

**The Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Programs** include child and family counseling, family preservation, teen parenting counseling, parent education and family reunification counseling.

**The Wraparound Program** is a strengths-based, family-focused program used by communities to support children and families with complex needs.

**Village Glen Commons** is a therapeutic boarding school for adolescents on the autism spectrum with challenges in the areas of socialization, communication and peer relations.

**Project Six** creates therapeutic living opportunities in nurturing, home-like settings. With a full continuum of integrated services, these programs promote personal and interpersonal development, vocational and independent living skills for adolescents and young adults.

**Advance LA** provides comprehensive and individually designed support services to help post high-school young adults with autism spectrum disorders reach their full potential in college and/or employment settings.

**club I.a.** and **club I.a. TEEN** provide a supported social network for young adults and teens who are in the autism spectrum or need assistance in developing and maintaining friendships.

**Silverlining Resale Boutique & Vocational Training Center** is the first resale store of its kind providing vocational training and competitive employment opportunities to young adults with autism and other special needs.

**Kids Like Me** After School Enrichment, Social Skills Groups and Day Camp Programs

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Graduate & Post-Graduate Training Programs

Distinguished Lecturer Series

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



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The Help Group because every child deserves a great future

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

The Help Group's seven specialized day schools offer pre-K through high school programs for more than 1,400 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 850 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 children with special needs across the country and in other parts of the world.

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

Village Glen School • Bridgeport School • Sunrise School • Young Learners Preschool for Autism  
Village Glen Commons Boarding Option • Bridgeport Vocational Training Center  
The Help Group - UCLA Autism Research Alliance  
The Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders  
The Help Group National Autism Foundation • Kids Like Me Day Camps • Camp Discovery  
Advance LA • club i.a./club i.a. TEEN • Silverlining Resale Boutique & Vocational Training Center  
Kids Like Me After-School Enrichment & Social Skills Groups

Summit View School • Coldwater Canyon Prep  
The Help Group - UCLA Neuropsychology Program  
North Hills Prep • The Help Group Child & Family Center • Project Six

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### The 15th Annual Teddy Bear Ball

The Beverly Hilton Hotel  
Monday, December 5, 2011



### The Help Group Holiday Carnival

Sherman Oaks Campus  
Saturday, December 10, 2011



### Music for Autism Concert

Sherman Oaks Campus  
Sunday, January 29, 2012



### Through Our Eyes Art Exhibit

Sponsored by Bear Givers  
James Gray Gallery,  
Bergamot Station Art Center  
Saturday, March 24, 2012



### The 5th Annual Teddy Bear Tea

Four Seasons Hotel, Beverly Hills  
Tuesday, April 17, 2012