

STEPHEN DAVIS, HARRY WINSTON, INC. AND DR. SUSAN BERMAN TO BE HONORED AT THE HELP GROUP'S TEDDY BEAR BALL

Monday April 22, 2013 at The Beverly Hilton Hotel

The Help Group is pleased to announce that Stephen Davis, president of Hasbro Studios, will be honored with its *Help Humanitarian Award* at the Teddy Bear Ball, which will be held on April 22nd at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in the International Ballroom. Harry Winston, Inc. will be the recipient of the *Corporate Philanthropy Award*, and Dr. Susan Berman, Help Group Chief Operating Officer, will receive this year's *Champion for Children Award*.



Stephen Davis

entertainment division of Hasbro, Inc. The studio drives entertainment brand-driven storytelling for the company and is responsible for all television, film, commercial productions and short-form multi-platform content across all traditional and digital media. Under Stephen's direction, the studio develops and produces TV shows based on Hasbro's world class brands, including Transformers, My Little Pony, Littlest Pet Shop and Scrabble, and stands as one of the most prolific independent program suppliers in Hollywood.

Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa will serve as the honorary gala chair. Peggy Davis, Margaret Loesch, Jamie & Chris McGurk, Sonia & David Salzman, Lissa & Ken Solomon and Randy Soto are gala chairs.

On this special evening, The Help Group will salute Stephen Davis for his wonderful commitment to the children of The Help Group and to children everywhere.

HARRY WINSTON
Brilliant Futures™

Harry Winston, Inc.

Stephen is president of Hasbro Studios, the Los Angeles-based



Dr. Susan Berman

Hasbro and The Help Group have a very special history. In 2010, Stephen cut the ribbon on the Hasbro Boundless Playground at The Help Group's Autism Center. Stephen has continued his association with The Help Group as a member of the Circle of Friends Philanthropic Board. In 2009 The Help Group honored Hasbro President & CEO Brian Goldner at the Teddy Bear Ball.

continued on page 3

The Help Group because every child deserves a great future



APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH
LEARN THE FACTS



www.thehelpgroup.org



GELSON'S
THE Super MARKET

Helping to Spread the Message!

see story on page 3

SAVE THE DATE!

Monday
SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

THE HELP GROUP'S
22nd Annual
KEYES FOR KIDS
Teddy Bear Golf Classic

and
LOCKTON INSURANCE BROKERS
Awards Reception

Honoring
JOHN BRADY

Valencia Country Club



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Art by Help Group Student

A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our spring edition of HelpLine! Here are a few highlights of what's happening this month at The Help Group.

The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf® and Gelson's are once again participating in our autism awareness campaign to mark April's National Autism Awareness Month. We are looking forward to our Teddy Bear Ball on April 22nd honoring Stephen Davis, Harry Winston, Inc., and Dr. Susan Berman and hope you will join us for this very special evening. Just a few days later, on April 26th and 27th, The Help Group's Advance LA will host its 2nd annual Innovate Conference for parents, professionals and young adults at American Jewish University. And we end the month with our 6th annual Through our Eyes student art show sponsored by Bear Givers and hosted by the James Gray Gallery.

So glad to have this opportunity to share our news with you. As always, we greatly appreciate your friendship and support!

Gary H. Carmona ~ Dr. Barbara Firestone

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

- Bruce Berman
- Hon. Howard & Janis Berman
- Carole Black
- Bruce C. Corwin
- Ann & Dick Costello
- Susanne & Greg Daniels
- Hon. Gray & Sharon Davis
- Suzanne & Robert Davidow
- Jane & Michael Eisner
- Mel Elias
- Elizabeth & Lee Gabler
- Ann & Jim Gianopulos
- Dr. Nancy & Jonathan Glaser
- Barbara & Brian Goldner
- Brian Grazer
- Hon. Wendy Greul & Dean Schramm
- Sandy Grushow
- Noreen & Doug Herzog
- Amy & Andy Heyward
- Quincy Jones
- Ronnie & Michael Kassin
- Kathleen & Jason Katims
- Susan & Brian Kennedy
- Carol & Arnie Kleiner
- Marlee Matlin
- Max Mayer
- Jamie & Chris McGurk
- Ron Meyer
- Wendy & Barry M. Meyer
- Lori & Michael Milken
- Lowell Milken
- Sandra Milken
- Steve Mosko
- John Nogawski
- Dawn Ostroff
- Hon. Richard J. Riordan
- Nadine Schiff-Rosen & Fredric D. Rosen
- Ande & Bruce Rosenblum
- Cheryl & Haim Saban
- Sonia & David Salzman
- Ellen & Richard Sandler
- Debbie & Sunny Sassoon
- Stacy & Jesse Sharf
- Hon. Brad & Lisa Sherman
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- Lissa & Ken Solomon
- Hon. Darrell Steinberg
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- Nancy Tellem
- Steve Tisch
- Kathy & Charles P. Toppino
- Mary & Bill Urquhart
- Claire & D. Michael Van Konynenburg
- Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa
- Hon. Zev & Barbara Yaroslavsky
- Barbara & Stanley Zax

CONTENTS

- Teddy Bear Ball Cover
- The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf® and Gelson's Help Spread The Message Cover
- April is Autism Awareness Month 3
- "On The Spectrum" at the Fountain Theatre 4
- Through our Eyes Art Show 4
- Music for Autism 4
- Advance LA Innovate Conference 5
- 6th Annual Teddy Bear Tea 6
- Looking Beyond Foundation 7
- HelpMate Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 8
- Summer Camp Programs 9
- Girl Scouts Bring Joy to over 1300 Children 9

2013 TEDDY BEAR BALL - continued from cover



HONORARY GALA CHAIR
MAYOR ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

GALA CHAIRS
PEGGY DAVIS · MARGARET LOESCH
JAMIE & CHRIS MCGURK · SONIA & DAVID SALZMAN
LISSA & KEN SOLOMON · RANDY SOTO

Harry Winston, Inc. will be recognized with the *Corporate Philanthropy Award* for its dedication to helping young people achieve their dreams. The Help Group was honored to be selected last year 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.

With great pride, The Help Group will present Dr. Susan Berman with its *Champion for Children Award* in recognition of her 30 years of extraordinary leadership and contributions to The Help Group's efforts.

Hundreds of prominent entertainment and community leaders are expected to gather for the Teddy Bear Ball, a time-honored tradition to celebrate the humanitarian spirit of Help Group friends and supporters. For reservations and event information, please contact Julie Hirschberg at 818.779.5212 or visit our website at www.thehelpgroup.org.

THE COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF® AND GELSON'S - continued from cover



The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf® and Gelson's are once again partnering with The Help Group to promote awareness and understanding of autism during April's National Autism Awareness Month.

The Coffee Bean will make The Help Group's new "Learn the Facts" brochure available in its 176 stores in the western United States, and The Help Group will also be featured on the in-store television display and on The Coffee Bean's social media outlets as well.

As in past years, Gelson's will again host an autism awareness and fund-raising campaign for The Help Group at all of its 17 locations. "Learn the Facts" brochures will be available in the stores, and customers will have the opportunity to make donations to The Help Group at the checkout counter.

Dr. Barbara Firestone said, "We wanted to provide the public with the very latest information about autism, and we are so grateful to our friends at Gelson's and The Coffee Bean for helping us spread the message."

Please stop by your local Coffee Bean and Gelson's during April to show your support!

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

LEARN the FACTS

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

- Autism is estimated to affect 1 in every 88 children in the United States; 1 in every 54 boys; 1 in every 252 girls.
- A new U.S. government survey of parents estimates that 1 in 50 school-age children has autism.
- No two individuals with autism are the same. There is a wide spectrum of symptoms that range from mild to severe.
- Autism occurs in children of all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Research suggests that the causes of autism are complex and include genetic, biological, and environmental risk factors.
- An increased prevalence in autism has been influenced by greater awareness, improved expertise in diagnosis, and an expanded definition though a true increase in the number of children with autism cannot be ruled out.
- Symptoms of autism can often be detected at 18 months or earlier, and some of the early warning signs may even be recognizable within the first year of life.
- When parents first suspect their child is developing differently, they should discuss their concerns with their pediatrician and ask for an autism screening or referral to a qualified autism professional
- Early identification and intensive early intervention can result in significant positive outcomes for many children with ASD.
- Individuals with autism can make gains throughout their lives with the support of evidence-based educational and therapeutic programs tailored to meet their challenges and strengths.
- 84% of individuals with autism in California are under the age of 22. There is a significant need for services to help young people successfully transition to adulthood with the greatest levels of independence possible.

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

AWARD WINNING "ON THE SPECTRUM" NOW PLAYING AT THE FOUNTAIN THEATRE

"On the Spectrum" by Ken LaZebnik opened at the Fountain Theatre on March 16 to rave reviews and runs through National Autism Awareness Month in April. Commissioned by Mixed Blood Theatre in Minneapolis, the play is the winner of a 2012 Steinberg/American Theatre Critics Association New Play Award citation and a 2011 Edgerton Foundation New American Play award. The characters of the play are a young man with Asperger's Disorder, his mother, and a young woman with autism.

Acclaimed playwright, film and television writer, LaZebnik shared, "The story is centered around love and finding a place to belong. Based on my own experiences of family members on the autism spectrum, I wanted to explore the issues confronting young adults with autism. I am so pleased to be able to bring more awareness to the Los Angeles community."

Starring Jeanie Hackett, Virginia Newcomb and Dan Shaked, "On the Spectrum" is directed by Jacqueline Schultz. Schultz is an award-winning actress and a theater director at The Help Group's Summit View School for students with learning differences. She was immediately drawn to the project, "As with all great love stories, there are obstacles. Ken's play is original, charming and moving."

The Help Group is proud to be associated with the Los Angeles production of "On the Spectrum," along with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. After seeing the play, Dr. Barbara Firestone commented, "The play is a powerful theatrical experience that raises important questions of identity, acceptance and a desire for connection."



(L-R) Jacqueline Schultz, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Jeanie Hackett, Dan Shaked, Virginia Newcomb, Dr. Mary Bauman, Bradley Shahine

continued on page 9

MUSIC FOR AUTISM CONCERT FEATURES LYRIS QUARTET



see story on page 8

In Recognition of National Autism Awareness Month

The Help Group
is pleased to invite you to

Through Our Eyes

A Celebration of Young ARTISTS

Special Reception
SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH
1pm - 3pm

Exhibition & Reception
Sponsored by **Bear Givers**

Exhibit runs April 26th - May 3rd

James Gray Gallery
Bergamot Station Art Center
2525 Michigan Ave, Building D4
Santa Monica, CA 90404
310.315.9502 ~ www.jamesgraygallery.com



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



REGISTER TO ATTEND THE SECOND ANNUAL TRANSITION CONFERENCE FOR PARENTS, PROFESSIONALS, AND YOUNG ADULTS

As young adults with autism spectrum disorder, learning disabilities, Asperger's Disorder, executive functioning challenges, and other social or emotional issues prepare to transition to college, the workforce, and beyond, they often experience a lack of resources and guidance to help them along the way. Advance LA is a program of The Help Group that specializes in preparing these young people for a successful future. This year, Advance LA will host the Innovate Conference for parents, professionals, and young adults to collaborate and explore ways to successfully navigate the transition process. Registration is now open for the conference, which will be held at American Jewish University on Friday, April 26 for parents and professionals and Saturday, April 27 for teens and young adults.

Day one of the conference will bring together a community of professionals and parents who will explore innovative and viable strategies to ease the transition between high school and the next step. Notable conference presenters for day one include 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, coauthors of "Smart but Scattered Teens: The "Executive Skills" Program for Helping Teens Reach Their Potential."

Day two, the first conference of its kind designed specifically for teens and young adults, will feature a number of hands-on interactive workshops that provide attendees with the opportunity to learn new skills and interact with peers. Workshops will be conducted on topics such as searching for a job, exploring creative arts, managing stress, healthy living, college exploration and success, and building relationships with others.

APRIL 26, 2013
PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS
APRIL 27, 2013
YOUNG ADULTS

THE HELP GROUP'S
Advance LA
in'no·vate
CONFERENCE 2013

for parents, professionals
and young adults

LOCATED AT
American Jewish University
Los Angeles, California
Lower Campus

The Help Group
www.thehelpgroup.org
www.advancela.org
f t



thing new; to re
2. to bring in
duce as a novel
in'no·vate, v.i. t
changes in any
innovations.
in'no·vā'tion,

SPONSORED BY

THE DANIEL JORDAN
FIDDLE FOUNDATION
FOR ADULT AUTISM
COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL FOUNDATION

Waterson & Huth, LLP
Attorneys at Law

For more information about the conference or to register to attend this year's event, please visit www.advancela.org/conference.

Live. Advance. LA.

TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

Preparing young adults facing unique challenges for a successful future

Michelle N. Hagen, M.A. | mhagen@thehelpgroup.org | (818) 205-6002 | www.advancela.org f t

The Help Group's 6th Annual *Teddy Bear Tea – An Affair of the Heart* was a truly memorable afternoon featuring noted speaker and best-selling author, Angella Nazarian. The event was graciously hosted by Jodi Tenenbaum for the 3rd consecutive year and co-hosted by Therese Gamba and Teri Simpson.

Dr. Barbara Firestone kicked off the program and introduced host Jodi Tenenbaum, whose husband Howard serves as Executive Vice Chair of The Help Group's Board and on the Help Group's Circle of Friends Philanthropic Board. Jodi welcomed returning friends to the Tea and welcomed new friends saying, "I know you'll be as inspired as I am by the children's smiling faces and their sense of dignity and self-esteem. They have so much potential and are so precious, and I know they will steal your hearts like they've stolen mine."

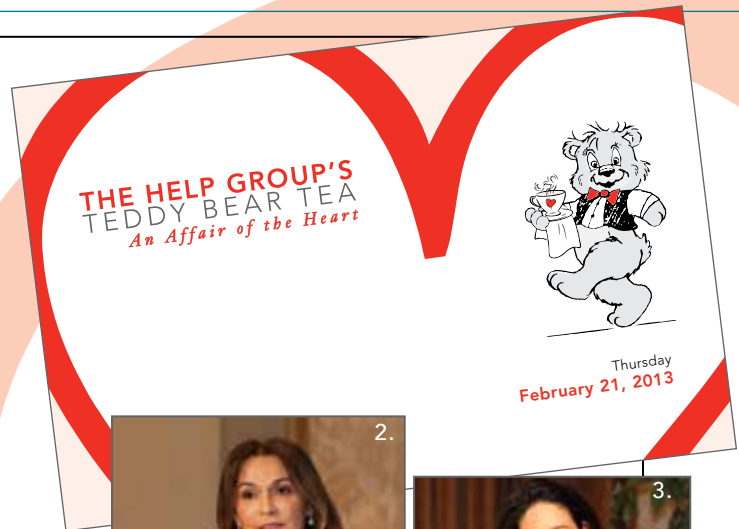
Guest speaker, Angella Nazarian, captivated the audience with her presentation about the power every person possesses to make a difference in the world. She shared fascinating stories about the women profiled in her book, "Pioneers of the Possible: Celebrating Visionary Women of the World," and noted that the parents and families of children with special needs are pioneers in their own right for seeing the potential in every child. Angella encouraged the audience in her closing remarks, saying, "I hope the stories from the book will inspire you to live a life of meaning."

Co-host Teri Simpson, mother of 9-year-old Help Group Village Glen West student Luke, was this year's parent speaker. In her remarks, Teri noted that she first learned about The Help Group when she was invited to the Teddy Bear Tea four years earlier, and after the Tea, decided to explore whether The Help Group might be a place where her son Luke could thrive. Teri ended her speech by noting that The Help Group has been a great fit for Luke, "He has an amazing teacher, wonderful friends, he is learning at his own pace, and he is happy."

Dr. Susan Berman invited the audience to support The Help Group's *Dr. Adam Opportunity Fund* that provides food, clothing and shelter, and other assistance such as scholarships, vocational training, summer camps and after-school enrichment programs to more than 1600 needy children and their families. She introduced Maurissa Sorensen, a former Help Group student and residential client, who spoke about the significant challenges she faced as a teen. Maurissa credited the stability and guidance provided by The Help Group, as well as the support of the Opportunity Fund, with helping her realize her dream of attending college. Just last year she completed her Master's degree in education at Harvard University. Maurissa ended by sharing that she has come full circle at The Help Group, as she now works as a facilitator in The Help Group's Child Abuse Prevention programs.

Dr. Firestone also shared the exciting news that The Help Group's Teddy Bear Ball will be held on Monday, April 22nd at the Beverly Hilton Hotel (see related story on the cover). The Help Group will honor Stephen Davis, president of Hasbro Studios, with its *Help Humanitarian Award*; Harry Winston, Inc. with its *Corporate Philanthropy Award*; and Dr. Susan Berman, Chief Operating Officer for The Help Group with its *Champion for Children Award*.

Other highlights of the afternoon included uplifting performances by The Help Group Children's Choir and a book signing by Angella Nazarian at the close of the event.



A ~ AN AFFAIR OF THE HEART



LOOKING BEYOND



DEDICATED TO ENRICHING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



Looking Beyond Foundation has been a generous supporter of The Help Group's Sunrise School since 2008. Founded in 1999 when twelve friends joined forces to create a committee dedicated to the awareness and enrichment of the lives of children with special needs, the Foundation takes its name from the idea that society should "look beyond" preconceived barriers and limitations for people with special needs. Since 1999, Looking Beyond has raised nearly \$2 million to provide grants to organizations that can help fulfill the dreams of children so that they may reach their full potential regardless of their disabilities.

Looking Beyond co-founder, Angella Nazarian, was this year's Teddy Bear Tea featured author and guest speaker, and a number of Looking Beyond Board and Steering Committee members attended the Tea. At the Tea, the Foundation surprised The Help Group with a very generous donation of \$10,000 for Sunrise School.

One of the members of Looking Beyond's Steering Committee, Judy Wolf, first introduced the Foundation to The Help Group. Judy's daughter Katie attends The Help Group's Sunrise School, and Judy has been an active and involved parent from the start. "Sunrise School has provided a wonderful, warm, loving environment for Katie and for our family."

Looking Beyond grants have supported a number of significant initiatives at Sunrise School including the Orff Schulwerk Music program; the Daily Living Skills Room, which provides students with practical experiences to prepare them for greater levels of independence; and enhancements to the playgrounds. The most recent project supported by Looking Beyond is a flower and vegetable garden, which will be maintained primarily by Sunrise students. "Looking Beyond is a great partner in helping our students realize their fullest potential. It's wonderful to look around the school and see the meaningful way these projects have enriched student life at Sunrise School," said Sunrise Principal Sue Anne Kaples.

Thank you to Looking Beyond for your support for Sunrise School!

1. Dr. Barbara Firestone, Teri Simpson, Angella Nazarian, Jodi Tenenbaum 2. Angella Nazarian, 3. Jodi Tenenbaum 4. Teri Simpson 5. Sarah Milken, Angella Nazarian 6. Angelee Bouchard, Samantha Firestone 7. Dr. Barbara Firestone, Susan Moseley 8. Angella Nazarian, Nadine Schiff-Rosen 9. Maurissa Sorensen, Dr. Susan Berman 10. Help Group Circle of Friends member Mary Urquhart (2nd from left) and guests 11. Alyssa Kennedy, Susan Kennedy, Ashley Vallance 12. Anel & Christopher Gorham 13. Ann Costello 14. The Help Group Children's Choir with Dr. Barbara Firestone and Angella Nazarian 15. The Help Group Children's Choir

HELPMATE VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

On Tuesday, February 26, The Help Group honored its volunteers at a special appreciation dinner. HelpMate volunteers support a wide range of The Help Group's schools and programs, including Young Learners Preschool for Autism, Kids Like Me after-school activities and camps, Silverlining Resale Boutique & Vocational Training Center and the new Paws and Pals pet intervention program.



Ann Avidor, Help Group Volunteer

Ann Avidor, Help Group Volunteer Coordinator, welcomed guests, "We are so grateful to each and every one of you for generously and selflessly giving your time and your love to the children of The Help Group!"

Expressing The Help Group's heartfelt appreciation for the work accomplished by volunteers, Dr. Barbara Firestone shared the inspirational words of Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." She spoke of the positive impact that each volunteer can have on the life of a child.

Dr. Susan Berman, said, "Our programs would not be as successful or enriching as they are without your participation and commitment to improving the lives of our children and young adults - thank you for all that you do!" Debby Webb, Senior Executive Administrator, expressed her gratitude on behalf of the many teachers and aides that benefit every



Help Group Volunteers, Special Projects Coordinator Lisa Manafian, Dr. Barbara Firestone

day from the support of our volunteers. "You are so incredibly appreciated, and we want you to know how valuable you are."

As part of the program, volunteers were invited to share their first-hand experiences. Ginny Mills, Paws and Pals volunteer, shared, "I didn't know what to expect when I started working with children with autism, but the children at The Help Group have made my experience with my dog Baylee unforgettable. I visit students at Village Glen School, and the transformation that I see every week as the children have come to know Baylee is so rewarding."

The Help Group thanks ALL of its 200-plus volunteers for the kindness and warmth they bring to our children and the support they offer to our staff. A very special thanks to Ann Avidor for coordinating such a dynamic volunteer program.

BECOME A HELPMATE VOLUNTEER! Please contact **Ann Avidor** at **818.779.5233** or **www.thehelpgroup.org**

MUSIC FOR AUTISM CONCERT FEATURES LYRIS QUARTET

This year marks the 3rd year of The Help Group's partnership with Music for Autism, a dynamic organization that raises public awareness and enriches lives through autism-friendly, interactive concerts developed specifically for individuals with autism and their families. The 2013 concert series kicked off Sunday afternoon, March 3rd, at The Help Group's Autism Center Theater on its Sherman Oaks Campus with a performance by the Lyris Quartet. This vibrant string quartet has performed at the most prestigious chamber music venues in Los Angeles.

Violinists Alyssa Park, Shalini Vijayan and Luke Maurer and cellist Timothy Loo delighted the audience with selections from a variety of composers, including Haydn, Vivaldi and Joplin. Concertgoers were encouraged to leave their seats to dance and experience the music and musicians up close during the show. One parent observed, "It is so nice to be in an atmosphere where kids with autism are free to be themselves."



The Music for Autism program includes "concert time," "conducting time" and "percussion time". Dr. Barbara Firestone invited children in the audience forward for "conducting time". At "percussion time," Help Group volunteers passed out instruments to the audience, and both the children and the adults enjoyed participating with their maracas and tambourines and playing the drums.

Dr. Firestone closed the performance by saying, "We're so grateful to Music for Autism and the Lyris Quartet for bringing the joy and magic of music to children with autism and their families!"

Parent Pam Houtchens shared her experience after the concert, "My husband and I attended with our three children who all have autism. We had an amazing time. You all have provided us with a day we will never forget!!

Please save the date for the next Music for Autism concert on October 13, 2013!

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS PROVIDE MANY BENEFITS TO CHILDREN WITH AUTISM AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS

All children benefit from the structure and positive peer interaction that summer camps provide once classes have ended for the school year. Camp can be particularly important for children and teens with autism spectrum disorder and other special needs. By choosing a camp program that is designed exclusively for these children, they can continue to develop positive behaviors and social skills during the summer months while at the same time engaging in fun age-appropriate activities.

Specialized camps help children with autism spectrum disorder build the essential social, communication, cognitive, and sensory skills that they are often unable to gain naturally. These programs also aim to prevent the regression that can occur during summer break. Camps provide children with the opportunity to learn, play with peers, and interact with the world around them in everyday settings. Children are able to improve their confidence, increase self-esteem, and establish important communication skills and friendships that they can carry with them into their adult life.

For the first time this year, The Help Group's Kids Like Me program will be offering summer camps in both the Sherman Oaks and Culver City locations, as well as two Teens on the Go Travel Camp adventures to the California Coast and San Francisco. Day camps include Village Glen Camp, a fun and enriching social skills camp where therapists and counselors utilize evidence-based practices to foster peer interactions



Kids Like Me Campers

and friendships; Camp Sunshine, an opportunity for children with moderate to severe autism spectrum disorder to experience summer fun and social growth; Camp Discovery, a one-week adventure for children to safely explore and experience camp activities in a natural, outdoor environment; and Teens on the Go, a unique social skills camp featuring daily trips and adventures throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

For more information about Kids Like Me summer camps and other programs, visit the new Kids Like Me website at www.kidslikemela.org or contact Program Director, Nicole Webb at nwebb@thehelpgroup.org or 818-778-7136.

GIRL SCOUTS BRING JOY TO OVER 1300 CHILDREN



The Help Group would like to thank Rebecca Lascoe, the San Fernando Valley Girl Scout Council and the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles for their ongoing dedication to the children served by The Help Group's Mental Health and Family-Centered Support programs. Since 1998, Rebecca has spearheaded the effort to coordinate with Girl Scout leaders and troops to prepare and collect hundreds of beautifully, hand-wrapped Easter baskets. Our thanks to all the Girl Scouts for bringing smiles to so many children!

"ON THE SPECTRUM" - continued from page 4



Playwright LaZebnik and members of the cast from "On the Spectrum" will present a scene from the play at this year's Advance LA Innovate conference (see related article, page 5) as the lunchtime program on Friday, April 26th. Dr. Susan Berman said, "We are pleased to welcome the playwright and actors to the conference

and look forward to a very engaging program."

The Fountain Theatre is located at 5060 Fountain Avenue in Los Angeles. Performances are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. through April 28. The Help Group recommends this play for adult audiences. For reservations and information, call 323.663.1525 or visit the theatre's website at www.FountainTheatre.com.



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



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

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

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

The Help Group's nine specialized day schools offer pre-K through high school programs for more than 1,500 students. Its broad range of mental health and therapy services, child abuse and residential programs extends its reach to more than 6,000 children and their families each year. With more than 950 staff members, The Help Group's state-of-the-art schools and programs are located on seven campuses in the Los Angeles area.

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

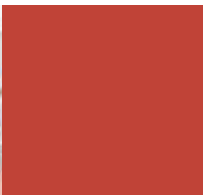
877.943.5747 | www.thehelpgroup.org  

Sunday
MAY 19,
2013

11am - 3pm
Free Admission



4th Annual Special Needs Resource Fair



An opportunity for parents and professionals to discover the wonderful **CHILDREN'S RESOURCES** Los Angeles has to offer its **SPECIAL NEEDS COMMUNITY**

There will be exhibitors representing

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Schools | Financial & Estate Planning | Dance |
| Camps | Aquatics | Assistive Technology Services |
| Residential Programs | Transitional Programs | Sensory Equipment |
| Social Skills Programs | Vocational Programs | Books |
| Medical & Therapeutic Services | Advocates | Games |
| Educational Supports | Equine Therapy | Toys |
| Canine Assistance Program | Music | & Much, Much More! |

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

For further information contact
Cara Quinlan 818.947.5504
cquinlan@thehelpgroup.org

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 21 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

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

The Help Group's nine specialized day schools offer pre-K through high school programs for more than 1,500 students. Its broad range of mental health and therapy services, child abuse and residential programs extends its reach to more than 6,000 children and their families each year. With more than 950 staff members, The Help Group's state-of-the-art schools and programs are located on seven campuses in the Los Angeles area.

The Help Group is widely regarded for its high standards of excellence, unique scope and breadth of services. Through its public awareness, professional training and parent education programs and efforts at the state and national levels, The Help Group touches the lives of children with special needs across the country and in other parts of the world.

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

- Village Glen School · Bridgeport School
- Bridgeport Vocational Education Center · Sunrise School
- Young Learners Preschool for Autism · Project Six / The Commons
- The Help Group - UCLA Autism Research Alliance · Advance LA
- 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

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

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UPCOMING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Teddy Bear Ball
 The Beverly Hilton Hotel
 April 22



**Advance LA Innovate Conference
 for Parents, Professionals & Young Adults**
 American Jewish University
 April 26 & 27



**Through Our Eyes Art Exhibit
 Sponsored by Bear Givers**
 James Gray Gallery
 April 26-May 3



Special Needs Resource Fair
 Help Group Autism Center
 May 19



The Miracle Project
 Help Group Autism Center
 June 2



Keys for Kids Teddy Bear Golf Classic
 Valencia Country Club
 September 23



Music for Autism
 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

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