

KEYES FOR KIDS GOLF CLASSIC TO SALUTE DAVID LEHMAN & PETER A. WEIDMAN

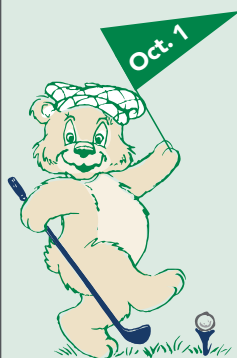


David Lehman



Peter A. Weidman

The 27th Annual Keyes for Kids Teddy Bear Golf Classic is pleased to announce that David Lehman, Global Head of Estate Finance in the Investment Banking Division at Goldman Sachs, and Peter A. Weidman, Partner at Goldman Sachs Group, Merchant Banking Division, will be the recipients of the *Help Fore Children Humanitarian Award* in recognition of their humanitarian spirit and commitment to the children of The Help Group.



The Golf Classic and Lockton Insurance Brokers Awards Reception will take place on Monday, October 1 at Valencia Country Club.

The Help Group is truly grateful to David, Peter, and the Golf Classic Chairs for their philanthropic leadership and dedication to giving back.

We invite you to join us for what is sure to be a sellout success and a great day on the greens benefitting our efforts on behalf of the children.

(Cont'd on page 3)

s+em³ academy

PREPARES STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE



Since STEM³ Academy was established four years ago, the school has had a tremendous impact on the lives of its students, and has touched the hearts and minds of parents, faculty and the community. The school shines as a beacon of opportunity for its students. From being accepted to top colleges and universities, to

interning with leaders in their fields—the students of STEM³ Academy are excelling.

"We recognized the need for a school dedicated to STEM when we piloted a program from K-12 on the Sherman Oaks Campus," said Dr. Susan Berman, Help Group COO. "It was readily apparent that students with social and learning differences, including autism, were able to excel at a very high level in areas where they had not previously been challenged, like robotics and computer programming."



(Cont'd on page 3)

SUMMIT 2018



Featuring leading experts in Autism, Learning Disabilities & ADHD

TEDDY BEAR BALL 2018



Honoring Chris Selak and Microsoft

INNOVATION FAIR



An inclusive event for children of all ages and abilities

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Featured more than 170 student artists

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A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS

Welcome to our Summer 2018 edition featuring some of our recent and upcoming Help Group happenings.

We're pleased to announce that David Lehman and Peter A.

Weidman, Managing Directors at Goldman Sachs will be our *Help Fore Children Humanitarian Award* honorees at our 27th Annual Keyes for Kids Golf Classic on October 1. On October 19 & 20 at the Skirball Cultural Center, we are proud to present Summit 2018 on Autism, ADHD and Learning Disabilities featuring leading experts in the field.

This edition features our Teddy Bear Ball, an unforgettable evening saluting Chris Selak and Microsoft. We spotlight The Help Group's STEM³ Academy, the first of its kind in the US, and an announcement of its upcoming Very Special Innovation Fair.

There's so much to highlight: our partners in our autism awareness outreach, our arts programs, Special Olympics, the Thriving Through Transitions conference, and our Young Learners Pre-School graduation—you will love the smiling faces of our youngest graduates!

We thank you for your friendship and support of our efforts on behalf of young people with special needs.

Best regards,

Gary H. Carmona ~ Dr. Barbara Firestone

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THE HELP GROUP'S KEYES FOR KIDS TEDDY BEAR GOLF CLASSIC LOCKTON INSURANCE AWARDS RECEPTION



HONORING
DAVID LEHMAN **PETER A. WEIDMAN**
Managing Director Managing Director
GOLDMAN SACHS

■ ■ ■

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1
VALENCIA COUNTRY CLUB

GOLF CLASSIC CHAIRS



Jay Borzi



John Brady



Victor Coleman



Warren de Haan



Jonathan Firestone



Michael Hackman



Jonathan Klein



Michael May



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Howard
Tenenbaum



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Konynenburg



Jeffrey Worthe

For more information visit www.thehelpgroup.org or call 818.779.5212

THE HELP GROUP THANKS ITS LONGTIME AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH PARTNERS



Gelson's



So much happened at The Help Group in recognition of National Autism Awareness Month during April. The Help Group once again launched its annual “Learn the Facts and Early Signs of Autism” campaign. Research has shown that early identification and intensive early intervention can result in significant positive outcomes for many children with autism.

Throughout April, The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf® made The Help Group’s “Learn the Facts” brochures available in more 200 participating locations in California. The Help Group has partnered with The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf® to promote autism awareness for 19 years.

For the 12th consecutive year, Gelson’s Markets hosted a fund-raising campaign in support of The Help Group’s autism programs. Copies of the “Learn the Facts” brochures were made available at 18 Southern California locations, and customers had the opportunity to donate to The Help Group at store registers.

Lori Samuels, owner of Oneoddbird and a longtime philanthropic friend, generously donated a portion of every Oneoddbird sale to The Help Group, and offered free shipping statewide in support of Autism Awareness Month.

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, NBC4 Southern California spotlighted The Help Group’s “Learn the Facts and Early Signs of Autism” campaign and aired PSAs throughout the month of April featuring NBC4 “Today in LA” anchor, Daniella Guzman and Telemundo52 news anchor, Dunia Elvir. We’re thrilled that Daniella Guzman will serve as luncheon host at our upcoming Summit 2018.

Our thanks The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf®, Gelson’s Markets, Oneoddbird and NBC4 for their ongoing commitment to children with autism and their families.

OTHER APRIL HAPPENINGS



On Sunday, April 15, The Help Group proudly presented a Music For Autism concert featuring Holly Sedillos – a classically trained vocalist and performance artist and friends. This free, interactive concert was open to individuals with autism and their families. It was a wonderful day for the children.



The Help Group hosted its 8th Annual Special Needs Resource Fair on Sunday, April 8. This free event was an opportunity for parents and professionals to discover the wonderful resources that Los Angeles has to offer its special needs community, and was open to the public.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

THE HELP GROUP PRESENTS

SUMMIT

2018

Advances and Best Practices in
Autism · Learning Disabilities · ADHD

A Cutting Edge Conference Featuring 30 Leading Experts

SUMMIT CHAIRS

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

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Susan Y. Bookheimer, PhD
Thomas E. Brown, PhD
Jeffrey W. Gilger, PhD
Pat R. Levitt, PhD
Peter C. Mundy, PhD

Friday, October 19 &
Saturday, October 20

Skirball Cultural Center
Los Angeles, CA

Summit 2018 is designed for
professionals and parents

Program Information
& Online Registration
Available at:

www.thehelpgroupsummit.org

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The Help Group  because every child deserves a great future
www.thehelpgroup.org  

ADVANCE LA'S THRIVING THROUGH TRANSITIONS CONFERENCE



The Help Group's 2018 Advance LA Conference, *Thriving Through Transitions: Finding Strengths in Differences*, took place on Friday, May 18 at the American Jewish University and featured 20 experts whose research and practice support young adults with autism, learning differences and ADHD. This year's conference theme focused on neurodiversity and the many strengths young adults can harness as they transition to adulthood. More than 300 parents, educators, clinicians, researchers, graduate and undergraduate students were in attendance.

Our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Daniel Siegel, challenged popular misconceptions about the definition of the mind and spoke about "mindsight", a term he coined which reflects our capacity to perceive the mind of the self and others. Through this powerful lens, he posits that we can understand our inner lives with more clarity, integrate the brain, and enhance our relationships with others.

In addition to Dr. Siegel, other featured speakers included Dr. Robert Koegel and Dr. Lynn Koegel, Dr. Johanna Olson-Kennedy and Aydin Olson-Kennedy, Luncheon Speaker Rabbi Naomi Levy, and returning presenters Dr. Liz Laugeson, Dr. Amy Griffiths, and Dr. Elisha Goldstein. Presentations included topics on executive functioning, social connections, decreasing barriers to education and employment, finding purpose, electronic fasting, and gender dysphoria. There was also a highly attended panel with young adults discussing their unique stories and their strengths in differences.



STEM³ ACADEMY PREPARES STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE (CONT'D)



After the high school robotics team earned the Rookie All-Star title at the FIRST Robotics Ventura

regional, and won a place in the World Championship competition in 2015, opening STEM³ Academy became a top priority.

The students at STEM³ Academy have a wide-range of natural strengths and abilities. The faculty is dedicated to helping students develop their strengths in these areas. Some students are drawn to areas such as coding, designing, and engineering. For example, a student team participated at Raytheon's engineering challenge with 25 other teams from the southland. The challenge was to code an Arduino to act as a location finder— and STEM³ Academy's team had the fastest time.

"We are enormously proud of our students for competing and thriving with their peers. It is tremendously positive for them, does wonders for their self-esteem, and shows all of our students that anything is within their reach if they have the will and the determination," said Dr. Ellis Crasnow, Director STEM³ Academy and STEM Education at The Help Group.

"At STEM³ Academy, we never lose sight of the fact that in addition to our students' strengths, they have a variety of differences that

require supports and accommodations. However, we recognize that our student's potential is not limited by their needs or differences," continued Dr. Crasnow.

Currently, there is a student who is interning at the City of Hope with a mentor who is at the cutting edge of cancer research; a 9th grade student who just scored a 5 on the AP Calculus BC exam, and the Robotics team competed yet again in the FIRST Robotics World Championship.

The value and benefit of engaging students from their earliest years continues to grow more evident. Currently, there are 5th grade students who are already able to code in 3 or 4 different languages. In addition to core classes, elementary grade level students are taking Spanish so they can become fluent by the time of graduation; and coding in Alice and Scratch and Processing, so they can learn Python in middle school, a very useful language for data analytics that can lead to a job for the 21st century.

By providing a rigorous K-12 education, including instruction in 21st century skills, STEM³ Academy is improving the outcomes for its students in preparation for college and careers. By starting on such a path early in life, there is no limit to what these bright and capable students might achieve!

FREE EVENT

STEM³ academy's

Very Special Innovation Fair

An inclusive event for children of all ages and abilities

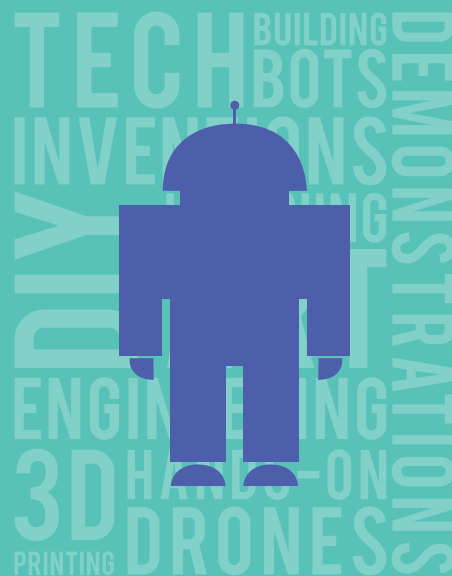
September 23, 2018 | 10am – 2pm

6455 Coldwater Canyon Ave, Valley Glen

www.stem3academy.org/innovation-fair



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On March 20, The Help Group celebrated its 20th Annual Teddy Bear Ball benefiting children with autism and other special needs at the Beverly Hilton Hotel International Ballroom. On this joyous evening, The Help Group was pleased to present its *Help Humanitarian Award* to Chris Selak, Executive Vice President and Head of Worldwide Scripted Television at Lionsgate, and its *Corporate Philanthropy Award* to Microsoft, accepted by Celeste Alleyne, Director, US Citizenship & Public Affairs at Microsoft.

Gala Chairs for the event included Kevin Beggs, Lionsgate TV Group Chairman; Karey Burke, Executive Vice President, Programming and Development at Freeform; Susanne Daniels, Global Head of Programming at YouTube; Channing Dungey, President, ABC Entertainment; Erik Feig, Co-President Lionsgate Motion Picture Group; Mark Greenberg, President MSGCI; Cindy Holland, Vice President, Original Series at Netflix; Mike Hopkins, Chairman, Sony Pictures Television; Pearlana Igbokwe, President, Universal Television; Matt Jacobson, Head of Market Development at Facebook and Instagram; Erik Logan, President of OWN; Sandra Stern, Lionsgate TV Group President; Patrick Wachsberger, Motion Picture Group Co-Chairman, Lionsgate, and John Wells, Producer, Writer, and Director. Co-Chairs included Ann & Dick Costello; Jamie & Chris McGurk; David Salzman and Ken Solomon.

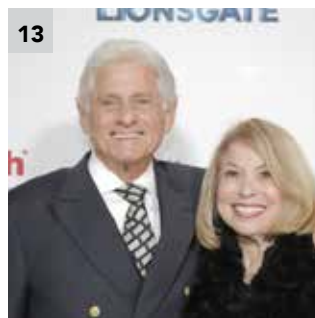
Tommy Dewey, star of Lionsgate's Golden Globe nominated show *Casual* on Hulu, was the evening's emcee – lending his considerable talent to the night's festivities, as he did when he co-hosted The Teddy Bear Ball in 2015.

Louis Price, former lead singer of the Temptations, and The Help Group's Children's Choir kicked off the evening with a rendition of "Ain't No Mountain High Enough."

Dr. Barbara Firestone, Help Group President & CEO, and Gary H. Carmona, Help Group Board Chair, welcomed and thanked guests for their support and friendship.

Dr. Barbara Firestone introduced *Corporate Philanthropy Award* honoree Microsoft and Celeste Alleyne, who accepted the award on Microsoft's behalf. Dr. Firestone spoke of Microsoft's tremendous generosity which continues to contribute to educational opportunities for young people. Microsoft was previously recognized by The Help Group for its excellence in leadership with the 2011 *Corporate Philanthropy Award*.

"Microsoft's commitment over the past seven years has been extraordinary – we are proud to be a member of Microsoft's global community," Dr. Firestone remarked. "Celeste has been a wonderful



1) Chris Selak 2) Celeste Alleyne 3) Chris Selak, Gary H. Carmona 4) Dr. Barbara Firestone, Sandra Stern, Chris Selak, Kevin Beggs
8) Dr. Barbara Firestone, Kari Van Gundy, Dr. David Firestone 9) The Selak Family 10) Student Speaker Nancy, Dr. Susan Berman
Price 15) Susan and Mike Berk 16) Michael Hackman 17) David Salzman 18) Jamie McGurk 19) Ann and Dick Costello
23) Help Group Students 24) (L-R) Sandra Stern, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Chris Selak, Louis Price, The Help Group Children's Choir
Councilmember Paul Koretz, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Ava Mirdamadi, Gail Koretz



ambassador and strong voice in support of our young people, and The Help Group's efforts on their behalf."

Gary H. Carmona joined Dr. Firestone at the podium to present the *Corporate Philanthropy Award* to Celeste. In accepting the award, Celeste said, "Our mission at Microsoft is to help every person and every organization on the planet to achieve more via technology. With partners like The Help Group, our mission is not just a pipe dream, our mission is always completed."

As a tribute to Microsoft and Celeste, The Help Group Children's Choir and Louis Price sang "All You Need is Love."

Dr. Susan Berman, Help Group COO, and Dick Costello, Help Group Circle of Friends Board Member and Gala Co-Chair, introduced the Dr. Adam Opportunity Fund to guests. Since 2003, the fund has helped create brighter futures and greater opportunities for young people with special needs, who have faced challenging circumstances.

Student Speaker Nancy captivated the audience with her story of resilience, courage and strength, and shared what the Opportunity Fund has meant to her. Nancy spoke of her plans to attend college in the fall, and her dream to study law.

Michael Hackman, Founder & CEO, Hackman Capital, and Keyes for Kids Teddy Bear Golf Classic Co-Chair, led a spirited live auction that was an over-the-top success.

Jamie McGurk and David Salzman, Help Group Circle of Friends Board Members, Gala Co-Chairs and former honorees, introduced the evening's honoree retrospective and welcomed Chris Selak to the family of Help Group honorees, and thanked Microsoft once again for its ongoing support.

Sandra Stern, Lionsgate TV Group President, Help Group Circle of Friends Board Member, and one of the evening's Gala Chairs, introduced her friend and colleague, Chris Selak, and welcomed her to the stage.

Dr. Firestone and Gary H. Carmona presented Chris with the *Help Humanitarian Award*, and thanked her for her humanitarian spirit, compassion, and caring. The Help Group Children's Choir and Louis Price performed a rendition of the classic song "You've Got a Friend" in a moving tribute to Chris.

In her acceptance remarks, Chris said, "Organizations like The Help Group provide families like ours with invaluable support and guidance. It's an honor to accept this award, and it's an honor to call you my friends."

The Help Group is most grateful to our honorees – Chris Selak and Celeste Alleyne representing Microsoft – who joined us for this truly memorable evening that was a celebration of the beauty and potential of the children.

5) Dr. Barbara Firestone, Chris Selak, Celeste Alleyne 6) Kevin Beggs, Sandra Stern, Chris Selak, Patrick Wachsberger 7) Tommy Dewey 11) Dick Costello 12) Dr. Barbara Firestone, Howard Tenenbaum 13) Gary H. Carmona, Rochelle Carmona 14) Joy Monkarsh, Louis 20) Chris Selak, Teyonah Parris, Sandra Stern 21) Gary Goodman, Bobby Williams, Chris Selak 22) Laurie Feig, Paul Feig, Chris Selak 25) Gary H. Carmona, Councilmember Mitch Englander 26) Chris Selak, Carmi Zlotnik 27) (L-R) Babak Mirdamadi, Dr. Linda Mirdamadi,

THE HELP GROUP HOSTS MUSIC FOR AUTISM CONCERT, "A DISNEY AFTERNOON"



Orchestrating Stronger Lives



On Sunday, July 15 The Help Group once again hosted Music For Autism for "A Disney Afternoon" concert at the Autism Center Theater at the Sherman Oaks campus. This free, interactive concert series is a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy music in a sensory-friendly environment.

The Help Group was pleased to welcome back to the stage the dynamic and talented performers Brad Ellis, Dianne Fraser, Eydie Alyson, and to welcome a new performer, Ashley Fox Linton.

Children, young adults, and parents came ready to dance and sing along to beloved Disney classics. The entire afternoon was filled with memorable moments and spirited audience participation.

For example, one young concert attendee with a remarkable voice requested to hear one of his favorite songs, "Can You Feel The Love Tonight," from *The Lion King*. He joined the performers on stage and sang the song beautifully, as Brad Ellis accompanied him on the piano and sang as well. Another regular Music For Autism participant brought her mandolin to play during the concert. This exceptionally gifted young performer was thrilled when she learned that Brad Ellis, who was featured prominently on the hit show *Glee*, would be headlining the Music For Autism concert. The two played music together, and Brad even autographed her mandolin at the end of the concert.

During the event, one concert participant remarked, "I started going to Music For Autism concerts at The Help Group years ago, and they have inspired my love and appreciation for the gift of music."

Jacqueline Schultz, Help Group Theater Director, was a wonderful surprise addition to the afternoon. She led the 'Conducting Time' portion of the concert with tremendous enthusiasm, and had concert-goers on their feet, waving their hands in the air to the music. It was such a joyful sight.

"The Music For Autism 'A Disney Afternoon' concert was both magical and uplifting, and captured the spirit of live performance and audience participation. Children and families were moved to dance, sing, and clap along to some of their favorite Disney songs. The transformative power of music was on full display throughout the concert. It was truly an afternoon to remember," said Dr. Barbara Firestone.

What an incredible day for the families in our community! Our thanks to everyone involved, including Brad, Eydie, Dianne, and Ashley for lending their talents, and to all the amazing Help Group volunteers who supported this event.



1) (L-R) Dianne Fraser, Dr. Barbara Firestone, President & CEO, The Help Group, Eydie Alyson, Brad Ellis, Ashley Fox Linton, Brad Shahine, Director of Public Affairs, The Help Group, Jacqueline Schultz, Theater Director, The Help Group 2) Family Participates In 'Conducting Time' 3) Brad Ellis and a Concert Participant 4) (L-R) Ashley Fox Linton, Eydie Alyson, Dianne Fraser 5) Family Enjoys 'A Disney Afternoon' Together

MIRMAN SCHOOL AND HARVARD-WESTLAKE HOST HELP GROUP ATHLETES



On March 23rd, nearly 100 Help Group students from The Help Group's Early Education programs in Culver City and Sherman Oaks participated in the 4th annual Special Olympics Young Athletes Festival hosted by Mirman School.

At the start of the event, the young athletes were greeted with enthusiasm by Mirman School students, faculty and staff as they entered the Kotzubei Family Athletics Field. Students cheered and held signs welcoming the athletes that read "You Can Do It!" and "Go Young Athletes!"

"Once again, it was inspiring to experience the warm and enthusiastic welcome Mirman students and staff extended to our young athletes. As we walked through the 'tunnel of love' created by the Mirman student body, the excitement and enthusiasm was electrifying," said Dr. Susan Berman, Help Group COO and former Board Chair at Mirman School. "I am grateful to Head of School Dan Vorenberg and the Mirman community for their commitment to celebrating our young athletes and as always, to the Help Group faculty for their unwavering commitment to our students."

The Help Group extends its heartfelt thanks to Mirman School's Dan Vorenberg, Head of Schools, Dr. Dena Scott, and Brittani Fowlin for hosting such a terrific event; to Mirman School Staff and Coaches; to Teresa Borunda, Senior Manager, Sports & Programs, SOSC, Los Angeles & San Gabriel Valley Regions; Christina Aulicino, Coordinator, Sports & Programs, SOSC, and to Help Group Coaches Jason Petro, Angel Pereyra, and Ryan Willett.

On March 9, Help Group middle school and high school student athletes took part in the Special Olympics Game Day at Harvard-Westlake Upper School for the third year. Hundreds of Student volunteers and faculty lined up around the track to welcome more than 100 Help Group athletes and cheer them on as they participated in track and field events.

"The Help Group athletic event on our campus was spectacular. I'd be hard-pressed to judge which group of students had a better time - the athletes from The Help Group or the fans in the stands from Harvard-Westlake. Big smiles were evident in abundance," said Fr. J. Young, Chaplain, Harvard-Westlake.

"We're so proud of our students – they've been practicing track and field events all spring and they came out today and gave it their all. This event gives our students the chance to demonstrate their individual accomplishments as well as their sense of sportsmanship and community," shared Pamela Clark, Help Group Director of Autism Schools.

The Help Group thanks Father Jay Young, and the remarkable students and staff at Harvard-Westlake Upper School for making the day such a terrific one; and extends its thanks to Laura Mayo, Assistant Vice President, Central Division, Special Olympics Southern California, Greater Los Angeles Area, and Kimberly Villa, SO Santa Clarita/Tri-Valley, for spearheading this event.



THE HELP GROUP'S FESTIVAL OF ARTS SPONSORED BY BEAR GIVERS FEATURES 170 YOUNG ARTISTS

FESTIVAL *of* ARTS

A CELEBRATION OF YOUNG ARTISTS

Sponsored By



On May 20, for the 9th consecutive year, The Help Group proudly presented *Festival of Arts: A Celebration of Young Artists* sponsored by Bear Givers – a New York based non-profit organization. The annual show featured two exhibitions by Help Group students: *Through Our Eyes*, a collection of over 170 original paintings, and *The Art of Stem*, a collection that displayed award-winning robotics.

Bear Givers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing happiness to the lives of children and adults in need through a variety of programs. According to Dr. Barbara Firestone, President and CEO of The Help Group, "The Bear Givers Empowered Art Program enables children with special needs to experience the joy and pride of creating art. At The Help Group, we believe that the arts are fundamental to our students' pathway to self-expression and self-discovery."

The festival was held at Santa Monica Art Studios, located in a historic hangar at the Santa Monica Airport. The space provides a unique and open setting for students, their families, and friends to enjoy the artwork.

"The exhibition is a perfect occasion for our students to showcase their talent and imagination, and to shine brightly," said Pamela Clark, Director of Autism Schools at The Help Group.

"The Festival of Arts is always a great opportunity for our STEM students to explore the intersection of art and science. What they do not only amazes, but enchants," said Dr. Ellis Crasnow, Director of STEM³ Academy and STEM Education at The Help Group.

The festivities included a special program to honor the young artists from The Help Group's Village Glen, Bridgeport, and STEM³ Academy schools. Brad Shahine, Director of Public Affairs at The Help Group, acknowledged Joseph Sprung, Chairman and Founder of Bear Givers, and Diane Lempert, President of Bear Givers, and thanked them for their longstanding commitment to the children of The Help Group.

On behalf of The Help Group, Brad thanked all of the faculty who mentor and work with students throughout the year, including Dr. Ellis Crasnow, Crystal Roethlisberger, Jennifer Slade, Tia Bruno, and Frank Morales.

The Help Group Choir, led by Charlotte Bashner and accompanied by Tommy Reeves, shared spirited renditions of "Can't Stop The Feeling" and "Try Everything." The choir's performance was met with tremendous applause by the audience. It was a magical afternoon celebrating the creative spirit of the children of The Help Group.

Our thanks to Bear Givers and congratulations to all the young artists for yet another wonderful exhibition!



Dr. Barbara Firestone, Help Group President & CEO, and Student Artist



(L-R) Dr. Ellis Crasnow, Director of STEM³ Academy and STEM Education, The Help Group, Dr. Susan Berman, COO of The Help Group, Pamela Clark, Director of Autism Schools, The Help Group



Recently, The Help Group celebrated graduations in all of its schools. In this article, we're featuring our Young Learner's preschool graduation that took place on August 3 at the Autism Center Auditorium on our Sherman Oaks Campus.

Young Learners Preschool is an evidence-based, comprehensive, early intervention school program designed to serve children between 2.9 and 5 years of age with autism spectrum disorder. This unique preschool offers an intensive, six hour per day, five day per week special education program featuring small class size and teacher: student ratio of at least 1:3. Through specialized, evidence-based assessment and curriculum, a collaborative multidisciplinary team approach and family involvement, our mission is to create a positive, dynamic learning environment to help students with autism spectrum disorder reach their maximum potential.

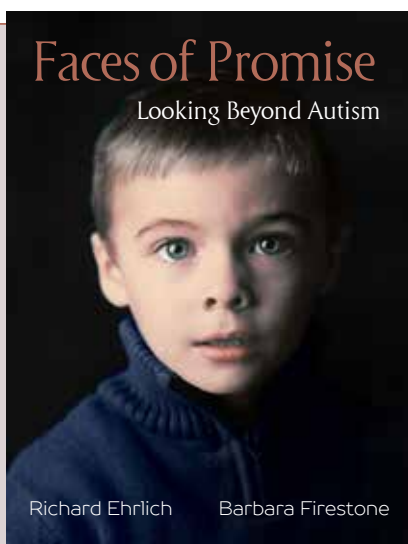
At the start of the ceremony, each of the six graduates, wearing caps and gowns, walked down the aisle as proud family members took pictures, waved, and cheered for the young students. After the procession, two graduating students recited the "Pledge of Allegiance" at the podium – a very impressive moment. Ms. Kim Liebowitz, a Young Learners music teacher, then sang a rousing, acapella version of "America The Beautiful."

"We are so proud of our preschoolers, and can't wait to see what they accomplish in kindergarten. We are grateful for the wonderful community of support we have with our families, staff, and volunteers at The Help Group," said Dr. Sara McCracken, Director of Young Learners and Early Educational Programs.

At the end of the ceremony, teachers presented the Young Learners graduates with their diplomas. It was truly a joyous and memorable occasion for family members, friends and faculty to celebrate.



1) (L-R) Jason Vaske, Assistant Principal, The Help Group's Young Learners Preschool, Maricris "Makki" Gomez, Teacher, The Help Group's Young Learners Preschool, Dr. Sara McCracken, Director of Young Learners and Early Educational Programs, The Help Group, Pam Clark, Director of Autism Schools, The Help Group.



Available on Amazon

Faces of Promise is a collaboration between Dr. Richard Ehrlich, a fine art photographer and physician, and Dr. Barbara Firestone, Help Group President and CEO. This photo essay book celebrates the dignity, beauty and promise of children on the autism spectrum.

A few brief excerpts of praise

"By looking beyond the stereotypes often associated with the autistic spectrum, it reveals with exquisite imagery and prose, the beauty and challenge that is life itself."
Peter C. Whybrow, MD – Director, UCLA Semel Institute

"...the gorgeous photos and moving text of this masterwork epitomize the underlying humanity of these youth, and their families." Stephen Hinshaw, PhD – Professor of Psychology, UC Berkeley; Professor of Psychiatry, UC San Francisco

"My husband and I are so touched that Barbara Firestone sees in our children the very elements we hope everyone will see in them, as does Richard Ehrlich in his soulful portraits." Hilary Kip – Parent



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 School of
Arts and Technology**

**North Hills
Prep**

Our Newest School
STEM³ Academy

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 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 and residential programs extend its reach to more than 6,000 children and their families each year. With more than 1,000 staff members, The Help Group's state-of-the-art schools and programs are located on five campuses in the Los Angeles area.

ASSESSMENT

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

18+ PROGRAMS

COACHING

SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING

PARENT EDUCATION

AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

DAY CAMPS

CULVER CITY | SHERMAN OAKS EAST | SHERMAN OAKS WEST
VALLEY GLEN | VAN NUYS

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

Our Newest School... **STEM³ Academy** provides an innovative and rigorous K-12 curriculum for students with social and learning differences, including autism, who have a passion for STEM fields and may benefit from experiential learning approaches.*

With a 98% college acceptance rate... **Summit View School** is a college-preparatory program for students with learning differences who possess average to above-average intellectual capabilities.*

Village Glen School is a college preparatory program that serves students K-12 with high-functioning autism and challenges in the areas of socialization, language development and peer relations. The Pace Program offers honors and AP classes for gifted students. The Beacon Program provides additional positive behavior support for students with behavioral challenges.*

Young Learners Preschool uses an evidence-based and interdisciplinary approach to intensive early intervention for children ages 2.9 to 5 with autism spectrum disorder.

Bridgeport School provides basic skills education, community based instruction and vocational training, for students ages 5 to 22 with mild to moderate cognitive delays and challenges with social communication and/or language development.

Bridgeport Vocational Education Center is for young adults with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental differences, ages 18 to 22, providing vocational skills training, including supported job placements.

Sunrise School is a functional life skills program serving students ages 5 to 22 with moderate to severe cognitive delays associated with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities.

The Help Group's **Westview School of Arts and Technology** provides a nurturing learning environment dedicated to supporting students with learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, high functioning Autism, and/or mild emotional issues and helping them to achieve academic and personal success.*

The Help Group's **North Hills Prep** offers a college preparatory curriculum while supporting students with social emotional challenges.*

*A WASC accredited school

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.

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.

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 PROGRAMS

Doctoral Psychology Internships are full-time APA accredited internships in Health Service Psychology.

Post-Doctoral Psychology Fellowships in Pediatric Neuropsychological Assessment and in Autism Evaluation and Treatment.

Clinical Practicum Training for Psychology, Social Work, and MFT Art Therapy trainees.

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Help Group – **UCLA Neuropsychology Program** providing neuropsychological assessments and consultations.

The Help Group – **UCLA Autism Alliance** dedicated to evidence-based best practices in ASD diagnosis, intervention and treatment.

The Help Group – **USC Occupational Science Initiative** dedicated to developing evidence-based programs for children with ASD.

Managing Editor - **Delaney Brewer**

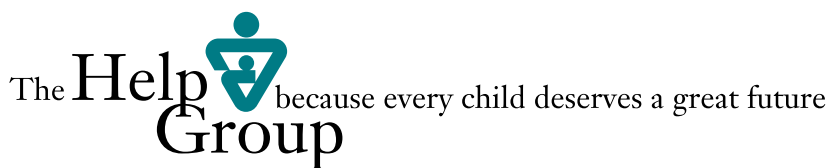
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The Help Group is widely regarded for its high standards of excellence and unique scope and breadth of services. Through its public awareness and outreach programs, university partnerships, applied research, graduate and postgraduate professional training, conferences and seminars, parent education programs, publications, and public policy efforts, The Help Group touches the lives of children with special needs and their families throughout the United States 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 School of Arts and Technology · North Hills Prep

Programs

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

Campuses

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VALLEY GLEN · VAN NUYS

www.thehelpgroup.org  

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



Very Special Innovation Fair

The Help Group – Valley Glen
September 23, 2018



Keyes for Kids Teddy Bear Golf Classic

Honoring David Lehman & Peter A. Weidman
Valencia Country Club
October 1, 2018



SUMMIT 2018

Advances and Best Practices in
Autism – ADHD – Learning Disabilities
Skirball Cultural Center
October 19-20, 2018



Annual Holiday Carnival

The Help Group - Sherman Oaks
December 8, 2018



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follow us on
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