



# PACE Setter

PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER for EDUCATION

Connect • Support • Educate



## PACE Staff Highlight: Matt Tritto

In July, PACE merged with FACES, an intensive ABA early intervention program in Redwood City. We welcome Matt Tritto, FACES Clinical Director, to the PACE management team! Here is his story:



Matt Tritto

I was always interested in teaching. After graduating from Loyola Marymount University in 2002, I found FACES. I was intrigued by the opportunity to work with children diagnosed with autism, and I've found that the teaching strategies we used were very effective in teaching important skills and improving our clients' lives.

I've gained tremendous experience at FACES providing direct intervention and supervision of intensive Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy for young children on the autism spectrum. I've also provided parent training, school consultation, and Discrete Trial Training (DTT) as well as Naturalistic Incidental Teaching.

While working at FACES, I earned my Master's in Applied Behavior Analysis from St. Cloud State University which

has further informed the work that I do.

I've now been with FACES for almost 10 years! I continue to love to work with our clients, families, and teachers. I take great pride in my work, and believe that FACES is among the best ABA providers in the Bay Area.

I have met many people from PACE and have been very impressed by the positive energy that they exude. PACE has goals that are similar to mine, and I am very excited about the opportunity to contribute to PACE. I believe that the joining of FACES and PACE will provide our clients and community even more resources and high quality services.

The work we do is very rewarding, and I am grateful for the many wonderful experiences that I have had over the years. I look forward to a bright future with PACE!

### Did You Know?

**Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA):** The approach primarily uses monitoring and positive reinforcement or prompting to teach each step of a behavior, and is the primary methodology utilized by FACES.

The potential benefits of ABA therapy have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Research, the National Research Council, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. To learn more about ABA, visit [www.abainternational.org](http://www.abainternational.org).

## PACE Events

### PACE's 10th Annual Gala

#### "Imagine"

Saturday, November 5, 2011  
Dolce Hayes Mansion, San Jose  
6pm General Registration  
VIP receive premium goodie bag

Imagine... a world without labels; a society where differences are treasured; an environment where strengths are cultivated; a place where everyone is safe; an individual without Autism; the possible... Imagine PACE. Imagine the possibilities for individuals with Autism by attending PACE's 10th Annual Gala!

The night includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, live and silent auction, and entertainment.

\$225/VIP  
\$175/General

To purchase tickets, become a sponsor or make a donation please visit [www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org), email [development@pacificautism.org](mailto:development@pacificautism.org) or call 408-245-3400. Proceeds benefit PACE programs and services.



Attendees at 2009 Gala

### Thank You To Our Current 2011 Gala Sponsors and Underwriters\*

Anonymous  
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IKON  
Silicon Valley Community News  
Vintage Wine Merchants

\*As of printing time.

## PACE Volunteer Spotlight: Janina Tanger

This fall PACE hosted Janina "Nina" Tanger as an intern at Sunny Days Preschool. Nina came to PACE from Reutlingen, Germany, where she attends Reutlingen University and studies the equivalent of Special Education. She selected PACE because of her keen interest in Autism and international experiences.

Before coming to PACE, Nina did extensive research of the organization and interviewed with Ashley Dahl, Preschool Manager, and Bridget Holian, Development Director, via Skype. After the interview, the two agreed that Nina would be a perfect fit for the preschool. One month later, Ashley says, "Nina has been wonderful; she jumped right in and has been so helpful with the kids." The staff agrees that Nina has genuine compassion for the students. At the preschool Nina

assists with morning preparation, classroom activities, lunch bunch, and afternoon playgroup.

In addition to her time at Sunny Days Preschool, Nina has toured PACE School and plans to visit FACES. When she is not interning at PACE, she is traveling to various California hot spots, including San Francisco, Big Sur, Santa Cruz, Lake Tahoe, and Yosemite National Park. Danke ("Thanks" in German) Janina Tanger!



If you are interested in volunteering for PACE, please visit our website at [www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org) or call Bridget Holian at 408-625-6175.

## Autism News

*From CDCAN Disability Rights Report.* A bill passed by the state Legislature and signed by Governor Brown on October 8 will require California insurers to provide as a covered benefit behavioral health treatments for people with Autism and related disorders starting July 2012. By shifting financial responsibility to insurers, the bill SB 770 is projected to save the state between \$100 to \$200 million, according to the Alliance of CA Autism Organizations. The governor did show reluctance in the legislation he ultimately approved, saying questions need to be resolved regarding effectiveness, duration and the cost of covered treatments. A few aspects most likely saved it from a veto: the bill's provisions cannot exceed those "essential health benefits" that will be defined soon by the federal government, the bill's sunset (ending) date is July 1, 2014, and a task force will be established to review outcomes and come up with a more permanent solution. The federal government is still determining whether ABA should be covered as an "essential benefit" under the Affordable Care Act when it is fully implemented in 2014.

## From the Executive Director's Desk



This past year was filled with exciting news and growth within and beyond PACE, all of which speak to our commitment to community development and involvement. The great success of our merger with FACES illustrates this commitment to making our services efficient, valuable, and effective for parents, educators and professionals.

The merger also allows us to expand our service model to positively affect a larger range of individuals and families, as well as position PACE as a more active resource in educating the community about Autism by developing teaching strategies for individuals with disabilities and their communities.

As an increasing number of agencies face the risk of closure due to competition and dependence on decreasing public sector money, we believe the creation of this combined entity will ensure the ongoing delivery of critical services to the early intervention sector. This merger was in part made possible by an effectiveness grant from United Way Silicon Valley. This move continues to establish PACE's status as a leading nonprofit agency providing services for individuals with Autism in the Bay Area.

To celebrate this and other accomplishments in the past year, please join us at PACE's 10th Annual Gala & Auction on November 5th at the Hayes Mansion! The theme, appropriately, is "Imagine." Imagine what is possible: for individuals with Autism, and in the next five, ten, twenty years for PACE and for the individuals and families that we serve!

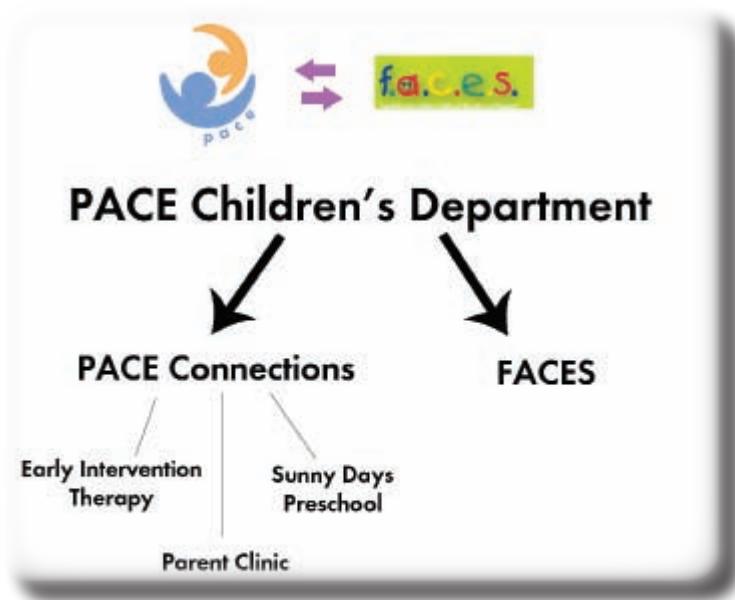
Kurt Ohlfs  
PACE Executive Director



**For more stories like these, subscribe to PACE's monthly e-newsletter, the e-PACESetter, at [www.pacificautism.org/](http://www.pacificautism.org/)!**

## PACE News

### PACE and FACES Merge



After a year of meetings, discussions and planning, in July PACE and FACES (Foundation for Autistic Childhood Education and Support), an intensive behavioral early intervention program, made a decision to merge the business operations of the two agencies under the PACE umbrella.

Recognizing the intense competitive conditions in early intervention services, during the past year both Boards of Directors had been considering options for agency collaboration. The Boards recognized the importance of combining forces to create an expanded service model to positively affect a larger range of individuals and families who have been impacted by developmental disabilities.

FACES was founded in 1995 with the mission to enable children with autism to reach their full potential by providing Northern California with a resource for early intervention services based on the science of Applied Behavior Analysis. During the past 15 years the program has grown to include school age services, and parent and school consultation.

FACES along with PACE Connections (formerly PACE Early Intervention) expands the therapeutic and educational opportunities for our youngest clients and their families (i.e. under age 6). The combined Children's Department is headed by current PACE Assistant Executive Director, Karen Kennan.

While FACES implements an intensive behavioral early intervention methodology (a.k.a. Intensive Applied Behavior Analysis or intensive ABA), PACE's early intervention program primarily utilizes the more response-based Son Rise and DIR/Floor time methodologies. Importantly, the program offerings will remain distinctive in order to provide the most comprehensive options for

families, professionals and school districts seeking early intervention services across the North and South ends of the peninsula.

PACE has taken on the administrative responsibilities for FACES which will now operate as an affiliate program of PACE. An alliance with FACES enables PACE to:

- Expand our service model to positively affect a larger range of individuals and families who have been impacted by developmental disabilities;
- Educate more families, educators, and specialists about PACE's (expanded) methodologies and its positive impact on children with Autism;
- Become more familiar with other therapies that have been used to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities, like autism;
- Become a more active resource in educating the community about autism, especially by developing teaching strategies for individuals with disabilities and their communities.

A merged program with expanded methodology options will provide a "one-stop shopping" opportunity for parents, educators and professionals seeking solutions from a credible service provider.

For more information about PACE Children's Programs go to [www.pacificautism.org/programs/pace-childrens-services](http://www.pacificautism.org/programs/pace-childrens-services).

## ADP Highlighted in Volunteer Spotlight

The PACE Adult Day program was recently highlighted in the Fall 2011 Milpitas Parks & Recreation Services Guide as a Volunteer Partner!

A big part of our Adult Day program is community work and volunteer experiences, whether it be stocking shelves at the local Best Buy or setting tables at the Milpitas senior center. (See a picture of one of our PACE School students, right, with the Vocational group back in March!)

The City of Milpitas hosts many community programs, events, and activities throughout the year that serve the Milpitas population and local surrounding areas. The guide says, "Pacific Autism Center for Education (PACE) has been a partner since March 2010. By volunteering in the community, PACE provides clients with a sense of purpose, self-worth and accomplishment, while they gain meaningful work experiences as they grow into adulthood."

We're proud of our clients in ADP!



PACE School Student Rolando joins an ADP vocational outing at the Milpitas Senior Center.



PACE clients and their two aides volunteering

## How You Can Help

Please consider making a donation to PACE in one of the following ways:

• Secure online donations can be made directly to PACE on our website at [www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org).

• Donate by mail by sending your contributions to **1880 Pruneridge Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050**.

• Donate by telephone by calling **408-245-3400** and using your credit card to make a contribution.

• Double your gift with an employee matching gift contribution.

• A donation made in someone's honor is a lovely way to acknowledge someone special and also support PACE.

• To include PACE in your workplace giving options, please contact Bridget Holian at **408-625-6175**.

• Do you have an item you want to give away? It may be on PACE's Wish List. Contact [development@pacificautism.org](mailto:development@pacificautism.org) to make an In-Kind donation.

# Great Givers

## Four Women Help PACE Fiscal Year Appeal Raise \$25,000

By Bridget Holian

*At PACE we've had the pleasure of working with a multitude of volunteers and donors. In this issue of PACESetter we turn the spotlight on the Spark Foundation, who made a successful match campaign for PACE.*

Earlier this year you received a letter asking for your financial support for our end of 2011 Fiscal Year campaign. The letter indicated that each dollar donated would be matched 100% up to \$10,000 to help support PACE's unique programs and services. The response from our PACE community was overwhelmingly positive, and ultimately helped us meet and exceed the match. In total, this campaign raised \$25,000 for PACE!

The matching gift was sponsored by the SPARK Foundation, which is composed of four remarkable women: Sheila Dermer, Mary Flanagan-Hanson, Maxine Richard and Linda Urquhart. Sheila's son Josh, Mary's son Mark, Maxine's son Randy, and Linda's son Brad are all happy residents at two of PACE's Adult homes.

You may recall reading about the history of the SPARK Foundation in the PACESetter's 2008 issue (Vol. 7, Issue 2):

"In 1984 when the mothers of six young adults with Autism got together to create a residential program for their sons they had no idea that 25 years later their idea would grow into an agency serving the needs of individuals with Autism from cradle to the community."

The article went on to describe the making of SPARK and PACE. (The complete article can be found at [www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org).)

The history of SPARK shows each mother's dedication to making sure their sons with Autism would have a comfortable home and receive quality care for the rest of their lives.

Maxine remembers all the advocating and visits to Sacramento, saying, "We worked hard to make



Mahalo House Christmas Party 2009  
l to r: Linda Urquhart, Bridget Holian,  
Maxine Richards

certain Randy and the other boys received all the necessary services; it was a lot of work, but we always remembered that if you help your child, you're helping all children!"

Maxine also calls out to younger parents: "They should see that this system is not solid, and that they need to continue the advocating process to the government to make certain all children receive quality services."

The \$10,000 match was targeted for PACE's residential program because, as Mary says, "I know that the population of adults with Autism is growing, and I want to make certain that these adults are provided for beyond the school years."

This gift, along with each SPARK members' ongoing support, is testimony to their belief that the staff at PACE is unlike any other. Linda says, "PACE's residential programming is excellent and the staff is incredible!"

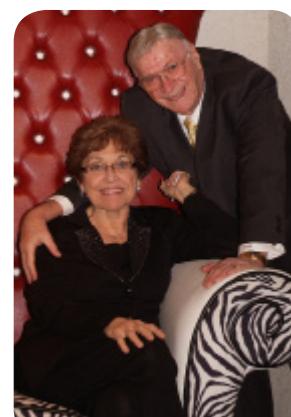


Matranga House Thanksgiving Party 2010  
Mary Flanagan-Hanson and friend

Mary agrees: "The PACE staff is caring and provides Mark the opportunities to do things and to live in the community as a 41-year-old. They give him a good life. He likes it in his home, and it truly means something to him."

Sheila shares, "Autism affects more than the one person with Autism; PACE staff give comfort and aid to all members of the family."

PACE Staff is all of the above and more, and hearing these words from the parents and the clients is priceless!



PACE Gala 2010  
Sheila & Martin Dermer

• Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and go to the "sign on" screen. Enter PACE's ID number: 472692 to register your credit and reward cards. PACE will receive a percentage of the money spent on your purchases when using preferred merchants such as Safeway, Macy's, American Airlines and Draeger's Market.

# Employee Corner

by Veronica Rodriguez

PACE welcomes the latest additions to our growing team of dedicated professionals (including our FACES staff), and wishes a happy anniversary to our seasoned veterans who have been with PACE for more than five years:

### Welcome!

March-August

- Miguel Guevara
- Kristin Berg
- Etay Chatow
- Susan Ellis
- Olivia Krakower
- Amirah Rhone
- Laura Gutierrez
- Kenda Thamess
- Tanja Turner
- Sabra Nakamoto
- Silvia Pinto

July - FACES

- Rebecca Bright
- Jacqueline Cardoza
- Cameron Farris
- Amber Fruhrt
- Maria Gomez
- Julie Gonzalez
- Holly Hem
- Amy Keeney
- Catherine Kennedy

- Kathryn Lewis
- Colleen McNeil
- Maureen McNeil
- Monica Miyahara
- Kelly Montague
- Katherine Nice
- Catherine Norrid
- Jennifer Stuhr
- Matthew Tritto
- Joyce Wong
- Cora Wood

- Ziad Hamoud 13 yrs
- Kurt Ohlfs 6 yrs
- Veronica Rodriguez 5 yrs
- Rendel Basiga 6 yrs
- Tumpa Bhar 5 yrs
- Richard Buonocore 7 yrs
- Mary Easley 7 yrs
- Jason Hernandez 14 yrs
- Naward Hernandez 15 yrs
- Danilo Jacquez 7 yrs
- Maria Basiga 12 yrs
- Marissa Basiga 10 yrs
- Betty Ripley 7 yrs

### Happy Anniversary!

March - August

- Delia Basiga 10 yrs
- Mattie Briggs 5 yrs
- Rey Bustamante 5 yrs
- Teresa Rivas 12 yrs
- Karen Kennan 6 yrs
- Foday Lebbie 15 yrs
- Laura Brown 13 yrs
- Jack Brown 6 yrs
- Sonia Chavez 12 yrs
- Michelle Fonte 12 yrs

### Employee Excellence Awards: January 7th, 2012

The second annual Employee Excellence Awards is less than three months away! In the upcoming months you will have the opportunity to provide feedback and vote on who you believe has been an excellent employee (co-worker) this year. The event will be held at Mariani's in Santa Clara, and the theme will be "Casino Night." Save the date and come to enjoy a night of fun, recognition and rewards!

### Come and Join the PACE Team!

Instructional Specialist – K-12 School  
Residential Director – MFT, LCSW preferred

**Thanks to all employees for making PACE such a great place to work!**

The SPARK Foundation meets on an as-needed basis to make important decisions regarding financial disbursements and investments. Over the past two years, the SPARK foundation has generously donated \$15,000 to PACE.

Thank you Sheila, Mary, Maxine, and Linda for your time and dedication to all that we do!

*Individuals and small foundations, like SPARK, make up a majority of the dollars donated to PACE on an annual basis. If you're interested in learning more about making an Annual Fund contribution, creating a matching gift fund, or fundraising in general please contact us at [development@pacificautism.org](mailto:development@pacificautism.org) or 408-625-6175.*

### PACE Board of Directors

Joe Dermer, President  
Geoff Davis, Treasurer  
Kurt Ohlfs, Secretary  
Valerie Burniece  
Stephanie de Raynal  
Lorna Drole  
Gail M. Hashimoto  
Harry Lopez  
Scott Johnson  
Christian E. Picone, Esq.  
Madhu Ranganathan  
Jocelyn Garcia-Thome

We are pleased to welcome our new board members from FACES, Tom Hayes and Matt Moran.

### Goodbye and Thank You to Retiring Board Members:

Gail M. Hashimoto  
Kati Miller



#### Need a Gift for the Holidays?

Making a donation in honor or in memory of someone is a lovely way to celebrate the season. Call 408.625.6175 or email [development@pacificautism.org](mailto:development@pacificautism.org) for more information.

PACE is a 501C(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions to PACE are tax-deductable as specified in the current tax laws. The Tax ID for PACE is 77-0259858.



## Ask a Therapist

Dear PACE Therapists,

*What is a Social Story™, and how is it beneficial for people on the Autism spectrum?*



According to Carol Gray, the creator of the trademarked Social Story, "The Goal of a Social Story™ is to share accurate information using a process, format, voice and content that is descriptive, meaningful and physically, socially and emotionally safe for the Audience. Every Social Story™ has an overall patient and reassuring tone" (Gray, New Social Story™ Book).

Each story's goal is to share information, NOT to get someone to change their behavior. They do not tell the child what to do, but focus on finding the underlying cause of frustration and sharing effective responses. It often shapes the student's behavior, but is not used to "tell the child what to do."

At PACE, we often use Social Stories™ to explain: 1) what the situation is, or what they can expect when doing something new, and 2) coping strategies if the situation is upsetting.

For example, a student may become upset whenever the bus at school is late. Instead of telling him that he "can't" get upset and he "has" to stay calm, we try to figure out why the late bus upsets him. Maybe he is upset because he wants to get home on time so he won't miss his favorite TV show. We will then create a social story to explain that 1. Sometimes buses are late, and 2. Even though he might get home late, he can 3. Call his mom and ask her to record the TV show.

Here are some tips for social stories:

- 1) use short, simple, DIRECT sentences
- 2) use positive, patient language
- 3) state as many facts as possible
- 4) avoid absolute compliance or inflexible statement (must, always, never)
- 5) don't assume the student's feelings (e.g. I love to be with friends)
- 6) be literal
- 7) use 1st or 3rd person ("you" statements can be threatening)

Best of luck!

If you have a question for Ask a Therapist, email [pacesetter@pacificaautism.org](mailto:pacesetter@pacificaautism.org).

## Editor's Message

Much of this newsletter is devoted to the newest member of the PACE services family: FACES, an intensive behavioral early intervention program in Redwood City. We are so excited about welcoming FACES as the newest branch of our Children's Services program.

You'll read a message by our Executive Director Kurt Ohlfs about the significance of the merger in relation to where the agency is headed; a highlight of Matt Tritto, FACES' Clinical Director; and a general introduction to what FACES is all about. Go to our relaunched blog ([blogs.boomerang.com/pace](http://blogs.boomerang.com/pace)) in the upcoming months for further introductions and updates on FACES.

Thanks for reading!

Nora Martin  
PACE Marketing and Communication Manager

## YLC to be Honored by AFP

The PACE Youth Leadership Committee, a group of 25 motivated high school students from 7 local high schools that raise money and awareness for PACE, will be honored as the Outstanding Youth Philanthropic Organization at the Silicon Valley Philanthropy Day 2011 Awards, presented by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Silicon Valley Chapter (AFP SVC) and corporate sponsor NetApp.

Other prominent individuals and organizations will be honored for their contributions to the community. The awards luncheon will take place on November 18, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara.

"We are so proud of the YLC," Kurt Ohlfs, PACE Executive Director, said. "They are an amazing group—it is a well-deserved recognition." In the past two years, the YLC has raised almost \$15,000 for PACE through two high school mixers and other fundraisers.

This year, they are also spearheading an anti-bullying seminar which will take place in local area middle schools. The goal of the seminar is to foster awareness and acceptance of students with disabilities in our community. (If you are interested in having the group visit your school, please call PACE at 408.245.3400.)

Hannah Nguyen, PACE YLC Founding President, has been involved with

PACE for three years since the YLC started. Her motivation stems from her respect for the good work that PACE does. Hannah said, "I deeply admire and will always look up to the entire staff at PACE for their ability to open their hearts to see beyond what society would label as simply 'disabled' or 'handicapped,' and embrace the unique and capable individual beneath."

Silicon Valley Philanthropy Day 2011 marks the 24th annual awards luncheon produced by AFP SVC. For more information go to [afpsiliconvalley.afpnet.org](http://afpsiliconvalley.afpnet.org).



### 2011-2012 YLC

Hannah Nguyen, Founding President  
Jackie Jin, President

Ji Hyun An, Incoming President

Lily Chen, Activity Chair

Kevin Lin, PR/Marketing Chair

Isha Patnaik, Research Chair

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Amritha Sriram

Abhilash Suresh

Apricot Tang

Caitlyn Tung

Joseph Wang



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A newsletter providing information on PACE programs and services.

Published by Karen Kennan

Edited by Nora Martin

Contributors: Kurt Ohlfs, Karen Kennan, Bridget Holian, Nora Martin, PACE staff

Executive Director: Kurt Ohlfs

PACE's mission is to provide high quality programs for individuals with Autism and its related developmental disabilities, so they may experience the satisfaction and fulfillment that accompany learning, self-expression, self-care, productive work and interpersonal and community experiences.

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