



PACE Setter

PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER for EDUCATION

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SAVE THE DATE

PACE 2012 GOLF CLASSIC



Pacific Autism Center for Education

Cinnabar Hills Golf Club
Monday, May 21, 2012

PACE Staff Highlight: Employee Excellence

Recently, PACE employees selected the 2nd Annual employee excellence award nominees. Here they are, with excerpts from their nominations:

- Christian Taeza, School Rm 1: "An active team player...and will accept any duty without hesitation."
- Adriana Carrasco, Rm 2: "Starts and ends the day with positive affect and a smile."
- Jason Louie, Rm 3: "Has great professionalism in community settings and is considered the 'steady hand' in the classroom."
- Susan Ellis, Rm 4: "Flexible and helps without hesitation...ensures that students are engaged during community outings and at jobsites."
- Miguel Guevara, Rm 5: "Communicates well with peers and takes on additional duties without being asked."
- Sonia Aimonitti, Rm 6: "Has high affect, reliability, professionalism, and devotion to the students and team."
- Karla Garcia, Therapy Coordinator: "Communicates effectively while demonstrating a constant positive and cheerful demeanor."
- Natalie Barrales, Connections: "Demonstrates depth of character, genuine concern for others, and due diligence in honing her skills."
- Irene Chan, Sunny Days Preschool: "An integral part of the team due to her kindness, organization, and attention to detail."
- Catherine Kennedy, FACES: "Learns and applies complex skills quickly."

Dedicated to her clients and is an asset on her teams."

- Rebecca Bright, FACES: "Has natural leadership skills that repeatedly improve the program. A great model of dedication."
- Mohamed Kamara, Miracle House: "Goes above and beyond to help not just the residents but also the parents of the program and his coworkers."
- Nancy Moiforay-Gbondo, Matranga House: "Takes initiative to ensure that residents are always well taken care of and have a great living experience."
- Ricardo Velasquez, Meadows House: "Motivates his peers by promoting the agency mission and the overall quality of care for the residents."
- Foday Lebbie, Mahalo House: "Goes above and beyond to ensure the needs of the residents are met. Strong supporter of the PACE mission."
- Kamaljeet Kaur, LaMar House: "Very self-motivated and a good role model for other employees."

Special congratulations to the winners: Sonia Aimonitti, Rebecca Bright, Irene Chan, and Nancy Moiforay-Gbondo!



(l to r) Kevin, School student, and Miguel, Rm 5 nominee

PACE Events

PACE 4th Annual Golf Classic
Monday, May 21, 2012
Cinnabar Hills Golf Course, San Jose
11am Registration; 12:30pm Tee-Off
Scramble Format

Your ticket includes: lunch; 18 beautiful fairways; refreshments on course; goodie bag valued at over \$150; exciting contests (closest to the pin, putting, hole-in-one); great dinner and awards; live auction; team picture; and more.

Hole-in-One wins a 2012 GMC Acadia!

\$195/Single, \$780/Foursome
\$60/Dinner Only

To purchase tickets, become a sponsor or make a donation please visit www.pacificautism.org, email development@pacificautism.org or call **408-245-3400**. All proceeds benefit PACE programs and services.

Save the Date
PACE's 11th Annual Gala:
"Harvest Moon"
Saturday, September 29, 2012
Private Residence, Atherton

FACES Bay Area Real Estate Roundtable **SOLD OUT!**
Workshops, Dinner, Auctions, and Golf
May 29-30, 2012
Ritz Carlton Half Moon Bay

This annual golf event has always been a successful fundraiser for FACES in the past. Now that FACES and PACE have merged, the event will benefit PACE and FACES!

Donation Drawing Prizes!

Need not be present or registered for either golf event to win either of these donation drawing prizes. Buy tickets at www.pacificautism.org!

1. Golf or Spa Weekend at Corde Valle Golf Resort and Spa

- 1 night in luxurious bungalow
- Choose between 2 rounds of golf with cart OR a spa experience
- \$1500 value; 1 ticket/\$5, 12/\$60

2. 2013 Masters Tournament Badges and Lodging for Two

- Two night stay for two at a spacious house in Augusta, GA
- Tournament entry for two for 4/4/2013 and 4/5/2013
- \$100/ticket

PACE Volunteer Spotlight: Adele Behn

PACE is blessed with over 100 volunteers that come in throughout the year. In this issue we spotlight Adele Behn, who has shown commitment, openness, and kind spirit with our children and staff throughout her two years as a Preschool Classroom Volunteer.

When Adele first toured the preschool a few years ago, she was impressed by the program and its affect-based methodology, which was then led by Education Director Marcia Goldman. Later when she toured the School and Preschool in the formal volunteer process, she was struck by the excitement and energy of the PACE staff and the inviting environment. She couldn't wait to get involved!

Adele has a special education teaching credential, so this volunteer opportunity was a natural step. Adele enjoys working with the preschool children by helping them with their interactions and

developmental experiences. "I really value the wonderful community at the preschool: how the children, both typical and on the Autism spectrum, work together as they learn and grow," Adele says. Adele is also inspired by the community of staff and how they function as a supportive team.



Adele and Lina

Adele will be filling in as a Substitute Preschool Teacher while one of our staff members is on Maternity Leave. She is delighted to join the team as a co-teacher. Thank you Adele for your two years of volunteer service!

If you are interested in volunteering for PACE, please visit our website or call 408-625-6175.

Autism News

A new study published by the Center for Disease Control shows an alarming rise in Autism numbers: **1 in 88 U.S. children has a diagnosis of Autism.** This is a 23 percent increase over the 2009 report of 1 in 110 children. The report also states that boys are five times more likely than girls to have Autism, with 1 in 54 boys diagnosed. Hispanic and African American children also showed the biggest increases in autism numbers. Although the CDC points out that some of the increase can be attributed to the way children are identified, diagnosed and served, it is not certain how much of the increase is attributed to those factors. For more information, visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov. For information on Autism in California and the Bay Area, visit www.pacificautism.org/about/research.

From the Desk of the Board President

The new numbers from the CDC putting Autism at every 1 in 88 children in the U.S. places even greater importance on the work we do at PACE. It is critical for agencies like ours to move forward in strength with a firm understanding of how statistics like these affect us in our work.

For example, our Children's Services program was affected by two changes. First, the DDS raised the bar of eligibility for an autism diagnosis in 2009, dropping the average growth rate of diagnosis from 13% to 1.9% in 2009, which somewhat rebounded in 2010 and 2011 with a 3.2% and 7.1% growth rate respectively. With this reduction, it has become increasingly imperative for us to reach those who need our help beyond the DDS system. Which brings us to the second change: a DDS mandate requires parents to seek out insurance coverage as the first line of payee. So we are increasingly working with insurance companies to cover the cost of therapy and care, as regional center eligibility and support dollars continue to plummet.

In our School, it is critical for us to nurture partnerships with other agencies and interested parties to continue to provide quality services. We are already taking steps in this direction: formalizing our Behavioral Services program, with a Behavioral Services Director from the department at FACES, leverages our network of expertise.

And in our Residential Program, we look to collaborate in the areas of residential housing models moving forward in the future. As more children are diagnosed, the need for a residential care plan becomes imperative as these children grow older. Here at PACE, we are developing a Parent Collaborative Home (PCH) model so that parents can learn from our residential program structure to develop their own residential plan.

You can support these efforts and PACE while also having a good time at the 4th Annual PACE Golf Classic on May 21! It should be another good year of golf, sun, prizes, and fun.

Madhu Ranganathan

Editor's Note: We are happy to introduce Madhu as PACE's new Board President. She is the Global CFO for 24/7 Customer Inc. In 2012 she stepped up as PACE's new Board President after joining the Board in 2010. In her role she also has focused on the Board's fundraising subcommittee, where they work on nurturing community partnerships. Along with the Board, she looks forward to guiding PACE in the years to come.

ADP Program Closed at the End of April

After five years of successful operation, our Adult Day Program (ADP) has closed as of April 30th. This was a tough decision for our Board of Directors who ultimately came to realize that the agency could no longer sustain the financial losses associated with running a small program of this nature.

Over the past few years we were fortunate to cultivate a supportive and compassionate team of staff supporting an intensive community-based program. The ADP program was officially recognized by SARC (San Andreas Regional Center) as a pilot program in October 2005 with

the mission of providing an intensive level of community-based support focused specifically on individuals affected by profound Autism.

Unfortunately we discovered that in order to accomplish this, the program required a more intensive level of staffing and design support than was afforded by the reimbursement rate of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Over the years, the increasing operations costs, coupled with even further reduced DDS rates, expanded the deficit to a point that is no longer sustainable, and the Board had to make the difficult decision to close the program.

ADP Worksites Through the Years



Embassy Suites



Streetlight Records



Tony & Alba's

PACE News

School Welcomes New Program Director



Breenu Sra has had a close relationship with PACE for many years. In her tenure as a School Psychologist with the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE), she was involved in the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) process for many of our School students and was impressed by the program here. For our 20th anniversary video, for example, Breenu, then with the SCCOE, said, "PACE is one of the programs where they are striving to better the lives of these children."

So when the opportunity came to work as PACE's School Program Director, Breenu jumped at the chance!

Breenu has over 10 years of experience working in the Special Education domain for schools across California. She received her BA in Liberal Arts from the University of Michigan, and later earned her MA in Clinical Psy-

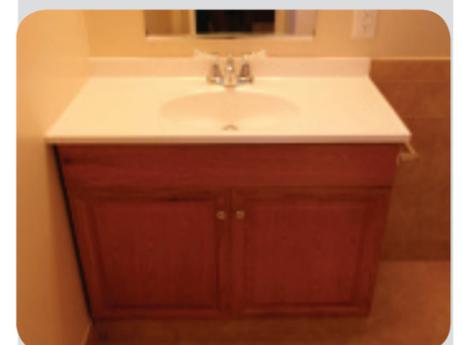
chology from the Center for Humanistic Studies and a Specialist in Education credential in School Psychology from La Sierra University. She also expects to receive her clear Administrative Services credential in 2012 and is currently working towards being fully licensed as an MFT.

Breenu sits as a commissioner on the Santa Clara County Child Abuse Council and received commendation from the Santa Clara Mayor in 2006. She has been a School Psychologist with the Santa Clara County Office of Education as well as the Franklin McKinley School District, and most recently worked as a Vice Principal with Pine Hill Non-Public School (NPS) until transitioning to PACE in 2012.

In her role as the School Program Director, Breenu facilitates IEP development and coordination, directs school administration, and provides strategic direction and staff leadership support. We welcome Breenu to the PACE team!

Mahalo Bathroom Renovated with Funds from Gala Fund-a-Need

During the Fund-a-Need at our 2011 Gala, PACE raised over \$44,400 for our residential maintenance needs. With part of those funds, PACE was able to completely renovate Mahalo House's bathroom! It was completed in February 2012. Thank you generous Fund-a-Need donors!



Sink renovation



Shower renovation

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

Great Givers

By Bridget Holian

Over 20 years ago, Trucie and Mike met in Davis, CA on a blind date set up by Trucie's little sister, Jennifer. Quickly the two fell in love, married, and started their family.

Their family plans shifted when they were told that their oldest child and only son, Jacob, had PDD-NOS (Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified) at two years old and Autism at age seven. After utilizing all the possible services for Jacob in the Davis area, Trucie and Mike realized that Jacob needed premium services and support.

Diligently, Trucie and Mike searched for the best school for their son and family. Trucie was looking for signs and confirmation of the right place for their boy. The signs poured in when she visited PACE in 2004. The PACE team and methodology were just what they were seeking.

Over seven years have passed, and Trucie and Mike continue to be impressed with the genuine love and care Jacob receives at PACE.

For her part, Jacob's teacher Kaberi Bhattacharjee is affected by Jacob's impact in the classroom. "Jacob brings a loving warmth to our classroom each morning when he greets us with his beautiful smile, hugs, and high fives," Kaberi says. "With patience, positive

engagement, and affect, we are able to effectively reach and teach Jacob, and it is so rewarding for us to see Jacob happily engaged in his work and interactions in the classroom!"

Trucie and Mike show their appreciation of PACE's services in many ways. They contribute generously every year to the PACE Philanthropic Community Fund. In addition, the couple regularly selects PACE for "in honor of" and "in memory of" campaigns by sending letters and emails to family members seeking financial support for PACE.

The DeWit family and friends are generous donors to PACE, and we are honored to have them as part of our PACE Philanthropic Community.

To select PACE as beneficiary of gifts in memory or honor of someone, please call 408-625-6175 or email development@pacificautism.org



Jacob

Innovative Giving: Salesforce

Have you heard of Salesforce? Many customer support professionals and engineers are familiar with the firm, and now so is PACE. Salesforce has an amazing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) model that they call their "integrated philanthropic approach, the 1/1/1 model."

- 1% Time: The foundation promotes Salesforce employees to donate their time in their community
- 1% Product: They donate Salesforce CRM (Customer Relationship Management) licenses to help nonprofits increase their efficacy
- 1% Equity: Founding stock provides support for the foundation's initiatives.

In January 2012, the PACE Development Department shifted resources, and now utilizes Salesforce for all data tracking, donor communication, and fund processing.

In this transition, PACE benefited from Salesforce's 1% product donation, and now holds 10 Salesforce CRM licenses to guide and track our grant and donor communication processes.

Caitlyn Nguyen, PACE's Development Associate now manages the data and is excited to integrate Salesforce in our various communication methods. Caitlyn uses Salesforce daily. She exclaims, "Salesforce is so dynamic and has such a great online user community support! We're able to track and share our campaign goals with greater efficiency."

Thank you Salesforce for supporting PACE and our global community!



• Go to 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.

• Find us on Facebook for even more photos and status updates! www.facebook.com/pacificautismce



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!

October - December 2011

- Cindy Van
- Susan Santillan
- Gabriel Trousdale
- Amy Simons
- Jessica Nogare
- Caitlyn Kilgore
- Melissa Fisher
- Michael Wu
- Julie Tea
- Skylar Gilmore

January - March 2012

- Joy Cancino
- Grace Padilla
- Michael Quintana
- Breenu Sra
- Jessica Judkins
- Julia Heller
- Adele Behn

Happy Anniversary!

September - December

- Troy Scott, 11 yrs
- Kristen Rodriguez, 12 yrs
- Aida Urena, 10 yrs
- Bessy Dominguez, 5 yrs
- Rhoda Austin, 6 yrs
- Nelson Basiga, 10 yrs
- Nani Prado, 10 yrs
- Melba Tolentino, 14 yrs
- Sara Gutierrez, 7 yrs
- Elvia Aguilera, 8 yrs
- Teresa Gonzalez, 10 yrs
- Leonora Solis, 10 yrs
- Nancy Moiforay-GBondo, 15 yrs
- Chay Xaochay, 16 yrs
- Nery Bravo, 6 yrs
- Rosita Dacuycuy, 10 yrs
- Catherine Njie-Hamoud, 10 yrs
- Marlene Taeza, 10 yrs
- Prince Kaikai, 5 yrs
- Zona Rice, 15 yrs

January - March

- Ricardo Velazquez, 6 yrs
- Chris Pono, 10 yrs
- Peggy Tanger-Ford, 5 yrs
- Alejandra Jahen, 12 yrs
- Helena Serpa, 11 yrs
- Anne Chen, 5 yrs
- Kanwarjit Kang, 13 yrs
- Mary Carter, 15 yrs
- Nancy Brown, 19 yrs
- Adriana Carrasco, 5 yrs
- Matu Kamara, 19 yrs
- Ravinder Kaur, 10 yrs
- Aminata Jalloh, 5 yrs
- Rosie Villarreal, 10 yrs
- Karla Garcia, 5 yrs
- Daysi Aguilar, 11 yrs
- Josephine Mahoi, 5 yrs
- Sonia Aimonetti, 14 yrs

Important Information for all PACE Employees!

The PACE benefit open enrollment period is fast approaching. We will be announcing the date and time for the PACE benefit fair at the end of May 2012. Open enrollment is the time to make changes to your existing PACE benefit plan. If you have any questions regarding your benefits, please do not hesitate to contact Veronica N. Rodriguez, HR Director, and or Michelle Fonte, HR Generalist.

Come and Join the PACE Team!

PACE School – Special Education Teacher L1/L2

PACE School – Behavior Support Associate

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



**Need a Gift for
Mother's or
Father's Day?**

Making a donation in honor of someone is a lovely way to show your appreciation. Call 408.625.6175 or email development@pacificautism.org for more information.

PACE Board of Directors

Madhu Ranganathan, President
Geoff Davis, Vice President
Harry Lopez, Treasurer
Kurt Ohlfs, Secretary
Valerie Burniece
Stephanie de Raynal
Joe Dermer
Jeff Fallick
Tom Hayes
Matt Moran
Christian E. Picone, Esq.

Goodbye and Thank You to Departing Board Members:

Jocelyn Garcia-Thome
Scott Johnson



For more stories like these, subscribe to PACE's e-newsletter, the e-PACEsetter, at www.pacificautism.org!

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



Ask a Therapist

Dear PACE Therapists,
How do music therapy, speech language pathology, and occupational therapy interact and work together?



Music Therapy accesses alternative neural pathways to support goals in other disciplines like speech and occupational therapy. At the core, we use the music to meet the student in that moment and provide experiences to transform normally "maladaptive" behaviors into aesthetically expressive and functional ones.

We also do joint sessions with Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Occupational Therapists (OTs). The students don't seem to feel like they are doing work when in music therapy, and so they engage more with the activities and their peers or staff/therapists. When the staff can use the musical cues (like "Brush your teeth/brush your teeth"), the kids can generalize those social behaviors discussed in music into other environments.

On what skills does music therapy focus?

- Communication – vocalizing, increasing word length (adding syllables), following directions, saying new words, use of gestures
- Motor - motor planning to produce the appropriate motor response at the appropriate time; coordinating use of two hands
- Social Development – social attention and engagement, eye gaze, practicing greeting peers through song and gesture (includes devices), singing to peers, listening to peers play, taking turns with peers, emotional expression
- Regulation – music helps students get to a calm place and they communicate more (using icons and talking) and interact more with their peers

What music strategies can I use in the home?

- Pick a song the child likes and make it part of a routine
- Use visuals to make choices (ask your SLP if you need help)
- Explore singing or dancing with the music and coordinating movement
- Create personal songs to help with daily living activities, transitions, new skills and behaviors
- Talk about concepts like loud/soft, fast/slow, up/down

Indeed, all children can benefit from these music strategies while developing and learning. Have fun!

Special thanks to Lauren Bevilacqua, Music Therapist, and the PACE Speech-Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy Team. If you have a question for Ask a Therapist, email pacesetter@pacificautism.org.

YLC Hosts Another Successful Mixer

PACE's Youth Leadership Committee (YLC) held its third annual "Breaking The Silence Mixer" on March 24th, 2012 at San Jose City College. Complete with a Wild 94.9 DJ and lighting by Top Shelf Lighting, the mixer brought together over 700 teenagers from around the Bay Area to dance the night away and raise funds and awareness for PACE.



YLC Members

In the past two years, the Breaking the Silence mixer has raised almost \$15,000 for PACE. This year was no different with the YLC raising almost \$6,500 for PACE. The mixer has become a primary way for the YLC to raise funds. Every year it takes place in the San Jose City College gym and is chaperoned by PACE volunteers and committee members. Since the first mixer in 2010, PACE has become a familiar name in high schools across the Bay Area.



PACE Staff Volunteering

To receive an application for the 2012/2013 school year, high school students can email development@pacificautism.org.



Mixer in full swing

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
- Jennie Xu, Secretary
- Sirisha Sakhamuru, Treasurer
- Catherine Chang
- Jason Chen
- Emily Chu
- Shangnon Fei
- Mallika Kapur
- Isha Kawatra
- Amna Khan
- Janice Lin
- Ally Nguyen
- Divya Sarathy
- Indu Seeni
- Pranav Sharma
- Amritha Sriram
- Abhilash Suresh
- Apricot Tang
- Caitlyn Tung
- Joseph Wang

PACE Awarded Sobrato Foundation Matching Grant

The Sobrato Family Foundation has awarded PACE a Challenge grant for the third time in six years! The grant amount has increased while maintaining the same unrestricted spending guidelines.

The Sobrato Family Foundation provides capital that support nonprofits' capacity to deliver services, which as a result strengthens the local community in the Silicon Valley.

The grant value of \$45,000 was received by PACE in January 2012. This amount was **unconditional**, meaning that we receive this amount with no strings attached or matching challenge necessary.

However, next year's (2013) grant amount of \$47,260 is conditional upon PACE matching that amount.

This means that we will be in touch with you, PACESetter readers, in 2013 about helping us reach our goal!

We thank the Sobrato Foundation for their generosity, and we're excited to again be part of this wonderful opportunity.



Farewell to Development Director Bridget Holian

Bridget Holian came to PACE nearly four years ago as Annual Fund Manager. In her tenure, she formalized our Philanthropic Community (based on giving levels), developed our volunteer program, and created our successful Youth Leadership Committee (YLC). She also continued the tradition of managing our exciting annual Galas as well as established our Golf Classics.

Last July, she became Development Director as Karen Kennan moved to her current position as the Assistant Executive Director. Bridget took oversight over the Development Department with drive and zeal. Among her accomplishments, she researched and guided the transition

to our new database, Salesforce.

We will miss her infectious enthusiasm and high energy! We wish her well as she makes the move to a new job and home in San Francisco with her husband, Matt.



Bridget, far left, with PACE staff, Board, and YLC members at the AFP Philanthropy Awards 2011



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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, Omar Aniff, 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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