

PACE Setter

PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER for EDUCATION

Connect • Support • Educate



PACE Welcomes New Marketing and Development Team

By Karen Kennan, Assistant Executive Director



Marta Weinstock

PACE welcomes Marta Weinstock, Marketing and Resource Development Manager and Kellie Welch, Fund Development Associate.

At PACE, we believe that fund raising and marketing are two halves of the same whole that must work together to achieve our mission to enhance the lives of people impacted by autism through innovation, exceptional education and compassionate care. For fund raising that means securing funding to develop, maintain and grow programs. For marketing it means communicating our message to the public.

Marta Weinstock, is developing



Kellie Welch

and implementing a comprehensive marketing and development plan that will increase agency revenue and visibility. In addition to her role facilitating communications, marketing, research, and public relations, Marta is also responsible for managing resource development in the form of fund raising as well as new business ventures.

Before joining PACE, Marta managed marketing, operations and finance in start-ups, non-profits, and Fortune 500 businesses. In addition to her robust business experience, Marta is passionate about health and wellness.

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PACE 2017 Golf Classic

PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER FOR EDUCATION

You're Invited!

Friday, May 19th, 2017

Get your foursome together now!



12:30 Shotgun Tee Off

- Early Registration: \$225/ Single | \$900 Foursome
- 18 beautiful fairways with golf cart
- Full lunch and refreshments
- Tee prizes and exciting on-course contests
- Complimentary swag bag
- Awards for winning teams
- Raffle and Live Auction
- Dinner and cocktails

www.pacificautism.org/events

Event Chairs: Joe Dermer and Tom Marchok

Ask a Therapist

How Can I Expand my Child's Independent Play Skills?

By Joyce Marashlian, BCaBA, and Meredith Loscialpo, BCBA

Keeping your child busy and engaged is a difficult task for any parent. For a parent with a child with special needs, you have even more things to consider. How do you keep toys and activities entertaining for long periods of time? What kinds of activities can you provide to keep your child busy? If your child is only interested in a handful of toys or activities, how can you expand the number of things he or she will play with?

Here are a few ideas that can help you keep your child engaged at home:

1. Setting up your play environment:

- Keep it organized- put toys in containers that contain themes or categories of items.
- Rotate toys -Every month, switch out the toys or toy bins for toys that have been in storage.

2. Smart ways to use highly preferred items and activities

- Try not to use highly preferred items as a leisure activity for long periods of time—if you allow your child to play with the Ipad during all of their downtime, the Ipad will lose its value as something that is preferred. Instead, teach your child to engage in other leisure activities and use these preferred items as motivation to complete activities.

- Use preferred items to your advantage—allow your child to get access to these preferred items after they do something you wanted them to do. Use these items as motivation for completing a task, playing a game with you, or trying out a new toy.

3. Expand your child's play repertoire.

- Try to find new toys that have some aspect that is similar to their favorite toy. For example, if your child loves Legos, try playing with blocks, Lincoln Logs, or K'nex. If he or she loves Mickey Mouse videos, look for Mickey puzzles, Mickey board games, or Mickey stickers. You can also create sensory bins that include preferred textures or sounds.
- Teach them how to play with toys - Some children might not know how to use a toy, and therefore you may think that they don't enjoy the toy or activity. Model how to use different toys and then allow access to a preferred item after your child tries it. You might have to present a new toy a few times until your child enjoys it. Don't give up on the first try!

- Engage with old toys in new, fun and interesting ways. Instead of just rolling the train along the train track, roll the train on a makeshift ramp down the stairs. You can even combine more than one item and play with them together! For example, take the ball and knock down some stuffed animals! Hide little toys in Playdoh and have your child dig through it to find the toys.



4. Create structure during play

- Put together an activity schedule - Write down a list of activities or take pictures of activities and create a visual schedule. Teach your child to follow the schedule by looking at their visual, then completing the task or activity that matches that picture. An alternate way to do this is to put several activities in a box and hand it to your child. Teach your child to pull out and complete each activity that is in the box. You can save a highly preferred toy or activity as the

last item on the schedule.

- Use close-ended activities - Use activities that have a clear ending, such as puzzles, Mr. Potato Head, or matching tasks. Your child will know when to clean it up and move on to the next activity. If you are using open-ended activities, such as building Legos or coloring, think of ways to make them close-ended, such as using a timer or setting a number limit. For example, "build with blocks for 4 minutes," or "color 1 page."
- Set up a designated play area Set up a space in the playroom specifically to do an activity schedule.

For more information on this, please watch our series on independent play on Porchlight! <http://www.porchlighteducation.org/independent-play-skills/> It may also be beneficial to talk to your child's teacher or therapists to find some new ideas for toys and activities your child likes.



porchlighteducation.org

PACE: A Message from the Executive Director

By Kurt Ohlfs, Executive Director

The benefit of being connected to the daily life of our students is the gift of celebrating all of the milestones and progress of our children. We often feel like a family taking care of the students and taking care of each other; watching, listening, learning, and engaging with compassion.

The demand for our services from parents and school districts is staggering. Demand for our services at Sunny Days Preschool and K2 is encouraging us to expand our early intervention programs including adding extended hours and on site Occupational and Speech Therapy sessions to serve our extended San Jose community. "The most powerful tool we have right now to make a difference in the lives of children with ASD is early identification," says Stuart Shapira, Chief Medical Officer at the CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. At PACE, we also believe that early intervention strategies are the key to helping children affected by autism live more fulfilling lives.

The demand for early intervention services by both parents and the school districts we serve, has created a need to upgrade and renovate our facilities in both the Sunny Days Preschool and Kindergarten classrooms, including the addition of a second kindergarten classroom. This is a growth moment for our Children's Services and we are excited to join forces with many volunteers and key donors to make this project a reality.

PACE Board of Directors

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LITTLE FACES AT SUNNY DAYS PRESCHOOL

By Karen Kennan, Assistant Executive Director

Little Faces is an exciting new collaboration of our current Sunny Days Preschool program and Faces Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services.

Under the direction of Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), Elise Tran, the program offers 1:1 early intervention for children ages 2-6 in an afternoon clinic setting following the preschool morning. Sunny Days students are welcome to join Faces clients for any of part of the program. All staff are trained extensively in behavioral principles and Applied Behavior Analysis and a clinical supervisor will always be present to facilitate activities and routines. Individual ABA goals are developed and targeted throughout the clinic session to include independent skills, social opportunities, appropriate play skills, circle time behavior and management of challenging behaviors.

A typical daily schedule looks like this:

- **12:00-12:15 Recess Movement**
A break for kiddos transitioning out of their preschool day as they build up their appetites for lunch!
- **12:15-12:45: Bathroom and Lunch Bunch:** This may include "adventure bites"- a fun desensitization procedure for

children to be exposed to novel foods paired with their favorite snacks, peer interactions, requesting preferred items, facilitated socialization using visuals of familiar toys and characters.

- **12:45-1:00: Play Stations:** With a therapist assigned to each section, students rotate through divided centers focused on several play activities- Pretend Play, Library, Games, Art.
- **1:00-2:00: Individual ABA programming**
- **2:00-2:15: Circle Time**
- **2:15-2:30: Pack Up** Free time as parents come to pick up

If you are interested in learning more about this program contact Elise Tran at elisetran@facesforkids.org



PACE Welcomes New Marketing and Development Team

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She continues to be devoted to a healthy lifestyle and maintains an active yoga practice. Marta is committed to serving the community and making a positive impact on the lives of others.

Another addition to the Marketing and Fund Development team is Kellie Welch. Kellie, recently returned to the Bay Area after spending time in Seattle, Washington. She graduated from the University of Washington, with a B.A. in Public Health & Psychology and transitioned into professional life as a Family Resource Coordinator handling special needs' children and family case management. Kellie's recent experience has given her the desire to continue to support special needs families.

Kellie is confidently taking on the agency's fund raising database, social media oversight,

volunteer management and agency events.

PACE Executive Director, Kurt Ohlfs is delighted to welcome Marta and Kellie to the administrative department and comments that, in addition to their skills and experience, they bring a new level of energy and enthusiasm to the team. "Plus" he adds "with her commitment to health and wellness, Marta is encouraging us all to take steps to lead a healthier lifestyle!"

We look forward to seeing exciting new ventures from this dynamic duo and invite you to join their efforts as a committee member or participant in future events.

Marta and Kellie can be reached at marketing@pacifi



REGISTER NOW! APRIL 28 & 29, 2017

AUTISM INNOVATIONS
GLOBAL IMPACT CONFERENCE
THE STATE OF THE SCIENCE

Proudly sponsored by Shenk Family Foundation

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN
DR. MICHAEL ALESSANDRI, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

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DR. AN ALAN ENOCH, UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI	DR. JAMERON SULLIVAN, MICHAEL ECKHART'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN'S SPECIALTY SYSTEM
DR. ANANDA KAND, HEADS OF PACIFIC'S SURVIVAL AGENCIES	

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.ELSFORAUTISMGLOBALCONF.ORG

1870 LIMESTONE CREEK ROAD, AURORA, FLORIDA 32418

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS & TOPICS

PACE is partnering with Els for Autism & the Els Foundation

www.elsforautism.org

PACE is a sponsor for the Innovations Conference!

Full Details & to Register Today visit: www.elsforautismglobalconf.org

Long-Term Appreciated Stock

PACE accepts stock donations and can help facilitate the transaction with a few simple steps.

Why donating stocks and other securities is one of the most tax-efficient ways to give.

A charitable contribution of long-term appreciated securities — i.e. stocks, bonds and/or mutual funds that have realized significant appreciation over time — is one of the most tax-efficient ways to give. This method of giving has become increasingly popular in recent years because of two key advantages:

- Any long-term appreciated securities with unrealized gains (meaning they were purchased over a year ago, and have a current value greater than their original cost) may be donated to a public charity and a tax deduction taken for the full fair market value of the securities.
- Since the securities are donated rather than sold, capital gains taxes from selling the securities no longer apply. The more appreciation the securities have, the greater the tax savings will be.

Contact Karen Kennan 408-625-6176 to discuss your donation of appreciated stock

Ways 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 www.pacificautism.org

- Donate by mail by sending your contributions to **1880 Pruneridge Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050.**
- Donate by phone **408-245-3400**

- Double your gift with an employee matching gift contribution. To include PACE in your workplace giving options, please contact development@pacificautism.org.

- View the **PACE Wish List** here: www.pacificautism.org/donate/pace-wish-list/.
- Make a donation in someone's honor.

PACE School Leadership

By Marta Weinstock, Marketing and Resource Development Manager

The leadership of PACE School is bringing new inspiration. Dr. Naomi Betiku, Director of Education and Behavioral Services, holds a doctoral degree from UCLA in Developmental Psychology and has recently joined PACE with over 16 years of experience in childhood developmental delays, including specialization in autism. Mary Tucker, graduated with a B.A. in Psychology from Duke University, compliments the team with special education credentials and 4 years of experience as a public school Special Education Teacher. Ms. Tucker joins PACE to develop a brand new position, Teacher Resource Specialist, and is chartered to implement the latest technology and resources in PACE classrooms to enhance our mission. Both Dr. Betiku and Ms. Tucker are drawing from their depth of experience working with the special needs community to continue to advance the PACE School curriculum.

Dr. Naomi Betiku says, "it is necessary to approach each student not just from their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) but from a comprehensive understanding of who they are as a person and what behaviors might be most problematic for each of them." At PACE, we are creating a long-term strategy that focuses on diminishing aberrant behaviors safe-

ly and early in development. As Ms. Tucker noted, "If we allow unsafe behaviors, we are doing a disservice to the students and the parents." In order for us to advance the knowledge base of instruction and behavioral management for staff, PACE dedicates two and a half hours a month for staff training.

Mary Naomi



Parent Outreach Program is a new forum that allows us to connect with our parents and subsequently creates a deeper connection to our mission. As Dr. Betiku says, "it is easier to have compassionate care when we meet the parents and hear their personal stories. This helps us to better connect and effectively educate the students." Ms. Tucker adds, "It makes it clear as to why we are here and the value we can add to these children's lives."

PACE's Youth Leadership Committee

By Kellie Welch, Fund Development Associate

The nonprofit realm relies heavily on the generous support and commitment of volunteers, and PACE is no different. We realize the importance of building philanthropic values in youth and the unique opportunity volunteering allows students to build skills that will be imperative as they head off to college and into the workforce. That is why in 2008 PACE founded the Youth Leadership Committee (YLC) for high school aged students. After 9 years, PACE continues to support the YLC efforts, to help build strong youth leaders in our community.

In 2017, YLC is planning three "Operations Enable" autism awareness workshops and a PACE benefit concert, "Voices for Autism".

The YLC hosted Operation Enable workshop events on February 18th at Calabazas Library, San Jose and March 3rd @ Monte Vista High School, Cupertino. The goal of offering workshops is to spread awareness amongst youth about the negative effects of bullying individuals with autism. During the

presentation, the YLC lead participants on an experiential journey exploring what it would be like to have autism. For those that participate in these workshops, it is an eye-opening experience to see how the little things can be so difficult for those who have autism.

YLC will be hosting the "Voices for Autism" event on April 15th, 12:00- 4:00 pm, at Santana Row, San Jose. This event brings together local youth musicians from the Bay Area to participate in a benefit concert to raise funds for PACE programs and continues to bring awareness to individuals affected autism. Spread the word. We hope to see you there!



2017 YLC Committee Chairs

• Go to www.escrip.com and 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.

• Donate your old vehicle to **Donate for Charity!** Call 866-392-4483 or use their website www.donateforcharity.com. Donate for Charity handles all the details and distributes the net proceeds to PACE!

Residential News

By Janice Morreira, Residential Director

The sense of family in our six group homes is due to our wonderful 75+ person staff that care for our 36 PACE Residents, 24-hrs a day 7 days a week. THANK YOU for your service!

In December, the staff held a Gingerbread House Contest. The goal was for the staff and residents to build a house that represented their home with the PACE Mission. The contest was to collectively create the BEST gingerbread house.

Here is a snip-it of the winning description written by a direct caretaker of our children's homes:

"During this past year we've had our ups and our downs. We are a home with many different personalities... Throughout the year we have gone through many changes...within the house. However there are two things that remain consistent; 1) the love we have for each other and 2) We at Morehouse remain a team".

To all our Direct Support Professionals at PACE and other residential group homes through-

out the Bay Area, YOU are appreciated more than you'll ever know!

If you are interested in learning more about the PACE residential program, please contact Janice Morreira at 408.625.6172.



THE WINNER!



Follow PACE on **Facebook** for the latest photos and updates! Support our programs by sharing! [pacificautismce](https://www.facebook.com/pacificautismce)

Sobrato Matching Grant



PACE celebrates our donors and the Sobrato Family Foundation.

Sobrato Family Foundation 2:1 Challenge Grant leverages into \$82,000 with your help! The Pacific Autism Center for Education (PACE) has successfully completed the two year Sobrato Foundation Challenge Grant. Thank you to Sobrato Family Foundation and to all of our donors for supporting PACE and helping us to achieve our goals. The grant was contingent upon new and increased funds being raised and received from individuals, corporations and foundations during the Challenge Grant period.

Animal Assisted Happiness



Once a month, Animal Assisted Happiness visits PACE.



PACE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Tax ID 77-0259858. Contributions to PACE are tax deductible as specified by the current tax law.

• When you shop on **AmazonSmile** (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to PACE.

PACE Setter

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Editor: Marta Weinstock

Contributors: Karen Kennan, Meredith Loscialpo, Joyce Marshlian, Janice Morreira, Marta Weinstock, Kellie Welch

Executive Director: Kurt Ohlfs

The PACE mission: To enhance the lives of people impacted by autism, through innovation, exceptional education and compassionate care.




AUTISM AWARENESS

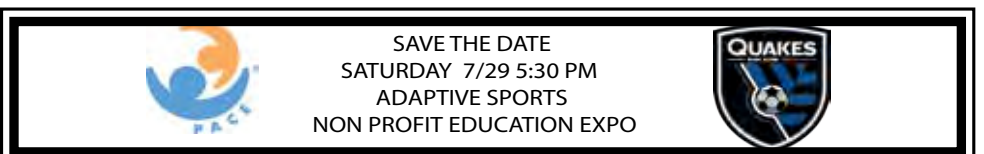
VS STOCKTON HEAT

SUN, APR 9, 2017 AT 3PM

- PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS GO TO PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER FOR EDUCATION
- LUCKY RAFFLE TICKET WINNER GETS TO TAKE A RIDE ON THE ZAMBONI!
- JOIN PACE FOR A POST-GAME PHOTO ON THE ICE

TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT SJBARRACUDA.COM/PACE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT KELLIE WELCH AT (408) 625-6193 OR [KELLIEWELCH@PACIFICAUTISM.ORG](mailto:kelliewelch@pacifcautism.org)



SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY 7/29 5:30 PM
ADAPTIVE SPORTS
NON PROFIT EDUCATION EXPO



ADAPTIVE SPORTS AND EDUCATION NIGHT

SATURDAY, JULY 29TH AT 7:30 PM

THE SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES WILL BE TEAMING UP WITH PACE AND 4 LOCAL NON-PROFITS FOR THE FIRST ADAPTIVE SPORTS AND EDUCATION NIGHT!

TICKETS AND RAFFLE ENTRY ARE JUST \$ 45!!

****RAFFLE INCLUDES TOUR OF AVAYA STADIUM AND AUTOGRAPHED ITEM****

FOR MORE TICKET, RAFFLE AND PRE-GAME ACTIVITY INFORMATION GO TO:
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Porchlight

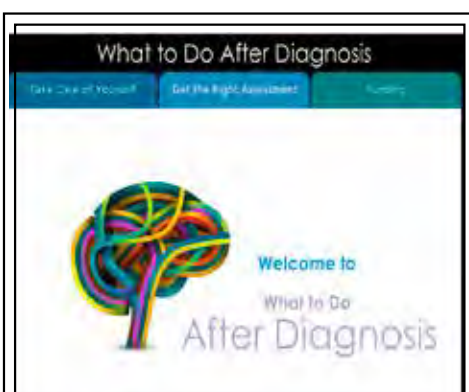
By Marta Weinstock, Marketing and Resource Development Manager

The Porchlight Education Series is a free e-learning training approach that offers solutions to common daily challenges a parent may confront in the world of developmental disabilities.

PACE now has an extensive library of 50 Modules. Two of PACE's most recent modules, "What to Do After Diagnosis" and "Creating a Special Needs Trust" are examples of the expert guidance provided by our team of teachers, therapists and specialists.

"WHAT TO DO AFTER DIAGNOSIS"

How do you begin to gather all the information you need, and who do you turn to for advice? This module will give you some ideas on how you can embark on this journey.



"CREATING A SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST"

For many families of children with autism, planning for their child's financial future is a huge concern.

According to attorney Mark Gilfix, it is important to organize all the critical information and share it with other important people in the child's life. Other questions to consider are:

- WHO SHOULD CONSIDER A SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST?
- HOW DOES ONE DETERMINE HOW MUCH MONEY A CHILD WILL NEED AFTER THEIR PARENTS ARE GONE?
- WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR SETTING UP A SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST?
- HOW DO YOU PICK A TRUSTEE FOR YOUR CHILD'S TRUST?

www.porchlighteducation.org

Meet the Brabson's

By Kellie Welch, Fund Development Associate

Janet and Robert Brabson are long-time supporters of the PACE community. For many years, the Brabsons have been donating their time, energy, and money to PACE programs because of a special relationship they developed with a little boy, Ryan, over 30 years ago.

music events, and weekly day trips. They treated him like family and became part of his extended Matranga family. As Ryan's father, Jerry Matranga, so eloquently conveys, "Janet and Bob have shown so much love to Ryan that words can never adequately express what a blessing they have been. We treasure their friendship."



The Brabsons, married 66 years, are now aging beyond their abilities to take care of a 37 year old man with autism, so their visits with Ryan are not as frequent. Janet (84) and Robert (87) continue to contribute to PACE with monthly donations to help support the PACE Residential Program and the PACE school.

The Brabsons have no explanation for their heart connection with Ryan, but it is obvious to feel the love they both have for him. From the day they met Ryan, at age 7, they developed a trusted bond. The Brabsons took him out for pizza, parades,

PACE is lucky to have supporters like the Brabson family. Families like theirs encompass the values that PACE seeks to promote in its goal to connect, support, and educate individuals affected by autism.