



PACE

Annual Report | Fiscal Year 2014-2015



connect • support • educate



Executive Message

As you may know, there is an overwhelming need to provide services to the Bay Area autism community, and, for highly trained people to work with this population. Specifically, the salaries for special education teachers don't tend to track with our area's high cost of living. As we grow as an organization, PACE must ensure that, 1) we continue to provide new and innovative services, and 2) teachers working with our students have the credentials required, the ability to afford the cost of their education, and the ability to live in this very expensive environment. To that end, there are two over-arching objectives that we face and hope to achieve in the coming years.

Our first objective is to offer expanded services to meet growing needs in the autism

community. PACE is developing a new program we're tentatively calling "Parent Connect" which will incorporate a collection of independent programs aimed at providing a sustainable system for supporting private case management for individuals with developmental disabilities in the Bay Area.

The second objective is the task of recruiting those interested in becoming special education teachers. We are in the process of opening up a teacher loan forgiveness grant, setting aside \$5,000 - \$10,000 per eligible teacher, in order to pursue special education credentials. This program would be open to employees who have already obtained a Bachelor's degree. Our dual goal is to assist those individuals who are passionate about working with our student population and to ensure our students have qualified teachers. The PACE School is the very best place for moderate to severe au-

tism special education teachers. It provides them the ability to learn hands on how that population can grow into functioning members of our community. And PACE offers the highest therapeutic services staff per student ratio of any public or private school in the Bay Area, enabling our teachers more individualized interaction with their students.

We think these two programs will help to alleviate some of the burden to the autism community by offering practical case management to families, and long-term career opportunities for professionals serving those with special needs.

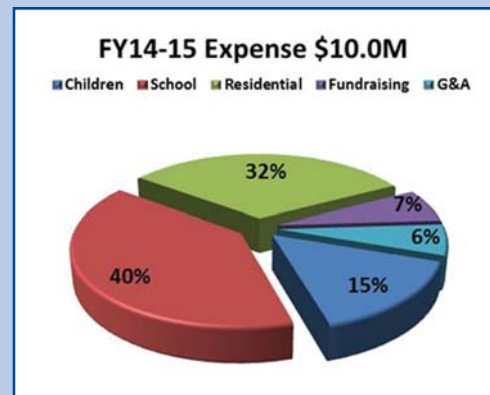
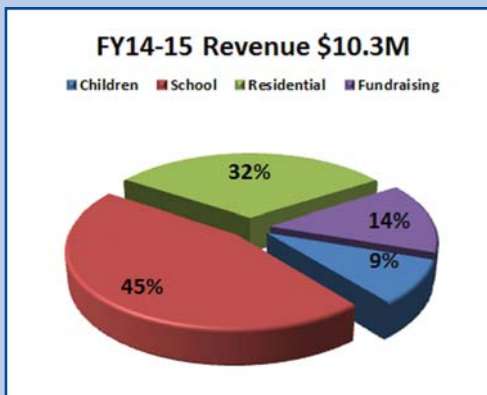
Sincerely,

Kurt Ohlfs, PACE Executive Director

PACE Impact July 2014-June 2015

- The **Porchlight Autism Education Series** continued its growth in 2015 and provided 26 free-access, **online learning modules** for parents and caregivers. The program also held 3, hour-long webinars that delved deeper into the subject matter, offering much-needed Q&A for parents and caregivers.
- Staff training increased at the **residential homes** and were focused on expanding Behavioral Services.
- The **PACE School** received a grant from the **eASIC Corp.** that enabled us to install a play structure designed by our Occupational Therapists to improve student mobility.
- The **Sunny Days Preschool** received a beautiful and colorful outdoor mural thanks to the **Cupertino Rotary** in 2015.
- PACE received a multi-year grant from the **Sobrato Family Foundation**, and many large donations including proceeds from the **Color Me Rad 5k Race**, the Chinmaya Mission's **Om Run**, the **SPARK Foundation** and many others.
- The **Parent Collaborative Home** (PCH) program opened its first home in 2014. PCH is a model that offers families more control over home services for their child with special needs.
- The **Faces program** provided behavioral support for more than 35 families throughout the Peninsula.
- The **Youth Leadership Committee** (YLC) raised funds for programs and services, and held anti-bullying workshops with focus on the developmentally disabled population.

Financial Summary Fiscal Year 2014-2015



PACE Donors

PACE is supported by the California Dept. of Education and the Dept. of Developmental Services. In Fiscal Year 2014-2015, a full 14% of our revenue came from fund raising. Thank you Annual Fund donors, grantors, restricted fund donors, and corporate donors for supporting PACE in FY14-15!

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Pacific Autism Center for Education
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