



PACE Setter

Newsletter and Supporter Honor Roll | Fiscal Year 2011-2012



connect • support • educate



Executive Message

Autism is growing up. Increasing numbers of adults with autism are graduating from school programs today and are facing limited options for support in vocational and residential placements. This places great stress on local families.

At PACE we are aware of this growing challenge and we are committed to looking beyond the walls of our schools, clinics and residential facilities in order to build outreach support into the homes of families affected by autism.

In 2013 and beyond, PACE will begin to direct resources to help fortify the whole community around those affected by autism. This includes the expansion of support programs for in-home services and training to family and community members. By leveraging the power of the community, it is our hope that more people can engage in building micro-solutions which collectively bring forth a greater systemic change. A great example of this is the anti-bullying initiative created by the high school students that comprise PACE's Youth Leadership Committee – engaging with the community to connect, support and educate.

Of course, one of our most important connections in the community is through you, our generous donors. As I enter my 8th year as Executive Director, I am gratified by the dynamic and innovative growth of PACE, which is made possible with your generous financial support. Your contributions continue to pave the way for the future of families and individuals affected by autism.

Sincerely,

Kurt Ohlfs, PACE Executive Director



Two Early Intervention Methodologies: One Story of Excellence

Since PACE merged with FACES last year, our ability to serve young children on the spectrum has grown. PACE Early Intervention now offers two teaching methodologies: Intensive ABA and Responsive Teaching.

The Foundation for Autistic Childhood Education and Support or **FACES**, located in Redwood City, utilizes the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis, or ABA, in teaching skills to children with autism spectrum disorders. ABA emphasizes the fundamentals of the learning experience, such as positive reinforcement, in programs tailored to the needs of each child. With younger children, FACES and ABA act as part of an intensive early intervention program, which may include up to 30 hours per week of one-on-one instruction in verbal expression, essential social interaction skills, behavior management, and peer socialization. The training can take place at home, at school, at the FACES clinic, or in the community and it typically involves the parents. With school-aged children, FACES collaborates with parents, school personnel, and other care providers to reduce behaviors that impede learning and to teach and strengthen self-help, social, and independence skills.

PACE Connections focuses on Responsive Teaching, which molds teaching opportunities around the needs of the child. Responsive Teaching encourages creativity and exploratory learning as well as tailored lessons in communication skills. PACE Connections offers two programs for children: the Sunny Days Preschool and home-therapy programs. Sunny Days, located in San Jose, is an inclusive preschool which welcomes both typically developing children and children who are on the autism spectrum, recognizing that integrating children of different learning needs fosters better communication and understanding. To support Responsive Teaching at the preschool, the child to teacher ratios are kept low at one adult to every two children on the spectrum, and three or four typically developing children to one adult. The home therapy program offers an intensive one-on-one learning experience that is custom-made for each child. Treatment is based on joining the child in his world and provides techniques for building a child's emotional reciprocity and engagement.

With both Connections and FACES, PACE Early Intervention can give each child opportunities to reach their full potential and prepare them for success in school and beyond.

Residential Transformations

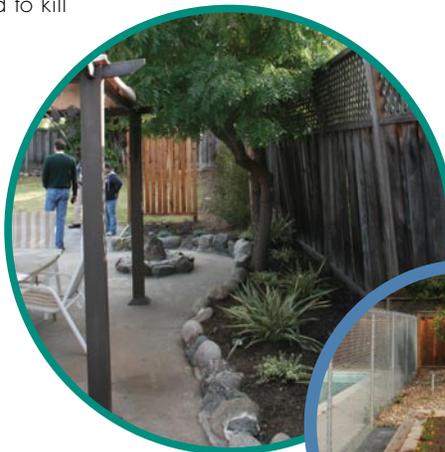
Eagle Scout Remakes Matranga's Backyard

When longtime Boy Scout and Homestead High School senior Austen Barker was choosing his Eagle Scout project, he wanted it to be something that he would remember. As a child, Austen was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome and starting at age three, received early intervention services through the Children's Health Council in Palo Alto.

The honors student chose PACE's Matranga House – an adult residential home – as the focus of his work. The backyard was in need of a total makeover. Austen wanted to create a space that would be long lasting and serve the needs of people on the autism spectrum. From July to October, he enlisted the help of his family, friends, and fellow boy scouts to complete a transformation that would make the Extreme Makeover TV show people proud. Austen and his team replaced a large planter box, installed a walking path with nighttime lighting, removed multiple trees and stumps, and added a wooden wall screen which adds privacy as well as visual interest. They added a seating bench and a garden where they planted succulents which are hard to kill and plants that don't flower so as not to attract bees. All told, Austen and his team donated over 300 people hours to the project.

Austen was named "Scout of the Year" by his troop in 2012, and was welcomed into the Eagle Scout Court of Honor. He is captain of the high school robotics team, and he hopes to study aerospace engineering in college.

GOOD JOB AUSTEN and THANK YOU!



After



Before



Welcome Janice Morreira, PACE Operations Manager

Janice Morreira has joined the PACE team as the new manager of our residential program. In just the short time she's been here, Janice has already tackled dozens of residential and agency wide projects, from organizing an internal residential newsletter to helping the PACE School design a new playground. But most notable among them is the re-opening of our Morehouse location. With increasing demand for assisted living for children with autism, Morehouse will reopen as our second children's residential home. The Sunnyvale home will accommodate up to six clients with a two to one ratio of children to staff support around the clock.

Before coming to PACE, Janice owned multiple The Little Gym franchises and was a consultant for The Little Gym International. She was also a Director of Operations for many years for a semiconductor manufacturer's rep firm.

WE WELCOME JANICE and her incredible experience and thank her for all the hard work she has already done!

New Music Program Featured on Front Page

PACE's innovative Music Therapy Program, along with PACE student and resident Kevin, and therapist Lauren Bevilacqua, was featured in a front page Wish Book series article of the San Jose Mercury News in December 2012. The article was a comprehensive description of the benefits music can bring to our students – studies have shown that music can help those with autism better communicate, while offering external sensory experiences. The article increased awareness of our music program and of autism in general to the community. With community support, we look forward to further expanding music therapy as we continue to provide innovative ways to connect, support, and educate our students.



Business Blends Philanthropy with Making a Dime PACE has its Own **Role Model**

Jennifer Stuhr, who is a Case Manager at FACES, was featured as a national "role model" for ModCloth's recent stylebook. Displaying beauty both inside and out, she modeled indie, vintage inspired clothes while spreading awareness of PACE and Autism.

"I wholeheartedly believe in the systems that have been put into place and see the difference PACE can make."

Congratulations and thank you Jenn!



Bay Area Real Estate
Ritz Carlton Half Moon Bay Half Moon Bay Golf Links

May 28th & 29th 2013

save the date!

Bay Area Real Estate Roundtable
Discussion, Dinner, Auctions and Golf Event
Tuesday May 28th &
Wednesday May 29th, 2013

f.a.c.e.s.
a program of
Pacific Autism Center for Education

SAVE THE DATE

**PACE 2013
GOLF CLASSIC**

**Cinnabar Hills Golf Club
FRIDAY, MAY 10th, 2013**

Pacific Autism Center for Education

For more information on these events please visit: pacificautism.org

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Thank you to all of our generous supporters

This Honor Roll includes the names of people, businesses and institutions that provided financial support to PACE between July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012.

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We apologize for any names that may have been omitted.

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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