



# PACE Setter

PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER for EDUCATION

Connect • Support • Educate

## PACE 25th Anniversary!

by Dora Tao

In 1989, a small group of parents and community leaders led by former board president, **Jerry Matranga** formed PACE, which at that time encompassed two group homes and a school serving children and adults with autism. These parents, educators, and volunteers recognized the growing, un-met need to provide education and care for children and adults with autism and related developmental disabilities and their families. Their dedication and concern has inspired staff and teachers throughout our 25 years of service to the Bay Area.

Similarly, the **SPARK Foundation** first began in 1984 when a group of parents recognized that there was a lack of services for their disabled children. These parents, **Sheila Dermer, Mary Flanagan-Hanson, Maxine Richards** and **Linda Urquhart**, found that the availability of residential housing for their sons was nearly nonexistent. They were inspired to provide residential services and related training for

individuals with autism and developmental disabilities. SPARK established two residential group homes, and in 1995 was acquired by PACE, increasing our residential services, which today includes two homes for children and four for adults.

The continued dedication and support that PACE founders and the SPARK Foundation show to their own children and others with autism has been an inspiration for the PACE community. As **PACE celebrates 25 years of service**, we'd like to recognize those that worked so hard

The SPARK Foundation



to make our organization possible. Our annual Gala is the perfect venue to take note of our past 25 years of growth and service, and we'll also be celebrating the inspiring work of our founders and the SPARK Foundation and their commitment to the PACE community.

Please join us at the PACE Gala and Auction on October 25th, at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View. We'll celebrate our founders with, live music, delicious food from Grace Street Catering, raffle prizes, drinks, and live and silent auctions! All proceeds raised from this event directly benefit PACE programs and services. Help us to continue last year's trend by raising over \$100,000.

We hope to see you at this wonderful event as we thank all those who have helped PACE to thrive over the past 25 years. ■

*Celebrating 25 Years  
of providing programs and services  
for the Bay Area.*



### Thank You PACE Founders and Board Presidents

Penny Barrett  
John Cheng  
Geoff Davis  
Joe & Sheila Dermer  
Jim Emerson  
Gail Hashimoto  
Kathy Knutsen  
Ron LaMar  
Dennis Lorette  
Jerry Matranga  
Kati Miller  
Matt Moran  
Jim Paul  
Madhu Ranganathan  
Susan Swoboda  
Linda Urquhart

## Ask a Therapist

by Rebecca Bright, BCBA, MFT, Clinical Manager

**Q:** There are so many acronyms among service providers in the world of autism! Can you help me sort them out?

**A:** Great question! Let's look at some of the common service providers.

Note: All of these positions require a qualifying degree (level varies), supervised experience, and ongoing training (continuing education credits). The fully licensed or certified positions all require completed supervised fieldwork and successful passing of an examination.

A BCBA, or Board Certified Behavior Analyst,® is an international certification offered by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board,® and means that the person holds a Master's degree in a related field and has completed specific Master's level courses in behavior analysis. A Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst® (BCaBA) has a Bachelor's degree and specific undergraduate coursework in the field of behavior analysis. A BCaBA must work under the supervision of a BCBA but is qualified to provide many of the same services. Some states (but not CA) have begun licensing and regulating behavior analysts in a separate process. A BCBA-D is a doctoral-level behavior analyst. The BACB has recently introduced a certification for direct service providers,

to be known as Registered Behavior Technicians™ (RBTs) for entry-level therapists.

Other therapists who may be qualified to oversee autism treatment plans include Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs), Licensed Clinical Social workers (LCSWs), and Licensed Psychologists who have experience and training in the areas of behavior analysis and developmental delays. These professionals have Master's degrees in psychology, counseling, or social work. Marriage and Family Therapist Interns (MFTIs) and Associate Clinical Social Workers (ASWs) are working under the supervision of licensed professionals while they pursue licensure.

Occupational Therapists (OTs) are licensed by the state and work on a wide variety of motor skills with the goal of increasing functional living skills. OTAs (OT Assistants) have completed at least an Associate's Degree.

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) focus on the cognitive and motor skills involved in communication and swallowing. SLPAs (SLP Assistants) are registered with the state as well.

These therapists work closely with Special Education Teachers to provide the proper services for each child. ■

## Children's Program Update

by Danielle Borrás, OTR/L, CVE

We're making some changes at Sunny Days Preschool! Rebecca Bright, Clinical Manager will be overseeing the team with Special Education Teacher, Jessica Solchenberger, M.A. Morning preschool, speech and language therapy, behavior therapy, social skills, social groups, music therapy, and occupational therapy services are offered on site.

We are very excited about a new fun and dynamic program offering a social skills class for 3-6 year olds. This program is led by a licensed therapist and specifically designed to provide each student with the opportunity to develop their awareness, understanding and skills around the social aspects (both spoken and unspoken) of the classroom, playground and community. Classes will provide each

student with the opportunity to work in a small group of up to 4 students and practice learned skills in a supportive environment.

Through various fun activities, stories, games, skits/role playing, music, and art, students will be able to better understand and develop the skills necessary for successful social interactions.

Social Skills classes will meet once a week, from 2:30-3:45pm for eight weeks on Mondays or Thursdays starting mid-September. An 8-week Music Therapy class will begin on Tuesdays, from 2:30-3:20pm in September. Contact Sunny Days Preschool for fees and other information (408) 551-0312. ■

A Sunny Days student



## PACE 25th Anniversary

by Kurt Ohlfs, Executive Director

Our **25th Anniversary Gala & Auction** is next month! It's our thirteenth such event and offers PACE parents, caregivers and supporters an opportunity to join together and celebrate another year of achievements at PACE.

Taking stock of all we do to improve and enrich the lives of those living with autism is an important exercise. PACE is a VERY busy place, with constant activity and ongoing reassessment of programs offered. Our team of professional therapists, teachers, and administrators are constantly striving to improve PACE services.

As you read through this newsletter and see all the time and effort that goes into helping our students



Kurt Ohlfs at the 2013 PACE Gala with student speaker, Joseph

and clients realize their individual potential, please take a moment and reflect on how you see yourself and your family interacting with the PACE agency.

Do you follow us on Facebook and keep abreast of weekly events? Do you attend field trips with a classroom or residential home? Do you check the online PACE Wish List and supply much-needed supplies for your child's classroom or home? There are so many ways to help and become engaged with our exceptional program first hand. **Attending the Gala is simply one of the most entertaining ways you can help PACE to grow and thrive.**

Twenty-five years of providing services and solutions for the autism community is quite a milestone. We have learned so much, and with your support, the next 25 years will show an even greater expansion of PACE services for the Bay Area.

Through the end of the year, **The Sobrato Foundation will double the amount of any new or increased donations to PACE.** Please consider how you might help us reach our goal. ■

## Great Givers Provide A New Roof!

by Deborah McClellan

We are grateful to supporters of our **2013 Gala & Auction** who generously donated funds so that our **Miracle House** could acquire a new roof this summer. The Fund-a-Need portion of the gala offered attendees an opportunity to show their support of the PACE mission, and to help us maintain exceptional standards.

The roof at Miracle House was beyond its useful life and badly in need of replacement. Administrative staff were becoming concerned that it would begin to leak if we have an exceptionally rainy winter (let's hope!). PACE supporters to the rescue! Immediately after the gala in October, staff went to work on getting quotes and preparing the clients in the home for the project -- explaining

the noise and activity to come. In April, the new roof was completed at a cost of \$16,000 and staff and clients can rest easy for another 20 years.

Next up – new flooring at **Meadows House**! Yes, there was enough monies from the fund-a-need donations to provide much needed new flooring at a second group home, AND to paint the interior of The PACE School. The flooring project gets underway in September, and the school was painted in April.

Thanks again to all the PACE supporters who made the new roof at Miracle House, new floors for Meadows House, and a fresh coat of paint for our school a reality! ■

The new roof at Miracle House



## Welcome New Board Member

by Karen Kennan

The PACE Board of Directors welcomed a new director in June, **Lisa Grisalin**. Lisa is a partner / owner for Keller Williams Realty-Silicon Valley, which owns four local offices. She is a highly accomplished real estate agent, ranked in the upper 13% of her peers. Lisa primarily serves sellers with single family properties throughout the Bay Area. She is a San Jose native and has a deep understanding of the local community.



Lisa Grisalin

Lisa notes, "I'm excited to be a part of helping PACE become the area leader in autism services. I look forward to meeting our students, parents, and families in the coming year." Welcome Lisa! ■



### Save the Date!

**7th Annual Golf Classic**  
May 8, 2015 | Cinnabar Hills

Join us for one of our most popular events – a day of fun in the beautiful California springtime. We get a group of friendly golfers for this event, so if you're interested, but not a pro, no worries. A great time will be had by all with hole-in-one and other contests – many with huge prizes!

## The PACE School: 2014 Graduates and School Dance

by Deborah McClellan

The PACE School graduated four students this June. While we will miss seeing all four students on a daily basis, we are pleased all are going on to Adult Day Programs around the Bay Area, continuing with their ongoing learning, self-expression, self-care, productive work, and interpersonal and community involvement.

The weeks leading up to graduation were filled with fun and engaging events like **"Spirit Week"** and the very popular annual **school dance**. Spirit week this year included a PJ day, room color day, superhero day, 'wacky tacky' day, and Hawaiian day. Most students showed their school

spirit and dressed up according to the day's theme.

The school dance was held at the Cory Center Auditorium on Friday, June 13th, and this year's theme was Hawaiian luau! A great time was had by all. Teachers, aides, therapists and staff worked very hard to make the dance exciting and memorable.

It has been our utmost pleasure to work with the 2014 graduates. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors! Thank you for making PACE part of your journey. ■



## 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 [development@pacificautism.org](mailto:development@pacificautism.org).

• View the **PACE Wish List** here: [pacificautism.org/donations/pace-wishlist/](http://pacificautism.org/donations/pace-wishlist/).



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ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SUNNYVALE, CA  
PERMIT NO. 981

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**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.*



## Project Porchlight: New Modules in 2014

Parents and caregivers! We've uploaded the first learning modules for our **Project Porchlight** to the [porchlighteducation.org](http://porchlighteducation.org) website. Project Porchlight, is an open-source free-access internet program designed specifically to provide parents and caregivers with solutions for behavioral therapy to implement at home. This project was made possible thanks to funding from the **United Way**.

Each Porchlight module includes a short demonstration course, showing theory and hands-on instructions, and giving parents specific and concrete examples of behavior modifications they can make in their own homes to help their child mitigate the losses from a developmental disability. The first

modules are more informational, and focus on the basics of autism. Future modules will offer simple examples and direction on working with your child on behavior modification, and will cover:

- Challenging behaviors
- Eating habits
- General health and wellbeing
- Grooming

Our aim with this project is to provide you with a useful resource that can be accessed 24/7, when you need it most. E-mail [info@pacificautism.org](mailto:info@pacificautism.org), include 'Porchlight' in the subject line, and we'll put you on our contact list for updates as the program rolls out. ■

## What Kind of Legacy Will YOU Leave?

Leave a legacy that will sustain us long into the future by including PACE in your estate plan. Your donation will help PACE connect, support and educate by ensuring high quality programs for children and adults with autism, now and into the future. If you have made a gift to PACE in your will or trust, please let us know so we can thank you and recognize your generosity.

To learn more about how you make a legacy gift to PACE contact Karen Kennan, Assistant Executive Director, at 408-625-6176 or e-mail [karenkennan@pacificautism.org](mailto:karenkennan@pacificautism.org). All inquiries are confidential and without obligation. **Thank you!**

## You're Invited!

Please join us for our 'silver' anniversary celebration at the **PACE 25th Anniversary Gala** on **Saturday, October 25th** at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View! It'll be a night to remember with a live and silent auction, excellent food, and entertainment. Call Rachel at (408) 625-6191 or register online. **This is your chance to meet other PACE parents and our wonderful supporters and staff!** ■

Celebrate  
PACE at  
25 YEARS

Saturday, October 25, 2014  
Computer History Museum

[www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org)

## School Photos and Memory Book

By Dora Tao

At the PACE School, students continue to learn and grow with each other every day. The skills that students learn at school provide a valuable foundation for ongoing learning at home and in the community. Each classroom spends time exercising in the morning and doing activities, such as food preparation, grooming, community outings, practicing social skills and academic work throughout the day.



Timeless Moments

As a way to document the wonderful memories that the students make at PACE School, we have put together a **Memory Book** to capture moments from the past year. It features a collection of photos taken by the staff from events throughout the year.

The Memory Book captures trips to restaurants, the Kiwanis Special Games, a visit to the Animal Assisted Happiness farm, local parks,



and shopping and showcases how fun it is to be a PACE student. These trips provide an excellent opportunity for students to take their learning outside the classroom, and into the community.

The Memory Book also includes pictures of students learning in the classroom, from academics to vocational tasks such as paper shredding to working together with other students in groups. In May, the school celebrated **Spirit Week**, which culminated in a Hawaiian themed school dance where students spent the evening dancing, enjoying snacks, doing the limbo and playing games. These festivities all preceded the School Graduation where four PACE students graduated in a ceremony that included the families, classmates, teachers and staff.

Cost for the Memory Book is \$20. If you'd like to purchase a book for your family, contact Dora Tao at (408) 625-6193. It's a great way for students and families to look back with pleasure on the past school year. We hope the Memory Book will provide happy memories for students and their parents for years to come.

## Occupational and Speech Therapy Service Available at Children's Program

PACE Children's Services offers **Occupational Therapy** and **Speech Therapy** services for preschool through early elementary aged children. Children need not be part of our program in order to receive these services offered by our certified staff. Assessments can be performed as well as therapy.

These therapy services are offered on site at our **Connections** location in west San Jose. In the future, if there is an interest or need, we could offer these same services out of our Faces office in Redwood City.

Speech Therapists evaluate and treat those who are challenged in the areas of speech and language development to help students improve their overall communication skills. Occupational

Therapists increase the participation in and performance of daily activities meaningful and useful to the client. Costs for OT and SLP therapy services may be covered by your insurance carrier. Although PACE is not an in-network service provider we will provide you with the invoice information and forms required for you to submit to your insurance provider for reimbursement.

If you are interested in learning more about our Speech and Occupational Therapy services, please contact Rose Stevenson at 408-551-0312. She will direct you to one of our therapists for additional information. ■

Taylor Peterson, MA, CCC-SLP

Danielle Borrás, OTR/L, CVE

