

PACE Setter

PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER for EDUCATION

Connect • Support • Educate

Welcome Sadie Randle and Sarah DeVore!



Sadie Randle



Sarah DeVore

PACE welcomes **Sadie Randle** as **PACE School Director**. Sadie brings to PACE 20+ years of teaching experience in public, non-public, and county school settings, and valuable experience in professional development, classroom administration, and project planning. Prior to working at PACE, Sadie was an Educational Specialist for Luther Burbank School District, where she designed, developed, and expanded individualized diagnostic instruction for students with a wide range of educational and emotional needs. At PACE, Sadie's mission is focused on building a school-wide functional academic curriculum to serve our students throughout their time at PACE and prepare them for their post-secondary life.

Sadie is also passionate about staff professional development, offering individualized training and mentoring to our team of teachers and behavioral therapists. Sadie holds a Moderate to Severe Education Specialist Instruction Credential and was awarded Santa Clara County Teacher of the Year in 2015.

Sarah DeVore joins PACE as **PACE School Behavioral Service Manager**. Sarah's focus is on supporting and further training staff in behavior management so students can effectively access their environment and engage in learning. She has a background providing Applied Behavior Analysis services in home, clinic, and school settings. She has experience developing behavior plans, training staff and parents, conducting assessments, and collaborating with other therapists and teachers. Sarah has been a Board Certified Behavior Analyst since 2014.



Faces
BEHAVIORAL SERVICES
FOR CHILDREN

ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS!

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE A POSITIVE CHANGE!



Our ABA Therapists work on:

- Challenging Behaviors
- Developing Independence
- Communication & Social Skills
- School Readiness
- Appropriate Play Skills
- Personal Care

Experiencing Behavior Challenges?

FACES Behavioral Services uses the principles of learning and motivation to change behavior.

We offer clinic-based, home-based and school-based services for children ages 18 months to 14 years, as well as parent training and consultations. Individualized behavior support is based on your child's specific needs.

What is Applied Behavior Analysis?

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is a therapy based on the science of learning and behavior. It is the only evidenced-based practice for treating autism and related disorders that is currently recognized by insurance companies. We accept insurance and private pay.

REQUEST AN INTAKE PACKET!

intake@facesforkids.org

408.785.0102

Faces Clinic is located at 897 Broadleaf Lane, San Jose, CA 95128

SPECTACULAR 2019 PACE EVENTS!

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!!

PACE raised over \$240k in Fund-A-Need donations at the **2019 Bay Area Real Estate Roundtable** and the **11th Annual PACE Golf Classic!**

The funds raised will support facility upgrades at an adult group home, and provide resources for our Preschool and PACE School programs.



Ask a Therapist By Sarah DeVore, BCBA

At the PACE School, we have a diverse and highly trained staff of Behavioral Therapists, Speech and Language Pathologists, and Occupational Therapists who work together in building a comprehensive and individualized therapy plan for each student based on their unique needs. In this edition of "Ask a Therapist", the PACE School's new Behavioral Service Manager, Sarah DeVore, talks about behaviors:

At PACE, our mission is to teach our students new behaviors in order for them to have their needs and wants met and successfully communicated. We recognize that all behaviors have a function. When we think about our students' behaviors, we have to stop ourselves from thinking about those behaviors as "good" or "bad". Instead, we think about why a behavior is *occurring*.

There are four main functions of behavior:

1. Access to attention
2. Access to items/activities
3. Escape or avoidance of something
4. Sensory stimulation

Our students engage in behaviors in order to fulfill one or more function, because they have learned that a certain behavior will lead to a certain outcome. Let's focus on the second function mentioned above: access to items or activities. Our students who are nonverbal or have especially challenging communication disorders may have learned over time that a behavior, such as a tantrum, could get them access to an item they want, such as a toy. Unfortunately, certain behaviors can make it difficult for our students to function in their environment and/or make it difficult for others around them to function. At PACE, we work to teach our students new, socially appropriate replacement behaviors so they can thrive and focus on learning in the classroom.

In order to teach our students new behaviors, our staff 1) identifies the behavior 2) creates and implements an appropriate prompt to engage the student in a different behavior, and 3) reinforces the new behavior immediately (typically with a reward, such as a snack or activity of the student's choice). Learning a new behavior can be difficult, but with prompting and reinforcing, our staff can guide our students to better communicate their wants and needs in socially appropriate ways.

For behavioral therapy information and tips go to www.porchlighteducation.org

A Message from the Executive Director

By Kurt Ohlfs, PACE Executive Director

This December, PACE will celebrate 30 years of service to individuals with autism and their families. In 1989, the agency was founded by a group of parents who recognized that traditional education systems lacked appropriate care and infrastructure for their children with special needs. They came together as a community to build PACE with the original mission to provide high quality programs for individuals with autism/developmental disabilities so they may experience the satisfaction and fulfillment that accompany learning, self-expression, self-care, productive work and interpersonal and community experiences. The sustainable and lasting support structure they created would grow to serve families throughout the Bay Area. Today we continue the founder's mission with a renewed focus on fortifying the educational training and direct support of our local community. As we look forward to the next 30 years of service, we seek to build out a network of neighborhood centers enabling PACE to become even more engaged and responsive to the hands-on needs of the communities we serve.

With many of our families now traveling hours to receive our services, we recognize the critical importance of finding ways to bring that support closer to home. What began with the Porchlight Education Project to provide highly practical online educational support to address immediate needs is only the start of our outreach. There will always be a compelling need for hands-on modeling and support. In the next 30 years, we hope to broaden our footprint and expand our community to provide services that are closer to home for many of our families, as well as establish a localized presence in more cities and communities throughout the Bay Area. We realize that to fortify our communities and better support our students and clients, we need to be working side by side with them. We aim to take what PACE does best - supporting families of individuals with autism - and replicate that success in areas that need better-qualified support. We'll do so by looking into opportunities such as building smaller school centers in communities that we serve to bring resources closer to home.

Thirty years ago our founding parents came together to develop an innovative solution to meet the needs of their children with autism. With your support, in the years ahead we will continue to strengthen our supportive community and focus on our mission to enhance the lives of people impacted by autism through innovation, exceptional education and compassionate care.



Kurt Ohlfs

Faces Behavioral Services

By Karen Kennan, PACE Assistant Executive Director



The Faces team is pleased to welcome **Caitin Duffin**, Board Certified Behavior Analyst to the PACE community. And no, her name is not Caitlyn...Caitin (no "l") and her twin sister Mally are the youngest in a family of four children. When the two girls were born their parents wanted to give them unique names. They combined her dad's sisters' names (Katie and Teren) to get Caiten and her mom's sisters' names (Madelyn and Allie) to get Mally.

Originally from Fairfield, CT, Caitin moved to California in 2018 where she most recently worked at Chang and Associates managing a case load of clients and supervising therapists. At Faces, Caitin joins BCBA, Amelia Lalley as a Clinical Supervisor.

Caitin attended Purdue University in Indiana where she received her bachelor's degree in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences. Upon graduation, she took a position as a paraprofessional in a school where she discovered ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) and recognized the positive impact it had on her ability to work with clients in their natural environment. This led her to pursue certification as a Registered

Behavior Technician and to enroll in a Master's program in Applied Behavior Analysis. She ultimately passed the BCBA exam and became a Board Certified Behavior Analyst in August 2018.

Caitin has especially enjoyed working with early intervention clients, focusing on their functional communication goals and building foundational social skills. She is looking forward to strengthening her clinical skills by working with new populations at Faces.

Says Caitin, "I was drawn to PACE as an organization because it provides services to individuals with special needs throughout their lifespan. I love the idea of providing support to those who need it as they reach each milestone in their life." In addition, she adds; "I want to be a part of FACES because I love the close knit community. I was drawn to the collaborative nature the team fosters. I love that I can work closely with the therapists and really be impactful."

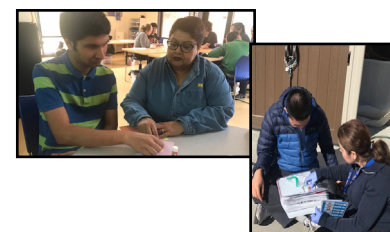
In her free time Caitin can be found volunteering at a local therapeutic horseback riding program and going to live musical performances.

Welcome Caitin. With your optimism, energy and enthusiasm for ABA, we know that you will make a positive and unique impact on the staff, clients and families at Faces.

PACE School: New Curriculum

By Sadie Randle, PACE School Director

I'm thrilled to join PACE as School Director. With over 20 years of experience working in both general and special education, I was drawn to PACE because of its mission: *to enhance the lives of people impacted by autism, through innovation, exceptional education, and compassionate care.* Not only is PACE's work unparalleled in this community, it aligns with my personal commitment to support families and their children with special needs. I have dedicated my career to serving students and their families in various capacities, and so I carry on this mission at PACE to ensure our students reach their fullest potential in the classroom, at home, in the community, and beyond.



When I joined PACE, I immediately went to work on redesigning and implementing a new school-wide curriculum focused on the long-term, post-secondary success of each student. The curriculum now

used by our PACE School staff is called **F.A.C.E.S.: Functional Academics Curriculum for Exceptional Students.** This curriculum includes Language Arts, Math, Science, Vocational, Social Studies, and Personal Health. The primary purpose of the curriculum is to teach functional, age-appropriate skills and to base instruction on the systematic evaluation of students' progress.

The curriculum will help to foster the development of skills that increase independence and encourage constructive cooperation and mutual problem solving in the home, school, workplace and community. Furthermore, it will assist in the effort to prepare students to function as independently as possible in an integrated society. The F.A.C.E.S. curriculum will prepare our students for the challenges of life after they graduate or leave school.



PACE's Youth Leadership Committee

By Melissa Watkins, Marketing and Resource Development Manager

In today's landscape, teen activists are making significant impacts on some of our most pressing social, political, and environmental issues. While some teens are igniting movements on a global scale, locally, a group of passionate high school students are working to change the way our community understands, accepts, and includes individuals with autism and developmental disabilities.

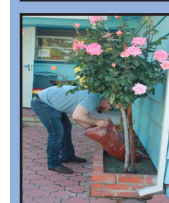
The PACE Youth Leadership Committee (YLC) is a group of eager, civic-minded high school students who work to support PACE's mission and vision and build awareness of autism in the community. Going into its 11th season, the 2019-2020 YLC welcomed 18 members, representing 11 different high schools from around the Bay Area. Their goal is to raise \$1,500 for PACE programs through various fundraising and community outreach initiatives, including their workshop on autism called Operation Enable. In addition, they'll aim to build partnerships with school-based clubs and organizations focused on anti-bullying efforts.



Residential News

By Melissa Watkins, Marketing and Resource Development Manager

The PACE Residential Program offers a loving family environment for children and adults with autism. PACE is licensed to serve residents from ages 6-59 years and currently operates two children's homes and four adult homes in the South Bay.



We're fortunate to have had several home improvement projects take place this year. During April (Autism Awareness Month), the Cupertino Rotary and Rebuilding Together brought in nearly 70 volunteers to complete projects at our two children's residential homes. Between the two homes, the projects included fresh coats of interior paint, installation of new light fixtures and sinks, lawn conversion to low water use/drought tolerant plants (this included planting, drip irrigation installation, and mulch), and other various facility upgrades. It was a significant undertaking, and the teams at both homes did a phenomenal job!



PACE is incredibly grateful to everyone who was involved in making this possible. A special thank you to the Cupertino Rotary and Rebuilding Together for facilitating the projects, and to the volunteers from the Cupertino Rotary, Silicon Valley Rotaract, LDS Church of Cupertino, Interact, St. Jude's Episcopal Church, Advantest America Inc, and assistance from Our City Forest.



In September, renovations began at our LaMar Group Home for adults for a brand new bathroom (including new plumbing) and new flooring in various areas of the home. Our attendees of the 2019 PACE Golf Classic help to fund these facility upgrades, collectively raising over \$21,000 for LaMar, plus a \$10,000 matching donation from the SPARK Foundation! Thank you to our generous giving community for allowing us to keep our group homes comfortable and safe for our clients.

DONATIONS PLEASE! Donations of gift cards for home goods or social outings are especially appreciated. If you would like to donate to the group homes please contact Melissa Watkins at melissawatkins@pacificaautism.org or (408) 625-6174.



The Porchlight Education Series is a free eLearning training platform with over 50 modules that offers solutions to common daily challenges a parent or caregiver may confront in the world of developmental disabilities.

- Modifying curriculum for all learners
- Setting up classroom environments and Positive Behavior Culture

A Certificate of Completion will be available to download after the completion of a 1-hour long program. The content is suitable for individual and group learning.

PACE continues to fund projects like Porchlight and Porchlight University through grants and private donations as a commitment to share our knowledge with the greater community.

Special thanks to our Porchlight University supporters: Heffernan Insurance and Autism Speaks.



www.porchlighteducation.org

Porchlight University will be a resource to teachers and para-educators who work primarily with neuro-typically developing students on how to better facilitate learning for students on the autism spectrum and of differing abilities who are integrated into their classroom.

This new eLearning program will consist of four 1-hour long modules, each module broken down into 15 minute lessons. The topics will cover:

- Understanding Autism
- IEP tools and education law

Ways You Can Help

• Make a donation

By Mail: 1880 Pruneridge Ave.
Santa Clara, CA 95050
Online: www.pacificaautism.org
By phone: 408-245-3400

• Double your gift- **make a matching gift contribution.** To include PACE in your workplace giving options, please contact **development@pacificaautism.org**.

• Go to **www.escrip.com** and enter PACE's ID number: **472692** to register your credit and reward cards.

• Choose PACE on **Amazon Smile** (smile.amazon.com)

• 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!

Sunny Days Preschool

By Karen Kennan, PACE Assistant Executive Director



We welcome children of all abilities!

Serving the community since 2005, Sunny Days preschool is a California licensed child care center that provides a warm and welcoming environment for children on the autism spectrum and those needing a little extra support. As an inclusive preschool we are open to children of all abilities between the ages of 2.5 and 6 years. At Sunny Days we work on communication, self-regulation and social relatedness, and combine methodologies that together provide for each child's unique needs and learning style.

As a small program Sunny Days enjoys the benefits of a high adult to child ratio with 3-4 adults daily supporting up to 12 children in our classroom. The class is facilitated by a credentialed Early Childhood Special Education Teacher who is

assisted by trained Instructional Aides. Additional support is provided by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Behavior Therapists, Occupational Therapist and Speech Pathologist, all of whom are available to consult and/or contract to work directly with individual children.

Sunny Days offers a half day morning program with two, three and five day attendance options. Behavior therapy clinic services are an additional option for children in the afternoon from 12-3 PM based on therapist availability.

For more information, to request an Intake packet or to sign up for a tour please go to: www.pacificaautism.org/programs/sunny-days-preschool/ or call us at 408.625.6198.

Meet the Preschool Team

Assistant Executive Director/ Preschool Program Director: Karen Kennan
Teacher: Jessica Solchenberger
Receptionist: Beth Reames
Instructional Aides: Carolyn Berryessa Brown, Alania Sabankaya, Arlina Phillips, Yvonne Lee

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

December 3, 2019

Help us reach our #GivingTuesday goal of \$5,000 by donating at pacificaautism.org/donate

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Executive Director: Kurt Ohlfs

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



Join Our TEAM



Are you passionate about helping others? Join our dynamic team at PACE!

Check out our available positions at
www.pacificautism.org/

Employees who work 30 hrs/week receive our benefits package!





PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER FOR EDUCATION
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE ITS

30th Anniversary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2019 | 6-8PM
1880 PRUNERIDGE AVENUE, SANTA CLARA

RSVP BY DECEMBER 5 AT
WWW.PACIFICAUTISM.ORG/EVENTS/

Great Givers: 30th Anniversary Puzzle Donors

By Melissa Watkins, Marketing and Resource Development Manager

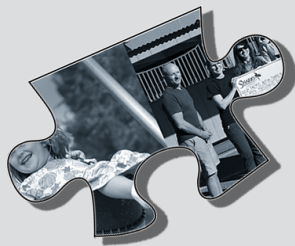
Great Givers come in many varieties. Some volunteer their talents and ideas; some volunteer their time; and some make generous financial contributions to support our ongoing mission. In this issue of PACE Setter, we are pleased to honor our 30th Anniversary Puzzle Donors. In January of this year, PACE launched a special campaign to celebrate the agency's milestone anniversary. Our 30th Anniversary Puzzle is a 30-piece, 3 x 4ft puzzle, with photos depicting various facets of the organization, including photos of PACE School students and staff, Sunny Days Preschool students, and residential clients. The puzzle also showcases several important moments in PACE's history, such as the ribbon cutting ceremony at the PACE School in Santa Clara, and the Sharks Foundation Community Assist Grant that was awarded to PACE in 2018. In an effort to both celebrate the anniversary and raise important funds for PACE programs, individuals could purchase a piece of the puzzle for a \$1,000



donation. The name of each donor will be recognized on the final display, which will be framed and hung in our Board Room. This special donor recognition wall is the first of its kind in PACE's storied history.

So, why did PACE decide to commemorate its 30th Anniversary with a large puzzle? For starters, the puzzle is recognized as a symbol for autism awareness. The origins of the puzzle piece go back to 1963. It was created by Gerald Gasson, a parent and board member for the National Autistic Society (formerly The Society for Autistic Children) in London. The board believed autism was a 'puzzling' condition. In our current landscape, however, the puzzle reflects the complexity

of autism, and for PACE, it represents the staff, students, clients, families, community partners, volunteers, and donors who have contributed to PACE's success over the years.



Our 30th Anniversary Puzzle donors are a diverse group of individuals who have played a part in PACE's history in many different ways. Some are parents of children who are currently attending the PACE School, Sunny Days Preschool, or have a child in one of our group homes. Some are parents who helped to establish the agency in 1989. In fact, the majority of our donors are parents whom PACE has had the privilege to serve and work with for many years. Our puzzle donors also include our current Board of Directors, and a team donation from OneDigital Health and Benefits. We are incredibly grateful for the support we've received and to have the opportunity to celebrate our

30th Anniversary in this special way. The unveiling of the 30th Anniversary Puzzle will take place in December 2019, close to the agency's actual anniversary date (December 8, 1989). PACE will be hosting a special ceremony for the donors along with a 30th Anniversary celebration.

Would you like to be a piece of our puzzle? There are currently seven (7) pieces left! We invite you to be a piece of our puzzle and be recognized as a valued donor for years to come. Each piece requires a \$1,000 donation, which can be an individual or family donation, or a team pledge. All donors receive a special gift, as well as invitations to donor appreciation events. If you would like to secure a puzzle piece, please contact Melissa Watkins at melissawatkins@pacificautism.org, or (408) 625-6174.

Thank you to our 30th Anniversary Puzzle donors! Your generosity will allow us to improve the lives of children and adults with autism for the next 30 years and beyond.