



SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2011

Table of Contents

SAVE THE DATES!	1
Early Screening	2
Parent Mentor Program	2
Prevention Resources and Referral Services (PRRS)	3
What is Inclusion?	3
Inclusion: Looking Back and Looking Ahead	4
PULL - OUT SECTION	5-8
Our Services & Events	
Movie Nights and the Volunteer Program	9
Spring Baseball for Kids with Disabilities	10
Thank You!	11
SFCD Board & Staff	12

Support for Families of Children with Disabilities is a nonprofit, support, resource and networking organization for families of children with special needs and the professionals who work with them. All services are free of charge including resources, phone-line, drop-in center, support groups, workshops & family gatherings.



SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday, March 3, 2012

2012 Information and Resource Conference

A **FREE** conference for families of children with disabilities, the professionals who work with them, and the community at large.

**John O'Connell High School,
2355 Folsom Street, San Francisco**

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW!

HOLIDAY ICE SKATING PARTY

Saturday, December 17, 2011 * 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Yerba Buena Ice Skating Rink, 750 Folsom Street

(between 3rd and 4th Streets, on the rooftop of the Moscone Center)

Skates, refreshments and a book will be provided to each child, and wheelchairs are welcome on the ice. \$10 suggested donation.

Call 920-5040 to register. Space is limited.

(If the event is full, we will place your family on the waitlist and call if spaces become available.)



At the Wine + Design 2011 Auction and Gala on October 14, SFCD Executive Director Juno Duenas presented the Support for Families annual award to Dr. David Alexander, representing the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health.

The event featured music by cabaret star Wesla Whitfield and guest Masters of Ceremony Eric Thomas of ABC7 TV News and Peter Finch of KFOG Radio.

Early Screening—An Opportunity to Build Parent-Professional Partnerships

The Fall 2011 issue of the SFCD newsletter included an article on the importance of early screening as a first step in identifying if a child might be at risk for or have a developmental disability. This article looks at the Ages and Stages Questionnaires®, Third Edition (ASQ-3™), a screening tool that is widely used by early care and education programs in San Francisco with children from 2 months to 5 years old.

The ASQ-3 is a set of questionnaires to check a child's development in the areas of communication, large and fine motor, problem-solving, and self-help skills. Based on the belief that parents are their child's first teacher and know their child the best, the ASQ-3 was designed to be answered by parents. Parents' answers to the questions will show a child's strengths and any areas where the child may benefit from more opportunities to practice and learn new skills.

Parent involvement is at the heart of the ASQ-3 screening. And if parents aren't sure about completing the ASQ-3 by themselves, they can ask the person administering the screening to assist them.

The screening results will help parents learn whether their child is developing like other children of the same age or might need some additional help. When reviewing the screening results together, parents and program staff should consider the following:

- Opportunity. Did the child have opportunities to try the items or practice skills? If not, provide opportunities to learn and practice skills.
- Health/biological factors. Does the child have a health condition that may have affected the screening? If so, a referral to the health care provider may be needed.
- Cultural factors. Are there cultural reasons that may have influenced the child's performance?
- Environmental factors. Are there environmental factors that may have affected the child's performance, such as a recent stressful event?

If follow-up is needed, the program staff can provide learning activities to support the child's development. If the screening results indicate that further assessment is suggested, remember that screening only indicates the need for a more in-depth evaluation of the child's development and does not diagnose a child. Parents should have an opportunity to share their perceptions of their child and their concerns. Program staff should be ready to provide information about resources and referral options that are available in the community, help parents think about the next steps, support parents in building on their own skills and resources in taking those next steps, and facilitate the process.

Screening is an opportunity for parents and professionals to develop partnerships that will benefit the growth and development of children. Screening can provide families with positive, collaborative experiences with their child's program in addition to information about their child's development. Screening can help professionals learn more about the families and communities of the children in their program.

This article was adapted from several ASQ-3 Tip Sheets developed by the High Risk Infant Interagency Council (HRIIC). For free copies of the tip sheets, please contact HRIIC at info@hriic.org or 415/206-7743.

Parent Mentor Program (PMP)

Parent Mentor Training – Special Education Series The Parent Mentor Program (PMP) is now in its 5th year of providing this training to current and upcoming Parent Mentors under the PMP. The current series started on September 20th for the English speaking families and on September 21st for the Spanish speaking families.

The Special Education Series covers various areas including basic rights and responsibilities, evaluations and assessments, how to prepare for an IEP, Least Restrictive Environment, and more. Materials and handouts are used to help our Mentors get a better understanding of the special education arena.

Parent-to-Parent Training The Special Education Series takes a break in December. At that time we have our Parent to Parent (P2P) portion of our training. The P2P will be held on Saturday, December for English speaking mentors and Wednesdays, December 7 and December 14 for Spanish speaking mentors. During this training we will talk about communication skills, active listening and what it means to be a Support for Families Parent Mentor. New Parent Mentors are invited to attend, as well as the current group of recently trained mentors.

Please Contact at (415) 282-7494 or email:

Joan E. Selby, Parent Mentor Program Coordinator (English) - jselby@supportforfamilies.org

JoAnna Marie Van Brusselen, Parent Mentor Program Coordinator (Spanish) - jvanbrusselen@supportforfamilies.org

Sonia Valenzuela, Parent Mentor Program Coordinator (Spanish) - sspiz@supportforfamilies.org or soniav@supportforfamilies.org



Prevention Resources and Referral Services (PRRS)

Beginning July 1, 2011, the Family Resource Centers Network of California (FRCNCA) and Support for Families of Children with Disabilities (SFCD) have contracted with the State of California's Department of Developmental Services to coordinate a new statewide Prevention Resources and Referral Services (PRRS) program operating through the 47 local Early Start Family Resource Centers (ESFRCs) throughout the State. The goal of the PRRS program is to provide outreach, information and referral services to parents and caregivers that have a child who may be at-risk for special needs services, and is between birth and three years.

The PRRS program helps families traverse the joys and challenges of raising a child. Through the collaboration of local ESFRCs, Regional Centers and the PRRS program, families will be provided with information, resources and support services that will assist them in identifying and meeting their child's unique strengths and needs.

- Early Start eligibility is determined by the regional centers for all children with developmental concerns including those at-risk.
- If the child is not eligible for Early Start, the regional centers determine if a referral to PRRS is appropriate based on the child's risk factors.
- If appropriate for PRRS, and with parental consent, the regional center refers the family to the local ESFRC.
- ESFRCs will provide information, resources, referrals and follow-up to parents and caregivers of referred at-risk babies, birth to 36 months.

To contact the Early Start Family Resource Center in San Francisco is Support for Families of Children with Disabilities, please call Support for Families at our warmline at 415-920-4050 for more information.

What is Inclusion?

Defining Inclusion

There is a lot of conversation these days about inclusive services. Because inclusion can mean different things to different people, we believe it is important to have a shared definition of inclusive practices as we undertake efforts to improve the quality of programming for all children.

Several San Francisco citywide entities, including the Early Education Department of SFUSD, are using the definition that was developed by the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The version that follows was adopted by the San Francisco Child Care Planning and Advisory Committee (CPAC) and is a part of their newly developed Citywide Child Care Plan.

Inclusion embodies the values, policies, and practices that support the right of every child and his or her family, regardless of ability, to participate in a broad range of activities and contexts as full members of families, communities, and society. The desired results of inclusive experiences for children with and without disabilities and their families include a sense of belonging and membership, positive social relationships and friendships, and development and learning to reach their full potential. The defining features of inclusion that can be used to identify high quality programs and services are access, participation, and supports.

What is meant by Access, Participation, and Supports?

Access – means providing a wide range of activities and environments for every child by removing physical barriers and offering multiple ways to promote learning and development.

Participation – means using a range of instructional approaches to promote engagement in play and learning activities, and a sense of belonging for every child.

Supports – refer to broader aspects of the system such as professional development, incentives for inclusion, and opportunities for communication and collaboration among families and professionals to assure high quality inclusion.

Learn More about Inclusion

The upcoming Inclusive Schools Week (December 5-12, 2011) offers an opportunity to celebrate inclusive practices and inclusive schools. The website <http://inclusiveschools.org/inclusive-schools-week/> provides information on how you can participate at your school. The website also has an excellent resource section designed to highlight practical strategies and advice that teachers, school administrators, students, and family members can use to create more inclusive homes, school, and communities. **Support for Families will be offering a Parent-Professional Workshop on Inclusion on December 10th as a part of Inclusive Schools Week.**

Inclusion: Looking Back and Looking Ahead

By Katy Franklin, Chair

SFUSD Community Advisory Committee for Special Education

<http://www.cacspedsf.org>

In 2011, for the first time ever in San Francisco Unified School District history, students with "inclusion" designations on their IEPs in transitional grades, (Kindergarten, 6th grade and High School) were allowed to apply to every public school in the district. San Miguel Early Education School (PreK) also began to offer full inclusion of children with disabilities this year; Presidio Child Development Center used to be the only fully inclusive PreK site available. This civil rights victory for children with disabilities should have been widely celebrated, but the message of hope and progress for school communities was overshadowed by apprehension, reluctance and panic from many school district employees.

This panic was hard to understand, inclusion was not new to SFUSD, about 35% of school sites included students with disabilities in regular education classrooms prior to this change. Ann Halvorsen, a Special Education Professor at CSU East Bay (Hayward), relates some of the history of inclusive education in SFUSD: "Inclusion initiated in 1993 in response to the request of a small group of parents and the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) principles. It grew from 50 students in 10 schools to 470 students in 47 schools in 5 years. For many years, SFUSD had the largest proportion of inclusive schools in an urban center in the United States."

Sadly, even here, in progressive, diverse San Francisco, full inclusion is still regarded as more of a privilege than a right. (IDEA), the Federal law which guides special education, mandates that all children have the right to a free, appropriate public education, regardless of disabilities.

"To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities... should be educated with children who are not disabled, and... special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment should occur only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(5)(B)"

Until this year, and despite what the law said, 65% of SFUSD schools did not include children with disabilities in their general education classrooms. "Our school does not have an inclusion program," is the polite way the school administrators put it. To parents seeking an inclusive education for their children, it was the same as being told: "We don't enroll their kind here."

We still have a long way to go. Successful inclusion programs involve more than mere physical presence in the classroom. Successful inclusion takes careful attention and commitment to ensure that all children are treated as active members and participants of the school community. It takes strong leadership to bring together teachers, students, parents and administrators, and guide them in the development of a caring community where diversity is the norm.

December 5-9, 2011 – is National Inclusive Schools Week, we hope SFUSD schools will celebrate inclusive practices and honor the commitment teachers, administrators, students, and parents have for making their schools welcoming to all children.

Suggested reading:

Books:

- Building Inclusive Schools: Tools and Strategies for Success (2nd Edition) by Ann T. Halvorsen and Thomas Neary
- You're Going to Love This Kid! Teaching Students with Autism in the Inclusive Classroom by Paula Kluth

Websites:

- Kids Together, Inc. - <http://kidstogether.org>
- Inclusive Schools Network - <http://inclusiveschools.org/>

Articles:

- "Our School Doesn't Offer Inclusion" and Other Legal Blunders by Paula Kluth, Richard A. Villa and Jacqueline S. Thousand <http://www.kidstogether.org/noinclusion.htm>
- What is Inclusion? by Colleen F. Tomko



SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

A support and resource organization providing services for families of children with disabilities

Our Services

HOW YOU CAN USE US

CALL US AT:
(415) 920-5040

EMAIL US AT:
info@supportforfamilies.org

VISIT US AT:
1663 Mission Street
7th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

GO TO OUR WEB SITE AT:
www.supportforfamilies.org
to get the latest information
on workshops, events and
new resources.



Phone Line/Drop-in Center

Get individualized information, referrals, and answers to all your questions from Support for Families staff, who are parents themselves. Staff will follow up to make sure you get the answers you need. Staff speak Cantonese, English, Spanish. Care giving for children available 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Resource Library

Access more than 3,500 books, videotapes, DVDs and a toy lending collection for families and professionals. Visit the library catalog online at: <http://www.supportforfamilies.org/library>. On-site computer access and hands-on assistance is also available.

Support Groups

Come to a support group to find solutions to challenges, learn advocacy skills, and explore resources. Support groups provide a network for families to gain strength by sharing experiences with peers.

Volunteer Parent Mentors

Find a match with a trained volunteer Parent Mentor based on a shared issue, condition and or situation.

Educational Workshops and Clinics

Learn about resources, rights and responsibilities in monthly parent/professional workshops and weekly small-group clinics. Care

giving for children and interpretation services available with advance reservation for clinics and workshops.

Family Links to Mental Health

Get peer support from parents or a professional consultation from mental health clinicians who can help families and professionals access mental health and other services for children.

Family Gatherings

Socialize and network in a fun relaxed atmosphere at quarterly events, such as our annual ice-skating party and Halloween party.

Newsletter

Read the quarterly newsletter in English, Spanish, or Chinese to find articles of interest to families and professionals.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Support for Families is to ensure that families of children with any kind of disability or special health care need have the knowledge and support to make informed choices that enhance their children's development and well being. Through fostering partnership among families, professionals and the community, our children can flourish.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eilleen Boussina
Karen Cancino
Judy Chen
Christian Dauer, Vice President
Chris Dehner
Catherine Dougherty
Jennifer Erickson-Crayton
Michelle Foosaner, MS, PT
Todd Gemmer, Treasurer
Nancy Hudgins
Laura Lanzone, Secretary
Jane LaPides
James Riley
Antje Shadoan
Sally Spencer, President
Nancy Statler
Laurie Strawn

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Juno Duenas

How You Can Help

All services and events, even childcare, are always free of charge to encourage participation by all families. With the demand for services greater than ever, your donations help make this possible. A gift to Support

for Families means that families of children with special needs will be better prepared to help their children—and that more children with disabilities will live their lives with dignity and opportunity.

Send a check to the address below or give online at <http://www.supportforfamilies.org/help>. Every gift can help make a difference in the life of a child with special needs.

INSIDE

Support Groups

Information & Resource
Conference Highlights

Parent-Professional
Workshops

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Special Events



Support Groups

All support groups are free of charge. Childcare is provided, unless otherwise indicated, and must be reserved in advance. If you are interested in participating in any of these groups, call (415) 920 - 5040 or e-mail us for more information.

Autism Group: Monthly support group for families of children with Autism. Meets: 1st Wednesday of the month, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
NO CHILD CARE PROVIDED.

Evening Autism Group: Meets 1st Tuesday evening of the month, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Facilitated by Dror Scheider.

Spanish-Speaking Children on Autism Spectrum: For Spanish-speaking families of children on the autism spectrum. Meets: 2nd Wednesday of month from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Facilitated by Gabriela Ramierz.

Asperger's Group: For families who have children with Asperger's Syndrome. Meets: 3rd Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Facilitated by Karen Haney-Owens.

Behavior Discussion Group: A workshop series and discussion group for families concerned about their child's behavior. Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Facilitated by Kathy Winship.
No meeting 12/15.

Cantonese SFCD Group: For Chinese-speaking families of children with special needs. Meets: every 2nd Saturday of the month, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Facilitated by Mee Kit Yip-Li.

Chinatown Child Development Center: For Chinese-speaking families of children with special needs. Meets: Every 3rd Monday of the month, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Facilitated by Lisa Yee.

Down Syndrome Support Group: For parents and caregivers of children with Down Syndrome. Meets the 2nd Tuesday evening of the month, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Facilitated by Judy Silva and Wes Horner.

Foster Parent Support Group: For foster parents of children with special needs. Meets the 1st Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Facilitated by Dennis Lockett and Lorraine Hanks.

Living with Loss: Loss, Hope and Healing: A group for parents and caretakers of medically fragile children and children facing life threatening illness. Contact Kathy Winship for more information.
Facilitated by Nancy Iverson, MD.

Mission Head Start Group: For Spanish-speaking families of children birth to five with special needs. Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Facilitated by Kathy Winship.

Parent Toddler Playgroup: A group for parents/caretakers and their children ages 18-42 months with disabilities or special health care needs. Meets (2012 series date TBD)
Facilitated by Adriana Taranta and Kathy Winship.

Parents of Transition Age Youth with Special Health Care Needs and Disabilities: Join us for information, resources and support for the issues we and our youth face as they reach adulthood. Meets 1st Tuesday of the month from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Facilitated by Linda Tung.

Prader-Willi Group: For families of children with Prader-Willi Syndrome. Meets quarterly on Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Facilitated by Kathy Winship.

Spanish-Speaking Prader-Willi Group: For Spanish-speaking families of children with Prader-Willi Syndrome. Meets twice a year on Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Facilitated by Kathy Winship.

Tuesday Night Group: A group for parents who have children with a disability or special health care needs. Meets one Tuesday per month, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Facilitated by Nina Boyle.

Coming in Winter 2011:

Spanish Group: A group for Spanish-speaking parents who have children with disability and special health care needs. Meets one Thursday per month, time, TBD, Facilitated by JoAnna Van Brusselen and Kathy Winship.

Please Contact Kathy Winship, Social Worker, at 415-920-5040 X132 for information about other support groups being offered or if you are interested in a group on a specific issue. Kathy speaks Spanish and English.





Upcoming Parent-Professional Workshops (PPWs)

Workshops are **FREE** and held at **Support for Families of Children with Disabilities** at 1663 Mission Street, 7th Floor (between Duboce Street and South Van Ness Avenue)

Registration is a half hour before the workshop * Please note that workshop presentations begin promptly on time stated* **Reservations are required.** * Sign up early—space fills up fast! To attend a workshop, reserve child care, and/or interpretation services, you must call at least two weeks in advance: **(415) 920-5040.**

Saturday, January 14, 2012 from 8:00 am – 12:30 pm

Workshop Title: Joyful and Productive Shared Reading for All Families

Many families know how important it is to read books with their children. But why? And how? This workshop will describe the importance of talking about text during shared reading and present strategies to help parents, aunts and uncles, grandparents, and siblings make the most of shared reading in an enjoyable way. Together, the audience and presenter will identify specific examples that work for your family - bring a favorite book to practice with! We will focus on pre-school through late elementary ages, but the principles can be applied to older students. Dr. Filippini will share techniques relevant to specific situations: bilingual families, children with specific learning disabilities, and adults who are uncomfortable reading aloud. She will also touch on practices for children with other disabilities. Participants will practice using these strategies, so families are asked to bring one of their child's favorite books that the adult is familiar with.

Presenter: Alexis Filippini, Ph.D.

Alexis Filippini is the executive director of Mission Learning Center, a non-profit that provides literacy instruction and intervention to children from low-income communities.

Saturday, February 11, 2012 from 8:00 am – 12:30 pm

Treatments that work for children with ADHD: What teachers and parents can do.

Children with ADHD typically demonstrate disruptive and off-task behaviors at school and at home. Due to impairments in their ability to regulate their behavior, they often have difficulty complying with adult instructions. These impairments can interfere with learning, limit social functioning, and create significant frustration for caregivers. This workshop will focus on strategies that help children with ADHD improve their behavior across domains. Parents and teachers will improve their understanding of the disorder, learn to identify treatment priorities, and develop the ability to create a behavior plan to improve the compliance, focus, and on task behaviors of children with ADHD.

Presenter: Betsy Corrin, Ph.D., Child Clinical Psychologist. Betsy Corrin, Ph.D. is a Child Psychologist specializing in the treatment of ADHD, behavioral disorders, and anxiety disorders.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 3, 2012



2012 Information and Resource Conference

John O'Connell High School



Calendar of Events

December 2011

December 1	4:00 - 6:00 pm	IEP Clinic (Cantonese)
December 3	8:30 - 4:30 pm	Parent to Parent - PMP (English)
December 7&14	9:30 - 12:30 pm	Parent to Parent - PMP (Spanish) Part 1&2
December 8	4:00 - 6:00 pm	IEP Clinic (English)
December 10	8:30 - 12:30 pm	PPW: National Inclusive Schools Week - Inclusion Workshop
December 15	4:00 - 6:00 pm	IEP Clinic (Spanish)
December 16	11:30 - 1:30 pm	Transition to Adult Services

January 2011

January 5	4:00 - 6:00 pm	IEP Clinic (Cantonese)
January 12	4:00 - 6:00 pm	IEP Clinic (English)
January 14	8:30 - 12:30 pm	PPW: Joyful and Productive Shared Reading for All Families
January 17	5:30 - 8:30 pm	Parent Mentor Program - English
January 18	9:30 - 12:30 pm	Parent Mentor Program - Spanish
January 19	4:00 - 6:00 pm	IEP Clinic (Spanish)
January 26	11:30 - 1:30 pm	Transition to Adult Services

February 2011

February 2	4:00 - 6:00 pm	IEP Clinic (Cantonese)
February 9	4:00 - 6:00 pm	IEP Clinic (English)
February 11	8:30 - 12:30 pm	PPW: Treatments that work for children with ADHD: What teachers and parents can do.
February 15	9:30 - 12:30 pm	Parent Mentor Program - Spanish
February 16	4:00 - 6:00 pm	IEP Clinic (Spanish)
February 21	5:30 - 8:30 pm	Parent Mentor Program - English
February 23	11:30 - 1:30 pm	Transition to Adult Services

March 2011

March 1	4:00 - 6:00 pm	IEP Clinic (Cantonese)
March 3	8:30 - 4:30 pm	2012 Information and Resource Conference
March 8	4:00 - 6:00 pm	IEP Clinic (English)
March 15	4:00 - 6:00 pm	IEP Clinic (Spanish)
March 20	5:30 - 8:30 pm	Parent Mentor Program - English
March 21	9:30 - 12:30 pm	Parent Mentor Program - Spanish
March 22	11:30 - 1:30 pm	Transition to Adult Services

For more information on any of these events
please call Support for Families at
415 - 920 - 5040 or visit us at
www.supportforfamilies.org

The Junior League SF and Support for Families
present:

Movie Nights

Friday nights at
Support for Families of Children with Disabilities
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

1663 Mission Street, 7th floor, SF, CA 94103

- ◆ 1/27—"How to Train Your Dragon"
- ◆ 2/24—"Tangled"
- ◆ 3/23—"Happy Feet Two"

Join us for a Friday family-friendly movie while munching on fresh-popped popcorn and refreshments here at our offices on Mission Street. Kids are welcome to play in the playroom and families can relax.

Call 920-5040 to register one month in advance of each movie night event.

Support for Families
and SF Recreation and Parks Department

present:



★ Explore fitness and fun for kids and youth
with special health care needs or disabilities ★

Saturday, May 5, 2012

1:00 to 3:00 pm

Music Concourse Bandshell in Golden Gate Park
Exhibitors, Food, Music, Arts & Crafts, and Fun!
Call 415-920-5040 to register.

Fun for the entire family!

All of our events are FREE. We welcome donations of any size.
Go to our website www.supportforfamilies.org to check out all our upcoming events!



Movie Nights!

By Kathleen Schlier, Special Events Manager

What's more fun than going to the movies with your friends or family? For families of children with disabilities, this can be harder than people realize. Sometimes it's hard for kids to sit still for the length of the movie, or find it too dark or loud. By hosting movie nights, Support for Families has created an event where kids with disabilities and their families can have a successful experience being in the audience, and have fun together once a month on a Friday evening!

The Junior League SF helped us lay the groundwork last spring, and we are happy to continue hosting these family friendly events in our offices this winter and spring on the following dates:

Jan. 27 – “How to Train your Dragon” / Feb. 24 – “Tangled” / March 23 – “Happy Feet Two”

There will also be Movie Nights scheduled on April 27 and May 18 (Movies TBD). Mark your calendars now for these fun family events! The playroom will be open to children who want to play, and popcorn, pizza and refreshments will be served to the families. Come and relax, network with other families and watch a movie! Families should call to register up to one month in advance of each Movie Night. Call the warm-line: 415-920-5040.

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped us at our “Wine & Design” Fundraising Gala on October 14, 2011:

Volunteer Groups:

Alpha Phi – UC Berkeley
Junior League San Francisco
SFSU National Student
Speech- Language & Hearing Association

USF School of Law Students
UTU Local 1741 School Bus Drivers

Individuals Volunteers:

Cara Conners
Veronika Gulchin
Beth Hensley
Nileshawri Kumari
Janette Najar
Frank Schlier
Elisa Smith



Board members Sally Spencer and Laura Lanzzone with guest Ed Koplowitz at the Wine+Design 2011 Gala



Save the Date and Spread the Word!

Kaiser Permanente Half Marathon and 5K Fun Run: benefits Support for Families! Sunday, February 5th, 2012, Golden Gate Park
<http://xnet.kp.org/sanfrancisco/index.html>

Our dedicated PG&E Volunteer, Lisa Moniz, receives the “Mielke Award” for her volunteer service.

By Kathleen Schlier, Special Event Manager

Lisa Moniz, Finance Performance Systems, at PG&E, has coordinated the work of more than 100 company volunteers, who have assisted Support for Families at events including the holiday Ice-Skating Party and Access to Adventure. In recognition of her extraordinary volunteer service, Lisa was selected as one of five PG&E employees to receive the annual Mielke Award.

The award honors former PG&E Chairman of the Board and CEO Frederick W. Mielke, Jr for his personal commitment to civic and charitable endeavors and recognizes PG&E employees whose volunteer efforts have made a significant impact on the communities and people they serve. Support for Families will also receive a \$5,000 grant as a part of this award.

Videos about the work of each award recipient are shown to PG&E employees who then "vote" for their favorite volunteer story. If they choose Lisa's story as the most inspiring and compelling one, she will go on to represent SFCD at the prestigious Jefferson Awards in Washington DC.

We congratulate Lisa and thank her for choosing Support for Families for her volunteer service!





Spring Baseball for Kids with Disabilities

by Lori McEnerney

An Opening Day motorcade with 100 other SF Little League teams and a photo with the World Series Trophy is how the San Francisco Giants Challenger Team began its 2011 season.

On Sunday afternoons, from March to June, Challenger Baseball gives kids over six with physical or cognitive disabilities the chance to play "the Great American Pastime." They learn the basics of the game in a supportive and non-competitive environment where no one is out and no one keeps score. Every player bats each inning, always makes it to base, and always crosses home plate to a cheering crowd!

Our son Brian has played Challenger Little League since he was 5 years old. For the last 3 seasons, he has proudly worn the orange and black uniform of the Giants. Brian has cerebral palsy and is now 12 years old. His interest in baseball started when he was little, and he would always try just a little bit harder in therapy when he could throw a ball or pretend to round the bases in his wheelchair. Seeing that sports were a big motivator for him and something that he enjoyed, we decided to have Brian try.

This past season, Brian's dad and I were given the chance to co-coach a second SF Challenger team, the Orange Giants. Peter Straus has spent many years creating a supportive and enjoyable program in San Francisco, and that effort led to having 2 teams, "Black" and "Orange" Giants teams, in 2011. Co-coaching gave us a unique opportunity to get to know families a little better, and celebrate their children's unique accomplishments. I encourage you to give Challenger Little League a try. There is no pressure on your child; they can participate at a level that is comfortable for them. We will encourage them to enjoy the experience with as much or as little assistance as they need, from you, one of our coaches, or a buddy.

Challenger Little League. Nothing could prepare us for the smile on his face when he was sitting in the dugout with the other players, the squeals of delight when his wheelchair tagged the base, the outstretched arm ready to receive a "high 5" as he crossed home plate, or the sense of pride he had being part of a team. It didn't

matter that he held his glove differently or that he couldn't throw as far, what was important was the accomplishment. He and his friends were a team and home games are played either on Treasure Island or at the small field at China Basin Park, just across "McCovey Cove" from AT&T Park. Away games are played on the home fields of the Mill Valley and Peninsula teams we play.

Little League is an all-volunteer non-profit organization supporting over 25,000 Challenger players coast to coast. While a registration fee is requested, fee waivers are available so that no one is turned away.

Registration for Spring 2012 is currently underway through the San Francisco Little League website, www.SFLL.org. For additional information, to volunteer, or for contacts for other Bay Area Challenger teams, please contact Peter Straus at 415-864-2939, or pstraussf@prodigy.net.

Play Ball!!



WINTER 2011

Thank you!

Donations received July 20, 2011 through October 20, 2011 Support for Families gratefully acknowledges gifts from the following individuals, groups and businesses. We apologize for any omissions or misspellings. Please contact us so we can correct our records.



atrium sponsors

Jane LaPides and Murray Cahen
Dr. Suzanne and Lou Giraud, in honor of Jane LaPides and Murray Cahen
Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health

stage sponsors

Lynn Fuller and Bill Bivins
Bruce Deming and Jeff Byrne
Judy Janec, in memory of Gloria & Irving Schlossberg
Allene LaPides
John LaPides
Sally Spencer and Phil Pollock

banner sponsors

Nersi Boussina, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
Emily Chen and Christopher J. Carrera
Timothy Chuter, M.D.
Lucy Crain, M.D. and William Crain, M.D.
Catherine and Christian Dauer
Diana Tang and Sonja Huie, M.D., Inc.
Judy C. Chen and Michael V. Gamboa, DDS
Todd Gemmer, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.
Jeff Harrell
Drs. Daniel Kelly, Barry Rostek and William Solomon
Ann LaPides
Bill Lewandowski, in memory of Walter Lewandowski
Macy's
Paragon Real Estate Group
Physicians Reimbursement Fund, Inc.
Mark Simon
Irma & Ralph Thaler, in honor of Valerie deChadenes
Transportation Agent Grid

program sponsors
BioMarin Pharmaceuticals
Boost Preschool

The Brody Family in appreciation of Jane LaPides and Murray Cahen
Audrey Carlson
Liane Collins
Andrea and Chris Dehner
Juno and Robert Duenas
Farallone Pacific Insurance Services
Alison Fuller
Karen Kerner and Joshua Goodman
Nea Hanscomb with Feda Almaliti and Sally Brammell: Advocates for Autism Insurance
Nancy Hudgins
Roz and Steve Itelson
Lindsay Joost
Laura and Gene Lanzone
Yasaman and Young Lee
Renee Arst and Brian Lewis
Luxor Cab
Peter Mansfield
Barbara and Garry Marshall
San Francisco Millwork
Antje and Richard Shadoan
Sharp Business Systems
Tuesday Night Support Group
Jan and Jim Watson
Jeannine Yeomans
Zephyr Real Estate

media sponsor



other wine+design donations

Anonymous
Diego Valderrama & Afra Afsharipour
Gerald Audant
Carol Ayer
Susanne Baum in honor of Jim Riley
William Bivins & Lynn Fuller
Melissa Brown
Karen Caetano
Ann Carr
Jill Chan
Karen Clayman
Theresa Collins
Barbara Colton
Susan Dambroff
Andrea Danforth
Anne & Eugene D'Angelo
Tamara & Baryohay Davidoff
Nannette DeLara

Mark Delbene
Margaret Dietz
Peter Dodds
Kevin & Michelle Donaldson
Cameron & Kathleen Farah
Karen & Todd Gemmer
Vince Grell
Patricia & James Hargarten
Maggie & Greg Holmes
Wesley Hom
Judith Janec
Jane Lapides & Murray Cahen
Allene Lapides
Dina Lucchesi
Lawrence Lurie
Norma & Albert Moio
Nancy & Chuck Murphy
Molly O'Shea
Corazon Pagsanjan
John Pierce
Pamela & John Raymond
LuLu Carpenter & Rony Rolnizky
Lanelle & Michael Santimauro
Jessica Savage
John Seemann
Joan & Bryan Selby
Antje Shadoan
Miye Takagi
Angie & George Toy
Steven Winningham
ZFA Structural Engineers

wine+ design inkind donations

Alpha Omega Winery
American Conservatory Theater
Mark Bernstein
Anna Biggs Designs
Anonymous
Aquarium of the Bay
Asian Art Museum
Audrey deChadenes Benefit
Berkeley Rep
Bikram Yoga
Boulevard Restaurant
Brannan Street Florists
Brian Recktenwald (BAR Photography)
California Shakespeare Theater (Cal Shakes)
Cartoon Art Museum
Christopher and Andrea Dehner
City Arts and Lectures
Cole Hardware
Curbside Cafe
Da Capo Wines
Diablo Theatre Company

Drs. Lucy and William Crain
Electronic Arts
Emily M. Murase
Eric Thomas ABC7 News
Fine Arts Museums San Francisco
Firefly Restaurant
Foreign Cinema Restaurant
Fresh, Inc.
Fritz Winery
GoKart Racer
Heath Ceramics
Hotel Nikko SF
Iwerks Turbo Ride
J. Lohr Vineyards and Wines
JC Cellars
JCCSF
Jennifer & Marc Crayton
Jim Riley
John Rothmann
Josephine Lucchesi
Judy Chen
Kellie Greenwald
Kids Only
Kimpton Hotel and Restaurant Group
Lee Strawn
Lights Up!
Linden Murphy Design
Lovejoy's Tea Room
Lucasfilm Ltd.
Lynne Winslow
Macy's
Madrigal Vineyards
Marianne Wong
Mark Ibanez
Mayor Edwin M. Lee
Meadowood Napa Valley
Mezzanine
Michael V. Gamboa
Mission Cliffs
Mozzarella di Bufala Pizzeria
Murray Cahen
Nancy Hudgins
Niner Wine Estates
Pearl Paradise
Planet Granite
Players Sports Grill and Arcade
Players, Iwerks and Aquarium of the Bay
Ravenswood Winery
Recess Urban Recreation
Rocio Smith
San Francisco Ballet
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
See's Candies
Semifreddi's Bakery
SF Giants
Sheriff Mike Hennessey

Silk Hands & Feet Spa
Sloat Garden Center
Squat & Gobble Cafe
St. George Spirits
St. Helena Road Winery
Steve Franchetti
Tante Marie's Cooking School
The Cutlery
The Marsh
Therapeia Massage
Tutu School
ZivPotampa Architects
Zuni Café

In addition, Support for Families thanks the many people who bought raffle tickets and/or items at our Wine + Design silent, live, and online auctions. These purchases also help support our programs and services!

OTHER DONATIONS

Individuals:
Anonymous
Carol Ayer
Reza Behforooz
Jane Lapides and Murray Cahen
Francoise Herrmann
Richard Hobbs
Mr. & Mrs. Christian Kimball
Debra Longstreet
Soledad Garcia and Daniel McCarthy
Elizabeth Mehren
Lesley Norelli
Paul Rauschelbach
Karen Temple

Workplace Donations:

Chevron Humankind
Matching Gift Program
Jeffrey Garrison
Michael Kapulica
Angela Wong
Todd Gemmer
Mark Fultz
William Crain, MD

Car Donations:

Stephen Butler
Beverly Lam
Kevin Lam

InKind Donations:

Aidell's Sausage Company
Whole Foods



SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

1663 Mission Street, 7th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PERMIT NO. 1887

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

All services are free of charge:

- Phone Line & Drop-In Center
- Information & Resources
- Resource Library
- Support Groups
- Parent Mentor Program
- Educational Workshops
- Family Gatherings
- Short-term Counseling
- Community Outreach
- Website:

www.supportforfamilies.org

This NEWSLETTER is published quarterly in English, Spanish & Chinese. If you have a question or comment, send it to info@supportforfamilies.org

Support for Families

1663 Mission Street, 7th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
T: 415.282.7494
F: 415.282.1226

Family Resource Center Warmline and Information and Referral

1663 Mission Street, 7th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
T: 415.920.5040

Board of Directors

Sally Spencer, President
Christian Dauer, Vice President
Laura Lanzone, Secretary
Todd Gemmer, Treasurer

Eilleen Boussina
Karen Cancino
Judy Chen
Chris Dehner
Catherine Dougherty
Jennifer Erickson-Crayton
Michelle Foosaner, MS, PT
Nancy Hudgins
Jane LaPides
James Riley
Antje Shadoan
Nancy Statler
Laurie Strawn

Executive Director

Juno Duenas

Staff

Nina Boyle, Program Director
Elaine Butler, Librarian
Anna Costalas, Information and Resource Manager
Lauren Crook, HRIIC and SNIP Technical Assistant
Joe R. Goyos, Education Manager
Karen Haney-Owens, Community Resource Parent
Deidre Hayden, Special Needs Inclusion Project Director
June Hew, Community Resource Parent
Bill Lewandowski, Operations Director
Dennis Lockett, Community Resource Parent
Christine Reina, Community Resource Parent

Paula Reina, Community Resource Parent
Kathleen Schlier, Care Services, Family Events and Volunteer Manager
Joan Selby, Parent Mentor Coordinator
Lindsey Sheehy, Administrative Assistant
Alison Stewart, Special Needs Inclusion Project Manager
Linda Tung, Administrative Assistant
Sonia Valenzuela, Parent Mentor Coordinator
Jan Watson - Development Director
Katherine Winship, Social Worker/ Mental Health Coordinator
Lisa Yee, Community Resource Parent
Wendy Yuan, Education Coordinator

High Risk Infant Interagency Council

Zulema Rubalcava Barron, Training and Technical Assistance Manager
Ann Carr, HRIIC Director
Shellie Citron, Administrative Assistant
Judy Higuchi, HRIIC Associate Director
Regine Ho, Round Table Care Coordinator
Karla Martinez, Round Table Care Coordinator
Shanta Jambotkar, Round Table Care Coordinator
Ana Vanesa Plasencia, Data Evaluation Specialist

Family Resource Center Network of California (FRCNCA)

Debbie Sarmento, FRCNCA Coordinator