



# Hope in *Action* Winter 2016

Above: Hope's Participant Advocate, Jackie Raboüin, and Hope participant activists Jane Malkofsky, April Neal, and Maya Bareket

## Hope Participants Attend December Budget Protest

by Jane Malkofsky—Participants' rights activist & Hope Las Colinas Receptionist

**On December 10, 2015 a very important event happened in Sacramento.** About 700 hundred people involving many different agencies for people with disabilities gathered together to rally to get back the 10% money that had been cut from all of our programs.\* Representing Hope Services was Jackie Raboüin, our Participants' Rights Advocate from Hope Las Colinas; Maya Bareket, a Front Desk Receptionist at Hope Las Colinas; April Neal, a part-time Front Desk Receptionist at Hope Las Colinas and participant at Hope Whittier; and myself.

It was so refreshing and wonderful to see so many people from so many different agencies come together all on the same team fighting for what we so desperately need to keep all of our programs going. When it came our group's turn to talk I ended my plea to get the 10% funding back by all three of us chanting the words "SHOW US THE MONEY!!!!!" We need our Governor Jerry Brown to hear all of our voices and give us back what is rightfully ours.

Every agency that works with people with disabilities is so very needed and deserves to have the funds to keep their programs going. I can't even begin to tell you how essential every one of these agencies are. Without all of these places in circulation people with disabilities would not have places to go to work or attend classes or activities and we couldn't be productive citizens in the community. Each and every agency who works with people with disabilities deserves to have the funds they need to continue to help all of us succeed.

So to Jerry Brown on behalf of every single agency out there once again I say " SHOW US THE MONEY"!!!!!!!

\* The funding crisis is a result of the 10% cut in funding that occurred in 2008, as well as no rate increases since 2003.



From right: Jane (with microphone) speaks out at the rally, along with Hope participants April and Maya.

### Update as of January 15, 2016:

The Governor's proposed budget for 2016-17 does not provide rate increases to diminish the funding crisis for service providers.

### System in Crisis

Here are some examples of what the funding crisis looks like at Hope:

- Many participants who want to work in the community remain unemployed because of lack of funding for job coaches to assist them. This contributes to California's 87% unemployment rate for people with disabilities.
- Lack of transportation funding to pay bus drivers means disruption in service. Many Hope participants have been stranded at home, unable to attend day programs.
- Inadequate funding creates a crisis for Hope direct support staff. Many work multiple jobs and are still unable to afford housing, forcing them to move out of the area.

You can help us. Find out how at:

[www.hopeservices.org/support-us](http://www.hopeservices.org/support-us)

# CEO's Message



Hope CEO Ray Smith with Ho, a participant in Hope's Las Colinas Day Service

## A New Year with New Goals

Happy New Year! A new year is a great time to reflect on our opportunities and challenges for the coming year. The beginning of 2016 brings a mix of both to our organization.

**Community Connections:** Participants will gain leadership skills as they serve and give back to their communities through volunteer activities. Seeing people with developmental disabilities contributing to their communities will have a positive impact on how the general community views individuals with disabilities. The program will also provide on-site classes that assist with community integration, tailored to the interests of the individuals, and will include personal advocacy training, utilizing a curriculum developed by individuals with intellectual disabilities. Classes such as art, Weight Watchers, and nutrition will be taught by community enrichment teachers, and will be open to the public for a small fee.

### New Opportunity: Employment, Media, & Community Connections Program (EMCC)

In past newsletters I shared that Hope is embarking on a phase out of our sheltered workshops, which isolated people with developmental disabilities from the community. 2016 will see the start of our first Work Activity Programs (Whittier and Gilroy) transitioning to the new EMCC Program. The EMCC will provide exciting opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to learn, socialize, and receive services and supports that will improve the quality of their lives and assist them to be valuable members of their community. Sheltered work environments will be replaced with training, classes, and work, both on-site and – most importantly -- in the community. Person centered planning will be at the heart of each participant's activities, beginning with an initial intake meeting to identify each individual's strengths, interests, and support needs, and activity schedules tailored to each person's personal goals. The EMCC program will have an improved staffing ratio of 1:8 on site, and 1:4 in the community.

#### Components of the EMCC Program:

**Employment:** Working and earning a paycheck are key ingredients that improve our participants' quality of life. Participants will have opportunities to engage in job clubs and in opportunities that might lead to paid employment. Hope intends to utilize community groups to assist with job development, such as One Stop Career Centers, and the Leadership San Jose program offered through the San Jose Chamber of Commerce.

**Media:** Every individual will also benefit from training in technology and media as a means of connecting with their community. Participants will learn how to use a computer to access the web, read emails, or research community resources. Individuals may learn how to produce and edit videos. This model of utilizing media and technology has already proven to be highly successful in another Hope day program, resulting in improved quality of life through greater personal independence.

### Some of Our Challenges This Year

**A Transportation Crisis:** Many of Hope's participants receive transportation services from the San Andreas Regional Center (SARC). For the last ten years, SARC has contracted with MV Transportation to provide transport to and from participants' homes to programs in the San Jose area. MV Transportation recently notified SARC that they are terminating their contract for transport in the San Jose area, as they have not had a rate increase in 8 years, making it impossible to replace buses and hire drivers. This will severely impact many of Hope's participants, who, without transportation, will be unable to attend their programs.

**Lack of State Funding is Impacting Our Employee's Compensation:** January 1 brought new legislation raising minimum wage in several areas. One of Hope's strategic goals is to create sustainable revenue streams to bring our employees' compensation back to where it should be. In the interim, without corresponding rate increases from the State to cover new minimum wage legislation, Hope's deficit continues to increase, and our employees' quality of life is suffering.

### In Conclusion:

While the challenges are immense, we have identified three key strategies to solve these issues: 1) Expand our thrift stores to provide more jobs and funding for programs; 2) Replace poorly funded programs with enhanced programs that are better funded; and 3) Obtain continued financial support from our families and donors. 2016 will be an exciting year and I look forward to your continued support for our work to improve the quality of life for people with development disabilities.

## CSUMB Student Spreads Extra Holiday Joy

WHENEVER LINA GRANATA walks into Hope's Community Integration Training (CIT) program in Salinas, the participants get excited. There's a good reason: her time at CIT has been a positive experience for everyone involved. While providing community service at Hope, Lina has found a new passion and a lot of new friends. She has used her time at Hope to improve the lives of the CIT participants, culminating with a special holiday celebration that she arranged.

Lina is a student at California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), majoring in Human Communication. This semester she was placed at Hope through the CSUMB Service Learning Institute. The Institute fosters and promotes social justice in the surrounding community by connecting students with local groups where they do community service work. This semester, Hope had 3 Service Learners, and 2 interns from CSUMB volunteering in the CIT program, as well as 1 Service Learner at our other Salinas location. Because Lina's major is Communications, she was given tasks such as analyzing the participants' quality of life based on their Quality of Life Survey responses.

In the process of working with the participants in the CIT group, Lina found many ways to improve their lives that went beyond the scope of her job description. She really enjoyed interacting with the participants in the program. One of the participants whom she really bonded with is Danny. When she found out that he loves football, she arranged to take him to a local pizza restaurant one evening to watch a football game. It was a simple pleasure, but it meant a lot to Danny: the next day he excitedly recounted his evening to other participants in the program. Lina and Windy also took another participant, Jonathan, to see the new Star Wars movie.

When the holidays arrived, Lina decided she wanted to do something extra special to make the participants' holidays more festive. Lina and her partner, Windy, wanted to make sure that all of her new friends had a holiday to remember. Under the radar, they found out what all 45 of the program participants wanted for Christmas, and then acquired one item from each person's list. Lina and Windy purchased some of the gifts, and others were donated by local businesses. They presented the presents to

the participants during a holiday celebration the day before the holiday break began.

According to Greg Dinsmore, the Day Program Manager at CIT, Lina "put the icing on the cake" of making the volunteer program a success. Even though her official volunteer assignment has ended, Lina remains very passionate about her work with Hope: she still comes by and visits her friends, and has even applied for a job. Thanks, Lina, for helping improve our participants' lives!



*From left: Lina's partner, Windy; Hope participant Dennis as Santa; and Lina*



*Lina and Windy take Jonathan to the movies*



*From left: Sarah, Devon, Jonathan, Lina, and Danny*

## Help Spread the **JOY**

To help create more community integration opportunities like Lina did,

- ▶ Donate to fund community employment and participant activities
- ▶ Volunteer your time
- ▶ Contact us to discuss how your business can employ Hope clients

Visit [www.hopeservices.org/support-us](http://www.hopeservices.org/support-us) to learn more. Make a difference today!

# Paolo Naval—

2015 Larry Schott Award Recipient

The Schott award recognizes individuals for their dedication to volunteer service in the community. Paolo Naval, the 2015 award recipient, is known for his helpful nature, advocacy for people with developmental disabilities, and his fierce desire to succeed.



*Paolo Naval  
with Hope CEO  
Ray Smith*

Because of Paolo's professionalism and computer skills, he helps out regularly in the De Anza College computer lab at the Hope Whittier workshop. He is greatly admired by the students, who seek out his assistance and look up to him. He also works at Hope as a part-time receptionist.

Paolo was recently able to achieve his dream of getting a paid customer service job in the community: He is now working part-time as an usher at a local movie theater. Congratulations, Paolo!



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

*La Rinconada Golf Tournament and Dinner*

September 12, 2016 in Los Gatos

## Project SEARCH

The recent Project SEARCH graduation ceremony at Kaiser San Jose Medical Center inspired both the graduates and an audience of family members, Kaiser employees, Hope staff, and other guests.

Project SEARCH is an internship program that helps individuals who have exited high school and have developmental disabilities to transition to the world of work. Hope was very excited to collaborate with Project SEARCH and Kaiser Permanente San Jose Medical Center, which is ranked as one of the top employers for persons with disabilities by CAREERS and DISABLED magazine. The collaboration also included the San Andreas Regional Center and the Fremont Union High School District.

This year's Project SEARCH interns have undergone powerful personal transformations that will assist them in

many areas of their lives in the future. Some of the biggest challenges facing the interns are working on their social skills, and for some, behavioral skills. Through the program, they developed the confidence necessary to succeed. They also picked up valuable job skills, through experiences such as performing data entry and clerical office skills, assisting Kaiser members with questions at flu clinics, scanning and digitizing CDs, working in the gift shop, assisting nursing staff, and helping in the cafeteria.

Some of our recent Fall graduates have already found paid work in the community. One graduate was hired by Kaiser, another was hired by the company that runs the Kaiser cafeteria, and a third graduate has passed the California test for the CNA course, and is hoping to work in the Maternal, Child and Labor and Delivery Department at Kaiser.

A new class of interns will begin their journey towards a career on February 8th.

## EVENT RESULTS

The Silicon Valley Capital Club & Hope Services presented **SUNSET BOULEVARD: A NIGHT IN OLD HOLLYWOOD** on October 17. Thanks to our generous sponsors and attendees, Hope raised over \$100,000 towards the Work Activity Program Transition. Hope thanks Presenting Sponsor: **Linda Lee Lester**; Premiere Sponsors: **Comerica** and **Commercial Casework & The Palmer family**; Red Carpet Sponsors: **Ann & Alden Danner, Barney & Barney**, and **Funston Tile**; Fan Sponsors: **Black Construction, Cupertino Electric, Heritage Bank, Hopkins & Carley, Janice Berthold—Heffernan Insurance Brokers, Rabbit Office Automation, Safeway, San Jose Water Company, and Sidley Austin LLP & Karen Cottle.**

## Want to Learn More About Hope?

We'd love to hear from you.

We value your feedback. Call with questions or to share your thoughts.

Send all correspondence to: Hope Services, Attn: Development Department, 30 Las Colinas Lane, San Jose, CA 95119-1212.

Talk to us: 408.284.2862 or 408.284.2858, or connect online at [www.HopeServices.org](http://www.HopeServices.org).

Take a tour: We promise to make your day a bit brighter. Contact Angela Mazza at 408.284.2862 or [amazza@hopeservices.org](mailto:amazza@hopeservices.org).



*Project SEARCH graduates with Hope and Kaiser staff*



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

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