



Project Search at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital

Project Search, implemented in August 2012, is on track to be one of our most effective strategies to train and place clients in integrated, meaningful work. At Project Search, young adults with developmental disabilities (DD) work for one year as unpaid interns at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, gaining the real experience and training that will help them transition into meaningful work once they graduate.

Packard Children's has partnered with HOPE Services, Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD), San Andreas Regional Center, and the Mericos Foundation to implement this program which was developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. With Project Search sites operating in more than 120 locations in the nation, hundreds of graduates every year obtain meaningful jobs at prevailing wages and benefits. While the national average job placement of people with DD is about 12%, the Project Search placement rate is 65% of graduates!

The inaugural class of nine interns is working in their second assignment of the year including the respiratory department, admissions, housekeeping and food services. They are coming to work every day on time, making friends, gaining vocational skills, and moving toward their career goals. One intern, Joe, says "I have learned a lot which included working with different personalities when the employees were training me."

"Project Search at Packard Children's has hit the ground running," says Project Search Instructor, Brian Cordero, "The interns are improving daily, assimilating into the working environment and have shown their capacity and eagerness to work. The hospital staff welcomed us and is a great support in facilitating learning."

According to the Chief Human Resources Officer at the hospital, Greg Souza, "Project Search has been a great success because of the collaboration and strong partnerships of all involved. The project is very aligned



Top Row L-R: Charlie H., Joe B., Georges Y. Middle Row: Michael B., Kristen F., Daniel M. Bottom Row: Ryan O., Ante (Tony) F., Stephen N. (not pictured).

with our mission of supporting growth and development, and the interns are proving to be excellent contributors and a real pleasure to have in the hospital."

Aligning missions is what makes Project Search so successful. Packard Children's Employee, Melissa Mayer reports, "We are not only helping these interns with their future, but they too are helping us grow as people and as an organization. It's been a real pleasure to participate."

Parents are also pleased with the results. Lena Bogart, whose son Michael is an intern, shared, "Since the program started, Michael has grown into a responsible young adult. It is a joy to watch him. Michael told me that he feels proud wearing the Stanford employee badge."

While working in the café and housekeeping departments Michael is learning to operate machinery. "It feels cool to go to work every weekday," Michael said.

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FROM JOHN CHRISTENSEN

The President's Message

We have just wrapped up a number of issues in HOPE in Action celebrating Hopes' early days and rich history of the past 60 years. Now we are focusing on the future. One of the most simplistic of tests is "Are we better off this year than last year?" In a word, "YES." Our finances have improved, and operationally we are now seeing positive cash flow. We have also received the results of two audits from the Dept. of Developmental Services; both were very complementary.

While funding has currently stabilized, the effect of the organization's vulnerability to rate changes and the subsequent impact on our ability to continue providing

services has revived the entrepreneurial spirit and innovation for which this area of California is best known. Hope Services' Board of Directors has increased focus on earned income. This includes the continued expansion of our green business and other entrepreneurial ventures which will provide employment for individuals with disabilities, while generating critical additional revenue for the organization. I look forward to reporting on some of these developments shortly.

As we begin the new calendar year, there is renewed energy at Hope Services; the energy of change and future development. I want to thank all of the staff, Board Members and donors for their support in these endeavors. I invite all of you to be part of this new direction for Hope Services.

Miracles Santa Cruz

Miracles are happening every Wednesday evening at our offices in Santa Cruz thanks to a new theater program called Miracles Santa Cruz. "You hear miracles in joyous laughter and voices singing. You see them on smiling faces. And, you appreciate miracles occurring through the friendships that are being built," says Miracles Santa Cruz Program Manager, Mike Nichols.

This new program encourages children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities to come together with typically developing peers with the common goal of producing a one-of-a-kind theatre and television performance. With help from a great group of volunteers, participants support each other in theatre, music, dance, and media technology activities. It's a good place to make friends because, as one participant, Bodhi says, "Everyone is there to have fun."

"We are offering Miracles Santa Cruz to people with disabilities because theatre is an excellent way to work on creative expression, communication, and social skills in a fun, safe, and comfortable environment where they feel free to be themselves, says Nichols. And clients agree. "I get to help others and teach them to dance, sing, and act," says a program participant, Jared. Another participant, Sarah likes to flex her imagination, "I'm learning how to become an actor. I like to be different characters."



Participants in Miracles Santa Cruz share take a moment to share their "on stage" smiles.

On April 13th, Miracles Santa Cruz will perform at the Center Street Theatre in Santa Cruz, CA. For time and ticket information, please contact program coordinator, Mike Nichols at mnichols@hopeservices.org.

GO GREEN with HOPE Services!

HOPE Services' FY 11/12 Annual Report is available online at www.hopeservices.org. Save a tree and sign up for the HOPE Services e-newsletter too!



CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT

Synaptics

Last November, Synaptics' employees participated in a corporate walking program. The company who took the most steps received \$5,000 for their charity of choice. So, Synaptics' employees strapped on their pedometers and logged the most steps. Employees at the company wanted to choose a non-profit within walking distance. Even though it was pouring rain and the team from Synaptics couldn't walk the check over to HOPE, they were happy to support local efforts and Hope Services! A special thanks to all the Synaptics employees who participated in earning this generous gift. Thank you!



Employees from Synaptics enjoy the camaraderie of HOPE clients when they delivered their award check to HOPE's Alfred Street Workshop.

Will Clark Helps Launch the *Circle of HOPE!*



This February, HOPE Services established the *Circle of HOPE*, a giving society whose members provide financial support of \$1,000 or more each year.

These generous individuals will be toasted in style as we launch the *Circle of Hope* at our 9th Annual "Building Community" Benefit VIP Reception. This year's reception will be held at La Rinconada Country Club in Los Gatos the evening of May 9th, 2013.

The event will feature good wine, good company, and a very special guest: long-time San Francisco Giants icon and six-time All-Star first baseman, Will "The Thrill" Clark.

We hope you'll consider joining the *Circle of Hope*! For more information, contact Michelle Compton, Individual and Corporate Giving Manager via email at mcompton@hopeservices.org or phone at (408) 284-2842.

The Schott Award

Since 2006, HOPE Services has been recognizing the outstanding contributions of our clients who go above and beyond to serve their community with the Larry Schott Humanitarian Award.

Larry Schott was a long-time HOPE Trustee and volunteer who served people with developmental disabilities (DD) loyally and humbly during his life. The award reflects Larry's humanitarian heart, his volunteer service in the community, and his way of treating everyone with gentleness, respect, and fairness.

In December, HOPE was proud to honor Nassreen Zarea who participates in our Silicon Valley Diversified Network Program (SVDN). In addition to her program, Nassreen participates in dance, piano, and bowling. Still, she finds time to be a volunteer! Currently, Nassreen is an aide at Sub-Acute Children's Hospital and Dartmouth Elementary School. She also helps at Good Samaritan Hospital and



Specialty Director of Day Programs, Cathy Bouchard; 2012 Larry Schott Humanitarian Award Winner, Nassreen Zarea; Joanne Schott; and HOPE's CEO, John Christensen.

Champions Day Care as an assistant. Finally, Nassreen mentors her peers through the Angels On Stage Program.

Nassreen treats every volunteer position like a paid job and hates to miss a day. She says, "Volunteering and helping others is what makes me happy!" Congratulations, Nassreen! Larry would be proud.



Project Search

(Continued from page one)

To learn more about Project Search visit www.projectsearch.us or contact Chris Wright at cwright@hopeservices.org regarding interest in participating in new Project Search collaborations.

Full Transparency

In the last issue of *HOPE in Action* and our holiday appeal sent to Half Moon Bay and coast side residents, we erroneously took credit for placing a client named Danny with his employer, New Leaf Community Market. We apologize. Danny was actually placed by Half Moon Bay High School's WorkAbility and Transition program. This important program promotes the involvement of key stakeholders including students, families, educators, employers, and other agencies in planning and implementing an array of services that will culminate in successful student transition to employment, life-long learning, and improved quality of life. We would like to applaud the program's efforts on behalf of people with developmental disabilities and apologize for this error.



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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Will "The Thrill" Clark brings the experience of a 15-year MLB playing career to his role as a father. Clark retired, in part, to devote himself to his 16-year-old son Trey, who is autistic. "I thought I had a lot of patience playing baseball, waiting for pitches, stuff like that. But this is a whole different kind of patience I've had to learn," says Clark. "Basic social and safety skills – saying hello, looking both ways before crossing the street – have to be taught and re-taught and taught again. The journey is long and often exhausting."

But if anyone ever had the "Will to win," the ongoing challenges that come with autism, it would be Clark. Please join us for what just may prove to be "The Thrill" of a life-time!