







HOPE IN ACTION · JUNE 2012





🛃 💽 www.HOPEservices.org

The 70's and 80's

The seventies are often defined as the decade of "change" and HOPE Services was certainly changing! HOPE Services began operating its In-Kind Donation Department, which collects gently used goods to help offset the cost of program expenses. Work Training Centers were established in San Jose, Mountain View and Gilroy. These training centers provided opportunities for job training and further adult education. Many of the training centers were established in cooperation with De Anza College, Mountain View-Los Altos Adult Education and Gavilan College. HOPE established valuable partnerships with these three organizations that continue to serve our participants today.



One of HOPE's most significant changes of the seventies was the establishment of HOPE's Employment Services which began directly placing individuals with developmental disabilities in jobs in their communities. Employment is often the most effective way for people with developmental disabilities to gain selfsufficiency. However, obtaining a job is not always easy. For many clients who seek

employment, it takes months — even years — of hard work to find the right job to match their skill set.

Tom (pictured above) is a perfect example of an employment success story! After graduating from HOPE's job training program in 1970, Tom quickly joined the workforce. Applying the skills he learned, he became a cardboard bailer and forklift operator at a high tech company. Upon his doctor's advice, Tom found new work and spent the next seven years working indoors on a computer assembly line. After a downsizing, Tom worked in direct marketing helping with mailings. In 2002, he



HOPE has over 400 participants in jobs in the community.

began a steady career as a bagger for PW Markets and stayed faithfully with the grocery store until it closed in 2010. Tom is still bagging groceries for another supermarket and plans to retire in three to four years!

Currently, HOPE has over 400 clients in jobs in the community. However, there are more than 100 individuals who are waiting to be employed. HOPE continues to help each client who wants to be employed reach their goal through training, placement, and job coaching to ensure their success today and in the future

The seventies at HOPE Services closed with one more change; HOPE's name was legally changed from HOPE for Retarded Children to HOPE Rehabilitation Services.

If the seventies brought change, the eighties helped to established HOPE as a leader in the disability field. Looking towards the future, the HOPE Board established the Foundation for HOPE which was tasked with responsibilities of raising funds for programs and services. The Foundation also started an endowment program to fund scholarships for people who didn't qualify for state funding.

In addition, HOPE opened its first Senior Center at Whittier which served 32 individuals. The Senior Center provides a place for older individuals with developmental disabilities to still be active in their community but in a safe environment.



The President's Message

I would like to extend a big "Thank You" to Scott Hamilton for being the keynote speaker at our 60th Anniversary "Building Community" Benefit Breakfast. He is certainly someone who has had more than his share of challenges in his life,

both personally and professionally. For those of you who missed the opportunity to meet him, I must say he is one world-class individual; very gracious, humble and engaging. If you did not have the opportunity to attend this spectacular event, you can see excerpts of Scott's speech along with HOPE's new videos at www. hopeservices.org/breakfast. We hope you will join us next year!

As we celebrate our 60th year, I am reminded that the 70's and 80's brought significant change to HOPE and

for the field of services for individuals with developmental disabilities. There was an increased emphasis on work, first in the workshops and then in the community. HOPE was growing! We expanded to serve infants in the Homestart program (1971), several workshops were opened, the Counseling Center opened (1978), and Supported Employment (1986) offered our clients new opportunities as well. This was also the time that the Foundation for HOPE Services was established which raised millions of dollars through countless hours of volunteer efforts for our programs and services.

We applaud the accomplishment of the era and look forward to meeting current challenges, with the *HOPE* that someone 30 years from now will reflect on our time and our contributions. With luck, they will applaud the stewardship of all involved with our agency and marvel at the contributions made. We hope you will join us!

60th Anniversary Benefit Breakfast: A Grand Success



To kick off HOPE Services' 60th Anniversary year, HOPE hosted our annual "Building Community" Benefit Breakfast on May 2, 2012. 1984 Olympic Gold Medalist, Network TV sports commentator, Special Olympics Board Member, and best-selling author, **Scott Hamilton** (left) captured the attention of 500 guests when he shared his own story about the

many challenges he faced throughout his life. His positive outlook on life led to his comment that, "every single thing in life is a gift."

NBC Bay Area Business/Technology Reporter, Scott McGrew, eloquently led guests through a program of inspiring speeches by HOPE Services' CEO, John Christensen, and HOPE Services client, Richard LaMere, who emphasized how HOPE Services helped him with training and job search assistance to obtain a fulfilling job with benefits. Safeway, Inc. received HOPE Services' first Corporate Partnership Award in recognition and appreciation of their exemplary partnership and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in local employment opportunities. Finally, the Executive Director of the Ohlone College Foundation and a parent of a son with special needs, Susan Houghton, asked everyone to join her in supporting HOPE Services' efforts. The night prior to the breakfast, event sponsors and major supporters of HOPE Services were treated to an exclusive VIP Reception with Scott Hamilton, hosted by City National Bank at La Rinconada Country Club. Guests were inspired by comments from HOPE client speaker, Paul Johnson, who proudly wore his 11th major marathon medal, and Scott Hamilton.

"HOPE Services is extremely proud of having offered high-quality programs over the last 60 years." – John Christensen, CEO, HOPE Services

"While we are extremely grateful for the fantastic support of the community in the past, we can't stress enough the importance of continuing to open doors and offering employment and other opportunities to build community membership and develop greater independence for people with developmental disabilities," stated Christensen.



The funds raised directly benefit HOPE Services' clients – from birth to seniors – and their families.

Wendy Gutshall, Manager, Public & Government Affairs of Safeway, Inc. accepted HOPE's First Annual Corporate Partnership Award.



Matching Gifts boost up everyone! By Mary Pizzo, HOPE Donor



Mary Pizzo's family has supported HOPE Services for many years.

"A rising tide lifts all boats." John F. Kennedy 1963

HOPE Services is one of only a few non-profit organizations I donate money to on a regular basis. And I realize my donation is a drop in a deep bucket that needs filling annually. So how can my modest contribution make a bigger difference?

Well, I'm lucky enough to work for a company that has a Matching Gift Program. This is where my employer will match my contribution to the non-profit organization

Loretta Brewer

I'm **Betty Myers** and this is my "special" sister, **Loretta** (right). Loretta has been coming to HOPE Services' Senior Program for approximately 17 years now and loves it! Before HOPE, Loretta had a good life. She lived at home with our parents and was actively involved in our church. She also loved to travel and enjoyed the outdoors, especially going camping and fishing with friends and family. But many of Loretta's days were spent at home. She usually sat on the sofa and looked out the window to see what was going on with the neighbors or just to watch traffic, which wasn't very exciting since she lived at the end of a cul-de-sac and not many cars came her way. Loretta was happiest when she was out in her community, but what person isn't?

When Loretta turned 50, she started attending HOPE's Senior program and what a difference it has made in her quality of life. She looks forward to coming to HOPE each morning and having coffee with her friends. Loretta begins her day with current events and does some type of exercise, like bowling. Loretta especially loves when it is Bingo day, since Bingo is her favorite game. Besides the of my choice. Your employer may specify which causes qualify for a matching gift. In my case, HOPE falls under education, health and human services.

It is very easy to participate in a matching gift program. Provide your employer with HOPE's business information and a verification of the amount you contributed. The company's human resources team typically will do the rest. Some companies require the employee to fill out and submit a form with the verification of contribution. And just like that, your employer will match your contribution!

Once your company has established a connection with HOPE, all other employees have an easy time selecting HOPE as a recognized non-profit under the workplace Matching Gift program.

Now when I write out a check to HOPE, I take a few minutes to request a Matching Gift form from my employer. It makes me feel great knowing that I have doubled my contribution and that I have helped to fill HOPE's bucket! You can find out if your employer offers a matching gift program by reviewing this list: http:// www.hopeservices.org/pdf/EmployerswhoMatchGifts. pdf or contacting your HR department directly.



activities, Loretta also goes out in the community. She loves the trips to the library as well as going to lunch and a movie. But what she loves most is that she chooses the activities she participates in.

Since our parents passed away three years ago, Loretta now lives with me. The HOPE Senior program not only enriches her life but gives me a great peace of mind knowing she is in a well-structured, nurturing, fun, and safe environment. Without HOPE our lives would be much different! Thankfully, we both look forward to her continued participation in this wonderful program.



The 70's and 80's

(Continued from page one)



Individuals like Angelita, benefit from HOPE's Senior Program today. For 10 years, Angelita has been an active participant of HOPE's Senior Program. She loves music and the yellow Labrador, Clarissa, who visits

the Senior Center each Friday. With each visit from Clarissa, Angelita lights up with a smile. Her family has noticed how she has blossomed at the Senior Center; in particular, she has started speaking in full sentences! Angelita's family appreciates the safe, caring, nurturing environment HOPE provides so that Angelita can thrive.

We look forward to sharing the 90's with you in our September edition!



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SAVE THE DATE: Friday, May 10, 2013 "Building Community" Benefit Event for HOPE Services

SATURDAY <u>IUNE 10TH</u>



Please support HOPE Services' HOMESTART program for infants and toddlers at the **5th Annual Silicon Valley** Duck Race at Vasona Lake in Los Gatos. The event will benefit HOPE Services and several other local non-profits. The spring festival will draw flocks of friends and families for an egg-ceptional time filled with entertainment, food, and games for quackers of all ages. Make sure to adopt your flock of ducks today for a chance to win \$1,000,000 or one of many egg-citing prizes!

Visit www.hopeservices.org/ events.php for more information and make sure to choose HOPE Services as your team.

Good luck! We hope to see you there!