



NPS Team celebrating one year injury-free



Hope Services

Newsletter—Fall 2015

SOUTH DISTRICT

Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Hollister, San Juan Bautista, Salinas, Seaside and Monterey

Director's Message—Kristi Alarid

We are excited about our first South District newsletter! The newsletter gives us an opportunity to share some of the amazing things we are doing at Hope Services in the South District. A large part of what we do at Hope Services is giving back to our community. Our Community Access Network (CAN) program in Seaside is busy from August to the end of September volunteering with Save the Whales, an organization that focuses on educating the public, especially children, about marine mammals and the fragile ocean environment. Maris Sidenstecker, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Save the Whales applies for an annual grant to engage Hope participants such as Luis, Joe, and Gary along with Save the Whales staff, Amanda, in gluing down curbside informational decals which warns the public to not dispose of harmful chemicals and waste down storm drains.

CAN Hollister is also making a difference in the community! On August 8th, Pancho, Roman, and Joseph joined over 90 volunteers for United Way of San Benito County's third annual "Stuff the Bus" event. The goal was to supply 1000 filled backpacks to youth in need. Thanks to all the volunteers and donations, United Way exceeded their goal and over 1500 San Benito County students received filled backpacks that day! We are glad we could help local students be prepared for school!

We also stay connected to the community through work opportunities. We are fortunate to have strong support from many key employers in the area

including Federal Contracts with the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), both in Monterey County. Safety is very important to us at Hope, especially in the work place. This past spring, the NPS team achieved one year injury free! We were so proud of the accomplishment we had to do a special celebration in their honor. Congratulations to the NPS team—thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to a safe work environment!

We work hard but we have fun too! When Ed Quiambo, Community Support Specialist, asked his group from the Community Integrated Training (CIT) program for ideas on activities they wanted to do, three of the four participants responded—"FISHING!" Ed suggested they try out Pinto Lake in Watsonville because it is easy access and a catch and release site. Everyone got a turn showing off their catch before releasing the fish back into the lake including seasoned fisherman, Anthony. Lots of fun was had by all even Adriana who had never lifted a pole until that day.

We've had a remarkable year so far and we look forward to more to come.

Wishing you the best,

Kristi Alarid



From left to right: CAN Hollister volunteering for Stuff the Bus, CAN Seaside volunteering with Save the Whales, and Anthony with CIT on fishing outing

Specialized

Ryan Jones, Production Manager at Specialized, reminded us that, "Hope has been part of the Specialized Family for roughly 20 years, providing excellent service and consistent results that we have relied on." Over those years Hope's role has evolved and expanded. Recently, Specialized hired nine additional Hope participants in its water bottle capping department; however, due to mechanization the participants will be doing less capping. Specialized will now have the participants perform quality control, help run their new state of the art Purist bottle machine, and other jobs in the water bottle department. Much of that work was done in the past by outside temporary workers but is now being done by Hope participants. What makes the partnership so successful at Specialized and other community employment sites is the role of Hope's Job Coaches. Jones stated, "Part of the Hope program at Specialized, includes Job Coaches, who serve as trainers, guidance counselors, and job skills developers for the participants. The Job Coach's role is vital not only to the success of the participant, but also here

at Specialized. They are leaders on the Production Floor, mentoring each client to do and be their best day in and day out."

The South District participants and staff aren't the only ones who know that Specialized is a great place to work. Prior to graduating from the Morgan Hill School District, Luis was introduced to Hope Services and our programs. When Luis found out that Hope placed participants at Specialized, he knew Hope was the program he wanted to be a part of, and he dreamed of the opportunity to work at Specialized. Luis is an avid cyclist and a proud Specialized bicycle owner. Hope knew Luis would be a good fit but it took a little over a year for a position to become available. Luis is now a full-time Screen Reclaimer at Specialized. He is responsible for reclaiming (or cleaning) the silk screens used to logo the water bottle between uses.

Our partnership with Specialized and Luis' story exemplifies how everyone comes together—employers, school districts, Hope staff, Hope participants, and Hope families—to create work opportunities that assist individuals with developmental disabilities in reaching their goal of increased independence.



Jeff – water bottle capping



Luis – with Specialized bike

Financial Update

The Developmental Disabilities Program System is in crisis. Despite the existence of the Lanterman Act, the Governor and State Legislators have once again chosen to provide no additional support in the budget this year. This battle has been fought vigorously—flashlight vigils, letter campaigns, advocate presentations, letters to the Governor's Office as well as State Legislators—but to no avail. For close to 10 years there has been no additional funding provided (no cost of living increases) and in fact many programs have had funding cuts. Over 430 agencies serving the needs of people with developmental disabilities in California have been forced to close their doors, leaving hundreds of people without services, increasing the burden on an already burdened system.

Hope's current fundraising efforts have done little to solve this problem as most of the money raised goes towards facility maintenance, program transition mandates required by federal government, and minimum wage rate increase mandates.

The following are the current financials for the South District, which currently serves 420 clients:

- Total Revenue - \$5.4 million*
- Total Expenses - \$5.8 million*
- Net Loss - \$400,000
- Total Donations combined last year from all 420 families in the South District - \$1,675
- **Loss per Participant per year - \$1,015**

* Does not include Federal Contracts (DoD or NPS)

If we paid market wage, our per client loss would grow to \$3,013.

We are calling on all families to help ensure a viable, safe program for your loved ones. **We need your help, so please make a donation today to help offset the per client loss.** All donations will be applied directly to your specific program. Please note on your check or credit card donation which program you are supporting.

You can make a difference!

For up-to-date legislative news about the funding crisis, please visit:

www.hopeservices.org/news-and-resources/legislative-news/

Shoreline Community Garden

Parts of the former Fort Ord now hosts a project that has brought together veterans, college students, adults with developmental disabilities and others from the community to turn a forgotten, neglected piece of land into a place of beauty, sustenance, and purpose. Shoreline Community Garden is a garden in Marina that began in 2012 and now grows more than 70 varieties of flowers, herbs, and vegetables. The garden is part of the Salinas-Marina Community Food Project and is funded by a grant from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The goal of the garden is to fight hunger and provide community residents access to locally grown organic produce. Hope participants develop gardening skills and a sense of contribution all while enjoying the fresh air and making new friends. Students from California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) along with individuals from local employers or organizations join Hope participants in making the garden into an idyllic place.

CSUMB president Eduardo Ochoa visited the garden during a Community Service Day visit and found out why the garden is so special. He got an opportunity to talk one on one with Hope CIT participant, Eiva, whose participation in this activity has sparked her love for gardening. Eiva explained to him how to grow and prune her favorite thing in the garden, lavender. Eiva adores gardening so much that she designed and composed a colorful display board titled "I Love the Garden" to share at a meeting of the Marina Tree and Garden Club. Eiva's garden display was such a big hit, that with encouragement from Hope staff and her ILS trainer, Lizet Ramirez, she entered it in the recent Monterey County Fair and won a First Place Blue Ribbon! Congratulations to Eiva—keep up your love of gardening! Thanks also to everyone who loves the garden as much as Eiva and ensures its continual success for the community!



CSUMB President Eduardo Ochoa, Eiva, Danny and Hope Staff Carolyn Overholt



Eiva with her display

Work Activity Transition Update



This is an exciting time for the participants in Hope's Work Activity Programs. New federal legislation mandates the closure of secluded workshop-based programs over the next five years, like those that Hope has traditionally operated. Hope is taking a leadership role in moving well in advance of the deadlines to design new work programs that will emphasize community involvement and improving the quality of life of our clients. Over the next two years, Hope's Work Activity Programs—which operate in San Jose, Mountain View, Santa Clara, Hollister, Gilroy, Salinas, and Monterey—will experience major changes. Hope's goal is for each client to have a program that is tailored to his

or her needs, which will include paid work, but also new opportunities for learning, and access to different community-based activities.

For more information on this transition, including questions and answers, please go to:

www.hopeservices.org/our-services/work-activity-transition/.

Upcoming Events

- **Maya Cares Sensory-Friendly Film Saturday**
Saturday, November 7—Doors open at 10 am;
Movie starts at 10:30 am,
Maya Cinemas Salinas, for information visit
mayacinemas.com
- **Grace Community Dance “Thanksgiving Party” with DJ Ray**—Dance is for people of all abilities. November 24th from 5 to 8 PM, only \$3 to get in!
484 E San Fernando St, San Jose, CA 95112
in the Gymnasium, for more information call (408) 293-0422

Looking for other community events?
Visit www.hopeservices.org/events/



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Family Alliance

Hope Family Alliance—Linking clients, families, caregivers and Hope to create a network of support, resources and advocacy.

Family Alliance Information Center—Find information about Hope’s client grievance procedure and more. For more information about the Hope Family Alliance and the Family Alliance Information Center, visit:
www.hopeservices.org/news-and-resources/hope-family-alliance/.

Hope Services – South District Programs

Community Access Network – CAN, Community Employment including Federal Contracts—DoD and NPS, Work Activity Program, Community Integrated Training—CIT, and Independent Living Services—ILS

Kristi Alarid, Director
8855 Murray Avenue, Gilroy, CA 95020



HopeServices.org

