



FIVESTARS staff and program participants



# Hope Services

Newsletter—Fall / Winter 2015

# NORTH DISTRICT

Half Moon Bay, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Pacifica, and Santa Clara

## Director's Message—Suanne Rinta

Dear Hope Services Family Members and Caregivers—

We are excited about our first North District newsletter! The newsletter gives us an opportunity to share some of the amazing things we are doing at Hope Services in the North District. A large part of what we do at Hope Services is giving back to our community. Our community based programs—Half Moon Bay Peninsula Diversified Network (HPDN), Mountain View Diversified Network (MVDN), and Community Access Network (CAN) programs at Alfred Street and Mountain View—provide a combined total of over 800 hours of volunteer work each month. For their dedication to volunteerism, the CAN Mountain View were honored along with other community volunteers at the 2015 La Comida de California Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at the Channing House. La Comida provides nutritious and affordable lunches to seniors from the area in a socially stimulating atmosphere. The CAN Mountain View program volunteers every Wednesday at La Comida by assisting with putting up decorations and setting tables.

We also stay connected to the community through work opportunities. HPDN has a part-time paid work contract with Peery and Associates to complete document conversion from paper to electronic. The group working at Peery and Associates has learned a lot, does a fantastic job and loves every moment of it! Sean, like the others in the group, has learned new skills and has become the “queen of scanning.”

The Work Activity Program at Alfred Street is enjoying their employment opportunities as well. One of our key employers and a great partner is FIVESTARS. The FIVESTARS contract has grown to employ over 50 Hope participants at Alfred Street. To thank FIVESTARS for their commitment and support of Hope, we nominated this growing company for the “Excellence in Employment” Award from the California Disabilities Services Association, and they won! Congrats to FIVESTARS!

Another component of Hope is creating opportunities for our participants to learn day to day skills through Supported Living Services (SLS) or Independent Living Services (ILS). Participants in SLS or ILS are able to increase their connection with the community and develop self-reliance. Through SLS and the guidance of her companion, Karen learned to navigate the bus system in her local neighborhood and gained a sense of autonomy.

We've had a remarkable 2015 and we look forward to an amazing 2016!

Wishing you the best,

*Suanne Rinta*



From left to right: Sean with HPDN doing work for Peery and Associates; CAN – Mountain View at La Comida Volunteer Recognition Luncheon; Karen in SLS with companion, Lea

# 2014 Larry Schott Humanitarian Award

The North District is proud to celebrate Melissa Morton, 2014 Larry Schott Humanitarian Award Recipient! The Larry Schott Humanitarian Award recognizes individuals who exemplify the characteristics of the late Larry Schott—his humanitarian heart and his dedication to volunteer service in the community, especially to Hope Services. Hope held a celebration in Melissa's honor at Mountain View on September 11, 2015 with Melissa's family, friends, and the Schott family.

Melissa is very active in the CAN—Mountain View program and she has inspired other CAN participants to get involved as well. Melissa is involved in a wide variety of CAN volunteer activities which include:

- Resource Area for Teachers (RAFT)
- City of Mountain View Shoreline Park Rangers
- St. Francis High School Volunteer Fair
- La Comida – Senior Lunch Program
- Ecumenical Hunger Program – Food Bank

Melissa embodies Hope's vision of helping people with developmental disabilities reach their potential and be active participants in their communities. Congrats Melissa!



Melissa with Ray Smith



Melissa with friends at awards ceremony



Melissa with the Schott family

## 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 this year chosen to provide no additional support in the budget. 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.

The North District financials for fiscal year 2015 showed a positive income:

- **Total Revenue**—\$9.0 million
- **Total Expenses**—\$8.6 million
- **Net Income**—\$ 434,000 (2015)
- **Donations** this past year from 18 families in the North District—\$78,100

The budgeted plan for the North District (currently serving 440 clients) for fiscal year 2016 also shows positive income of \$151,000; however, the plan does not include some significant cost increases which will occur in the near future:

- To meet federal legislation requirements, we will need to upgrade two of our facilities for our work activity transition (costing \$141,000)
- New overtime legislation for Supportive Living will add \$ 125,000 per year to our cost for services

- Our employee pay system has to be adjusted for cost of living increases (\$750,000 per year)

***These costs will have a significant impact on the North District financials for the fiscal year 2016 and beyond. While our strategic plan has identified opportunities to help cover the cost increases, it will take three years to fully implement the plan.***

We need your help over the next three years to ensure a viable, safe program continues for your loved ones. Please make a donation today using the attached envelope to help offset the upcoming cost increases. All donations will be applied directly to your specific program.

***You can make a difference!***

# Summer Fun!



*Above—Left to right: Vern, Alex, and Elaine from CAN—Mountain View out for a bike ride*



*Right column—Top picture: Jonathan and his dad, Dan, enjoying the MVDN annual picnic. Bottom picture: Leadership group (SLS, CAN, MVDN and Mountain View WAP) touring Yahoo!'s lab and TV/media center*



## 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 improve the quality of life of our clients. Over the next two years, all of Hope's Work Activity Programs—two of which operate in the North District in Mountain View and Santa Clara—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/](http://www.hopeservices.org/our-services/work-activity-transition/).

# Community Resources

- **Grace Community Dance “Holiday Party” with DJ Ray**—Dance is for people of all abilities. December 18th 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/](http://www.hopeservices.org/events/)

- **Special Needs Trusts**—Would you like information about how to set up a special needs trust? Contact Cassandra P. Francois at 408-755-0282 or visit [www.CPFrancoisLaw.com](http://www.CPFrancoisLaw.com).



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## Additional Ways to Support Hope

- **Register for eScrip**—0.825% of proceeds spent using your Safeway and/or credit/debit cards will be donated back to Hope. Visit <http://www.escrip.com/> for more information.
  - **S.H.A.R.E.S.**—Up to 3% of the proceeds spent using your card at Lucky’s, FoodMaxx, or Save Mart will be donated to Hope. Contact Angela Mazza, 408-284-2862, if you would like cards.
  - **AmazonSmile**—Select Hope Services as your charitable beneficiary on AmazonSmile and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the eligible purchase price to us. Visit <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1399287> for more information.
- These additional ways make a big difference for Hope!* In just one year, we have quadrupled the amount in proceeds that Hope receives through S.H.A.R.E.S.!

# 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/](http://www.hopeservices.org/news-and-resources/hope-family-alliance/).

## Hope Services – North District Programs

Independent Living Services (ILS), Supported Living Services (SLS), Community Access Network—CAN, Half Moon Bay Pacifica Diversified Network (HPDN), Mountain View Diversified Network (MVDN), Work Activity Program (WAP), and After School Mountain View

Suanne Rinta, Director

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



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Amazing is all in a day's work.