



Media Program—Canaan & Sylvia at basketball game



Hope Services

Newsletter—Fall / Winter 2015

Santa Cruz District

Aptos, Santa Cruz, and Watsonville

Director's Message—Sally French

Dear Hope Services Family Members and Caregivers—

We are excited about our first newsletter! The newsletter gives us an opportunity to share some of the amazing things we are doing at Hope Services in the Santa Cruz District.

Hope Services prides itself on being a pioneer in the developmental disability community and we are proud of our movement towards a person-centered approach through the use of media. The Community Membership and Media program (CMMP) was developed to meet the needs of participants wanting to have more involvement in the community, develop skills in media and performing arts, all while being able to have some paid work opportunities. The participants have interviewed politicians, created videos at local events, developed Public Service Announcements, and starred in their own TV show which can be seen on Community TV. This program has been such a success in Santa Cruz that Hope is in the process of expanding the program to other Hope sites.

Our success continued this year with our Santa Cruz Employment program as well. Through this program, 48 participants are employed at various local businesses including Bay Federal Credit Union, Cinema 9, FoodMaxx, and Home Depot. The downtown litter abatement team is one of our employment groups that most visitors to the area recognize and enjoy meeting. We love

being a part of the community and we thank the community for being so welcoming. In addition, our Watsonville programs—the Pajaro Valley Training Center (PVTC) and the Mobile Work program—have been growing with the addition of several new participants and staff.

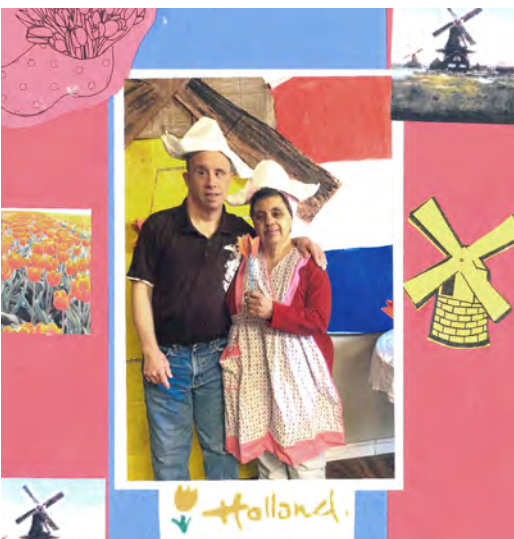
Our Senior Center in Aptos is enjoyed by over 30 participants. One of the monthly activities is to have the participants explore parts of the world through creating art work and sampling food from the region. In addition, the seniors also participate in developing their own bucket list of things they want to do along with creating and maintaining photo journals of the activities they participate in.

Lastly, we want to introduce our newest Manager for Community Living Services, Gina Jennings. Gina comes to us with an extensive background and knowledge in Supported Living Services. Gina and her team of support specialists, companions, and roommates bring something very special to the participants they serve. We are so happy to have Gina join our dedicated team. Welcome Gina!

We've had a remarkable year and we are looking forward to another incredible year in 2016!

Wishing you the best,

Sally French



From left to right: Aptos Senior Center photo project (Holland); Sara, working with the downtown litter abatement program; new Manager for Community Living Services, Gina, with Hope participant Greg

Quality of Life Impact Award

The Quality of Life Impact Awards recognizes Hope employees who go above and beyond to help achieve Hope's mission to improve the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities. Santa Cruz Supported Living Department nominated staff member, Nick Wilson, for the award and he won along with four other Hope employees. Nick has worked for Hope for 2 years and has demonstrated Hope's mission in everything he does at Hope but especially in how he made a dream come true for a Hope participant.

This past June, Nick and a SLS participant, Steven, were talking about vacations they had gone on. Steven expressed his desire to go somewhere outside of California. Nick, being from St. Louis, told Steven about all the reasons he liked St. Louis and how much he thought Steven would like it there. When Nick saw the excitement on Steven's face, he decided that he was going to make a trip to St. Louis happen for Steven.

Nick and Steven immediately started planning their trip together. Nick's family in St. Louis opened their home to Steven

and rolled out the Red Carpet when they arrived. There was a big BBQ in his honor, a trip to the Arch and a trip to Six Flags. The highlight of the whole trip was when Nick informed a friend, who works for the St. Louis Cardinals, that Steven was visiting. Steven was invited to tour the dug-out and get a first-hand look at what happens there. During the 4th inning the scoreboard lit up and the message going across the screen read "The St. Louis Cardinals welcome Steven". This trip was something that both of them will remember forever!



Nick & Steven—Quality of Life Award



Nick & Steven in dug-out

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 Santa Cruz District financials for fiscal year 2015 showed a slightly positive income:

- **Total Revenue**—\$4.7 million
- **Total Expenses**—\$4.3 million
- **Net Income**—\$ 31,504 (2015)
- **Donations** this past year from 2 families in the Santa Cruz District—\$4,150

The budgeted plan for Santa Cruz District (currently serving 228 participants) for fiscal year 2016 also shows positive income of \$169,188; however, the plan does not include some significant cost increases which will occur in the near future:

- New overtime legislation for Supportive Living will add \$ 125,000 per year to our cost for services
- Our employee pay has not kept up with the cost of living. We must pay a fair wage in order to keep our best employees. Total annual cost to restore employee purchasing power is \$750,000.

These costs will have a significant impact on the Santa Cruz 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!

Mobile Work

Since November 2013, a Mobile Work program crew from Watsonville has been going to the city yard in Santa Cruz three days a week to clean and repair various waste bins. Approximately 10 participants have the opportunity to rotate through this job. Everyone has stated that they find it to be one of their favorite jobs. Thanks to the quality of work being done by our participants, job supervisors Scott Federspiel & Frankie Mireles, and others, we have not only been able maintain this contract with the City of Santa Cruz but things have been going so well that additional hours and another work contract have recently been added to the schedule. In addition, a contract with the city to clean the outside of City Hall was recently negotiated by Dave Guarente (Employment Sales Rep), resulting in even more work in the community for our program participants.

Participants in the Mobile Work program also make a difference in the community by helping others. They spend many hours volunteering with Meals on Wheels and other local organizations.

Right column—Scott (top picture) and Ted (bottom picture) at work in Santa Cruz



Aktion Club Gives Back

Aktion Club is a Leadership Service Club for adults with disabilities. This is a sponsored club of Kiwanis International. At least 31 Hope participants are members of the club where their vision is to develop competent, capable and caring leaders through the vehicle of service. This will be the 4th year that members have participated in the Kiwanis Kids Christmas Party by planning and making props for the games the children play. The Christmas party provides lunch and gifts of clothing to children in need during the holiday season.

Right column—from Left: Aaron, Canaan & Sarah; Canaan & Sherie



Upcoming Events

- **The Lincoln Aktion Club is sponsoring a Food Drive for 2nd Harvest Food Bank**—Drop off donations of canned and dried goods at 220 Lincoln Street, Santa Cruz from 9-5, Monday through Friday throughout the month of December.

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

Update: The Santa Cruz District welcomes your donations of clothing and small household items, but as of December 30th, we will no longer be able to accept e-waste. Thanks for your donations!



NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
SAN JOSE CA
PERMIT NO. 1662

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.

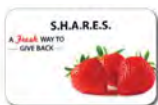
Family Alliance Information Center—Find information about Hope's client grievance procedure and more. For more information about the Hope Family Alliance and the Family Alliance Information Center, visit: www.hopeservices.org/news-and-resources/hope-family-alliance/.

Hope Services – Santa Cruz Programs

Independent Living Services – ILS, Supported Living Services – SLS, Day Program, Community Employment, Senior Program, and Mental Health Services

Sally French, Director

220 Lincoln Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060



HopeServices.org