



Save the Date:

Sat. May 8 **Marin Human Race**

Sat. Oct. 2 **Bocce Tournament**



Casa Allegra Community Services (CACS), a 501(c)3 nonprofit agency, has been providing innovative supports for adolescents and adults with developmental disabilities and their families in Marin and San Francisco Counties since 1975. CACS supports individuals through separate but integrated services:

LIVING SERVICES

- **Residential Living** is provided in two long-term care homes located in San Rafael.
- **Community Living Services (CLS)** supports individuals to live safely and successfully where and with whom they choose.

ADULT DAY SERVICES

- **Income Opportunities Unlimited (IOU)** assists participants to earn income; may include microenterprise ownership or membership in a cooperative.
- **Adult Community Services (ACS)** offers support for college, adult education, employment opportunities, and community activities.
- **Community Inclusion for Adults (CIFA)** provides integrated education and community inclusion for those who require additional support due to therapeutic and medical needs.

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San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 499-1116
www.CasaAllegra.org
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March 2010 Vol. 6 No. 1

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Spotlight on Volunteers



Robin Sloan, Socorro Gallardo, Sebastian Klopfer, Chris Bonfiglio & Donna Celestine at the 2009 Holiday Party

I feel honored and humbled to be a part of an agency that is celebrating 35 years providing support to people with developmental disabilities.

When Eileen Falvey and I began Casa Allegra Community Services in 1975, we did so with the intent of giving 5 children a lifestyle and opportunities typical of children without disability labels. Our mission then, that all people are entitled to self-determination and to live their lives with dignity as self-reliant and productive citizens, has remained our foundation and the cornerstone upon which all services have been built upon for 35 years. The manner in which this mission is achieved has grown and expanded immensely.

In 1975, our hope was to enable Tom, Missy, Janette, Lisa and Michael to live in the community in a home-like setting rather than a large institutional setting. Now, 35 years later, it is commonly understood that people with developmental disabilities will live in the community alongside people without disabilities. Not only are they your neighbors but they have become your friends and lead meaningful lives by taking classes, working, volunteering, joining groups and clubs, and creating and maintaining relationships.

As the lives and the interconnected circles for the people we assist have expanded so have

...volunteers..make such an immense difference in our ability to meet our mission and to the lives of the people we support

Casa Allegra's circles expanded. This newsletter pays tribute to a few of the many volunteers that have become part of our ever-growing family. It highlights those who volunteer their time, skills, and expertise to assure the people we support lead healthy, happy, full, productive and meaningful lives.

Volunteers come in all shapes and forms. We have been blessed to have staff who volunteer their time beyond their scheduled work day to make sure people have opportunities to attend special events and the support needed to endure difficult times. There are family members who stay involved long after we no longer directly support their loved ones and friends of friends who find a special place of service here. The Ladies of Clipped Wings regularly help with Costco shopping and events. The National Charity League moms and daughters are now familiar faces during the holidays, at the Human Race and Holiday Party. People who started out helping with a particular volunteer project have stayed close and developed relationships with people we support.

One of our day program participants not only benefits from the support we provide him, but has developed special relationships with a couple of other participants. He regularly volunteers to hang out with them and help push their wheelchairs so that they can be more involved in a variety of activities.

My sincere gratitude to all of our volunteers who make such an immense difference in our ability to meet our mission and to the lives of the people we support. Please join us throughout the year as we celebrate 35 years.

~ Chris Bonfiglio, CACS Executive Director



Join us for the
Marin Human Race, Sat. May 8
Civic Center Lagoon

Will CACS win 1st Place Wheelchair Division again in 2010?

**Use the reply envelope & mail the forms inside or
Donate Online at www.CasaAllegra.org
To race on our behalf register at
www.marinhumanrace.org**

**Volunteers and sponsors join us for a picnic immediately following the race.
Volunteers contact:
Alison (415) 246-5971**

35th Anniversary
Event Sponsors Wanted -
great benefits for you

**See inside for Human Race T-shirt & Bocce Tournament Sponsor forms.
Benefits vary and include unlimited fun & good feelings, print & online ads, signage at event, team play, catered meals, acknowledgement in newsletter.**

**Several other events during our yearlong celebration have sponsorship opportunities with publicity benefits.
Contact: Jeanne (415) 898-6525,
jeanne@casaallegra.org**

Want to be Amazing? Volunteer!

by Alison Falvey
As CACS' Volunteer Manager the last two years, I have worked with many wonderful volunteers.

You, as a volunteer, are an important part of the success of yearly events like the Human Race, Bocce Tournament and Holiday Party.



Alison at the Human Race

This past year you helped us accomplish maintenance projects in the group homes such as Eileen Sherman's Memorial Garden or refinishing wheelchair ramps at Adrian.

I am always amazed at your generosity and willingness to give your time not only during the holidays – when you bake pies, wrap Christmas gifts and decorate homes with our clients – but throughout the year.

Thanks to individual donations of gently used furniture and a therapeutic spa, we have replaced worn furnishings to improve the health and safety of our clients' homes.

For your ongoing support, we especially thank the National Charity League, Mission San Rafael Rotary, Rebuilding Together, St. Raphael's Church & Parish, Autodesk, Fireman's Fund, YMCA Adventure Guides, Frank Howard Allen Realtors, the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership and students from Marin County schools. Your help makes a real difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

VOLUNTEER WISH LIST

Contact Alison (415) 246-5971

Get to know your neighbors & make new friends

Like to paint? Our clients' Income Opportunities Unlimited offices & CACS offices need some touch up paint & new wheelchair wall guards.

Volunteer opportunities for individuals include
one-on-one reading
card games, dominoes, puzzles
trips to movies & sports games
Group projects, family or corporate, include
local day trips
preparation of holiday meals
minor home repairs or room painting

See complete volunteer listings at the Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership, www.CVNL.org

CACS is a participant in Rebuilding Together in April, Week of Caring in August & Gifts of Love in December. Thank you for all you do!



Jan White, Carolyn Mueller, Susanne Kepford, Joyce Harper

Once a month volunteers from Clipped Wings of Marin (CW) become shoppers for our two residential homes.

Eny Campos, CACS' Director of Residential Services prepares a list and hands over the credit card to volunteer Jan White.

In February, Jan and Carolyn Mueller, Joyce Harper and Susanne Kepford met at Costco, split the list and filled four carts with household basics of food and cleaning supplies. Laura Richmond, Barbara Lee and Liz Heery are alternates and sometimes help out. The ladies deliver the goods to our home on Devon Drive where staff helps them unload.

Jan said, "We always compare prices to get the best deal." They all said they "love to shop." Sometimes the good friends go out for lunch together afterward.

Clipped Wings @ United Airlines Stewardess Alumnae and Flight Attendants was founded in 1941 in Chicago with a commitment to philanthropy whose focus is on support for people with developmental disabilities.

The Marin Chapter was established in 1966. Jan was their first Treasurer and is a past President. Jan and her husband Wayne, celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year. Jan said "In 1959 when I became engaged I retired as a stewardess; women had to retire when they got married!"

Diane Bazler and Stevie Serleth are the Marin Chapter's current Co-Presidents. They and other CW volunteers have helped us at many other events. You may have met them most recently at our Bocce Tournament last October. Super-organized and delightfully charming, CW volunteers assisted at check-in, as bartenders and team players.

About five years ago, Jane Scurich, CACS board and CW member explained at a CW meeting that "CACS really needs your help with our shopping." CW members Jan and Lorraine Urban stepped up and organized the shopping expeditions. Jane has said, "Shopping for the homes requires an amazing amount of time and this monthly commitment allows Eny and her staff to spend more time focusing on the needs of our clients."

Thank you to all the volunteers of Clipped Wings of Marin for your continued gracious and enthusiastic support.



SPONSORS WANTED FOR SAT. OCT. 2 CACCS BOCCE TOURNAMENT

at San Rafael Albert Park Bocce Courts

Casa Allegra Community Services invites you to sponsor our Bocce Tournament during CACS' 35th Anniversary celebration year of providing supports for people with developmental disabilities through community living, education and employment opportunities.

Benefits to you & your business of Bocce Sponsorship

Sponsors featured in display ads on CACS website, in raffle catalog. In addition:::

Roma Premier Sponsor - \$2,000

- Name or logo headlined in invitation, on court signage, in newsletter & promo materials
- 3 bocce teams of 4 players includes courtside lunch

Tuscany Sponsor - \$1,000

- Name or logo in invitation, on court signage, in newsletter & promo materials
- 2 bocce teams of 4 players includes courtside lunch

Milano Sponsor - \$750

- Name or logo in invitation, on court signage, in newsletter & promo materials
- 1 bocce team of 4 players includes courtside lunch

Palermo Sponsor - \$500

- Name or logo in invitation, on court signage, in newsletter & promo materials
- 1 bocce team of 4 players includes courtside lunch

Napoli Sponsor - \$250

- Name or logo in invitation, on court signage, in newsletter & promo materials
- Reservations for two bocce players includes courtside lunch

Torino Court Sponsor - \$100

- Name or business name on bocce court signage & in newsletter
- Reservations for two spectators includes courtside lunch

Additional bocce player tickets \$40 available in August. Team entries encouraged. Spectator tickets \$20. Player & spectator tickets include lunch. Order by replying to invitation. Invitations will be included in the August CACS newsletter.

Questions? Call Jeanne at (415) 898-6525 • Email logo to Jeanne@casaallegra.org

Complete attached form and enclose check payable to CACS

Mail to: CACS, 35 Mitchell Blvd, Suite 8, San Rafael, CA 94903

MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRI., JULY 30 TO BE INCLUDED IN INVITATION.

Sponsor Name (as you wish to be recognized in all print materials)

Team Captain _____

Contact Person _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

City/State/Zip _____

Choose your sponsorship level:

Phone _____

___ Roma Premier \$2,000

___ Palermo \$500

Email _____

___ Tuscany \$1,000

___ Napoli \$250

___ Milano \$750

___ Torino Court \$100

**BOCCE SPONSOR
FORM**

REPLY FORM

- I would like to make a **direct donation** to Casa Allegra Community Services
Please make your check payable to **CACS**
- I would like to **register** to participate in the Marin Human Race on behalf of Casa Allegra Community Services
Please make your check payable to **Marin Human Race**

Email address _____ My employer offers a matching donation program.

To donate by credit card complete the following information:

Name _____ Donation Amount _____

Signature _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Visa MC Credit Card # _____ Exp Date _____

CASA ALLEGRA COMMUNITY SERVICES
2010 HUMAN RACE T-SHIRT SPONSOR FORM (newsletter)

Please use the self-addressed envelope and return your tax-deductible donation by Thurs., April 1

____ I would like to be a T-shirt sponsor for **CASA ALLEGRA COMMUNITY SERVICES** in the Human Race.
Please make your \$250 check payable to **CACS**

Name _____

Business Name: _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Fax _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

____ Please use my artwork from the 2009 T-shirt. ____ I have new artwork for the T-shirt.

____ I would like to participate in The Human Race. Please call me at _____.

____ As a T-shirt sponsor, I plan to join you for the post-race picnic ____ Number of guests

T-SHIRT SPONSOR FORM

WISH LIST

- Contact Alison (415) 246-5971
to arrange for pick up of large items.
- Movie or Event Tickets
 - Gift Cards to Target, Old Navy, Trader Joe's, Safeway
 - Gift Certificates for carpet cleaning or cleaning services
 - New DVDs, TV/DVD Combo 19"
 - New cozy throws & body pillows
 - Quality Cookware/pots & pans
 - Framed Artwork, modern, bright
 - Leather Couches & Recliners
 - Group camping, beach house or visit to Disneyland.

2 Powerful, Super Easy, No Cost Ways to Donate that really add up

#1 **ESCRIP: REGISTER your store & credit cards** at eScrip.com to benefit Casa Allegra each time you shop. Includes the eScrip online store.

#2 **VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM.** Go to www.CasaAllegra.org/help.html and click on our custom link to Donate for Charity or call toll-free (866) 392-4483. They take care of all the paperwork & drive or haul away your clunker.

Alexis & Cathy



Alexis Lee & Cathy Adams at Adrian

Cathy Adams will turn 50 this year. She has been supported by CACS for 22 years and lives at the home on Adrian Way. Through Pacific Diversified Services Cathy works at Border's Books.

Alexis Lee has been a volunteer with CACS for a year and a half and often reads to Cathy. Alexis said, "I started when I was a freshman in High School as part of my 100 hours of community time. I looked up Casa Allegra and knew it would be perfect for me. When I first visited with the residents at Adrian Way that I would be working with I was a little afraid of hurting Cathy and Lisa because they seemed so delicate. I became comfortable working with them and was especially intrigued by Cathy. I love painting her nails and just being around her.

When I have bad days or even weeks I look forward to Sundays when I will be able to see her warm smile and know that I am helping to make her happy by just being with her."

Something Everyone Can Do

Julia Peters at Devon with volunteers from the 7th grade at Our Lady of Loretto



by Kerry Minekheim

Volunteering is something that everyone can do, it can be the simplest of things like helping your mom with the dishes, or it can be something as big as help someone that has less than you.

Over my winter break, the girls in my 7th grade class at Our Lady of Loretto, helped decorate a group home for Christmas. We put lights up, decorated Christmas Trees, and

Josh & Michael



Josh Lyons & Michael Birch at the CACS 2009 Holiday Party

Josh Lyons began participating in our Day Services with us last summer after he graduated from the Marin County Office of Education program. He has the most wonderful smile and a deep hearty, infectious laugh. Josh has a heart of gold, possesses great empathy and a passion for helping people who rely on wheelchairs for mobility. He helped Eileen Sherman around the Farmer's Market and kept her company when she used the spa at her home on Devon Drive. Eileen's passing in July was very difficult for Josh; he missed her greatly.

Josh has also formed a special bond with "My friend Michael." Michael's face lights up when he is with his new friend, he becomes attentive and excited. Michael Birch is 41 years old and has been supported by CACS for 35 years. He lives with his friends in our residence on Adrian Way. At the Holiday Party, Josh made sure Michael had a great time sharing the dance floor with their friends. Josh also hangs out with his friends Cary, Lisa and Alesa and sometimes helps to push their wheelchairs. We are very fortunate to have met Josh and count him among our many valued volunteers.

2nd & 4th Grade Brownies from Our Lady of Loretto in Novato decorated the two homes where Lupe, Scarlett, & Krystal and Rich & Bob live. Lupe Rodriguez & Scarlett Murphy are on the right. Brownies also shared dinner with the ladies.



made cookies, and interacted with residents. It gave us a great feeling of accomplishment and of doing good for others.

The meaning of volunteering to me, is that you can walk away knowing that you made someone smile and that is the best feeling, but I don't do it for the feeling I do it for someone that needs my help and I am very glad that I got to help people with disabilities!



Rich Henderson, Rosie Basso, Kathy Murray, Marina Henderson & Mike Murray delivered Thanksgiving Day food to folks at four homes thanks to the Michael Basso Memorial Foundation

Partial list, see also articles in this issue

HOLIDAY PARTY

- Jimmy Au - San Rafael HS
- Ervin Cortez
- Sumita Davis
- Bridget Ramire
- Frank Serafin

HOLIDAY DECORATING

Our Lady of Loretto 7th Grade

- Annelise Braun
- Juliana Fisher
- Caroline Garcia
- Jenna Garcia
- Anais Garcia
- Kerry Minekheim
- Grace Porchivinia

- Abby Farrel
- Sophia DalPorto
- Tavia Vitkaskus
- Paola Caal
- Charlotte Clark
- Sarah Danziger
- Rebecca Skelton
- Our Lady of Loretto**
- 2nd & 4th Grade Brownies**
- Grace Augusto
- Madison Augusto
- Toula, Ikaria & Thea Falvey
- Samantha Giron
- Kenzie Mineghino
- Gianna Sullivan

James & Terry Nevin, Michael & Jane Scurich at the Holiday Party



Casa Allegra Community Services

Board of Directors

- Dale Dutton, President
- Larry Mason, Vice President
- Peter Murphy, Treasurer
- Jacki Anderson, Member
- Jane Scurich, Member

Finance Committee

- Al Farbstein
- Peter Murphy
- Allen Peters
- Michael Scurich

Staff

- Chris Bonfiglio, Executive Director
- Socorro Gallardo, Director of Supported Living
- Eny Campos, Director of Residential Services
- Daniel Reichling, Director of Day Services
- Debbie Falvey, Human Resources
- Theresa Eisenberg, RN
- Jeanne Santangelo, Development Director
- Alison Falvey, Volunteer Manager

Newsletter

- Editor Jeanne Santangelo
- Articles & Photos by Staff & Volunteers



National Charity League, Inc.
Mothers AND Daughters SERVING COMMUNITIES Together®



National Charity League mothers, daughters & a grandmother at the Holiday Party

by Erin Scarabosio

National Charity League is a national, non-profit, mother and daughter philanthropic organization whose purpose is to provide opportunities for its members to become involved in community service and also to enjoy and enhance their mother-daughter relationship through educational and cultural activities.

The members of the San Rafael Mission Belles chapter are from the communities of central Marin County. Our daughters join NCL in 7th grade and stay together as a “class” until they are Seniors in High School. The most visible component of our organization is the work we do with our philanthropies. Within our organization, each member must have a job. This gives both the mothers and daughters an opportunity to challenge themselves in ways they may not have ever tried before. There is also a cultural focus to our group as well. We have speakers come to both the meetings for the mothers and for the daughters as a way to round out our own personal education and growth.

My daughter Anissa and I have worked on events for Casa Allegra and have always had a positive experience. At the Bocce Ball tournament, we are able to meet both the donors and clients. My daughter reminded me of listening to one of the clients singing opera while we were dishing up a great lunch – that was a treat!

Generally the work we do for both Casa Allegra and our other philanthropies is simple, roll-up-your-sleeves work, but we enjoy it because it makes us feel useful. We know that we are helping people who have struggles and the agencies that support them, and it teaches both of us to be more compassionate to those in need.

THANKSGIVING PIES

- Cora Kingdon
- Lauren Clough
- Skylar Drake
- Juliette Returnaz
- Lynn & Amanda Klein
- Anna & Katherine Born
- Lynn Apostle
- Erin & Anissa Scarabosio
- Dana Brown

- Karen & Gigi Ruane
- Kathy & Kelli Hughes

HOLIDAY PARTY

- Alison & Katie Bainbridge
- Teresa & Nathan Borin
- Audrey Finn
- Madeline Mason
- Mary Jo McBride
- Deborah & Nicole Phillips
- Jackie & Charlotte Astle





*Please join Casa Allegra Community Services
at the Marin Human Race Sat., May 8, 2010
As we celebrate 35 years providing
innovative supports for people with developmental disabilities*



We are your neighbors, friends, family & hard workers

Ways you can help ~

- DONATE NOW** mail checks payable to CACS at
CACS, 35 Mitchell Blvd., Suite 8
San Rafael, CA 94903
or donate online at www.casaallegra.org
- REGISTER** yourself or a team for the Human Race on behalf
of Casa Allegra Community Services at
www.marinhumanrace.org
- VOLUNTEER** solicit donations on behalf of CACS or
walk with a CACS participant the day of the race
- SPONSOR** your logo or name on our T-shirts, in ads & on
website. Contact Jeanne (415) 898-6525 by 4/1
- CONTACT US** (415) 499-1116 x123

~ Picnic after the race for participants, sponsors & volunteers!

CACS provides supports for people with developmental disabilities through community living, educational and employment opportunities in Marin & SF.
CACS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. Your donations are tax-deductible.



Thank You Donors & Grants

Nov. 1, 2009 to Feb. 25, 2010
We sincerely apologize if we have omitted or misspelled any names.

DONATIONS IN HONOR OF

In Honor of Julia Peters
Barbara & Jacques Gosselin

In Honor of Charles & Laurel Frost
Kenneth & Jane Frost

In Honor of Joelle Somers
Mary & Jean Jacques
Deshadarevian
Timothy & Martha Doody
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Somers

In Honor of Krystal Tremblay
Joseph & Carol McCabe
Valerie Coleman

In Honor of The Bruciati Family
Bette Legallet

In Honor of Michael Birch
Margo Jacklich
Robert & Mary Morley

In Honor of Robin Sloan
Carole Schwartz

In Honor of Larry Mason
Florence Mann

In Honor of Michael Bruciati
Jeanette & Ronald Bruciati
Tom & Laurie Sebesta
Gene & Margaret Oishi

In Honor of Florence Falvey
Bernadette Baraty

In Honor of Eileen Falvey
Bernadette Baraty

In Honor of
The Dale Dutton Family
Donald & Mary Burden

In Honor of Kevin McCarthy
Eileen Frain

In Honor of Dusty Dutton
Lois Goodall

In Honor of Scarlett Murphy
William & Nora Bruemmer

In Honor of Kim Chandler
Melinda Triplett

In Honor of Peter & Jane Murphy's
50th Wedding Anniversary
Kathleen Salemi

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF

In Memory of Mary Cameron
Rosemary Fellows

In Memory of Lynn Holbrook
Harry & Suzanne Miller
Peter & Jane Murphy

In Memory of Jo Combs
Don & Nickie Andrews

In Memory of Steven Douglas
Raymond & Ning Douglas

In Memory of Melissa Missy Emigh
Randy & Donna Cookston

In Memory of James &
Patricia Gaffney
Patricia Tescher

In Memory of Rose & Peg Roche
John Roche

In Memory of Walter Shaff
Florence Shaff

In Memory of Eileen Sherman
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Gerald & Jeanne Vaio
Marilyn Wortzman
B. Anne Zishka
Larry Zoglin

GRANTS

Chapman Foundation \$2,500
Gellert Foundation \$5,000

In Memory of Kathleen (Kay) McCarthy

Kay passed away peacefully at the age of 80 after a difficult journey through dementia. She was the loving mother of Kevin of Novato who is a long time participant in CACS Supported Living, and Mary Ellen of San Francisco, the beloved wife of the late Mike McCarthy (2006) of San Francisco. Though Irish by birth, she had a large contingency of Italian friends, both in the Marina and in North Beach. Kevin said at her memorial at the Presidio, "My mother liked to help other people and make them feel good. And I remember when my mother got very upset because I got drunk from two beers. I was at a bar in San Francisco with my sister Mary Ellen. My mother's face turned red because she was so mad at Mary Ellen." Kay was a vivacious, gracious, and fun-loving lady. "Her zest for life will be remembered by all who knew her."



July 27, 1929 - Jan. 22, 2010

Patricia Woodward
Melanie Pimentel
Shelley Sweet &
Jonathan Metcalf
Robert & Kathleen Giorgi
Frank & Geraldine Antonini
Michael & Janet Paige
Julian & Lois Rhine
Donald & Sara Sweet
Peter & Jane Murphy
Ronald & Anstell Ricossa
Russell & Dorothy Sabini
Geraldine & Denis McCarthy
Patrick & Eileen Fogarty

Robert Von Thurn
Charles & Mary Vella
James & Carolyn Coe
Helena Fahy
Rosa Aste
George Foundoulis
Jeffrey & Sharon Porter
Adrienne Giotta
Richard Bechelli
Lawrence & Georgene Costello
Joseph & Chirley Bechelli
Daniel & Peggy McCarthy
Julie McCarthy
James & Mary Christian



FRONT ROW L to R: Julie Lopez, Jr.; Dale Tate, Seagate Properties; Brian Zahl, Gavin Reimer, & Krystal Tremblay, Keep Marin Green Co-op; Caroline Jensen, Marin Community Foundation; Tony Thurmond, Golden Gate Regional Center BACK ROW: Andy Campbell, Renew Computers; Daniel Reichling; Tony Reynolds, Renew Computers; Jared Huffman, Assemblymember 6th District, Larry Mason; Ebony Marshall, Marin Community Foundation; Jenny Calloway, District Director for Jared Huffman; Chris Bonfiglio

Sustainable North Bay Award



Jared Huffman, Assemblymember 6th District, presented the Sustainable North Bay Award to Keep Marin Green Co-op member-owners on Dec. 1, at the Income Opportunities Unlimited (IOU) office. KMG members are Co-op President Brian Zahl, Secretary Krystal Tremblay, and Member-Owner-Directors Tom O'Donnell, Mike Bennett, Gavin Reimer, and Jesus Espinoza. All are supported by CACS through Supported Living and Day

Services.

Assemblymember Huffman said, "We present the award to businesses who do good things for the environment or help people and Keep Marin Green does both...I applaud all of you. It's great to see this creative enterprise." The award was presented to honor their "commitment to protecting the environment by providing an effective and easy method for businesses to recycle their electronic waste and in appreciation for being the first California cooperative owned and governed by people with developmental disabilities."

Co-op members pick up universal waste and e-waste from over 100 Marin businesses and deliver or package for shipment to licensed recyclers. Dale Tate, General Manager of Seagate Properties, Inc., and KMG client called KMG a "Win-win all the way around."

We thank KMG's community and business partners who attended in a show of support. A feature article announcement of the presentation appeared in the business section of the MarinScope papers.

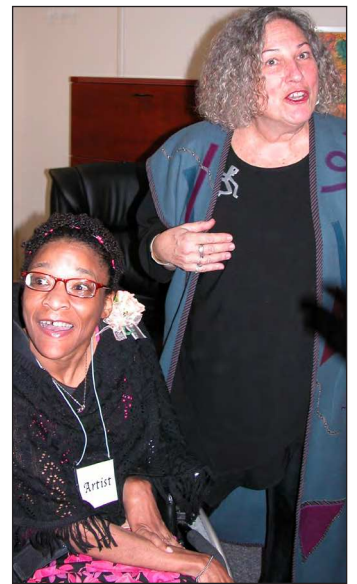
Mia Brown Art Opening

Downtown Mia Brown's Art Opening and business launch on Dec. 1 was a huge success! Mia sold out of her handpainted scarves and coasters, sold one large painting and a lot of her notecards. Mia glowed with pleasure at seeing so many of her good friends drop by.

Mia uses a headwand to paint in vibrant colors of the season. Emily Dvorin, Marin fiber artist and consultant to Mia says that, "Mia is a remarkable artist, overcoming all odds to express her joyful spirit through painting." A feature article on Mia and her business appeared in Marinscopes papers and brought folks to the CACS offices where some of her artwork is currently on display and for sale.

Mia participates in CACS Supported Living and Income Opportunities Unlimited.

Mia listens to Michael Feno, Donna Dutton writes up a sale, Wendy Thomas is on the right.



Mia Brown & Emily Dvorin



Out & About

Dusty Dutton, owner of Dusty's Puppets volunteers each week. She does puppet shows for toddlers at the YMCA in San Rafael/Hamilton Head Start on alternating Mondays and the San Rafael Fifth Ave Head Start on Wed mornings. She has been doing the shows for several years-the kids look forward to the regular shows and Dusty has an opportunity to try out new material for her professional gigs. Monica Zaldivar, CACS staff, helps Dusty with staging. Marlene Adam at Head Start's San Rafael 5th Ave site said that "Dusty has made a big difference since she started years

Casa Allegra Community Services ago performing for the children and interacting with them. And she has really developed her confidence as well."

Michael Valcour will appear in the Wizard of Oz in a Magic Circle Theater production March 5, 6, & 7 in Roseville, CA.

Milestones

Elijah Gonzales and Dusty Dutton were honored for 10 years employment at Courtyard Marriott of Novato in early November. Manager Tim Howard says, "They are very well liked."

Staff Appreciation: Teamwork & Leadership

by Theresa Eisenberg, RN

On January 29th, Casa Allegra Community Services kicked off its 35th year by honoring and celebrating its Staff at a dinner held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael.

The event was in keeping with Casa Allegra's theme of the evening: "Teamwork: Together we achieve the extraordinary." In a departure from past years, no awards were given for employee of the year. Instead, all employees were honored for their service and commitment to excellence, emphasizing that it takes a team to effect change in the lives of others. Still, it was appropriate to acknowledge several individuals who stepped up and went the extra mile. For them, good enough is not enough.

Julio Lopez was acknowledged for his role in the creation of new businesses and continued success of Keeping Marin Green. Taking ownership through his dedication and attention to detail was cited as having made the difference.

Each assists others in being the best they can be. That is leadership...

Marina Rozen's Staff, Kristen Thomen, Sumita Davis, and Margarita Fregoso were lauded for their teamwork and going

beyond the requirements of their job for bringing hope and encouragement to their Client each day.

At 67 years of age, Joe Argueta has achieved the autonomy afforded by living on his own terms thanks to the support of Rachel Jean, Frank Ross and Joe Koos. Lillian Anders stepped in and has enhanced the quality of Sebastian Klopfer's life as he navigates a challenging transition.

Robert Cardena coordinated and supervised Staff in the Residential Homes and three Supportive Living Homes with a calm, positive manner and dogged work ethic



L to R: Julio Lopez, Kirsten Tomen, Margarita Fregoso, Rachel Jean, Sumita Davis, Robert Cardenas, Lillian Anders

when simultaneously faced with chicken pox, H1N1 and postoperative complications. All three Residents recovered and are thriving.

Few of us would describe ourselves as leaders, but teamwork and leadership go hand in hand. Daily, each of us is presented with leadership opportunities. It may be as simple as teaching others by example or anticipating a potential problem and taking measures to avoid it. It might be actively working to improve effective communication. Why are these actions all examples of leadership? Each assists others in being the best they can be. That is leadership. The individuals recognized at the Staff Appreciation Dinner may not think of themselves as leaders, but that was the role they assumed in the course of their work.

"It's the little things that make a difference." Indeed, that is when the little things become big things-when they make a difference. Our Staff makes a difference in the lives of others each and every day; it is what Casa Allegra Community Services is all about. We help others be the best they can be.

CACS sings - who knew?, Sharon Edgecomb, Daniel Reichling, Socorro & Anastasia Gallardo, Debbie & Diedre Falvey, Eny Campos, Robert Cardenas (being a real good sport), Theresa Eisenberg, Megan Rincon, Angela Gallardo, Jennifer Belsey





Eileen Sherman's Family: Stephen, Bill, Judith Ann, Laura & Dylan Rousseau, John Lerch & Daniel Sherman.



Michael Bruciati, the Bruciati Family with Michael Feno



Richard, Cecilia, Caitlin Lannon & Elaine Black



Michael Valcour



Jared Jordan & Sonya Gordon



Andy, Scarlett & Dan Murphy



Mary Ellen & Kevin McCarthy

HOLIDAY PARTY DEC. 20, 2009

Casa Allegra Community Services' clients, staff and families celebrated in style at the Marin Catholic High School's remodeled gorgeous cafeteria in Kentfield.

Lynn Holbrook and her dear friends, Lynn's Ladies, outdid themselves with a fabulous baked ham buffet with all the delicious trimmin's, a lovely Starry Night blue and silver decor, poinsettia centerpieces, and stunning floral arrangements from Lynn's garden. The Ladies enjoyed using the modernized, big and well-equipped kitchen.

National Charity League volunteer mothers and daughters greeted guests and served delicious appetizers. Three generations of the Sherman family helped tend the bar with beverages underwritten by Dan Murphy. Young guests made and ate gingerbread houses thanks to Anne Newman. Michael Valcour from Sacramento serenaded us with songs of the season. Courtesy of the Lannon family, revelers boogied to fab music and a sparkling disco light show provided by DJ Chris Braun, a 17-year-old student at St. Vincent's High.

Clients received Secret Santa Gifts thoughtfully chosen for them by staff. Holiday Trees were donated by Novato Sunrise Rotary.

The entire evening including volunteers, entertainment, decor and food was planned and choreographed by Lynn Holbrook with Alison Falvey. The buffet dinner and appetizers were donated by Lynn & Johnathan Holbrook.

It is with great sadness that we let you know that Lynn Holbrook passed away suddenly on Jan. 9. Lynn was a longtime member of CACS board. She leaves behind her husband Johnathan and sons Jonathan (CACS client) and Christopher.

- Lynn Holbrook March 26, 1948 - Jan. 9, 2010 -



Allen, Susan & Julia Peters



Krystal & Jan Tremblay



Dusty Dutton & Jonathan Holbrook



Norma Miranda, Amy Hosa, Gannett Hosa-Betante & Alex Gallego

Lynn's Ladies: Elaine Holub, Pam Hickox, Cindy Krieger, Lynn Holbrook, Diane Gomez, Lynn, Diane McLain & Lonnie Suhrke

Theresa Eisenberg, Lisa, Dolly & John Reynolds

