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Plugged In

January 2011 ● Vol. 18 No. 1

Connecting Santa Barbara County with Essential Developmental DisABILITY News

alpha
RESOURCE CENTER
OF SANTA BARBARA

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Serving the Santa Barbara
Community since 1953.



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*Plugged In is a free
publication that is
distributed bimonthly
from Alpha Resource Center.*

FRONT AND CENTER

Top 11 (because 11 is the new 10!) Reasons 2010 was a great year to be an Alpha supporter and member:

11. The smell of a freshly paved parking lot is better than roses any day! {David Smith, Alpha Adult Program participant, told us how “crappy” the parking lot was...we listened. Members, participants, and staff alike rejoiced when the parking lot was finished! Much needed spaces were added and the whole lot was repaved making a trip to Alpha that much smoother and more enjoyable.}

10. You have the opportunity to see the world’s largest pile of mulch! {Alpha staff was joined by over 80 volunteers (many from Santa Barbara Community Church and Santa Barbara Bank & Trust) for United Way’s Annual Day of Caring in September. The orchard was mulched, vans were detailed, and the property was cleaned; it was a very successful day!}

9. Got Alphantude? Well, we do! Not only did we get a new slogan this year, it came with four mascots ready to fight for Alpha’s honor...or maybe just model the new attire! {Alpha launched its new slogan “Got Alphantude” in May and now the shirts, mugs, and hats can be seen all over town. This is yet one more way to spread Alpha’s message of treating people with dignity and respect. Do you have Alphantude???

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FRONT AND CENTER

8. A little Santa Barbara sunshine is all you need to coax 3 Chicago natives out to CA in the middle of February. {This year's Wellness Symposium welcomed over 50 people to listen to speakers on a variety of topics about wellness and people with disabilities. Dr Chicoine, Dr. McGuire and Dr. Manghi all traveled from Chicago to be the keynote speakers for the conference and they were thrilled to enjoy our sunny 70s weather after leaving snow and ice behind them in Chicago!}

7. Just in case there's not enough for you to do in Santa Barbara already, you can check out our artists in featured art shows around town every year! {In November a number of our artists had some of their pieces exhibited in Gallery 113 in our *first* First Thursday appearance! In December, many more works were displayed at Just Folk in Summerland. Their following is growing so get your autographs now!}

6. If you're lucky you might catch a glimpse of Hannah Montana at one of our events. {The Teen Extreme/EXPO group performed their first play – *Princess Idol* – in July to a packed house of adoring fans. The well-written script from Gavin Roy was executed with perfect comedic timing and the audience was thrilled with performances from princesses ranging from Cinderella and Snow White to Nala, Pocahantas, and Ariel. Hannah Montana even made a guest appearance!}

5. You get to be in a room with 400 of your closest friends and family. {The Circle of Life luncheon in March welcomed over 400 guests and raised \$155,000 to support Alpha. Lunch guests were treated to wonderful musical performances, heard heartwarming speeches, and enjoyed delicious food! It was a memorable experience for all those that attended.}

4. You've heard of the Blue Man Group? Well we have a group of blue men too! {Push America is a program founded by Pi Kappa Phi and they are devoted to serving people with disabilities. Each summer a cycling group rides across America to spread the message of acceptance and understanding. This year they made a stop in Santa Barbara and joined us for our annual family picnic; they have already asked to come back for a visit! We had over 400 people in attendance and everyone enjoyed a delicious meal of chicken and tri-tip provided by Kiwanis Club of Santa Barbara.}

3. We have an All-Seeing Eye to help you solve all your problems {Over 300 people attended AlphaFest and were rewarded with a fantastic silent auction, a wonderful array of handmade items for sale, and a memorable performance of *Like A Persian* by the Performing Arts class! The actors lit up the stage with another Gavin Roy original script based loosely on Disney's Aladdin. The long hours of practice were evident and the audience was treated to an hour and a half of song and dance, suspense and drama, and laughter and joy!}

2. Who wouldn't want an opportunity to wear these spiffy jerseys and ride 40 miles in "falling fog"??? {In October, the 3rd annual Walk, Ride & Roll saw the successful addition of a 40 mile bike ride despite the somewhat dreary weather. The walk/roll portion was once again lead by the Brawlin' Betties roller derby team and concluded with a huge raffle and performances by the Special Olympics Karate team and Everybody Dance Now.}

1. We start our volunteers young and give them popsicles, dirt, and water. What could be better?? {In June, Alpha was one of 25 lucky recipients of a fruit orchard from Dreyers Corporation. Over 100 volunteers pitched in to help plant the myriad of trees that were provided by Dreyers. The sun was hot and the work was hard, but the popsicles were cool and the company was great. After enjoying his popsicle, Ryan (age 2) was so enthralled by the watering process that he wouldn't leave until every tree had been sufficiently watered. Thanks to Ryan and all the other wonderful volunteers the orchard is thriving and Alpha is now home to over 100 fruit trees ranging from fig and banana to lemon, cherry, and many more!}

MORE TO KNOW

Your Donation at Work

Have you ever wondered what a day at Alpha looks like? Or are you curious how your donations are making a difference for Alpha participants? Here's a brief glimpse into life at Alpha...By 9 am the buses have left and the participants have made their way to the coffee station, greeted their friends and are meandering to their home room. So what's on the agenda for the day? Although most of the 95 adults who participate in our day program start and end their day at Alpha, they rarely stay on campus all day. There is much to do in our community and they like to be part of it.



Getting everyone out to their desired location for their personal interests and pursuits is quite a juggling act. But, once sorted out, everyone makes their way to the assigned vehicle and off they go. Whether it is a swim at the YMCA, tennis with friends, a healthy round of balls at the batting cages, or a brisk walk along Shoreline, they are out and about enjoying all that Santa Barbara has to offer. Of course there are also those scholarly types who enjoy adult Ed classes, museum trips, figuring out the pipe organs, or just having a philosophical chat among friends at Alice Keck Park. In addition, we have

a group of worker bees who are focused on putting a few bucks in their pocket so they can enjoy a movie, dinner out, or a new CD when they are out with their friends on the weekend. Volunteering is also important and over 1,000 hours are given back to the community each year through meal deliveries to homebound seniors, serving at the soup kitchens, and cleaning up local parks and our beloved SB Zoo. By 3:00 everyone is back on campus, vehicles are parked, and participants say good bye knowing that tomorrow will be another day full of adventure! The adults at Alpha enjoy being a part of the community and your donations are very important in making that happen.



Alpha's fleet of 13 vehicles are, on average, about 14 years old and many are in need of repairs or replacement. If you need a tax credit and have a passenger van that you would like to put to good work in the community we can help. We also accept cars or trucks in good condition for use in the program or sale to third parties. Contact us today and we will take care of all the details and Alpha will receive 100% of the benefit from your donation. **Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Don Anderson for their recent donation of a Dodge Caravan!** It is already being introduced to the hectic schedule at Alpha and participants are enjoying the newest addition to the fleet.



OTHER WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

- \$250 provides 1 year of social recreation for a teen
- \$100 adopts a tree in our orchard to provide food and work experience
- \$75 provides an outing for 10 adults
- \$50 provides new resources for our libraries

CHILDREN, FAMILY & ADVOCACY SERVICES

Family First - A 20 year journey

While it is quite common for our family resource center to talk with families at various stages along their journey, there are often lengthy gaps in between. The other day I spoke with Linda for the first time since her son was in junior high. He is now attending Santa Barbara City College and doing extremely well. Linda and I noted how quickly the years pass and reminisced a bit.

The first time I met Linda and her family, their son had been newly diagnosed with autism and was receiving early intervention. At this time, both Early Start and the Family First Program were relatively new. Like many young families, Linda and her husband first called our office seeking support, resources and a little systems navigation help. Over the years, we would occasionally meet for lunch for a little parent-to-parent support. A couple of times I accompanied Linda to her son's IEP meetings. One year, we helped her access support for her son at summer camp. Another time we went to a conference together. A few times their school called for some help with Ability Awareness Activities. Usually we would touch base when Linda seemed to need some reassurance that she and her husband were doing all they could be doing to help their son. They had chosen a different path than other families, but, then again, most family journeys are unique.

I asked Linda what she felt really helped make the difference for her family and most contributed to her son's success. Her list was relatively short. She told me the early diagnosis and early intervention were huge benefits for her son. She identified her son's willingness to accept help and take on difficult challenges as another key factor. She also felt that he "learned so much from his peers" and being included played a critical role in his social development. As I write this, I still hear Linda's voice as she says with a smile, "He has friends and he is happy." What could be better? It's every parent's dream for their child.

I would like to write about the significant role our family resource center played in this one family's life, but that is not the heart of this story. All of the trials and tribulations, decisions and choices, successes and failures Linda's family went through have produced the results they most hoped for. While the roles that our family resource may have played in this process may be minor, one thing is significant--We were there at many stages along the way. Realistically, how can we quantify the value of a friendly ear?--The impact of a little reassurance at an important juncture? Certainly, the number of books we have loaned is a measure of the level of information we have provided, and the numbers of calls we receive helps enumerate the resources we have shared. Still, nothing can tell the story better than hearing one successful parent saying, "thank you for being there when I needed you".

Like Linda's son, our Family First Program at Alpha Resource Center is twenty years old. We are what we are because of those families we have worked with over the years. We define our services within our philosophy and mission, yet we are attentive to trends and needs as defined by those families we are able to connect with by phone, visits, or even e-mail. More often than not, families who call are seeking something concrete in nature; a book, a referral, or help with accessing services. We build our resources to respond to those tangible requests. After twenty years, one would think that we could better explain what we do. An accurate explanation would require telling the unique stories and experiences of each and every family. Then again, maybe the whole story of this family resource center is a returned call, a friendly voice, a listening ear, and the sharing of hope.



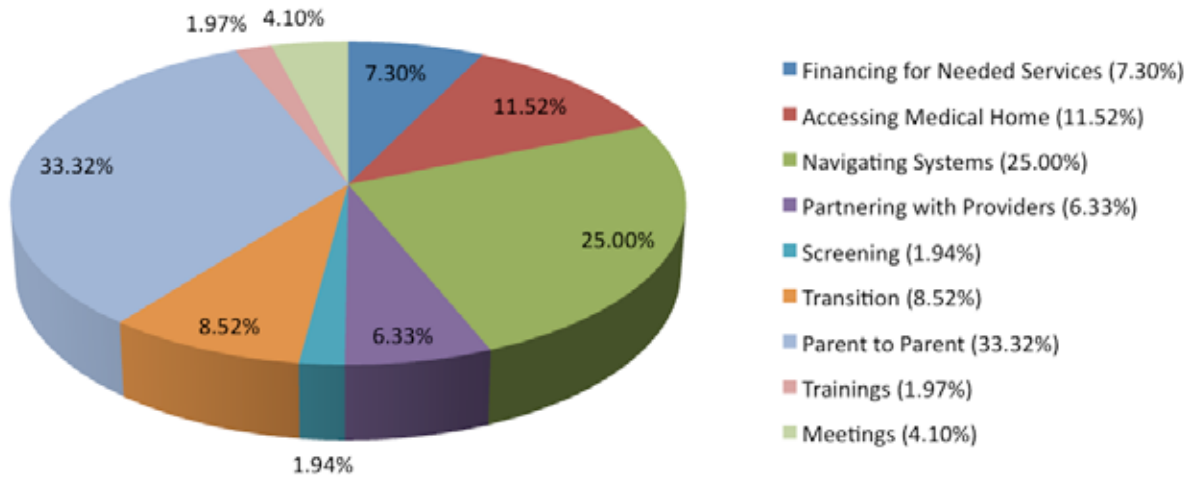
Patty Moore is the manager of Children, Family & Advocacy Services at Alpha Resource Center. Her team, as she refers to her staff, includes Polly Bleavins, Amy Buesker, Jennifer Griffin, Theresa Laurabee, Mariana Murillo, Norma Puga, Sandra Villareal, and Rick Seward, consultant. Combined they have over 120 years experience in the field of family support, training, and advocacy.

CHILDREN, FAMILY & ADVOCACY SERVICES

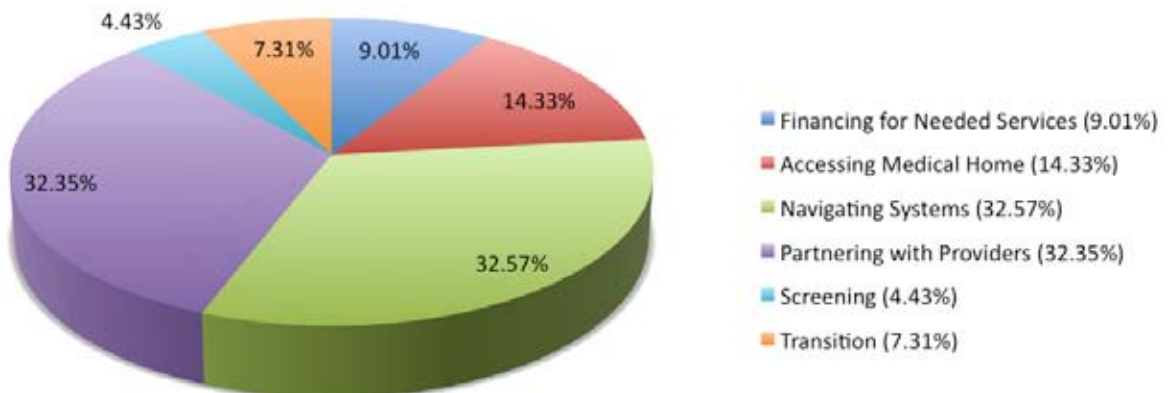
In 2010 the Children, Family & Advocacy Services team worked with over 1599 individual families throughout Santa Barbara County. Parent-to-Parent Support was the primary service provided followed closely by Systems Navigation. Support and information sharing on transitions was a frequent request. Other services included accessing specific services related to wellness and education.

Collaboration and partnering with community providers are also key activities. 910 requests for information and services from professional providers were met countywide by our resource coordinators. Well informed providers are better able to serve their communities. Alpha Resource Center values these partnerships.

Services Provided to Families 2010



Services Provided to Professionals 2010



All Things About Alpha Word Search

S E C I V R E S N A P S E F I L S A L M
 B H S E R O T S T F I R H T S E O R E H
 E P E P L U G G E D I N B L E C X L A P
 L V I A Y T I N U M M O C P I Y C L D A
 O N T S E F A H P L A I D T L H M K E R
 N O I T A C U D E D N A G N I N I A R T
 G I N E W D S C L C J E X O M N G T S I
 I T U A Y A I R L R F Y R X A P A I R C
 N A T N I N L U E I O I T E F S R E E I
 G R R P C R S K L N I W D I D N D S E P
 D I O I A I A F R M T U A N N N E F T A
 R P P B O T O T A I T R E E A G N U N N
 A S P N S E R G A A D I A R N V I N U T
 H N O J L L I O H H R E U P E I Y D L S
 C I G C H N Z P N F P M R K R S G R O M
 R G R P E E L D J S W L J O D V P A V T
 O I M P M A R G O R P Y A D L K H E M A
 C F A M I L Y V O I C E S B I L S E C I
 T R T E E N E X T R E M E R H E X P O T
 K V O F F I C E O F A D V O C A C Y N F

ALPHAFEST	DAY PROGRAM	IMAGINE A WORLD	OFFICE OF ADVOCACY	PLUGGED IN
ALPHATARIAN	DIGNITY	INCLUSION	OPPORTUNITIES	RESPECT
ALPHATUDE	EXPO	INSPIRATION	ORCHARD	TEEN EXTREME
BELONGING	FAMILY VOICES	KATIES FUND	PARTICIPANTS	THRIFT STORES
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES	FRIENDS	LEADERS	PARTNERS	TRAINING AND EDUCATION
CIRCLE OF LIFE	GARDEN	LIFESPAN SERVICES	PATRONS	VOLUNTEERS
COMMUNITY	HEROES	MELCHIORI IMAGINE PARK	PICNIC	WALK RIDE ROLL

UPDATE FROM ALPHA

News from Family Voices

Recognition for Parents of Children with Special Health Care Needs. We just learned that last week a resolution (H.Res. 1576) was passed by the House, expressing the view of that body that a day should be designated as “National Day of Recognition for Parents of Children with Special Needs.” Although the resolution does not actually establish this day of recognition, it is a good first step. The resolution was introduced by Representative Dan Burton (R-IN) (who has a grandchild with special health care needs) and had 42 co-sponsors, listed at the end of this report. Since it is a House resolution, it does not advance to the Senate. The short resolution can be found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-111hres1576eh/pdf/BILLS-111hres1576eh.pdf>. The impetus for the resolution came from an Ohio resident who was a special education school-bus attendant and was so impressed by the parents with whom he interacted that he thought they should be formally recognized.

In the House of Representatives, U.S., December 2, 2010

Whereas the reported prevalence of children with special needs, which may include children with healthcare needs, behavioral needs, learning needs, and mental health needs has grown significantly throughout the last 50 years;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that an average of 1 in 110 children in the United States have an autism spectrum disorder and 1 in 1000 children are born with Down syndrome;

Whereas active and supportive parents serve a critical role in the development of children with special needs and in preparing them to succeed in school and in life;

Whereas parents of children with special needs deserve annual national recognition for their selfless dedication, compassion, and sacrifice; and

Whereas it is appropriate that the Nation reserve a special day each year to celebrate and honor the parents of children with special needs across the United States: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives---

(1) recognizes the importance of honoring the Nation’s parents of children with special needs;

(2) expresses its sense that a National Day of Recognition for Parents of Children with Special Needs should be established to honor such parents; and

(3) urges the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

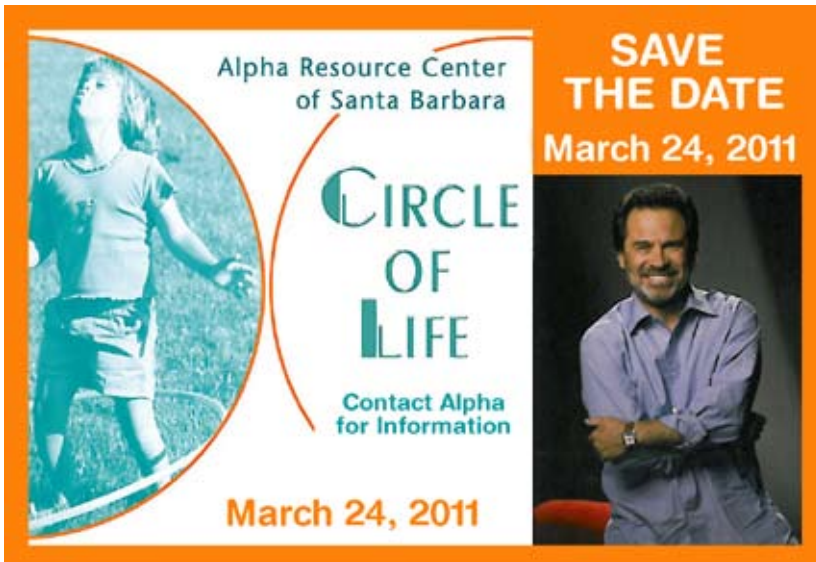
Katie’s FUNd Update

The end of 2010 was filled with lots of fun events for the participants of Katie’s FUNd. We had our annual Monster Ball (Halloween dance) at the end of October which was a huge success as always! We also had our annual pumpkin carving party where we carved over 20 pumpkins in one night with everything from traditional faces to haunted house and movie character designs. There were pumpkin guts everywhere by the end of the night, but lots of smiling faces and Halloween spirit. In November a group of 22 of us descended on the movie theaters for the first part of the end of the Harry Potter series. Everyone loved it and we can’t wait until the final movie comes out in July! December was full of lots of holiday events as usual. We had our annual cookie baking event for local law enforcement and we also collected toys for the Toys for Tots toy drive. We had a holiday movie/pajama night as well as going on the Trolley of Lights tour which has become a much

anticipated tradition. We are looking forward to another exciting year in 2011. There is still space available in both Teen Extreme and EXPO so if you or anyone you know is between the ages of 13 and 22 and is interested in joining us for lots of great social activities please contact Amy Buesker at abuesker@alphasb.org or (805) 683-2145 x127.



HAPPENINGS



Alpha Resource Center
of Santa Barbara

SAVE THE DATE
March 24, 2011

CIRCLE OF LIFE

Contact Alpha
for Information

March 24, 2011



alpha hosts... *save the date!!!*

You're invited!

Business After Hours Mixer
with
Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce

Snacks and beverages will be served
Come and meet your Business neighbors.
Fashion Show and a brief tour of Alpha Thrift

Wednesday February 16, 2011, 5:00-7:00 pm
Alpha Thrift Store, 5624 Hollister Avenue, Goleta, CA 93117
RSVP to Marisa Pasquini by Feb. 14.
mpasquini@alphasb.org, 805-683-2145, Ext.105



BSASBC Presents:
Valentine Dinner & Dance

Saturday, Feb 5th
5:00-9:00 PM

Individuals with disabilities,
their families and friends
and community members
are all invited!!!

Highlights

- Dinner & Dancing
- Dress up photos
- Crafts
- Manicures
- Rocket stomping
- And MUCH MORE!



Teams for ALL levels of Play!

Competitive and
Non-Competitive Teams

For boys and girls ages 5 -22 living in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties with physical or developmental and/or intellectual challenges.

Wheelchair & walker apparatus participants included.

Typical Little League players and community volunteers available to assist.

Saturdays @ Girsh Park in Goleta and El Carro Park in Carpinteria

2011 Season Registration NOW Open – Forms Available online or by mail:

info@GoChallengers.org; 805/681-9165;
www.GoChallengers.org

"Children with Differences Welcomed,
Encouraged, and Celebrated!"

Adults: \$15.00 Children 5-18: \$10.00 Children under 5: FREE

Adults: Sliced Black Angus Roast Sirloin, Chicken Ballantine, Cornbread Stuffing with Champagne and Mustard Sauce, Roasted Red Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Caesar or Tossed Green Salad, Dinner Rolls, Dessert, Coffee, Tea, Water, Soda, glass of table wine!

Children: Chicken Tenders, French Fries, Macaroni and Cheese, Tossed Green Salad, Beverage, Dessert

Contact Retta with questions: 805-681-9165

Purchase tickets in advance at:
<http://sbsnap.eventbrite.com>

Santa Barbara Elks Lodge #613
150 N Kellogg Ave.

Visit www.alphasb.org and www.sbsnap.org for information on upcoming Alpha and community events!

MORE TO KNOW

Kathy Mills- Alpha Volunteer

I learned about Alpha through my friend Linda Meyer. Her daughter Megan loves Teen Extreme and EXPO, Alpha's teen and young adult recreation programs, and often talks about the outings and parties she attends. A few years ago, Linda invited me to "Circle of Life," Alpha's annual fundraiser, and I was hooked!

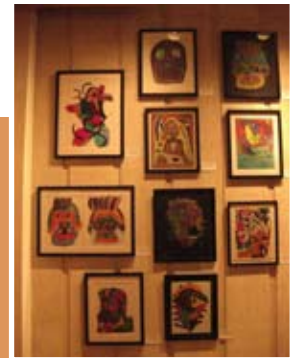
My involvement with Alpha happened very naturally. After the luncheon, I attended several tours and other events at Alpha. As I got to know some of the staff, I was asked to scout out Art Galleries for possible art shows for Alpha's Art Studio artists. How could I say no to that? I was asked to be a "Table Captain" for Circle of Life, so I invited a few friends to join me the next year. Linda and I hosted a table together in 2009, and in 2010 we helped coordinate the event by supporting other table captains to be successful. My husband supports my volunteer work at Alpha, and we like to bring our 13 year old niece with us, to introduce her to service work. This year, I joined the Circle of Life committee and participated in the planting of Alpha's orchard in June.

I really believe in Alpha as an organization. The programs are focused on the needs of the people served, and the staff is first rate. Alpha is straightforward-the funds go back into programs that help people, and I like that. I like the culture and the purpose of Alpha- empowering individuals, supporting families and building an inclusive community. So I feel good about supporting Alpha, and I genuinely enjoy the people and events.

I didn't know that going to a luncheon would lead to being so involved with Alpha, but I'm certainly glad that Linda introduced me to it. Volunteering with Alpha adds joy and fun to my life.

"I have always believed in the creative potential in every human heart. Your exhibition is a showcase of the potential for original thinking and art making that we all have access to. The art works are genuine and authentic, express joy without hesitation, and offer us the kind of magic that we sometimes need art work to remind us still exists."

-Patti Post, President, Santa Barbara Art Association



Imagine a World...

Alpha's "Imagine a World" award is a BIG deal with the recipients; they are overjoyed at the acknowledgement. The "Imagine a World" award is given to businesses, individuals and organizations that, in their day-to-day affairs, respect and support the inclusion of children and adults with developmental disabilities. Here are some of the highlights of the past year's awards...

2010 IAW Recipients

Arts Fund of Santa Barbara

Muddy Waters

Elephant Bar

The Learningden Preschool

San Marcos Girls Swim Team

Santa Barbara Zoo

Zodos Bowling & Beyond

Chili's Grill & Bar

Metropolitan Transit District

Rincon Broadcasting LLC

Goleta Chamber of Commerce

Brownstein/Hyatt/
Farber/Schreck Law Firm

Santa Barbara Zoo... Alpha's adult participants spend several hours every week volunteering at the zoo. They are treated with respect by the staff, and contribute to the enjoyment of other park guests by helping to keep it clean!



enjoyment of other park guests by helping to keep it clean!

Chili's Grill and Bar... A favorite spot for Alpha's Teen Extreme and EXPO participants. The food and atmosphere is great, and they always feel welcomed by the staff!



Zodo's Bowling and Beyond...

Zodo's has been supportive of teens and adults with disabilities. They are always ready with courteous service and adaptive bowling ramps; they also offer special group rates for our adults on a limited budget!



STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Plan – Update

Building Organizational Capacity for Growth

In September the Board of Directors adopted an aggressive Strategic Plan. The Plan addresses building financial depth in light of decreasing State support and responding to unmet service needs.

Integral to the Plan is filling key staff positions and obtaining seed funding to build our capacity to grow. We have met these 2 objectives. The Weingart Foundation awarded Alpha a 2-year grant to build organizational capacity and Julie Badella, Adult Services Program Manager has been promoted to Director of Programs.

Julie Badella, Director of Programs



Replacing Julie is Allison Taylor who has been promoted to Adult Services Program Manager

Also new, Jessica Simon has left the Board of Directors and has been hired as Outreach Assistant. She will be working with Marisa Pasquini on Public Education and Outreach, Event Planning and Promotions. (Jessica on the left)



ALPHA SPOTLIGHT

Volunteer Heroes 2010

Josh and Jamie Weitzman have been active members of Alpha since their daughter Hannah was born with Down syndrome in 2007. Jamie and another mother (Mia Benavides Willson) had a vision of creating an event to promote inclusion and acceptance of people with disabilities and hence the Walk & Roll was born! Both Jamie and Mia worked tirelessly alongside Alpha staff to bring this dream to life and it has been a wonderful success ever since. This year Jamie's husband Josh joined the planning team. As an avid cyclist, he had a vision of adding a bike ride to the event; thus the event evolved to the Walk, Ride & Roll. Jamie and Josh took on large parts of this event in order to relieve some of the work load from Alpha staff. They volunteered countless hours of their time to ensure that the event would run smoothly and they did it all with a smile on their faces. And the best part is that they're ready to help again next year! Josh is already deep into planning how to make the event even bigger and better in the future. Our deepest thanks to these two devoted volunteers (and their 3 lovely daughters and son on the way!) for all of their support in working on the Walk, Ride & Roll and promoting Alpha's vision of an inclusive community where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.



Chris Janeway has been an Alpha supporter and volunteer for a number of years. Even when he went away to college at UC Berkeley he still found ways to be involved and help out, including organizing a clothing drive with his fraternity. At the end of the event, he and a few of his fraternity brothers drove all the clothes back to Santa Barbara to be donated to the thrift store. After graduating Chris returned to Santa Barbara and began volunteering his time for Katie's FUNd events. He selflessly gave his time to join the teens and young adults on multiple excursions and quickly became loved by the participants. In May he bravely volunteered to attend a 3-day camping trip with the group. Not only did he help with all the needed tasks the entire weekend, he took an active role in making sure that everyone had a great time. One of the highlights of the trip occurred when his team won the sandcastle building contest. There were mentally and physically exhausting parts of the weekend, but Chris took everything in stride and kept a smile on his face and a positive attitude the whole time. We are

extremely grateful to Chris for all the time and effort he has devoted to Alpha.

Linda and Larry Saltzman are the co-founders of the SB Organic Garden Club and the Permaculture Guild of SB. In the past 2 years they have become deeply involved with the garden and orchard at Alpha and have volunteered over 800 hours to keep our plants beautiful and thriving. The countless hours they spend weeding, watering, pruning and caring for all of our natural spaces have created a beautiful and serene environment for participants, staff and visitors to enjoy. They also conduct organic and permaculture classes in the garden to introduce guests to the programs at Alpha. They are currently working with staff to create a sustainable garden that will be used to prepare healthy meals in the kitchen for day program participants. Linda and Larry have been extremely generous with their time and talents for the past two years and we cannot thank them enough for their contribution. We look forward to learning from their expertise for many years to come.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR HEROES!

Mory Alvarez
Dr. Florene Bednersh
Sherri Davis
Barry DuFour
Gary Gray
Ken Griffith
Ruth Gull
Peter Hunt
Kiwanis Club of Santa Barbara
Victoria McDonald
Maggie McKellar
Al Rodriguez
Rod Rolle

Return Service Requested

UP CLOSE - JULIE WELLS

Julie Wells



Julie Wells is a bubbly, charming, delightful five year old who loves to get dirty, play with princesses (especially Snow White), and romp with her twin brothers. She attends Little Woods Preschool with her brothers and will be going to Kindergarten in the fall. She loves books, painting and chasing the pet chickens at Little Woods with her friends! Her family has been involved with Alpha since shortly after Julie's birth. Earlier this year Julie attended the orchard planting with her mom (Anne) and brother (Ryan). After enjoying a popsicle and rides in the wheelbarrow she got down and dirty with Ryan helping to plant and water trees. At the end of the day she was covered in dirt (right), but happy to help out and be with her friends and family at Alpha.



Julie and her family attend the Walk, Ride & Roll every year; and this year Julie walked the entire course by herself for the first time! She was especially proud when she saw a picture of herself on a poster along the course with the word "belong". She is definitely a valued and loved member of this community. We are proud to have Julie as a member of our Alpha family and we can't wait to see what the rest of her life brings!