

newvistas

spring/summer 2011, volume 23, number 1 stronger families... brighter futures... since 1957

SAFIR Celebrates 15 years of Putting Teens and Families Back on the Right Track

Billy was just 17 years old, but he was smoking marijuana often enough that it was becoming a potentially addictive habit. Billy's parents didn't have a clue about their son's behavior until a policeman stopped the youth's car one evening and found his stash. Six months later, Billy has stopped using marijuana, his grades have improved, he's working hard to get into a good college and he and his parents are communicating better than they have in years.

The dramatic turnaround in Billy's life is due to the family's participation in Vista Hill's Supporting Adolescents & Families in Recovery (SAFIR). This year SAFIR celebrates 15 years of providing help and hope to thousands of youth and their families around San Diego County.

"Since 1997, SAFIR has been one of our community's most successful and important programs," says Marie Miehls, who oversees SAFIR as director of Vista Hill's Community Services programs. "I was there at the

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Audrey Geisel: a Truly Special Donor Who Has Always Been There for Vista Hill

A wonderful angel has been watching over Vista Hill for two decades, and her name is Audrey Geisel. This remarkable philanthropist, who donates millions to dozens of organizations in San Diego, has always kept a special place in her heart for Vista Hill. And she continues to give generously to the organization, recently making a new gift of \$150,000, and in doing so becoming the largest donor in Vista Hill history.

"There is only one word I can use to describe Audrey Geisel: extraordinary," says Vista Hill President and CEO Robert Dean. "Audrey has always been there for us, and has never been afraid to step up, especially in the early years when she was practically the only major donor in town who cared deeply about mental health issues. She never once hesitated to back her passion up with significant donations to help address those issues, and her impact has been immeasurable."

Geisel, who was a registered nurse earlier in life before marrying the late Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel, was frustrated in the 1970s and 80s when she had trouble convincing anyone to pay attention to mental health causes, let alone contribute to them.

"To be honest, I felt like I was fighting the battle alone and actually gave up for a number of years," Geisel recalls. "I never understood how people could ignore their fellow human beings as they struggled with mental illness, substance abuse issues or other problems that are part of the human condition.

"But then I found out about Vista Hill and all of the tremendous things they were doing. I was thrilled to

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Did you know that Vista Hill has more than 24 programs throughout San Diego County helping troubled young people, individuals with developmental disabilities, substance abusing women and men with children, rural families with mental health challenges and more.

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VISTA HILL
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Audrey Geisel (continued from page 1)

discover an organization that was really helping to serve the toughest of the tough, and I was excited to help expand their resources and ability to assist even more people.”

Geisel’s contributions to Vista Hill over the years have been nothing short of amazing. She bought a property for the Don Allen ParentCare Family Recovery Center, which was turned into an activity center and playground for families living in the Sober Living Apartments. And a few years later, Geisel paid off the mortgage for the Sober Living Apartments.

She has also been a staunch financial supporter of Vista Hill events, including the Fashion Show, Gala and Women’s Council on Mental Health, of which she is a lifetime member. Geisel has been honorary chair of many events and two years ago served with Darlene Shiley as Honorary Co-Chair of Vista Hill’s 50th Anniversary. She also a recipient of Vista Hill’s highest honor, the IMBY (In My Back Yard) Award.

Geisel has a particular fondness for ParentCare and its clients. She takes immense pleasure in seeing women who have struggled with drugs and alcohol and subsequently had their

children taken away, turn to ParentCare as a safe and supportive haven where they can develop the skills they need to become sober, get their children back and create a stable, nurturing home environment for their family.

“So many of these women are really good people who have just made some poor choices in their lives that have hurt themselves and put their children at risk,” Geisel says. “But that doesn’t mean we can just abandon them or ignore them. We’ve have to provide the compassion and support they need to overcome their addictions and put their lives and those of their kids on a healthy, positive path. No one does a better job of that than Vista Hill.”

It is programs like ParentCare, Geisel says, that will keep her supporting Vista Hill as long as she is able.

“While I enjoy donating to the arts, education and science, I will never forget that there are countless numbers of human beings living at the edge of our society who are equally deserving of assistance. Unfortunately, to this day we still battle indifference and ignorance. But thankfully, with the caring support of an organization like Vista Hill, we’ve made real progress in providing the kind of help that truly transforms lives and strengthens our community. I’m honored and blessed to have played a role in that remarkable process.”

**Audrey Geisel with
Robert Dean, Vista Hill
President and CEO**



Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism is there for San Diego!

The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism was established by NFL quarterback Doug Flutie and his wife, Laurie, in honor of their son, Doug, Jr. who was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. Today, the Flutie Foundation provides individuals with autism and their families an opportunity to improve their quality of life by funding educational, therapeutic, recreational and advocacy programs.

The participants and staff at Vista Hill Stein Education Centers (SEC) Special Care Services (After School) Program have been honored to have the support of this wonderful organization—at a time when it was needed most. Those involved with children with autism, and similar conditions, well remember the drastic funding cutbacks in California from two years ago. Social skill and recreational programs for children with developmental disabilities, such as those provided at SEC Special Care Services, would have been eliminated for many local children if not for support from organizations such as the Flutie Foundation. In 2009, the Flutie Foundation provided “scholarships” to allow children to continue their participation in the Special Care Services (After School) social, recreational and behavioral program. Recently, another grant was awarded to support participants in attending summer and inter-session camps.

Thank you, Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation, for your tremendous support throughout the years—especially now, when we needed you most!

SAFIR (continued from page 1)

beginning and it has been amazing to see the many young lives we've been able to re-direct away from drugs and toward a healthier and more productive life."

The predecessor of SAFIR got its start 20 years ago when Harborview Hospital closed its adolescent recovery program. Child psychiatrist Allan Rabin, M.D., knew that decision would result in a loss of services, a gap he decided to try to bridge by starting a family-based group recovery program called Parents and Adolescents Recovering Successfully (PARTS).

A few years later PARTS was taken over by Mesa Vista Hospital and Vista Hill. In 1997 a group of parents wanted to take PARTS in a different direction and they split off. Vista Hill believed in the original model, took another group of parents and started SAFIR. Today, SAFIR is more successful and more needed than ever. The demand has led Vista Hill to place SAFIR programs in San Diego, Encinitas, Escondido, Poway, Ramona, La Mesa and Chula Vista.

Why does SAFIR work for young people like Billy and his parents and so many others? The key is the program's ability to raise awareness among families about the dangers and physical effects of drugs and alcohol. At the same time, it shows parents how to communicate better while learning

to understand each other's needs and objectives. One of the most remarkable features of SAFIR is that it has always been offered free of charge to the families.

"SAFIR is really a powerful intervention and prevention program that successfully reaches most of these kids before they become severely addicted to drugs and alcohol," says Al Bonaguro, one of the counselors in Encinitas. "We use a safe and supportive group environment facilitated by professional substance abuse counselors to enable adolescents and their families to share experiences, strengths, hopes and recovery choices."

Bonaguro's fellow counselor, David Warren, says the two-hour weekly group meetings, which include breakout sessions where kids and parents can talk to their peers separately, usually lead to dramatic results.

"We see a real conscious shift between parents and adults," he says. "Where before they may have barely talked, we see them walking out laughing with their arms around each other. The kids learn how to stop using drugs and they come out of the program much healthier and much more motivated to learn at school and focus on what they want to do with their lives."



**COASTAL
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE**

Coastal Community Foundation representatives Marion Dodson, Board President (above center), and Sharon Omahen, Executive Director (left), attended the Friends of Vista Hill (FVH) Board meeting on March 14. They were greeted by 20 FVH Board members who thanked them for their long-term support of Vista Hill programs, especially SAFIR (Supporting Adolescents & Families in Recovery)—see story page 1. Marie Miehl, Director of Community Services (right), made a presentation highlighting the SAFIR program. Coastal Community Foundation (CCF) was established in 1987 as a resource for the North Coastal communities of Carmel Valley, Del Mar, Solana Beach, Encinitas, La Costa, Carlsbad and Oceanside. The mission of the Foundation is to enhance the quality of life in the North Coast by directing philanthropic efforts toward community needs. Vista Hill is most grateful for the partnership and support of CCF, especially in Encinitas.



This group in Encinitas includes students age 13 to 18 and their parents. Success comes only with serious dedication on the part of each teen.



Counselor Al Bonaguro works with teens and parents at a weekly SAFIR meeting.

Vista Hill Director Passionate about Helping Youth Offenders

For me, there's nothing more rewarding than giving young offenders the tools and self-esteem they need to avoid potential involvement in more serious crime and prison. It's really exciting to put them on a positive path that leads back to school and jobs and becoming productive members of our community.

"I look it as planting a very special seed."

Those are the words of Claudette Allen, a true force of nature who devotes her heart and soul to helping young people in trouble as director of Vista Hill's Early Intervention and Prevention Services. Allen and her talented and committed team of juvenile recovery specialists are turning around the lives of hundreds of young people every year through programs Vista Hill operates on contracts with the County of San Diego's Department of Probation.

The Substance Abuse Services (SAS) program each year assesses more than 800 youth who have minor offenses to determine their level of involvement with drugs and alcohol and refers them to treatment programs that help them get back on track.

For 160 more serious juvenile offenders who have failed in previous treatment attempts, Vista Hill's Juvenile Drug Court brings together judge, district attorney, public defender, probation officer, psychiatrist and juvenile recovery specialist to provide intense supervision and assistance in a nine-month program that usually leads to kids coming out clean and eager to change their behavior. One of the major bonuses of successfully completing Juvenile Drug Court is that offenders have their juvenile records expunged.



Claudette Allen and Ozcar Ascencio, program manager of Vista Hill's Juvenile Drug Court, chat with Carlos, a former juvenile offender who graduated from the program in April and who is proud that he has been able to put his life back on track. Congratulations to Carlos for his hard work and commitment to the program!



Allen also oversees Vista Hill's Bridges Early Intervention Program for Teens, a non-court-related effort that provides parents with drug and alcohol referral services for troubled teens. Bridges services are offered in a number of communities around the county, including San Diego, Encinitas, Escondido, Chula Vista and La Mesa.

Although Allen works long hours and faces the rollercoaster emotions and challenges of helping those with substance abuse issues, she never doubts for a moment that she's in the right field.

"I have a true passion for helping people in need. It's really my calling in life. I remember people asking me when I was a little girl what I wanted to be when I grew up and I always said,

'I want to be a social worker.' That was funny because I didn't even know what that meant and I had never had any contact with social workers. But somehow I knew that was what I wanted."

A later childhood experience truly shaped Allen's life. As a sixth grader, she was so quiet and shy that a guidance counselor told her teacher, "'Don't try to push her to talk. She's not going to ever be anything.' This was the school counselor, of all people! I was so angry, I never forgot it.

When I graduated from college I went back to see that counselor and showed her my diploma. My message was that what you say can have a huge impact. I wonder how many kids took her words to heart and believed them and didn't do anything with their lives.

"Recovery programs also work well for young people, but all of our kids have had to learn the key lesson: you have to work the program for the program to work for you."

It's why today I focus so much on building self-esteem in young people because it's one of the truly important foundations for a successful life."

Allen's own life started in the small Texas panhandle town of Quanah. Her dad died when she was young, leaving her mom to raise six girls and three boys. Allen developed an early work ethic that led her to her first job at 13 and a desire for education. She got a degree in sociology from McMurry University in Abilene, worked for a short time with disabled children at a state facility and then decided to start a new life in San Diego, where she moved in with a half brother.

Finding a job within a week, Allen began a long and distinguished career in social services. She started at San Diego House of Hope, spent six years at San Diego Youth and Community Services and three years at CRASH's Options for Recovery program before joining Vista Hill in 2001.

Allen feels she is doing her best and most important work today by reaching young offenders before their lives go completely out of control.

"I can't tell you how critical it is that we intervene with these kids at this stage in their lives. If we don't, we run the real risk that they will go onto more serious crimes and likely end up behind bars or dead. The payoff for our investment in these services is truly amazing. Not only do these kids develop self-worth, they discover that with some hard work and support, they really do have a future. The impact on their lives and the health of our community is immeasurable. This is what makes all the long hours so worthwhile."



Staff Members Honored

Stein Education Center (SEC) staff members are well known for going above and beyond the call of duty. (From left) Josie Straw, Helen Barr, Kirsten Huber and Lucille Aguilar received special recognition last November at the annual Helping Hand Award Ceremony. They are pictured with longtime Vista Hill donor Jerry Stein, whose father, benefactor Sam Stein, created the Helping Hand Award because he wanted to honor the people who are in the trenches making good things happen for the children and adults served at SEC. Congratulations to all!

When I was very young, most of my childhood heroes wore capes, flew through the air, or picked up buildings with one arm. They were spectacular and got a lot of attention. But as I grew, my heroes changed, so that now I can honestly say that anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me.

Fred Rogers from
The World According to Mister Rogers:
Important Things to Remember

Will You?

Relatively few people are able to make large outright cash gifts to a charity during their lifetime. But as the saying goes, where there's a will there's a way. Anyone who has a true desire to give, and chooses the right method of giving, can make quite a significant gift. Planned giving is about these special ways of giving, and at Vista Hill we have all the opportunities available. Please talk to us (858-514-5151) or to your estate planning advisors. What you do today might very well make it possible for critical programs to continue in the future.

Helping others is what we do at Vista Hill. Will you?

New Vistas is published twice a year by the Friends of Vista Hill Foundation, 8910 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123. Vista Hill is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing excellence in behavioral healthcare programs for the people of San Diego County.

www.vistahill.org

Get Ready for Gala 2011



Diane Martin

Diane Martin and the D. James Martin Family will be honored at Vista Hill's Gala on October 22, 2011. They will receive the IMBY (In My Back Yard) Award for their generous support of Vista Hill and other local charities such as Casa de Ampara, UCSD, San Diego Rescue Mission, St. Vincent de Paul, the Salvation Army and more. "Diane and her husband Jim, who passed away 10 years ago, have been generous donors to Vista Hill for many years," said Vista Hill CEO Robert Dean. "They and their children—Brian, Dennis, Sue, Kevin and Kelly—deeply understand the critical importance of our work, and we are very pleased to be able to honor them in this way."

Gala co-chairs Connie Conard and Mary Alice Brady are working on an exciting theme, which appears to be taking on the identity of "Masks" with a Brazilian flare. News will be coming out as the details surface. The Liberty Station Conference Center in Point Loma is the location. Please hold the date: October 22, 2011.

Live auction items include a week's cruise to Mexico on Holland America Line, a week at an Italian villa donated by Lora and Bob Sandroni, a week for two at the fabulous Rancho La Puerta spa and more!

Hats Off to Holland America Line

For a chance to bid on a luxurious seven-day cruise for two to Mexico or the Caribbean on Holland America Line (HAL), come to the Vista Hill Gala on October 22, 2011. We are delighted that Holland America is generously partnering with Vista Hill by contributing this exciting live auction prize. It will help us raise funds for much-needed programs, and we are deeply grateful for HAL's support.

When you step aboard one of the five-star ships of Holland America Line, you will experience a voyage unlike any other: extraordinary dining, spacious staterooms, elegant surroundings and days filled with new discoveries and gracious pampering by an award-winning crew.



Holland America Line was founded in 1873 as the Dutch-America Steamship Company, a shipping and passenger line. It is now headquartered in Seattle, Washington. We believe this is the first time in Vista Hill's history that a cruise has been donated. **Hats off to you, Holland America Line!**

Donate Your Vehicle to Vista Hill

Turn your wheels into dollars for Vista Hill Programs!
(877) 537-5277 or
www.vistahill.org

Fashion-Oz Hits Home



“There’s no place like home” was the theme of this year’s Vista Hill Fashion-Oz Show at the Manchester Grand Hyatt. Some daring guests came in OZ attire, and everyone enjoyed the 18 boutiques—the most we’ve ever had—silent auction, opportunity drawing, luncheon and fashion show by Gretchen Productions. Our good friend and Friends of Vista Hill Advisory Board member, Carol LeBeau, was mistress of ceremonies.

Following a delicious luncheon, chocolate ruby slippers filled with mousse and topped with assorted berries were delivered dramatically with applause to Chef Gunn and Chef Luis.

Long-time friend and Honorary Chair, Lynelle Lynch,

provided hair and make-up services for the fashion show models through Bellus Academy.

Kudos to our Presenting Sponsor, Virginia Napierskie; Décor Sponsor, Audrey S. Geisel/Dr. Seuss Fund 🐾; Silent Auction Assemboy Underwriter, San Diego County Credit Union; Signage Underwriter, Chandler Asset Management, Inc.; Event Supporters, Lynn Cihak and The John M. & Sally B. Thornton Foundation. These folks help make it possible for us to make a good profit, all of which goes directly to Vista Hill programs.

Lynn Cihak, event chair, and her committee planned for months to bring everything together in such a clever and inviting manner. Lynn’s comment? “It’s all about the shoes!” Committee members Dee Ammon, Kathy Babcock, Gretchen Bergman, Jennifer Cairncross, Tana Cleaves, Connie Conard, Susan Cunningham, Lisa DeFino, Autumn Ellenson, Debbie Giaquinta, Vicki Hamilton, Karen Mendez,

Bev Minor, Ann Mound, Diane Mushet, Marcia Peniche, Valerie Smith, Gale Sostek, Carol Thomas and Beckie Van Houten made sure all the guests felt welcome.

Our guest speaker was Bettinna Linner, an active ParentCare alum, who now splits her time between working at ParentCare East and as a Parent Partner for the Incredible Families Central. She is a wonderful Vista Hill success story.

Thanks also to Robin and Larry Gitman for opening their beautiful home for our patron reception on March 21, and also to our VIP and Patron Table Sponsors who brought their friends, clicked their heels and followed the yellow brick road. You are all very much appreciated!



1 ParentCare alum Bettina Linner with emcee Carol LeBeau. 2 Diane Mushet (left) and Kathy Babcock did a great job putting the silent auction together. 3 Long-time committee members Debbie Giaquinta (left) and Dee Ammon organized the 18 excellent vendors.



4 Connie Conard, Friends of Vista Hill board member, and Cecil Stepe, Vista Hill Board Chair, pose with Connie’s mother, Virginia Napierskie, Presenting Sponsor of the Fashion Show. 5 Four hundred shoppers enjoyed looking and buying, with 25 percent of boutique sales benefitting Vista Hill programs. 6 Event Chair Lynn Cihak (left) and Honorary Chair Lynelle Lynch welcomed guests to Oz. 7 Madison Robinson, Virginia Napierskie’s great-granddaughter, has modeled in Vista Hill fashion shows since she was a toddler.

In Picking Nursing Home for Parents, “Don’t Be Impressed by Chandeliers”



Don't be impressed by the chandeliers... The Women's Council on Mental Health Spring Luncheon on February 17 featured well-known speaker Jim Comer, author of *When Roles Reverse: The Joys and Jolts of Parenting Your Parents*.

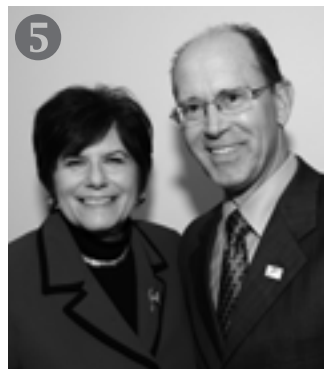
Co-chairs Linda Canada and Susan Straub and their committee were applauded for their work in organizing the event, which took place at the Estancia La Jolla. Approximately 130 attended. Presenting sponsor was the Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation. Others who helped were Betty Beyster, Ann Mound and Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital. Linda Canada sponsored a VIP Table, and City National Bank and Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital were Table Sponsors.

District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis attended along with individuals from the healthcare, banking and estate planning professions. Two vendor tables were available in the foyer during the registration hour:

- Amy Abrams of Elder Care Guides providing care management services and caregivers.
- Miguel Nunez of Prudential Realtors provided information on reverse mortgages along with Tom Murphy of HomeServices Lending, an affiliate of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.

Comer handled a difficult topic with humor and enthusiasm. He advised the guests to choose a retirement or nursing home carefully. “Don’t look for plush carpet or chandeliers. Pick a place that is clean, has good food and staff who are kind and know what they’re doing. And make sure the staff doesn’t change every six months. The director and others should have been around for several years, and the company should pay their nurses aides well.”

Special thanks to Elaine Lipinsky who opened her lovely home for the Patron Reception the evening before, and to Vicki Hamilton and Crown Point Catering for providing such delicious food. WCMH committee members were Lauren Abrams, Lisa DeFino, Marybeth Dirksen, Autumn Ellenson, Mary Kay Hewitt, Joni Laura, Lynne Lurie, Ann Mound, Lynn Nelles, Stella Shvil and Beckie Van Houten.



1 (l-r) Judy Stevens, Michaelanne Gephardt, and Pam Carnot chatted before the luncheon. 2 Angie Buffington, Barb Crew, Friends of Vista Hill Board member, and Angie's mother, Connie Buffington, enjoyed socializing. 3 Speaker Jim Comer was enthusiastic about his topic. 4 Heidi Dorman, Friends of Vista Hill Board member, and her mother Diane Hollingsworth, generous Vista Hill donor, are long-time WCMH supporters. 5 Bonnie Dumanis, San Diego District Attorney, is interested in the topic of good care and services for senior citizens as is Robert Dean, President & CEO of Vista Hill. 6 Event Co-chairs Susan Straub (left) and Linda Canada enjoyed talking with author Jim Comer before the luncheon.

New ParentCare Central Location Opens in Southeast San Diego

The new ParentCare Family Recovery Center recently opened its doors in central San Diego to provide innovative substance abuse recovery services to help pregnant and parenting women achieve sobriety and reunite with their children. Vista Hill was recently awarded a five-year contract by the County of San Diego to help 100 women a year and their families. The new facility, which is modeled on Vista Hill's highly successful ParentCare East program in La Mesa, is located on Alpha Street near I-805 and 43rd Street.



Program Manager Creston Davis (above left) works with children in the Incredible Years group. Group therapy sessions (left) focus on recovery and positive mental health. Bilingual services are offered at Parent Care Central to accommodate language needs in the region.

Horses, Dogs, Cats, Birds, Turtles, Snakes All Part of Animal Interaction Program

Equine activities, animal presentations and pet interaction are increasing at Stein Education Center (SEC) both for children and adults through our Animal Interaction Program.

Weekly equine activity sessions continue at Stein Education Center (SEC) Main Campus with SEC's favorite horse, Pippi Longstockings. Both the Education Program and Special Care Services are able to take part in the fun, which helps build balance, coordination and self-esteem. A second horse, Tiernin, is there for petting and feeding, and behind-the-scenes plans are in motion to have the services of a third horse, a draft, which could be ridden by students who are larger.

In addition, Stein Education Center adults are enjoying visits from dogs and sometimes other gentle animals. Love on a Leash comes weekly, and this is going quite well. The SEC Golden Adult site in Chula Vista has two birds that reside

there, and they are much loved by the clients. Presentations are being scheduled through local organizations so that SEC students and clients can see turtles, snakes and other interesting animals.

We have found that our students and clients look forward to these opportunities and learn to interact with the animals in a warm and caring manner. Taking care of animals, learning about them, relating to them, watching them... all this is interesting and fun for our SEC students and clients. We are very pleased to be able to offer these occasions and thank our donors, volunteers and staff for helping to make our Animal Interaction Program possible.

Special kudos to our two leaders, Evelyn Marshall, SEC special education teacher, and Chayo Chavez, director, SEC Special Care Services. They and other staff members and volunteers make this program work so successfully.

Brushing our gentle and loving horse Tiernin is a real treat for Denorvis, 17, who enjoys weekly equestrian activities at Stein Education Center. As our students get bigger, we need a larger horse for them to ride. Parents, staff, and volunteers are working to raise funds to enhance and enlarge our program.



Matching Gifts Opportunity a Boon for Vista Hill

The Epstein Family Foundation of the Jewish Community Foundation is generously offering a \$20,000 Matching Gifts Opportunity for two areas at Vista Hill.

- 1) Half for Stein Education Center's Animal Interaction Program (equestrian and pet activities)
- 2) Half for the Don Allen ParentCare Family Recovery Center to help cover continuing operating expenses for therapy and program

We are working hard to use this match as a catalyst to raise \$60,000 for the next three years of equestrian and pet activities and hopefully the same amount for ParentCare. Matching gifts provide wonderful encouragement to donors, and the Epstein Family Foundation is very much appreciated for making this possible.

Thania and Tom Griffiths, Chris and Bob Ross, Faith Stagg, Karen and Michael Stone, Mickey Stern, Stella Shvil, Linda Love and the Arthur & Jeanette Pratt Memorial Fund have gotten the ball rolling. Thanks to all.

Lora and Bob Sandroni Host Event for SEC's Equestrian Program

Western art, delicious food, beautiful location and a great cause will come together on the evening of May 19 at the Santa Luz home of Lora and Bob Sandroni. A casual evening, guests will see a brief video focused on Stein Education Center's Equestrian Program. Lora and Bob have a magnificent Western art collection, which they will share with guests during the evening. Funds raised will go toward a matching gifts opportunity from the Epstein Family Foundation of the Jewish Community Foundation for Equine and Pet Activities.



Owners of High Noon Western Americana, Linda and Joseph Sherwood, will be special guests at the event. Lora and Bob Sandroni, pictured left, are event hosts.

A Success Story

INCREDIBLE FAMILIES CENTRAL

PROGRESS NOTES FROM A THERAPIST...

Parents knew no other way to parent . . . parents open to learning new ways of parenting . . . were successfully and happily reunited with their son midway through the program . . . now very positive with their child and are completing Incredible Families curriculum.



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VISTA HILL UPCOMING EVENTS 2011

SAVE THE DATES!!!

Call Lisa DeFino at 858-514-5153 or Jenny Cairncross at 858-514-5155 for tickets and information.

Thursday, May 19, 2011

Special event to support Stein Education Center's Animal Interaction Program

Equine activities, animal presentations and pet interaction; 6 p.m., at the home of Lora and Bob Sandroni. Cost is \$100 per person. Enjoy wonderful western art, food by Crown Point Catering, learn about our outstanding program; western casual attire.

Thursday, August 4, 2011

Vista Hill Council on Mental Health Summer Luncheon

Arlene Matthews, author of *The Psychology of Happiness*, will present at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. This topic was highly requested by luncheon attendees.

Saturday, October 22, 2011

Vista Hill's 21st Annual Gala

Liberty Station Conference Center; food by Crown Point Catering; IMBY (In My Back Yard) Award goes to Diane Martin and the D. James Martin family. Co-chairs are Connie Conard and Mary Alice Brady.



Todd Frank and Tamara Strauss, Friends of Vista Hill board member, enjoyed the 20th Vista Hill Gala last year and are looking forward to the 21st!

If you are receiving more than one copy of New Vistas, please call Beckie Van Houten, database manager/development associate. This will help us save postage and better serve you. Call 858-514-5152. Thank you!