

Shileys' Joy and Passion for Giving Has Had Tremendous Impact on Vista Hill

"Vista Hill not only cares deeply about people in need, they care with an eye to solutions. Everyone professes to want to 'do something,' but Vista Hill follows through. That's why the critical niche they've developed enables them to solve some of our community's most difficult problems, including substance abuse, mental illness and developmental disabilities."

Those are the words of one of Vista Hill's most generous donors, Darlene Shiley, who along with her late husband, Donald, have contributed so much to Vista Hill's programs over the past quarter century—and by doing so, have significantly improved the lives of countless San Diego area residents.

Darlene remembers exactly how she became involved with Vista Hill back in the mid-1980s.

"My first exposure to Vista Hill was through an invitation from my friend (and longtime Vista Hill donor) Audrey Geisel to attend *(continued on page 3)*



Juvenile Offenders with Mental Health Disorders Getting Lives Back on Track

A new study reveals a devastating statistic: nearly two out of three juvenile offenders suffer from mental health-related disorders. The fallout for these troubled youth is usually tragic because most never get the treatment they need and many end up committing increasingly serious crimes, frequently landing them in adult prison.

Fortunately in San Diego, the problem is being tackled head-on by Vista Hill's Juvenile Court Clinic. Over the past four years, JCC has helped nearly 1,000 young people ages 12 to 18 (some dependent youth as young as 5 and some delinquent wards up to 24) get the psychological treatment and support they need to begin turning their lives around.

But those results are only part of JCC's success story. Since its creation in 2007 in partnership with the County of San Diego with funds from the California Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63), JCC has expanded each year—all within its original \$800,000 annual budget—to meet the growing requests juvenile courts and probation departments are making to help handle this challenging population.

"San Diego County's judges and prosecutors quickly realized they simply did not have the psychological expertise and resources to adequately assess and treat the growing volume of youth offenders with mental health issues," says Marc Gotbaum, Psy.D., JCC's director. "Once we showed early on that we could provide that, they've come to rely on us increasingly in multiple areas as they identify new and expanding issues facing this group of young offenders."

Just two examples of JCC's growing role: it now provides psychiatric medication and application screening for over 1,200 youth each year for the courts and is a partner in an innovative new pilot program called JFAST. Thirty of the most challenging offenders in JFAST receive up to a year of intensive counseling, legal and health services in an effort to permanently interrupt their cycle of offending.

JCC is about to become even busier. With California's budget cutbacks and state prison overcrowding, San

Diego County will soon have to take back thousands of offenders, including many youth who committed violent crimes. JCC

Staunch Vista Hill supporters Darlene Shiley (left) and Audrey Geisel had fun at the recent gala.

(continued on page 8)

An Evening Masque...
People asked, "What should we wear?" Our answer was vague on purpose. **We just wanted everyone to have fun at the Gala... and they did!**
Dining, bidding, dancing and socializing... with or without a mask... all for Vista Hill.
Grateful thanks to everyone! See page 8.

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and more . . .

To Our Supporters:



Over the past year, we've been proud to see how Vista Hill's core values of excellence, honesty and trust have helped further enhance the reputation of our organization, which in turn has enabled us to continue to grow in an extremely challenging economic

climate where resources are increasingly scarce.

The success of our SmartCare program is just the most recent example of how performance at the highest standards has put Vista Hill in the position to create new and innovative programs. SmartCare, which provides services to community health clinics in rural San Diego County, led Marshall Lewis, M.D., the county's clinical director of Behavioral Health, to ask if we would create a psychiatric consultation service to assist the clinics' primary care physicians in dealing with mental health issues they see almost every day.

We were flattered and immediately designed a program that just launched this fall. Clinic doctors are now able to consult real-time by phone or online with our staff psychiatrist and psychiatric nurse, filling a serious gap that existed in our rural communities for low-income individuals facing mental health challenges.

Another example: our effectiveness over two decades in assisting substance-abusing women through our Don Allen ParentCare Family Recovery Center in East County was a key factor in winning a county contract to replace a similar program in San Diego. Our new ParentCare Central program is now helping San Diego women recover and get their children back.

Another way we know we're on the right track is that Vista Hill's programs are often cited as models nationally. Last year ParentCare was picked as a key stop in federal drug czar Gil Kerlikowski's tour of the area, and more recently, officials of the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration were recommended to tour ParentCare as well during their visit here.

Among the other highlights of the last year, Vista Hill's headquarters building has evolved into the real success we envisioned when we purchased it a couple of years ago. Not only are we paying less for our mortgage than we were spending previously for rent, we're thrilled the building has become a vibrant service center, not only housing our administrative and support staff but clinical programs like our Adult Services Program for the developmentally disabled and our Incredible Families program which reunifies families whose children have been in foster care.

Finally, if you've seen our website, you'll notice that we're venturing into social media because we see it as an extremely potent and exciting new communications tool that will advance Vista Hill's mission and enhance our ability to help those in need. We're using a SmartCare page on Facebook to keep the community informed about the program and available resources.

Through Twitter we're sharing wellness and recovery messages to enhance the health of our followers. And our senior leadership is now blogging about their programs, providing a very personal and unique perspective about how these services help the community. We also are eager to use social media to hear back from the community on how we're doing.

Socrates said, "The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear." At Vista Hill, as we celebrate our 55th Anniversary, we take that to heart. Our reputation for excellence was not achieved by talking, but by acting. That's why people in all walks of life have come to count on us, and why we will always live up to that trust.


Cecil H. Steppe, Chair


Robert E. Dean, President/CEO

Combined Statement of Financial Position

At September 30, 2010
(in 000s)

Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,929
Investments	7,522
Accounts Receivable	2,533
Other Current Assets	412
Total Current Assets	12,396
Property, Plant and Equipment, Net	9,145
Endowment and Deferred Giving Assets	3,166
Other Assets	41
Total Assets	\$ 24,748
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 568
Accrued Expenses	1,071
Total Current Liabilities	1,639
Mortgage and Notes Payable	2,366
Total Liabilities	4,005
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	17,488
Temporary Restricted	1,947
Permanent Restricted	1,308
Total Net Assets	20,743
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 24,748

The financial information in this report represents a condensed version of fiscal year 2009-2010 audited financial statements. A complete set of audited financial statements, with accompanying notes and report from AKT LLP is available at Vista Hill's main office.

Shiley Among Vista Hill's Most Passionate Supporters

(continued from page 1)

the Council on Mental Health Luncheon," Darlene recalls. "I didn't really know much about the organization, but knew that I respected and trusted Audrey's charitable choices.

"That involvement led me to attend other events and eventually to look into Vista Hill a little more carefully. I found that while it wasn't "one of the big boys," the fact that it was smaller and more responsive meant it could deal directly with these serious problems. That convinced Donald and me that we had to help them in any way we could."

Over the years that support has been substantial. Darlene and Donald have helped remodel classrooms and given funds to name the Shiley Occupational Therapy Clinic at Stein Education Center. They have provided seed money for an important autism program and donated underwriting to Vista Hill's gala each year as well as to the fashion show and many Vista Hill Council on Mental Health (VHCMH) speaker events.

"In 2002, Darlene and Audrey Geisel allowed us to name them 'Honorary Chairs of Vista Hill,'" says Robert Dean, president and CEO. "This designation continues and lets the public know that two very important philanthropic leaders in this community believe in Vista Hill. That's been extremely important to our visibility and credibility.

"Darlene is also a Lifetime Member of the VHCMH and has contributed to ParentCare Family Recovery Center. When possible, she strategizes with us and cheers us on. In 2007, she received Vista Hill's highest honor: the IMBY Award (In My Back Yard). And she and Donald are members of our Leadership Circle (donors of \$500,000 or more)."

Darlene understands what it means to be a philanthropist to her community.

"I must admit, there were times Donald asked me why we were so involved in philanthropy," she says. "I was truly blessed with 32 years of a magnificent marriage to an extraordinary man. His passing last year has left me so wounded that the only solace I have been able to find has been in continuing the work he and I chose so many years ago.



"With respect to those who have since found the joy and importance of giving from the heart and the pocketbook, Donald decided in 1978, when we married, that our estate would go to charitable causes when both of us passed. It was at my instigation that we started giving before we left this earth so we could gauge the effectiveness of what we were doing and make any necessary adjustments. Many of the original organizations and causes we were interested in have remained. Others have found their way onto our 'radar'.

"With a private foundation and personal funds we launched the Shiley Awards in Health, Education and the Arts. This seemed to encompass our primary areas of interest and allowed a wide berth for giving. And so, in his honor, and in the Shiley tradition of making our community just a little better place to be, I will continue to do what I can. The greater San Diego region is where I live, where I want others to prosper, where I found the greatest love of my life. Why not be involved in the place that has given you so much?"

"Darlene is a true powerhouse of an individual and no one is more committed to serving her fellow human beings," Dean says. "One of her best traits is that she trusts organizations like ours to take her donations and do what we think is best with the money. That's extremely unusual, and we do not take that trust lightly.

"We are deeply honored that Darlene and Donald have chosen Vista Hill as one of their important causes, and we are so appreciative of everything they have done for our organization and the thousands of people we serve in the community."

"As we all so painfully know, there are so very many afflictions in today's world. Vista Hill focuses on the toughest-of-the-tough to serve. For me, much of my younger life was affected by an alcoholic, abusive stepfather. There were no battered women's shelters then in which my mom and I could seek refuge. In those days, you just 'rode it out'.

"Fortunately, my mom and I had a warm, wonderful and healthy mother-daughter relationship and we were strong enough to make it through. When substance abuse raised its ugly head in Donald's family, we knew more and were able to seek and find assistance for family members in programs very similar to the ones offered by Vista Hill."

—Darlene Shiley

Past Year Outcomes for Vista Hill Programs

At the Vista Hill *ParentCare Family Recovery Center* (intensive substance abuse treatment, parenting skills, health classes and child care for low-income women):

- »»» 100% of infants, born to ParentCare clients, were toxin-free at birth;
- »»» 94% of the women were free from child protective service intervention after six months in the program, compared to 50% at program entry.
- »»» Upon completion of the program, 100% of the women were employed or involved in job preparation activities, exceeding County contract goals of 55%.

Vista Hill *Learning Assistance Center* (school-based mental health services for students in north inland San Diego) provides treatment and case management to nearly 700 students. Students with serious emotional and behavioral challenges come from eight school districts and over 50 campuses. The students demonstrate improvement in the following ways:

- »»» Increase in the average GPA from 1.66 at intake to 2.02 after six months in the program.
- »»» Meaningful improvement in behavioral symptoms from intake to discharge in 80% of students.
- »»» 74% of targeted behavior problems for all students improved in frequency and severity from intake to discharge.
- »»» School attendance improved by reducing unexcused absences from 3.5% at intake to 2.2% after six months in the program.

Within our *SAFIR (Supporting Adolescents and Families in Recovery)* Program:

- »»» 78% youth who completed a pre and post survey (and attended SAFIR for at least 30 days) reported significantly fewer days of drug and/or alcohol use.
- »»» 87% youth who completed a pre and post survey (and attended for at least 30 days) reported (on average) participation in family outings/activities at a frequency of 1.5 times higher than baseline.

At the *Stein Education Center–Special Education Program* (education and training for students with developmental disabilities and behavioral challenges):

- »»» 93% of students met or made progress toward academic or functional goals on their annual IEP (Individual Education Plan.)
- »»» 86.5% of students met behavioral goals or made substantial progress on their annual IEP (Individual Education Plan.)



Stein Student Loves the Beach!

Jory's parents were very excited that their son went into the water and was enjoying himself.

His mom wrote: "This is Jory in the ocean. The last time he was in the ocean, he was 4 years old!"

Fundraising helps provide enhanced support for Stein Education Center's Field

Trip/Transportation program.

We love to see our students getting exercise, socializing with others, learning about nature and having fun! It's a great day at the beach for Jory and his classmates.

Stein’s Speech Therapists’ Skills, Compassion Reach Even the Most Uncommunicative Kids

There is a very special team at Vista Hill’s Stein Education Center whose cutting-edge speech therapy skills—combined with their deep compassion and unwavering commitment—have truly opened new worlds for students with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Under the dynamic leadership of manager Debbie Ferrante, Stein’s four-person Speech Therapy Department transforms the way the most seriously speech-challenged children in the county learn to communicate, delighting students and their families alike.

“You can’t believe the joy everyone feels when we show these kids how to communicate in ways no one would have ever believed possible,” Ferrante says. “Parents are often in tears when they see their children flower beyond what they ever imagined. Yes, we serve the most challenging population, but you’ll never, ever see us throw up our arms and say ‘there’s nothing we can do for this student.’ Our philosophy is to keep working, trying new things and eventually we always have a breakthrough.”

Ferrante, who has been at Stein for 28 years, says a unique approach is required for the type of students her department serves.

“When I came here I was really surprised because so many of the children not only have severe speech issues, some are completely non-verbal and most have accompanying serious behavioral issues. That’s why ‘speech therapy’ isn’t the right term for what we do. It should be called ‘communication therapy.’”

Ferrante’s most potent tools for reaching students are not speech or verbal techniques, but visual aids.

“With their speech and verbal skills disrupted, their visual sense seems to be the way their brains can most easily process information,” Ferrante says. “We quickly realized we could be much more effective teaching to a strength rather than a deficit.

“An example is a student we had a few years ago who would suddenly become violent for seemingly no reason. We realized he had no way of asking for something or telling us he was hungry

or thirsty. I started playing around with pictures and found he understood visual symbols. I came up with pictures of everything in his life so he could point to what he wanted. Almost overnight his difficult behavior ended and he was a different child.”

Successes like this are common at Stein, and Ferrante says they’re partly the result of the dedication of what she calls her “dream team”: speech language

pathologists Hiroka Yukawa and Sandra Shapiro, and assistive technology technician Marci Muller. Equally important to

their success is the remarkable collaborative environment at Stein where all staff, whether it’s the speech or occupational therapists or the teachers in the classroom, constantly work together to create individualized learning and therapy plans for every student.

“It’s not just a team environment here, we’re more like a family. We support each other so completely and have created such an environment of positive energy, that Stein for us is a metaphor for how to make the world a better place.

“In our department, we’re so thrilled we can help our children with something that affects almost every phase of their life. After all, if you can’t communicate, what do you have? We see their home lives become much better, their schoolwork improve and their social skills enhanced. I don’t know a Stein student who hasn’t made great strides relative to their potential. We’re so proud that we’ve been able to make their lives easier and more meaningful, and in doing so we’ve enriched our own lives.”



Department staff often work with students in a group setting to help expand communication skills.



Department Manager Debbie Ferrante uses visual aids as one of her key speech therapy tools.

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

Kudos to Marilyn and Jim Brown and the Seth Sprague Foundation. They have provided \$12,000 to purchase iPads to assist students with autism at Stein Education Center. If you saw "60 Minutes" on October 23, you know how important this is. To view this segment, visit the "60 Minutes" section of CBS.com.

Volunteers Make a Positive Difference

Many thanks to Faith Stagg, Judi Patterson and Mary Kay Hewitt, excellent volunteers who staff the front desk at the Vista Hill ParentCare Family Recovery Center in La Mesa each week. Faith is Monday, Judi is Wednesday and Mary Kay is Thursday. If you are interested in helping out on Tuesday, let Angela Rowe know at 619-668-4205.

Faith is a former escrow officer who currently spends a great deal of time as a volunteer for many local non-profit organizations; Judi is a former high school English teacher who enjoys traveling the world; and Mary Kay, deeply involved with her family and the University City Community, has been a ParentCare volunteer for nearly six years.

We appreciate Faith, Judi and Mary Kay and all the other ParentCare volunteers who help in the Lipinsky Family Therapeutic Learning Center and the other important Vista Hill programs which serve our children, families, teens and adults.

At press time we had late-great news that volunteer Pat Loughlin will be at the ParentCare front desk on Fridays.



Autism Event Kicks Off Vista Hill's 55th Anniversary

Caren Zucker is the mother of a 17-year-old young man with autism, and producer of Robert MacNeil's 2011 PBS NewsHour series on autism. John Donovan is an ABC News correspondent and three-time Emmy Award winner, whose brother-in-law is a 45-year-old with autism. As a team, Zucker and Donovan produced what is considered some of the best work on autism to appear on network television over the past decade.

The two journalists are among the nation's most inspiring reporting-writing-speaking duos on the topic of autism—especially when it comes to tracking down and telling the autism stories that most of us have never heard, but which have critically shaped the autism world as it stands today.

Their publication last year of "Autism's First Child," the groundbreaking story of the first diagnosed child, was a finalist for the prestigious National Magazine Award—translated overseas and now considered required reading among those working in the field. They also have a book coming out in 2013, from Crown Publishers, in which they will share many of their collected stories in a comprehensive and comprehensible narrative history of autism.

"From the Annals of Autism" is their two-person presentation on the story behind the story: the tale of tracking down and meeting "autism's first child," as well as some of the other unique experiences that come to two journalists delving into autism's fascinating and still surprising history.

Please join us on February 15, 2012, for this fresh and inspiring presentation which is part of Vista Hill's 55th Anniversary year observance (*see Save the Dates, page 16*).

Happiness Takes Bow at Mental Health Luncheon

Author **Arlene Matthews Uhl** was the featured speaker at the Vista Hill Council on Mental Health (VHCMH) luncheon on August 4. Her topic was *The Pursuit of Happiness: The New Psychology* which charmed the audience of 180 guests at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine.

Co-chairs **Renée Bannasch** and **Faith Stagg** and their committee were pleased to be part of the summer event. The topic had been highly requested by former luncheon attendees. “We have had presentations about depression, relationships, suicide, substance abuse and more,” Bannasch said, “and this topic was a first for us.”

“It was a chance for us to offer our guests something very helpful to take home,” explained Stagg. “We like the positive approach.”

The next VHCMH event will be focused on autism on Wednesday evening, February 15 (see page 6) with journalists **Caren Zucker** and **John Donovan** presenting. **Mark Katz, Ph.D.**, a San Diego clinical psychologist with decades of experience helping children and adults with (ADD) Attention Deficit Disorder and (ADHD) Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder will present Thursday, May 10. Call 858-514-5155 for tickets and information.

Special thanks to **Karen and Michael Stone** for opening the doors of the **Map and Atlas Museum of La Jolla** for the VHCMH Patron Reception on Wednesday, August 3. It was a unique experience for our friends and donors who want to return and bring their family and friends.



1 What a great display of history at the Patron Reception! Special thanks to **Karen and Michael Stone** for providing this most interesting venue: the **Map and Atlas Museum in La Jolla**. From left, supporters **Linda Marteeny, Mary Beth Dirksen (committee member) and Althea Brimm**. **2** Committee member **Lynn Hart Muto (left)** brought friends **Ellen Kane, Linda Meyerson and Valerie Bass**. Lynn is a long-time Vista Hill supporter. **3** From left were **City National Bank** clients and staff members who enjoyed the luncheon and talk: **Lindy Mamer, Elizabeth Rice, Diane Branon, Linda Weaver, Kay McElrath, Monica Fleming, Maria Chan, Kathy Martinez, and Bernadette Bach**. **4** Speaker **Arlene Matthews Uhl** was full of positive information about pursuing happiness. **5** Vista Hill Board members **David Dunbar (l) and Dennis Doyle (r)** with **Barbara Dunbar**. **6** **Renée Bannasch (left) and Faith Stagg (second from right)**, both deeply-committed Vista Hill volunteers, co-chaired the Vista Hill Council on Mental Health luncheon. Renée is a Friends of Vista Hill Board member; Faith works at ParentCare each week (see page 6). They're pictured with speaker **Arlene Matthews Uhl** and **Robert Dean, Vista Hill CEO**.

“An Evening Masque” Hides the Face, Tugs at the Heartstrings and Opens the Purse

When Gala Co-Chairs Connie Conard and Mary Alice Brady started their planning in March 2011, they and their hard-working committee hoped to make \$200,000 for Vista Hill programs. And it happened!

“Event profits go directly to our programs,” stated Robert Dean, Vista Hill president & CEO. “We mix private donations with public funds to improve the opportunities for success for our client families.”

Diane Martin and the D. James Martin family were honored with the IMBY (In My Back Yard) award for their generous support of Vista Hill and other local charities. Diane and daughter Sue, a gala committee member, accepted the honor for the entire family.

Kudos went to our generous sponsors and underwriters: Audrey Geisel and the Dr. Seuss Fund of the San Diego Foundation; Diane Martin; Darlene and Donald Shiley; Elaine Lipinsky Family Foundation; Virginia Napierskie; Torrey Pines Bank; Mary Alice and Ron Brady; Thomas J. and Theodora Lynch Fleming Foundation; Gayle and Don Slate; Patricia and Michael Hayward; Barbara Kjos; Shital and Manish Parikh; Ingrid Hibben; Judy and Alan Robbins, M.D.; Debra Turner and Conrad Prebys; Susan Straub; Carole Sachs; Matthew Zetumer, M.D.; Lori and Anthony DeMaria, M.D.; and more. Sheila and Jeffrey Lipinsky were generous honorary chairs; and Mary Alice and Ron Brady opened their beautiful home the month before for the Gala Patron Reception.

Live and silent auction items and the opportunity drawing included a seven-day cruise on Holland

America Line; a week at Rancho La Puerta; Four Club Level tickets for the San Francisco Giants with a visit to the broadcast booth with Jon Miller; dinner for 10 at the Magic Castle in Hollywood; gourmet Indian dinner for 10 at the home of Shital and Manish Parikh; a week at a villa overlooking Lake Como in Italy; round-trip for two on Jet Blue within the USA; Taylor SolidBody Electric Guitar; catered Mexican fiesta for 25 by Omar Guido of Crown Point Catering and Mary Alice Brady; mountain retreat in the San Jacinto Mountains; Lady’s Citizen watch with round diamonds from Diamonds Jeweler; gift certificate to Silpada Designs; Cygnet Theatre tickets; San Diego Repertory subscription packets; Old Globe tickets; week for two at the Virginian Lodge in Jackson Hole, Wyoming; behind-the-scenes tour for 20 at the San Diego Air & Space Museum; Good News Cooking School certificate; San Diego Country Club golf outing; and a gift from Hydrangea Cove.

Dean brought home the Vista Hill cause and introduced Stein Education Center (SEC) parent Karen Dotson who told of her son and his success at SEC.

Music by the Mighty Untouchables and a Capoeira performance gave the Evening Masque a unique flavor. And speaking of flavor, the food by Crown Point was outstanding: delicious and colorful hors d’oeuvres; King & Queen cocktails; sea bass and skewered beef served à la Brazil; and an extra delicious chocolate dessert.



❶ **Bess Lamborn, long-time good friend of Vista Hill, and guitarist from the Mighty Untouchables, enjoy the sounds of the Taylor SolidBody Electric Guitar, a Live Auction item which Bess purchased for granddaughter Allie. Linda (Gala Committee member) and John Maguire helped secure this gift from Taylor Guitars, and it was hotly pursued by Gala guests.** ❷ **From left to right were Dennis Martin, Diane Martin, Robert Dean, Sue Martin and Brian Martin. Diane Martin and her late husband Jim have been strong Vista Hill supporters for many years. The IMBY (In My Back Yard) went to the couple and their family who continue the giving tradition.**

Juvenile Offenders (continued from page 1)

is helping a new county juvenile justice committee with evaluation and treatment recommendations for those returning youth offenders suffering from mental health disorders.

JCC’s success is even more remarkable because the staff’s psychiatrists, nurses and counselors have only 90 days to com-

plete their work. It starts with an intense analysis of the offender’s mental health condition. After diagnosis, medication is prescribed or adjusted and monitored. Psychiatric treatment and family counseling are provided, and finally the offender is linked to longer-range support psychiatric and counseling services



Marc Gotbaum, Psy.D., director of Vista Hill’s Juvenile Court Clinic, helps a young client during a recent counseling session.



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3 Don and Vicki Hamilton, Friends of Vista Hill Board Chair and former IMBY award winner, just arrived from Europe in time for the Gala. Vicki took compliments for Crown Point Catering's fabulous food but gave the credit to Omar Guido, Gala Committee member and CPC catering professional. 4 There were many wonderful masks and costumes, like those worn by (from left) Linda Marteeny, Margaret Jackson and David and Gretchen Bergman. 5 Posing with jester are Mary Alice Brady (l) and Connie Conard, Gala co-chairs, who made the evening a great success. They really know how it's done! The Brady Section at the Gala included Ron Brady and four tables of folks who definitely had a ball! 6 Zandra Rhodes and Salah Hassanein took the cake for classy Evening Masque garb...definitely a sparkling couple! 7 Karen Mitrovich Dotson, mother of Chancel, a wonderful young man who attends Stein Education Center (SEC), sang the praises of the school and its success with her son. Her talk gave our gala guests a chance to hear first-hand about the important work of SEC.

in the community to keep the young person on track after leaving JCC.

“The fact that Juvenile Court Clinic is so busy and taking on more responsibilities is a good indication of the wide scope of the problem,” Gotbaum says. “But like our other Vista Hill programs, we embrace the

challenge of doing more with less, and we are pleased that our services actually save the county many more dollars than the program costs to operate.

“We’re also extremely proud of the impact we’re having on the lives of these young people and their families. It is immensely gratifying to our team to take a

young person whose mental health had them on a destructive path and completely turn them in a new direction where they can manage all of their issues, return to school or work and ultimately join the community as productive citizens.”

Elaine Lipinsky... a True Champion for Vista Hill

When Elaine Lipinsky passed away on September 10, Vista Hill lost one of its most dedicated friends. Elaine was a whirlwind. She got involved in every way possible at Vista Hill and brought her friends with her. As a dedicated board and committee member, Elaine was always full of ideas and energy.

She would often ask people, "Do you have anything for Vista Hill?" And much of the time, they did. Over many years, she made significant financial contributions to Vista Hill—and challenged all of us to match her gifts. She was always "in there pitching" for Vista Hill because she believed in our causes and knew we were helping many people. She received our organization's highest honor in 2005 when she was given the In My Back Yard (IMBY) Award.

Elaine's spirit will always be a part of Vista Hill. We will miss her very, very much.



Youth Rewarded for Sobriety at Drug Court Graduation



A "Celebration of Success" ceremony was held in September for teenage graduates of the San Diego Juvenile Drug Court, a program managed by Vista Hill. Family, friends and the media were all on hand to honor the youth, who had dedicated themselves to staying clean and sober for nine consecutive months. District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, a strong supporter of the program, chatted with graduates (top photo). Juvenile Court Judges (from left) Michael Imhoff, Polly Shamon and Dwayne Moring presented certificates to the graduates.



Happy Faces, Happy Tummies, Huge Thanks!

The Vista Hill Incredible Families program, and partnering agencies San Diego County Children's Mental Health and Child Welfare Services, are excited to welcome two new partners to this important project. The Price Family Charitable Fund and San Diego County Employees' Charitable Organization (CECO) have both provided generous grants to support a weekly family meal component of the program.

Available in both Central and East San Diego, Incredible Families offers a unique approach to helping children in the foster care system safely and successfully reunite with their birth families. This innovative model features a weekly multi-family group event where child and family therapy, parenting skills training, support, guidance and therapeutic visitation are interwoven for maximum impact. The family meal portion of the program, made possible by our new partners, allows families to bond, reconnect and practice positive parenting techniques. It is also an opportunity for participating families, who are struggling with economic and other life challenges, to enjoy a hot, nutritious meal once each week.

Thank you CECO and Price Family Charitable Fund for investing in San Diego's children and in Vista Hill's mission...Stronger Families, Brighter Futures!

Mended Sisters Take a Ride

The Mended Sisters Motorcycle NA Club raised almost \$2,000 for the Perinatal Case Management and Dependency Drug Court programs, which are under the ParentCare umbrella. The money has already been put to good use for bus passes, birth certificates, IDs and even basic necessities like clothes and hygiene articles. All of these items help get clients back on track and enable them to be happy, healthy and self-sufficient again.



Stein Center Staff Honored with “Helping Hand” Awards

Vista Hill’s Stein Education Center has some of the most dedicated and talented employees in San Diego. Every year, several employees are honored with “Helping Hand” awards for their commitment and service. Honorees (from left) Nicolas Peters, Ruth Simmons, Robert “Mac” McKenzie and Amber Smith, pose with Dana Stein (center), granddaughter of Sam Stein, who created the Helping Hand award to honor those who make a difference in the lives of the children and adults served at Stein.



Positive Approach to Challenges is Stein Director’s Philosophy

Joan Elicker Richards, Ph.D., director of the Education Program at

the Stein Education Center (SEC), will be leaving her post in 2012 after many years of strong leadership and dedicated service. Joan started her tenure at SEC as school psychologist and later moved to her current position.

Joan always focuses on the positive as she helps the SEC staff bring out the best in each student. Staff, parents, students and donors will all miss Joan. “I love making a difference and seeing our students grow and improve their skills. It has been an outstanding time in my life,” Richards said.

Said Robert Dean, Vista Hill president and CEO: “Joan has done a wonderful job for Stein in so many areas. She was outstanding in representing not just Stein but a collection of non-public schools in their relationships and contracts with area school districts. She also has a deep understanding of the complexities of education regulations. And she always instills in her staff the need to constantly introduce and improve our methods and strategies so they can always be doing what’s best for the children at Stein.”

Vista Hill congratulates Joan and thanks her for more than 11 years of service.

Doug Flutie Makes Summer Camp Possible for SEC Special Care Services

This past summer was an exciting time for the children in our Stein Education Center (SEC) Special Care Services, thanks to a special summer camp program funded by the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation.

With this wonderful support our students were able to experience “real camps” at no cost to their parents. This has been a great boon for the families served, at a time when recreational programs for children with autism and similar conditions have been severely reduced in San Diego and throughout California.

Both students and staff were thrilled with the “summer line-up” which included: week one at SeaWorld Camp; week two at LegoLand, Soak City and the San Diego Zoo; and week three at Camp Cahito (“Animal Bonanza” at Balboa Park.)

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. The Fluties have donated more than \$6.5 million for grants and programs in New England, New York, New Jersey and Southern California at the national level, as well as Canada. In 2010-2011, Vista Hill was honored to be one of only three organizations selected for support on the west coast.

Dear Friends,

Not all family tragedies make the front page. Some, like a lifetime of poverty, abuse, mental illness, addiction, or disability, happen quietly. Vista Hill is listening and taking action to help. Your support makes it possible.

We know you have a variety of choices among many worthwhile non-profit organizations; and we thank you for including Vista Hill among your charitable endeavors. Without your gifts, our programs could not flourish, and thousands of children and families would not receive the services they so desperately need.

Thank you from all of us at Vista Hill!

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Wes and Joan Evenson, Bill and Patti Johnson, and Tom and Carolyn Hoyt at the Gala. For about ten days in September, Joan helped punch out, glue, and stuff Gala invitations as part of her service on the 2011 Gala committee. Thank you, Joan!



Melissa and Fred Taylor, expecting their first child, are long-time Gala attendees; Fred is a new Vista Hill Board member.

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Very special appreciation goes to our current donors who generously support Vista Hill, even in this rough and tumble economy. We salute the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations. Deepest thanks to you.

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Some of our best "party-goers" were Phil and Connie Conard (Gala co-chair), Virginia Napierskie, Sunny and Brian Golden. Connie and Virginia were last year's IMBY Award winners; Brian purchased "The Dogs," a piece of art work made by our adult Stein Education Center constituents. It's going to hang in his veterinarian office.

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Jim and Andie Kidrick and Barbara and Dick Krumvieda got into the Gala spirit with masks and face painting. Both Andie and Barbara were hardworking 2011 Gala Committee members.

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Claudia and Jim Prescott enjoyed the "mask thing" almost as much as the "shoe thing" at this year's Gala. They always have a good time and are great cheerleaders for Vista Hill.

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Jim and Marilyn Brown (left) with Debbie Smith and Scott Brown. They bid up a storm and looked like a million dollars. Jim is a member of the Vista Hill Board of Directors and former chair.

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SAVE THE DATES!!!

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

**Council on Mental Health Spring Event
 "From the Annals of Autism" with Caren Zucker
 and John Donovan (see story page 6).
 Light refreshments 6 p.m.; program 7 p.m.
 Congregation Beth Israel.**

Thursday, April 26, 2012

**Vista Hill's 21st Annual Fashion Show Luncheon
 Shopping at 10 a.m. at the Manchester Grand
 Hyatt. Barbie Spinazzola is chair. You won't want
 to miss this one. It's going to be lots of fun!**

Thursday, May 10, 2012

**Vista Hill Council on Mental Health Luncheon
 Mark Katz, Ph.D., San Diego clinical psychologist
 on ADD and ADHD at the Hyatt La Jolla Aventura.**

**For all events: Tickets, underwriting opportunities and
 details? Call Jenny Cairncross at 858-514-5155.**

**Belle Nunley—Still Going
 Strong After 40 years!**

**Belle Nunley, CFO and senior vice president, Finance, was
 one of the honorees at the Vista Hill Service awards this
 past July. Belle has been with Vista Hill for 40 years. Robert
 Dean, president and CEO (pictured with Belle) and others
 described Belle's pathway of progress and accomplishment
 from her early days as the
 switchboard operator
 and admissions clerk
 at Mesa Vista Hospital
 to her present
 post at Vista Hill.
 Congratulations,
 Belle!**



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