

## CRISTINE'S 50-YEAR JOURNEY WITH GATEPATH



*Cristine worked at McDonald's for 11 years*

*"Gatepath has changed over the years, but for me it has always been about getting out in the community. I have come to realize that Gatepath is part of my family. . . this is where I belong."*

– Cristine

One thing that differentiates Gatepath from other service providers is the lifespan of support we provide to individuals with special needs and developmental disabilities from birth to adulthood. Recently, we celebrated the incredible 50-year anniversary of Cristine, a valued member of our Community Access senior program based in Redwood City.

Cristine began her journey with Gatepath right after her

graduation in 1968 from El Camino High School in South San Francisco. To assist with her transition from high school into adulthood, Cristine joined Gatepath's employment training program. Over the years, she has successfully worked for a variety of employers, including McDonalds where she worked for more than 11 years, and an aquatic therapy center where she assisted with lunch preparations and laundry service.

"My experience at Gatepath, such as being in workshops, helping other participants, and independently completing a variety of tasks and responsibilities, helped me at my jobs," said Cristine.

Now, as part of Gatepath's first Community Access group for seniors, she volunteers in the community, takes classes at senior centers and participate in health and wellness activities, along with other rewarding activities. Cristine has been recognized with multiple employee awards for her exceptional performance.

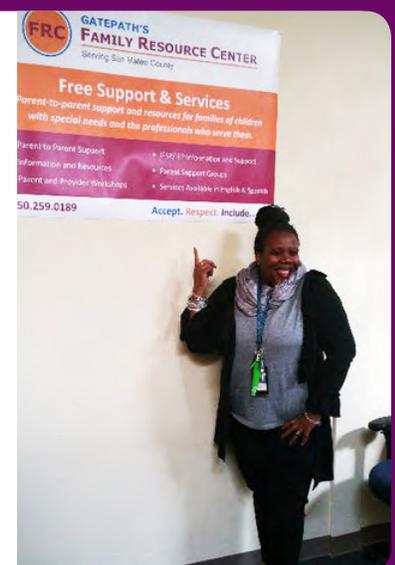
Thank you, Cristine, for being a fantastic member of the Gatepath community for all these years and for sharing your laughter and smiles with us.

## FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES IN EAST PALO ALTO

Gatepath's Family Resource Center is proud to announce the opening of a new location in East Palo Alto to expand access for families and caregivers of children with special needs and developmental disabilities. After meeting with community partners in the East Palo Alto area over the last year we realized there was a dire need for additional support, information and resources for families. The expansion was made possible by First 5 San Mateo County, City of East Palo Alto, and the Department of Developmental Services. We are honored to be part of such a wonderful community.

Staff is available to serve families in English and Spanish. Some of the services we offer include: parent-to-parent support groups, IEP support, FREE developmental screenings, and assistance with referrals.

For questions or support, please call our [Information Line](#) to speak with a Family Resource Center coordinator at 650-259-0189, or visit our website at [Smcfrc.org](http://Smcfrc.org).



## CEO CORNER - WE CAN ALL BE ADVOCATES



Bryan Neider, CEO

One of Gatepath’s top priorities is to amplify the voices of people with developmental disabilities who rely on our services. Advocacy has long been a cornerstone for protecting individuals’ rights. Gatepath has always encouraged those we serve to be self-advocates, and now our organization is joining forces with members of the [California Disability Services Association](#) to safeguard funding for the developmental disabilities system and champion equal opportunities for inclusion.

While Governor Brown’s state budget proposal for next year is projected to have a surplus of \$6.1 billion, we expect little to no increase in funding for the developmental disabilities system. California ranks last in the United States for per capita funding of these services. After nearly 20 years of cuts, it is time for our entire community to raise its voice to ensure adequate funding so the amazing people we support

can receive the services they need and they deserve. Here are some of our current focus areas:

- Working with community partners to shift the model of thinking about how to promote inclusion in the workplace;
- Informing individuals about their rights and identifying system changes that will improve their livelihood;
- Assisting adults and families to be self-advocates and to communicate with policymakers to raise awareness of their needs;
- Campaigning for social change through our Pledge for Inclusion initiative to build a coalition of champions who accept, respect and include people of all abilities.

### We Need You!

Take the Pledge for Inclusion now at [PledgeForInclusion.org](#), sign up for our Action Alerts, and join us in becoming an advocate for those with special needs and disabilities.

## GATEPATH WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP

We are pleased to announce the appointments of three members to Gatepath’s Board of Directors, two members of the CEO Advisory Council, and five officers of the Gatepath Auxiliary – collectively bringing more than 20 years of professional finance, medical background, communications and community partnership expertise to the organization.



**Ken Barker** is the chief accounting officer at Electronic Arts and has been involved with Gatepath for more than 15 years through his work on the Audit Committee and by serving as the executive sponsor for the annual holiday party hosted by Electronic Arts for children served by Gatepath’s early intervention program.



**Laurence Dugoni**, partner at Barulich Dugoni Law Group, Inc., specializes in estate planning, trust and probate law. Dugoni has a family member with a disability and is looking forward to further understanding the challenges facing the developmental disability system.



**Dr. Helen Marlo P.h.D.** is head of clinical psychology at Notre Dame de Namur University with more than 20 years of experience in working with adults with autism and developmental disabilities.

Board Members use their expertise on various committees to provide invaluable insight to the CEO and the executive team to help further the mission of the organization. To learn more about Gatepath’s Board of Director visit [Gatepath.org/Board](#).

### NEW CEO ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- **David Breaux**, Senior Mortgage Loan Officer, US Bank Home Mortgages
- **Jeff Karp**, former CEO of Sports Illustrated Play

### NEW 2018 AUXILIARY OFFICERS

- **Cathy Nessler**, President
- **Gayle Youlden**, Vice-President
- **Sara Jungroth**, Treasurer
- **Connie Clark**, Recording Secretary
- **Susan Bloom**, Corresponding Secretary

# 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POWER OF POSSIBILITIES A SUCCESS

Actor Patrick Dempsey shares views on inclusion and growing up with a disability

## Thank You

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Award-winning actor Patrick Dempsey, who is best known for his role as a neurologist on the hit television show *Grey's Anatomy*, was the guest speaker at Gatepath's 10th Annual Power of Possibilities event on March 8, 2018. As someone who was diagnosed with a learning disability at the age of 12, Dempsey has a personal connection to Gatepath's mission of empowering people with special needs to achieve their potential. Dempsey shared how growing up with a learning disability shaped his perspective on life and helped him become a successful actor. "You never feel like you belong," Dempsey said, "but out of that struggle, you find a unique gift, which is something you excel in. And that's a gift that comes because you look at the world and see things differently."

Dempsey reflected on the value of Gatepath's lifespan of services for people with special needs and developmental disabilities. "The work you're doing here is remarkable," he said, "and the success you're having is due to the individuals and corporations that stand up and understand what it means to give back to the communities you're all part of."



Patrick Dempsey at the Power of Possibilities event

The *Power of Possibilities*, which is co-hosted by the Gatepath Auxiliary, brings together likeminded community members to celebrate the achievements of those with developmental disabilities and to support Gatepath's mission. "This is a truly wonderful event," commented Gatepath Auxiliary President Cathy Nessier, "for everyone to come together to celebrate the inspirational accomplishments of the individuals and families served by Gatepath."

We are grateful to everyone who supported the *Power of Possibilities*. Through the generous support of our sponsors, benefactors, and community, we raised more than \$700,000, which will support Gatepath's mission and innovative programs for the children, youth, and adults we serve.

## ANNETT GUTERRES, 2018 NEAL POPPIN AWARD WINNER



Gina Mazzetti, Job Coach and Annett Guterres, Award Winner (pictured left to right)

At the *Power of Possibilities* event, Gatepath presented Annett Guterres with the Neal Poppin Award, in recognition of her determination, character and achievement of personal and professional goals. Annett has excelled at her job in a group employment setting at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront hotel, and is now seeking an individual job placement. "In many ways Annett's story is just beginning," said Gatepath CEO Bryan Neider. "Being in a group setting was the perfect way for her to develop her skills and find out what she's really interested in. We're very excited for Annett as she starts the next phase of her career."

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## May

- 1 East Palo Alto Parent Support Group
- 1 Autism Parent Support Group
- 3 Bay Area Giving Day**
- 15 Grupo de Apoyo Para Padres
- 18 Gatepath Social Connection's Hang Outs
- 19 CP Parent Support Group - Magical Bridge

For more information visit: [Gatepath.org/calendar](http://Gatepath.org/calendar)



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14<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**GATEPATH  
GOLF CLASSIC**  
Monday, September 10, 2018

**NEW LOCATION!**  
Los Altos Golf and Country Club

**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**  
Contact Jeanne Berube 650-259-0160  
or visit [Gatepath.org/golf](http://Gatepath.org/golf)

Stay Connected:

## SAVE THE DATE!



# Double Your Impact on BAY AREA GIVING DAY Thursday, May 3

Please join us in celebrating this day of giving. Your gift will empower children and adults with special needs to achieve their full potential through Gatepath's lifespan of services, including programs like those highlighted in this newsletter.

Thanks to the Gatepath Auxiliary and an anonymous donor, donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$32,500.

To schedule your donation, visit [GiveToGatepath.org](http://GiveToGatepath.org).  
If you prefer to donate by check, we invite you to use the enclosed envelope. Thank you!



*"I am grateful that Gatepath supports people with developmental disabilities throughout their lifetime and also provides emotional support for the entire family."*

- Todd,  
Dad and Bay Area Giving Day  
Fundraising Ambassador

