

Student Hopes to Work in Criminal Justice

First Job

Bobby describes himself as a social person, so after graduating from Capuchino High School in San Bruno, he looked forward to working. His first job was during the 2008 presidential election, setting up a polling place, handing voters forms, and directing them to voting machines.

It turned out he was overly enthusiastic – due more to the excitement of his first job than his mild autism and ADHD. He recalls, "I annoyed a lot of people, so they asked me to leave early. I thought it was funny that I was fired for being too enthusiastic. I didn't know you could get fired for that!"

Although Bobby admits he was "bummed" about that job, he soon enrolled in general education courses at Skyline College. During that time, Bobby said "I was a bit affected by mass media and the cop shows on TV. Cops are the good guys, and I decided I would like to be a good guy, too."

Employment Services and Support

He put his enthusiasm to work and began classes toward an AA in Administration of Justice. While Bobby was still in college, he was referred to Community Gatepath for help finding a job. "I kept trying and trying on my own, but I couldn't get through the interviews," explained Bobby.

Thanks to a weekly job club at Gatepath, he was able to hone his job-readiness skills, learn how to fill out an application and dress for an interview. "I found the job support very helpful," said Bobby.

"It gave me some relief because it took some of the burden off my shoulders and reduced my worry about failing another interview, and disappointing my parents and myself," he said. "I really wanted the opportunity to earn money." Bobby's hard work paid off, and he was hired as a Courtesy Clerk at Safeway. He spent the next year bagging and loading groceries, collecting carts in the parking lot, and cleaning up bathrooms and spills in the aisles. "It was great because I had a job coach when I first started.... If I was having problems during work, I could call Gatepath to help me sort it out," said Bobby.

When the store closed for remodeling, Bobby lost his job. He picked himself up and transferred to San Francisco State University (SFSU) to resume his studies in Criminal Justice. Bobby also sought Gatepath's help finding another job. He got



Bobby works at Lowe's and studies Criminal Justice at San Francisco State University.

a job at Lowe's and has already been promoted to a customer service position.

"This was great," Bobby said. "Having my job closer to home and BART was really convenient. It helped me get back and forth between school and work." **But, Bobby shared the best part about working at Lowe's is his co-workers. "They are just great people. They have really accepted me for who I am."**

Live your Dream

After graduation from SFSU, he intends to join a police academy where he sees his autism as an asset to the community because of his unique perspective.

"I don't care how other people see me. I'm comfortable with myself. I can always prove them otherwise," he says. A skill he will no doubt put to good use in his next profession.



CEO, Sheryl Young

CEO Corner: Life After High School National Report

I'm proud that Community Gatepath is a recognized leader in providing innovative evidence-based services to children, youth and adults with special needs. Through our work with families and service partners, we have heard countless stories of the tremendous gap in services after high school.

These are young people who have special abilities as well as special needs just like any other kids. They want to learn, make friends, discover what they are good at, find meaningful work, and achieve independence.

In response to this call for help, I am excited to share with you the release of our most recent national report, ***The Journey to Life After High School***.

This report is the third in a series of original reports published by Community Gatepath's online resource center, www.AbilityPath.org.

"This is a time to allow them to own their lives to the best of their abilities. As a parent; this is frightening - I've been through it. But after all is said and done, it is among the most rewarding aspects of being a parent - watching your child learn to fly."

- Anthony Shriver

The good news is, today, there are many more options for young adults with special needs than in previous years. But for families, this phase can be completely overwhelming as they have to learn to navigate through new

systems for information and services. Regardless of the path they take, the transition brings profound physical, emotional, social, and legal changes that can be positive when managed thoughtfully by our young adults and their personal and professional support teams.

Please join us and help spread the word as we launch this effort to give families the hope and tools they need. We welcome your feedback, ideas, and questions after reading this report.

****Download the report for free at abilitypath.org/lifefterhighschool****

Autism Social Connection at Maker Faire

For the first time, Autism Social Connection (ASC) exhibited at the San Mateo Maker Faire on Saturday, June 28th. The proposal and preparation for the exhibit booth took months, and each class contributed their effort, time and ideas for an educational, interactive and overall fun experience for everyone.

ASC's booth included TVs showing our program content, a table for brochures to hand out, and a film studio complete with a blue screen, costumes and props. "We wanted to provide attendees an opportunity to star in their own short video," says ASC Program Coordinator, Trang Nguyen.

A commercial was created for Maker Faire showing what autism is, how it affects you, and what ASC does. This was looped on one TV at the exhibit



Participants at the Maker Faire create a video.

and another showed a collection of clips from past projects students have completed. One of the objectives was to motivate participants to take ownership of their exhibit.

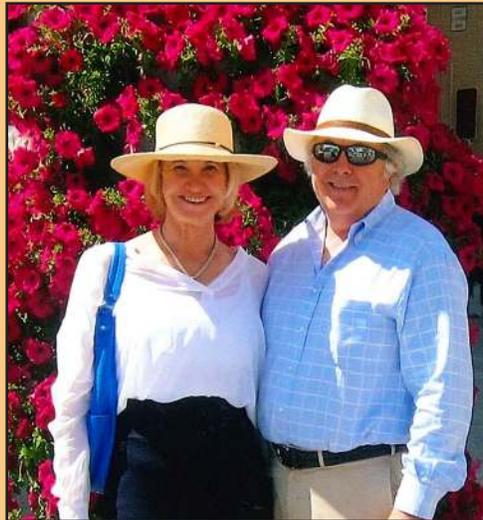
They passed out flyers and invited people to visit the booth. Many people came and shared their personal experiences with autism and learned more about our program.

Donor Spotlight: Sara & James Jungroth

Employment is a true equalizer. The Department of Labor projects that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) employment will increase by one million jobs annually by 2022, fueling the focus on STEM in education and job training in Silicon Valley.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is the fastest growing developmental disability in California with diagnoses increasing by 283% since 2000. Statistics show that people with ASD tend to gravitate toward STEM education and careers.

A very special gift from Sara and James Jungroth is providing participants in Autism Social Connection (ASC) – a program that focuses on film creation



Sara and James Jungroth

and career exploration– the opportunity to get hands-on experience with

technology by providing equipment and training that fuels their interest in STEM. The Jungroth gift built film-editing work stations for ASC, providing students with the opportunity to create and edit their films. Their gift also provides cutting-edge employment programs that support job success and mobile tools for staff in the field, enabling them to spend more time with those we serve.

“It is important for us to know we are making a difference and having an impact – that’s why we support Gatepath,” stated Sara. She and her husband are active volunteers for Gatepath, the Hillsborough Auxiliary, and other organizations.

We appreciate their generous support.

Learning Links Preschool Expansion



Children at Learning Links Preschool enjoying circle time.

Community Gatepath opened the doors to our newest program – and our first location in Santa Clara County – on February 24th at the City of Mountain View Learning Links Preschool. Here 96 children ages six weeks to five years participate in an exciting play-based curriculum that is enhanced by extracurricular activities such as music, dance, and soccer.

Learning Links Mountain View is uniquely rooted in the local community. On weekdays, our preschoolers learn, play and laugh on the school playground,

which is an amazing space with water features, shade trees, and musical instruments; the space is then open to the public during afterschool hours as part of Rengstorff Park.

The children often walk to the neighboring Senior Center to visit and celebrate special occasions, such as Halloween and Valentine’s Day, with their older friends. They also enjoy a weekly outing to the bookmobile for story time and to check out books.

Most importantly, Learning Links is committed to serving the wider

Mountain View community by addressing a growing educational inequity and ensuring children of all abilities and income levels have access to the same quality early learning experiences.

We are excited about this opportunity to replicate our successful inclusion model from Learning Links Burlingame, where children with and without special needs already learn alongside each other.

Our goal is to launch inclusive services in Mountain View at the beginning of 2015 when 16 children with special needs will join our two-year-old classrooms. We are also aiming to increase the number of spaces reserved for children from low-income families to 30% over the next two years to encourage their preschool participation and improve long-term educational outcomes.

Please contact Falin Ziadeh at enroll@learninglinkspreschool.org if interested in visiting us at Learning Links Preschool in Mountain View!

Photo Contest!

Show off your photo taking skills! This quarter we want to see all of the fun places you went this summer! Submit your photos, name and description to marketing@gatepath.com by September 30th. If your photos are chosen, your photos will be displayed in the upcoming INSPIRE in December 2014!



COMMUNITY
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Mark Your Calendars

The
POWER
of Possibilities
recognition event

Power of Possibilities

Thursday, October 23, 2014

11:00am – 1:00pm

Sofitel San Francisco Bay
223 Twin Dolphin Drive, Redwood City

Meet our guest speaker – Anthony Ianni, Michigan State University Basketball Player

Anthony Ianni was diagnosed at the age of four, with Pervasive Developmental Disorder, which is on the Autism Spectrum. Anthony's parents were told he would barely graduate from high school, never graduate from college, never be an athlete, and would likely live in a group institution for his adult life.

Against all odds, relentless bullying, overwhelming adversity, and numerous personal challenges, Anthony never gave up. Not only did he earn his Bachelor's Degree from Michigan State University (MSU) in Sociology, he is the first known athlete with autism to play Big 10 basketball. He played for legendary coach Tom Izzo at MSU. Anthony won two Big Ten Championships, a Big Ten Tournament Title, and was a member of the 2010 Final Four team.

Anthony has pledged his life and career to help those who face similar challenges.



For more information regarding sponsorships or to purchase tickets please visit
www.gatepath.org/possibilities or contact Jeanne Berube at jberube@gatepath.com