

The
POWER of POSSIBILITIES
recognition event

Presented by **COTCHETT PITRE & McCARTHY LLP**

From Home to Hollywood... Imagine *The Power of Possibilities*

The role of media in making the world a more inclusive place is taking center stage these days as we continue to see positive personal stories about individuals with special needs and their families on television and in films. Messages of hope and opportunity continue to grow and bring our goal of "Accept. Respect. Include." closer to reality for the individuals and families who are served by Gatepath.

When people come together to promote inclusive communities, the "abilities" not the "disabilities" of individuals become the focus, and build stronger communities. On **October 16, 2015**, you will see *The Power of Possibilities* firsthand as we celebrate the abilities of those living full and productive lives. This very special event will feature Hollywood actress and author **Holly Robinson Peete**, and newly discovered film actor **David DeSanctis**.

Holly Robinson Peete, best-known for her acting roles on *21 Jump Street* and *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper*, is an actress, author, talk show host, and the voice for her son with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Holly says "I wouldn't change my son for the world, but I would change the world for my son." Holly and her husband Rodney Peete, former NFL quarterback, formed the HollyRod Foundation and have become philanthropists and activists for their son and others affected by autism.

David DeSanctis co-starred in *Where Hope Grows* released earlier this summer. The film won the Heartland Film Festival Audience Choice Award and was an official selection for the 2014 Dallas International Film Festival. David co-anchored a news program in high school which fueled his interest in acting. Today, David spends his time speaking for non-profits and special needs groups around the country about his personal journey of living with Down syndrome and is actively involved in Special Olympics and Best Buddies. *Where Hope Grows* is "An unexpected journey. An unexpected friendship." and will leave you inspired!

We are honored to have both guests join us to share their personal stories, the importance of inclusion, and the impact the media has on promoting awareness, compassion and acceptance of individuals with special needs and disabilities.

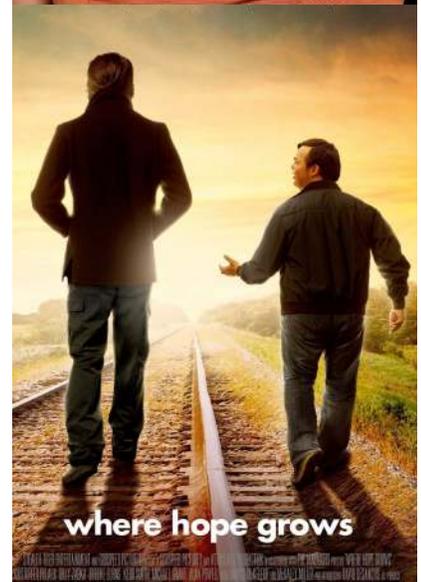
Join us on October 16 and discover *The Power of Possibilities*. Tickets are available now, but going fast.

October 16, 2015 @ Sofitel Hotel

Registration: 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. • Luncheon: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Tickets: www.gatepath.org/pop

Sponsorships: Jeanne Berube at jberube@gatepath.org / (650)259-0160



CEO Corner: Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries

This summer, Community Gatepath is celebrating its 95 year anniversary. A product of a merger between Poplar Center and Peninsula ReCare, Community Gatepath has been providing life changing services for people with special needs and disabilities since 1920 in San Mateo County.

Today, Gatepath's services reach more than 12,000 individuals, families and professionals, and its success over the years continues to impact lives and the community overall.

Gatepath is also celebrating 65 years of partnership with the Hillsborough Auxiliary to Community Gatepath, which is celebrating its 65th Anniversary this year as well. In 1950, Mrs. William Randolph Hearst became the first President of the Auxiliary and the first rehabilitation/vocational training facility opened in the old Carriage House on the Ogden Mills Estate in Millbrae.

Since its inception, the Auxiliary has been a powerful fundraising partner, and its members have provided countless volunteer hours. They are a vital partner in "Turning Disabilities Into Possibilities."



Hillsborough Auxiliary members present Gatepath with a generous gift of \$30,000 at the annual picnic for Gatepath participants. These funds will support gym memberships, transportation for our adult participants, and scholarships for pediatric therapy services.

Kids Learn Best From Other Kids



"Both of my boys didn't say a word until they were about 22 months old," said Tish Dipman, mother of Ben (age 6) and Beau (age 3), who were both diagnosed with Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) by the time they were 3 years old. "I spent day after day hoping and praying they would say something, anything, and one day they did."

Both Ben and Beau have been students at Gatepath's Learning Links Preschool in Burlingame since Tish's eldest son Ben was three years old. This was a milestone year for the Dipman family. Ben has since graduated from preschool and is thriving in a public school environment and is starting 1st grade this fall. After receiving speech and occupational therapy services four to five times a week since Ben was 15 months old, his diagnosis has been dropped and he will be attending 1st grade without any additional services or support.

"I truly believe that Ben's success is a testament to the early intervention and therapy services he received," Tish said. "My kids learn 100% more in a full inclusion setting than in a

segregated setting, which is why we love Learning Links. They are learning from their peers because they are constantly bombarded with expressive language."

When Tish and her husband Scott were looking for preschools for Ben, Learning Links was the only one in her area that provided a full inclusion program, care coordination and on-site therapy services under one roof. In this type of preschool environment, children of all abilities get whatever level of support they need – certain parts of the curriculum are adapted for each child's unique needs. The classes consist of a general education teacher, a special education teacher and aides trained in special education techniques.

Beau, the Dipman's youngest son, is still attending Learning Links and receiving support services from Gatepath's therapy team both in the home and at school. And while Beau has a few more years ahead to catch up to his more verbal older brother, Tish says she is confident that he too will succeed.

"Kids learn best from other kids. Hearing my boys talk for the first time is an amazing achievement. I believe it's because of the social interactions they get at Learning Links, and early intervention support," Tish said.

Research shows children do learn best in natural environments with typically developing peers. This interaction not only benefits the child with special needs, but also helps children without special needs learn about tolerance and acceptance of others. Children in inclusive environments strive toward new goals and often attain greater levels of ability.

For more information about our Children's Services visit www.gatepath.org/children

Donor Spotlight: Eivind G. Lange

More than two decades ago, Eivind Lange became involved with Community Gatepath as a member of the Finance Committee and soon after joined the Board of Directors (at the time our organization was named Poplar Center and Poplar ReCare, respectively). He says his long-standing commitment is because he firmly believes in our mission to help children and adults with special needs. "I've seen the organization grow over the years and all the good it has accomplished, and the potential for more," says Eivind.

Eivind prefers supporting Gatepath through gifts of stock because of the tax benefits. In 2012, with a donation in memory of his wife Betty, Gatepath launched The Betty Ivey Lange Technology Library. The Library offers free parent workshops throughout the year and a lending library of assistive technology for children with special needs, such as

iPads with specialized apps. Eivind has also supported augmentative and assistive communication for Gatepath's adult participants. His most recent gift is helping Gatepath provide Early Intervention services in a natural environment – settings that are natural or typical for a same-aged infant or toddler without a disability, such as the home, daycare, school, or other community locations. This will offer more inclusive opportunities for the children we serve from birth to age three.

We are grateful for Eivind's generous support that has helped us expand and enhance our services for children and adults with special needs and disabilities.

For more information about donating stock to Gatepath, please visit www.gatepath.org/Stock-Gifts or call 650-259-0157.



Betty Ivey Lange and Eivind G. Lange

Gatepath Selected as Lead for First 5 Special Needs Initiative

Community Gatepath is proud to announce it has been selected by First 5 San Mateo County as the lead agency for the countywide Watch Me Grow Special Needs Initiative for Children with Special Needs and their Families for 2015-2018. Free online screening is now available to any San Mateo County family with a young child 0-5 (www.gatepath.org/Watch-Me-Grow). The screening process helps parents know whether their child is meeting important developmental milestones and when their child might benefit from further assessment or services.

Gatepath staff has also been working with numerous partner organizations to improve the continuum of services that identify and provide services for children with special needs, especially through developmental screening, assessment, and care coordination for children ages 0-5 and their families. The project partners are collaboratively identifying ways to address systemic issues that impact access to and the quality of these services. Gatepath is grateful for the opportunity to work with such dedicated partner organizations and their talented staff. Together, this initiative will promote optimal development for all children with special needs in San Mateo County.



Upcoming Events

September

- 1 Autism Support Group
- 14 Cerebral Palsy Support Group
- 16 Group de Apoyo Para Padres
- 18 Autism Social Connection's Hang Outs
- 19 Facilitating Social Skills Using Mobile Technology Workshop
- 23 Down Syndrome Support Group

October

- 6 Autism Support Group
- 12 Cerebral Palsy Support Group
- 23 Bay Area Adult Autism Program & Housing Summit

Friday, October 16
The Power of Possibilities
Recognition Event

For more information visit:
www.gatepath.org/calendar



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Stay Connected:    

Community Partners Give Back to Gatepath

Resume Workshop Hosted by Genentech



Genentech employees from the **gSpectrum Group** recently volunteered their time to work one-on-one with adult participants in resume writing. Genentech employee James Stafford said, "It was a great experience to have the opportunity to get to know somebody, and to understand what their interests and skill sets are, and then putting it into a resume form."

BNBT Builders Paint Learning Links Mural



A team of volunteers from **BNBT Builders** spent a day at Learning Links Preschool in Burlingame bringing to life a hallway mural created by Learning Links' Teacher Betsy. The volunteers thoroughly enjoyed themselves by painting this wonderful work of art that will bring smiles to the children at Learning Links.

Gatepath is grateful for its generous volunteers.