

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- 1 Autism Support Group
- 1 **Giving Tuesday**
- 6 **Caring Santa**
- 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

January

- 11 Cerebral Palsy Support Group
- 15 Autism Social Connection's Hang Outs

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

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Gatepath's

INSPIRE

Winter 2015 Newsletter

WELCOMING OUR NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, BRYAN NEIDER



Bryan Neider, CEO

We are delighted to announce Bryan Neider as Gatepath's new chief executive officer. Bryan, who served as the Senior Vice President of Electronic Arts' (EA) global operations for 26 years, will succeed Sheryl Young, the Agency's former CEO.

Bryan takes on this new role at Gatepath after serving on our Board of Directors for 16 years. As a Board Member, Bryan served as the Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair and became a strong advocate for Gatepath's Employment Services. Over the past several years, he led the partnership between Gatepath and EA – hosting an annual holiday party for participants, providing job opportunities at EA, and sponsoring major development activities.

SAVE THE DATE!

BLACK FRIDAY. CYBER MONDAY. #GIVINGTUESDAY™

We have one day for giving thanks. We have two days for getting great deals. And Tuesday, December 1, is the day to GIVE BACK.

For a second year, Gatepath is participating in #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back to nonprofits and causes online. **Please MARK YOUR CALENDARS and join us at GiveToGatepath.org. Your donation no matter how small or large can make a HUGE difference in the life of someone with special needs or disabilities, and bring them joy during the holiday season. Help us in "Turning Disabilities Into Possibilities."**

CARING SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN ON DEC. 6!



For a fourth consecutive year, AbilityPath.org, The Noerr Programs and Simon Malls are partnering to bring the "Caring Santa" experience to malls across the U.S.; offering families of children with special needs the exclusive opportunity to take part in the time-honored tradition of visiting Santa in a sensory-friendly environment.

To make a reservation for the Stanford Shopping Center "Caring Santa" visit on Dec. 6 from 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., or for other participating malls, go to www.simon.com/caringsanta.

GETTING TO KNOW THE CEO - Q&A with Bryan

Q: What made you decide to take on this new role as CEO?

BN: The time was right to use my talents to give something back to the community. I intend to pick up the torch from my predecessor Sheryl Young, and continue building a stronger foundation for the future of children, youth and adults with special needs and disabilities.

Q: What part of your background lends itself to serving in this role?

BN: First and foremost, my long relationship with Gatepath on its Board gives me an advantage — I'm very familiar with the operations and programs of the Agency. Working closely with Sheryl has given me an excellent sense of the vision and direction of the Agency, and this knowledge will help focus our priorities as we approach our centennial anniversary in 2020.

FUN FACTS ABOUT BRYAN

Q: What is one of your biggest personal achievements?

BN: Completing my MBA while working full time — commuting from Santa Cruz to work in San Francisco and then classes at night in Hayward. That was tough!

Q: What are the top three things on your bucket list?

BN: So many on my list; but at the top is becoming a grandparent, being around to celebrate my 50th wedding anniversary (we hit 30 next year) and visiting the Galapagos Islands.

Q: What is your favorite movie, and why?

BN: *To Kill a Mockingbird* — a story about integrity and standing up for those in need of a champion.

Q: What was the last book you read?

BN: *Team of Teams* by General Stanley McChrystal — read it after seeing him speak at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco.

THE POWER OF POSSIBILITIES WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

The Power of Possibilities is proof that we accomplish amazing things when we come together as a community! Over 400 guests packed the ballroom at the Sofitel Hotel to hear actress Holly Robinson Peete speak about her personal connection to autism, along with the director and star of the feature film **“Where Hope Grows.”** Thanks to the generosity of event sponsors and donors, we raised over \$200,000 to benefit Gatepath programs.

Holly’s keynote speech touched everyone - her words were powerful and filled with inspiration. Director Chris Dowling and star David DeSanctis from **“Where Hope Grows,”** shared their story of working together on the film. It was evident they developed a mutual respect and genuine bond while making the film.

Each year we present the Neal Poppin award to an individual who has overcome significant barriers and is successfully employed in our community. This year’s recipient, John Mojica, brought everyone to their feet with his heart-warming acceptance speech and warm smile. We also believe it’s important to recognize employers who are creating inclusive

employment environments. This year, we honored UNIQLO. As a global organization, they have made a commitment to employing people with disabilities in every store they operate world-wide; and they are a valued employment partner of Gatepath.

Thank you to everyone that supported the recognition event! Your investment in our mission enriches the lives of those we serve.



Panel discussion with Holly Robinson Peete, Peggy Bunker, David DeSanctis and Chris Dowling

JOHN MOJICA, MEET NEAL POPPIN AWARD WINNER



John Mojica, Neal Poppin Winner

This is the picture of a hero. He may not have a cape, but he has touched the hearts of many, and surprised his family and friends with his relentless dedication. Meet John Mojica, Gatepath hero, Safeway checker, and 2015 Neal Poppin award winner.

John came to Gatepath for job training and placement. He started at Safeway as a courtesy clerk, and knew he wanted to be a checker someday. John held tight to his dream. After four years of patience and passing the test not once, but twice, John finally realized his dream of becoming a checker at Safeway. He has been successfully working in his new position for over a year and is greatly admired by his co-workers!

On October 16, John received the Neal Poppin Award at our annual Power of Possibilities recognition event. The audience gave John a standing ovation to show their admiration, and some were moved to tears by his acceptance speech. John inspired the audience as he told guests that his hard work paid off because he believed in himself.

Congratulations, John! We are inspired by your perseverance and commitment to fulfilling your dream to be more independent!

PARENTS THANKFUL FOR EARLY INTERVENTION

For parents of children with special needs and disabilities, developmental milestones hold extra significance. We recently received a heartfelt thank you note from two parents whose son received early intervention services over 20 years ago, when our organization was called Poplar Center. They proudly told us that Ethan graduated from high school this year. “He stood up with the students who had earned a 3.0 grade point average, and then walked across the stage and received a full

diploma (no asterisks, no qualifiers) from his principal.”

Consider that 69% of children who receive early intervention services between the ages of 0-3 do not require special education services when they enter kindergarten. Imagine a world that gives all children the resources they deserve to succeed! With your support, Gatepath is working to make that vision a reality.

GATEPATH PARTICIPANTS RECOGNIZED WITH VOLUNTEER AWARD

Last month, participants in Gatepath’s Community Access program received certificates of recognition from the South San Francisco Parks and Rec Commission for their outstanding volunteer work in the city. “It was a proud moment for parents, the city council and staff of Gatepath. I am extremely proud of the participants and all the hard work they do,” said Norma Hernandez, a lead instructor in Gatepath’s Community Access program. The program works with groups of participants on vocational training by volunteering in the

community.

Armed with nabbers, plastic bags, water containers, gloves and garden scissors the participants maintain a plot of land twice a week, keeping it clean and beautiful for the community and library patrons. In return, the participants receive weekly Zumba classes through the city.

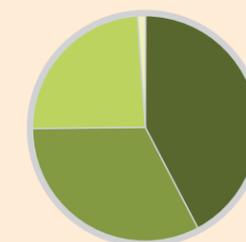
Norma said, “When we heard our participants were receiving

THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO OUR SUCCESS!

We are proud to share with you some preliminary outcomes from last fiscal year:

- 14,682 individuals reached with direct programs and support services
- 285 participants received paid work opportunities
- 104 community employment partners
- 26% increase in children served through our inclusive Learning Links Preschool
- 48% increase in children served through Pediatric Therapy Services, providing speech, occupational, and physical therapies to children with developmental delays

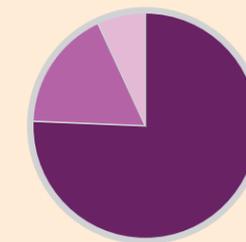
FY15 financials are unaudited. FY14 audited financials available upon request.



Revenue:

Public Funding	42%
Private Fees	34%
Development	24%*
Other	1%

* Includes Legacy Giving



Expenses:

Programs	76%
Administration	18%
Development	7%

Total equals 101% due to rounding.