

ACHIEVING A PATH TO EMPLOYMENT

Marissa blossomed into a confident and independent young woman while enrolled in the CareerPath track of our Community Access program. Stories about her grandmother sparked Marissa's interest in helping seniors, so staff took her to volunteer at a senior center a few hours each week. Volunteering helped Marissa develop her work skills and provided an opportunity for her to practice using public transportation.

When there was a job opening at a local retirement community, a Gatepath employment specialist helped Marissa apply and prepare for the interview. Thanks to her dedication and our existing employment partnership with The Magnolia of Millbrae, Marissa was hired as a dining room server.

Marissa balances work with continuing one day a week in the Community Access program, where her favorite activity is exercising. Five months into her first job, she is excelling and thrilled to be doing something she loves. Marissa proudly says, "They like me here. I pour them coffee and bring new silverware. I'm keeping people happy."

Congratulations, Marissa, on achieving your path to employment!

What is Community Access?

Community Access, Gatepath's most rapidly growing adult program, provides individuals with rich learning experiences through community-based programming. Small groups of participants



Marissa splits her time between working and participating in Community Access to learn independent living skills

engage in activities together five days a week for six hours a day throughout San Mateo County. The CareerPath track of Community Access is a four-month program that emphasizes employment preparation, including self-assessment, career exploration, public transportation training, and, most importantly, social and work-related skills development. Activities include volunteering in the community and shadowing peers who are employed. Our goal is for graduates of the program to enter our employment services and find their dream job, like Marissa did!



Read more inspiring stories in our 2017 Annual Report, available online at Gatepath.org/AnnualReport

IT IS TIME TO SPEAK WITH A UNIFIED VOICE



*Bryan Neider,
CEO*

As the holiday season nears, I've been reflecting on all the incredible things we've accomplished together in 2017. I'm especially thankful to our dedicated staff, board members, auxiliary, volunteers, community partners and donors for moving us closer to our vision of a world where people of all abilities are fully accepted, respected and included.

We never want to take our blessing and support for granted. As we have recently seen, there is a lack of commitment to funding programs for those with special needs and developmental disabilities at the federal level. The recent proposal to significantly cut Medicaid programs is just one example of a significant threat that would put an undue burden on those with disabilities. Fortunately, the proposed cuts were rejected. However,

it remains more important than ever to join together as a collective voice to ensure the health care benefits and civil rights of those we care so much about are protected. We can no longer sit back and be reactive to the devastating changes that could be coming our way. As a community, we must remain vigilant and united in our efforts to support the needs of those we serve.

I encourage everyone to be a champion and voice for our community. A first step is to spend one minute to sign the "Pledge for Inclusion" at PledgeForInclusion.org. While there, you can also sign up for our advocacy action alerts. Your voice will help ensure we will be able to continue delivering a lifeline of quality services to those who need them the most well into the future.

Thank you again. We are thankful for your ongoing support of our shared vision of inclusion.

WELLS FARGO HOSTS LUNCH BUDDIES

Wells Fargo has been a partner to Gatepath for many years, providing significant support for several of our initiatives, from event sponsorship to program funding and volunteer efforts.

Recently, Gatepath joined forces with Wells Fargo's Peninsula Region branch managers for a special "Lunch Buddies" event with adults from our Learning and Employment Campus.

The event brought Wells Fargo regional branch managers together for one-on-one meetings with Gatepath program participants, offering them the chance to network and socialize.

During this special lunch meeting, attendees talked about hobbies, travel, and music, as well as about personal and employment goals. "This event was a perfect way for us to connect with Gatepath participants on an individual level, share

experiences, and learn from them," said Viviane Yamamoto, Wells Fargo Bank, District Manager of the Downtown Peninsula District, who organized the event. "It was a rewarding day for the entire team; the participants' happy faces and words of appreciation were very touching. Being able to serve in our community is very important because it allows us to grow and help those in need."

About Gatepath's Lunch Buddies Program

Lunch Buddies was launched in partnership with the Gatepath Auxiliary; the program provides opportunities for friendship, mentorship, and bonding with community members for adults at our Learning and Employment Campus.

For more information about how your company can participate in Lunch Buddies, email jberube@Gatepath.org.

WELCOME TO FOUR NEW LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

We are very grateful to the generous individuals who have remembered Gatepath in their estate plans and proudly welcome four new donors who joined our Legacy Society this summer:

Mary D. Chigos

is a dedicated member of the Gatepath Auxiliary who has served in numerous leadership roles.

Barbara and Paul Regan

are longtime Gatepath supporters. Paul currently serves as our Board Chair.

Anonymous (2)

These individuals join our Legacy Society members:

Mary and Emilio Colombo

Walter Howard Girdlestone

Betsy and Larry Grotte

Frank Hunt

Katie and Bryan Neider

Beverly D. Pabst

Mieko and Nick Poppin

Katherine Allen Sharp

Louisa Williams

Sheryl Young

Their commitment is creating a sustainable future for people with special needs!

To learn more, visit

Gatepath.org/LegacyGiving

SPECIAL EVENTS RECAP



13th Annual Golf Classic Fundraiser a Success!

Gatepath hosted its 13th Annual Golf Classic Fundraiser at the Stanford Golf Course with approximately 120 golfers

in attendance. This year's tournament raised more than \$140,000 thanks to many donors and the ongoing support of our incredible sponsors. A special thanks to Jeff Fallick, our event chair whose dedication and commitment is an inspiration to us all!



A Memorable Night at Stanford

More than 250 friends, families, and colleagues showed up to the 2nd Annual Special Needs Family Appreciation Night at the Stanford Football home

opener against UCLA in September. Everyone enjoyed an outdoor BBQ, games, and a visit from the Stanford cheerleaders. Some families participated in the "high-five tunnel rally" on the field during halftime. This event gave families of children with special needs a chance to connect in a friendly and inclusive environment.



Transition to Independence Fair Expands Students' Options

Gatepath proudly co-sponsored San Mateo County's Annual Transition to Independence Fair to

help high school students and their families discover available programs and services post-graduation. The fair featured 50 providers that offer higher education, job training, employment, day programs, living options, and health services for adults with disabilities.



FAME Art Show: Featuring Art by Adults with Disabilities

Students in Gatepath's art class were proud to display and sell their artwork at the inaugural Fostering Art and

Micro-Enterprise (FAME) event. Students use art as a form of expression and communication. The students sold many of their pieces, which gave them a sense of pride and accomplishment in their work.



Distinguished Speaker Series Furthers Employment Conversation

Gatepath hosted its 2nd Annual Distinguished Speaker Series: Perspectives on Creating an Inclusive Workforce for Individuals with Disabilities. Hundreds of guests attended an engaging conversation between Jack Hogan, David Lee, Steve Silberman, and Joey Travolta; individuals who share a common passion and commitment to creating life-enriching opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in the employment sector. The speaker series, held at GoPro, and generously sponsored by the Peninsula Health Care District, was moderated by KCBS Host Jane McMillan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

21 Grupo de Apoyo Para Padres

28 Giving Tuesday

December

2 SF Autism Society Annual Conference

3 Caring Santa at Stanford

5 East Palo Alto Parent Support Group:
My Child Matters

5 Autism Support Group

12 Coastside Spanish-Speaking Family
Support Group/Grupo de apoyo en la
Costa para familias

16 Magical Bridge Parent-Child Group

19 Grupo de Apoyo Para Padres

21 FREE Children's Dental Clinic

For more information visit: Gatepath.org/calendar



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Stay Connected:



SAVE THE DATE!

Double Your Impact on

#GIVING
TUESDAY

November 28, 2017

We invite you to kick off the holidays with us on November 28 for #GivingTuesday – a global day of giving back.

Thanks to Sharon and Joel Friedman, donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$20,000!

Your gift of any amount can make a difference in the life of someone with special needs and bring joy during the holiday season. If you prefer to donate by check, please use the enclosed envelope. Thank you!

GiveToGatepath.org

The
POWER of POSSIBILITIES

MARCH 8, 2018

SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT
MARRIOTT WATERFRONT

Join us for this inspirational evening
celebrating the accomplishments of those we
serve and our community partners.

Special Guest Speaker to be announced soon!

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Please contact Jeanne Berube at 650-259-0160