

## INVESTING IN QUALITY AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

During the past year, Gatepath achieved monumental success thanks to the strength of our team, support from donors, Gatepath Auxiliary, volunteers and our organization's commitment to investing in quality programs and innovative services.

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES

In September, our Learning Links Preschool in Mountain View became a fully inclusive program. Both of Gatepath's preschools now replicate the natural learning environment where children with and without disabilities learn side-by-side. Understanding inclusion at an early age teaches children to appreciate and value differences. This propels us toward creating a world in which people of all abilities are accepted, respected and included.

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

We added several health and wellness elements to our youth programs. To address the need for afterschool programming for youth with autism, ADHD, or other learning differences in

*"We continually innovate and adapt to an ever-changing environment that is rife with opportunities and inspiration..."*

our community, we added inclusive yoga and cooking classes to our lineup of recreational activities. The benefits of practicing yoga include an increased sense of mindfulness and self-awareness. Cooking classes offer nutrition education and life skills

development so youth can lead a holistic, healthy lifestyle.

### ADULT PROGRAMS

Our adult services have also adopted healthy eating and active living components into the daily curriculum. Staff members engage with program participants to find healthy recipes, create grocery lists, shop for ingredients, and cook meals. Some of our programs utilize local community kitchens to prepare meals together, exemplifying Gatepath's mission to empower those we serve through meaningful community partnerships.

We also launched an art therapy class at our campus in



*Art therapy class at the Burlingame campus*

Burlingame. The class is designed to promote creativity and provide an outlet for healthy emotional expression by transforming thoughts and feelings into beautiful art. We're very excited to present some of the artwork at *The Power of Possibilities*, our fundraising event on March 23, 2017.

### FAMILY SUPPORT

Gatepath's Family Resource Center has made tremendous progress towards increasing outreach to traditionally underserved families. In November, for example, we launched a free support group for Spanish-speaking parents in Half Moon Bay. Gatepath is proud to support diverse populations and families with culturally-responsive resources. We hope to continue expanding these types of services in the future.

### NEW YEAR, NEW UPGRADES

Recognizing that the physical space where we offer programs is important to learning and well-being, we recently renovated two of our adult sites (in Burlingame and Daly City). When we invest in our infrastructure, we're investing in the betterment of our programs, our staff, and those we serve.

At Gatepath, we are proud of the services we offer and the relationships we've established over the years. We continually innovate and adapt to an ever-changing environment that is rife with opportunities and inspiration, and we are thrilled to continue enriching our community partnerships and strengthening our programs in 2017 and beyond.

# GATEPATH IS COMMITTED TO WAGE EQUALITY



*Bryan Neider, CEO*

Gatepath has a proud history of helping adults with developmental disabilities secure jobs at companies throughout the Bay Area. We've seen from firsthand experience that everyone benefits from an inclusive workplace.

I'm very pleased to say that as of January 1, 2017, all of the adults

in our employment program working through Gatepath contracts are receiving minimum wage or above. For years, federal law allowed workers with developmental disabilities to be compensated at sub-minimum wage.

We have worked diligently to change this employment model, and are very proud to say we've taken an important step toward wage equality for all. We're developing an innovative vocational training and coaching model that will increase new employment opportunities for the adults we serve. In the meantime, please contact Eileen Easterbrook at [eeasterbrook@gatepath.org](mailto:eeasterbrook@gatepath.org) with job opportunities for the highly motivated, skilled, punctual, and friendly individuals in our employment programs.

Watch for updates about this important subject in the coming months by signing up to receive our e-newsletter at [Gatepath.org](http://Gatepath.org).

## GATEPATH WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP

The New Year brought changes to the leadership on our Board of Directors and the Gatepath Auxiliary. The four new members joining our board are: Jeff Brown (Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications and Government Affairs at GoPro); Cassy Christianson (a developmental specialist and consultant for families of children with special needs); Steve Eskenazi (an angel investor and former Managing Partner with Walden Venture Capital); and Suman Prasad (Head of Startup and VC Partnerships, Global Partnerships at Google).



*Jeff Brown   Cassy Christianson   Steve Eskenazi   Suman Prasad*

Their expertise in the healthcare, financial, and nonprofit sectors are valuable additions to our board, as we continue to advance Gatepath as a leader in creating inclusive opportunities and providing the highest quality services for individuals with special needs.

We are also pleased to announce a new slate of officers on the Executive Committee and the Gatepath Auxiliary. As we welcome this new leadership, we also extend our sincere

gratitude to the officers who recently completed their terms. The entire board has contributed significantly to our success as an organization, and is committed to furthering our mission.

### 2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Board Chair:** Paul Regan
- Vice Chair:** Elaine Cohen, Ed.D.
- Treasurer:** Matt Edling
- Secretary:** Linda Leao
- Development Committee Chair:** Todd Gemmer

### 2017 GATEPATH AUXILIARY OFFICERS

- President:** Kathryn Breaux
- Vice-President:** Cathy Nessier
- Treasurer:** Sara Jungroth
- Recording Secretary:** Carolyn Bunje
- Corresponding Secretary:** Kris Willig

We welcome our new officers and board members, and are grateful to the officers who just finished serving in their terms. The entire board has contributed significantly to our success as an organization, and is committed to furthering our mission.

# CREATING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

From the classroom to the workplace, inclusion is at the core of Gatepath's mission, vision, and values. You can be part of it! Whether it's considering how your business could benefit from hiring employees with developmental disabilities or adopting a buddy system for children with special needs, there are opportunities every day to promote inclusion.



You can start today by signing our online "Pledge for Inclusion":

I pledge to Accept, Respect, and Include people of ALL abilities, including my peers with special needs and disabilities. Inclusion starts with ME!

- I **ACCEPT** people of all abilities
- I **RESPECT** others and act with kindness and compassion
- I **INCLUDE** people with special needs and disabilities in the classroom, in the workplace, and in my community

This simple pledge is a positive and transformative message, welcoming people of all abilities into our lives.

**Join hundreds in the community who have taken the first step towards creating a more inclusive world, and share your declaration on Facebook and Twitter to spread the word.**  
[PledgeForInclusion.org](http://PledgeForInclusion.org)

## SUPPORT SERVICES EXPANDED TO HALF MOON BAY

Parents whose primary language is Spanish face unique obstacles related to language, cultural barriers, and concerns about immigration status when raising their child with special needs or developmental disabilities. For some of these parents, attending support groups during work hours is difficult, if not impossible. Many Spanish-speaking parents are also particularly concerned about confidentiality.

"The diagnosis is hard to talk about," said Erendida Gonzalez, one of Gatepath's Family Resource Center (FRC) coordinators. "Parents need to know that there are trusted, culturally-relevant resources available to them."

In July, Gatepath was awarded a grant from First 5 San Mateo County, which is enabling our staff to reach families in underserved communities where English is not the primary language. When the opportunity arose to conduct outreach to various communities around the Bay Area, Erendida was the first to advocate for a Spanish-speaking parent support group in Half Moon Bay. The group, which is called *Padres Fortaleciendo Padres*, provides peer support and assists families in securing services.



*Padres Fortaleciendo Padres support group*

The *Padres Fortaleciendo Padres* meeting occurs every second Tuesday of the month. If you or anyone you know is interested in attending this free support group, please contact Erendida Gonzalez at [650-826-7992](tel:650-826-7992) or at [egonzalez@gatepath.org](mailto:egonzalez@gatepath.org).

To find out more about the FRC's workshops, support groups, and other valuable information for parents of children with special needs, please visit [Smcfr.org](http://Smcfr.org).

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Sobrato Center for Nonprofits  
350 Twin Dolphin Drive, Suite 123  
Redwood City, CA 94065  
650-259-8500 | Gatepath.org

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Burlingame, CA  
Permit No.19

## February

- 7 Yoga Classes (Ages 14-22)
- 7 Autism Support Group
- 11 FREE WORKSHOP: Working Together for Children with Special Needs
- 13 Cerebral Palsy Parent Group
- 17 Gatepath Social Connection's Hang Outs
- 21 Grupo de Apoyo Para Padres

## March

- 3 Gatepath Social Connection's Hang Outs
- 7 Autism Support Group
- 13 Cerebral Palsy Parent Group
- 21 Grupo de Apoyo Para Padres
- 23 *The Power of Possibilities***

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

Stay Connected:



We recently changed our database; if your address below needs to be updated, please email [development@gatepath.org](mailto:development@gatepath.org).

*Please Join Us*

# The POWER of POSSIBILITIES

*An inspirational event that celebrates individuals of all abilities!*

Featuring  
**COLIN FARRELL**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017 | 7 P.M.**

San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront  
1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA

*"As the parent of a child with special needs, I have learned that disability is often imposed upon a person. Yet what one person deems a disability, another person deems a challenge and most importantly an opportunity to show the strength and deep reserve of the human spirit."*

- Colin Farrell

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT [GATEPATH.ORG/POP](http://GATEPATH.ORG/POP)**