

### GATEPATH AND ABILITIES UNITED ENTER MERGER AGREEMENT

We are pleased to share that Abilities United is merging with Gatepath, and we are thrilled to have them become a part of our organization. Abilities United is a 55-year-old non-profit based out of Palo Alto that provides services and support to children, youth and adults with developmental disabilities; their mission and programs align very closely with ours. We are targeting completion of the merger by the end of June 2019, and Bryan Neider will be the CEO of the newly combined organization.

Gatepath and Abilities United proactively pursued this merger opportunity to ensure the sustainability and quality of the services we offer. Combining our two organizations will be incredibly advantageous for the families we care so much about. The merger will provide an opportunity to more efficiently leverage our administrative functions, allowing additional resources to be dedicated to direct care staff and the important programs they provide. Together, with 13 locations now, our teams will be able to serve more individuals across San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties and further our shared mission of a world where people of all abilities are accepted, respected and included.

### NEW GRANT AWARDS

Gatepath is proud to be a first time grantee of **Chan Zuckerberg Initiative** and **Koret Foundation**.

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative funding will support a collaborative project to better address the needs of young children and families in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto.



The grant from Koret Foundation will allow us to develop a curriculum for young adults that will increase participation in employment and college after high school.



Mitzi Zwierlein receives the 2019 Neal Poppin Award from Power of Possibilities Title Sponsor Carole Middleton

### MITZI ZWIERLEIN, 2019 NEAL POPPIN AWARD WINNER

Mitzi Zwierlein was presented the 2019 Neal Poppin Award at this year's *Power of Possibilities* event. Mitzi has been a dedicated employee of McDonald's for 41 years. The award is named in memory of Neal Poppin, who was in Gatepath's programs and whose determination, spirit, and enthusiasm transcended any limitations he faced. Gatepath CEO, Bryan Neider, said, "She's an amazing woman whose inspiring work ethic and positive attitude have earned her the respect and love of her colleagues and customers. She radiates joy in everything she does and sets a wonderful example for others." Congratulations, Mitzi!

## THE POWER OF PUBLIC OUTCRY TO INFLUENCE CHANGE

It's been more than a decade since the Great Recession significantly impacted the funding for California's developmental disabilities system. Since 2008 the cumulative budget cuts and inflationary impact to service providers has created a net shortfall of nearly \$1.1 billion. Despite public outcry and protests by developmental disability advocacy groups, the State has been callously nonresponsive in addressing the funding needs required to stabilize our neglected system. In my opinion, the lack of funding has become a social justice issue, severely impacting the quality of life of those with developmental disabilities.

I am pleased to report a glimmer of hope for California's developmental disabilities community! The tide of public opinion is rising to support our movement for a critically needed 8% systemwide increase in state funding of our developmental disabilities system. Our community and engaged supporters have organized rallies at government offices across the state. They have educated and informed our state legislators on how this funding crisis affects Californians with developmental disabilities — *their constituents!* Many California State Senators and Assemblymembers, on both sides of the aisle, now stand in

solidarity with services providers. We are pleased to have the support of Senator Jerry Hill and Assemblymember Kevin Mullin for the 8% systemwide rate increase. **Your voice is influencing change!**

While I'm thrilled to see a groundswell of support from those championing our cause, we also know we need to continue our advocacy efforts. We have a small window of time before Governor Gavin Newsom finalizes the 2019-20 California State Budget. We need your support by signing our online petition to the Governor at [Gatepath.org/petition](http://Gatepath.org/petition) requesting a long overdue and much needed increase in funding for the developmental disabilities system. **You can ensure change happens by advocating for the important services Californians with developmental disabilities are entitled to receive.** Thank you for your commitment to those we serve.



Sincerely,

Bryan Neider  
CEO



### Now Scheduling Outdoor Parties for Summer!



[GrinsNGiggles.org](http://GrinsNGiggles.org)



### Enrolling Now Ages 2-5 Years for Fall 2019

- Bright, engaging classrooms and play spaces
- Highly qualified and caring teachers
- Social, emotional and physical development
- Inclusive preschool with play-based curriculum

Contact [enroll@learninglinkspreschool.org](mailto:enroll@learninglinkspreschool.org) or 650-259-8500



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## PEOPLE IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**Carolina Balladares**, our Watch Me Grow and Family Resource Center manager, received the Spotlight on Excellence Award from First 5 San Mateo County for her exceptional contributions to children under the age of five and their families. [WatchMeGrowSanMateo.org](http://WatchMeGrowSanMateo.org)



**Sam Franco**, a student in our film classes and member of our Program Committee, was chosen as one of this year's Changemakers. See portraits of Sam and all the Disability Changemakers on exhibition at San Mateo County Libraries. [DisabilityChangemakers.org](http://DisabilityChangemakers.org)



**Supervisor Carole Groom**, a former Gatepath board member, was recently honored at the Parca "You're Remarkable" awards event for being a tireless and enduring supporter of individuals with developmental disabilities.

## SUPER BOWL MVP KURT WARNER SPEAKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSION AT THE 11TH ANNUAL POWER OF POSSIBILITIES

We were thrilled to welcome Super Bowl MVP **Kurt Warner** and Emmy award-winning journalist **Nancy O'Dell** for our *11th Annual Power of Possibilities*, on March 21, 2019.

Warner talked about how his son Zack, who is blind and has developmental disabilities, shaped his perspective on life. "He showed me on a daily basis that when you allow someone with special needs to spread their wings, you'll be amazed at the possibilities. You'll be amazed by what they accomplish." Warner and his wife Brenda founded Treasure House, a supportive living community in Arizona for young adults that focuses on independence, respect, and community integration.

O'Dell also shared her personal connection to our mission and described her passion for inclusion. "Growing up, my best buddy was my Aunt Ellen, who was born with Down syndrome," O'Dell said. "I can remember watching her wanting so badly to be included in certain high school activities like band and cheerleading. I applaud organizations like Gatepath because they help provide opportunities for everyone."



*Gatepath CEO Bryan Neider presented Nancy O'Dell and Kurt Warner with artwork created by adults in our programs.*

Every year our community comes together to celebrate what is possible when we see each person for their unique abilities. This year's *Power of Possibilities* was our most successful fund-raising event ever, raising more \$800,000! We are grateful to our sponsors, benefactors, attendees, community partners, and the families and friends of those we serve for their support of this event and throughout the year. Your contributions make it possible for us to provide high quality, inclusive services. Thank you!

## Thank You

### Title Sponsor

Carole Middleton

### Platinum Sponsors

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Sutter Health, Mills-Peninsula Medical Center

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## May

- 2 East Palo Alto Parent Support Group: My Child Matters
- 2 Autism Support Group
- 3 Hang Outs Redwood City
- 9 Bay Area Giving Day**
- 16 FREE Children's Dental Clinic
- 17 Youth and Teen Hang Out

## June

- 28 Gatepath's 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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



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

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15<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**GATEPATH  
 GOLF CLASSIC**



SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

LOS ALTOS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB  
[GATEPATH.ORG/GOLF](http://GATEPATH.ORG/GOLF)



Stay Connected:



Double Your Impact!

# BAY AREA GIVING DAY

May 9, 2019



Join us on Bay Area Giving Day to make a difference in the lives of children and adults with special needs. Your gift will help individuals achieve their full potential through Gatepath's lifespan of support services.

**Plus, your contribution will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to \$25,000, thanks to an anonymous donor!**

Together, we can create a world where people of all abilities are fully accepted, respected and included! If you prefer to donate by check, please use the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your support!

**GiveToGatepath.org**