GATEPATH®

INSPIRE

Summer 2019 Newsletter

We Are Better Together!

Bryan Neider, CEO, with Ishrag Khababa, Abilities United Board Member who joined the Gatepath Board this summer.

Recently, we hosted a meet and greet for the Abilities United family of staff, program participants, supporters and community partners. Bryan, who is the CEO of the combined organization, shared his vision of the future and answered questions from the attendees. Carrie Drake, a long-time supporter of Abilities United said, "Bryan created a sense of ease and warmth among the guests. His remarks were inspirational and made everyone feel excited about the future. Better together!"

Laurie Jarrett and daughter, Tracey

Per Maresca and Cassy Curran

In July, Abilities United became affiliated with Gatepath, which marked the beginning of our journey together. Several Gatepath team leaders stopped by with breakfast treats to celebrate this momentous occasion and to share in the excitement about our future together!

Jennie Chien and Misty Blair, who manage our inclusive Learning Links and Milestones Preschools, sharing ideas on how we can be "better together."

Gatepath and Abilities United staff: Leslie Mullins, Roger Young, Danielle Azzalino, David Rogers, Josh Pniower and Chelsea Farrington.

CEO CORNER

On July 1, 2019, we announced the exciting news of Abilities United and Gatepath joining forces — making our combined nonprofit the largest provider of services to individuals with developmental disabilities on the Peninsula! With a shared mission and vision of building an inclusive community where individuals of all abilities can thrive, and the alignment in the services we both offer, we knew it was a natural fit.

This is a very important milestone for Gatepath and Abilities United. With 13 locations in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, the combining of our organizations will be incredibly advantageous to the individuals and families we serve and it will provide more opportunities for our dedicated staff, too. We will be able to share resources, expand programs and deepen our employment and community partnerships. It will help us grow our advocacy efforts in the Silicon Valley. It will also allow us to leverage our administrative and management functions across both organizations, enabling more resources to be directed towards our programs and staff. The future is certainly better together and filled with new possibilities!

We are grateful to former Abilities United CEO Charlie Weidanz and outgoing administration team members, Jo Bailard of Fund Development and Wendy Kuehnl of Marketing, for their many years of commitment to Abilities United and those we serve.

I am very excited about what we will be able to achieve in the coming years together!

Sincerely,

Bryan Neider

Bryan Neider
CEO

To learn more about the affiliation agreement, please visit Gatepath.org/mergerFAQ.

Grants Awarded

Gatepath and Abilities United thank the following organizations for their grant support in 2019:

Atkinson Foundation
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
City of Burlingame
City of Palo Alto
City of Sunnyvale
Donor Circle for the Arts, Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Endue Foundation
Grace Lutheran Church
Heffernan Foundation
Hurlbut-Johnson Charitable Trusts
May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust
Mission City Community Fund
San Jose Mercury News Wish Book
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Sequoia Healthcare District
Sutter Health Mills-Peninsula Medical Center
Thelma Doelger Charitable Trust
Wells Fargo Foundation
Women's Club of Palo Alto

12th Annual
POWER of POSSIBILITIES

Guest speaker will be announced soon.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Gatepath is very excited to welcome the following four former Abilities United board members to the Gatepath board: Ishrag Khababa, Christopher Murphy, Cynthia Owyoung and Jennifer Wagstaff-Hinton. A special thank you to Jennifer Wagstaff-Hinton, who was Abilities United's Board Chair, for her leadership, guidance and collaboration throughout the entire merger process. Five additional former Abilities United board members will join Gatepath's CEO Advisory Council and Board Committees: Daniel Allustiarti, Steven Eichler, Karen Gaydon, Tyler Kawaguchi, and Patrick Romzek.

We are also extremely grateful to the outgoing Abilities United board members for their commitment to advancing inclusion on behalf of the children, youth and adults with development disabilities we serve. To learn more about our governing body, please visit Gatepath.org/Board.

Ishrag Khababa

Christopher Murphy

Cynthia Owyoung

Jennifer Wagstaff-Hinton

Gatepath Celebrates 99 Years

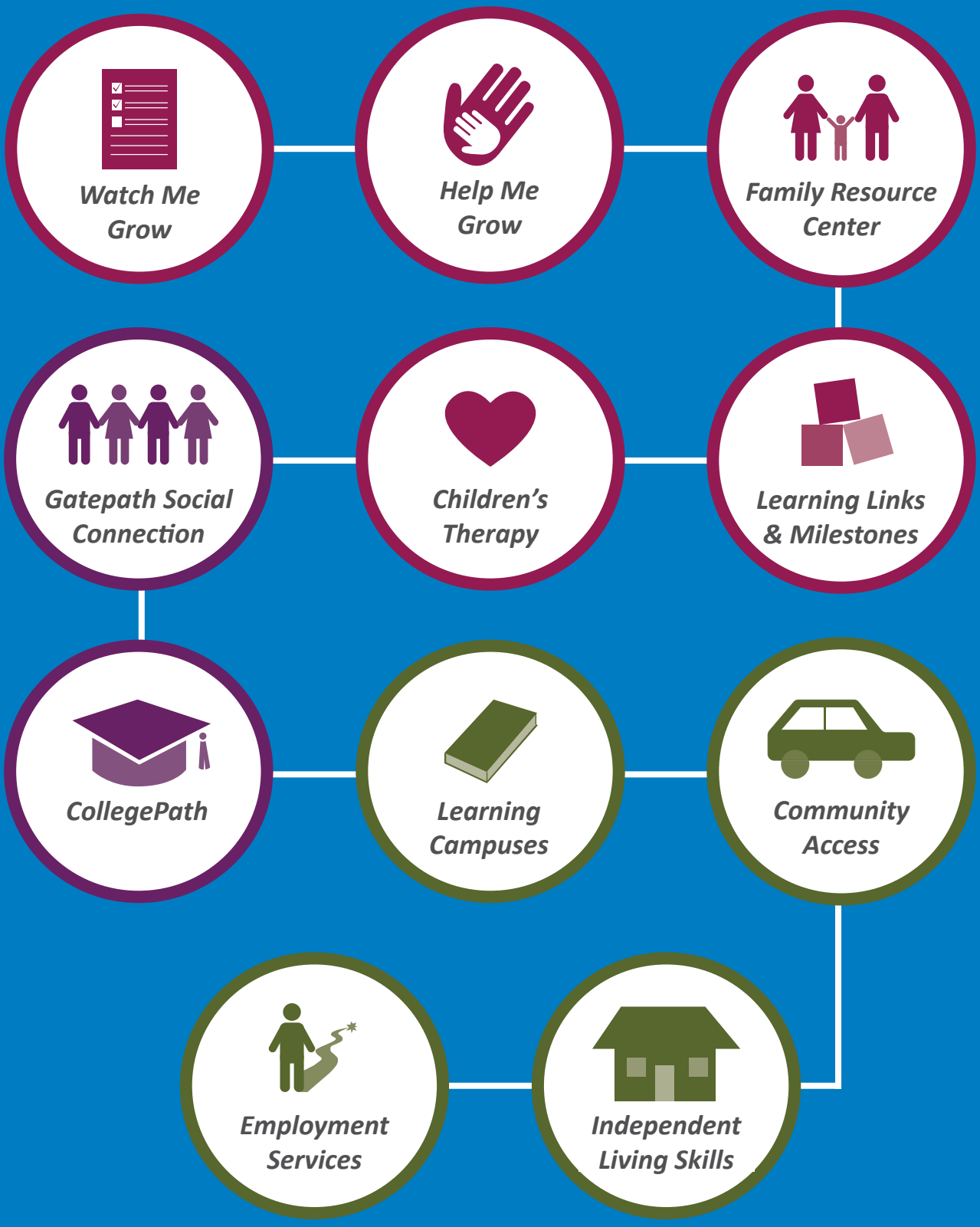
On our anniversary, CEO Bryan Neider joined adults from our Community Access program to hear their favorite Gatepath memories. Christine, who has been with Gatepath for more than 50 years, says she has enjoyed being on the peer advisory committee, a group that discusses activities participants want and need.

Watch the full video at Gatepath.org/99years.

Auxiliary Summer Picnic

Special thanks to the Gatepath Auxiliary for hosting another fantastic picnic for adults in our program. They had "Yachts of fun!" at this year's nautical-themed party.

TOGETHER, WE OFFER A LIFESPAN OF SERVICES



OUR VISION: A world where people of all abilities are fully accepted, respected and included.

	GATEPATH	abilities united
Our History	Gatepath has been a cornerstone of our community for 99 years, providing a lifespan of support services to individuals with special needs and developmental disabilities in the greater Bay Area. Our mission is to empower people with special needs to achieve their full potential through innovative, inclusive programs and community partnerships. With educational, therapeutic, vocational and family support services, we are distinctive in providing support to an individual throughout his or her lifetime. We collaborate with businesses, third party providers, local nonprofits and various organizations to bring the highest quality services to the children, youth and adults in our programs. Together, we are creating a world where people of all abilities are fully accepted, respected and included in all aspects of life – in the classroom, the workplace and in our communities. Learn more at Gatepath.org	Founded in 1963 by 12 Palo Alto families who have children with intellectual and developmental disabilities, Abilities United serves a diverse group of individuals in the Bay Area, who have developmental and physical disabilities or are at risk of developmental delay. Abilities United advances advocacy, inclusion, and independence for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Since its inception, Abilities United has offered people of all ages and abilities educational, therapeutic, recreational, and vocational experiences to help them lead meaningful lives as well as resource connections that make it easier for them to lead the lives they chose. Abilities United sees a world where people of all abilities live, learn, work, and play together. Although Abilities United primarily serves people with developmental disabilities and their families, people without disabilities can benefit from services as well. For more information visit AbilitiesUnited.org.
Years in Service	99	55
2017-2018 Revenue	$16.8M	$5.5M
Service Area	Serving residents of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties in 11 locations: South San Francisco, Daly City, Burlingame, Redwood City, Sunnyvale, Mtn View, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay	Serving residents of Santa Clara and San Mateo County with two locations in Palo Alto
Number of Staff	205	85
Number of Individuals and Families Served	7,000+	1,200+
Programs	• Early Childhood Developmental Screenings • Inclusive Preschools • Early Intervention and Pediatric Therapy • High School transitional services, afterschool recreational and social programs for youth • Adult and Employment Services: CollegePath, Community Access, Job Training and Placement, Learning Campuses	• Inclusive Preschool • Early Intervention and Pediatric Therapy • High School transitional services • Adult and Employment Services: Community Connections, Job Training and Placement • Independent Living Skills Services • Art program for all ages

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 9

15th Annual
GATEPATH GOLF CLASSIC
Monday, September 9, 2019

Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!

Donate at Gatepath.org/GivetoGolf

GOLD

Bailard & The Bailard Foundation
Dietz-Krikorian Families

SILVER

Anthem Blue Cross
Shannon and Jeff Fallick
Linda and Richard Leao
OneDigital Health and Benefits
Sutter Health • Aetna
Warner Pacific Insurance Services

BRONZE

Mark Adams • Ed Graziani • Matt Lee
beere&purves
Blue Shield of California
Center for Advanced Dentistry
Christensen & Rafferty Fine Jewelry
CIGNA HealthCare
Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy
eHealth
Judith Fallick
Susan and Gary Garrabrant
Kaiser Permanente
Connie and Bill Ring
UnitedHealthcare
Zoom • Greg Holmes

SEPTEMBER 14

Aquathon
Saturday, September 14 | 8am – 1pm
Lewis and Joan Platt East Palo Alto Family YMCA

Register to participate, join a fundraising team, and check out our sponsorship packages.

Gatepath.org/Aquathon2019

SEPTEMBER 21

Don't delay, buy your tickets today!
Individual tickets and family four-packs are available with and without a tailgate package.
Sponsor and provide adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to attend their first football game and tailgate!

Gatepath.org/Stanford

NOVEMBER 2

Join us for the foremost literary event on the Peninsula!

Sponsorship tables and individual tickets available. Early bird rates available through Labor Day.

authors luncheon

Reserve Now!

Saturday, November 2, 2019 | 10:30am – 2:30pm
Crowne Plaza Cabaña Hotel 4290 El Camino Real Palo Alto

AbilitiesUnited.org/Authors-Luncheon

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS

This summer, Abilities United and Gatepath embarked on a new journey as one organization with the shared mission of empowering people with developmental disabilities to achieve their full potential. We couldn't think of a better way to commemorate this momentous occasion than to share the story of Jenna Yee – a resilient, determined and motivated woman who has received services from both organizations. "I am very proud of myself. I am working full-time now at Whole Foods and able to rent an apartment and live on my own," Jenna explains. "I couldn't have done it without my coaches."

Jenna started receiving job training and placement support from Gatepath as part of her transition plan after she graduated from high school. Before joining Gatepath, her family described her as very shy, almost non-verbal, and she didn't easily make friends in school. Shortly after starting with a job coach at Gatepath, she landed her first job with Walgreens. Her extraordinary personal transformation in such a short period of time earned her the honor of being named the 2008 Neal Poppin Award winner at Gatepath's annual signature event, *Power of Possibilities*.

"I am very proud of myself. ...I couldn't have done it without my coaches."

In 2017, Jenna moved to Mountain View where she joined Abilities United's Independent Living Skills (ILS) program while simultaneously starting a new job at Whole Foods. Jenna's ILS life coach helped her create a monthly spending budget, showed her how to grocery shop, cook, and save money for retirement. "When I don't stay within my budget, it shows on my face. I get really worried and stressed," Jenna said.

Jenna and her family appreciate the guidance and direction that Abilities United has provided. Her mother says "It's comforting to know that the people at Abilities United are so caring and supportive. Abilities United is a very positive spot in our lives."

Over the past decade, due to significant budget cuts and increases in inflation and caseloads, many service providers

across the state have been forced to close ILS services. "This program is vital and necessary. It propels people like Jenna to take the next step in creating a better quality of life, and brings out the best in each person," said Soheila Mozayan, Strategic Innovation and Community Engagement for our combined organization. "Changing lives one person at a time is how we change our community."

We are fortunate to have the generous support of our donors that make it possible for people like Jenna to achieve their dreams. To ensure the sustainability of this critically-needed program, please sign up to receive our advocacy action alerts by emailing us at advocacy@gatepath.org.

What is Independent Living Skills (ILS)?

An ILS worker, commonly referred to as a life coach, helps those with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve their life goals. Goals could include finding a job, getting an apartment, budgeting, household tasks, finding a life partner, or utilizing public transportation to navigate the community with ease and confidence. The curriculum is designed to meet the unique needs of the individual who ultimately wants to be in control of his or her own life and reduce dependence on caregivers or parents.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September

- **9** 15th Annual Gatepath Golf Classic
- **14** 42nd Annual Aquathon
- **21** Stanford Special Needs Appreciation Game

October

- **1** Autism Parent Support Group
- **16** Gatepath Auxiliary Bridge Tournament

November

- **2** 28th Annual Authors Luncheon
- **21** Free Dental Clinic

December

- **3** Giving Tuesday

For more information visit: Gatepath.org/calendar

SAVE THE DATE

12th Annual
POWER of POSSIBILITIES
May 14, 2020
SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT MARRIOTT WATERFRONT
Join us in celebrating Gatepath's centennial!

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350 Twin Dolphin Drive, Suite 123
Redwood City, CA 94065
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Stay Connected:

GATEPATH® + abilities united
affiliated with GATEPATH

Better Together!

Special Edition

In July, Abilities United became affiliated with Gatepath, ensuring individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties continue to receive important services and achieve their full potential.
For questions or information, please visit Gatepath.org/MergerFAQ or email bettertogether@gatepath.org.