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Peninsula Family Service SPRING 2011



Peninsula Family Service

24 Second Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94401
(650) 403-4300
www.peninsulafamilyservice.org

SPRING
2011

Stay Involved

- **Would you or someone you know like to know about volunteer opportunities at Peninsula Family Service?**

Contact Manny Chargualaf at mchargualaf@peninsulafamilyservice.org or call him at (650) 403-4300 x 4417.

- **Interested in touring one of our sites?**

Contact Trista Cunningham at tcunningham@peninsulafamilyservice.org or call her at (650) 403-4300 x 4410.

- **Put the date for Winners 2011 on your calendar!**

This year, the annual Winners Celebration will be held on September 15, 2011, starting at 6 pm. Save the date, and get ready for an inspiring evening! For more information, contact Trista Cunningham at tcunningham@peninsulafamilyservice.org or call her at (650) 403-4300 x 4410.



Celebrating 60 years
of service in the community



60 YEARS
OF SERVICE IN
THE COMMUNITY



Peninsula Family Service

Family FOCUS

What's Inside?

Patience and persavance pay off at Peninsula Family Service when Victor, a client in the Second Career Employment Program, receives a permanent position with the State of California.

Mindy Rosenberg, one of the masterminds behind the gorgeous floral centerpieces at last year's Winners celebration, shares some of the secrets of her artistry.

Teenage mothers dream of career success after obtaining their high school diplomas while taking part in the Redwood Child Development program.

Graduation Day Has Added Meaning for the Students at Club Leo J. Ryan

Graduation is a big day in any student's life, but for this year's graduates of Club Leo J. Ryan, it will have a special poignancy. Located in South San Francisco, Leo J. Ryan Child Development Center provides a year-round preschool program, all day vacation summer programs for kindergarten age children, and before and after school services for kids through 5th grade as part of Club Leo J. Ryan. For kids like Jessica, Samantha, Brenden and Giovanni, the services at Leo J. Ryan have been more than extra educational programs; Leo J. Ryan has been a way of life.

Jessica doesn't remember a time when she wasn't a part of Leo J. Ryan. She started at age two. She appreciates all the help she has received from her teachers. Perhaps inspired by them, she wants to work with children, too—as a pediatrician—because she likes to help people.

Samantha, Jessica's best friend, hasn't been at Leo J. Ryan quite as long; she started at age 3. She credits her teachers with helping her learn how to treat others. This sensitivity to others is something Jessica hopes to use in her future career as an artist; she wants to make art about how people feel and look.

Brenden also cares about how people feel, but he likes to hear what they think—then argue with them! Brenden is keen to pursue a career as a lawyer to help people understand opposing points of view, but for now, he and his sister like working on art projects at Club Leo J. Ryan.

Although he wasn't available to discuss his future plans, Giovanni has also been a valued member of Leo J. Ryan for years. Peninsula Family Service would like to salute the 2011 Club Leo J. Ryan graduates and wish them every success in their future.



(Pictured) Jessica and Brenden work on art projects at Club Leo J. Ryan.



The Second Career Employment Program gives mature workers a fresh start.

“ I want to take this opportunity to extend my thanks and gratitude for all the support, trainings and guidance that were extended to me while I am under this program. ”

- Victor, past Peninsula Family Service client

The Second Career Employment Program Leads to a Permanent Position with the State of California for One Mature Worker

Life threw Victor a curveball at age 56. He had a son sick with cancer, and he was unable to find employment. With his life in flux, Victor turned to Peninsula Family Service for help.

As a mature worker, Victor was able to participate in a program offering paid internships at minimum wage, giving him the opportunity to earn money while learning new skills. After applying for the Second Career Employment Program on October 2, 2008, Victor was placed as an Office Assistant with the State of California, Department of Social Services at the end of that same month. His work ethic quickly grabbed the attention of his supervisor, who encouraged him to take the state exam for Office Assistant. His score was high enough to qualify him for an oral interview on April 19, 2010—which he passed successfully—but Victor’s luck was about to take another turn.

As he was awaiting an offer for a new position, the state of California went on a hiring freeze, making his new job just out of reach. Persistent, Victor kept searching, a move that paid off. On February 1, 2011, he was conditionally offered a new job, once he could prove that he could type 45 words per minute. His first five attempts were unsuccessful, but Victor was determined. On his sixth try, Victor typed 42 words per minute. His reputation for hard work and diligence opened another door. Well-respected by his department, Victor was hired on February 14, 2011, working at the State of California Child Care Licensing Division as an Office Assistant. Employed full time at 40 hours per week, Victor now has full fringe benefits, including retirement.

Peninsula Family Service congratulates Victor on his success and looks forward to hearing about his wonderful future!

Floral Philanthropy: How New Friends and Flowers Led to Extraordinary Acts of Service

Word of mouth can make all the difference. Just ask Mindy Rosenberg. When she moved to Hillsborough over five years ago, she had no connection to Peninsula Family Service. Meeting her neighbors Sue Merrill, Sibylle Whittam and Patti Rueff changed all that. A member of our Hillsborough Auxiliary, Mindy, along with Kate Brown, has been responsible for extraordinary floral pieces at numerous events.



(Pictured) Mindy Rosenberg works her artistic magic on flowers.

With a background in jewelry and interior design, it is small wonder that Mindy’s artistic abilities also extend to flowers. After finding out clients’ ideas, she typically looks for an inspirational piece, be it a physical object or a poem. From there, she visits the San Francisco Flower Market to find just the right flowers with which to create two or more prototypes. When the clients have decided upon their favorite design, she prices it out, places her orders and picks up the items, arranging them the day before the event—or even the day of! For last year’s Winners Dinner, she helped create 35 breathtaking arrangements, which were available to be purchased and taken home, with the proceeds benefitting Peninsula Family Service.

Peninsula Family Service is grateful to Mindy for the generous donation of her time and talent. Her arrangements are currently available through Mindy Rosenberg Designs.

A High School Diploma Is Just the Beginning for Teenage Mothers in the Redwood Child Development Program

For many teenagers, a pregnancy in high school spells the end of formal education. Without the support of an affordable, reliable childcare provider, these young moms are often left with no choice but to drop out of classes. Fortunately, this isn’t always the case. At the Redwood Child Development Center, 14-16 teenage mothers graduate from high school each year while involved in the program.

Estrella and Yaritza are two of the mothers who have come through the Redwood Child Development Center with their children this year. Because of the support they received, they are able to consider attending college in the future. Estrella and Yaritza are particularly interested in attending Cañada College, and Estrella has high hopes that she will be able to attain her dream of becoming a probation

officer. She looks forward to starting a career that allows her to serve her community, a community that stepped in when she needed help.

Peninsula Family Service wishes these graduates and their families every success in the future.

(Pictured) Past graduates who used the services of the Redwood Child Development Center.



Did You Know?

The Redwood Child Development Center opened in 2005 and provides child development and education opportunities to more than 24 children while their mothers finish high school.

Data shows that only 20% of girls who become pregnant in high school graduate; in a program like the one at Redwood, 73% graduate.