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Peninsula Family Service

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SUMMER 2011

Stay Involved

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

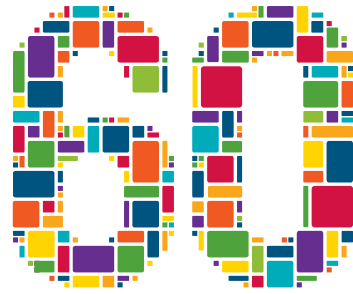
Contact Manny Chargualaf at mchargualaf@peninsulafamilyservice.org or call him at (650) 403-4300 x 4417.

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

Contact Michael O'Donahue at modonahue@peninsulafamilyservice.org or call him at (650) 403-4300 x 4412.

• **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 Michael O'Donahue at modonahue@peninsulafamilyservice.org or call him at (650) 403-4300 x 4412.



Celebrating 60 years of service in the community



60 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY



Peninsula Family Service

Family FOCUS

What's Inside?

At Peninsula Family Service Redwood Child Development Center, the Early Head Start program helps families, like Linda and her son Benjamin, obtain the building blocks for a better future.

Philanthropy runs in the family for Bruce Thompson and his sister, Gloria Velez. Together, they serve an important purpose at Fair Oaks Adult Activity Center.

Outgoing Board Chair Todd Foster reflects on his accomplishments and offers his feelings for the future at Peninsula Family Service.

Opportunity Abounds for Clients in the Start2Save Initiative at Peninsula Family Service

“It’s like a mini-401k!” exclaims Felicia happily when asked about how she feels about the Start2Save account she recently enrolled in at Peninsula Family Service. **“It’s an opportunity, and I grab it.”**

This opportunity is one of many in the financial empowerment programs at Peninsula Family Service. The Start2Save initiative, made possible by a partnership between Peninsula Family Service and Opportunity Fund—a national leader in asset-building and matched savings account—encourages people to save for emergencies by matching an individual’s \$500 savings deposit with an additional \$1,000. Peninsula Family Service recruits the clients to enroll in the program and is contracted by Opportunity Fund to provide the 10-hour series of financial workshops that are required to open a savings account through the program.

For Felicia and her classmates, Sue and Florence, these accounts and the financial training that comes with them offer an opportunity for security. Sue notes that, because of the workshops, it is easier to set aside money. She liked learning how to do a budget for herself because it helped her understand that she must have clarity on where she stands financially. Florence, who had previously relied on her daughters in difficult times, now deducts her bills from her incoming money at the start of each month so that she knows what she has left to spend responsibly. The program, she believes, “made her a better person.”

Peninsula Family Service looks forward to offering opportunities to more clients this summer after receiving an additional 11 accounts from Opportunity Fund, more than doubling its total for the year.



(Pictured) Felicia asks questions during her final financial workshop.



(Pictured) Linda kisses her son as she picks him up from Redwood Child Development Center.

“ This is a pivotal time for early intervention...limiting the number of children helps focus parents and teachers on the importance of one-on-one time in child development.

- Marisa Espinal, Site Director at Peninsula Family Service Redwood Child Development Center ”

The Early Head Start Program at Redwood Child Development Center Gives Children and Their Families Building Blocks for a Better Life

“Hug!” demands Benjamin, prompting his teenage mother to scoop him in her arms for a cuddle. Looking at her son, Linda explains that he often surprises her with new words that he has learned in his Early Head Start program at Peninsula Family Service Redwood Child Development Center. A few months ago, these surprises were only something Linda could dream about.

Benjamin is part of the Redwood Child Development Center, a unique site run by Peninsula Family Service that gives teenage parents at Redwood High School a chance to continue their studies while their children take part in child development programs such as Early Head Start. While the opportunity to attend classes and study has been important for Linda’s future—she will graduate this spring—the Early Head Start program has allowed Benjamin to make incredible progress as well. Benjamin, an active little boy, used to not talk at all, according to his mother. The Early Head Start program, which limits group size to encourage social and emotional development, has helped by giving him one-on-one time with his teachers, something Linda says he likes.

This attention to the individual needs of the children is a key component of the Early Head Start program at Redwood. With a strong emphasis on health, the Center has a Family Advocate, as well as nutritionists and occupational therapists, available. Music and yoga also play a key role in helping the children reach their developmental goals. Monthly parent meetings help the families understand how to help their children, and well baby check ups allow the parents to receive early intervention if a child has particular health needs.

With so much attention, Benjamin nows talks a lot more and, like most two year olds, uses his favorite word, “no,” often. His mother doesn’t seem to mind. Peninsula Family Service wishes Linda and Benjamin a wonderful, talkative future together.

Philanthropy Is a Family Affair at Fair Oaks

Philanthropy is a family affair for Bruce Thompson and his sister, Gloria Velez. A former school superintendent, Bruce serves on the Board of Peninsula Family Service—where he chairs the Child Development and Education Committee—so it is perhaps a surprise that he, and his sister, play such an important role at Fair Oaks Adult Activity Center.



(Pictured) Gloria and Bruce together at Peninsula Family Service.

Responding to a request for help, Bruce volunteered to assist with surveys at Fair Oaks several years ago. On his first trip, Bruce was struck by the clients he met and the stories he heard while completing the surveys. Recognizing a need for bilingual interviewers, Bruce turned to someone he knew would be a perfect fit: his sister.

Gloria and Bruce both live in Burlingame now, but Gloria’s interests upon her college graduation led her to Mexico, where she stayed for many years creating a family and serving as a school principal. Knowing that the surveys would give her an opportunity to maintain her Spanish, and wanting to help her brother, Gloria agreed to participate at Fair Oaks.

Since she started last June, Gloria and Bruce have helped organize and maximize the number of surveys that are completed, and they both acknowledge their enjoyment of the interactions they have at the Center. As Bruce says “Fair Oaks is a real expression of what [Peninsula Family Service] is all about.” Peninsula Family Service thinks Bruce and Gloria are great examples of what philanthropy is all about.

Did You Know?

In a professional evaluation ended in January 2011, 75% of the clients (most of whom were isolated and elderly) receiving help from Senior Peer Counselors through the program at Peninsula Family Service reported that talking to a peer counselor has “helped a lot.”

By 2050, 20% of Americans will be over the age of 65, according to the National Council on Aging.

Outgoing Board Chair, Todd Foster, Reflects and Shares His Optimism for the Future

As Board Chair at Peninsula Family Service since 2009, Todd Foster has helped guide the organization through challenging economic times, keeping an eye on the future and formulating strategies to enable Peninsula Family Service to continue to expand its array of programs. As he prepares to step down as Chair, Todd reflects and shares his optimism for the future.

During his tenure, revenues have grown, in no small part due to Todd’s leadership. While acknowledging the difficulties of unstable government funding, Todd voices his confidence that Peninsula Family Service is “in a good position to evaluate the cut backs and act quickly and appropriately.” His time as Board Chair also saw the hiring of a new Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of

Development, for which he insists on sharing credit with Peninsula Family Service President Laurie Wishard and others. Peninsula Family Service would like to thank Todd for his years of leadership.

(Pictured) Todd Foster at an Annual Meeting of Peninsula Family Service.

