

Young Children With Bright Futures

Gavia and Matthew shared their journey of hope as they spoke to the guests at a recent fundraising event to support the Northern California branch of Life Steps Foundation **Children and Family Services (CAFS)**.

During his first years of life, their eldest son participated in an inclusion program offered by CAFS though other specialists gave the family little hope for their youngster's prospects.

Upon meeting the CAFS team, the family began to imagine a bright future for their son. Today Gavia and Matthew remain active even after their son graduated from the program. They both serve on the CAFS advisory board and the agency is honored to have their perspective as parents.

They joined other generous community members at the LSF CAFS 3rd Annual Fall Auction. From the music, to the food, and lively bidding for the

auction packages, the guests enjoyed the festivities at the Millbrae Community Center. Chris Filippi of KCBS Radio was Master of Ceremonies for the program that included important updates as well as the agency's plans to grow and expand.



Matthew, younger son Malachi & Gavia

Launched 13 years ago, CAFS began in two northern California counties providing in-home early intervention services. Little did the staff know this was just the beginning! "We have

“We have grown leaps and bounds providing innovative care for young children with developmental disabilities.”

grown leaps and bounds providing innovative care for young children with developmental disabilities,” said Program Director Cynthia Fon Wang. “Early on we partnered with two agencies to create an inclusion toddler and preschool classroom and just this year have opened our own inclusion preschool classroom in Pacifica.”

CAFS has also partnered with San Francisco State University providing internships for future Early Childhood Education teachers and this year provided the same intern opportunity for students of Mills College in Oakland. Their involvement in the community has not stopped there. Through grants from several First 5 California county branches, the agency provided coaching for teachers to integrate children with challenging behaviors back into mainstream classrooms.



Sports memorabilia were among the auction items



One of the many bidders at the auction

Dean's Story Chronicled in New Book

Dean was born with Down Syndrome and today is a participant of the Life Steps Foundation **Central California Adult Services**. His life is chronicled in the book, “Just Call Me Dean: And Don't Rain on My Parade.”

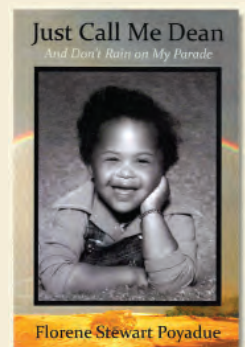
Written by his mother Florence

Stewart Poyadue, it is a touching memoir that includes Dean's thoughts. His story serves to educate the general public about the millions of Americans living with disabilities.

The book presents Dean's life from birth to college and marriage as Dean

learned to pay bills, go to college and experience getting married.

Put this inspiring book on your holiday gift list!



From the Desk of... Children and Family Services Affiliate



Susan Chang
CEO



Peggy Huang
Board President

Life Steps Foundation Children and Family Services (CAFS) offers programs throughout California that assist children from birth to five years old with developmental disabilities (autism, cerebral palsy, etc.) or at risk of developmental delays to receive early intervention services.

These services give the child necessary support to achieve their developmental milestones, enhance the parent and child relationship, and assist the child in reaching his or her full potential. Our talented staff and specialists serve about 800 children a year through one-on-one or group intervention in the community that best fits the child's needs.

In 2014, we plan to open two more inclusion classes for toddlers. Through your support of CAFS, you provide a brighter future for all the children we serve.

Susan Chang

CEO

LSF Children and Family Services

Peggy Huang

President

LSF CAFS Board of Directors

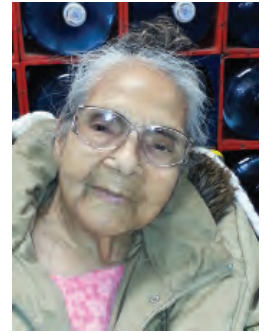
Century Milestone Celebrated

Life Steps Foundation **Santa Maria Wisdom Center** is excited to celebrate Maria Garcia's 100th birthday. Mrs. Garcia has been a Center participant for the past two years. A landmark birthday party, complete with cake, flowers and a reporter from the *Santa Maria Times* is being planned to cover her special event.

Mrs. Garcia was born on January 9, 1914 in Jalisco, Mexico. She married her lifelong love, Santos Garcia who passed away at the age of 101 in 2008. In 1960, she and her children immigrated to the Imperial Valley to join her husband and six years later moved to Santa Maria. Without any formal education, she raised seven

successful children. Her daughter Martha recalled, "I remember my mom taking care of everything. We would get home from school to find a clean house, dinner prepared, and all the clothing washed. She would never let us do any chores and wanted us only to focus on school work."

"My mother even tended her own garden, providing us with fresh fruits and vegetables."



Maria Garcia

Feliz Cumpleaños, Senora Garcia!

Social Dynamics Carnival Big Success

A live band, games, and raffle prizes were just some highlights of the first LSF **Social Dynamics** Carnival held this past October. Located in Burlingame, CA, Social Dynamics is a center-based program serving adults with severe behavioral challenges.

Planned as an annual event, the Carnival was as much about celebrating the extraordinary participants, family members and program staff as it was about fundraising. Joining in the fun were representatives of allied social service programs.

Several parents spoke publicly about how vital the Social Dynamics program has been in helping their children. Staff members Romerico Mugol, Mary Welch and Rosanna Pamatian were also recognized for their service of 10, 11, and 14 years respectively.



The live music was enjoyed by all!



The raffle drew a great crowd

"I'm very proud of the staff and all their hard work to make the Carnival a success," said Social Dynamics Program Manager Luz Martir. "But I'm not surprised. We have a dedicated group of people who serve an incredible group of participants. The Carnival was truly a labor of love."

Life Steps Mission

Life Steps Foundation, Inc., is a fiscally responsible, culturally competent organization dedicated to meeting the health, psychological, and socioeconomic challenges of people throughout their life span.

A Haunted House

"I guess you can say that Haunted Houses play a role to see how brave you really are," said Kristine Engels CEO of LSF SoCal Adult Services. "Many people were very brave and did just fine at our Haunted House event this year, but we did have someone who screamed all the way through!"



Participants, staff and family members all had a simply ghoulish good time

In its sixth year, staff members from



LSF SoCal Haunted House Cast

this LSF Long Beach Affiliate take pride transforming their offices into a scary Haunted House for their participants, colleagues and family. A month-long endeavor, ideas percolate as staff members look through props and decide on themes.

Many rooms in the Haunted House this year featured famous scary movie imagery. There was a Jason mask room, an Insidious 2 room, and the Ring Room, along with a room of

zombies, a Carnival room, and a room filled with spiders, skeleton heads and scary pumpkins. At the anticipated hour, there were lines of excited people waiting to tour the Haunted House. Many people exited screaming and crying before they finished!



Ghosts awaited your arrival in the "Insidious 2" room

It is a fun night and enjoyed by participants and staff alike. We hope you will visit the Haunted House next year . . . if you are brave enough!

Wells Fargo – Banking with a Heart

The El Segundo Business Banking office of Wells Fargo recently conducted their annual community support campaign and raised funds through a golf tournament and a silent auction. Life Steps Foundation was honored to be named one of the two charities their efforts will support.

Announcing the \$3,000 gift, Victor Castillo, Wells Fargo employee and former Life Steps Foundation board

member remarked, "Each Wells Fargo office decided on which charity they wanted to help this year. I showed them our new LSF video.



It helped inspire my colleagues. I'm delighted to have their support to further our work so that more disabled community

members can receive the tools and support they need to remain independent."

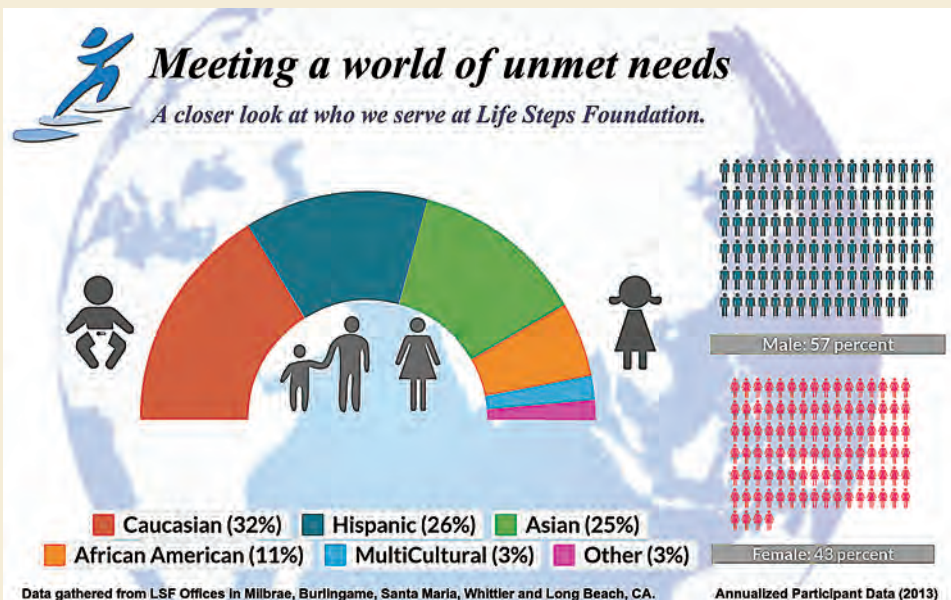
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or call (800) 530-5433
Thank You!

Video



See and share the new LSF video at:
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Order Inspirational Holiday Cards



Celebrate the holiday season by sending cards that show your caring support of children and adults facing the challenges of physical, developmental and mental health disabilities. These beautiful and inspirational cards feature holiday-themed artwork drawn by LSF participants, young and old.

At \$12 a boxed set, each includes 12 different cards, 12 envelopes, and information about the artist on the back. Order your cards online, go to www.lifestepsfoundation.org and click on "Holiday Cards."

Remember to select the specific LSF program you wish to support when you buy your cards online. Or, call any of the offices listed on the right to place an order. Some offices are offering special discounts, please check with your local office to learn more.

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