

STEPPING UP TO CHANGE LIVES CELEBRITY AUTOGRAPHED SHOE AUCTION



October 20 - 24 online on eBay Giving Works! This unique, high profile celebrity shoe auction is a part of Life Steps' annual *Stepping UP to Change Lives Campaign*. Autographed footwear from some of the entertainment and sports world's most popular stars will be up for bidding on eBay. The goal is to help us raise much needed public awareness and funding to continue making life-changing differences for more than 12,000 disabled Californians annually. The five day auction opens at **midnight PDT, Monday, Oct. 20th and ends at 11:59 p.m. PDT on Friday, October 24th**. Our social media promotions are reaching thousands of potential bidders before and during the event. So, mark your smartphone calendars to join in on the online bidding fun!

Bookmark our eBay Store for information and updates at <http://stores.ebay.com/lifestepsfoundationcampaign/>.

SANTA MARIA WISDOM CENTER PARTICIPATES IN CENTRAL COAST 2014 WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S EVENT

On Saturday, September 27th employees of the Santa Maria Wisdom Center (SMWC) joined the California Central Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association in their 2014 Walk to End Alzheimer's. The Wisdom Center had its own booth with materials promoting its services available to those individuals suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

This year, the Alzheimer's Association instituted a "Promise Garden" for participants in the walk. Each registered walker received a wristband that entitled them to receive a Promise Garden Flower. There were four flower colors - blue representing someone with Alzheimer's or dementia; purple for someone who has lost a loved one to the disease; yellow representing a caregiver; and orange for anyone supporting the cause and vision of a world without Alzheimer's disease. Participants then personalized their flowers. As they left for

the walk, volunteers collected them for display in a special area to be viewed upon their return. Our participants Debbie Salazar, SMWC office manager, and Carolyn Beasley, MSW, chose yellow and orange flowers.

By all accounts, the event was a success in raising awareness of both the impact of the disease and local organizations that offer support and services to help people affected by it in the Central Coast communities of California.



THERAPY DOG BRINGS BRIGHT SMILES AND LOVING SOCIAL INTERACTION TO TODDLERS



Recently, our "Wee" Play We Learn Program welcomed Lova, a warm-hearted therapy dog, to spend time with their toddlers experiencing developmental delays. The Wee Play We Learn program is Life Steps Foundation Children and Family Services' day center in Southern California. Lova was trained and brought in by Brendy Chiu, our very own Life Steps-CAFS Infant Division Program Coordinator.

One by one, each child was able to experience the dog up close and had the opportunity to look at her and pet her, something not all of the children had previously done. Some were hesitant, but they warmed up to her with the help of our teachers. Others jumped right in and read stories to her, working on their social interactions skills that we practice every day! As you can see, Lova was very comfortable around the children and enjoyed herself as well!

YOUNG BOY WITH INOPERABLE BRAIN TUMOR GETS HIS BIRTHDAY WISH AND MORE!

On July 24th, teachers at Life Steps Children and Family Services came across an article about a little boy named Danny with an inoperable brain tumor who simply wanted a birthday card for his birthday.

“We explained to the children that we would be making a birthday card for a friend and had them paint a ‘cake’ for their table time,” said one of the instructors. “Not only were the children able to practice sensory processing, color recognition, and fine motor skills for themselves, they were doing it to grant a wish for someone else.”

Danny received Wee Play’s birthday card along with 100,000 more from around the world and excitedly celebrated his 6th birthday! Happy birthday, Danny!



INK DRIES ON LAND CONTRACT FOR LAND PURCHASE

Life Steps Foundation CEO Virginia Franco recently signed the contract to purchase a one acre parcel of land upon which the proposed new Santa Maria Wisdom Center will be built. The proposed facility will be located at 2255 South Depot Street in Santa Maria, California. Architecturally rendered plans were recently submitted to the City of Santa Maria Planning Department for review. It is our hope that the City will approve these plans and that in the not too far off future we will be breaking ground on our beautiful 10,000 square foot home.

The Santa Maria Wisdom Center is a community-based Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) program that provides a variety of health and social services as well as planned therapeutic and rehabilitative activities. It is designed for adults requiring planned activities, supervision, social, and recreational services. It provides much needed respite and the daily supervised care necessary for family caregivers to continue to work and function normally.

The fast changing demographics of Santa Barbara County and its City of Santa Maria have impacted our Center greatly. The 2000 Census indicates that the county was home to 64,922 persons ages 60 and older, with 10,325 of them

residing in the City of Santa Maria and 8,022 others in unincorporated Santa Maria Valley. The 2010 Census showed a 15% jump, with 74,995 persons ages 60 and older residing in Santa Barbara County, 12,723 of them living in the City of Santa Maria.

We are currently licensed to serve 55 medically fragile seniors daily, but are bursting at the seams. We now have a substantial waiting list and many of our current participants are expressing the desire to attend the program on more days weekly. Couple the increased Census statistics above with national statistics showing that 10,000 people a day turn 65 in the United States and one can clearly see the need for our expanded program.

Life Steps’ corporate office, along with Santa Maria Wisdom Center Program Director Linda Gadbois, are preparing a comprehensive capital campaign initiative as the next step in this endeavor. Stay tuned for further updates on this new and exciting project. To learn more, contact Ms. Gadbois at (805) 349-9810.

A PERFECT MIX OF FUN AND FUNDRAISING

On September 13th fun for a good cause was had by all who attended the 4th annual Life Steps Foundation Children and Family Services fundraiser held in the Bay Area community of Millbrae.

The grassroots non-profit event, which took place at the local Millbrae Community Center, raised a record \$10,000 for the Northern California programs of the organization’s Children and Family Services non-profit Affiliate. More than 100 people attended the evening fundraiser, including guests of honor Millbrae Mayor Wayne Lee and several City Council members as well as former S.F. Giants player Mike “Tiny” Felder. Entertainment included music by Glimpse Trio musicians Mike Sopko and Hamir Atwal, a magic act by magician Mike Toy, raffle prizes, a treasure chest game, and a silent auction managed by the Pacific Auction Company.



WELLS FARGO VOLUNTEERS BRING FUN AND FRIENDSHIP TO CLIENTS AT SEASIDE LEARNING CENTER



On September 17th, Life Steps Foundation SoCal Adult Services in Long Beach hosted ten volunteers from the Wells Fargo Bank. The

where the volunteers treated everyone to an ice cream treat of their choice, including banana splits." Five of the other volunteers accompanied four other clients and a staff member to the Shoreline Village for lunch and conversation at a local restaurant overlooking the marina. They rode the city bus part of the way and walked the remainder. Volunteers engaged the clients in conversation, treated them to snacks and dessert.

volunteers spent a half-day engaged in several activities with the clients of our Seaside Learning Center, a day center program for adults with developmental disabilities. To accommodate the large number of clients and volunteers, the Center broke them into three groups. Fun was had by all!

"It was great spending time with the clients and learning about what is going on in their lives," said Volunteer Matthew Fetui, a private banker at Wells Fargo Bank in Rancho Palos Verdes.

A few of the volunteers, clients and staff went on a group picnic at a local beach. "They had their beach picnic in the sunshine and visited with each other," said Robert Turner, program coordinator, LSF SoCal Adult Services. "Afterwards, the group walked along the marina to Shoreline Village,

Other volunteers stayed at the Seaside Learning Center, accompanying the clients as they took part in gardening and card games. All the window boxes in the front of the building were replanted with fresh flowers, and further plantings were made in the sidewalk plot around the tree by the front door. A pizza and chicken wing lunch was ordered for everyone who stayed, followed by card games that were enjoyed by many. Each client got to choose the game they wanted to play when it was their turn to deal.

Our heartfelt thanks to the Wells Fargo Bank volunteers! To learn more about the variety of volunteer opportunities available with the Life Steps Foundation, email development@lifestepsfoundation.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. M.A.!

Our Social Dynamics Program's September "Star of the Month"

"We are proud of M.A. for meeting his target behavior goals for the year due to the rapport he has with his current educator," said Stephen Victoriano, program manager/supervisor, LSF Northern California Adult Services and Social Dynamics program. The Social Dynamics program is a day center for adults with developmental disabilities and behavioral challenges.

According to Victoriano, "M.A. is diagnosed with mild intellectual disabilities, mild hearing loss and a seizure disorder. He is verbal and able to communicate most of his needs and wants. He is very congenial, which is apparent by his friendliness towards staff and peers. He hugs, shakes hands and converses with them on a regular basis."

M.A. spends most of his time out in the community. He volunteers at the YMCA peninsula every Tuesday and Friday, where he folds towels and sheets and greets customers. He likes to read books and he hopes to soon work in a public library. M.A.'s educator is now searching for a public library in which he can volunteer. Hats off to Mr. M.A.!



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LIFE STEPS' LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

OCTOBER 2014

OCTOBER 3rd
SOCIAL DYNAMICS
LIVE BENEFIT CONCERT!
BURLINGAME, CA

October 7th
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ADULT SERVICES
Fall Fling!
Long Beach, CA

October 24th
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
Open House Benefit Party!
Diamond Bar, CA

Learn more at: www.LifeSteps.org/campaign-events



5839 Green Valley Circle, Suite 204, Culver City, CA 90230

STEPPING UP FOR CALIFORNIANS OF ALL AGES WHO LIVE WITH DISABILITIES

From time to time, all of us need help taking some of the more challenging steps in life. At Life Steps, we help those with the greatest challenges by giving them training, skills and confidence to achieve greater independence and realize their personal potentials. In today’s economy, your support is more urgent than ever.

Please consider joining our Life Steps Community with a donation. Visit www.LifeSteps.org and click the “Donate” button today! Your name will be recognized on our Life Changer list of donors. Thank you for your support.



LIFE STEPS FOUNDATION, INC. LSF GROUP LOCATIONS

Life Steps Foundation (Corporate)
5839 Green Valley Circle, Suite 204
Culver City, CA 90230
310-410-8190

LSF Southern California Adult Services (Affiliate)
500 E. 4th Street
Long Beach, CA 90802
562-366-7131

LSF Central California Adult Services (Affiliate)
1431 Pomeroy Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
805-549-0150

LSF Santa Maria Wisdom Center (Business Unit)
1414 N. Broadway, Suite A
Santa Maria, CA 93454
805-349-9810

LSF Northern California Adult Services (Business Unit)
828 C. Mahler Road
Burlingame, CA 94010

LSF Children and Family Services (Affiliate)

1930 Brea Canyon Road, Suite 265
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
562-699-4991

401 Santa Lucia Avenue
Millbrae, CA 94030
650-777-9182

1431 Pomeroy Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
805-242-8147

632 West Avenue, H-8
Lancaster, CA 93420
805-242-8147

632 West Avenue, H-8
Lancaster, CA 93534
661-266-0756

700 Rose Avenue
San Gabriel, CA 91775
626-614-9345



OUR 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. The individuals we serve are impacted by cognitive, developmental or physical disabilities.