

## LSF Children and Family Services: Love and Hope Concert!



Life Steps Foundation Children and Family Services was awarded a \$3,000 donation by the Heartbeat Club. This is Heartbeat Club's second annual Love and Hope Charity Concert in support of our nonprofit organization. The benefit concert was on April 21, 2019 at the Azusa Pacific University. This donation will help us achieve our goal of meeting the unmet needs

for infants and toddlers who have developmental disabilities, are at risk of developmental delays, or have a diagnosis of developmental disabilities. Life Steps wants to thank the advisor and members of the Heartbeat Club for their dedication in making this event possible and helping make a difference in the community.

### We Play We Learn: Graduation

On June 13th, We Play We Learn had their graduation ceremony for the kids leaving us to go on to TK & Kindergarten. In attendance were graduates, parents, current teachers, and friends. Some past teachers also attended the celebration. Before their big day, teachers asked the graduates a few questions like "What do you want to be when you grow up and why?" and "What is your favorite thing about preschool?" As the ceremony started, the graduates marched in wearing their caps and gowns to the graduation song "Pomp & Circumstance." Once seated, the teachers called them one by one and read the students' answers to their questions and then presented them with their diploma. After the ceremony, everyone ate cake and homemade ice-cream and celebrated together!



### Notes of Appreciation from Parents to Staff

- *"Having Ms. Grace W. as our Early Interventionist makes our days more enjoyable as I know my son can learn and grow through the sessions we have."*
- *"Very grateful for Ms. Susan Xie and all the staff. I am very pleased with the service my child has received. His speech and overall development has improved so much since attending Wee Play."*
- *"Ms. Ruby is great! My experience has been great, she truly cares about my daughter and I am always satisfied with her teaching. We are lucky to have her as a teacher. I am sad that our sessions are coming to an end; I am so lucky to have found Wee Play, I would highly recommend it."*
- *"Ms. Maria B. works very well with my two year-old baby boy. She is very patient, she spends time playing and teaching my baby's motor and communication, which has significantly improved in the past two months."*
- *Ms. Triandie calls, send texts, and gives us notes to follow. She has helped us be better parents. Thank You Ms. Triandie!!*

## Life Steps and Community Arts Preschool Share Inclusion Success

On May 11th, Life Steps Children and Family Services in Northern California partnered with the Community Arts Preschool (CAP) to present the workshop Creating a Community That Supports All Learners at the 25th Annual Early Learning Conference presented by CoCo Kids.

A highlight of the event was Mariana Salas, whose child received services through Life Steps. She shared the story of her daughter's early medical challenges, and how home visits and the full inclusion

program at CAP supported their child's development. The audience was touched by her honesty and spirit.

Julie Tadena, a Lead Teacher at CAP, discussed strategies that support inclusion and how to talk with parents about their child's development. Maile Ogasawara, Program Manager from CAP, talked about the City of Walnut Creek Arts+Rec Department's commitment to inclusion and their support of the partnership with Life Steps.

We appreciated this opportunity to discuss the benefits of inclusion with child care providers and early education teachers from Contra Costa County. As we enter into the third year of our partnership with CAP, we look forward to expanding the number of children we support in the preschool classroom, and sharing our experiences with others in our community who also want to provide full inclusion opportunities.

## LSF Northern California Adult Services: Staff Highlight



Mary Welch is an amazing woman who was born and raised in Alabama and is the 10th child out of 14 in her family. Mary was 19 years old when she fell in love and married Richard Welch with whom she had two children. In 1969, Mary moved to San Francisco, California and started working all sort of jobs from a Sewing Technician to being a Bus Driver at Paratransit serving developmentally disabled individuals. Mary learned about Life Steps Foundation's Social Dynamics Day Program working at Paratransit. In April 2002, while Mary was dropping-off participants at the Social Dynamics Day Program, she learned Life Steps was hiring Class B Drivers, so she took her chance and applied for the position. Two weeks later, Mary was employed and became a Class B Driver and Educator for the Social Dynamics Day Program.



That was 17 plus years ago, today Mary still happily works as a part-time Educator. At Social Dynamics, Mary's talent on art work earned her annual awards such as *Best in Cubicle Decoration*, *Haunted House Making Contest* and the *Christmas Lantern Making Contest* to name a few. When asked how she lasted in working at Social Dynamics she answered, "Life Steps has brought joy and happiness in my life. Taking care and interacting with participants and the fulfillment feeling I get from meeting the needs of intellectually disabled people is priceless."

Mary is now enjoying life to the fullest playing with her three grandchildren. When asked until when does she see herself working here at Life Steps, she just bursted into laughter and said: "Forever!"





## 4th Annual 7k Fun Run Event is Here!

Our 4th Annual 7K Fun Run: in memory of Kevin Hendrickson benefit event is here! This year we are adding a theme to our run: Be a Superhero! Come dress in your finest masks and costumes and be ready to celebrate with us! The fun run will take place Saturday, October 5 from 8:30 am – 12 pm at Lake Merced in San Francisco. We hope you can join us! For more information visit [lifesteps.org/4thfunrun](http://lifesteps.org/4thfunrun).

## LSF Central Coast Adult Services: Spring Picnic

LSF Central Coast Adult Service had some fun in the sun with their individuals during our Spring Picnic. The individuals ate a traditional picnic meal of sandwiches, chips, watermelon, and potato salad with lemonade. Staff assisted individuals with playing backyard games and making art projects all while hanging out, listening to music, and enjoying each other's company. Everyone had a wonderful time and looked forward to taking their art project home to display.



## Senior Homemaker Services: Spotlight!

John, a 102 year-old senior, states how blessed he is to have the Homemaker program service. Without Life Steps, John says he would not be able to live in a clean environment. He also loves the fact that he receives a weekly visitor to share his activities as our seniors don't get much companionship in their daily lives. John still plays the piano and loves to go out into the community to share his passion of music. John is able to stay strong as he has services that prevent falls and sickness by keeping his house clean, orderly and free of clutter.



## LSF Santa Maria Wisdom Center: New Plaque!



Our plaque dedicated to the Home Depot Foundation has been printed and installed! Santa Maria Wisdom Center dedicated their beautiful patio to the Home Depot Foundation in thanks for their extreme generosity in donating the furniture and needed items for the facility. The new Center is furnished with new equipment that provides better accessibility for its participants. The plaque is placed in the midst of the Center's growing garden. The participants are enjoying the lovely new view of the garden and sunshine from wrought iron chairs and umbrellas patio tables. For more information about the Wisdom Center and its services, please call us at (805) 354-5320.

## LIFE STEPS LOCATIONS

Life Steps Foundation (HQ)  
5757 West Century Blvd., Suite 880  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
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LSF Central Coast Adult Services  
(Program Site)  
1431 Pomeroy Road  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
(805) 549-0150

LSF Northern California Adult Services  
(Program Site)  
828 C. Mahler Road  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
(650) 259-1808

LSF Santa Maria Wisdom Center  
(Program Site)  
2255 S. Depot Street  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
(805) 354-5320

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

LSF Children and Family Services  
(Affiliate)  
1930 Brea Canyon Road, Ste. 265  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765  
(562) 699-4991

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

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

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

830 Rosita Road  
Pacifica, CA 94044  
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From time to time, all of us need help taking some of the more challenging steps in life. At Life Steps Foundation, we help those with the greatest challenges by giving them training, skills, and confidence to achieve greater independence and realize their personal potential. 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](http://www.lifesteps.org) and click the "Donate" button today!

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