

LSF Santa Maria Wisdom Center: Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!

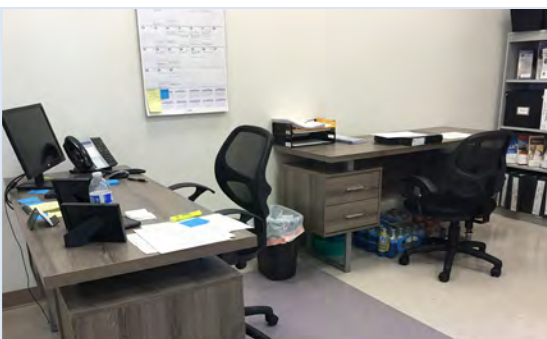
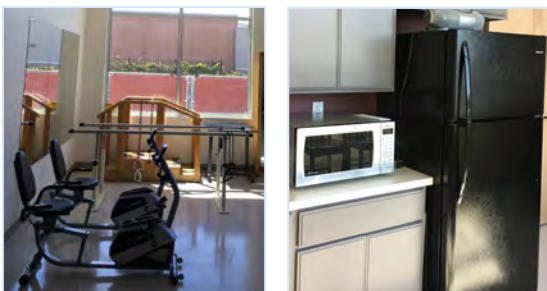


Photos courtesy of Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce & Life Steps Foundation.

Santa Maria Wisdom Center had their Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the completion of the building on February 28, 2019. Our special guest speakers for the event were Santa Maria Mayor Alice Patino and Councilmember Etta Waterfield. In addition to our speakers, Leigh Collier, a District Representative for Assemblyman Cunningham attended and presented a certificate to the Wisdom Center for the work they provide in the community.

We are grateful to the following donors for contributing to the Santa Maria Wisdom Center Capital Campaign: City of Santa Maria, Edwin and Jeanne Woods Family Foundation, Williams-Corbett Foundation, The Home Depot Foundation, ALTRUSA International Golden Valley Foundation, and Rotary Club of Santa Maria Breakfast. Program and equipment support was provided by: Caltrans, Roy and Ida Eagle Foundation, Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation, ALTRUSA Club of the Central Coast Foundation, Target Corporation, and Idler's Home. Additional support was provided by: Hutton Parker Foundation. We also want to thank our program participants and their families, community members, and businesses that attended this important event.

Our new Center is now furnished with new equipment and furniture and provides more accessibility for our participants. We even have a growing garden our participants can enjoy as summer approaches. **For more information** about our Center and services, please call us at (805) 354-5320.



LSF Northern California Adult Services: Thank You Mills Peninsula & Sutter Health Medical Centers



In the picture from Left to Right: Stephen Victoriano, Life Steps Foundation NorCal Adult Services Program Manager; Susan Chang, Life Steps Foundation CEO; Kayla Gupta, South Bay Community Health Coordinator; Bindi Gandhi, South Bay Community Health Manager; and Doug Rimerman, Life Steps Foundation Development Director.

Life Steps Foundation Northern California Adult Services would like to thank Mills Peninsula & Sutter Health Medical Center's Community Benefit Team for awarding a \$10,000 grant to the Social Dynamics day program project "Looking to the Future: Believe & Achieve." This grant will help us achieve our goal of replacing maladaptive behaviors by teaching participants appropriate ways to communicate their needs. Our objective includes improving socialization, life skills, and vocational skills for the individuals we serve with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Life Steps would also like to thank Kayla Gupta, Health Coordinator for South Bay, and Bindi Gandhi, Community Health Manager of South Bay Community Health Programs, for their support and assistance during the application process. With this grant, we will be able to purchase additional activity materials, program equipment and electronic devices that will enhance our day program. We strive to be the trendsetters in the Bay Area to reach our ultimate goal of becoming the best service provider in California!

LSF Southern California Adult Services: Giving Back to the Community

LSF SoCal Adult Services' Seaside Learning Center is a community-minded program. Our participants are able to experience local parks, neighborhood restaurants and cafes, cultural centers and museums. However, the focus is not always on what the Seaside Learning Center can do for the individuals we serve but also how we can contribute to the community. On Fridays twice a month, we partner with Meals on Wheels to deliver food to the elderly and disabled individuals in our own neighborhood. Our participants love to meet the people they deliver food to, always offering a hot meal with a smile and a greeting. At times we are the only people they

see on that day. This community excursion is very gratifying to the program individuals that take part, and there is always a long list of participants that want to go.

In April, we had another opportunity to give back to the community. For several years, we have provided Easter baskets to a local church that delivers them to deserving children. The church delivers several thousand Easter baskets across Long Beach. This year the Seaside Learning Center decided to also give Easter baskets to the children of Life Steps Foundation program individuals that might not otherwise get them from their families. Our participants signed up for excursions to local stores and—



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—decided on the content of the baskets, picking out candy, chocolate bunnies, stuffed animals, coloring books, the baskets and everything else they need to make the baskets complete. At the Center, participants designed the baskets and wrapped them up with cellophane and a bow. This year we were able to give baskets to both children of Life Steps participants and to a church charity.

LSF Children and Family Services: Spring Activities



We Play We Learn kicked off the New Year by helping get our community garden ready for Spring planting. We learned about gardening through books and Teacher Ann, who taught us some sign language for the kinds of fruits and vegetables we could plant. The children also removed weeds, made compost, spread wood chips, and plowed the soil to prepare for planting. We always love going to the garden, helping Teacher Ann, and getting to harvest and eat the food we grow.

In March, we had Magic Dan return to WPWL for another wonderful magic show. He was entertaining and very interactive with the students. He asked students to be his magician's assistant to keep them excited. Everyone adored the show!

LSF Children and Family Services: Participant Spotlight

Caleb is a quiet and cautious boy who takes time to observe others before he interacts and builds a closer relationship with them. He is easily frustrated when things are out of his control or when he feels uncomfortable. Caleb will take a hit on his head, slap an adult on the face and pinch an adult on the hand, launch himself backwards and hit the ground, or cry aloud and seek his parent for comfort and to express his emotions and tantrums. After receiving intervention services, he has learned how

to take reciprocal action and play with people, use more vocabulary words to indicate his needs and have better control in self-regulation to respond to ongoing commands. He opens himself up more in group activities and enjoys meeting up with other children and family friends. He is like sunshine for people who are around him and likes to help his family and friends when they are needed.

A Note of Appreciation from Caleb's Parents:

First of all, we want to say "Thank You" for coming over to our house to help Caleb improve his speech and language development. We really appreciate everything you have been doing with him. We enjoy your time here with Caleb a lot. He is blessed with a good interventionist. Thank you!



LIFE STEPS LOCATIONS

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

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

LSF Northern California Adult Services
(Program Site)
828 C. Mahler Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
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LSF Children and Family Services
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1930 Brea Canyon Road, Ste. 265
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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 and click the "Donate" button today!

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