



# 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Connect • Support • Educate

[www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org)



# Our Message

This year, PACE celebrates 30 years of serving the needs of individuals and their families whose lives are affected by autism. In 1989, the agency was founded by group of parents who recognized that traditional education systems lacked appropriate care and infrastructure for their children with special needs. They came together as a community to build PACE with the mission to provide high quality programs for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities. Their work grew to serve hundreds of families throughout the Bay Area. Today, we continue the founders' mission with a renewed focus on fortifying the educational training and direct support of our local community. As we look forward to the next 30 years, we seek to build out a network of neighborhood centers enabling PACE to become even more engaged and responsive to the hands-on needs of the communities we serve.

Thirty years ago, our founding parents came together to develop an innovative solution to meet the needs of their children with autism. With your support, in the years ahead, we will continue to strengthen our supportive community and focus on our mission to enhance the lives of people impacted by autism through innovation, exceptional education, and compassionate care.

Sincerely,



Kurt Ohlfs, PACE Executive Director

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# Our Mission

To enhance the lives of people impacted by autism, through innovation, exceptional education, and compassionate care

# Our Vision

A world in which people of all abilities live fulfilled lives.





# About us

Founded in 1989, Pacific Autism Center for Education provides high-quality programs for children and adults with moderate-to-severe autism. PACE's vision is a world in which people of all abilities live fulfilled lives. Our comprehensive services include the PACE School serving students ages 6-22, Sunny Days Preschool, an inclusive early intervention program, PACE Residential Group Homes, Faces Behavioral Services, and Porchlight Autism Education Series, our free online eLearning resource.

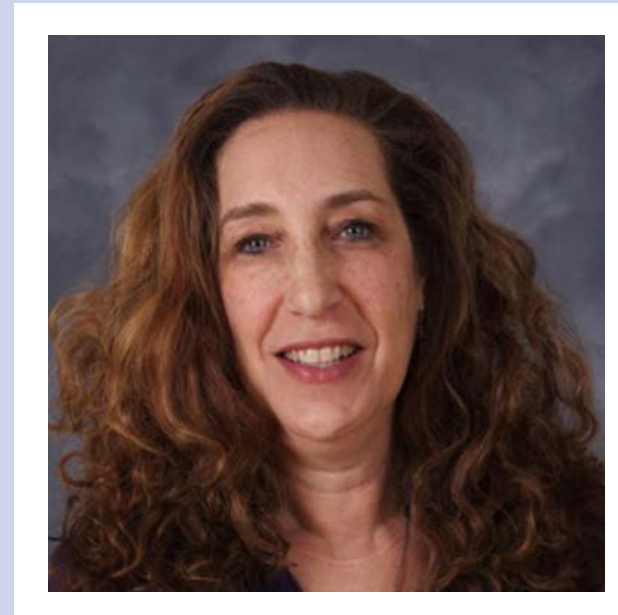
At PACE, we strive to connect, support, and educate individuals with autism. PACE teaches social and communication skills in order for our clients to experience the satisfaction and fulfillment that accompany learning, self-expression, self-care, productive work, and community experiences. The heart of the PACE model is for everyone to have the ability to *Communicate, Regulate, and Relate*.



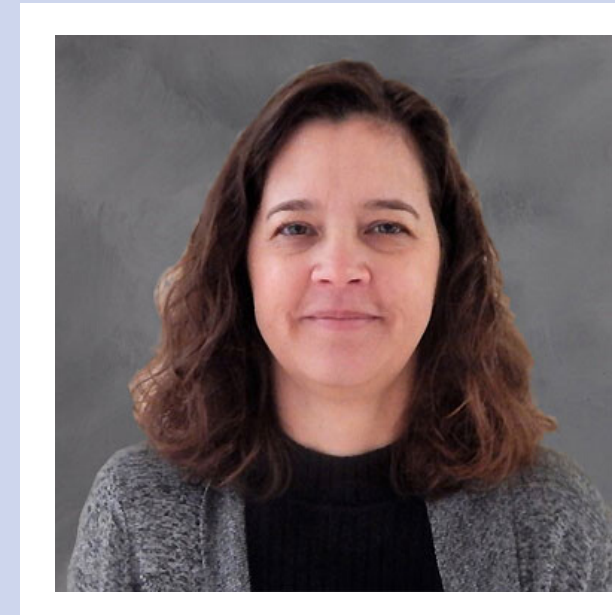
# Our Leadership Team



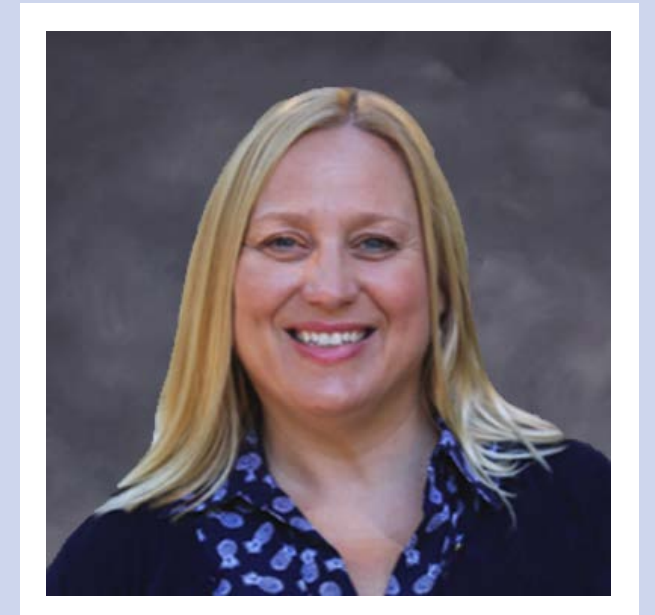
Kurt Ohlfs  
Executive Director



Karen Kennan  
Assistant Executive  
Director



Karyn Caradonna  
Director of Human  
Resources



Sadie Randle  
School Director

**160**  
Teachers,  
Therapists,  
Support Aides

**11**  
Administrative  
Staff

**90+**  
Volunteers

# Board of Directors



**Tom McGovern,  
President**



**Dave Setti,  
Vice President**



**Debbie McCarroll,  
Treasurer**

Kurt Ohlfs, Secretary (non-voting)

Paul Lacy

Jeff Fallick

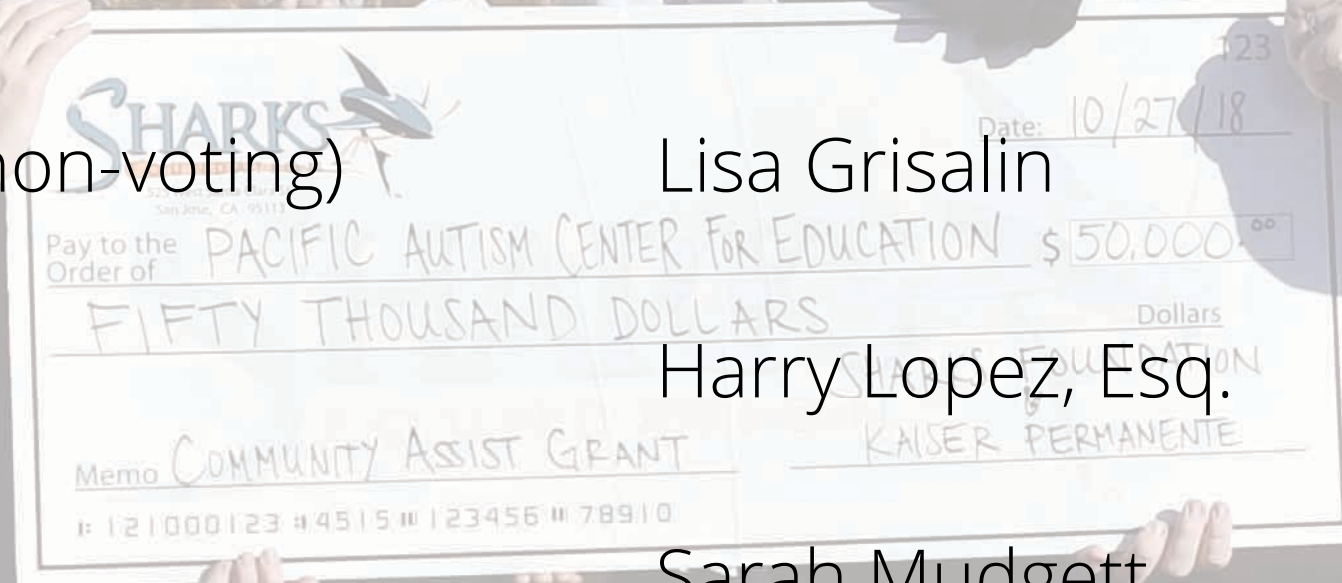
Mark Gilfix

Lisa Grisalin

Harry Lopez, Esq.

Sarah Mudgett

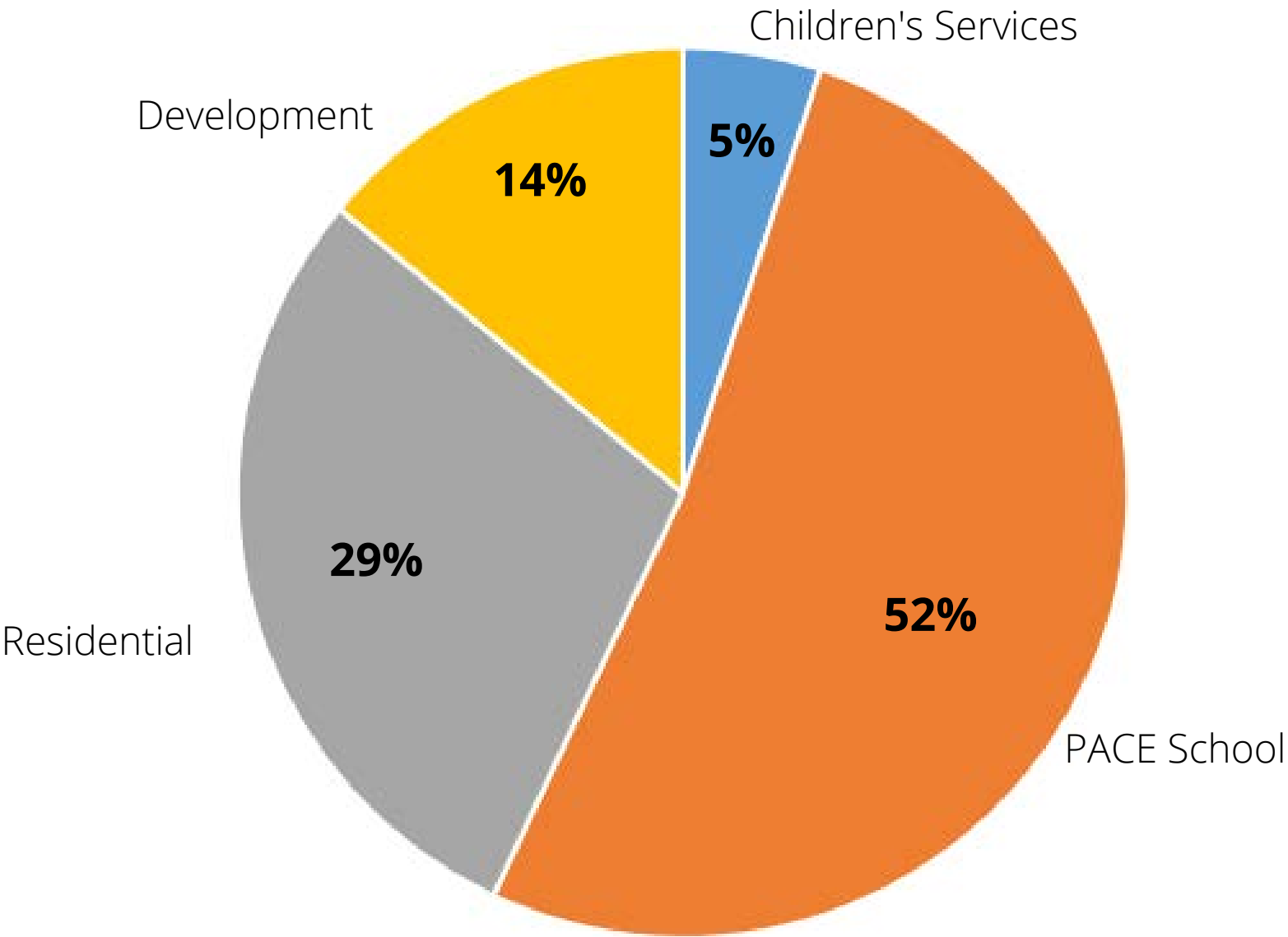
Mark Peper



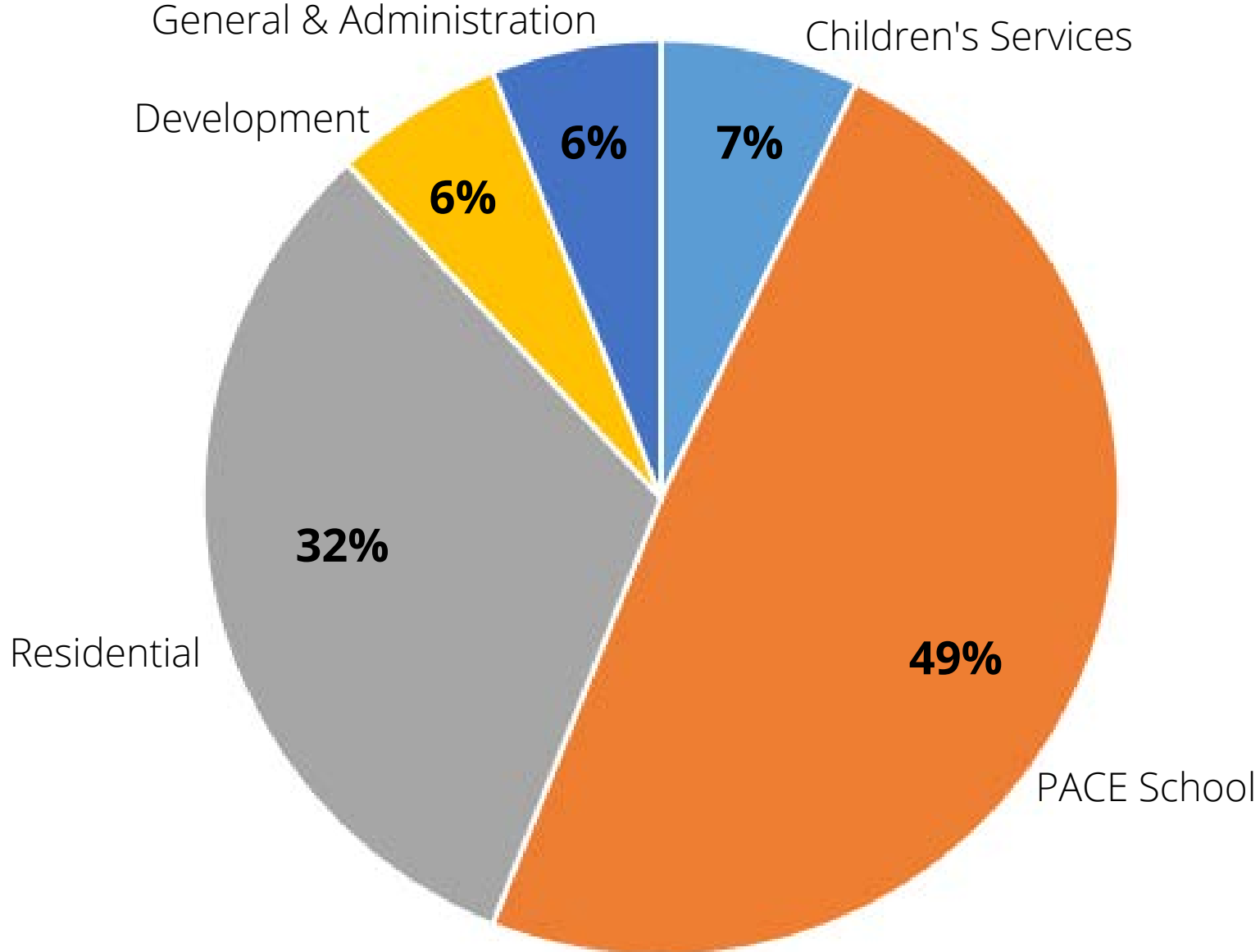
**Make an impact.**  
Contact (408) 625-6174 to get involved and support PACE.

# 2018-2019 Revenue & Expense

**REVENUE \$10.9M**



**EXPENSE \$10.2M**



Please consider donating to PACE and supporting our programs!  
[www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org) OR  
contact our Development staff at (408) 625-6174



# Celebrating 30 Years of Service

This year, PACE celebrates 30 years of service to individuals with autism and their families. PACE's team of teachers, instructional aides, direct support professionals, and therapists work tirelessly and compassionately. They have profoundly impacted the lives of hundreds of children and adults with moderate-to-severe autism. One staff member, in particular, Kaberi, has been a role model for compassion and advocacy for students at PACE. Kaberi has been with the agency for almost 11 years and is now one of the PACE School's Mentor Teachers. Her unwavering commitment, energy, and love for her students is an inspiration to us all.

Kaberi says, "Every student who I have taught at PACE has a very special place in my life. I still recall a particular student who I nicknamed, 'Ms. Sunshine,' because of her beautiful smile that would light up her face as soon as she saw me. When she started at PACE, she relied on a wheelchair, had vision impairment, and was prone to frequent seizures that affected her physical and cognitive skills. It became my goal to work with her therapists and support team to improve her strength, balance, and mobility. I wanted her to be able to walk independently to receive her diploma at her future graduation ceremony.

I grew immensely as her teacher. I learned about gait belts that help with mobility. I learned how to make instructional materials conducive to her learning by collaborating with her vision teacher. I learned to make Social Stories using an app on her iPad to provide better structure and guidance. I learned how to differentiate instructional materials so that she could comprehend them with better ease. I learned how to help her navigate her environment (both in her wheelchair and while walking) so that she could be more aware of her surroundings when her vision made it difficult to do so. I will always remember her indomitable courage and tenacity. After several years of work, she began to take daily walks around the PACE School, greeting everyone. She went on more field trips. When Graduation Day came, she was able to walk to the front of the room and receive her diploma in front of her family, friends and staff. It was my greatest joy to see her graduate and to see how far she had come. She overcame many obstacles and made incredible progress at PACE. Our students are beautiful and unique, and I'm proud of each and every one of them."





**2018-2019**

**The PACE School  
served  
55 students from  
23 school  
districts**



**PACE School™**

**Non-Public  
Special Education**

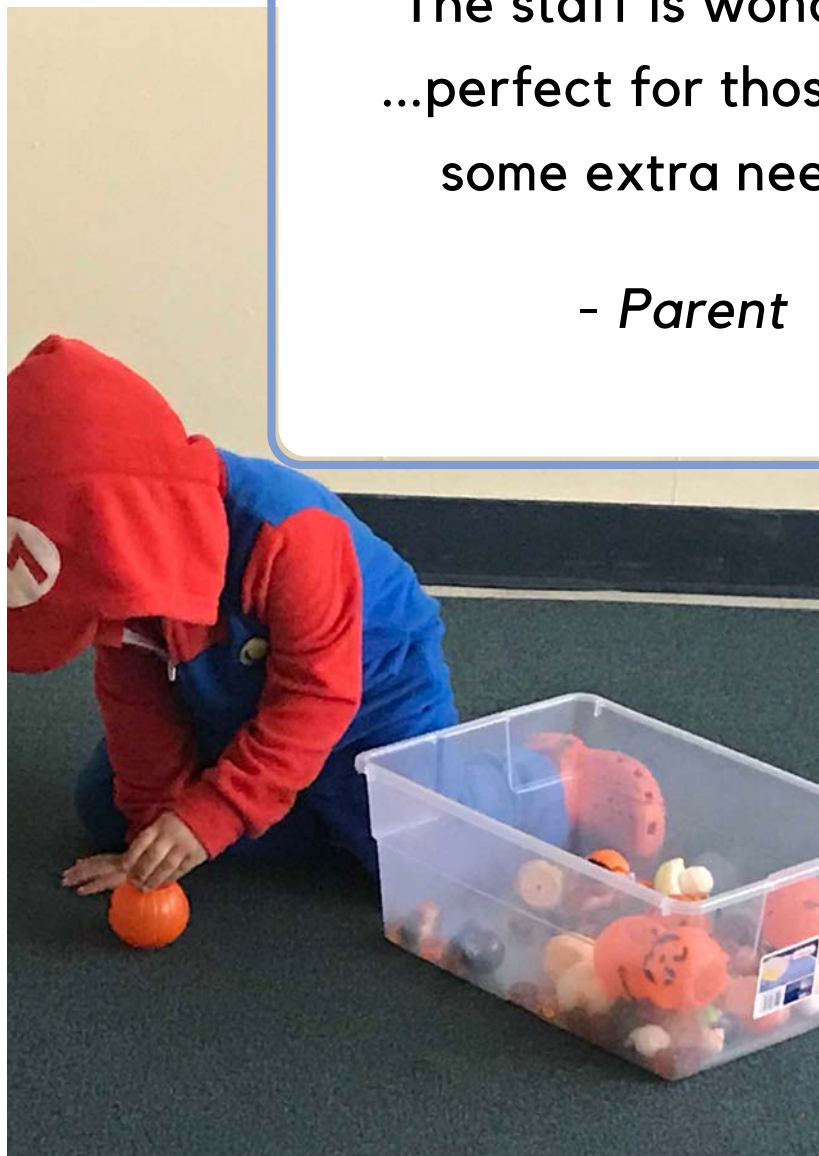
The **PACE School** is a non-public school, certified by the California Department of Education and accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. PACE School serves students ages 6-22 who live with moderate to severe autism, with a specific emphasis on non-verbal students and those with especially challenging behaviors and communication disorders.

At the heart of the PACE educational model is our vision for every student to develop the ability to self-regulate, to relate, and to communicate. Our module, teaches age-appropriate skills and bases instruction on the systematic evaluation of students' progress. This teaching philosophy is focused on long-term, post-secondary success of each student.



"My son attends the Sunny Days  
Days Preschool program- an  
inclusive program that  
serves kids 3-6 years old on  
or off the [autism spectrum].  
The staff is wonderful  
...perfect for those with  
some extra needs."

- Parent



Sunny Days  
PRESCHOOL

Serving San Jose since 2005, Sunny Days Preschool is a certified Non Public School (NPS) and a California licensed Child Care Center (CCL). Sunny Days offers a half day morning preschool program for children ages 2.5 to 6 years old. Sunny Days supports children on the autism spectrum and those needing a little extra support in a responsive, developmentally appropriate program.

**Total Enrolled in 2018-2019: 15**



# Residential™

## Group Home Services

PACE owns and operates two children's homes and four adult group homes licensed to serve residents from 6 to 59 years of age. PACE offers services and activities that give these individuals opportunities to live productive lives within the community. Programs include personal management, community participation, and recreation/leisure activities.

Our homelike, family environment provides a comfortable setting for our residents, enabling them to develop daily living skills and to lead more independent and productive lives built on the foundation of personal choice and independent decision-making.

**2018-2019 Residents Served: 36**



*Thank you to the Cupertino Rotary, Rebuilding Together Silicon Valley, and Our City Forest!*

**In March 2019, over 70 volunteers came together to help with home repairs and landscaping at two PACE group homes.**





# Faces

BEHAVIORAL SERVICES  
FOR CHILDREN

**Faces**, a behavioral therapy program founded in 1995, was established to help children with autism ages 18 months to 14 years reach their full potential utilizing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).

Behavior therapy services include 1:1 intensive early intervention, elementary aged intervention, school and caregiver coaching, and social development. Therapy can take place in the home, in the community, or the Faces clinic located on the Sunny Days Preschool campus.

## Total Clients Served in 2018-2019: 33

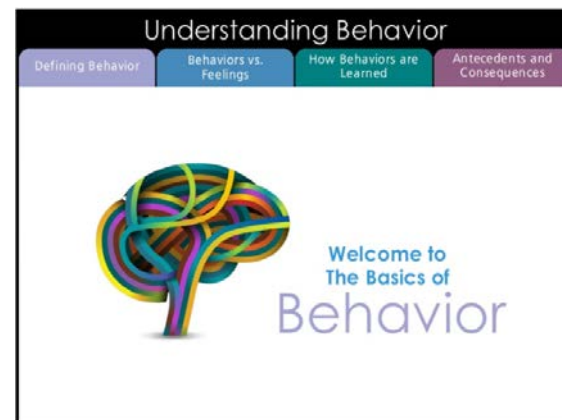
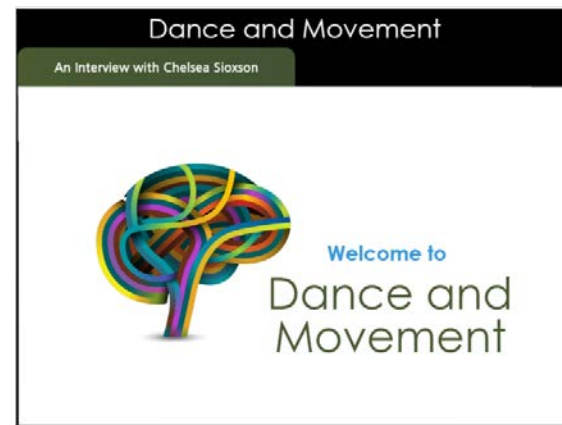
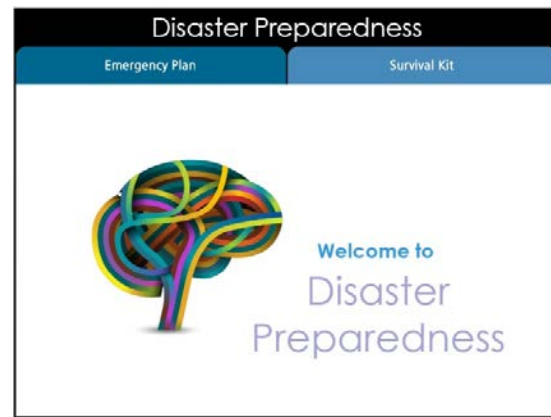
Our BCBA's provided **117 hours** of Caregiver Coaching

Our Behavior Therapists received **814.25 hours** of supervision

"Faces is amazing, not only has our daughter thrived since she started the program, she lights up whenever she sees the staff. We are so thankful for all the love and support Faces has given to us. The success and amount of progress our daughter has made since starting the program is a dream come true."

- Parent

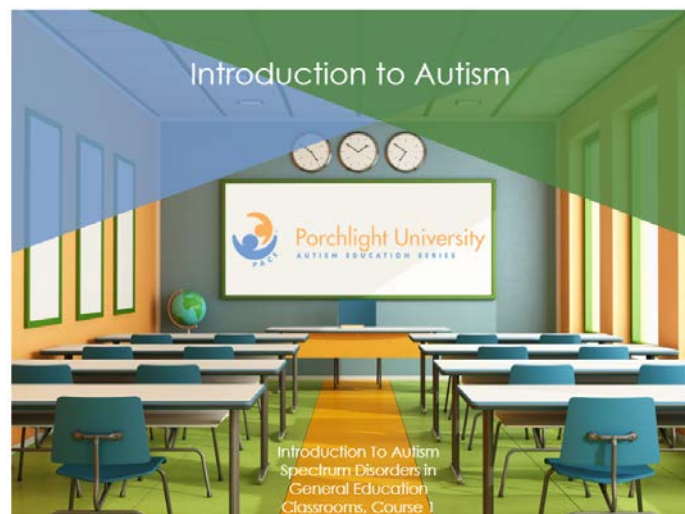




**Porchlight**  
AUTISM EDUCATION SERIES

The Porchlight Autism Education Series is a free eLearning program with over 50 modules designed to offer behavioral solutions to common daily challenges. Porchlight continues to be a strategic focus for Pacific Autism Center for Education to serve a global audience. Porchlight developments are funded with private contributions that support our global outreach.

In 2020, we are excited to launch our expansion of Porchlight Education: **Porchlight University**. This will be a resource to teachers and para-educators who work primarily with typically developing students on how to better facilitate learning for students on the autism spectrum who are integrated into their classroom.



Porchlight University is partially funded thanks to the generosity of:



**HEART OF HEFFERNAN**  
Working Together . Inspiring Change . Improving Lives . Bridging Gaps



Learn more at [www.porchlighteducation.org](http://www.porchlighteducation.org)

# 2018-2019 Events

Inspiring volunteerism and fund raising for PACE

Thank you to all of our volunteers and donors who made our 2018-2019 events successful. Your support is appreciated beyond measure! Your contributions keep programs alive for our students, residents, clients, and our online community.

**9.28.18** 10th Annual PACE Golf Classic

**4.6.19** 5th Annual Voices for Autism Benefit Concert

**4.28.19** PACE Donor Social

**5.28.19** Bay Area Real Estate Roundtable

**Support PACE!** Contact our Development team to learn more about volunteer or sponsorship opportunities for future events at (408) 625-6174.



# Corporate Supporters





# Corporate Supporters



For a full list of all corporate supporters, grantors, and matching gift corporations, please visit our website [www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org). Our best effort was made to include all corporate donors \$500+. We apologize if inadvertently donors were omitted.

# Sharks Foundation + Kaiser Permanente Bike Build

In October 2019, PACE was awarded a \$50,000 Community Assist Grant from the Sharks Foundation and Kaiser Permanente. The grant provided 12 adaptive bicycles, new bike garage, revitalized bike track and landscaping. Volunteers from the two organizations came together to repaint an existing bike track, install new landscaping, and work on other revitalization projects at the location. The garage and equipment will provide a safe and active space for the school's 50+ students year round.

***A huge thank you to:***

**The Sharks Foundation**  
**Kaiser Permanente**  
**Chuck's Home Repairs**  
**Fit and Fun Playscapes**  
**Nelson Painting**  
**Rifton Bikes**  
**Sherwin Williams**  
**T.W. Painting**



# Our Supporters - *Thank you!*

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*"I am an eleven-year-old with high functioning autism. Recently my parents encouraged me to donate money to a few charities of my choice. It was a little bit difficult to choose because there are so many charities that I could give to that have so many great causes. **The reason I gave to PACE is because their goal is to help all autistic people of all ages lead better lives.** I have been very lucky; from a very young age I've got lots of help. But lots of autistic people aren't nearly as lucky as me and therefore don't get the help. That's why I gave money to PACE, so that way they could reach out to more autistic people and give them a brighter future."*

- 11 Year Old Donor

**Thank you** to all of our individual donors for Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019. For a full list of individual supporters, please visit our website [www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org). Our best effort was made to include all donors \$100+. Auction and ticket purchases are not included in this list. We apologize if inadvertently donors were omitted.



**Pacific Autism**  
CENTER FOR EDUCATION

1880 Pruneridge Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050

(408) 245-3400    [www.pacificautism.org](http://www.pacificautism.org)

