



PACE Setter

PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER for EDUCATION
Connect • Support • Educate

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KURT OHLFS

"It is often said that hard times bring out the best in people. Recent economic woes would certainly qualify this year as hard times for Bay Area nonprofits. With funding dropping and the demand for services increasing, many local agencies are struggling to survive. Hard times, indeed. But at PACE, we're finding that the glass is half full, rather than half empty...we are grateful for the support we have received from the many businesses, organizations, and individuals who believe in the work we do at PACE, and who have sustained us over the years. By focusing our mission on connecting and supporting, we are fortunate to have such a remarkable community to help weather this storm."

I wrote this message in the Fall 2009 PACE Setter. Thirteen years later, I can confidently say that we continue to operate with a "glass half full" mindset and find ways to effectively adapt to changing times to meet the needs of the individuals

and families we serve. This is made possible with the support from our donors, grantors, volunteers, families, and community partners.

Community is woven into every fiber at PACE. Together, we grow stronger and more resilient as an agency despite the economic challenges. As we approach the end of the calendar year, our goal for 2023 is to continue to fortify our strong collective community to best support our programs. We invite you to join us on November 29, 2022, for #GivingTuesday, a global celebration of togetherness and philanthropy.

Thank you for supporting our mission,



KURT OHLFS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PACE EVENTS

Melissa Watkins,
Marketing and Development Manager

Nonprofits rely on fundraising events to raise both essential capital to support their mission and to bring awareness to their cause and the community in which they serve. At PACE, we are fortunate to have two annual events that raise critical funds for our programs, and champion awareness of autism and neurodiversity.



In May of 2022, the Bay Area Real Estate Roundtable made a triumphant return to the Half Moon Bay Ritz Carlton for its first in-person event since 2019. For over 15 years, BARER has raised significant funds for PACE programs (historically accounting for over 50% of PACE's Annual Fund). The event brings over 200 attendees from the Bay Area and across the US to support PACE and to bring awareness of autism to the real estate world. This year, the event raised over **\$500,000** for PACE services and featured guest speaker Alex Smith, former quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers.

The 14th Annual PACE Golf Classic was held on September 16, 2022, at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club in San Jose, CA. With 132 golfers in attendance and over \$94,000 raised for PACE, this was one of the most successful PACE Golf Classics in its 14-year history. Funds raised will support a variety of facility enhancement projects for the PACE Residential program. The PACE Golf Classic began in 2008, spearheaded by former PACE Board President Joe Dermer, and the Dermer family. Joe and the Dermer family continue to be make the PACE Golf Classic a successful PACE tradition, and we are grateful for their longstanding support of PACE.



We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the tremendous generosity of our BARER and Golf Classic communities. Thank you to the sponsors, donors, attendees, golfers, vendors, volunteers, and staff for supporting PACE's mission year after year. To learn about upcoming PACE events, visit us at pacificautism.org events.

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PACE YOUTH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE BEGINS NEW SEASON

Christina Polyanko,
Marketing and Development
Associate

In the summer of 2022, we welcomed 18 students from 14 schools to the Youth Leadership Committee. This makes the largest YLC cohort in the last two years since the COVID-19 pandemic. We are looking forward to an exciting season, full of fundraising ideas from members with various volunteering backgrounds. Ria Narang, a senior at Cupertino High School, is the 2022-2023 YLC President and in her role, she looks forward to connecting with members with in-person meetings and brainstorming sessions. Ria has been a member of the YLC since her freshman year of high school. Reflecting on her experience, she realized how much physical distance impacted the dynamic with YLC members and the challenges it brought to collaborating. In 2020-2021, due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, YLC members met over Zoom once a month to discuss funding and community outreach plans.

In the new YLC cohort, we have students from The Harker School, Saratoga High School, Monte Vista High School, and Bellarmine Preparatory College, all with eclectic volunteer backgrounds. Wesley, a junior at Mountain View

High School, is also the President of the Animal Assisted Happiness club and Treasurer of the Spartan Buddies Club. Both organizations strive to spread awareness and raise funds for individuals with special needs. As a passionate and enthusiastic leader, Welsey hopes to bring his leadership skills and volunteer experience to support the YLC and PACE on various projects, such as creating art for an auctionable event.

Jason, also a student at Mountain View High School, has volunteered with Friends of Children with Special Needs, leading camps, concerts, and tutoring individuals in music. He is looking forward to performing in our annual "Voices for Autism" benefit concert with his guitar and recruiting fellow musicians to join his efforts.

Ella, a student at The Harker School, says,

"Being part of the YLC means having an opportunity to collaborate with others and contribute to changes in the community, even as just a high schooler."

Leadership plays an important role for members of the YLC and Shivani is eager to dive into the position. As a senior at Basis Independent Silicon Valley, Shivani is working on AI (Artificial Intelligence) research in her AP Seminar class. "In my current Inspirit AI research, I am building an emotion recognition model for children specifically with autism. This software is meant to be applied to social stories so children can watch the social stories and respond to what-if questions, prompting them to understand

appropriate responses to social situations." She also works with special education students at Kumon Learning as a tutor. "I love my job and interacting with all the children; it truly is one of my favorite parts of the week."

We are fortunate to have a strong, enthusiastic group of high school volunteers who are dedicated to making a difference in the ASD community. Keep an eye out for future fundraising events! **In April 2023, the PACE Youth Leadership Committee will celebrate Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month with our annual "Voices for Autism" event. Stay tuned for more details!** Follow us on social media or www.pacificautism.org for the most up-to-date news and information.

In November 2022, YLC President, Ria will be recognized as a Distinguished Volunteer at the 2022 Association of Fundraising Professional's Silicon Valley Philanthropy Day. Ria will be part of a group of volunteers and philanthropists who are celebrated for their dedicated and tireless efforts on behalf of the organizations they serve. Congratulations, Ria! Thank you for supporting PACE's mission.



PACE's New Board President: Sarah Mudgett

Christina Polyanko,
Marketing and Development Associate



In June 2022, PACE announced its new President of the Board of Directors, Sarah Mudgett. Sarah has served on the Board of Directors since 2014. Her strong leadership background, coupled with her passion for volunteerism, has made a noticeable impact at PACE. We are grateful for Sarah's dedication for supporting PACE's mission and our community.

Tell us a little about yourself and how you became involved at PACE:

I have been a volunteer at PACE since 2014. I originally was connected to PACE since my nephew was a student at the Sunny Days Preschool. I focus on fundraising for PACE and as of June 2022, I am the Board President. Outside of PACE, I work full time in healthcare technology sales and I am married to Neal, my husband of 7 years, and we have two children.

What does volunteering mean to you?

It means giving back to those who need it the most. I truly believe PACE is a wonderful place and can be critical in helping those families that might feel helpless. I have personally seen how having a autistic child can be stressful not only on the child, but the entire family unit. Being part of an organization that cares about students and their families is so rewarding.

What makes our organization's mission powerful for you?

I love that our mission encompasses three key areas. Our main focus is to serve those impacted by autism, which includes the entire family. It is critical to innovate and keep up with the changing and dynamic environment that affects everyone with a disabled family member. At the same time, it is important to provide a safe and caring environment for our students to learn.

What is something that you look forward to most about being the Board President?

I look forward to supporting the amazing team at PACE. We have such a wonderful and caring environment at PACE and it such a joy to see. I hope to see more parent involvement at events that support PACE and want those families to know that they are always our number one priority.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES NEWS

Karen Kennan,
Assistant Executive Director



Sunny Days
PRESCHOOL

Sunny Days Preschool welcomes Maddi Fraser!

Sunny Days Preschool is thrilled to introduce you to, and welcome, Maddi Fraser to PACE. Maddi is the new Sunny Days Preschool front desk receptionist. Please join us in welcoming Maddi to our team!

"Hi, everyone! My name is Maddi. I have a background in early education and sales. I'm very happy to be back on the education side! I recently moved to the Bay Area. I'm originally from a small town in northern Minnesota, but have lived in many places since then. I love road trips, travel, hockey, cooking, and spending time with my family. I'm very happy to be at PACE!"

Hands On Bay Area Revitalizes Sunny Days Preschool Campus

On June 30th, 2022, HandsOn Bay Area, a San Francisco-based nonprofit, coordinated 20 volunteers from a top corporation to help revamp the Sunny Days campus with various projects. The

volunteers spent the afternoon giving the classroom doors a fresh coat of paint and turned old planter boxes into new benches for students and staff to enjoy when outside. For the Sunny Days and Faces staff, converting the planter boxes into functional and safe benches for students and clients had been a "wish list" project for months. Students may now use the benches to explore and navigate the outdoor space. Thank you to the volunteers for their time, talents, and handywork to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.



ASK A THERAPIST

Jennie Brevik, RBT
Faces Behavioral Services

Q: How can I prepare my child for the holiday season?

A: The holidays are a time to decorate and celebrate with our loved ones. Here are some tips on how to successfully manage the holidays with your child:

The days leading up to the holidays can be filled with excitement. Prepare your child for the holidays using these tips:

- Talk to your BCBA or teacher about creating a social story about what activities occur during the holidays
- Read books about holidays
- Mark important dates such as holidays or family gatherings on a calendar for your child to see. Discuss what will be occurring and who they will be seeing

Decorations: Decorating your house can mark the beginning of the holiday season, however, a rapid, unexpected change to your child's environment can cause an increase in challenging behaviors. Here are tips to prepare your child for the decoration process:

- Slowly add decorations around your home to help your child become familiar with the new additions
- Create a visual schedule to show your child when decorations are added to their environment
- Have your child be part of the decoration process! Utilize sensory friendly decorations such as lights, textures, and bells that can make the decorations more interactive

- When taking down decorations, use the same tips listed to manage the return to your home's typical environment

Family and Friends: The holidays are a time for us to gather with our friends and family that we may not see frequently. Here are some tips to manage these gatherings:

- Create a photo album and use it to talk about the people your child will be seeing
- Bring headphones or designate a safe, quiet space for your child if they become uncomfortable with noise
- Enjoy visiting with family and friends! Prior to the event, work with your child's caregivers to create a schedule to determine times where you will be caring for your child and times you can spend with your loved ones

Gifts: Gift giving and receiving is an activity that many enjoy during the holidays. Here's how you can manage the gift giving and receiving process:

- Practice opening gifts with your child. This can be done by modeling how to open a present. If your child is comfortable with handing presents to others, practice this with them as well!
- Practice saying "thank you" when receiving and after opening gifts

If you have any questions or concerns about how to manage the holidays, reach out to your child's teacher or BCBA. Have a happy holiday season! For additional resources, visit us at www.pacificautism.org.



Faces
BEHAVIORAL SERVICES
FOR CHILDREN

ABA FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

EFFECTIVE, MEANINGFUL, AND REALISTIC WAYS OF IMPLEMENTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOR CHANGE FOR YOUR CHILD!



GROUP CLASS (6 SESSIONS)

Let's work together to create meaningful behavior change! Join our group class and learn how the science of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) can benefit your child. Our classes are designed for parents and caregivers of children with autism, as well as children who engage in challenging or disruptive behaviors. Classes will be facilitated by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

In-person and virtual classes available

COST:

\$240/individual
\$360/couple

WHEN:

More information
coming in January 2023

TOPICS INCLUDE:



- Behavior Triggers and Consequences
- Types and Methods of Reinforcement
- Teaching New Skills
- Increasing Desired Behaviors
- Decreasing Undesired Behaviors
- Encouraging Communication



Founded in 1995, Faces' mission is to enable children with autism to reach their full potential using the science of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Services include intensive early intervention, elementary intervention, school and parent consultation, and social development.

For questions, please contact: amelialalley@facesforkids.org

RESIDENTIAL NEWS

Melissa Watkins,
Marketing and Development Manager

Becoming an Eagle Scout through the Boy Scouts of America requires dedication and grit. The Eagle Scout is the highest rank an individual can reach in the BSA program. "In fact, only around 5% of all scouts who join ever reach the Eagle rank. As such, becoming an Eagle Scout is an exceptionally difficult challenge, even for scouts who can complete merit badges and rank requirements quickly!" (scoutsmarts.com). According to Scoutsmarts.com, it takes an individual 4-6 years to become an Eagle Scout. The majority of Boy Scouts join the program between the ages of 10-11, which means they are between 15-17 years old when they complete the Eagle Scout requirements.

To become an Eagle Scout, the candidate must earn specific merit badges and complete a capstone Eagle Scout Service Project. In 2021, Eagle Scout candidate Fauzaan Waqaas approached PACE to complete his Service Project, initially choosing to fix the gutters at Morehouse Group Home for Children. He learned about PACE through his involvement with the Cupertino Rotary, which inspired him to dedicate his capstone project to supporting our mission. Over six months of planning, the project evolved from replacing gutters to enhancing the backyard with a new patch of artificial turf. Fauzaan was methodical and thoughtful throughout the planning process; he researched the design and logistics involved in installing artificial turf. He took careful and detailed

measurements of the backyard and suggested design elements to maximize the space. He connected with local businesses for supplies and materials, and to support funding for the project, he hosted a GoFundMe online fundraiser, raising over \$2,100.

Fauzaan kicked off his project in July 2022. With help from his peers, he spent precious summer weekends removing the overgrown roots and preparing the soil. By August, Fauzaan and his group installed beautiful new artificial turf, giving our active clients a fresh, revitalized space for outdoor activities. Fauzaan's work was truly remarkable, and it will have a lasting impact on the home for years to come. Fauzaan and his team also installed new gutter guards around the home.

We are grateful for community members like Fauzaan, who humbly dedicate their time and talents to support our programs. Thank you to Fauzaan for making a difference in the lives of those we serve.



PACE SCHOOL WELCOMES CADY DRISCOLL

Melissa Watkins,
Marketing and Development Manager

PACE welcomes Cady Driscoll, Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) to the behavioral therapy team at the PACE School, where she joins school BCBA Sarah Devore. Our team of BCBA's are an essential resource and critical part of the PACE School program as they enhance the educational learning experience for our students and help identify solutions to behavioral challenges. BCBA's also utilize specialized training and specific techniques to bring behavioral changes in an individual's life. By working with a BCBA, an individual can improve their self-regulation, communication, and independent living and social skills.

In her role, Cady supports behavioral management, assessments, and data collection, and she collaborates with our team of Occupational Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists, and teachers to ensure students are given the tools they need to effectively engage in learning and navigating their environment.

Raised in the Bay Area, Cady received her undergraduate degree from Palo Alto University in Psychology and Social Action, then went on to earn her Masters Degree from Ball State University in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Cady states, "I was drawn to the field of ABA given the need for Behavior Technicians, and I wanted to get my foot in the field of psychology. Immediately upon working with students with autism, I knew this was the right fit for me. I enjoyed spending my day building relationships with my

clients and seeing their progress over time using behavioral principles. Being a BCBA allows me to learn something new each day; my students are the real teachers and I am happy to be a part of their journey." She adds, "What excites me most about working at PACE is the multidisciplinary approach to our students' education and growth. I appreciate working with our therapists and teachers to make the most comprehensive plans for students. PACE has an abundance of resources to support student and staff growth and I am happy to be a part of the team." In her free time, Cady enjoys spending time with her cats and spending time in nature.

Welcome to the team, Cady! With her dedication and passion for the field of ABA, she will make a positive impact on the staff, clients, and families at PACE.



(A PACE School student enjoys a sensory activity)

MAKE AN IMPACT ON #GIVINGTUESDAY



GIVINGTUESDAY
NOVEMBER 29, 2022

Mark your calendar! The global day of philanthropy, **#GivingTuesday**, takes place **Tuesday, November 29, 2022**. #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving that encourages philanthropy and celebrates generosity worldwide. On #GivingTuesday (November 29), your gift to PACE supports our vision of a world in which people of all abilities live fulfilled lives. By making a tax-deductible gift to our Annual Fund, you help advance our mission by providing sustaining funds for our programs, critical staff training and enrichment, and continuing education opportunities.

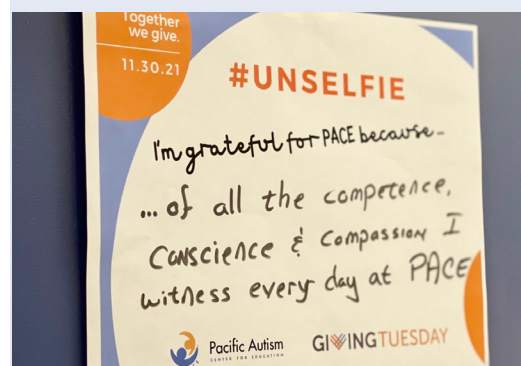
Help us reach our goal of \$10,000 for PACE services. For over 30 years, PACE has been at the forefront of the education, training, and care of individuals and families affected by autism and related developmental disabilities across all ages. Our

programs focus on the individual strengths and unique needs of each student, client, and resident, providing them the tools and supportive environment necessary to thrive.

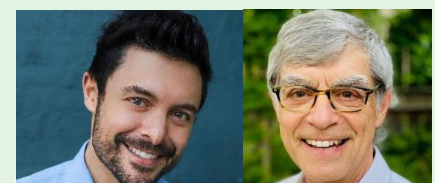
WAYS TO SUPPORT PACE:

- Make a tax-deductible donation on November 29 or today at www.pacificautism.org/donate
- Invite your friends and family to join you in making an impact on November 29. Share why you support PACE and what our mission means to you on your social media. Make sure to tag us so we can highlight you!
- Create your own #GivingTuesday fundraiser for PACE. Facebook Fundraisers are an easy and effective way to support and raise awareness of the organizations and causes you care about.

Have another fundraising idea on your mind? Contact the PACE Development team at (408) 625-6174 or email development@pacificautism.org.



FREE WEBINARS WITH GILFIX AND LAPOLL ASSOCIATES



PACE and Gilfix and La Poll Associates LLP are hosting two free webinars for our PACE community. Join us in November for important information about Special Needs Planning and Prop. 19. Sign up today!

What you need to know about Special Needs Planning Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

In this webinar, estate planning attorneys Michael Gilfix and Mark Gilfix (a proud member of the PACE board of directors) will go through the critical steps of creating a comprehensive special needs estate plan for your child. We will discuss why a Special Needs Trust may be the most important document you ever create, and how it works. We will also provide tools to ensure that a trust is properly funded for your child.

The end of Prop 13, and How to Preserve your Property for your Special Needs Child Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Where will my child live after I'm gone? If you own your home and/or rental property, this presentation is CRITICAL. In this webinar, we will review a critical change in California law that could result in the loss of your home or other property for your child with Special Needs. We will discuss how the new law (Proposition 19) works, why it could cost your family your home or other property, why its impact will be so severe for families with children with disabilities, and, most importantly, what you can do to preserve low property taxes for the next generation, saving the family home.

Learn more and register by visiting us
www.pacificautism.org/events

PACE Setter

PACIFIC AUTISM CENTER for EDUCATION

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PACE Setter
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Contributors: Jennie Brevik, Karen Kennan, Kurt Ohlfs, Christina Polyanko, Melissa Watkins

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

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



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SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Donate: by mail at 1880 Pruneridge Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050, online at www.pacificautism.org/donate, or by phone 408.625.6174.

Double your gift! Make a matching gift contribution at your workplace.

Choose PACE on AmazonSmile at smile.amazon.com.

Please contact development@pacificautism.org for giving options.

PACE is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Our TAX EIN# is 77-0259858.

Contributions made to PACE are tax deductible as specified by the current tax law.

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GREAT GIVERS: REMEMBERING PATRICK BARRETT AND MAXINE RICHARDS

Karen Kennan,
Assistant Executive Director

In this edition of the PACE Setter, we dedicate our Great Givers column to two individuals who made a significant impact on the organization.



The PACE community was sad to learn of the passing of our friend and supporter, Patrick Barrett, who passed away on July 26, 2022.

Pat attended Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, CA, graduating with a B.S. in Engineering, followed by an MS. in Aeronautics and Astronautics from MIT. After accepting a position at Hewlett-Packard in 1967 and working as an engineer, he transferred to the HP legal department and worked as a patent agent while earning a Juris Doctor at Stanford Law School. He spent most of the rest of his career as an intellectual property attorney until his retirement in 2007.

Pat and his wife of 54 years, Penny, shared a vision of philanthropy, believing it is better to give than receive. Since their earliest days as a couple they always believed in giving back to their community. Penny describes

Pat as someone who consistently asked the question: "How can I help?" Over the years the couple devoted countless hours of volunteer time to assist our agency. Penny was a PACE Executive Board member for 9 years. With his legal expertise in the area of patents and copyright law, Pat provided our PACE marketing department with legal counsel and advice.

The Barretts became involved with PACE in 2001 when their daughter Christine joined our school program. Shortly thereafter she was the very first client to move into the just acquired LaMar House where she was a resident for over five years. In subsequent years Christine participated in our Adult Day Program and later transitioned from a group home into her own place with live-in support.

In addition to his support of PACE, Pat served on the Board of Trustees for Arden Wood, a Christian Science Care Facility in San Francisco; on the Harvey Mudd College Alumni Board of Governors; and the Harvey Mudd College Board of Trustees. He was a longtime supporter of Berea College, local and national art museums, local theater, an active volunteer at his church, a talented amateur photographer, and a devoted fan of bluegrass and folk music.

Devoted to his family, his church and his community, Pat truly cared about people and always sought out ways in which he could help others, requiring neither accolades nor acknowledgement. He was generous of spirit and with his time.

Through his commitment to PACE and his dedication to supporting our agency in so many ways, Pat helped improve the lives of individuals and their families who struggle with autism and learning differences. He will be remembered by PACE for his quick and clever wit, his persistent generosity, and especially his kindness.

Remembering Maxine Richards This Spring we were sad to learn of the passing of Maxine Richards, autism advocate and mother of Randy, a long-standing PACE residential client.

When her son Randy was diagnosed with autism in the early 1960s Maxine got to work advocating and campaigning for services for her child and other individuals challenged by disabilities. Before the enactment of the "Education for All Handicapped Children Act (PL-94-142) in 1975, the right to a free and appropriate education for all was not guaranteed for children with disabilities. Maxine fought tirelessly for the rights of all children and their families.

In 1984, Maxine, along with five other mothers of six young adults diagnosed with autism, got together to create a residential housing program for their sons. Calling themselves the SPARK foundation, over the next few years the program grew to include two additional homes and in 1995 merged with PACE which, at the time, was a small school serving children with autism and related disabilities. Maxine's son Randy continues to reside and thrive in PACE Mahalo House. In a Fall 2011 PACE Setter article, Maxine recounted all the advocating and trips

saying, "We worked hard to make certain Randy and the other boys received all the necessary services; it was a lot of work, but we always remembered if you help your child, you're helping all children." Maxine's daughter Sharon remembers her mother as a strong advocate for special needs children and their families. "She was always attending Board meetings, fighting legal battles, and advising people who came to her for assistance."

Over the years Maxine continued her commitment to children and reminded younger parents that the fight for equal access was not over. In her 2011 interview she told us: "They (young parents) should see that this system is not solid, and that they need to continue the advocating process to the government to make certain all children receive quality services."



A longtime resident of Santa Cruz County, Maxine Richards was born in 1925. She died in April 2022 at the age of 97. She will be remembered by the PACE community as a loving and involved parent, and a fierce advocate for the rights of all children.