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Western Edition HP JOURNAL

December 2009

Bridging San Francisco communities through non-profit service



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Good medicine for a global community

By Morgan Davis

Huge numbers of nonprofits exist that are devoted to caring, educating and treating patients diagnosed with HIV and other life threatening diseases.

These organizations rely on generous donations from the community. They rely on the support of volunteers. And many rely on grants and donations from large corporations. Gilead Sciences Inc. is one such corporation, which manages to give back to the community that benefits from its products.

Gilead Sciences is a research-based biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and commercializes innovative medicines in areas of unmet need. HIV/AIDS, liver disease and serious cardiovascular and respiratory conditions are examples of such areas. Gilead pursues advances in medications to provide better options for patients living with life-threatening diseases. The company was ranked No. 1 in BusinessWeek's 2009 listing of the 50 best-performing companies.

But Gilead's contribution to the global community extends past its discoveries and marketed medica-



A Project Sunshine volunteer is shown with one of the children served by the program. Photos courtesy of Gilead Sciences.

tions. As Amy Flood, board member and senior director of Public Affairs, said, "We believe that good corporate citizenship means contributing to community well being."

Gilead contributes to communities in areas where it operates,

including at its headquarters in Foster City. In 2005, the company established the Gilead Foundation to improve the health and well being of underserved communities. The foundation is funded solely by

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The Gap: Giving with open 'hands'

By Jason Wyman

Gap Inc. employs more than 134,000 people, making it one of its biggest community assets.

The San Francisco-based company provides six employee engagement programs that provide volunteer hours and mini-grants to nonprofit organizations and sees a direct connection between its employees' volunteerism and their commitment to Gap Inc. It believes engaged employees deliver strong business results, which is good for the community and their company.

The organization HandsOn Bay Area creates opportunities for people to volunteer, learn and lead in their communities. It works with local nonprofits, schools and parks to identify high-impact, group-based volunteer projects. For corporate clients, it offers comprehensive planning services for employee volunteer events through its Hands@Work program. Gap Inc. has been a corporate partner of Hands@Work since 2002 providing more than 2,300 volunteers in service areas including school restoration, youth mentoring, educational materials and environmental clean-up.



Urban Sprouts garden - Photo by Matt Lehman.

Urban Sprouts cultivates school gardens in San Francisco's underserved neighborhoods by partnering with youth and their families to build eco-literacy, equity, wellness and community. They have provided garden-based education to San

Francisco public schools since 2004, reaching more 700 students annually. Students plant, harvest, cook and eat healthy food from school gardens, thus mastering science and nutrition concepts in a fun and hands-on way.

Of the students Urban Sprouts serves, 61 percent are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, 22 percent are English Language Learners (ELL) students and 90 percent failed to reach physical fitness standards in 2006. The schools Urban Sprouts provides services to are International Studies Academy, Aptos Middle School, Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Middle School, June Jordan School for Equity,

San Francisco Community School, Ida B. Wells Continuation School and Log Cabin Ranch (a juvenile detention facility).

Urban Sprouts' core garden-

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Nonprofit News

Adobe Youth Voices develops young Bay Area media makers

By Jason Wyman

Meet Adam Kennedy and Ryanne Zertuche – two young Bay Area media makers that participated in Adobe Youth Voices Summit, a three-day digital media immersion event for 100 specially selected international youth (ages 14-19) and educators.

The first-of-its-kind summit was designed to empower youth to create media for social change and foster a deeper sense of social and civic engagement.

Adam, 17, and Ryanne, 18, recently sat down individually with Western Edition writer Jason Wyman – who also worked as a camp counselor at Adobe Youth Voice's Summit this summer – to talk about their experiences and what projects they are currently working on.

WESTERN EDITION: How did you get involved with Adobe Youth Voices - AYV?

ADAM: I was given the opportunity to participate in the first Adobe Youth Voices Summit by my art teacher, Jeff Larson. I

wasn't sure what it would be like, I was only told it was going to be a way for people around the world to meet and collaborate to create media with meaning.

RYANNE: I got involved through Lincoln High School in San Jose ... in my multimedia class, we worked on several media projects and one day, my teacher, Mrs. Thai, offered the option of sending AYV an application. I applied just for the heck of it. By the sounds of things, it didn't really seem like I had a



good chance of getting in. I was ecstatic when I got my congratulatory email.

WE: What have you learned as a part of AYV?

ADAM: By (the phrase) "from around the world," my initial idea was that there would be a couple people from all across the United States, but what I saw when I got there was staggering. There were over 100 students from all different continents. We were able to share ideas with other media-makers like us.



Adam and Ryanne - Photos courtesy of Adobe.

RYANNE: I've definitely learned a lot, but the lesson that's stuck with me the most is that you don't have to choose between the things that you love. If you're into photography, media and animation and enjoy them all equally, you shouldn't have to choose. Pursue whatever you feel you should, because 1) whatever you study has a shot at being handy in the future, and 2) giving up something you love is like giving up a part of yourself.

WE: What was the most memorable part of AYV?

ADAM: My favorite part about the AYV summit was meeting all the different people from around the world who have similar goals as me.

RYANNE: The most memorable part of AYV was meeting people from all over the world, without a doubt. People came from New Zealand, India, Canada, Uganda ... all in one place. And the best part was knowing that being at AYV was

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Juma Ventures' jobs prepare youth for college

By Elen Nettlebeck

Currently, more than 10,000 adolescent youth in San Francisco are growing up in households with chronic unemployment, underemployment or long-term welfare dependency. Countless hundreds are living in foster care or on the street.

The Bay Area has a variety of programs that serve low-income youth. Most are geared to meeting immediate needs such as housing, food, high school retention, drug abuse prevention and treatment, crime prevention and job preparation. Juma Ventures is one of those that goes beyond the norm.

Juma Ventures, located on the Embarcadero, focuses on breaking the cycle of poverty through post-secondary education. Its goal is to get youth not only into colleges and universities — but through them with a degree.

Keri Gardner, Juma's Community Engagement manager, says that early in the project, the organization found that the youth who successfully broke away from poverty were the ones who went to college. This realization caused Juma to shift its focus from job preparation and training to post-secondary education.

The word "juma" means "work" in the Akan language spoken in Ghana.



Juma Ventures participant prepares coffee - Photo courtesy of Juma.

The clientele

Studies show that low-income youth are much less likely to seek or complete post-secondary education than those from higher-income families. Studies also show they are more likely to abuse alcohol or drugs, or — because they are often surrounded by drugs and violence — to be caught in the juvenile justice system.

Among Juma youth, 30 percent have at least one family member in jail; 20 percent are in foster care; 61 percent are from single-parent households; 26 percent have been homeless; 36 percent have thought about hurting themselves; and 75 percent live in households earning less than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline (\$40,000 for a family of four).

Juma Ventures serves these

youth from their junior year in high school until two years after graduation. Like many other programs, it offers job training and employment. Unlike other programs, Juma actively aids their clients to save and manage money, to prepare for and enter college or university and once there, to meet academic expectations. As a result, two years after completing Juma's program, 97 percent of Juma youth are still enrolled in academic or vocational training and/or working.

Keri Gardner says that many youth apply to Juma solely because they want a job.

"They are not thinking about college at all until they meet with us and start thinking that college might be something they want to do," she said. Once a youth becomes part of the program, Juma provides a support system aimed at seeing that they get a four-year college degree.

Juma's program is divided into three parts; job preparation followed by employment in a Juma's own ballpark concessions, college preparation and asset building. A case manager also monitors each youth.

The organization also provides help with resume preparation, coaching on interview techniques and advice on professional dress, behavior and etiquette. The youth are employed for two seasons at Juma's social enterprises – at ballpark food

concessions. In addition to the individual coaching, former clients offer talks on what it's like to be a Juma employee. After two seasons at the ballpark, youth are aided to find other jobs, including work-study jobs for college students.

College preparation

During their first year in the program, with the support of the education coordinator, Juma youth develop an education plan that includes both education goals and step-by-step plans to achieve them. They also take a career interest assessment to develop career goals.

After youth understand how a four-year degree can help them to reach their career goals, Juma staff guide them through the tasks to realize that goal. Juma aids youth in completing college and financial aid applications and standardized test preparation, as well as offering after-school tutoring and career workshops led by panelists from different fields. Juma also provides direct scholarships to outstanding youth.

Direct support continues during the first two years of college, with coaching on financial aid and job search. Participants receive academic advising and referrals to other services.

Some of Juma's recent achievements include:

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Perspectives

The first step toward ending domestic violence

An interview with Keith Crawford

By Western Edition staff

The pleasant voice on the phone gave no indication of the rage that may or may not still be living within Keith Crawford.

Crawford is in recovery for domestic violence. As part of his recovery he has published a journal that exposes his experiences, his hope for complete transformation for himself and others and his feelings.

The title of his book is, "The Black Man's Guide in Overcoming the Crisis of Domestic Violence." And when asked why it's a black man's guide, Crawford explained that he has learned that violence is a learned behavior. For Crawford, the cycles that his family experienced can be traced to the violent forms of "discipline" experienced and learned by his recent ancestors under the institution of slavery.

While domestic abuse can be found in nearly all ethnic groups and cultures, Crawford's process of self examination, and the examination of relationships within his family (including his parents and grandparents), led him to develop work around the African-American community where violence has been prevalent.

His book, a memoir that includes interviews with those who have been batterers and victims, is a painful acknowledgement of behavior that has affected himself, his family and entire communities.

Explaining why he wrote a book while in a seemingly delicate process of healing, Crawford said it was a "higher power" that gave him inspiration.

"It's a personal memoir from childhood to adulthood," he said. "I was able to dig in deep to really find out exactly where domestic violence stems from in my own experience. I decided to write this book as tool of healing."

His goal is to transform his experience into a testimony. He said he believes that by telling others and getting the word out, the crisis of violence affecting so many families can be relieved.

Crawford explained a life-long series of events that revealed to him how domestic violence is a learned behavior that abusers usually learn from childhood.

"I came up in a household where my father demonstrated his 'love' by verbally and physically abusing us. I saw my father literally beat my mother and I held on to those memories and behaviors," he said. "They were



Keith Crawford, author - Photo by Zdenek Mlika.

stored in my mind and I continued to pull them up as references to respond and react. The 'Black Man's Guide' provides interviews with batterers and victims. Their stories are so similar to mine, although the environments in which they grew up in terms of neighborhoods, may have been different from mine.

"I also talk about solutions for overcoming the domestic violence crisis. I was forced to enroll in a domestic violence class," he continued. "However, I found it interesting and I actively participated and learned about the reality of domestic violence. There are two different models that I found to have value – the Daluth model, with a facilitator, is driven by the participants and the Fatel Peril model, an intensified model that is provided to persons who are incarcerated."

Crawford said that in his class, he learned about a domestic violence wheel, where it stems from and where anger comes from. He said the models work only when a person has a willing mind.

"In my book, I provide seven steps to overcome the crisis. In order to successfully complete and overcome the crisis of domestic violence, one must first have a willing mind. Submission. There are other programs that offer structure, but you must first submit to follow them and admit that you have a problem.

"In my history, I'd never felt that I had a problem. I had smothered my feelings. One can't heal what they can't feel. Identify, address it and change it. Sometimes change is sometimes uncomfortable. My model works only if it is followed."

Crawford said 52 weeks of class is not necessarily going to solve the problem completely. He acknowledges that the programs are helpful, but suggests there should be symposiums, men's groups, after care programs and other activities that can collectively create a deeper change. Crawford said he hopes his book will help efforts to end domestic violence.

More on domestic violence

Each year, up to 10 million children witness the abuse of a parent or caregiver. Many women stay in an abusive relationship because they think it's best not to disrupt the children's lives so long as they're not being abused themselves. But children who live with domestic violence are at serious risk for behavioral and cognitive problems. In later life, they may suffer depression and trauma symptoms, and they may tolerate or use violence in their own relationships.

Understanding domestic violence

Through domestic violence, an abuser establishes power and control over another person. Such behavior occurs when the abuser feels entitled to control his or her victim. Although the most common form of abuse is a male abusing female partners, females can abuse male partners and abuse also takes place in same-sex relationships.

Acts of such violence generally fall into one or more of the following categories:

Physical battering. Hitting, slapping, shoving, kicking, pushing, choking and being held or tied down are examples of physical battering.

Sexual abuse. Physical attack by the abuser is often accompanied by, or culminates in, sexual violence, with the victim forced to have sexual intercourse with the abuser or to take part in unwanted sexual activity. Sexual abuse also includes sexual activity with a person who is not fully conscious, has not given consent or said no or is afraid to say no.

Psychological battering. The abuser's psychological or mental violence can include constant verbal abuse; harassment; excessive possessiveness, such as monitoring the victim's activities; isolating the victim from friends and family; deprivation of physical and economic resources; humiliation; yelling; blaming; making someone feel inferior; and destruction of personal property. The abuser may also threaten to abandon the victim or threaten to harm or take the children.

Domestic abuse often begins with behaviors such as threats, name calling, violence in the victim's presence (such as punching a fist through a wall) and/or damage to objects or pets. It may escalate to restraining, pushing, slapping and/or pinching – and, ultimately, punching, kicking and sexual assault. It may even become life threatening, with serious behaviors such as choking, breaking bones or weapon use.

First signs

Women don't consciously choose to have an abusive partner. In fact, the abuser may be charming and well liked by most of the people who know him, but at home he shows a different side. Friends, family and colleagues are often shocked when his abusive behavior becomes known.

Does your partner:

- Embarrass or make fun of you in front of your friends or family?
- Threatened you with abuse or a weapon?
- Make you feel like you can't make decisions?
- Use intimidation or threats to gain compliance?
- Hurt your pets, destroyed something important to you or objects in your home?
- Tell you that you're nothing without him or her?
- Treat you roughly – grab, push, pinch, shove or hit you?
- Call you several times a night or show up to make sure you're where you said you'd be?
- Interfere with you getting or keeping a job or going to school?
- Not allow you to have money when you need it?
- Use drugs or alcohol as an excuse for saying hurtful things or physically abusing you?
- Blame you for how he or she feels or acts?
- Pressure you sexually for things you aren't ready to do?
- Make you feel like there's no way out of the relationship?
- Prevent you from doing things you want, such as spending time with your friends or family?
- Try to keep you from leaving after a fight or leave you somewhere after a fight to teach you a lesson?

If any of these are happening in your relationship, seek help immediately. If your life is in danger, call the police or 911.

For more information, visit the Domestic Abuse Project Web site at www.mndap.org or call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-SAFE.

Nonprofit News

Applied Materials: Realizing global community

By Margaret Bacon

Applied Materials' slogan, "think it, apply it," speaks not only to the corporation's leadership in nanomanufacturing technology, but to its social responsibility as well.

Through innovative equipment, service and software products for the fabrication of semiconductor chips, flat panel displays, solar photovoltaic cells, flexible electronics and energy efficient glass, Applied Materials "aims to improve the way people live." Yet, the corporation's commitment to improvement goes beyond technology.

For three years in a row, Applied Materials was voted among the "World's Most Admired Companies" by Fortune Magazine and one of the "100 Best Corporate Citizens" by CRO Magazine. That's in addition to a long list of many other awards. Committed to making a positive social contribution, Applied Materials is dedicated to environmental stewardship, corporate social responsibility and community commitment through numerous programs, from solar solutions to educational investments. And, as a global leader in technology, the corporation also values global diversity in the workplace.

"Applied Materials has a very diverse global workforce, and I am proud to be part of a company that embraces and leverages different thoughts, experiences, style and culture," said President and CEO Mike Splinter. "In today's constantly



Applied Materials' chairman and CEO Mike Splinter visiting with fifth grade students at Grant Academy in San Jose. Photo courtesy of Applied Materials.

changing business environment, we must adapt to change and work even harder to increase customer satisfaction, improve effectiveness in everything we do and maintain our leadership in every part of the world. In order to think strategically at the enterprise level, we must position and use our diverse culture as our competitive advantage."

While Applied Materials has created and commercialized the nanomanufacturing technology that helps produce virtually every semiconductor chip and flat display panel in the world, employees of the corporation are also to be found worldwide. The corporate community includes employees in Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Applied Materials' principal office is in Santa Clara, as is the Technology Center with research and development and manufacturing centers located in Fairfield

as well as Austin, Texas, Chelmsford, Mass., Phoenix and Salt Lake City. In this country, Applied Materials has strategic alliances with organizations devoted to the education and professional development of a diverse workforce such as the National Black Physics Student's

Association, National Society of Black Engineers, National Society of Hispanic MBAs, Society of Women Engineers and historically Black Colleges and Universities, among others.

The corporation also offers its employees the opportunity to participate in affinity groups organized around a shared interest. Each group supports community programs as well, such as the Hispanic affinity group's partnership with the Hispanic Scholarship Consortium, which provides scholarships to high school students through fundraising and volunteer events.

The women's affinity group – WPDN – partners with Girlstart, a non-profit organization created to empower girls to excel in math, science and technology. WPDN also raises funds for the Girlstart summer camp program. LEAD, the African American affinity group, works with Habitat for Humanity in the construction of low-cost homes.

The corporation supports diversity and inclusion through

policies and practices such as a harassment-free work environment, domestic partner benefits, education assistance program, employee assistance program, stock options or stock awards for all employees, among other benefits. Employees worldwide applaud their employer's commitment to providing a positive working environment.

With global leadership comes responsibility and Applied Materials, understanding the importance of global citizenship, extends its commitment to its community worldwide.

Digital Equalizer Centers provide high school students in Bangalore, India, with exposure to technology and solar power. Programs in Israel teach computer-networking skills and in China, upcoming scientists are sought through a Future Science Star competition. Each year, a Semiconductor Young Talent Camp is held in Taiwan. And, to teach sustainability and environmental concepts to children, Applied Materials created a card game called Bright Future, which is free of charge to teachers.

Since its inception in 1967, Applied Materials set out "to improve the way people live." Currently the corporation employs 12,800 people worldwide, and through their guiding principals of energy efficiency, scale, design for the environment and community involvement, they "are creating change from nano scale to giga scale to global scale."

News from District Five

Compiled by Elen Nettlebeck

CleanPowerSF takes a big step forward

San Francisco is closer to its goal of generating 51 percent-renewable electricity by 2017 that will be competitively priced with PG&E.

The Board of Supervisors last month unanimously passed legislation authored by Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi allowing the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to find an energy service provider to meet the city's energy needs. On Nov. 5, the city released its Request for Proposal for the Community Choice Aggregation Program, known as Clean Power SF. The RFP came out of meetings and public discussion on the best way to real-

ize the goals of CleanPowerSF. Bids are expected by the end of the year.

Full service supermarket coming to Haight and Stanyan



Whole Foods has signed a lease to open a store at the former Cala site at Haight and Stanyan. The process of securing entitlements from the planning department continues, but construction/rehabilitation could be completed as early as fall of 2010.

Spokespersons for Whole Foods say they want to hear neighbor's concerns and want to keep the community informed on the progress of the project. The project includes plans to rehabilitate the existing structure to minimize its carbon footprint and to incorporate as much

Bring-Your-Own-Bag Rebate Legislation introduced

In October, Mirkarimi introduced legislation that would require the largest supermarkets and drug stores in the city to offer a 10-cent rebate to shoppers who bring their own bags. This ordinance does not ban paper bags, but does give shoppers an incentive to bring their own reusable bags. This ordinance will affect supermarkets and drug stores with more than \$2 million in gross annual sales receipts; the same ones affected by the current plastic bag ban.

Since paper bags cost between five and seven cents each, the grocery industry should be able to break even or to save a few cents after the rebate when a reusable bag replaces a double-bagged carry-out bag, Mirkarimi office reports. Research indicates that a fee on checkout bags is the most effective way to achieve this goal, but state laws currently prohibit cities from assessing bag fees.

Sharp Park update

Last month, the Recreation and Parks Department released a report commissioned by Mirkarimi, outlining alternatives for restoring the endangered species habitat at Sharp Park. The park contains a golf course that is located in Pacifica, but owned by San Francisco.

Sharp Park includes habitat for two endangered species, the San Francisco Garter Snake and the Red-Legged Frog. The city is mandated by the Endangered Species Act to restore this habitat.

The report estimates the costs of the plans to range from \$6 million to \$22 million, with the final costs likely to be even higher. Mirkarimi reportedly is concerned by the prospect of San Francisco investing these resources into a park outside city limits while San Francisco is laying off rec center staff, raising fees and neglecting the maintenance of parks, playgrounds and rec cen-

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Nonprofit News

Computer software giant lifts community through education

By Conor Gallagher

When the economy is experiencing a major downturn and times are tough, it's some relief to know that charity efforts continue to thrive.

This is certainly the case at computer software giant Oracle – based south of San Francisco in Redwood Shores. Through its corporate citizenship efforts, the company takes part in and provides for an array of philanthropic activities throughout the Bay Area and on a worldwide stage, donating more than \$2 billion in computer software in 2009 alone.

"Oracle is committed to using its technology and resources to advance education in innovative ways, protect the environment, promote diversity and enrich community life," the corporate citizenship mission states. And Oracle accomplishes this in a variety of ways.

In regards to the Bay Area community, one operation that is aided by Oracle is the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, which is the seventh largest food bank in the nation. In addition to the cash grants that Oracle provides, it also holds an annual Season of Sharing food drive, where Oracle employees collectively volunteer

more than 1,000 hours of their time to assist with duties such as sorting food. Partly because of Oracle's assistance, the Second Harvest Food Bank is able to provide food to an average of 207,000 individuals each month, 67 percent of which are families with children.

Oracle also contributes financially to the Belmont Library, is the largest donor to the Redwood Shores Library and its Wetlands Interpretive Center, and funds the Girls and Boys Club of the Peninsula, which in turn provides academic assistance to more than 1,000 low-income students from East Palo Alto, East Menlo Park and Redwood City.

In addition to the community based charitable efforts, Oracle also works to ensure that the future is bright in the Bay Area by helping to "advance education with state-of-the-art technology programs to prepare students for the 21st century," the Oracle San Francisco Bay Area Corporate Citizen Report said.

The computer software company accomplishes this in three ways: education grants, the Oracle Academy and ThinkQuest, an online learning program.

Oracle gave \$1 million in 2009 to the Association of Education Publishers to help

fund an interactive math program of study for middle school children. And together with Scholastic In-School Solutions, the education publishers association plans to have more than 500 Bay Area teachers using this curriculum in the near future.

The corporation also provides much monetary support in an effort to address math, science and technology education needs in the Bay Area. Recent recipients of Oracle educational grants include the San Mateo County Office of Education; the Redwood City School District; the Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School District; School-Force, a Belmont-Redwood Shores Public School Foundation; the Redwood City Education Foundation; and Pleasanton Partners in Education.

Oracle Academies, which partner with secondary institutions, colleges and universities offer computer classes to ready students for today's workplace environment. The three affordable levels of classes are: introduction to computer science, advanced computer science and enterprise business applications. Classes are offered at the Oakland Technical High School, the Ralph Bunche Academy in Oakland, Westmoor High School

in Daly City, and the San Mateo County Regional Occupation Program in Burlingame.

The Oracle Education Foundation's ThinkQuest program – used at Bay Area schools such as Gateway High School, Quimby Oak Middle School, Dallas Ranch Middle School, Valley View Middle School and Coliseum College Prep Academy – is an online learning program that prompts active exchange of knowledge. The engaging lessons allow students to "create pages with text, pictures, multimedia, votes, brainstorm, debates, and messages." And there is also the opportunity for students to interact with other students from across the globe on different projects, which encourages cultural understanding in a globalized world.

In the area of diversity, by donating scholarship money to the United Negro College Fund and the Society of Women Engineers, Oracle helps Bay Area students pay for college while pursuing engineering-related degrees.

Overall in 2009, Oracle has given nearly \$9 million in charitable donations and more than \$2 billion in software contributions.

Western Edition HP JOURNAL

Bridging San Francisco communities through non-profit service

non-profit news

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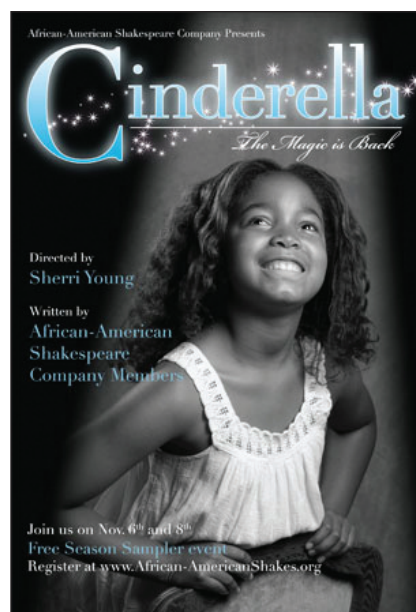
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Neighborhood News

Alamo Square

In time for the holidays, a rendition of the classic show "Cinderella" is being put on at the Buriel Clay Memorial Theater. Directed by Sherri Young, this re-telling of the traditional story of Cinderella takes place on the Louisiana bayou. Added to the telling of the tale is a dash of soul, along with the flair and drama of the original. The first show begins at 8 p.m. on Dec. 10; tickets are \$30. The Buriel Clay Memorial Theater is located at 762 Fulton St. For more information, call (415) 563-3519.



NOPA

Tree Frog Treks, located at 2114 Hayes St., will be holding its annual open house on Dec. 9. The teachers and staff who work for Tree Frog Treks will be there, as well as numerous animals for children to enjoy. Visitors are encouraged to bring a cookie or two to share or just stop by and enjoy the animals. This free event is open to the public. The Tree Frog Treks open house runs from 5 to 8 p.m. For more information, visit www.treefrogtreks.com.



Bayview

It's a Wonderful life in Bay View will be held on the weekend of Dec. 5, with events that are both family-oriented and of the more adult persuasion from Friday until Sunday, Dec 4 to 6. Activities include wine tasting, meeting Santa, face painting, a silent auction, a bake sale and more. Stop by the Bay View Neighborhood Association center at the Sugar Maple next to Cafe Central to pick up a program of the nightly events. For more information, visit www.bayviewneighborhood.org.

Nihonmachi

On Dec. 13, Kimochi's Silver Bells Arts & Crafts Faire is being held a short walk from Japantown at the St. Mary's Cathedral Event Center. Kimochi will be providing a free shuttle service for those who do not want to walk, picking up from the Nihonmachi Peace Plaza at Post and Buchanan streets. The faire will feature handcrafted items made by more than 70 Asian and Pacific Islander artisans. Admission is free, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit Kimochi's programs and services for seniors. For more information, visit www.kimochi-inc.org.

Chiyo Miyashita, a native artist of Tokyo, will be displaying her works at the Kinokuniya bookstore at 1581 Webster St. until the end of December. She paints a unique perspective of San Francisco, using a bird's eye view to create a whimsical version of the city map. The city of San Francisco looks entirely different through the brush-strokes of Miyashita, looking more like a cozy village than an urban environment. Miyashita has recently designed bags and a bookmark for the Kinokuniya bookstore, the bookmark is available for free. For more information, visit www.chiyoart.com/.

Hayes Valley

At Velvet da Vinci, a gallery known for its contemporary metalwork at 2015 Polk St., a new show is coming to town. The work of Sondra Sherman will be featured, offering a series of hybrid abstractions of traditional flower arrangements using

Adobe cont. from page 2

different from school, where you sit in a classroom full of people you know are there just because they thought it might be an easy way to get credits. Everyone who earned that trip to Stanford was creative, talented and there because they love the field.

WE: How has creating media changed or impacted you?

ADAM: I see myself studying Cinematic Arts in college and getting a degree in film.

RYANNE: Creating media has taught me that it is possible for anyone to make a difference if they put their heart into it, get out there and try. I've realized how easy it actually is to put out

aphrodisiacs and hallucinogenic plants as a reference in the medium of steel brooches, right. The show focuses around the idea of FTD – traditionally known as Florists Transworld Delivery or Formal Thought Disorder. The Sondra Sherman FTD show is open daily, except Mondays, from Dec. 1 through 31. For more information, visit www.velvetdavinci.com/.

At the Asian Art Museum, a show that brings art from southeast Asia will be in town throughout the month of December. "Emerald Cities" is the first major show in the West to display the art from Siam and Burma during the 19th century. One hundred forty pieces of artwork will be displayed until the exhibition closes in early January. These pieces include: paintings, manuscripts, textiles, ceramics and more. Visit www.asianart.org/.



a message that has the potential to impact peoples' lives and how great of a feeling that it gives you.

WE: What was your first piece of media created as a part of AYV? Why did you create it and who supported you in making it?

ADAM: We created a music video called Identity.

RYANNE: The first piece of media I created as a part of AYV was a short film in the style of a documentary. The theme was "changes," and my group decided on featuring my mother's experience with having breast cancer last year. We thought it would fit the theme, because my family faced both positive and negative changes. My partners for the project were both extremely talented and provided tremendous brilliance and input. Our supervisor, Kirthi Nath, and our teachers helped us out a lot along the way.

WE: Where do you see yourself in the future?

RYANNE: Ever since about my sophomore year in high school, I've known that I want to work for Pixar, and graphic designing has really been my one forte since middle school. I went back and forth between different careers in the field for a while, but my ultimate goal, which AYV helped me to finalize, is to be a production designer for Pixar.

WE: Are there any exciting media projects you are working on now? If so, what are they?

ADAM: Right now, I'm working on a documentary series about a dark wizard who lives in San Francisco and his struggle to attain a normal job (*Xanadu: A Dark Wizard*). I'm also working on a film that intertwines two storylines of people in different situations who are reaching for the 'American Dream.' (Working title: *Las Alas de la Tragedia*) And finally, I'm working on a movie about two control-freak pretentious directors struggling to make a film (*Directed By*).

RYANNE: Well, at the moment, I have a couple of ideas I'm saving in my mind, but not a lot of free time to work on anything. I really love doing pieces that focus on body image and [the] results of low self-esteem. Just remember my name.

WE: Where can readers go to see your films/media?

ADAM: All [of] this will be found on youtube.com/matchcutfilms.

RYANNE: Once my school-work lets up ... I'm hoping to be able to start participating in some film festivals in the area.

For more information about Adobe Youth Voices, visit: plantandinspire.org.

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Nonprofit News

GAP cont. from page 1

based education program takes place during science classes or gardening elective classes. The garden-based classes meet for at least one hour every other week throughout the school year for a total of 20 hours of education for every student. Each session is led by a garden educator and includes interactive learning and garden work. Every student experiences the full process of planting, growing, harvesting and eating crops from the school garden at least three times during the school year. The garden is the classroom.

In 2008, Urban Sprouts reached out to HandsOn Bay Area to become a local nonprofit partner. This effort put Urban Sprouts on HandsOn Bay Area's radar and Hands On Bay Area began looking for opportunities to support Urban Sprouts. In October, everything came together in a day of service at Ida B. Wells Continuation High School, a high school Urban Sprouts has been at since 2005.

Fourteen Gap employees arrived on a bus bringing with them enthusiasm and time. They also came with money, which provided Urban Sprouts the capacity to purchase supplies for cold frames (small portable green houses) and an irrigation system.

"What's great about getting Gap volunteers isn't just that they come ready to work," said Audrey Roderick, Community Programs Manager for Urban Sprouts. "It's that they also come with money for supplies, which is incredibly helpful for small non-profits like Urban Sprouts."

Gap volunteers built new plant beds and cold frames and planted perennials and large bushes for erosion control. The day's goal was to build community, educate volunteers on garden-based education and

improve the garden's functionality and sustainability. The day was a success for all three organizations.

By collaborating in this manner, Gap Inc, HandsOn Bay Area and Urban Sprouts were able to increase the impact and reach of a single volunteer event. Urban Sprouts did not need to spend hours recruiting volunteers. Rather they were able to focus on one project that would improve its organization. Gap did not need to spend its time finding a local organization that met its volunteer needs. Rather they were able to show up knowing that the work that day was important and impactful. HandsOn Bay Area acted as the connector ensuring that all needs were met.

The improvements made to the garden this Fall were improvements made to the living classroom. These changes provide a better educational experience when students come to the garden and enable them to get to work planting, weeding and harvesting. They also beautify the garden providing a more aesthetic learning environment.

Karen Baker, secretary of Service and Volunteering for the state of California, said that the era when volunteering was just "a nice thing to do" is over.

"The health of many of our social services depends on the involvement of the private sector in a systemic, strategic way," she said.

For more information on Gap Inc.'s social responsibility, visit www.gapinc.com/GapIncSubSites/csr/index.shtml. For more information on HandsOn Bay Area, visit www.handsonbayarea.org. For more information about Urban Sprouts, visit urbansprouts.blogspot.com.

Gilead cont. from page 1

The foundation is funded solely by Gilead Sciences.

"The Gilead Foundation focuses primarily on the developing world, although a growing number of grants are directed toward underserved communities in the United States," Flood said. "In 2008, about two-thirds of the foundation's total giving went to programs in Sub-Saharan Africa and about one-quarter went to U.S. programs."

Locally, Gilead has annually sponsored the AIDS LifeCycle and in recent months, it has provided corporate grants in support of active events including the American Heart Association Walk in Burlingame, the Liver LIFE Walk in San Francisco and AIDS Walks and Runs.



Grassroot Soccer was founded by former professional soccer players in 2002 - Photo courtesy Gilead Sciences.

"Gilead is engaged with the communities we serve at all levels of the organization," Flood said. "We partner with community-based organizations to raise awareness about diseases and health issues having a disproportionate impact on communities of color, for example."

Gilead employees support the initiatives on an individual level, volunteering time to issues and organizations that are important to them. Staff members work on behalf of disadvantaged children and homeless families, conduct regular on-site food and clothing drives and participate enthusiastically as members of the Gilead team in fund- and awareness-raising events.

In 2008, Gilead received the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Leadership Award, for its commitment to research and creation of products for AIDS patients. The company has made huge advancements in HIV therapies, marketing Atripla, the first and only once-daily single tablet regimen for the treatment of HIV infection in adults.

Gilead Foundation grants focus on expanding access to HIV and hepatitis education, outreach, prevention and health services. To date, Gilead has supported projects and partners working toward these goals throughout North America, Asia and Africa.

"It is important to remember what remarkable progress in HIV

therapy has been made in recent years," Flood said. "At Gilead, we are proud to have contributed to the medical advances that have saved lives."

"However, not everyone who needs HIV treatment today is receiving it. Often, people do not get treated because they do not even know that they have been infected." Flood cited an estimate that 1 in 5 Americans living with HIV is unaware of his or her HIV status. "Preventing new infections and ensuring those who are infected are diagnosed and linked to good medical care is an ongoing challenge."

"We work hard to ensure that our life-saving medicines are available to those who need them – developing drugs is only part of the challenge. We have a patient assistance program for U.S. patients who cannot afford medication or who don't have adequate insurance. And since 2003, we have had in place and have worked to refine and improve an access program in the developing world, through which we provide access to our HIV medications essentially at cost (or no profit to the company) in those countries hardest hit by the AIDS epidemic."

"We also have partnerships with multiple Indian-based companies; these partners are developing generic versions of our HIV medications for sale in 95 developing countries, including India," Flood continued. "The goal of the partnerships is to increase production and further reduce the cost of HIV medication to patients most in need."

"Lastly, we provide charitable contributions to a broad range of non-profit organizations through corporate giving initiatives. We are proud that the Gilead Foundation is able to collaborate with the organizations that we have funded – the work of these groups is inspiring to all of us."

For information about grants Gilead provides to nonprofits and healthcare programs, visit www.grants.gilead.com.

For local resources on HIV/AIDS or to volunteer, visit www.sfaf.org.

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Midgett's Corner

Christmas reflections

According to Webster's Dictionary, Christmas – observed on Dec. 25 – is “celebrated as a church festival in commemoration of the birth of Christ and observed as a legal holiday.”

But I wondered, what does Christmas mean to others? At age 73, I continue to teach the younger generation – students who are second to fifth graders from different areas of San Francisco – and decided to ask them this question. I also posed it to other teachers, my clients, friends and associates.

Some of the responses surprised me, but not all.

Let's start with my youngsters. I asked them what Christmas meant to them and kept a straight face with their responses. By age, there answers included the following:

- Age 7 – Trees, candies, goodies, the game of soccer, Santa giving presents and snow.
- Ages 8 – Presents, a week vacation, having Santa give presents, family, good thoughts about family, decorating the tree, playing with family members and decorating the house.
- Ages 9 – Drawing of Santa and ice skating.
- Ages 12 to 19 and young adults – Gifts, vacation and hanging out.
- Ages 30 to 50 – Gifts, debt and vacation. The majority of the comments from older men and women included peace, rest, “Praise the Lord” and being thankful.

What happened to the celebration of the true holiday?

I read in a magazine a story about the holiday season entitled “Embrace technology.” In another, it was “This is your brain on GPS.” Some toys today do not allow interaction with friends and families. They are self satisfying, which requires very little interaction with others.

As Webster wrote, Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Christ.

When I was a youngster, church was taken seriously. Family, friends and neighbors all attended services. And in my day, children rarely received more than two gifts. We didn't open them until Christmas morning. We couldn't wait to go outside to tell our friends what we received.

After we opened up gifts, we had breakfast and then prepared for church. That was a big event. The sermon stressed religion and caring for others.

What happen? Where did our society go wrong?

Embrace your neighbors, especially the older ones ... they are still believers of the traditional Christmas holiday.

Merry Christmas and give from your heart sincerely.

Mary Midgett is the author of *New York Flavor* with a San Francisco Beat. She is available to do presentations and seminars on social and family negotiations. She also conducts workshops on parenting, self-esteem and social and intimate relationships. Visit www.marymidgett.com.



Juma cont. from page 2

- In the Bay Area in 2009, 94 percent of Juma's high school seniors graduated. In that year, Oakland's graduation rate was 46 percent. San Francisco's was 73 percent.
- For the third year in a row, more than 90 percent of Juma's graduating high school seniors are college-bound. The prevailing rate for low-income students

is 50 percent.

- Since 1993, Juma's social enterprises have generated more than \$9 million in revenue.
- As of 2006, 13 percent of Juma youth who had been convicted of a crime prior to their participation in Juma had relapsed into crime during the two-year follow-up period. The recidivism rate for California youth is 91 percent during the three years after their release.

Although youth are normally recruited through high schools and youth groups, those interested in becoming part of Juma can apply through its Web site at jumaventures.org/. All hiring is done in spring, at the beginning of baseball season.



Juma graduates - Photo courtesy of Juma.

When real-life experience and education meet

By Kathy Emery, Ph.D.

On the anniversary of Obama's election last month, many pundits argued over whether or not Obama's election indicates we now live in a “post-racial society” – that is, race is irrelevant, we are united, racial differences are becoming less important or that right wingers can see past race.

This public debate remains superficial because those who frame it don't know the history of race in this country. For example, a superficial reading of educational history can lead one to claim that we are post-racial in the classroom today.

The government no longer actively suppresses the home cultures of non-white students. Indian children are no longer ripped from their parents and put in boarding schools; pictures of Cesar Chavez and Martin Luther King Jr. are in U.S. History books and on the walls of many classrooms. And yet, as Jim Cummins has argued, the vast majority of teachers in their daily instruction ignore the home cultures most urban students bring to school. His research concludes that such “squandering of personal, community, and national linguistic and intellectual resources within the mainstream classroom” actively discourages students from learning.

I saw such squandering in a seventh-grade Berkeley public school classroom two weeks ago when observing a teacher implement what she called her “daily oral language” drill. She wrote the following sentence on the board and asked the students to “correct it.”

“my brother he don't like to deliver the new york times because its to heavy”

The corrected version after discussion with students asking only what was “wrong” with the sentence: “My brother doesn't like to deliver the New York Times because it's too heavy.”

Compare this to the lesson given by Stokely Carmichael in 1965, as recounted by Jane Stembridge (The entire dialogue is available at www.education-anddemocracy.org/carmichael.pdf. He put ... sentences on the blackboard, with a line between, like this:

The peoples wants freedom
\\ The people want freedom

Whereinsoever the police-

mens \\ Anywhere the officers of the law go, goes they causes troubles \\ they cause trouble

Then in a discussion with students:

Stokely: What do you think about these sentences? Such as – The peoples wants freedom.

Zelma: It doesn't sound right.

Stokely: What do you mean?

Zelma: “Peoples”

isn't right.

Stokely: Does it mean anything?

Milton: People means everybody. Peoples means everybody in the world.

Alma: Both sentences are right as long as you understand them.

Henry: They're both okay, but in speech class you have to use correct English. (Stokely writes “correct English” in the corner of the blackboard.)

Zelma: I was taught at least to use the sentences on the right side.

Stokely: Does anybody you know use the sentences on the left?

Class: Yes.

Stokely: Are they wrong?

Zelma: In terms of English, they are wrong.

Stokely: Who decides what is correct English and what is incorrect English?

Milton: People made rules. People in England, I guess. ...

Alma: If the majority speaks like on the left, then a minority must rule society. Why do we have to change to be accepted by the minority group?

Stokely: Let's think about two questions for next time: What is society? Who makes the rules for society?

The teacher in Berkeley ignored the reasons why someone may speak and write in non-standard English. Carmichael did not. Class discussion in Berkeley revolved only around what the “correct” rules are, ignoring the relationship that exists between language, identity and power. Perhaps that is the definition of post-racial the pundits are dreaming about. I would like to think the rest of us are not eager to embrace such a definition.

Kathy Emery is a writer, educator and organizer in San Francisco. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis.

Nonprofit & Neighborhood News

Kids at play a priority for Amgen Foundation

By Kellie Ell

Children in high spirits crawl and dangle their little bodies from the vibrant yellow and orange structures in Redwood City – and it is all thanks to more than a 150 volunteers, many of them Amgen employees, who came out earlier this year to help build the playground.

Amgen – a chief medical supply company with locations in Silicon Valley and Fremont – has worked for more than 25 years to find methods of treatment and healing in the biotechnology industry. However, in 1991, the Amgen Foundation was launched as a way to give back to the community.

Since its creation, the group has given hundreds of millions of dollars to charities throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and Europe that aid the foundation's mission to help "impact lives in inspiring and innovative ways," according to its Web site.

"We're constantly giving," said Peggy Kraus, senior manager of communications in the Fremont office. "The foundation is very involved with the community and by supporting employees that are volunteers."

The Amgen Foundation partners with KaBoom, a Washington-based nonprofit whose mission is to encourage play in young children's school curriculums and to help fund and erect the playgrounds. KaBoom works with different corporations and community groups all over the



KaBoom Redwood City playground - Photos from Kaboom.com



world to finance the playgrounds and recreational areas. In 2009, KaBoom named San Francisco one of the most Playful Cities and Communities in the United States.

The Amgen Foundation supports the KaBoom project because it wants to improve local neighborhoods.

"The playgrounds do something nice for the kids in the community," Jessica Halloran, a manager at the Amgen

Foundation, said. "And, it's an opportunity to get our staff out to volunteer."

All playgrounds built with Amgen resources are located next to Amgen offices. This offers the children of Amgen employees a place to play. The foundation works with local nonprofits to help raise the \$70,000 needed to build the recreation area. Last year, it worked with the Boys and Girls Club.

"We give the majority of it," Halloran said of the group's donation of \$62,500 for each playground. "The nonprofit raises the rest, however they see fit."

In 2009, the Amgen Foundation funded grants for five KaBoom parks, three in California, one in Colorado and one in Puerto Rico. In 2010, the organization plans to sponsor seven parks.

Halloran said there is an eight-week planning process that goes into the construction of each site where the Amgen Foundation works closely with KaBoom.

"Amgen helps plan the food and water for the volunteers and then figuring out what [the playground] is going to look like," Halloran said. Volunteers come out on a Saturday to help build the playground, he added – a

combination of employees and their families, community members and neighbors who live around the new playground site.

"It's the whole community working together," he said. "They work from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and physically build the playground. It only takes one day to make."

The Amgen Foundation became interested in working with KaBoom after playgrounds and children's parks began to disappear all over the country.

"A lot of playgrounds are getting old and falling by the wayside," Halloran said. "They're falling into disrepair and there's not a lot of money to fix them or to build new play stations in neighborhoods that need them."

The foundation divides its charity work into three categories: working to improve quality of care and patient access; science education benefiting both students and teachers; and community work, dedicated to making the community a more desirable place to live and work.

Organizations the Amgen Foundation supports include the American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure, held in Silicon Valley and Napa, the Fremont Rotary Foundation, Golden Gate National Parks Conservatory and the San Francisco Food Bank, among more than a hundred others. In 2008, the foundation also donated more than \$3 million to Bay Area organizations, schools and other beneficiaries.

New mortgage regulations for your protection

By Pamela Lamarre and Tracy Dearman

In an effort to further protect consumers buying or refinancing their homes, new laws recently have been enacted to safeguard against surprises at the "closing table." These laws require up front disclosure of fees and, more significantly, re-disclosure in the event of material fee or rate changes.

When a borrower applies for mortgage financing, the proposed lender is required to disclose both fee and rate information. This occurs via two key documents: the Good Faith Estimate – or GFE – and Truth in Lending – or TIL – disclosures. The GFE discloses the rate, fees and charges, which the lender expects to collect in the course of your transaction. The TIL disclosure states the expected annual percentage rate – or APR – often referred to as the true cost of



borrowing and incorporates fees into the stated rate to determine a truer, usually higher, APR. This allows consumers to properly compare actual costs across various lenders.

Problems arose when lenders started making last minute changes that borrowers weren't aware of until they were signing closing documents. With rate locks expiring and deposits in potential jeopardy, many felt pressured to complete their transactions despite changes to agreed upon terms. As a result, the Federal Reserve has now mandated new regulations governing full rate and fee disclo-

sure as follows:

- Only a credit report fee can be collected up front. No other fees may be collected until after the initial three-day disclosures are issued.

- There is a mandatory seven business day (defined as all days except Sundays and holidays) waiting period from the time the initial TIL is issued to the time of closing. If a loan application is taken on Monday and disclosures are issued on Monday, the earliest this loan can close is the following Tuesday.

- If the final TIL changes significantly (more than 0.125 percent) from the initial TIL and the APR changes, there is a three to six business day mandatory waiting period from the time the new TIL is received to when the loan can close. Borrowers now have time to review and approve changes before their loan is finalized.

While elongating loan transactions in many cases – "short close contracts" of less than seven days can no longer be written unless they're all cash – the new laws unquestionably work in favor and in the best interests of borrowers. Make sure your finance professional is adhering to the new regulations and ask questions if you're unsure. Contact your bank, lender or mortgage broker for additional details and/or information.

Pamela Lamarre and Tracy Dearman are business partners and head California State Funding Group and HSM realty finance management, respectively. For a free consultation, CMA or more information about mortgage financing, email Lamarre at plamarre@csfgsf.com or Dearman at tdearman@hsmf.com. Visit www.csfgsf.com, www.hsmf.com or www.dearm1@featuredblog.com for additional information.

Volunteering

Volunteer opportunities abound throughout San Francisco

By Victoria Nguyen and
Danielle J. Brown

Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly

909 Hyde St., Suite 628
San Francisco, CA 94109
(415) 771-7957
www.littlebrotherssf.org

No one likes to be alone, especially during the holidays. Through the Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly - LBFE - organization, you can bring smiles to the faces of the elderly men and women of San Francisco during this holiday season and all year-round. Since 1959, the organization's members have recognized the mental and physical impacts of social isolation among the elderly and encourage their volunteers to create meaningful friendships with senior citizens in their communities.

There are a few ways to volunteer with LBFE, with time commitments varying. For example, the Visiting Volunteer program pairs volunteers with an elder who they will visit up to three times a month. One can also volunteer for LBFE special events and holiday services, including this month's Christmas gift wrap and home visits on Christmas Day. Most of the elderly served each year live in the Western Addition, Tenderloin, Mission and Lower Nob Hill neighborhoods.

Jewish Family and Children's Services

2150 Post St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 449-1200
www.jfcs.org

There are volunteer opportunities for everyone at the Jewish Family and Children's Services - JFCS. Whether you'd like to provide companionship to an elderly person, teach English to others or even just prepare holiday gift baskets - this is the place for you.

The JFCS is a non-profit organization that provides a wide range of social services to its communities in San Francisco and around the Bay Area. With more than 40 programs, the JFCS's mission is to "provide professional and volunteer services for the purposes of developing, restoring and maintaining the competency of families and individuals all ages." According to its Web site, the JFCS is the oldest social service agency in the western United States and consists of more than 1,600 volunteers.

Food Runners

2579 Washington St.
San Francisco, CA 94115

(415) 929-1866
www.foodrunners.org

During this holiday season, it is easy to get so wrapped up in our own festivities and holiday dinners that we forget about the thousands of individuals who are unable to celebrate as we do. Through Food Runners, you can help provide a meal, or two, to needy individuals in San Francisco. A volunteer run organization, it delivers more than four tons of donated food every week to soup kitchens and needy individuals. The organization encourages participation to help redistribute excess food from restaurants, bakeries, markets and other kitchens to feed the hungry in our city.

Institute on Aging

3330 Geary Blvd., Second Floor West
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 750-4180
www.ioaging.org

Lift your voice and sing at the 23rd Annual Cable Car Caroling event sponsored by the Institute on Aging from noon to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 6. Each December, the institute hosts a tour of the city on motorized cable cars, in which volunteers sing to senior citizens in private homes and senior centers. For more than 30 years, the Institute on Aging has been a fundamental host for programs and services for senior citizens in San Francisco. The nonprofit offers an array of volunteer opportunities to help in its continued outreach efforts.

The Hamilton Family Center

260 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 292-9930
www.hamiltonfamilycenter.org

For nearly 25 years, The Hamilton Family Center has been working to end homelessness throughout the San Francisco Bay area. The center assists homeless families by providing shelter, eviction prevention assistance, youth programming and support services and array of other services. The center humbly accepts donations and volunteers to aid in its latest venture; to rapidly re-house 60 homeless families and youth within the next year.

Pets Are Wonderful (PAWS)

645 Harrison St., Suite 100
San Francisco, CA 94107
(415) 979-9550
www.pawssf.org

Everyone loves pets, but in the City of San Francisco, man's

best friend is especially popular. If you are a pet fanatic or animal lover, you will fit right in as a volunteer with Pets Are Wonderful. The organization is volunteer-based and relies on more than 350 of them to help provide companion animals to low-income individuals living with HIV/AIDS, other disabling illnesses and senior citizens. Focusing on human-animal bonding, PAWS volunteers assist in every aspect of the organization; from dog walking to cat care, fundraising to animal care.

The Arc of San Francisco

1500 Howard St.
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 255-7200
www.thearcsof.org

As the jobless rates for Californians with developmental disabilities doubles the state average, more than 500 developmentally disabled men and women of San Francisco find guidance and help at the Arc of San Francisco. The nonprofit provides services that range from employment placement assistance to creative expression and independent life skills workshops. Recently, the Arc and its affiliates have initiated a landmark Health Care Reform Initiative calling for improved

clinical care, research and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities.

Volunteers are fundamental to the Arc's continued outreach and support of individuals with developmental disabilities. Opportunities range from cooking, tutoring, leading art workshops to events planning and physical therapy.

Women's Initiative

1398 Valencia St.
San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 641-3460
www.womensinitiative.org

For 21 years, the Women's Initiative has provided low-income women throughout San Francisco with the tools and training to realize their dream of starting their own businesses. The non-profit organization is unique in that it provides a 20-session business program, in both English and Spanish, for women from traditionally underserved backgrounds to realize their entrepreneurial career. Volunteers play an essential role in how the organization functions. Opportunities range from serving as a guest speaker, loan committee member, writer, mentor or research statistician.

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Service and Recognition

Local community center sees brighter future with motivated director

By Danielle J. Brown

Sustaining an organization that was founded more than 90 years ago is an accomplishment not to be underrated.

It takes drive, stamina and vision to stay afloat. More than anything, keeping the doors open is a collaborative effort. It also takes a certain person who can cultivate and direct the efforts of determined individuals; someone with the ability to infuse them with a new belief in their selves during critical moments of uncertainty. Since joining the Booker T. Washington Community Service Center in 2005, Executive Director Patricia Scott has done just this.

Scott arrived at the center nearly five years ago with little experience related to community work and a career background in public radio and broadcasting.

"I was more stricken by the sorry state of affairs within the organization, than taking on this new role," Scott said. "The building was in sad repair ..."

With a major financial crisis unraveling, the center was quickly crumbling and the center's future was uncertain. A solution needed to be reached in order to preserve this vital source of support and services for hundreds of Western Addition residents.

"We immediately began a major cleanup," Scott said. "By not only sweeping through the building, but also reconfiguring the structure of the organization."

Finally, with eight truckloads of trash hauled off and a new staff, Scott was confident that much could be accomplished from the fresh start. Her plan of action: to reflect on the history and previous performance of the community center, in order to "learn and build from prior mistakes and obstacles," she said.

The Booker T. Washington Community Service Center was founded in 1919 in response to the lack of resources and services for African-Americans in San Francisco. Over the span of its existence, the community center has tailored its programs and services to match the needs of the Western Addition community, with patrons ranging from African-American military personnel and families during World War I and II, to the current rising population of recent immigrants and second generation youth and families. The center currently offers an array of services that range from housing and healthcare counseling, after school and summer programs, financial literacy and leadership



Executive Director Patricia Scott - Photo by Matt Lehman.

development for youth, senior clubs, computer training and a food pantry.

"It's exciting to see the center evolving and continuing to meet the needs of the community," said 72-year-old Mildred Simmons, a longtime Western Addition resident and volunteer at the community center. "I've seen the neighborhood go through a lot of hardships, and it's great to see Mrs. Scott bringing the center back for us."

Irene Dillard, a lifetime patron of the community center turned staff member, can attest to the vitality the center has brought to the Western Addition neighborhood in light of one of its greatest hardships – housing redevelopment.

"I would never want what happened to the Western Addition to happen anywhere else," Dillard said. "Many of the parents today are lost and confused because they grew up in the process of that major change; the teens we see in the center are the result of that feeling of loss, and that's where we [the community center] step in."

This outlook has been a major point of reference for the executive director and staff as it continues outreach to youth.

"There is a public housing culture here and because the youth are confined to their neighborhood, it is very hard for them to be exposed to anything outside of it," Scott said. "With our summer programs, our aim is to expose them to as many opportunities as possible, with a field trip every single day."

The incredibly popular sum-

mer program at the center is not the only program Scott has successfully implemented.

"My daughter, among several other children learned how to ride a bike because of the bike program Mrs. Scott started," Dillard said.

As an entirely revamped organization, the success of many of the community center's newest programs is largely due to a heightened attentiveness to feedback from the center's patrons. The Booker T. Washington Community Service Center Wi-Fi Project was a direct response to the request for technology and computer training among patrons.

Created to address the digital divide, the Wi-Fi project was made possible through a \$50,000 grant from AT&T, which provided affordable Internet and computers, as well as computer networking training for the tenants at the Westside Courts Project. Tenants enrolled in the computer networking training program have the option of joining the community center's A+ certificate program, a 24-week training program that culminates in a certificate in

computer hardware repair.

"The Wi-Fi project has had a remarkable turnout," Dillard said. "We might not have the most modern or high tech facility, but for what we have, we are doing what we are suppose to be doing."

Despite the dramatic changes and advancements that have been made under the new management of the center, its patrons have yet to see the extent of the innovative ideas Scott has to offer. Teaming with building contractors and planners and establishing partnerships with other San Francisco nonprofits, Scott is planning to completely revitalize the community center by having a state-of-the-art complex built in its place.

"The new community center will target youth and teens, and there are a lot of exciting additional services that we plan to offer," Scott said. Prospective collaborative partners include the Drew School, First Place for Youth and Youth Radio, all of whom will assist in offering onsite youth-focused journalism and media programming, and onsite housing for transitional foster care youth. The redeveloped Booker T. Washington Community Service Center is intended to launch within the next two to five years.

With her foresight to implement plans for future innovation, the executive director is carrying on the organization's legacy and tradition of evolving to match the needs of the Western Addition community with relevant programs and services.

"The center runs better now than it has in a very long time," Dillard said. "The work that Mrs. Scott had done here is remarkable, and I can't wait to see where she takes us."

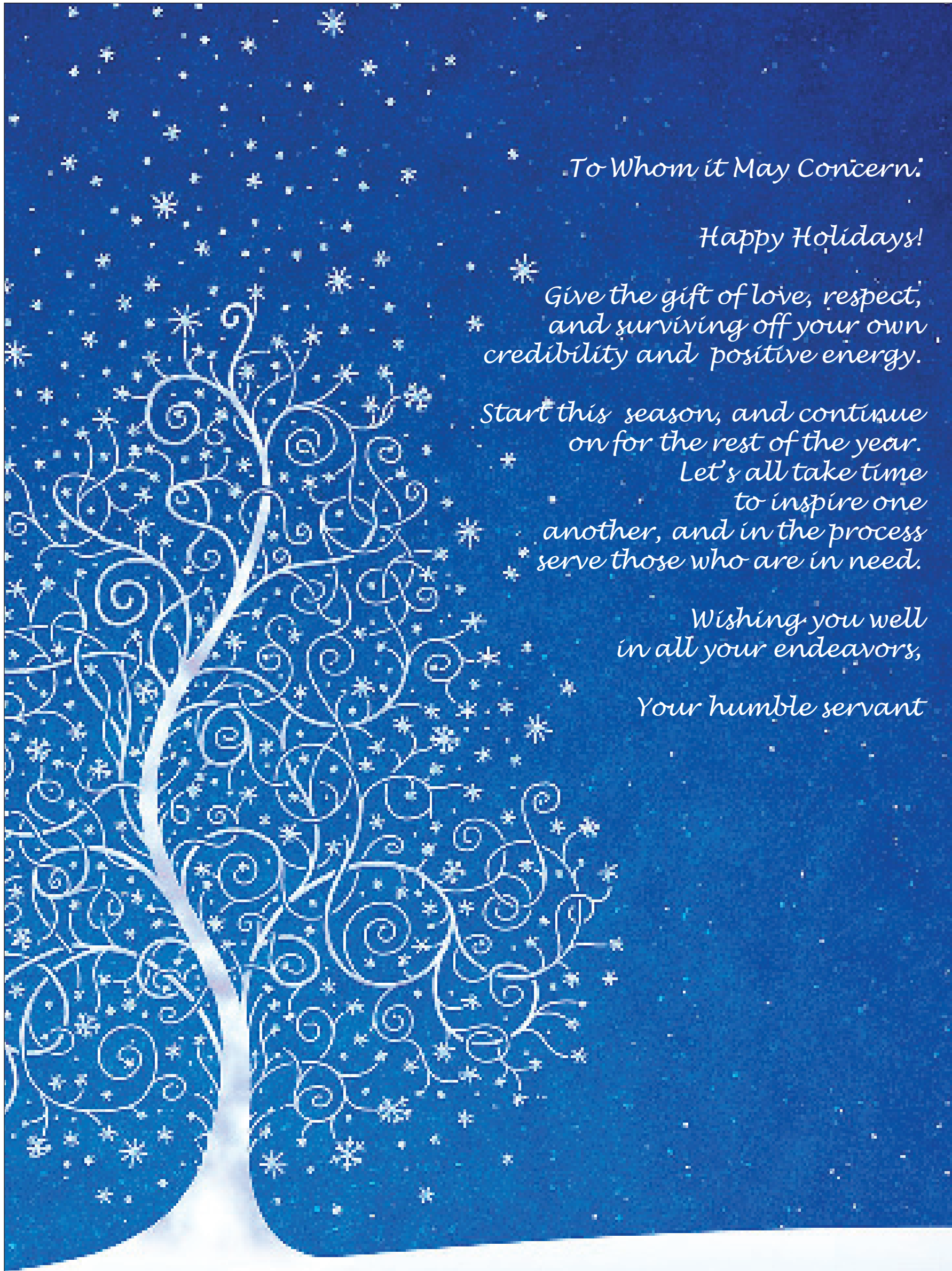
The Booker T. Washington Community Service Center is located at 800 Presidio Ave. in San Francisco. To inquire about their numerous volunteer opportunities, please contact its volunteer coordinator, Sheila Hall, at (415) 928-6596.

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ters. He plans to work with the Rec and Park department, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the city of Pacifica, the county of San Mateo and any other potential partners to develop a plan to restore the habitat without requiring San Francisco to foot the entire bill.

The report outlines three res-

toration plans that either maintain the 18-hole golf course, convert it to a nine-hole course or close the golf course and convert it to an open space park. Rec and Park will conduct a scientific review of the report that to make sure that the proposed restoration will satisfy regulatory requirements.



To Whom it May Concern:

Happy Holidays!

*Give the gift of love, respect,
and surviving off your own
credibility and positive energy.*

*Start this season, and continue
on for the rest of the year.*

*Let's all take time
to inspire one
another, and in the process
serve those who are in need.*

*Wishing you well
in all your endeavors,*

Your humble servant

AlHijra - Chanukah - Christmas - Eid - Winter Solstice - Kwanzaa