



BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION ASSOCIATION

A California non-profit corporation serving children with Autism Spectrum Disorders since 1993

Fall 2010 | Vol. XIII

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Our Mission

To provide treatment and remediation to young children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders; to provide training to those who would offer such treatment; to provide trained personnel for the families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders; and to offer these services to low-income or economically disadvantaged families.

Expanding Our Services

**By Deanne Detmers
 Co-Founder & Executive Director**

Serving the community for 17+ years, BIA has witnessed many changes in both the incidence of autism as well as the treatments that exist for children with the diagnosis. We have seen an array of new bio-medical treatments; we have seen an increase in services by school districts; and a significant increase of new in-home providers. While all of this has led to more available services for children, it has also led toward a trend of children receiving a patchwork of services. Parents often spend their days driving their child from one provider to the next with little collaboration of these services.

In an effort to create an environment where families can access group-based instruction from staff extensively trained in best practices for treating children with ASD, opportunities for supported peer play in addition to the in-home 1:1 teaching and parent training, BIA's Board of Directors unanimously agreed to launching a capital campaign allowing us to create a comprehensive treatment center in the SF Bay Area. The center would consist of an integrated preschool (modeled after our Fresno site); 1:1, center-based services; more after-school social skills programs; as well as provide a training ground for new professionals. Of course, in-home intervention will remain an essential component to our model of comprehensive services. We will release more information as we move forward toward this goal.

This month we would like to put a spotlight on the many individuals who have chosen to make teaching children with autism their lifework and passion. Creativity, patience, commitment and hope are characteristics displayed by our staff at BIA. The children they work with make an unforgettable impression on our staff and our staff make an undeniable impression on the children with whom they work.

We would also like to take time to acknowledge the families who we have developed a lifetime connection with during those early years of intervention. This month we are pleased to be able to offer a support group to BIA Bay Area families that will meet one night per month at our Oakland office. The group will



Employee Spotlight: Bay Area!
HAYDEE AGUERRE

Haydee has been with BIA for over 3 years. Starting out as a tutor, she now manages cases all over the Bay Area.

She comes to work daily with boundless energy and a positive attitude that is contagious to both clients and coworkers alike. Truly dedicated to her work, Haydee is an incredible asset for BIA!



Employee Spotlight: Fresno!
AUNNA MARQUEZ

Aunna has been with BIA for nearly 5 1/2 years. Aunna is an extremely effective tutor for all types of kids. She is creative and is always seeking out ways to challenge the kids she is working with. Aunna is also invaluable at training newer staff and is a model for families & staff alike. Way to go Aunna!

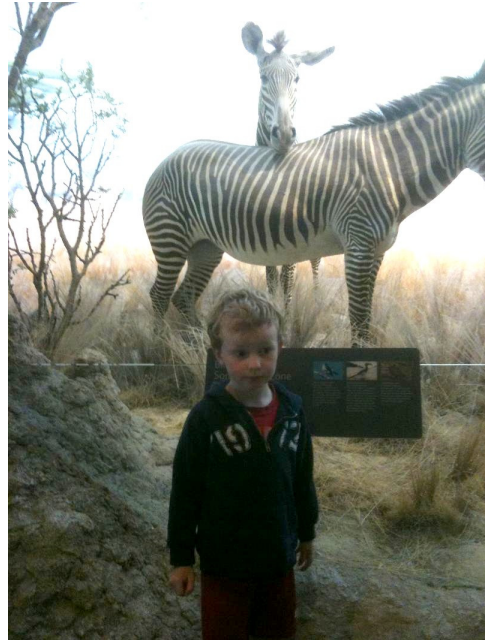
be led by BIA staff member, Courtney Lennard who is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Family participation is one of the single largest predictors of program outcome and we are here to support families in any way that we can.

NEWS

Taking In The Sights In A Whole New Light

- Mhel, parent of a 5 year old son with ASD

One afternoon this past summer, I piled my two kids in the car and we took off for what turned out to be a 9-hour play date. We started with lunch at Fenton's, which was so amazingly joyful and conflict-free. At some point while we were eating our ice cream, I remembered that it was just 3 months ago that I had told my sister we could not accompany her there because Matt, my youngest, could not keep it together there (we



had 2 episodes fairly close together in November & December last year where Matt had complete meltdowns there). We actually DID go in March and it turned out ok, but it was difficult. Today at Fenton's, there was not the tiniest problem (EVEN when I told Matt that he could not have the dessert he wanted - I offered an alternative, and he accepted it without missing a beat). He never even noticed that they accidentally bussed our table when we were perusing ice cream flavors and threw out the picture he had drawn, as well as his milk.

From there we headed off to the Cal Academy of Sciences, where we had a full 2 hours. He let me pull him away from things he was engrossed in to go see other things, he had no issues with the noise or the crowds and had a great time playing with the penguins through the glass and seeing all kinds of creepy-crawlies. Not a complaint, not an inflexible moment...[click here to download & read the rest of the article.](#)

Summer Clubhouse Stays Cool!

By Angelika Schilli, Clubhouse Manager

The Summer Clubhouse was a great success! 9 students participated in our Tuesday group, the Explorers, and 7 children



in our Thursday group, the Adventurers.



Our Tuesday Explorers group works together on an art project

We were very happy to see many familiar faces as well as to welcome our new Clubhouse friends. We not only learned many new games and used up a huge amount of water balloons but also continued to strengthen our friendship skills.



Thursday Adventurers, Max and Daniel, have fun with the water balloon toss game

We would also like to thank our dedicated volunteers Mario Cromaz, Zoe Gross and Abby Woodward who helped out during the summer Clubhouse.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BIA Fresno Harvest Festival!



Come in your costume for a fun-filled, post-Halloween Fall event and a family photo-op!

When: Friday, November 5, 2010

Time: 4:00-7:00pm

Location: BIA Fresno, 5140 N. Fruit Ave, Fresno, CA 93711

For More Information or to RSVP: Call 559-449-1059 or email Rudy Bekeschus at villagepreschool1@sbcglobal.net.

\$15 Per Person Dinner Includes Choice Of:

- Hot Dogs or Handmade Corn Dogs
- French Fries, Garlic Fries, or Chili Fries
- Kettle Corn or Churro
- Concession Drinks

Provided by Yosemite Concessions

\$7 Family Activity Bracelet Includes:

- Family Photo
- Halloween Maze
- Bounce House/Slide
- Pumpkin from Pumpkin Patch
- Exciting Games
- Face Painting
- Cake Walk
- Corn Kernal Pool

Each activity is \$1 without bracelet

All donations are tax-deductible and benefits the children & families of the Village Educational Center.

BIA SUPPORTERS

**Thank You, Girl Scout Troop
#30147!**



Stevie, Alexandra, & Maddie pictured with Program Manager Angelika Schilli & Program Director Rachel Manfredi

Recently, an exceptional group of caring young ladies in Girl Scout Troop #30147 decided to take fundraising for BIA as part of their efforts to earn their Girl Scout Silver Awards. By setting up donation boxes around their communities, a website, and a Facebook page linking back to BIA's website, the girls were able to raise over \$1000 in toys and monetary donations. Thank you Stevie, Maddie and Alexandra! You can still contribute to the girls' scouting and fundraising efforts by visiting their website or Facebook page at:

- [Give 2 Autism](#)
- [Give 2 Autism Facebook](#)

FUND DONORS*

TEAM MATES (\$1000 AND ABOVE)

Andrew de Vries
Joseph & Joanna Rashid

EXPLORERS (\$250-\$499)

Rosenberg Ach Foundation

FIRST STEPS (\$100-\$249)

Bronwen Morgan & Jeff Zieba
Chris Lehman & Lisa Greenberg
Michael Cameron

BUILDING BLOCKS (\$20-\$99)

Lynn Altieri
Shaleena Kumar

GIVE 2 AUTISM SUPPORTERS - GIRL SCOUT TROOP #30147

Calvin & Liza Lai Chin
Eileen Barry & Mike D'arcy

Jen Hannaford - Prints In Print
Joan & Peter Cuddihy
Karen Jones
Karl Turkel - Prints In Print
Kilian Murphy
Michael Joseph Wilson
Penny Ritter
Rhonda Remy
Teresa Leu

*Donors after our newsletter release date will be acknowledged in the next issue.

IN GRATITUDE

CLUBHOUSE VOLUNTEERS

Abigail Woodward
Mario Cromaz
Zoe Gross

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