



BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION ASSOCIATION

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

Summer 2011 | Vol. XV

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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.

BIA RELIES ON YOUR DONATIONS!

Greetings!

If you have a Facebook account, "Like" BIA on Facebook and help us get to 200 people! We keep our Facebook updated with interesting links and recent happenings at BIA.

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

NEWS

Happenings at The Village!

By Monique Bekeschus, Clinical Director (Fresno)



It's been nearly five years since BIA opened its innovative Village Preschool in Fresno, California. Since that time The Village has expanded to well beyond an inclusive preschool. The Village has grown to become an educational center providing a much

needed clinic setting for children receiving BIA's 1:1 intervention. This space is invaluable for children to receive their intervention in a variety of settings and provides children the opportunity to generalize skills with varied materials and toys. Children also have the unique opportunity to socialize with other children at The Village in a supportive and facilitated setting.

The Village is home to the social program, Crew. Each Wednesday evening kids ages 8-15 meet and develop friendships with one another. Additionally, Crew also occurs in Visalia on Tuesday evenings with kids ages 8-18 (in separate groups).

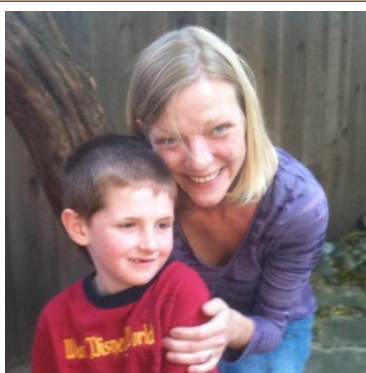
New happenings at The Village include:

Your donations are used to help subsidize our after-school program, Clubhouse, whose costs are not fully covered by the Regional Center or tuition; to help offset the 4.25% rate cuts we have received due to the state budget crisis; and to help purchase specialized educational materials that we can loan to families during their time in our program.

PLEASE consider making a donation TODAY!

[Donate](#)

BIA is a non-profit, 501(c)(3).



Employee Spotlight: Bay Area!

JESSICA TUCKER

Jessica Tucker has been a tutor at BIA since 2007. Jessica often forms strong emotional attachments to her clients, and goes above and beyond the call of duty for each of them--even going as far as learning new languages (French, Serbian and Sign).

She has also been a wonderful addition to BIA's afterschool program, the Clubhouse--serving as a great example to new tutors, and adding to the fun group dynamic. Thank you, Jessica!

1. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of our board members and employees, the addition of a motor room to The Village campus will occur in July. This will be invaluable during Fresno's infamous "bad air" days and less frequent rainy days so that all students may engage in gross motor development activities no matter the weather!
2. The Village is currently working with the Fresno Accreditation Institute to achieve accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The Village scored in the top two preschools in the first round of site evaluations and is excited about being one of only three other local preschools in the area who are NAEYC accredited.

HELPFUL ARTICLES

iPads & Autism: A Perfect Match!

By Deanne Detmers, Executive Director

Many parents have already discovered that their children are easily engaged, if not mesmerized, by their iPhones. The internet is also buzzing with articles on iPhone and iPad applications that can be used to keep children diagnosed with ASD constructively engaged.

Times have certainly changed. Just a decade ago, any type of technology for people with Autism was clunky, expensive, not portable, and often required expert consultation in order to set up and use. Remember the touch screens attached to

your home computer screen or the strip cards that had voice output when you ran them through a machine? When smartphones came into existence, a whole new world opened up for children with Autism with respect to technology.

The most wonderful thing is that the iPad/iPhone is very portable, user-friendly, and has a lot of application possibilities that range from advanced problem solving to simple cause-effect games. We have recently begun using iPads with several of our students with great success.

One of our students, "JJ", began successfully using an iPad, application ([Proloquo2Go](#)) before he received an AAC* device



JJ with his iPad



**Employee Spotlight:
Fresno!
MATT FABRIZIO**

Matt Fabrizio began working as a tutor for BIA in February 2006 and soon became a valuable member of the Program Manager/Consultant team. Matt has the knack of immediately making staff and parents feel at ease. His creativity and enthusiasm with the kids he works with at BIA and The Village Preschool make him a favorite with everyone. Thank you Matt for your passion and dedication to BIA and the children and families we serve!

**Brothers & Sisters of
Autism**
www.sibsofautism.org

We are proud to announce the launch of a [new website](#) created for siblings of children with Autism. The website's creator is the sister of a former BIA client. On the website she candidly shares her own personal story, talks about her parents coping and gives tips for dealing with a sibling diagnosed with Autism. We urge you to check it out and pass it along to other families as a resource for brothers and sisters of children with Autism everywhere.



from his school district. The application displays clear picture symbols (similar to Mayer-Johnson icons) from which the student can initiate communication, such as requests. Once the student touches the desired symbol, the iPad will produce the voice output of the word.

Having JJ become proficient with the iPad application was extremely helpful because it showed the AAC assessment team that he was already using AAC technology effectively. It also served as a good tool for them during the assessment process because it showed how far along he was with his ability to use technology and helped them match him to his current (very advanced) device.

JJ's mother reflects, "It's hard to explain but the iPad opened a gateway to other forms of communication with JJ especially with loved ones who did not know sign language. When he learned to use the app [Proloquo2Go](#), which didn't take long, his frustration level decreased because he found a way to communicate. Plus with the other fun and learning apps downloaded, it kept him busy while we had to do things like sit down and eat at a restaurant."

BIA's staff finds a variety of uses for the iPad; from using the app [Duck Duck Moose](#) to play a child's favorite song so that the child remains successfully engaged in circle time to videotaping social stories on the iPad then replaying them and discussing them with students; the possibilities seem endless. Have fun exploring!

These two links will lead you to a vast number of app recommendations from parents and educators:

- [Jeremy Brown's App Recommendations for Students with Autism](#)
- [Best iPad Apps for Autism and Asperger's Syndrome](#)

*AAC = Augmentative Alternative Communication

KID-TASTIC STORIES!

Robin: Spelling Bee Champ!

Former BIA client, Robin took 2nd place at a recent Middle School Spelling Bee. Deanne Detmers had the opportunity to interview Robin recently about his experience.

Deanne: Tell me about the Spelling Bee you took part in?

Robin: Drake came in first.

Deanne: How did it work?

Robin: Miss Lavis gave out the words. We were in Room 307. The hardest word was *abominable*. I can spell it now but that was the word that I missed.

Deanne: How did you decide to compete in the Spelling Bee?

Robin: My friend Anthony told



me to try it and that I should do it.

Deanne: What is your favorite school subject?

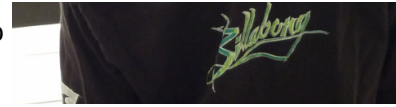
Robin: Math. I like doing percent, ratios, proportions with variables like $65\% \text{ of } 80 = X$.

Deanne: Wow! That is impressive. What could I do to improve my memory and spelling skills?

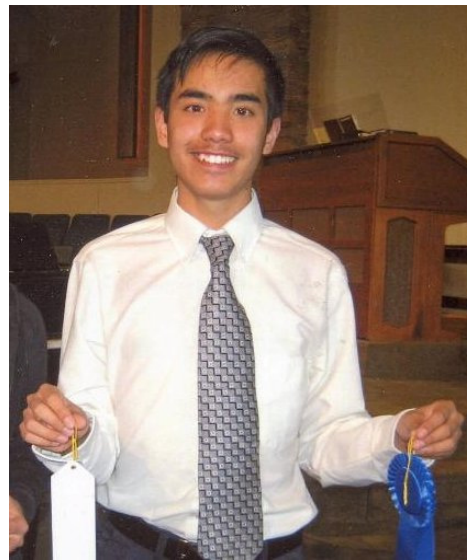
Robin: I don't know. Maybe take a spelling pill!

Deanne: (laughing)

Robin: Did I crack you up? I cracked you up!



Eric: High School Graduate!



Back in our Summer 2006 newsletter, we featured one of our former students, Eric, who won 1st place in a Statewide Junior High Classical Piano competition.

Flash-forward 5 years and Eric is now a high school graduate with multiple musical accomplishments under his belt; his most recent being winning 1st place in the Sr. High Sacred piano GSACS Fine Arts state competition.

Below is a video of Eric receiving one of his many 1st place finishes:



Kid-Tastic: Eric!

Eric's future plans are to attend college in Gilroy, CA in order to pursue music studies.

Congratulations and good luck on your future studies, Eric! We are so proud of all you've accomplished!

2011 COMMUNITY EVENTS

"A-R-T-I-S-M"

Iron Bird Cafe Proudly Presents

A R T I S M

(ar-tism - [ar-tiz-uhm]: noun)
 exhibiting an involvement and or appreciation of art, showing skill or excellence
 in artistic workmanship by children who have a pervasive developmental disorder.



Thursday, April 7th - Sunday, May 1st
 1915 Fulton Street - Fresno 93721
 Reception Date: April 7th, 2011 5pm - 8pm
 * All proceeds from art sales goes to the Village Educational Center.

the Village
 Educational Center
 1915 Fulton Street
 Fresno, CA 93721
 (559) 233-1111

Throughout the months of April and May, kids of BIA and The Village's artwork was featured and sold at Iron Bird Café in the Tower district of Fresno.

This show opened on Fresno's Art Hop Night to a resounding success and was recently featured in KFSN ABC 30's news broadcast! See the video below featuring The Village's Head Teacher, Monica Castillo:



ABC 30 News ARTISM

Thanks to Aunna Marquez and artist, Robert Amador for all their hard work towards this show!

Walk For Autism Fresno



BIA was fortunate to partner with California State University Fresno's fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi, for Fresno's first ever Autism walk. Many families and professionals gathered on the morning of Saturday, May 14th on CSU Fresno's campus to walk for Autism awareness.

BIA SUPPORTERS

FUND DONORS*

TEAM MATES (\$1000 AND ABOVE)

Bernard Slosberg & Mary Chor
 Karen Borden
 Kids Educational Development Scholarships (KEDS)
 Herb & Geri Thomas
 Laura & John Fisher

CLIMBERS (\$500-\$999)

Joseph & Joanna Rashid

FIRST STEPS (\$100-\$249)

Kelley Guimond
 Lynne Thomas
 Zheng Zeng

BUILDING BLOCKS (\$15-\$99)

Marilyn Self
 Michael Leperi & Melissa Samet

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

IN GRATITUDE

GOODS DONATIONS

Luz & Rudy Apolo
 Rebeca Robboy

CLUBHOUSE VOLUNTEERS

Ana Maria Garcia Rubio
 Danielle Cohen
 Dilara Silver
 Dorota Roszko
 Hannah Lee
 Jennifer Su
 Jessica Katzki
 Myung Cho
 Sophie Safire
 Talia Young
 Tatjana Marcukov

Valentina Sanna
Zoe Gross

IN MEMORY OF FREDERICK V. BALDI, M.D.

Marilyn Self
Michael Leperi & Melissa Samet

VILLAGE PRESCHOOL SUPPORTERS

Kelley Guimond

