



BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION ASSOCIATION

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

Winter 2011 | Vol. XIV

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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 Forges New Partnerships in 2011

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

The year, 2010, passed quickly-too quickly! In 2011, BIA is looking forward to our new community partnerships with Head Start Oakland and Jewish Community High School of the Bay in San Francisco.

In January 2011, BIA began a partnership with [Head Start Oakland](#). Head Start is a federally funded program that provides quality early childhood programs to low income families. Their mission is much like BIA's mission; to promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children. As with BIA, Head Start places a significant emphasis on parent involvement.

BIA was asked to come on board in order to provide skilled 1:1 aides, in Head Start preschool settings, to children who possessed extreme behavioral challenges, many of whom have special needs and limited communication skills. We hope that our expertise will have a lasting positive impact on these deserving children, their families and the Head Start professionals with whom we come into contact.

In this newsletter, we share with you the personal story of how Autism and Early Intervention touched the life of one of our former staff members, Leah Baugh. We are also proud to announce our expansion of our after-school program, Clubhouse, to San Francisco thanks to the generosity of the Jewish Community High School of The Bay who has graciously loaned us access to their beautiful campus and committed student volunteers.

NEWS

My First Steven

By Leah (Baugh) Duarte, former BIA Tutor

I first met
Steven four
and a half
years ago





Employee Spotlight: Bay Area!
VALARIE RANGEL

Valarie has been tutor with BIA for almost 4 years. Her dedication, creativity, talent and experience touches everyone she works with. Her quick and comforting smile combined with her gentle yet consistent approach keeps her clients engaged and focused. She is deeply respected by her fellow team members & the parents she works with. BIA is truly thankful for the life-changing work that Valarie brings to each child!



Employee Spotlight: Fresno!
AR YANG

Ar Yang has been an employee of BIA since November 2005. She has been a Program Manager since 2009. Ar is known by families & co-workers for her stealth patience and consistent demeanor. She is also positive ALL THE TIME!! Ar is able to make a significant impact on the lives of children with

during an interactive interview. I remember Steven's tutor asking him, "Can you say hi to Leah?" To that, Steven screamed, "NO LEAH!!!!!"



It actually was pretty great. I spent the next two years spending five mornings a week with Steven at home and at school. I remember being so amazed on the impact I had on this child as I watched him learn and grow. In the beginning, I was yelled at and I did have a few toys thrown at me and went home with a few bruises. But I also went home knowing Steven learned that Thomas is blue, the green train is Percy, and he sat on the potty just a little longer than the day before.

The last few days I worked with Steven, I was correcting him every time he said "envelope". He just couldn't pronounce it correctly, and he had about five different versions of the word. On my last day in the classroom, Steven and I were at the art table. Steven asked me, "Can you get me an ENVELOPE please?" with huge smile, knowing he just perfectly pronounced the word, knowing I would be so proud of him. In that moment, I really felt the difference I got to make in Steven's life. I thought of every milestone I had the privilege to witness. Down to potty training, using his words, eating something new, matching categories, holding a pencil, looking at my eyes, making so many friends, everything.

On October 9th, I got to marry my best friend (who spells his name differently, but is also a Stephen). When thinking about who to choose as a ring bearer, I couldn't think of anyone more special to me than my first Steven. And of course, the one person to bring me to tears on my wedding day was Steven as he surprised me with a special speech at my reception, in front of everybody!

I should probably explain [in his speech below that] Steven went through a phase where he would only want to be referred to as "Shrek" which automatically named me, being his girlfriend, "Fiona":

*"Dear Fiona,
As you go from Steven to Stephen today, I want to let you know how important you have been in my life. You have taught me many skills needed in a strong marriage. You taught me how to talk, how to communicate, how to express my feelings, how to have fun. We worked on patience and making friends. You will always be my Big Leah, my Fiona, and most of all...my friend. I wish you happiness today and always.
Love,*

autism & their families due to these qualities. Thank you, Ar!



Your First Steven"

Thank you, BIA, for not only giving me a job for four years, but for allowing me to meet amazing children like Steven who impacted my life just as much as I had the privilege to impact theirs.

Clubhouse Expands...Again!

By Angelika Schilli, Clubhouse Manager

During the fall Clubhouse session, we explored our five senses. We had fun making smelly volcanoes, magic bubbles, and clean mud; playing listening bingo; and discovering colored rice. We went through sensory obstacle courses and engaged in guessing games with the help of a "touch and feel box".



Mateo, Dania, & Koen filling their treasure bottles with colored rice

We never lost sight of working on and practicing our friendship skills. We also launched a brand new Clubhouse blog that features many of our favorite Clubhouse activities and cooperative play ideas: <http://biaclubhouse.blogspot.com/>



Reynaldo blowing bubbles

We are very fortunate to start a Clubhouse in San Francisco in addition to our two groups in Oakland. The first San Francisco Clubhouse will run from January 25 until March 15 at the Jewish Community High School of the Bay (1835 Ellis Street, San Francisco). The Jewish Community High School of the Bay has generously opened its doors for us. Not only are they allowing us to use their beautiful facility but some of their high school students will be working as Clubhouse volunteers. We can't wait to get started!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fresno's Spring ArtHop Benefiting The Village Preschool

This spring, BIA Fresno will be having an art show with proceeds benefiting the Village Preschool!

In conjunction with [Fresno Arts Council's ArtHop](#), the show will feature local artist Robert Amador, refreshments, and hors d'oeuvres. Please keep checking the [Events](#) website and this space for more information.

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

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