



## BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION FOR AUTISM

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

### **BIA Newsletter Fall 2014 | Vol. XXII**

#### **What's In This Issue...**

[Clubhouse: We Are Fillers, Not Spillers](#)

[Fund-A-Need Update](#)

[Max Understood Collaboration  
& Fundraiser](#)

[BIA on Amazon](#)

[BIA Supporters](#)

#### **Quick Links**

[BIA Website](#)

[BIA Facebook](#)

[BIA Pinterest](#)

[BIA YouTube](#)

[BIA Clubhouse Blog](#)

[BIA SF Clubhouse Blog](#)

[The Village Educational Center](#)

[BIA CREW Blog](#)

[BIA Videos & Reference Desk](#)

#### **Our Mission**

BIA's mission is to significantly improve the lives of children diagnosed with Autism by providing innovative and individualized treatment.

## **Clubhouse: "We Are Fillers, Not Spillers"**



BIA's therapeutic after-school program, The Clubhouse, continues into its 6th year. We are now running 3 groups in the Bay Area: two in the East Bay and one in San Francisco. This program gives students diagnosed with Autism, ages 5-12, a great place to spend the afternoon meeting with friends and having a great time, all while cultivating critical social skills.

**BIA RELIES ON YOUR  
DONATIONS!**

Your donations will go toward the purchase of specialized instructional materials that we loan to families during their time in our programs; staff development; and to the Linda Wald Memorial Fund which subsidizes tuition for children with ASD to attend the Clubhouse and Crew, our after-school programs in the Bay Area and Central Valley.

**PLEASE consider making a tax-deductible donation TODAY!**

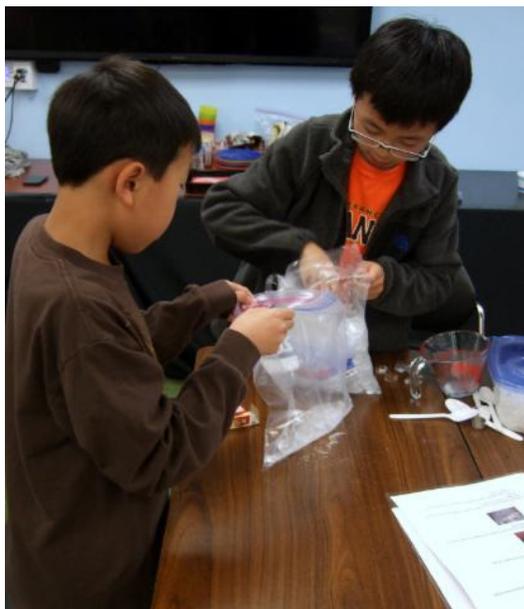


BIA is a California 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation.



**Employee Spotlight:  
Bay Area!  
ALEX HOHENHAUS**

Alex is our playground and playdate diva! Alex has an amazing ability to round up playmates on the playground with her seemingly limitless energy and enthusiasm. Her dedication to the job shines through in each session, and we look forward to seeing her continue to thrive in her new role as Program Manager!



Whether it is making ice cream in a Ziploc bag, pretending to be a recycling truck, or creating a structure out of rolled up newspaper, opportunities abound for teamwork and interactions.



**Employee Spotlight:  
Fresno!  
CRISTEE MARUSICH**

Cristee began her career with BIA when she was only 18 years old. Over the past 8 years, Cristee has become invaluable to our team in Fresno and is now a Program Manager and the leader of our social program, The Village Crew. Cristee's mom, Katie Ray-Campus, before her passing in 2013, sat on BIA's Fresno Board of Directors and was a true supporter of our services and the director of special education for Visalia Unified. These days, Cristee is often found organizing areas at the center and creating new colorful, creative materials for her clients. Cristee is always positive and supportive of her families and co-workers. BIA's future is much brighter with Cristee on our team.

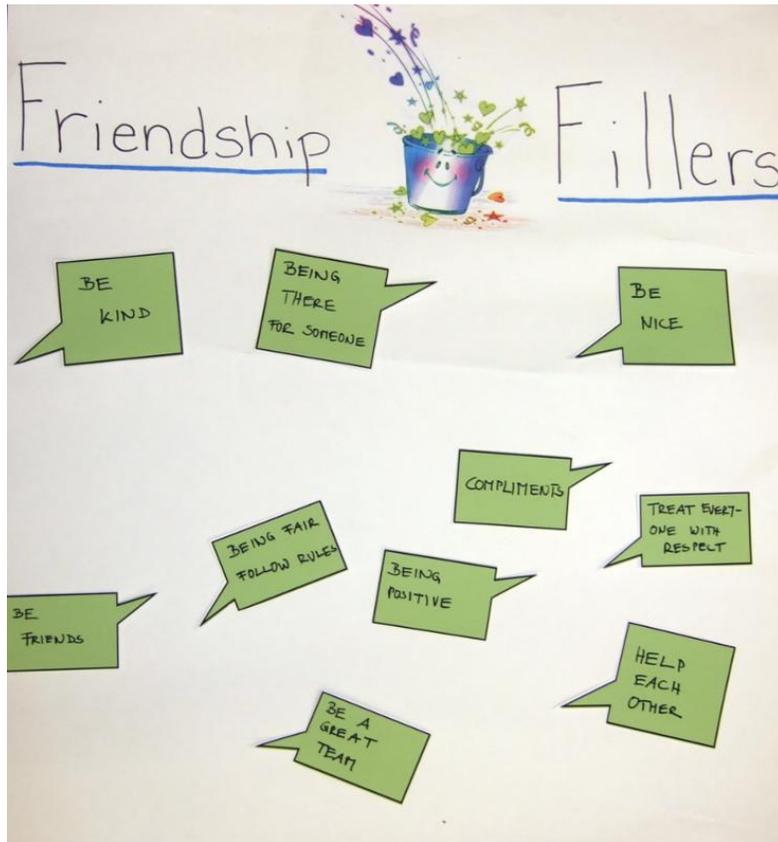


A favorite among Clubhouse goers is our Friendship Bucket. The idea was adapted from the book, Have You Filled A Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud.



**Clubhouse Volunteer  
Spotlight!  
SOPHIA KAUFMANN**

"Volunteering at Clubhouse has taught me so much in so many different ways. I have learned how to communicate better with not only kids with Autism, but other kids in general, whether they have special needs or not. BIA has also helped me discover who I am as a leader and has helped me develop leadership skills, along with skills in understanding and comforting others." -Sophia



Everyone in the group has a friendship bucket and earns marbles for acts of kindness and friendship throughout each Clubhouse day. Buckets can be filled by helping a friend, being fair and following the rules, listening to each other, or being positive. We work hard to not spill (figuratively) our buckets by being bossy or using unkind words.

At the end of each meeting, we count how many marbles we collected as a group and beating our own record always creates great excitement. Or, as one of our Clubhouse friends put it: "WE ARE FILLERS, NOT SPILLERS."

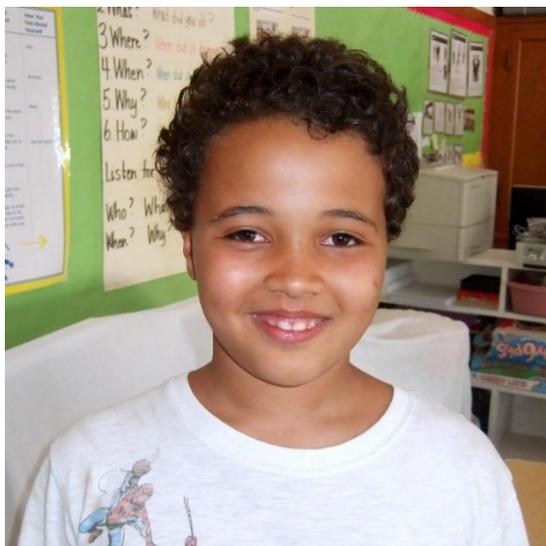
A huge thanks to Piedmont Unified School District for their generous donated space and to Jewish Community High School of the Bay for donated space and enthusiastic student volunteers. We couldn't do it without them!

For more fun after-school ideas, please check out our Clubhouse blogs:

- <http://biaclubhouse.blogspot.com>
- <http://biasclubhouse.blogspot.com>

## FUND-A-NEED UPDATE: LINDA WALD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

At our 20th Anniversary Gala, BIA received \$2,400 to fund the Linda Wald Memorial Scholarship that goes towards a 1-year Clubhouse or Crew scholarship for a deserving child.



**Jamal** is one of our well deserving Clubhouse scholarship recipients. With his energy, curiosity, fun personality and enthusiasm for all Clubhouse games and activities, he brightens every Clubhouse meeting. The only thing that Jamal does not like about Clubhouse is the break between sessions!

Thank you to Antonio & Juliet Campos, Jason Davila, Joan Davis, Joseph & Kathleen Eichberg, Claire Musngi, Lynne Royer & Bruce Saldinger, William Stevens, and Keith Wolff for your contributions to the Fund-A-Need Clubhouse & Crew Scholarships!

Stay tuned for how your donation has made a difference for BIA students!



## MAX UNDERSTOOD COLLABORATION

BIA is excited to partner with the [Paul Dresher Ensemble](#) in bringing the world premiere of [Max Understood](#) and **Sound Maze for Max** to Fort Mason Center in San Francisco during Autism Awareness Month in April 2015.

We would love to have you come out and support this amazing opportunity to educate others about Autism through these creative works.

## Max Understood: An Afternoon of Song



BIA and the Paul Dresher Ensemble invite you to attend an afternoon of wine, hors d'oeuvres, and song where you'll be able to meet artists Michael Rasbury, Nancy Carlin, and Paul Dresher as well as preview songs from Max Understood!

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2014**  
**PEARSON THEATRE, MEYER SOUND**  
**2837 10TH STREET, BERKELEY, CA**  
**3:30 - 6:30PM**

**\$25 couvert. Space is limited. RSVP required.**  
**Call 510-652-7445 ext. 15 or visit**  
**[maxunderstoodfundraiser.brownpapertickets.com](http://maxunderstoodfundraiser.brownpapertickets.com)**

All proceeds from this fundraiser will support the world premiere of two amazing art works that together explore autism impact on the community: Max Understood and Sound Maze for Max.

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**If you cannot attend, we would still appreciate your support!**

**Please make checks payable to "Paul Dresher Ensemble" and mail them to:**  
**333 Valencia Street, Suite 301**  
**San Francisco, CA 94103-3552**

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**Max Understood**, is a "gorgeous and heartrending" new musical about a 7 year-old autistic boy and his journey beyond the confines of his parents' apartment to explore the beauty and mysteries of the world around him. Created by Michael Rasbury & Nancy Carlin, this musical drama, was

named Outstanding New Musical at the 2009 New York Musical Theater Festival.

In tandem with Max Understood, the Paul Dresher Ensemble will premiere a new interactive sound installation by composer Dresher - **Sound Maze for Max** - specifically designed to accommodate people on the autism spectrum. Housing twelve oversized invented instruments, this installation will enable autistic children, teens, and adults to experiment with sound, light, and movement.

## BIA ON AMAZON



Do you love to shop on Amazon? Please use AmazonSmile and support BIA! It's just like shopping on Amazon's regular website only Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible items you purchase back to BIA! Visit this link to get started: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-3188064>

## BIA SUPPORTERS



Thank you so much to those of you who donated to us so far this year. We sincerely appreciate your support and look forward to sharing the news of our accomplishments throughout the year!

To those who wish to donate, please [click the Donate button at the top](#). We accept donations all year!

### **BIA SUPPORTERS\***

#### **TEAM MATES (\$1000 AND ABOVE)**

Karen & Jerry Borden  
Lynne Royer & Bruce Saldinger  
Oakland A's Community Fund

**CLIMBERS (\$500-\$999)**

Susie Renner

**EXPLORERS (\$250-\$499)**

Bronwen Morgan & Jeff Zieba

**FIRST STEPS (\$100-\$249)**

Jeana Holme

Lori Hagerty

Lynn Thomas

Polly Murphy

**BUILDING BLOCKS (\$15-\$99)**

Annette & Jack Heller

Michael Kelly

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

**IN GRATITUDE**

**SERVICES DONATIONS**

Jewish Community High School of the Bay

Piedmont Unified School District - Beach Elementary

**PROGRAM MATERIALS DONATIONS**

Geri & Herb Thomas

Heidi Kershaw

Jane Tishkoff

Jennifer Sills

Yael Uziyel & Barak Naveh

**CLUBHOUSE VOLUNTEERS**

Elizabeth Arellano

David Chidester

Avigayil Edelman

Sophia Kaufmann

Julia Perlov