INVESTING IN QUALITY AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

During the past year, Gatepath achieved monumental success thanks to the strength of our team, support from donors, Gatepath Auxiliary, volunteers and our organization’s commitment to investing in quality programs and innovative services.

CHILDREN’S SERVICES
In September, our Learning Links Preschool in Mountain View became a fully inclusive program. Both of Gatepath’s preschools now replicate the natural learning environment where children with and without disabilities learn side-by-side. Understanding inclusion at an early age teaches children to appreciate and value differences. This propels us toward creating a world in which people of all abilities are accepted, respected and included.

YOUTH PROGRAMS
We added several health and wellness elements to our youth programs. To address the need for afterschool programming for youth with autism, ADHD, or other learning differences in our community, we added inclusive yoga and cooking classes to our lineup of recreational activities. The benefits of practicing yoga include an increased sense of mindfulness and self-awareness. Cooking classes offer nutrition education and life skills development so youth can lead a holistic, healthy lifestyle.

ADULT PROGRAMS
Our adult services have also adopted healthy eating and active living components into the daily curriculum. Staff members engage with program participants to find healthy recipes, create grocery lists, shop for ingredients, and cook meals. Some of our programs utilize local community kitchens to prepare meals together, exemplifying Gatepath’s mission to empower those we serve through meaningful community partnerships.

We also launched an art therapy class at our campus in Burlingame. The class is designed to promote creativity and provide an outlet for healthy emotional expression by transforming thoughts and feelings into beautiful art. We’re very excited to present some of the artwork at *The Power of Possibilities*, our fundraising event on March 23, 2017.

FAMILY SUPPORT
Gatepath’s Family Resource Center has made tremendous progress towards increasing outreach to traditionally underserved families. In November, for example, we launched a free support group for Spanish-speaking parents in Half Moon Bay. Gatepath is proud to support diverse populations and families with culturally-responsive resources. We hope to continue expanding these types of services in the future.

NEW YEAR, NEW UPGRADES
Recognizing that the physical space where we offer programs is important to learning and well-being, we recently renovated two of our adult sites (in Burlingame and Daly City). When we invest in our infrastructure, we’re investing in the betterment of our programs, our staff, and those we serve.

At Gatepath, we are proud of the services we offer and the relationships we’ve established over the years. We continually innovate and adapt to an ever-changing environment that is rife with opportunities and inspiration, and we are thrilled to continue enriching our community partnerships and strengthening our programs in 2017 and beyond.
GATEPATH IS COMMITTED TO WAGE EQUALITY

Gatepath has a proud history of helping adults with developmental disabilities secure jobs at companies throughout the Bay Area. We’ve seen from firsthand experience that everyone benefits from an inclusive workplace. I’m very pleased to say that as of January 1, 2017, all of the adults in our employment program working through Gatepath contracts are receiving minimum wage or above. For years, federal law allowed workers with developmental disabilities to be compensated at sub-minimum wage.

We have worked diligently to change this employment model, and are very proud to say we’ve taken an important step toward wage equality for all. We’re developing an innovative vocational training and coaching model that will increase new employment opportunities for the adults we serve. In the meantime, please contact Eileen Easterbrook at eeasterbrook@gatepath.org with job opportunities for the highly motivated, skilled, punctual, and friendly individuals in our employment programs.

Watch for updates about this important subject in the coming months by signing up to receive our e-newsletter at Gatepath.org.

GATEPATH WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP

The New Year brought changes to the leadership on our Board of Directors and the Gatepath Auxiliary. The four new members joining our board are: Jeff Brown (Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications and Government Affairs at GoPro); Cassy Christianson (a developmental specialist and consultant for families of children with special needs); Steve Eskenazi (an angel investor and former Managing Partner with Walden Venture Capital); and Suman Prasad (Head of Startup and VC Partnerships, Global Partnerships at Google).

Their expertise in the healthcare, financial, and nonprofit sectors are valuable additions to our board, as we continue to advance Gatepath as a leader in creating inclusive opportunities and providing the highest quality services for individuals with special needs.

We are also pleased to announce a new slate of officers on the Executive Committee and the Gatepath Auxiliary. As we welcome this new leadership, we also extend our sincere gratitude to the officers who recently completed their terms. The entire board has contributed significantly to our success as an organization, and is committed to furthering our mission.

2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **Board Chair:** Paul Regan
- **Vice Chair:** Elaine Cohen, Ed.D.
- **Treasurer:** Matt Edling
- **Secretary:** Linda Leao
- **Development Committee Chair:** Todd Gemmer

2017 GATEPATH AUXILIARY OFFICERS

- **President:** Kathryn Breaux
- **Vice-President:** Cathy Nessier
- **Treasurer:** Sara Jungroth
- **Recording Secretary:** Carolyn Bunje
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Kris Willig

We welcome our new officers and board members, and are grateful to the officers who just finished serving in their terms. The entire board has contributed significantly to our success as an organization, and is committed to furthering our mission.

OUR VISION: A world where people of all abilities are fully accepted, respected and included.
SAIC is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace. One way we strive to achieve this is through our Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) and the support they provide to our employees.

ERGs are employee-led groups that bring together individuals who share a common interest or background to support each other and promote diversity within the company. They offer opportunities for professional development, networking, and volunteerism, as well as a platform to advocate for policies and practices that support diversity and inclusion.

For example, SAIC’s Women’s Employee Resource Group (WERG) is dedicated to empowering and engaging women employees at SAIC. They organize events and activities that promote professional development, networking, and mentorship opportunities, while also advocating for initiatives that support women’s career growth and success.

In addition to ERGs, SAIC also offers a range of programs and initiatives aimed at promoting diversity and inclusion. These include employee resource networks (ERNs), which are groups of employees from diverse backgrounds who work together to support each other and advocate for diversity and inclusion policies. SAIC also has a Diversity and Inclusion Council, which is responsible for developing and implementing strategies to promote diversity and inclusion across the company.

At SAIC, we believe that diversity and inclusion are essential to our mission and success. By fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace, we can continue to attract and retain the best talent, and create a culture that is welcoming to all.

If you’re interested in getting involved or learning more about the initiatives we have in place to support diversity and inclusion, please visit the Diversity and Inclusion page on our website.
UPCOMING EVENTS

February
7  Yoga Classes (Ages 14-22)
7  Autism Support Group
11  FREE WORKSHOP: Working Together for Children with Special Needs
13  Cerebral Palsy Parent Group
17  Gatepath Social Connection’s Hang Outs
21  Grupo de Apoyo Para Padres

March
3  Gatepath Social Connection’s Hang Outs
7  Autism Support Group
13  Cerebral Palsy Parent Group
21  Grupo de Apoyo Para Padres
23  The Power of Possibilities

Stay Connected:  

For more information visit: Gatepath.org/calendar

We recently changed our database; if your address below needs to be updated, please email development@gatepath.org.

The POWER of POSSIBILITIES
An inspirational event that celebrates individuals of all abilities!

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2017  |  7 P.M.
San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront
1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA

“As the parent of a child with special needs, I have learned that disability is often imposed upon a person. Yet what one person deems a disability, another person deems a challenge and most importantly an opportunity to show the strength and deep reserve of the human spirit.”

- Colin Farrell

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT GATEPATH.ORG/POP