

Founded in 1975, The Help Group is the largest, most innovative and comprehensive non-profit organization in the United States serving children with special needs related to autism, Asperger's Disorder, learning disabilities, mental retardation, abuse and emotional problems.

The Help Group's six specialized day schools offer pre-K through high school programs for more than 1,100 students. The Help Group's wide range of mental health and therapy services, child abuse, foster family and residential programs extend its reach to more than 5,000 children and their families each year. With over 700 staff members, The Help Group's state of the art schools and programs are located on four major campuses in the Los Angeles area.

The Help Group believes that dignity, hope, opportunity and love are the birthrights of all children. At the heart of its efforts is the commitment to helping young people fulfill their potential to lead positive, productive and rewarding lives. With the collective commitment of our Board of Directors, staff, governmental colleagues, philanthropic friends, parents and volunteers, we are able to serve more and more children with new and expanded programs... because every child deserves a great future.

Culver City ■ Sherman Oaks ■ Valley Glen ■ Van Nuys  
PHONE: 877.943.5747 ■ FAX: 818.779.5292 ■ www.thehelpgroup.org

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## SAVE THE DATE

The Teddy Bear Ball  
honoring  
Garth Ancier

The Beverly Hilton Hotel  
December 4, 2004

The Help Group Holiday Carnival 2004

Sherman Oaks campus  
December 11, 2004

Distinguished Lecturer Series

Early Identification and Early Intervention for  
Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders  
January 31, 2005

The 14th Annual Teddy Bear Golf Classic

Valencia Country Club  
April 25, 2005

The Teddy Bear Picnic

The Beverly Hilton Hotel  
June, 2005

### THE TEDDY BEAR PICNIC SALUTES BRUCE BERMAN



Gary Cammons, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Bruce Berman,  
Barry M. Meyer, Bruce Rosenblum

**B**ruce Berman, Chairman and CEO of Village Roadshow Pictures Entertainment, was the proud recipient of The Help Group's 2004 Help Humanitarian Award at the 27th Annual Spring Luncheon, The Teddy Bear Picnic, held on June 14, 2004. Bruce is a very compassionate member of his community, making a difference through his support of organizations dedicated to enriching the lives of others. His caring nature has helped organizations bring hope and support to countless individuals and their families, especially to those of The Help Group.

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### THE HOLIDAY CARNIVAL - A DREAM COME TRUE FOR HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN



**O**n Saturday, December 11th, The Help Group's Sherman Oaks Campus will be turned into a Winter Wonderland for hundreds of children served by The Help Group's Child Abuse Prevention, Mental Health, Residential Treatment and Foster Care programs and their families. The children will experience the joy of the holidays with delicious food, carnival rides, a petting zoo, pony rides, games, arts and crafts, a

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### GARTH ANCIER TO BE HONORED AT THE TEDDY BEAR BALL



**T**he Help Group is pleased to announce that Garth Ancier, Chairman of The WB Network, will receive The Help Group's 2004 Spirit of Hope Award at its 8th Annual Teddy Bear Ball in recognition of his outstanding humanitarianism. This Holiday Gala will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2004 at The Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Barry Meyer and Bruce Rosenblum are the Honorary Chairs and Susanne and Greg Daniels, David Janollari, Julie and Jamie Kellner, David Neuman, Michael Ross and Peter Roth are the Gala Chairs.

The Teddy Bear Ball will begin at 6:30 pm with cocktails and a silent auction followed by the dinner program and a live auction conducted by auctioneer extraordinaire Andrea Fuczynski. One of the highlights of this special evening will be The Help Group's Children's Choir performing holiday and other songs with various celebrities.

Garth was elevated to Chairman of The WB Network in May 2004, adding to a resume that was already one of the most impressive in the history of television. Garth oversees all aspects of the network, including all primetime and Kids' WB programming. Garth began his network television career in 1979 when then NBC Entertainment President Brandon Tartikoff hired him as a program associate. Garth quickly moved through the ranks to Vice President of Comedy Programs. As the first employee hired by Jamie Kellner in his efforts to launch the fifth network, Garth became The WB's first President of Entertainment, a role he also filled for Mr. Kellner at the genesis of the Fox Broadcasting Company. In addition to The WB and Fox, Garth's remarkable career includes being one of only two executives in the history of the

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because every child deserves a great future

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#### A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS

This is that special time of the year when our thoughts turn to our gratitude for the many people and organizations that make such an important difference to The Help Group. When we reflect upon the myriad of events and kind and generous acts that have taken place over the past year, we are filled with a tremendous sense of appreciation.

In this edition, you'll read about our Teddy Bear Picnic and honoree, Bruce Berman, our upcoming Teddy Bear Ball and honoree, Garth Ancier, our many donors, The Opportunity Fund, The Milken Family Foundation Festival for Youth, Keyes Automotive Group, The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf's Holiday Promotion and The Bloomingdale's Shopping Benefit.

We are pleased to report on the success of our Summit 2004, our Distinguished Lecturer Series, the launch of our Autism Awareness Campaign, our newest Board member, Howard Tenenbaum, and the new members of our Professional Advisory Council. We feature stories about our Stepping Stones Program and our Bridgeport Transition Program, just two examples of the many programs that your participation helps to support. We also have reprinted a speech written by one of our recent graduates, Irene, which speaks to the positive impact of your involvement.

If you want to experience the full measure of the spirit of the season, we invite you to join us at our Holiday Carnival that hosts more than 700 children served by our child abuse prevention and intervention and mental health program. It is a very touching labor of love made possible through our Carnival donors and numerous volunteers. It is a day you truly won't forget!

During this past year, we have been able to expand and extend our programs to increasing numbers of children. As always, it is the partnership of caring of our Board of Directors, staff, governmental colleagues, philanthropic friends, parents and volunteers that make it happen for the children. We are immensely grateful for all of your efforts!

Our best wishes to all of you and your families for a very Happy Holiday Season.

Gary Carmona Dr. Barbara Firestone

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#### ABOUT THE HELP GROUP

The Help Group is dedicated to serving children and families with special needs with a wide range of programs and activities including:

- Young Learners Preschool, an early intervention program for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Village Glen School for students with social and communicative disorders including Asperger's Disorder and high functioning autism
- PACE Program for Village Glen students who are highly gifted
- Bridgeport School for students with social, communicative and mild cognitive delays
- Sunrise School for students with autism and related developmental disabilities
- The Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders providing comprehensive diagnostic, assessment and intervention services
- Summer day camp for children with Asperger's Disorder and high functioning autism
- Summit View School for students with learning differences
- The Help Group - UCLA Neuropsychology Program providing learning disabilities and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder assessment and consultation
- Coldwater Canyon Prep Program for students with learning differences, attentional and emotional issues
- Pacific Ridge School for students with emotional disabilities
- Comprehensive mental health treatment programs for children, adolescents and families
- Stepping Stones Program providing day treatment for preschool age children with emotional and behavioral challenges
- Psychiatric evaluation and treatment
- Short-term crisis intervention counseling
- Foster family recruitment, placement and support
- Child abuse prevention and intervention services
- Home-based family prevention services for at-risk youth
- Wraparound services to maintain at-risk children in their family homes
- Counseling for students at public school campuses throughout Los Angeles County
- REACH after-school therapeutic program for at-risk children
- Reunification of abducted children services
- Parent education and counseling
- Speech and language therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Vocational education and job placement
- Residential living opportunities for adolescents and young adults with emotional and developmental disabilities
- Professional training programs in clinical psychology, neuropsychology, social work, art therapy and special education
- Professional continuing education programs and conferences

## DISTINGUISHED LECTURER SERIES

### Early Identification and Early Intervention for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Friday, January 31, 2005  
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Help Group's Sherman Oaks campus

CE credits are available for, Psychologists, Speech Pathologists, Social Workers, MFCC/MFT and Registered Nurses

For information, please contact Debbie Martin at 818.779.5172 or visit [www.thehelpgroup.org](http://www.thehelpgroup.org)

### IRENE'S STORY - continued from page 6

*When I came to The Help Group, I didn't know what to expect. I was scared. But everyone reached out to me. My teachers and staff would greet me with smiles and never gave up on me. After a time, that little girl inside me believed that someone cared. I began to feel hope and I started to realize that I could do anything that I put my mind to. I have made many positive friendships with students and staff. At The Help Group, I have had numerous experiences that have prepared me for life after high school.*

*My future goals are to attend Mission College for two years and get the basic course requirements that I need to be an art therapist. Then I plan to transfer to California State University Northridge for my final two years of college. My hope is to get my Bachelor's degree and to work in a mental health facility as an assistant therapist. I hope to one day obtain my Masters degree and become an art therapist. I am very happy that The Help Group will once again provide funds to enable me to pursue my college education.*

*I believe that with the support I have received from The Help Group that I will be successful in achieving my goals because I am a survivor. No matter how dark my path in life at times has gotten, I have always found a way to get through and to see the light at the end of the tunnel. I never gave up on what I wanted to do, and I never will. I know there are many battles yet to come in my young life but I am confident that I am up for the challenge.*

After Sharon Stone concluded Irene's story, she then introduced Irene. It was very moving when the entire audience rose to their feet to applaud Irene and to see Irene experience this special moment. Irene's story goes to the heart of what The Help Group strives to make possible for young people with special needs.

## THE TEDDY BEAR BALL

### HONORARY CHAIRS

Barry M. Meyer Bruce Rosenblum

### GALA CHAIRS

Susanne & Greg Daniels  
David Janollari  
Julie & Jamie Kellner  
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Chris Albrecht  
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Aaron Kaplan  
Mitch Kaplan  
Marilyn & Jeffrey Katzenberg  
Phil Kent  
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Angela Lansbury  
Martin Lesak  
Bob Levinson  
Greg Lipsone  
Bryan Lourid  
Jeff Mandell

Nathalie & Maurice Marciano  
Carolyn Martin & Mark Pedowitz  
Kellie Martin & Keith Christian  
Jane & John Mass  
Stephen McPherson  
Greg Meidel  
Leslie Moonves  
Gary Newman  
Rick Nicita  
Dawn Ostroff  
Jim Paratore  
Margie & Jerry Perenchio  
Madeline & Bruce Ramer  
Kevin Reilly  
Paula & Paul Reiser  
Brian Robbins  
Rick Rosen  
Monica & Michael Rosenberg  
Jim Rosenthal  
Shannon & Michael Rosenberg  
Carole Bayer Sager & Bob Daly  
Ruthanne Secunda  
Madeleine & Tom Sherak  
Deena & Mary Singer  
Candy & Aaron Spelling  
Gail Steinberg  
Erwin Staff  
Heather Thomas & Skip Brittenham  
Mike Talin  
Dana & Matt Walden  
Candice & Richard Weitz  
Tom Werner  
Barbara & Sandy Wernick  
Patrick Whitesell  
Wendy Walker Whitworth  
Leslie & Ed Wilson  
Ellen & Ken Ziffren

## THE TEDDY BEAR BALL - continued from page 1

television industry to head three different network entertainment divisions when he was appointed President, NBC Entertainment, in May 1999. His remarkably prolific career includes experience as President of Production at Disney Television; creator and executive producer of *Ricki Lake* and chief programming strategist to CNN and all of the TBS entertainment networks. Garth is a graduate of Princeton University and he serves on the Board of Trustees of the National Council for Families & Television. Garth is a strong supporter of his community and of The Help Group. We are proud to honor him at this year's Teddy Bear Ball. For reservations and information, please call Judy Burkow at 818.779.5212 or visit our website at [www.thehelpgroup.org](http://www.thehelpgroup.org).



Barry M. Meyer

Bruce Rosenblum

### HONORARY CHAIRS

## DIANE SAWYER NARRATES NEW HELP GROUP VIDEO



The Help Group is pleased to announce that *Good Morning America's* Diane Sawyer has once again graciously narrated its new video that will debut at The Help Group's upcoming Teddy Bear Ball. The video gives a brief glimpse of the important work of The Help Group and features several moving stories of the children served. Our heartfelt appreciation to Diane for lending her extraordinary talents and for making the time given her many commitments. We are most honored by her participation. We would also like to acknowledge Anne Sweeney, Co-Chair, Disney Media Networks, President, Disney/ABC Television Group and 1999 Help Humanitarian Award Honoree for her special efforts. And our thanks to our producer Barry Berk and to the children and parents who shared their stories. The Help Group video is available for viewing on our website at [www.thehelpgroup.org](http://www.thehelpgroup.org).



**Robert Bilder, Ph.D.**, Chief of Medical Psychology/Neuropsychology, UCLA-Neuropsychiatric Institute and Hospital

**Stephen Hinshaw, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair, Department of Psychology, University of California, Berkeley

**Frank Manis, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Southern California

**Susan Smalley, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, UCLA-Neuropsychiatric Institute and Hospital.

### Featuring Emerging Trends in Autism, Asperger's Disorder, Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders, and Developmental Disabilities

The following articles and authors are in this edition: Susan Y. Bookheimer, Ph.D., *What Brain Imaging Can Tell Us About Developmental Disorders*; Joseph K. Torgesen, Ph.D., *Intervention Strategies for Children with Reading Difficulties*; Laurie Stephens, Ph.D., *Theory of Mind: Social Thinking in Autism Spectrum Disorders Part I*; Margaret Dunkle and Louis Vismara, M.D., *The Need for High-Quality Developmental Screenings*; Philip Levin, Ph.D., *What to Look for in an Evaluation of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders*. Please visit [www.thehelpgroup.org](http://www.thehelpgroup.org) or call 818.779.5212 to receive a copy.

**THE OPPORTUNITY FUND  
OPENS NEW DOORS**



each year, The Help Group serves more than 5,000 children with special needs and their families. Many of our children come from families with severely limited financial circumstances and many have no families at all. To help build brighter futures for these children, The Help Group established The Opportunity Fund which provides scholarship support, mentoring, college counseling, vocational training, internships or needs as basic as food, clothing or shelter.

In the past year alone, \$87,000 was raised and 75 children and families have benefited from this program thus far. The Help Group's Pacific Ridge High School students traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Close-Up Program; received scholarships to the Magic Johnson Basketball Summer Camp; were outfitted with basketball and football team uniforms; and produced an original CD through the Sound-Art Program. In order for the Holiday Season to be special for families who could not otherwise afford food and other holiday items, gift baskets were made and distributed to numerous needy families.

The Opportunity Fund will also enable students to participate in after school music classes and in an educational trip to Sacramento. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to The Opportunity Fund. It is through your generous contributions that these children are able to have experiences that would not otherwise be possible. If you would like to make a donation to The Opportunity Fund, please contact Judy Burkow at 818.779.5212.

**THE HELP GROUP AND THE COFFEE  
BEAN & TEA LEAF...A PERFECT BLEND**



The Help Group is proud to once again join forces with The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf for a special promotion for the 2004 holiday season. The children of The Help Group have created art that will be featured on The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf's holiday products including gift boxes, gift tins, ceramic mugs, gift cards and more. These holiday gifts will be available at all of The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf locations in California, Nevada, and Arizona as well as on their web site, [www.coffeebean.com](http://www.coffeebean.com), and through its mail order department at 1.800.leafleaf. A portion of the proceeds from these items will be donated to The Help Group. In addition, customers can purchase *Deck the Wall* cards for \$1 each which will be displayed in The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf stores. 100% of the proceeds from the *Deck the Wall* cards will be donated to The Help Group.

The Help Group extends a special thank you to Sunny Sassoon, Chairman of The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, and his wife Debbie, for their tremendous support of The Help Group with this holiday campaign as well as their generosity throughout the year. Also, a big thank you to Tami Clark, Senior Director of Marketing and Strategic Alliances, for all her efforts on behalf of The Help Group. As always, we look forward to another successful Holiday Season. Once again, The Help Group and The Coffee Bean are a perfect blend!

**T O O U R S U P P O R T E R S**

November 1, 2002 - October 31, 2004

- |   |  |  |  |
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- We also wish to thank the many donors who have contributed up to \$1,000.

# OUR HEART FELT THANKS

**\$500,000 and over**  
 First 5 LA  
 Milken Family Foundation

**\$200,000 and over**  
 The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf  
 NBC Universal

**\$100,000 and over**  
 Keyes Automotive Group  
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**\$50,000 and over**  
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**\$20,000 and over**  
 Asset Alliance Corporation  
 Atlantic Express  
 Bloomingdale's  
 Brillstein-Grey Entertainment  
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**\$10,000 and over**  
 3 Arts Entertainment  
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 Ann & Dick Costello  
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 Ken Corday  
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 Susan & Eric Smid  
 Anne & Davis Smith  
 Sony  
 So. California Auto Dealers Association  
 The Sweeney & Philip Miller  
 Telemac  
 Ted Herbert TV  
 Verizon  
 Jeffrey Weiss, Ph.D. & Chris Sorgi

Barbara & Marvin Davis  
 Victoria & Stephen Davis  
 Deutsche Bank  
 Sharon Emanuel & Michael Kaiser  
 Epidemol  
 Entertainment Industry Foundation  
 Jenise & Bruce Ferber  
 Chelsea Field & Scott Bakula  
 Lorraine & Roy Friedman  
 Fremont Investment & Loan  
 Gang, Yve, Ramer & Brown, Inc.  
 Liz & Rick Berlan  
 Gendler & Kelly  
 Larry Golla  
 Gracie Films  
 Graphic Arts  
 Guests, Inc.  
 HBO  
 Jami & Nikolaus Heidegger  
 Howard Capital  
 Monique & Douglas C. Jacobsen  
 John Walls Productions  
 Julia & Janice Kalliar  
 Sheila & Dr. Martin Lasky  
 Los Angeles Times  
 Mavis & Jay Leno  
 Jennifer & Matt Leichter  
 Lara Securities  
 Shrim Lily & Kambiz baboof  
 Lions Gate  
 Lowe Enterprises  
 Maguire Partners  
 Irene & Don Salzman  
 John & Marcella LP  
 John Masius  
 MBIA Insurance Corp  
 Jamie & Chris McGurk  
 McMahon Securities  
 Metropolitan Theaters Corp.  
 Middlefork Prod.  
 Joy & Jerry Monkash  
 Mosaic Media Group  
 Kathie Marion & Lawrence Moses  
 Randy & Robert Myer  
 Jeanne & Gary Newman  
 Oak Productions  
 O'neida Indian Nation  
 Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Osher  
 Osterweis Capital  
 Dean L. Phillips  
 Lea & Barry Porter  
 Anne & David Rainer  
 Rocket Science Labs  
 Karen Rosenblit  
 Shert & Arnold Schlessinger  
 Jane & Terry Semel  
 Shady Acres Entertainment  
 Shamrock Holdings  
 Madeline & Tom Sherak  
 Small Parts  
 Lilly Taniff  
 Tish Foundation  
 USA Alarm Systems, Inc.  
 US Healthworks Medical Group  
 Weingart Foundation  
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Westly  
 Wendy & David Whitworth  
 Jane & David Wyler

**\$2,500 and over**  
 American Dreams  
 AON Resource Group  
 Armstrong, Hirsch, Jackoway, Tyerman & Weinheimer  
 B & A Management Corp.  
 Bank of the West  
 Mary & Jan Bauman  
 Susan & Willie Berk  
 Rita & Jim Berkus  
 Liz & Rick Berlan  
 Drs. Susan & Barry Berlan  
 Lynn & Lee Bidler  
 Broder, Webb, Chernin,  
 Silbermann Agency  
 Bonim/Marcy Productions  
 Judy & Steve Burkow  
 CFC Sponsorware  
 The Cimaron Group  
 Clear Channel Worldwide  
 Colliers Saeley  
 Kevin Curremy  
 Cushman & Wakefield  
 Laura & Larry David  
 David E. Kelly Productions  
 Della Airlines  
 Thomas Dean  
 DeMann Entertainment  
 Michelle & Louis Diblasi  
 Discuss Dental  
 Susan Dolgen & Annie Gilbar  
 Dick Ebersol  
 First Data Corp.  
 Flekman, Baran & Co.  
 FP Ventures  
 Marcia Geisler  
 The Gerst Agency  
 Giffelson Wilzer  
 Good, Swartz, & Berns  
 Gordon L. Mounjoy & Associates  
 Gary, Meyer & Rudd LP  
 Michael Grossman  
 Bill Hardy  
 Judith Herz  
 Horizon Foods  
 R.D. Hubbard  
 Mr. & Mrs. Lew Hyman  
 Industrial Creative  
 Industry Entertainment  
 Vicki & James Boyke  
 J.H. Snyder & Company  
 Joffe & Company  
 Alison Jones & Jeffrey Mandell  
 JP Morgan Mortgage Capital  
 Suzanne & Michael Katane  
 Romme & Michael Kassin  
 Janet & Alan Kusi  
 Lisa Kutrowski & Michael Stern  
 Latham & Watkins  
 L.E. Waters Construction  
 Loeb & Loeb  
 Margaret Loesch  
 Loews Hotels  
 Lorne Michaels

**\$5,000 and over**  
 Richard Ackerman  
 Sherry & John A. Aniston  
 Ant Farm  
 Aspect Radio  
 Aureo Capital Group  
 Banc of America Securities  
 Bank One Capital Management  
 Megan & Peter Barrell  
 Beninvest Group  
 Gail Bergman & William Masters  
 Wendy & Bill Bernfield  
 Bright Kaufman Crane Productions  
 Camden Asset Management  
 Dove Cararra  
 Castle Rock Entertainment  
 CoreCast  
 Commerce Bank  
 Arce Management  
 Ann & Dick Costello  
 Katie Couric  
 Sharon & Dr. Paul Crane  
 Daily Variety

## KEYES AUTOMOTIVE GROUP MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Howard Tenenbaum, Howard Keyes, Larry Abramson

For the past 10 years, Keyes Automotive Group has actively supported The Help Group and has helped to raise more than \$2 million through its sponsorship of The Keyes European Mercedes Benz Teddy Bear Golf Classic and vigorously supports all of The Help Group's fundraising events and other activities. Keyes also promotes awareness of The Help Group through its company sponsored community affairs events, including the Sherman Oaks Street Fair, of which Keyes is the Title Sponsor. In 1999, The Help Group presented its Corporate Philanthropy Award to Keyes in recognition of its outstanding corporate citizenship and philanthropic commitment to The Help Group and to the community.

## HOWARD TENENBAUM JOINS THE BOARD



Howard Tenenbaum, Help Group Students

The Help Group is pleased to announce that Howard Tenenbaum, Vice President of Keyes Automotive Group, was recently elected to The Help Group's Board of Directors. For almost a decade, Howard has Co-Chaired The Teddy Bear Golf Classic and has volunteered numerous hours in support of The Help Group's efforts. In 2000, Howard received the The Help Group's Joe Angello Volunteer Award at The Teddy Bear Golf Classic. Gary Carmona, Chairman of the Board, commented, "We deeply appreciate Howard's and his wife Jodi's dedication to our organization and to our children, and the ongoing support of Keyes. We are delighted to welcome Howard to our Board of Directors."

## AUTISM AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



Gary Cole, John Schneider, Ed Asner

The incidence of autism spectrum disorders has reached epidemic proportions affecting one out of every 166 children. It is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States. Early intervention can be of great benefit to children challenged by autism spectrum disorders. To help promote greater awareness and early identification, The Help Group is pleased to announce the launch of its Autism Awareness Campaign. West Wing's Gary Cole, Smallville's John Schneider and Center of the Universe's Ed Asner are among the celebrity spokespersons who have graciously agreed to host the Campaign's Public Service Announcements. John, Gary and Ed are all parents of children with autism spectrum disorders and are deeply committed to promoting awareness and providing families with important information regarding this disability. The PSAs will debut at the upcoming Teddy Bear Ball and begin airing early in 2005. For information on autism, please contact, The Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at 818.779.5542.



Tom Komp, Help Group Sr. V.P., Dr. Barbara Firestone, Larry Abramson

During the summer, Larry Abramson, Vice President of Keyes Automotive, presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 to The Help Group on behalf of Keyes and The Southern California Auto Dealers Association. Larry serves as a board member of the Auto Dealers Association that raises money each year through the Los Angeles Auto Show. A portion of the money is designated for philanthropy. Larry presented the mission of The Help Group to the Auto Dealers Association and they chose The Help Group as one of the recipients. Our many thanks to Larry and the Auto Dealers Association for choosing The Help Group as a beneficiary.

## MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION FESTIVAL FOR YOUTH KICK-OFF



Richard Sandler, Help Group Students, Rosey Grier

Since 1987, The Help Group has participated in the Milken Family Foundation Festival for Youth Program. This unique program creates opportunities for students across the nation to serve their communities and to learn that they can make a difference in the lives of others. For the 2004-2005 school year, the Milken Family Foundation has chosen 20 schools in the implementation of community service projects for students in grades K-12. This year's kick-off events took place on September 29th at The Help Group's Culver City campus and on October 1st at the Sherman Oaks campus and Valley Glen campus. Richard Sandler, Executive Vice President of The Milken Family Foundation, greeted and thanked the children at the Sherman Oaks campus for their participation in community service and for their dedication to making the community a better place. Rosey Grier, Director of Community Affairs for the Milken Family Foundation, inspired students with his motivational comments. When Rosey sang *People Make the World What It Is*, everyone joined in with a great spirit of volunteerism.

The kick-off assemblies marked an enthusiastic and energetic beginning to the year long projects. Among the long list of projects, students will work with the Make A Wish Foundation; collect clothing and canned goods for Children Helping the Poor and Homeless; work with Heal the Bay and Take Care of the Earth organizations; collect pennies to buy meals for the poor; participate in Jump Rope for Heart in conjunction with the American Heart Association; and visit kids at Children's Hospital. According to the Milken Family Foundation, the Festival for Youth participants are challenged to take action to effect change. In the process, they come to value their communities and learn that each person can make a difference. We thank the Milken Family Foundation for including our students in their Festival for Youth program.

## IRENE'S STORY



Irene, Sharon Stone

The Help Group serves children with a wide range of challenges. The Help Group's important work in the area of child abuse provides a lifeline of hope for children who have not had the benefits of a stable, loving and happy home. At The Help Group's Teddy Bear Picnic that took place on June 14th (see related story, front page), actress Sharon Stone passionately read the story of a remarkable young woman Irene, who had just graduated from The Help Group's Pacific Ridge School.

Here are Irene's words:

*"I am a survivor! There have been many times in my young life that I could have given up, but instead I have succeeded on my own. I did not give up no matter how hard my life got! I now have very specific goals, and I'm going to accomplish them no matter what!"*

*Before I came to The Help Group, I didn't care about anything, let alone myself.*

*People would ask me what I wanted to do with my life, and I would think...throw it away. I couldn't find the strength to get good grades, so I stopped going to classes. My mom would always tell me, "You're never going to make it." She told me that I would end up dropping out of school. But there was a little child inside me that was waiting to be loved. I went through a lot as a child; I was sexually abused for over five years. I was physically and emotionally abused as well. I tried to kill myself several times and eventually was put in a mental hospital for three months.*

Continued on page 14

The Help Group convened its Summit 2004: *Neurodevelopmental Advances and Best Practices in Autism, Asperger's Disorder, Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder* on Friday, October 8th and Saturday, October 9th. Chaired by Dr. Barbara Firestone and Dr. Paul Satz, Professor Emeritus, UCLA School of Medicine, Chief, The Help Group-UCLA Neuropsychology Program, eighteen experts assembled to share their insight and present state-of-the-art information over the course of two days to more than 500 professionals and parents in attendance. She praised the extraordinary speakers on their significant contributions in the field of neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Dr. Susan Bookheimer, Dr. Stephen Hinshaw



Dr. Susan Bookheimer, Dr. Stephen Hinshaw



Dr. Susan Bookheimer, Dr. Paul Satz, Dr. Larry Seidman, Dr. Jack Fletcher, Dr. Paul Satz

During the luncheon, Dr. Firestone and Dr. Satz presented Distinguished Professional Awards to Dr. Susan Bookheimer in recognition of her tremendous work in the area of brain mapping and developmental disorders. The second award was to Dr. Stephen Hinshaw for his terrific work in the area of attention deficit disorders. Dr. Firestone announced the launch of the Autism Awareness Campaign (see related story on page 5) and introduced West Wing's Gary Cole and his wife Teddie. They received tremendous applause for their efforts with this campaign.



Dr. Susan Berman, Help Group Exec. V.P., Gary & Teddie Cole, Judy Burkow, Help Group Director of Development

We thank all of our acclaimed speakers for participating in The Help Group's Summit 2004 and for making it such an interesting and productive conference.

## THE HELP GROUP'S SUMMIT 2004

### SUMMIT 2004 PRESENTERS

**David Amaral, Ph.D.**  
Beneto Foundation Professor & Director of Research  
M.I.N.D. Institute  
Professor Department of Psychiatry & Center for Neuroscience  
University of California, Davis

**Robert M. Bilder, Ph.D.**  
Chief of Medical  
Psychology-Neuropsychology  
UCLA Neuropsychiatric  
Institute & Hospital

**Susan Y. Bookheimer, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences.  
The David Geffen School of  
Medicine at UCLA

**Geraldine Dawson, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Psychology  
University of Washington

**Jack Fletcher, Ph.D.**  
Professor, Department of Pediatrics  
University of Texas - Houston  
Health Science Center

**Alma Gonzalez-Soldevilla, Ph.D.**  
Pediatric Neuropsychology  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
The Help Group-UCLA  
Neuropsychology Program

**Stephen Hinshaw, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Psychology  
University of California, Berkeley

**Philip Levin, Ph.D.**  
Professor Supervisor  
The Help Group-UCLA  
Neuropsychology Program

**James T. McCracken, M.D.**  
Professor and Director of  
Adolescent Psychiatry Division  
Department of Psychiatry &  
Biobehavioral Sciences  
The David Geffen School of  
Medicine at UCLA

**James McGough, M.D.**  
Associate Professor & Medical Director  
Department of Psychiatry &  
Biobehavioral Sciences  
The David Geffen School of  
Medicine at UCLA

**Erica Meyer, Psy.D.**  
Post Doctorate Fellow  
The Help Group-UCLA  
Neuropsychology Program

**Kyle Meyerowitz, M.A., C.C.C.**  
Director of Speech &  
Language Pathology  
The Help Group

**Eric D. Sallows, M.D.**  
Private Practice  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
Pediatrics  
The David Geffen School of  
Medicine at UCLA

**Larry Seidman, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor Psychology  
Department of Psychiatry  
Harvard Medical School

**Marlan D. Sigman, Ph.D.**  
Professor in Residence  
Department of Psychiatry &  
Biobehavioral Sciences  
Psychology Development  
The David Geffen School of  
Medicine at UCLA

**Lance Steinberg, M.D.**  
Private Practice  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute

**Laurie Stephens, Ph.D.**  
Director  
The Help Group Autism Spectrum  
Disorders Program

**Louis Vismara, M.D.**  
Commissioner  
California Children &  
Families Commission  
Chair, Community Outreach  
M.I.N.D. Institute University of  
California, Davis

### STEPPING STONES PROGRAM SERVES AT-RISK PRESCHOOLERS



The Help Group's Stepping Stones Program, an intensive therapeutic day program for preschool-age children, has moved to The Help Group's campus in Van Nuys. Stepping Stones serves young children ages 2 to 5 who are challenged by emotional disabilities. Many of these children have been exposed to domestic violence, substance abuse, crime and other intense stressors and traumatic experiences. They are at serious risk of developing learning disabilities, difficulties focusing and concentrating, and behavioral problems. Stepping Stones creates a preschool environment within a mental health setting in order to assess and treat the behavioral barriers that prevent these children from participating in mainstream daycare, preschool or HeadStart settings. Early childhood is a critical period in a child's life, in which the greatest amount of learning, development and brain growth occurs. It is a time of tremendous opportunity and corresponding vulnerability. For children with special needs, these years are especially significant. The earlier a child's delays or disabilities are identified, the more effective intervention is likely to be. The Stepping Stones Program meets an important need in our community, as there are very few services of this kind in Los Angeles County. Children in Stepping Stones are offered a structured daily routine including attention to such areas as cognitive development, pre-academic skills, communication skills, self-help/adaptive living skills, social skills, attention skills and behavior management. Activities focus on techniques that promote experiential learning and social interactions with children and adults, encouraging the children to explore their world in a safe environment.

The Help Group's Van Nuys campus provides an ideal location for this vital program. Bright and airy classrooms open onto a beautiful park-like playground area with swings, slides, tricycles and other age appropriate toys and games. There is ample room for both one-on-one and interactive group activities. Currently, in its second year of operation, the Stepping Stones Program has been tremendously successful. Many children graduate the program each year and transition to age-appropriate mainstream activities having made significant strides with respect to their language and social skills, academic achievement and behavioral goals.

### BRIDGEPORT SCHOOL STARTS NEW TRANSITION PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ADULTS



This fall, Bridgeport School launched its new Transition Program. Bridgeport is a school designed to integrate an academic curriculum with hands on life skills training and vocational services for students with mild cognitive delays and challenges in the areas of social communication and/or language development. This program enables students 18 to 22 years old to learn to work independently, follow directions and use appropriate social skills with a sense of responsibility, respect and a strong work ethic. Upon completion of the 12th grade, students are eligible to apply to the Bridgeport Transition Program by submitting an essay and passing an oral interview. The curriculum focuses on a practical outcome that allows the students to improve the quality of their lives. Training on campus includes participation in school run businesses such as Angel's Café, a coffee cart, lunch services and a dry cleaning delivery service. According to Anita Allardice, Principal of Bridgeport School, "The students have shown their great capabilities and they take tremendous pride in their jobs." When students are prepared to do so, they transition to off-campus supervised jobs at local retailers. Community businesses participating include Cambridge Farms Market, Sherman Oaks Flower Shop and USA Donuts.

### HOLIDAY CARNIVAL - continued from page 1

moon bounce and a visit from Santa Claus himself! Sponsors to date include The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, In-N-Out Burger, Metropolitan Theatres, Gold Medal Products and Target. One of the highlights for the children at the end of the day is to receive at least one wrapped gift. Many wonderful companies have agreed to donate toys, including The Walt Disney Company, Hasbro and Toys for Tots. Through the generosity and caring of such sponsors, the children and their families will have a day they will never forget. If you would like to volunteer to work at the carnival, become a sponsor or donate toys, contact Judy Burkow or Debbie Martin at 818.779.5212.

### BLOOMINGDALE'S THE SHOPPING BENEFIT

Each year, Bloomingdale's hosts *The Shopping Benefit*, a day of shopping and celebration uniting the community in support of 10 local non-profit organizations. The Help Group was delighted to participate again in this event which was held on October 26th. At the event, each organization was given the opportunity to recognize its volunteer of the year. The Help Group selected Rebecca Lascoe. During the last six years, she and the Rancho Calabasas Girl Scout Troops have assembled and distributed Easter Baskets to thousands of needy children served by The Help Group's child abuse and mental health programs.



Rebecca Lascoe



Kim Van Natta

Bloomingdale's has generously supported The Help Group for the past eight years and, in 1997, Bloomingdale's received The Help Group's Corporate Philanthropy Award. We are grateful for the wonderful friendship that Bloomingdale's has extended to our organization and we would like to give a special thanks to Kim Van Natta, General Manager and Julie Reynolds, Public Relations Director of Bloomingdale's, Sherman Oaks.

### PLANNED GIVING AT THE HELP GROUP

Planned Giving enables donors to include The Help Group in their estate planning, and potentially leave a meaningful lasting legacy that will make a difference in the lives of children with special needs served by The Help Group. Planned Giving involves making a charitable gift that takes into account the financial needs of you and your family and takes advantage of tax incentives that are available. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact Terry Marks at 310.828.4150.

### ELECTED OFFICIALS VISIT THE HELP GROUP

The Help Group thanks philanthropic friend and long-standing supporter Stanley Zax for inviting these distinguished guests to visit The Help Group.



Dr. Barbara Firestone,  
President Pro Tem of  
the California Senate  
John L. Burton,  
Stanley Zax



Speaker of the California  
Assembly Fabian Nunez,  
Help Group Students



Assemblymember  
Mark Ridley-Thomas,  
Help Group Students

### CARF ACCREDITATION RENEWED

In 1998, The Help Group was awarded national accreditation for its clinical, vocational and residential programs by the Commission of Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). In order to maintain CARF Accreditation, The Help Group is required to undergo an extensive review process every three years. This past June, surveyors from different parts of the country reviewed The Help Group's policies and procedures, program goals, objectives and outcomes and interviewed staff from many different disciplines. The site visit was very successful and The Help Group once again won accreditation for an additional three years.

**T H E T E D D Y B E A R P I C N I C S A L U T E S B R U C E B E R M A N**

continued from page 1

The luncheon, held at The Beverly Hilton Hotel, began with The Help Group's Children's Choir singing *Celebrate*, with the talented vocals of Louis Price, former lead singer of The Temptations, and of Sarah Taylor, The Help Group's Creative Arts Director. Following the opening song, Bruce Rosenblum, Executive Vice President, Warner Bros. Television Group and 2002 Spirit of Hope Award recipient, welcomed everyone and announced that through the generous participation of everyone gathered, this year's spectacular event raised over \$500,000 for the children of The Help Group. A special thank you went to the wonderful Luncheon Chairs, Bob Daly, Brian Grazer, Alan Horn, Richard Lovett, Barry Meyer, Terry Semel, Jack Valenti and Jerry Weintraub and the Honorary Chairs, Graham Burke, John Kirby and Robert Kirby. Bruce Rosenblum thanked the benevolent underwriters of the event, Village Roadshow Pictures Entertainment, Warner Bros., The Milken Family Foundation, CIBC World Markets, Zenith Insurance and Stanley Zax.

Amanda Bynes, star of Warner Bros.' movie *What a Girl Wants* and her own television series *What I Like About You*, was on hand to lend her support to the children of The Help Group and to introduce The Help Group video narrated by *Good Morning America's* Diane Sawyer. Gary Carmona and Dr. Firestone introduced The Help Group's Board of Directors and other distinguished guests. Brian Grazer, Chairman, Imagine Entertainment and 2001 Help Humanitarian Award recipient, congratulated Bruce Berman and welcomed him to the family of Help Humanitarian Award recipients. He saluted all of the past honorees for their dedication to the children of The Help Group.



Actress Sharon Stone introduced a remarkable young woman named Irene who graduated from The Help Group's Pacific Ridge School just prior to the event. Ms. Stone read Irene's story written by Irene herself (see Irene's Story on page 14). Irene's story is just one of The Help Group's success stories and the audience was deeply moved by it.

Barry Meyer, Chairman and CEO of Warner Bros. Entertainment, Inc., took the podium to speak about his good friend and colleague, Bruce Berman. But before Bruce was escorted to center stage, singer extraordinaire Michael Feinstein and The Help Group's Children's Choir sang a special tribute to Bruce. When *You Wish Upon a Star*, Gary Carmona and Dr. Firestone presented the Help Humanitarian Award to Bruce Berman. In her congratulatory comments Dr. Firestone said, "With such a warm and generous heart, Bruce is really a teddy bear to our children!" In his eloquent acceptance remarks, Bruce said that he felt humbled by this experience and that by helping this luncheon succeed, it was the beginning of what he hopes will be a new chapter in his life. He closed by asking that everyone "continue to support this fantastic organization of loving people whose daily humanitarian efforts truly humble us all."

The afternoon concluded with The Help Group's Children's Choir joined onstage by celebrities and attendees for a resounding reprise of *Celebrate*. The Help Group thanks all who helped make the Teddy Bear Picnic such a tremendous success!

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Bruce & Nancy Berman, Lucas Berman, Mrs. Berman    | 13. Sandra Milken  | 25. Suzanne & Robert Davidow                        |
| 2. Barry M. Meyer                                     | 14. Dr. Peter Whybrow  | 26. Sonia Salzman                                   |
| 3. Bruce Rosenblum                                    | 15. Irene, Sharon Stone  | 27. David Salzman                                   |
| 4. Peter Kohn   | 16. Gary & Rochelle Carmona, Susan & Mike Berk                       | 28. Hon. Wendy Greuel & Gary Carmona                |
| 5. Sharon Stone                                       | 17. Robert Darman  | 29. Toni & Bruce Corwin                             |
| 6. Help Group Students, Michael Feinstein             | 18. Perry Katz   | 30. Ben Lanzarone & Ilene Graff                     |
| 7. Amanda Bynes                                       | 19. Howard Keyes   | 31. Louis Price, The Help Group's Children's Choir  |
| 8. Bruce Berman, Help Group Students                  | 20. Howard Tenenbaum, Judy & Steve Burlow                            | 32. Sue Kroll, Bruce Berman, Veronika Kwan-Rubinek  |
| 9. Dawn Taubin  | 21. Drs. Susan & Barry Berman  | 33. Kellie Maltagliati                              |
| 10. Brian Grazer, Dr. Barbara Firestone, Anne Sweeney | 22. Frank Jansen   | 34. Sarah Taylor, The Help Group's Children's Choir |
| 11. Joel Schumacher                                   | 23. Jeff Berger  | 35. Drs. Barbara & David Firestone                  |
| 12. Lori Milken                                       | 24. Steve Spira, Mark Cannon, Bruce Berman, Tom Lasally, Bill Gerber |   |