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**THE TEDDY BEAR PICNIC
SALUTES JERRY WEINTRAUB**



Dr. Barbara Firestone, Gary Carmona, Jerry and Jane Weintraub

The Help Group presented its 2003 Help Humanitarian Award to Jerry Weintraub at its 26th Annual Spring Luncheon, The Teddy Bear Picnic, on June 5, 2003 at The Beverly Hilton Hotel. For over 40 years, Jerry has made significant contributions in the worlds of music, film, Broadway theatre, concerts and television and is widely regarded for his humanitarian achievements. The afternoon began with a rousing rendition of "Ain't No Stopping Us Now" sung Continued on page 8

**BARBARA AND SANDY GRUSHOW TO
BE HONORED AT THE TEDDY BEAR BALL**

The Help Group is pleased to announce that it will present its 2003 Spirit of Hope Award to Barbara and Sandy Grushow on Saturday, December 6, 2003 at its 7th Annual Teddy Bear Ball. Sandy, Chairman of Fox Television Group, and his wife Barbara, are extremely



dedicated to numerous children's causes and are committed to making a difference in the lives of children, particularly children with special needs. This black tie gala will be held at The Beverly Hilton Hotel. Honorary Chairs are Peter Chernin, Chairman & CEO, The Fox Group, Rupert Murdoch, Chairman, The News Corporation Limited, and Haim Saban, CEO & Founder, Saban Capital Group. Joining them are Gala Chairs, Brian Grazer, Chairman, Imagine Entertainment, Brad Grey, Chairman & CEO, Brillstein-Grey Entertainment and Bruce Rosenblum, Executive Vice President, Warner Bros. Television Group. Continued on page 3



Peter Chernin Rupert Murdoch Haim Saban



Founded in 1975, The Help Group has become the largest, most innovative and most comprehensive non-profit organization of its kind in California dedicated to helping children with special needs related to autism, Asperger's Disorder, learning disabilities, emotional development and mental retardation, and abuse and neglect. The Help Group's wide range of special education and therapy programs are inspired by its belief that dignity, hope, opportunity, and love are the birthrights of all children.

During the past year alone, The Help Group has served over 5,000 young people and their families and the demand for its programs continues to grow dramatically each year. With 700 staff members and four major campuses comprising state-of-the-art programs and facilities, The Help Group looks forward to opening the doors of opportunity to many more children throughout the years ahead.

At the heart of its efforts is the commitment to helping young people fulfill their potential to lead positive, productive and rewarding lives. Working together, the Board of Directors, staff, governmental colleagues, philanthropic friends, parents, and volunteers have created a very special partnership of caring...*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

Summit View School ■ Village Glen School ■ Bridgeport School ■ Coldwater Canyon Prep Program ■ Sunrise School for Autism & Developmental Disabilities ■ Project Six ■ Pacific Ridge School ■ Young Learners Therapeutic Preschool & Early Intervention Center ■ The Help Group Child & Family Center ■ The Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders ■ The Help Group-UCLA Neuropsychology Program

SAVE THE DATE

The Teddy Bear Ball
honoring
Barbara & Sandy Grushow
The Beverly Hilton Hotel
December 6, 2003

■ ■ ■

The Help Group Holiday Carnival 2003
Sherman Oaks Campus
December 13, 2003

■ ■ ■

The 13th Annual Teddy Bear Golf Classic
Valencia Country Club
April 19, 2004

■ ■ ■

The Teddy Bear Picnic
The Beverly Hilton Hotel
June 3, 2004

**DEDICATION OF THE EISNER
EDUCATION BUILDING & THE
WEINGART STUDENT PAVILION**



Jane Eisner, President of The Eisner Foundation, and students



Fred Ali, President & CEO of Weingart Foundation, and student

See story on page 13...

The Help Group

because every child deserves a great future

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A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

There has been so much activity at The Help Group that we feel as if we could have filled a book rather than just the pages of this newsletter. Our "partnership of caring" of the Board of Directors, staff, governmental colleagues, philanthropic friends, families and volunteers has great momentum and has given rise to many important and wonderful opportunities for children with special needs.

When we began our first special day school in 1975 with 4 students, we never could have predicted that today we would be serving more than 1,000 students on a daily basis in six schools with four campuses. We take great pride in the commitment to the children and their families, the high standards of excellence and the enduring collaboration that has formed the foundation of this growth throughout the years.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all of you who share our belief that dignity, hope, opportunity and love are the birthrights of all children, and who generously support our endeavors on behalf of the children.

Our best wishes to you and yours for a happy Thanksgiving and a joyous holiday season!

Gary H. Carmona
Chairman

Dr. Barbara Firestone
President & CEO



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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 Therapeutic Preschool and Early Intervention Center for children with neurodevelopmental challenges
- Summit View School for students with learning differences
- Coldwater Canyon Prep Program for students with learning differences and co-occurring emotional issues
- 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
- The Help Group - UCLA Neuropsychology Program providing learning disabilities assessment and consultation
- The Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders providing comprehensive diagnostic, assessment and intervention services
- Bridgeport School for students with social, communicative and moderate cognitive delays
- Sunrise School for students with autism and related developmental disabilities
- Pacific Ridge School (formerly New School for Child Development) for students with emotional disabilities
- Stepping Stones Program providing day treatment for preschool age children with emotional and behavioral challenges
- Comprehensive mental health treatment programs for children, adolescents and families
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Clinic for ADHD assessment and intervention
- Foster Family recruitment, placement and support
- Child abuse prevention and intervention services
- Home-based family counseling 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
- Psychiatric evaluation and treatment
- Short-term crisis intervention counseling
- 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 symposiums

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON JANE ETTINGER

Jane Ettinger has been a volunteer at The Help Group for the past four years while her son has been a student at Village Glen School. She has been an active member of the Village Glen Parent Association, chaired the membership campaign, and produced the school's student directory for three years.



The primary focus of Jane's volunteer efforts has been the expansion and improvement of our Village Glen Library. Jane said, "The school library began with a few boxes of donated books. Our students looked forward to having a library where they could relax and enjoy books, and teachers had the resources to teach research skills." With parent association support and funding, Jane and a dedicated core of parent volunteers transformed our library into a beautiful, well-stocked book-lover's paradise. The library serves students from preschool age through 12th grade with interests ranging from the Rugrats to organic chemistry. The library is totally run by volunteers, and serves 35 classes of students each week.

Given Jane's wonderful spirit of volunteerism, The Help Group nominated Jane to receive a "Volunteer of the Year Award" at the recent Bloomingdale's Shopping Event (see related story, p.11) where Jane was presented with a Bloomingdale's Gift Card. The Help Group is very proud of its volunteer extraordinaire Jane Ettinger. If you are interested in volunteering at The Help Group, please contact Debbie Martin at 818.779.5172.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURER SERIES

Effective Behavior Modification Techniques for Children with Asperger's Disorder

Laurie Stephens, Ph.D.

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

With extensive expertise in neurodevelopmental disabilities, Dr. Stephens is Director of The Help Group Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders that offers state-of-the-art diagnostic, assessment and intervention services. She also provides clinical direction to The Help Group's Village Glen School for Asperger's Disorder and High Functioning Autism, Sunrise School for Autism & Developmental Disabilities and Young Learners Therapeutic Preschool & Early Intervention Center.



Brain Matters: Successful Strategies for Students with Learning Disabilities

Bina Varughese, M.S.

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Bina Varughese is Coordinator of Educational Services at The Help Group's Summit View School in Valley Glen. She works with teachers to develop individualized programs for students with learning differences and trains staff in specialized strategies in the areas of reading, study skills, and writing.

CE Credits: 3 continuing education units are available for either session for Psychologists, Speech Pathologists, LCSWs, MFCC/MFTs, and RNs.

The Help Group - Sherman Oaks Campus:
13130 Burbank Blvd. Sherman Oaks

Admission is free. Dates subject to change. For reservation and information visit www.thehelpgroup.org for Distinguished Lecturer postings and online registration or call 818.779.5212

THE TEDDY BEAR BALL

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Peter Chernin
Rupert Murdoch
Haim Saban

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Brian Grazer
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| Jeffrey Katzenberg | Elizabeth & Jim Wiatt |
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| Lisa Kudrow & Michel Stern | |
| Angela Lansbury | |

Grushows Honored - continued from page 1



Brian Grazer Brad Grey Bruce Rosenblum

Sandy oversees both the entertainment operations of FOX Broadcasting Company and the industry's foremost network television production company, Twentieth Century Fox Television. Sandy was appointed to his current position in November 1997. Under Sandy's leadership, Twentieth Century Fox Television rose from the eighth-ranked studio, with just five series on primetime, to become a leader in network television production. In addition to its 14 shows returning this Fall, the studio has seven new series. Barbara is involved in numerous charitable organizations, including serving on the Executive Board of Directors of the Alliance for Children's Rights. Sandy and Barbara are strong supporters of our community and our organization and have a very special place in their hearts for the children of The Help Group.

The Teddy Bear Ball will begin at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails and a silent auction followed by the dinner program and a live auction conducted by auctioneer extraordinaire Andrea Fiuczynski, President of Christie's. One of the highlights of this special evening will be The Help Group's Children's Choir performing with various Fox stars.

For reservations and information call Judy Burkow at 818.779.5212 or visit our website at www.thehelpgroup.org.



THE COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF AND THE HELP GROUP...A PERFECT BLEND THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf is once again sponsoring a special promotion for the upcoming holiday season to benefit The Help Group. The children of The Help Group have created art that will be featured on The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf's holiday line 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 retail locations in California, Nevada, and Arizona, and on their web site, www.coffeebean.com, as well as through its mail order department at 1.800.tealeaf. In the spirit of the holiday season, The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf will donate a portion of the proceeds from these items 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 these proceeds will be donated to The Help Group.

A special thank you to Sunny Sassoon, Chairman of The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, his wife Debbie, and to Tami Clark, Senior Director of Marketing and Strategic Alliances, for their continued support of The Help Group and for once again including our children in their generous spirit of philanthropy. We are looking forward to another Holiday Season filled with warm brewed coffee and frozen ice blended drinks!

WORLD PREMIERE OF "DR. SEUSS' THE CAT IN THE HAT" TO BENEFIT THE HELP GROUP



On Saturday, November 8, 2003, Universal Pictures, DreamWorks Pictures and Imagine Entertainment hosted the World Premiere of their newest movie, "Dr. Seuss' The Cat In The Hat" at Universal City Walk to benefit The Help Group, Best Buddies and First Book. Hundreds of children and families, including a group of children served by The Help Group, enjoyed this highly anticipated live-action adventure-filled film adaptation of the beloved literary classic. Following the movie, there was an after-party family celebration and carnival featuring a live performance by soundtrack artists Smash Mouth.

Cast members Mike Myers, Alec Baldwin, Kelly Preston, Dakota Fanning, Spencer Breslin, Amy Hill and Sean Hayes and producer Brian Grazer were in attendance at this star-studded event. Celebrity guests included Tom Arnold, Rosanna Arquette, Billy Baldwin and Chynna Phillips, Roma Downey, Melissa Ethridge, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Ron Howard, Christine Lathfi, Holly Robinson Peete, Gary Sinise, Gwen Stefani and Gavin Rossdale, John Travolta and many others.

Universal, DreamWorks, Imagine and Proctor & Gamble generously underwrote all costs of the Premiere and after-party so that all proceeds were divided equally among the three non-profit organizations. We thank Universal Pictures, DreamWorks, Imagine and Proctor & Gamble for their tremendous generosity and for choosing The Help Group as a beneficiary of this wonderful event.

DEDICATION OF THE EISNER EDUCATION BUILDING AND THE WEINGART STUDENT PAVILION - continued from page 1

On Thursday, September 18, 2003, The Help Group held a dedication ceremony to recognize the generosity of The Eisner Foundation and Weingart Foundation. The major capital gifts from The Eisner Foundation and Weingart Foundation enabled The Help Group to create a 10,000 square foot state-of-the-art education building to expand its Summit View School, Valley Glen Campus.

The afternoon began with a reception attended by 200 guests followed by the dedication program. Following the pledge of allegiance, led by Jordonis, special guests, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky,



Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky



Assemblymember Lloyd Levine, Jane Eisner, Dr. Susan Berman, Councilmember Wendy Greuel

Assemblymember Lloyd Levine, Jane Eisner, Dr. Susan Berman, Councilmember Wendy Greuel each commending The Eisner Foundation and Weingart Foundation and The Help Group on their commitment to children with special needs. Two students, Jane and Pablo, spoke about what their school means to them, how they feel like they now have

the chance to succeed and thanked the guests of honor for making their new building possible. Dr. Firestone expressed The Help Group's gratitude to be amongst the family of non-profit organizations that the Weingart Foundation has so generously supported and she announced that "The Weingart Student Pavilion" was being dedicated in their honor. The Children's Choir sang "What A Wonderful World" in tribute. Accepting the honors for the Weingart Foundation was its President and CAO, Fred Ali who graciously remarked, "I want to thank The Help Group for the tremendous work you do on behalf of so many wonderful children. So, our job is really easy; yours is a tough one and you do it with such professionalism and effectiveness!"



Jill Reder, Laura Hobart, Nancy Rosenfelt

Dr. Firestone announced that the funds donated by The Eisner Foundation provided the leadership gift for the creation of "The Eisner Education Building" that was being dedicated in its honor today. She spoke of their longstanding commitment to children with learning disabilities and of its belief that a child's success and happiness only comes when he or she is provided with the right tools, opportunities, and role models. In accepting the honors, Jane Eisner, President of The Eisner Foundation, expressed her "satisfaction in knowing that within these walls children with learning differences will experience the dignity, self esteem, success, mastery and the great future that they so richly deserve." The Children's Choir sang a delightful medley of Disney Songs and presented her with beautiful flowers and a heart painted by the students. The afternoon concluded when Dr. Firestone and Gary Carmona asked Jane Eisner, Fred Ali and special guests to join them on stage to sing "Friendship" with the children. Our heartfelt thanks to The Eisner Foundation and Weingart Foundation for their generosity and caring.

HELP GROUP ENROLLMENT - continued from page 6

of independence. Bridgeport School is located in Sherman Oaks.

Sunrise School for Autism and Developmental Disabilities is dedicated to promoting communicative, behavioral, social, academic, motor, adaptive and independent living skills. These comprehensive programs enable all students to maximize their potential. Sunrise School is located in Sherman Oaks and Culver City.

Pacific Ridge School addresses the educational needs of students who require an intensive therapeutic day school due to emotional and behavioral disabilities. Psychodynamic and behavioral techniques complement the diagnostic teaching process in helping students to experience success and achievement. Pacific Ridge is located in Van Nuys.

For more information about The Help Group's school programs, please call the Admissions Office at 877.943.5747.

SMMoA - continued from page 11

This project was created and implemented by Patricia Sandler, MA, ATR, LMFT Director of School based Clinical Services at The Help Group, Culver City Campus and Jane Schulman, MA, ATR, LMFT Outpatient Therapist at The Help Group Child and Family Center. According to Pat Sandler, "All About Me: Children Speak About Their Lives" is an exhibit of photographs and words that offers us a privileged look into the lives of the students of Village Glen School in Culver City. Although they may have challenges in the area of verbal or written expression, and struggle at times with social and learning difficulties, the use of photography to document that which has meaning for them, and the subsequent verbal expression that came out of those images demonstrates to us their keen observations, and the eloquence of their thoughts and feelings. All children have the capacity for self-expression and creativity. It is up to us to help them find the modalities with which they can fulfill those aspects of themselves. For these kids, a single-use black and white camera provided the means, the instructors provided some guidance and information, and the students provided the heart and inspiration."

We invite you to see this extraordinary exhibition. The SMMoA is located at Bergamot Station Arts Complex in Santa Monica and is open from Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The Help Group is delighted that a vibrant avant-garde museum such as The Santa Monica Museum of Art enthusiastically supports the exhibition "All About Me: Children Speak About Their Lives" and thanks Pat Sandler and Jane Schulman for their efforts.

SMMoA'S CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Santa Monica Museum of Art offers programs that include the large-scale public art installation series Wall Works, the teacher-training program ART, and the community outreach program Park Studio, for young people living in the Pico/Cloverfield neighborhood. All of these programs are free to participants, in addition to a robust range of year-round weekend family art classes like Emerging Artists Family Workshops and Kids' Art Station. The museum gives approximately 80-100 tours annually to such groups as elementary school classes, senior citizens, at-risk youth, and college students. For information contact Asuka Hisa, Education Director ADD at 310-586-6488 or visit www.smmoa.org.

HelpLetter

Featuring

Emerging Trends in Autism, Asperger's Disorder, Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders, and Developmental Disabilities is available. The following articles and authors are in this edition: Sally Shaywitz, M.D., *The New Science of Reading*; Thomas E. Brown, Ph.D., *ADHD as Executive Function Impairment*; Laurie Stephens, Ph.D., *Differential Diagnosis in Autism Spectrum Disorders*; Joseph K. Torgesen, Ph.D., *Intervention Strategies for Children with Reading Difficulties*; Eric D. Saslow, M.D., *Medication Treatment for Autistic Spectrum Disorders*. Please visit www.thehelpgroup.org or call 818.779.5212 to receive a copy.

DR. SUSAN BERMAN FETED ON HER 20TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE HELP GROUP

On September 30th, the Board of Directors hosted a special evening in celebration of Dr. Susan Berman's 20th anniversary at The Help Group attended by Board mem-



Gary H. Carmona, Dr. Susan Berman, Dr. Barbara Firestone



Dr. Barry Berman, Laura, Johnny, Dr. Susan Berman, Andy

bers, professional colleagues and Dr. Berman's family. The atmosphere was warm and filled with everyone's admiration, respect and appreciation of Dr. Berman, who is Executive Vice President of The Help Group. Through her extraordinary achievements, she has made significant contributions to the growth and development of The Help Group. Her efforts have touched the lives of many thousands of children throughout the past twenty years. Gary Carmona and Dr. Firestone spoke of Dr. Berman's commitment, expertise and compassion. Dr. Firestone remarked that she is a pillar of The Help Group and is integral to its success. She excels in all of her roles in life – wife, mother, family member, professional and community leader. Board member, Barry Nagoshiner, Sr. Vice President, Tom Komp, and Village Glen's Clinical Director of School Programs, Dr. Mary Bauman shared congratulatory remarks. On a personal note, Dr. Berman's husband, Dr. Barry Berman, her daughter Laura, and her parents, Lorraine and Ray Friedman, presented very eloquent and loving tributes.



Dr. Susan Berman with her parents Ray & Lorraine Friedman

Dr. Barry Berman surprised his wife with a heart, hand painted by The Help Group students, that is displayed in The Help Group's main lobby, along with a generous contribution in her honor.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Gary Carmona and Dr. Firestone made several special presentations to Dr. Berman. Everyone was deeply touched by Dr. Berman's gracious and moving acceptance remarks... "I am so proud to be a part of this special bond that we call The Help Group. I feel a tremendous sense of hope and awe as I watch The Help Group children and their families courageously face their limitations and joyfully discover their possibilities. It is in those moments that I am reminded that every single day of the last twenty years have had great meaning and purpose." The Help Group looks forward to celebrating many more milestones with her. Our congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Dr. Susan Berman!

HOLIDAY CARNIVAL TO HOST 700 CHILDREN

On Saturday, December 13th, The Help Group will be hosting its annual holiday carnival at its Sherman Oaks Campus for hundreds of children and their families served by our Child Abuse Prevention, Mental Health, Residential Treatment and Foster



Care programs. This fun-filled day will include rides, food, games, moonbounces, arts and crafts and a visit from Santa Claus himself! Each child will be able to enjoy a petting zoo, musical entertainment and be able to take home gifts for the holidays. Through the generosity and caring of such sponsors as Metropolitan Concessions, The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, McDonald's, El Pollo Loco, and many more sponsors yet to come, the children and their families will have a day they will never forget. If you would like to become a sponsor, volunteer or donate toys, please contact Judy Burkow or Debbie Martin at 818.779.5212.

HELP GROUP ENROLLMENT EXCEEDS 1,000 STUDENTS

The Help Group is pleased to announce that as of this Fall, there are more than 1,000 students enrolled in The Help Group's schools! Starting in 1975 with one classroom, The Help Group's six special education day school programs have served thousands of students throughout the past 28 years. These state-of-the-art pre-school through high school programs offer individualized curricula in integrated, therapeutic environments. Each school provides diagnostic and prescriptive teaching, small classes, and enrichment activities to maximize learning:

Summit View School fosters the fullest potential of students with specific learning disabilities. In this dynamic environment, students build their academic skills, experience the educational process as positive and rewarding and recognize their strengths and abilities. Summit View School is located in Valley Glen and in Culver City.

Village Glen School serves children with social and communicative disorders, including high functioning autism and Asperger's Disorder. It offers unique, individualized education in a nurturing, therapeutic environment that fosters the development of socialization and communicative skills. Village Glen School is located in Sherman Oaks and Culver City.

Young Learners Therapeutic Preschool and Early Intervention Center is designed for children with neurodevelopmental delays, including those with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. The program offers comprehensive assessment of the nature and degree of the challenges each child is confronting and fosters early development through an interdisciplinary approach. The Young Learners program is located in Sherman Oaks and Culver City.

Bridgeport School is designed for students, ages five to twenty-one, who benefit from both an academic curriculum and hands-on life skills training, pre-vocational and vocational services. The program offers a multi-disciplinary approach including both in-class and practical training in the community, with the goal of assisting students to access skills that will improve the quality of their lives and assist them to achieve the greatest possible level

Continued on page 13

NICOLE EXCELS AT SUMMIT VIEW SCHOOL

Nicole is an outgoing, vivacious and bright 16 year old. Just 3 years ago, these wonderful traits were hidden beneath a layer of sadness and withdrawal. Although Nicole worked diligently, she always had difficulties in school. By the time she reached middle school, Nicole struggled daily in classes and was unable to complete any homework assignments. When asked why she never turned in her homework, Nicole responded that she would rather be marked down for not doing the work, rather than "feel stupid about doing it wrong." Other areas of her life suffered as well – school became so difficult and unpleasant for Nicole that she became very shy, and her self-esteem was quite low; she had to work so hard to keep up that she found it hard to find the time or energy to participate in any extra-curricular activities



In September 2000, Nicole was enrolled in The Help Group's Summit View School, dedicated to students with learning disabilities. Nicole discovered she learned differently from other people. Summit View staff conducted a comprehensive assessment to determine her specific learning disabilities, to identify her strengths as well as the areas in which she needed the most assistance, and then designed strategies to help her succeed. As Nicole began to experience success in her schoolwork, her self-esteem flourished. Her grades improved dramatically, she made friends and for the first time, she looked forward to going to school. Now, as a Junior in High School, Nicole is the Student Body President, a member on the girls basketball team, and manages the boys' basketball team. She has taken the initiative to request college preparatory classes, and her homework is always completed thoroughly and on time.

We congratulate Nicole on her terrific achievements! For information regarding Summit View School, please call 877.943.5747.

BLOOMINGDALE'S THE SHOPPING BENEFIT

On October 28th, Bloomingdale's sponsored its annual "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 have been chosen as one of the beneficiaries. As part of the daylong event, The Help Group Children's Choir performed at Bloomingdale's in Sherman Oaks, delighting shoppers with a medley of songs from Disney movies. In the evening, there was a fabulous fashion show with gowns designed by Tadashi. Since Bloomingdale's opened its doors in California seven years ago, they have generously supported The Help Group as well as many other non-profit organizations. In 1997, The Help Group presented its Corporate Philanthropy Award to Bloomingdale's at its Teddy Bear Picnic for their ongoing support and commitment of its programs. The Help Group is very grateful to have been included in this terrific event, and to have such a wonderful friendship with Bloomingdale's.



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.

SANTA MONICA MUSEUM OF ART TO FEATURE STUDENT EXHIBITION

My Dream Window

- Chardai

This is a window of a girl who looks out it. She looks out it every night when everybody else is asleep. She loves to dream and think about things. The window, it's like her diary. Sometimes she can see a cloud with a hole in it, and she can see up to heaven. During the day, she can see the sun and sometimes a rainbow. She can see her mother with the laundry and her sisters play.



The Santa Monica Museum of Art (SMMoA) will feature a photography exhibition in Project Room 2 "All About Me: Children Speak About Their Lives", by the children of The Help Group's Village Glen School, from December 13, 2003 through February 7, 2004. "When Barbara Firestone first introduced me to the children's body of work, I was touched by its immediacy and expressive depth," notes Elsa Longhauser, executive director of SMMoA. "We look forward to offering these young artists the same rigorous level of museological respect that we extend to all artists whose work is exhibited at SMMoA," explains Longhauser. "There will be explanatory wall text, labels, a press release, and an opening reception." Early in the Spring of 2002, thirty-five students at The Help Group's Village Glen School in Culver City chose to participate in a project that utilized photography and writing to document what has meaning in their lives and what they would like to share with the world. Each student was given a 35mm camera and asked to take pictures that expressed something about themselves, their lives and what was important to them. The film was professionally developed and each student had the opportunity to look through the pictures and choose one image to be enlarged. The children were asked to express verbally why the particular photo that they had chosen was meaningful to them.

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