Gerber Family Center Capital Campaign Kick-Off Celebration

On July 20, 2015, The Arc of San Diego celebrated the construction kickoff for the new Sol and Ruth Gerber Family Center in Chula Vista. The former Starlight Center was renamed The Sol and Ruth Gerber Family Center in honor of the Gerbers’ gift of $1,000,000.

“We are overjoyed about the Gerber’s generous gift and grateful for their commitment to helping meet the needs of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities,” said David W. Schneider, President & CEO. “This gift will enable us to continue serving generations of people with disabilities, their families, and our community for many years to come.”

Supporters and local dignitaries were in attendance to celebrate the beginning of the $4.5 million project. Supervisor Greg Cox and former Mayor of Chula Vista Cheryl Cox, honorary co-chairs of the Building for Self-Sufficiency Capital Campaign, as well as Chula Vista Mayor Mary Casillas Salas were present.

The new 30,000 square foot center will enhance the learning environment for individuals attending programs and features innovative activity-based classrooms, computer lab, media room, and commercial kitchen. Over 185 adults participate in the adult day program and approximately 65 people with disabilities earn a paycheck through work in the vocational training program.

To learn more about the Building for Self-Sufficiency Capital Campaign, contact Jennifer Bates Navarra at (619) 685-1175, ext. 291 or jnavarra@arc-sd.com.

The Gerber Family
Sol and Ruth Gerber were longtime supporters of The Arc of San Diego. They first learned about the organization more than 20 years ago from a close friend whose daughter has Down syndrome. They lived in Los Angeles and have two children, Morning Nichols and Richard Gerber. Sol Gerber passed away in May 2010 and Ruth in 2014.

Capital Campaign Honorary Committee
Hon. Greg and Cheryl Cox, Co-Chairs

Committee Members
Chief David Bejarano
Martha Brault
Dr. Thomas & Lu Bucknell
Dr. Donald & Joan Dolgas
Susan J. Fuller
John H. & Phyllis D. Parrish
Rich & Gaby Sulpizio
Sandra & Bud Wilson

Capital Campaign Committee
Co-Chairs
James O. Reynolds
Edward C. Walton, Esq.

Members
Ronald Blair
Martha Brault
Susan J. Fuller
Thomas Harmon
Norma Hidalgo-Del Rio, RPh
Graciela Montes de Oca
Yrma Nixon
Bill Waite
Sandra Wilson
President’s Message

Excitement was in the air as we celebrated the construction kickoff for The Sol and Ruth Gerber Family Center. During the event, we revisited the history of the former Starlight Center and looked to our future, where critical building improvements will strengthen our infrastructure and help us meet the growing need for services with excellence and innovation.

Your support of our Building for Self-Sufficiency Capital Campaign is important to us. To date, we have surpassed $2,400,000 in gifts. Please consider a gift – your donation will make a difference and positively impact the lives of each and every one of our clients, from birth through seniority. With your help, we will reach our $4.5 million goal.

After decades of tireless service, fundraising, and compassion, the East County Angel Larcis formally disbanded. Since March 1963, they have given unwavering support to consumers and staff at East County Training Center and Arc Enterprises John Towers. We salute them for all their volunteer work throughout these many years.

At the Annual Meeting, we installed a new slate of officers and would like to convey a special thank you to Gerald Hansen for his dedicated service. We appreciate his leadership as board chair.

Our annual membership drive, Every ONE Counts!, is underway and it’s your chance to get more involved. Members are our greatest strength. Together, we have given children and adults with disabilities the opportunity to lead rich, full lives. Membership starts at $25 and is an investment in your community! We invite you to become personally engaged. Join us, renew your membership, or gift a membership to family and friends. For more information, please visit www.arc-sd.com/membership.

We are proud to report The Arc of San Diego received a three-year accreditation in our employment programs from CARF International. This achievement is truly a reflection of the talent and hard work of our staff.

David W. Schneider
President & CEO

One of a Kind Summer

Thank you for giving our campers the gift of summer camp! There was never a dull moment. Every day was filled with fun, creativity and movement… sing-a-longs, scavenger and dinosaur egg (watermelon) hunts, water balloon games, "paint your counselor" sessions, carnival and casino nights, talent shows, dances, theater, arts, jewelry making, soap making, swimming, hiking, nature walks, T-Ball, kickball, basketball… and, before you knew it, the week was done!

Thank you for supporting

Diane Baer Family
Stephanie G. Blankenship
Bernard Blotner
Martha Brault
Mike & Kathy Brault
Christine Dahlikc
Lisa M. Danzer
East County Chapter
Advisory Board
Monir & Ougnty Estefanos
Catherine E. Fanning
Lael A. Gaffud
Edilberto Gaffud
Paul & Janice Gilbert
Rhonda Renee Handy
Jewell D. Hooper
C. Michael Hoyt
Sara Hutton
Shirley S. Jennings
Pamela A. Legge
Anne Linn
Louis Magera
Julie A. Mele, Esq.
Francisco & Margarita Merino
Rudy H. Moreno
Ruth Mortenson
North County Chapter
Advisory Board
Qualcomm Charitable Foundation
Mary Russell
South Bay Chapter
Advisory Board
Ed & Noreen Walton
Gifts from January 1-August 20, 2015

Correction

In the Summer 2015 issue, page 7, we mistakenly published an incorrect photograph of Ramona D. Zamora. Here is the correct photo. We regret the error and congratulate Ms. Zamora on 20 years of dedicated service to The Arc of San Diego.

Board of Directors

The Arc of San Diego

Officers
Doug Hoehn, Board Chair
Nancy Eakin, 1st Vice Chair
Lisa Marie Russell, 2nd Vice Chair
Jerry Wechsler, Secretary/Treasurer
Gerald W. Hansen, P.E., Past Board Chair

Members-At-Large
John Alexander
Robert “Bob” Guthrie
Gregg Shallan, MBA, ChFC
Dwight Stratton

Chapter Representatives
Ty Rogers, City Chapter
Arlene Moreau, East County Chapter
Julie Lyon, North County Chapter
William Evans, North Shores Chapter
Susan J. Fuller, South Bay Chapter

Arc San Diego Foundation

Officers
Paul La Bounty, CEBS
Chairperson
Glenn Chapin
1st Vice Chairperson
Mike Lichtenberger, CPA
Secretary/Treasurer
James O. Reynolds
Past Chairperson

Directors
Ron Blair
Norma Hidalgo-Del Rio, RPh
Doug Hoehn
Andrew J. Kessler, Esq.
Jon Kurtin
Donald Molloy, JD
Edward C. Walton, Esq.

Emeritus
Robert L. Beckett
Clair Burgener (deceased)
Jerry Coleman (deceased)
Darla Davis
Honorable John S. Einhorn
Willis J. Fletcher (deceased)
Arthur Neumann, CPA
George Saadeh
Sidney Schuman
Building Futures

On Friday, May 29th we welcomed members of the Legacy Society to our annual appreciation luncheon held at Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar in downtown San Diego. It was an opportunity to celebrate and honor those donors who have included The Arc of San Diego in their estate plans.

The luncheon keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Rafii, is Director of the Adult Down Syndrome Clinic at UCSD Health System. Dr. Rafii leads the Down Syndrome Research and Treatment Center and serves on the steering committee for the National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices of the American Academy of Developmental Medicine. His talk gave us much to think about.

President & CEO David Schneider warmly thanked members for their vision and commitment. Our Legacy donors, with their contributions, secure the future for generations of children and adults with disabilities. These gifts take many forms including bequests, retirement plan designations, charitable income gifts such as annuities, remainder trust, life insurance, and more.

If you would like to discuss the possibility of making a planned gift to The Arc of San Diego or need additional information, please contact Jennifer Bates Navarra, Vice President of Marketing & Development, at (619) 685-1175, ext. 291 or jnavarra@arc-sd.com

Members

We proudly recognize our supporters who have committed to leaving a lasting legacy that will shape The Arc of San Diego for future generations.

Anonymous (5)
Ronald Blair
James & Nancy* Bosley
Gary Bryant
Dr. Harland* & Virginia DeBoer
Anthony A. Ghio Family
Gerald & Ingrid Hansen
Dr. Stuart Karasik
Blanche Logan*
Julie Murch
Susan Naanes
Jim & Denise Reynolds
Aloysius* & Marianne* Sally
David W. & Janet D. Schneider
Cherrie Sevick*
Bill Waite
Olivia & Marty Winkler
* deceased

May 19 through August 20, 2015

The Arc of San Diego greatly appreciates the assistance we receive to help us enhance the services we provide to children and adults with disabilities. We are grateful for your support and commitment to improving their quality of life. Thank you to all our wonderful supporters!

Donations

Many thanks to the Knights of Columbus #5012/St. John for their contribution of $1,056.44 to The Arc of San Diego.

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus Council #10802/St. Timothy for their support of $2,881.38 from their Tootsie Roll Drive to The Arc of San Diego.

Grants

The Samuel & Katherine French Fund provided a $5,000 grant and the Sundt Foundation gave $1,000 to support Camp-A-Little.

We greatly appreciate a grant of $2,000 from Las Primeras for our Parent/Infant Program.

A special thank you to Las Patronas for a grant of $20,000 that will fund exercise equipment for therapeutic fitness services at The Sol and Ruth Gerber Family Center.

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Dr. Harland DeBoer, Jr.
Virginia DeBoer

In Memory of Sierra DePaul
Acrisure

In Memory of Julia Doolittle
Vivian L. Searcy

In Memory of Esther M. Garcia
Heriberto M. Garcia

In Honor of Mark Hansen
Charman Jondall

In Memory of Roland Roos
The DeLeo Family
James & Ardi Lane

In Memory of Sally B. Thornton
Darlene G. Davies
Jessie Knight, Jr. & Joyce Blount

Tribute Gifts

In Honor of Anita, Preeti, Sandeep, & Priyanka
Priyanka Rathod

In Honor of Martha Brault
Gilbert, Edith, and Danny Benavidez
Peter & Jeanette Lobner

In Honor of John Vaughn
Jill Schultz

Thank You to Our Donors
Annual Meetings & Awards

The Arc of San Diego

The Arc of San Diego’s Annual Meeting & Installation Ceremony on June 5th celebrated the induction of the 2015-16 Board of Directors.

During the course of the evening, the organization honored volunteers, staff, and consumers for service and achievements. The event was emceed by Geni Cavett, Media and Communications Specialist.

Awards

Frank B. Lalor Outstanding Volunteer Award
Clarence Branch
Patricia “Patty” Cody
Donna “Kelly” Sadowski

President’s Volunteer Service Award
East County Angel Larcs
Susan J. Fuller, Treasurer of South Bay Chapter Advisory Board and member of the Board of Directors

Employee of the Year
Paula Taylor
Arc Community Employment Services
Rosamaria “Lupe” Vivar
Arc Enterprises
Claudia Garcia
East County Training Center
Susana Lance
Independent Living Services
Marion Crooks
Arc North County
Alfonso Woolford
North Shores Vocational Center
Nancy Acosta-Meza
Parent/Infant Program
Kristina Ranger
Residential Services
Shirley Reedy-Edmondson
Respite Services
Elma “Betty” Huerta
Gerber Center
David Valenzuela
Sulpizio Family Center

Child of the Year
Isaiah Giron
Parent/Infant Program

Consumer of the Year
Basem Estafanos
Arc Enterprises
Neal Wise
Arc Community Employment Services
Francine Flannigan
Arc North County
Kimberlee Plowman
East County Training Center
Arleena Greene
Independent Living Services
Nathaniel “Nate” Johnson
North Shores Vocational Center
Ben Jennings
Personal and Leisure Services
Brian Brandt
Residential Services
Isabel Andrea Dominquez
Respite Services
Tradel Gaffud
Gerber Center
Rhonda Rumple
Sulpizio Family Center

The President’s Award is presented to the East County Angel Larcs by David Schneider for 52 years of dedicated service to East County Training Center and Arc Enterprises.

John Towers. The Arc of San Diego gratefully acknowledges their tireless and extraordiary service.

Susan J. Fuller accepts the President’s Award from David Schneider. Susan, a dedicated volunteer for more than 30 years, is Treasurer of the South Bay Chapter Advisory Board and member of our Board of Directors. She began assisting with our Parent/Infant Program in the 1970s.

Clarence Branch (right) of the City Chapter Advisory Board receives the prestigious Frank B. Lalor Outstanding Volunteer Award from Tom Harmon of the South Bay Chapter Advisory Board.

Recipients of the Frank B. Lalor Outstanding Volunteer Award, Donna “Kelly” Sadowski and Patricia “Patty” Cody of the East County Chapter Advisory Board and former East County Angel Larcs with Tom Harmon.
The Arc San Diego Foundation

Honoring Leadership
The Arc San Diego Foundation held its Annual Meeting & Recognition Luncheon on June 24th at Bertrand’s at Mr. A’s.

During the awards program, the Foundation took the opportunity to recognize, honor, and thank individuals and businesses for civic leadership and distinguished service to The Arc of San Diego and acknowledge the contributions of all Circle of Light members.

At the Installation ceremonies, Paul La Bounty, CEBS, was installed as Chairperson, along with a 2015-16 slate of officers and directors.

Awards

Circle of Light Platinum
(gifts of $1,000,000 and over)
- Sol and Ruth Gerber Family
- Jim Reynolds

Circle of Light Silver
(gifts between $100,000-$500,000)
- Star Larcs
- U.S. Bank

Jim Reynolds received the Circle of Light Platinum Award from David Schneider for his efforts in raising more than $1,000,000 for The Sol and Ruth Gerber Family Center as Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign Committee and during his tenure as Chair of the Arc San Diego Foundation.

Richard Gerber and Morning Nichols, children of Sol and Ruth Gerber, accepted the Circle of Light Platinum Award from David Schneider in recognition of their parents’ leadership gift of $1,000,000 to the Building for Self-Sufficiency Capital Campaign and Our Place Yoga & Wellness Center.

On hand to receive the Circle of Light Silver Award for the Star Larcs were members Debbie Muñoz, Susan Mummenthaler, Taffy Komasa, Barbara Scott, and Sandra Wilson. The Star Larcs were acknowledged for generous and selfless service to the former Starlight Center since 1968.

U.S. Bank received the Circle of Light Silver Award for supporting programs and services at The Arc of San Diego for more than 20 years and being a sponsor of The Jewels of San Diego Gala since its premiere in 2010. Accepting the award were representatives Joye Blount and John Zygowicz.
How did you get involved with The Arc of San Diego?
My daughter Deirdre, who has Down syndrome, has participated in The Arc’s programs since May 2002. She is 33 years old and has been in special education since she was three months. I volunteered at every program she attended, getting to know some wonderful people. When I began volunteering at The Arc, I looked not only at ways I could serve the clients hands-on but also how I could provide oversight.

What is your role as Board Chair?
Every board member is a valuable asset and we work together to oversee The Arc’s performance and set policy. The Chair conducts board meetings, selects chairpersons for board committees, appoints Ad Hoc Committees as-needed, and remains the first contact for the Chief Executive Officer. Less officially, but even more fun, the Chair tries to participate in as many fundraising activities as time allows.

What motivates you?
I want to help the people who help my daughter and people like her.

What goals do you have for your second term?
The biggest goal is political: making things happen in Sacramento that ensures the Regional Centers and vendors like The Arc have needed funding. This presents opportunities for participation by persons served by the organization and their families. Let’s face it: a petition full of cold hard facts electronically signed by 10,000 people may be less effective than heart-to-heart pleas by 100 people whose lives have been changed through The Arc.

Another priority is Strategic Planning and guiding the realignment of The Arc’s excellent day programs with new laws, policies, and guidelines set by the federal government. Let’s not forget the Capital Campaign for The Sol and Ruth Gerber Family Center in South Bay. Every board member must mentally be a fundraiser, even if only by word-of-mouth.

Finally, I want to oversee a smooth transition for residents from four residential homes who are moving into newly-purchased properties.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?
The theatre is my passion. And even that leads me back to The Arc because one of my most rewarding activities has been conducting acting classes for individuals in the day programs. When I retire I’ll teach acting at all day programs!

Doug served as Board Chair in 2009. He and his wife, Cheryl, reside in Santee. Daughter Deirdre lives in Mira Mesa and attends North Shores Vocational Center and son, David, lives in Mansfield, Ohio.

Celebrating Employment
October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), when we celebrate contributions of workers with disabilities. The theme is “My Disability Is One Part of Who I Am.”

Our employment programs, Arc Community Employment Services (ACES) and Arc Enterprises, focus on improving employment prospects and providing entry into the job market. We are proud of the ability of our staff to successfully match employer workforce needs with qualified employees with disabilities. For more information, contact George Stone at (619) 685-1175, ext. 297.

Congratulations!
Anthony Ward was awarded the highly coveted Challenge Coin in June from U.S. Marine Corps Director Major Clay E. Davis of B27 MCRD Recruiters School for his diligent work at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD).

Anthony is the first consumer to receive the Challenge Coin, a medallion presented by high-ranking officers for a job well done. ”I felt great and happy to get the award,” he said. ”My favorite part of my job is being able to do everything. I have a good time and like being part of a team. I like this job.”

Anthony has been part of The Arc’s landscaping crew at MCRD since 2004. Working five days a week, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., his duties include mowing, trimming, pruning, edging, and maintaining the grounds. The deputy assistant chief of staff for MCRD recently commented that the landscaping team always went the extra mile to maintain the pristine beauty of MCRD and he receives frequent accolades regarding the manicured and shipshape grounds.

MCRD employs approximately 260 people from The Arc’s job-placement program to maintain 388 acres of grounds and work in the depot’s mess hall. Anthony has been receiving services from The Arc of San Diego since 2002 when he began work with the mobile grounds crew.

A Good Start
Amy Giffin was volunteering at local preschools and elementary schools when she heard about The Arc of San Diego. ”I knew that even with my degree in Child Development I might not be able to find a job in the field, but that’s when The Arc found this awesome opportunity!”

It’s been six months since Amy began working at the Rancho Family YMCA in Rancho Peñasquitos. ”It’s a beautiful location,” she said. ”I can’t say enough about how great it is. The facility is very adaptable for people with disabilities. It was and is a perfect fit.”

Amy works part-time, two to three days a week, from 9 a.m. to noon. As a Kids’ Care Attendant, she is responsible for helping with program activities, snack preparation, and attending to the children. ”I feel like I found my niche! I love the kids, their innocence and curiosity, but mostly their willingness to accept.”

The children’s curiosity about her wheelchair gives her the perfect opportunity to talk about differences and respect. ”One of the things the children ask is why I am in the chair. I say it’s because my legs don’t work like yours do, and the chair helps me get around. I feel lucky I found the Y.”

Doug Hoehn
The Arc of San Diego, Board Chair
Donor Spotlight: Las Patronas

Las Patronas, founded in 1946 by 14 women from La Jolla, is committed to supporting local charities and has donated nearly $18 million to over 1,000 non-profits in the areas of health, education, social services, and cultural arts.

Highly respected for its conscientious grants process, Las Patronas thoroughly evaluates every applicant, reviewing mission, operations, service, and fiscal responsibility. Qualified grant applicants are visited on-site and interviewed by a team of members to determine need and impact. Las Patronas supports capital items, funds between 50-100 nonprofits each year, and has two grant cycles, fall and spring.

The organization is made up of 50 active members, each serving a minimum six-year term as well as advisory members composed of those who have completed their terms. All members are involved with year-round fundraising that culminates with the acclaimed Jewel Ball, a spectacular, philanthropic black-tie gala held the first Saturday in August.

The Arc of San Diego was selected as one of nine major beneficiaries of Magnifique, the 69th annual Jewel Ball held August 8th at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club. The Las Patronas grant will fund the purchase of exercise equipment for therapeutic fitness services to optimize health and well-being of clients at The Sol and Ruth Gerber Family Center in Chula Vista.

“Las Patronas members believe The Arc of San Diego is a true asset to San Diego,” said Lisa C. Albanez, Vice President/Grants. “We are proud to assist you in your endeavors and are very pleased to become your partner in community service.”

The women of Las Patronas continue to keep alive the original tenet of their founding members - enriching their own lives with the joy of giving to others. The Arc of San Diego thanks Las Patronas for their ongoing support and confidence in us. In 2011, Las Patronas provided funds that helped buy a new passenger van with wheelchair lift for the Sulpizio Family Center and, in 1993, approved a grant for Turley Residential House.

Getting Ready for Year-End Giving?

For many, the end of the year is the traditional time to make charitable gifts. We ask that you please consider a donation to The Arc of San Diego. Your gift will provide important support for our programs and give you significant and timely tax savings.

There are several options available to you and the following information may be helpful. Gifts must be made by Thursday, December 31, 2015.

Gifts of Cash. Simple, convenient, direct. If you itemize, gifts of cash by currency, check, money order, wire transfer, or credit card are deductible up to 50% of adjusted gross income.

Gifts of Securities. When you donate stock, bonds, or mutual funds that have appreciated, you may get relief from capital gains tax. To ensure proper gift credit, please notify us in advance when you are ready to make a transfer.

Gifts of Real Estate. Takes time to facilitate and is considered complete the day we receive the signed deed. Depending on the type of gift (personal or vacation home, acreage or farm), you may enjoy tax savings, lifetime payments, and freedom from carrying costs once the property is sold.

Gifts through your Will or Living Trust. Flexible and easy to arrange. After providing for your loved ones, we hope you will consider remembering us in your estate.

Gifts from your IRA. An IRA owner, age 70½ or over, can directly transfer, tax-free, up to $100,000 per year to an eligible charity. It’s important to get this in motion sooner, rather than waiting until the end of the year.

When thinking about making a major charitable gift, always consult a tax professional. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Bates Navarra at (619) 685-1185, ext. 291 or jnavarra@arc-sd.com.

Toy Story

Christmas came early for toddlers in the Parent/Infant Program when they received toys from High Tech High students. Not just any toys and not just any students. These were original, custom-made toys crafted by a group of graduating seniors from the Engineering class.

Prior to conceptualizing their ideas, students met with the children and their parents to get an understanding of the many challenges encountered every day. They also conducted extensive research, learning about different disabilities in order to design toys that would appropriately meet needs and abilities. In the process, they learned valuable life lessons about teamwork, problem solving, and critical thinking.

The bond made between the young engineers and children kept them motivated. “Knowing I was designing a toy for a child with disabilities kept me focused,” said Xena Soria. “The personal connection with the family made me feel like I was making a difference.”

We thank the High Tech High team of students for their thoughtfulness and effort.
Holiday Bazaar

The Starlight Auxiliary will host its annual Holiday Bazaar on November 7 and 8 at Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F Street, Chula Vista.

Don’t miss this chance to get a head start on your holiday shopping. Browse through thousands of quality items including one-of-a-kind holiday crafts, decorations, jewelry, embroidered linens, handmade quilts, toys, baby clothing, jewelry, collectibles, home-baked goods, and white elephant pieces.

Now, in its fourth decade, members and friends of the Auxiliary begin preparations for this successful holiday event early in the year, diligently collecting, cleaning, sorting, and pricing items. The Bazaar is a major fundraising event that supports programs at The Sol and Ruth Gerber Family Center and the Building for Self-Sufficiency Capital Campaign.

Come spend a few hours with us and shop for some beautiful local handcrafted gifts and treasures! The Bazaar is a cherished tradition, a celebration of community and craftsmanship!