



Access Technology: Passion and Vision

A dynamic team will carry on the legacy of the late Steve Nakagawa, volunteer extraordinaire.

Steve's energy, vision and expertise helped him to grow Vista Center's computer classes and technology lab, establish tech user groups for small group trainings and organize the first Visually Impaired Persons Technology User Conference (VIPTUC). As a sighted person, Steve had loved to drive, which he said was the only thing he had to give up when he lost his vision.

When Steve passed away suddenly last fall, three visually impaired volunteers — John Glass, Gerry Boyadjieff and Becky Bender, stepped forward to continue to build on Steve's legacy as a tribute

to their friend and mentor. They have brought a unique set of skills that is helping to grow the program.

John Glass, Access Technology Resource Manager, has been blind since birth and has had a lifetime to learn and use all kinds of access technology. He is often invited by access technology companies to serve as a beta tester for new or emerging products, and has taken the lead in planning and implementing Vista Center's Tech User Group. As a past board member of Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, John has a broad perspective on how expanding the

Technology Department (L to R) John Glass, Becky Bender, Gerry Boyadjieff, Jan McKinley

Technology Program can serve the agency and its constituencies well into the future.

Gerry Boyadjieff, Access Technology Specialist, lost his vision at the age of ten from an ophthalmic

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Coming Down, Coming Soon

Moving Forward

During the first part of March, the building that was our home for nearly 20 years was demolished. For two decades, thousands of visually impaired and blind clients came to 2470 El Camino Real to learn



Coming down

new skills that helped to transform their lives. We bid a fond farewell to the building that clients who rely on trains, buses and paratransit services were able to travel to independently.

Looking at the rubble brought home the exciting reality of the new building we will come back to at 2500 El Camino Real. After many years of searching for the perfect solution to our facility needs in Palo Alto, Vista Center has committed to an extraordinary opportunity to return to its former Palo Alto location where our clients' critical need for services will again be met at

the same transportation nexus. We will be the ground floor tenant of a below market rent housing project developed by Related California on Stanford University property. Vista Center will have 6,000 square feet built out specifically to our program requirements. Plans will be reviewed by an architect who has lost his vision, to ensure accessibility and finishes that are optimal for our work and the clients who will benefit from our services.



Coming soon

Vista Center – Santa Cruz

Vista Center is also seeking a buyer for the building housing our Ray Westman Branch in Santa Cruz. Once a sale is completed, the office and clinic operations will be relocated to a venue that is more centrally located for greater client accessibility.

Continuing Our Legacy

Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired is the only agency in San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties that offers comprehensive programs to blind and visually impaired clients and their families. We have provided uninterrupted service in Palo Alto since our founding in 1936. We teach new ways to embrace life and accommodate vision loss, restore competence and confidence and decrease dependence on family and friends.

PLANNED GIVING

Remember Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired when you are doing your estate planning.

Planned gifts can provide tax advantages and ensure future gifts to the organizations you want to support. Please consult with your estate planning professionals to find out what giving options will work best for you.

For more information about Vista Center programs and services that will benefit from your gift, please contact:

Terry Kurfess, Development Director
Telephone: 650.858.0202 ext. 124
Email: tkurfess@vistacenter.org

Notes from the Executive Director

Pam Brandin

“The best way to predict your future is to create it.”
— *Abraham Lincoln*

Vista Center’s past, present and future were represented at a recent reunion of our past board presidents. They spanned almost 40 years of leadership and reflected many milestones in our development from a small agency providing limited services to a few hundred people living within reach of Palo Alto, to the medium-sized agency we are today. We have a four county service area and upwards of 2500 individuals each year benefiting from a comprehensive array of rehabilitation services. Our ability to change so many lives today is the result of years of work — to keep doing more and doing it better, and our future continues to be created in the same way, one year at a time.

Looking Ahead

We have a vision for Vista Center’s immediate future which includes being in a new long-term home in 18-20 months, back in our old California Avenue neighborhood with its many options for public transportation. We also have a vision for the larger community that one day, having a vision impairment will not be a barrier for anyone within our reach to realize their potential for independence



Pam Brandin, Vista Center Executive Director

and to embrace life to the fullest.

Access technology is a life-changing catalyst for someone with a vision impairment. The cover story for this issue of Insight gives you a sense of the ripple effect that access technology has had for those associated with Vista Center — volunteers, clients and staff. Finding more and better ways to connect clients to technology and access technology is one of the ways we are creating our future.

Ensuring Our Future

Raising Capital Campaign funds for our new building and increasing our endowment fund are also helping to create the future we want and must have — in order to meet the needs of escalating numbers of people with vision loss that is age-related or the result of diabetes.

Please remember that each of you is most welcome to visit us

at any time at our interim home at 3200 Hillview Avenue in Palo Alto. We would be happy to show you around and tell you more about our programs. We especially want you to know that we will be here for you, should you or a loved one ever develop vision impairment.

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413 Laurel Street

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fax 831.426.6233

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Fun and Fundraising for Vista Center

Woof to Woof's Grand Finale!

A colorful and celebratory 10th annual Woof to Woof doggie fun day on May 31, 2014 was the grand finale for this popular fundraising event that benefited Vista Center in Santa Cruz County. More than 500 dogs, along with their families and friends, enjoyed the final day of fun in the Scotts Valley Skypark.

The efforts of an enthusiastic group of Santa Cruz volunteers always culminated in an exciting day of pooch-oriented activities, including many for the two-legged



Beautiful day to dress up

attendees as well. Volunteers grilled delicious hamburgers and hot dogs for lunchtime enjoyment, orchestrated commemorative t-shirts, a popular donation drawing and robust silent auction. Sponsors and vendors added to the revenue from the day's event — for which no



Jumping for Vista Center

admission fee was ever charged.

Woof to Woof will be fondly remembered by everyone who experienced it, and Vista Center will always be grateful to the volunteers who made it such a special day — and over the years raised around \$200,000 to fund our services.

Now, on to the next production! "Hats Off to Vista Center" will premiere on Saturday, November 7th, thanks to our wonderful committee of Santa Cruz volunteers.

A Successful Affaire

There was magic in the air on June 21, 2014 as guests were greeted at Vintage Affaire and walked through the entrance into the 32nd annual event. Attendees were treated to sips of superb wines, savored bites of celebrity chef fare and supported Vista Center with spirited bidding in both the silent and live auctions. Taste Catering prepared a sumptuous dinner following the live

auction and guests continued to linger under the lights in the ring of the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy well after the



Enjoying the company of good friends for a great cause

festivities ended. Vintage Affaire raised over \$300,000 thanks to the generosity of underwriters, donors and winning bidders.

Vintage Affaire 2015 is June 13th and will be held at a lovely Atherton location with wine tasting, fabulous food and unique auction items. Vintage Evening is June 11th for our underwriters and patron ticket holders and will be a gourmet



Elegance in the evening

sit-down dinner with special wine pairings. We hope you will join us for another memorable event!

For ticket information, please call 650.858.0202 or visit www.vintageaffaire.org.

Menlo Charity Horse Show Soars

The thundering of hooves, the roar of the crowd, the conversation of friends new and old are all sounds that one experienced at the 2014 Menlo Charity Horse Show benefit-



Overall USHJA International Derby winner Bandera and Nick Haness.

ing Vista Center. The six day event, once again held at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton, California provided spectators and sponsors a perfect venue to view beautiful horses and their expert riders competing in the acclaimed annual event. The Menlo Charity Horse Show is eagerly awaited each year and has raised over \$6 million to support Vista Center programs and services.

Plans are well underway to celebrate the show's 45th year. The 2015 show will be held August 4th-9th. Menlo's exhibitors and spectators alike will be treated to the best showjumping in the country with special classes featuring the Larry Mayfield Horse and Hound Class, the Oriental Carpet Ryman Memorial Speed Take Your Own Line Jumper Class, the USHJA Hunter Derby and the Bentley Grand Prix. With over 600 horses vying for over \$150K in prize money, Menlo is without a doubt the spot to be in August.

Don't know a horse's head from its tail? No worries — Menlo has many options to keep its guests and sponsors entertained. Menlo's vendor row is a shopper's delight with popup shops featuring fine handbags, linens, furnishings, designer clothing and beautiful gems.

If cars are the way you like your horsepower, Menlo has that too! Bentley of San Francisco and Los Gatos, Sponsors of the \$40,000 Saturday Night Grand Prix, showcase the latest in luxury autos during the show.

And for the social animal in your world, Menlo serves as host to lunches in the club, daily events for sponsors under the main tent – nightly beer and wine events, and the jewel in the social crown, Menlo's Friday Night Gala and Auction. This year's Gala, "Sapphire and Ice," is



Colorful ribbons for winners of various events.

once again graciously underwritten by Stephen Silver Fine Jewelry.

Menlo welcomes and encourages all supporters of Vista Center to attend the show. For information on attending the show and/or the Friday Night Gala, please visit Menlo's website at www.menlocharityhorseshow.org. For friends of Vista Center interested in being part of the sponsor experience, a Vista Center guest table is available under the tent. Please contact Vista Center for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Vintage Affaire
Saturday, June 13, 2015
- Menlo Charity Horse Show
August 4 - 9, 2015
- Hats Off to Vista Center, Santa Cruz
Saturday, November 7, 2015

Appreciation and Acknowledgments

Thank you to the committee members and supporters of our 2014 fundraising events. Together we empower individuals who are blind or visually impaired to embrace life to the fullest.

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Statement of Financial Activities for the Fiscal Year

Ended June 30, 2014

General Operating Fund for Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE — Public Support Received Directly

Contributions	\$1,113,590
In-Kind	14,516
TOTAL SUPPORT	\$1,128,106

REVENUE

Sales to Public – Net of Expenses	\$ 35,432
Government Grants & Contracts	387,046
Program Service Fees	661,310
Special Events	35,029
Investment Income	1,031,096*
Miscellaneous	14,670
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,164,583
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$3,292,689

EXPENSES

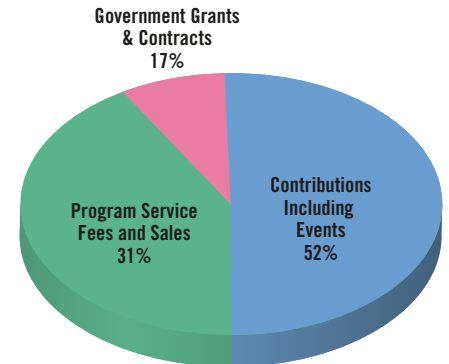
Program Services	\$1,903,366
Management & General	182,883
Fundraising	238,116
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,324,365

Change in Net Assets	\$ 968,323
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	5,537,374
Net Assets, End of Year	\$6,505,697

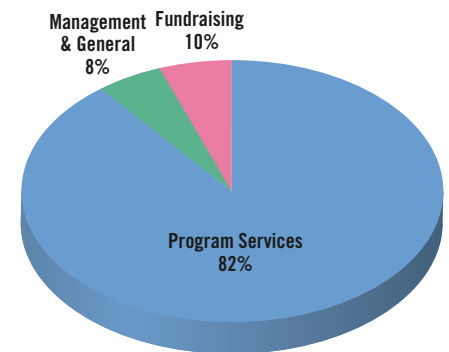
*Includes unrealized gains (losses) on investments

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

(Excluding unrealized investment income)



EXPENSES



Donors

Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired wishes to recognize the following donors whose gifts and pledges were received between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014. We are grateful for your generosity and your commitment to our neighbors living with vision loss.

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INSIGHT

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tumor. His exposure to access technology came later in life. In 2011 he became an active member of Vista Center's Tech User Group under Steve's guidance. Gerry brings an uncanny ability to break down how a device works into manageable steps, which translates into successful one-on-one interactions with clients who want to learn more about the tools that are helping them adjust to vision loss.

Becky Bender, also an Access Technology Specialist, worked for the United Nations before transitioning to a career in Silicon Valley. She began to experience significant vision challenges as an adult and came to Vista Center to learn what she might do. Steve became Becky's mentor and started her down the path of learning about access technology. She in turn is helping others begin a similar journey.

Our technology team is rounded out with staff member Jan McKinley who has thirty years of experience in blind rehabilitation and technology. She has moved from our Palo Alto office and is now providing technology training out of our Santa Cruz office. Jan visits clients in their homes to introduce them to the world of access technology and teach them how to use it to improve their lives with job retention and independence.

Vista Center is grateful to Steve for his vision and leadership in building a program that gives our clients access to opportunities unavailable to them without technology. We are equally grateful for the dedication of our new team whose efforts will continue to expand Steve's vision as technology improves. In the words of our technology team, "The future of access technology is not only excit-

ing but seems limitless in light of the development of such products as driverless cars and interactive voice control of television, smart phones, appliances, computers and other consumer devices."

If you interested in learning more about the monthly Tech User Group, The Access Technology Lab Day and the Technology Program, please contact the Vista Center Technology Lab at 650.858.0202 ext. 123. To reach Jan McKinley, please call her at 831.458.9766 ext. 185.

EMAIL REQUESTS

Vista Center would like to reach you through electronic communication. Please send your email to Nancy Merwin at nmerwin@vistacenter.org.