



Organization of Special Needs Families
10823 Willowbrook Way
Cupertino, CA 95014

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CUPERTINO, CA
PERMIT NO. 004

OSF News

Organization of Special Needs Families (OSF) Newsletter ~ October 2007

Administrative Office:
20432 Silverado Ave., Suite 5
Cupertino, CA 95014
Phone: 408-996-0850 Fax: 408-996-0850

Learning Center:
20920 McClellan Road
Cupertino, CA 95014

Web Site: www.osfamilies.org **Email:** osf@osfamilies.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Sandra James – President
Linda Walker – Vice President
Chihua Wei – Executive Director
Lihuei Wei – Founder & Honorary Chair
Jennifer Yu – Treasurer
Sandie Zander – Secretary
Fari Aberg
Richard Abdalah
Steve Andrews
Om Talajia
Dr. Gabriel Young
Carl Yu

Message from Members of the Board of Directors

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Our 5th Annual Fundraiser Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 18, 2007 at the Quinlan Community Center in Cupertino. This dinner event will take place from 5:30 to 9:00pm with tickets priced at \$65 each. Thanks to a generous donation from Outback Steakhouse, the full ticket price is tax-deductible.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Organization of Special Needs Families, a group of community volunteers who raise money for the programs at OSF, **we are asking you to consider sponsoring this event.** As a sponsor, you will receive an acknowledgement in our printed program for each of our 300 guests to see. You may claim the full value of your donation as tax deductible as we are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit foundation. Our federal tax identification number is 26-0038264.

Organization of Special Needs Families (OSF) has been establishing a Special Needs Learning Center to promote a spectrum of quality educational programs for special-needs individuals and their families. These programs will address the needs and care of special-needs individuals from childhood to adulthood. Currently available programs include Integrated Child Care, Integrated Social and Play Group, Special Needs Enrichment Program, Integrated After School Program, Integrated Summer Camp, Independent Living Skill Training, Parents and Caregivers Workshops, and seasonal sports participation. More programs for preschool children, adults and seniors are to become available in the coming years.

One of the most important missions of OSF is to promote the full inclusion of individuals and their families with the community. We would be pleased to have you and your family and friends come to our fundraiser dinner and enjoy a wonderful evening together.

Your generosity can help to ensure the success of this important fundraising effort. Thank you in advance for your much needed support!

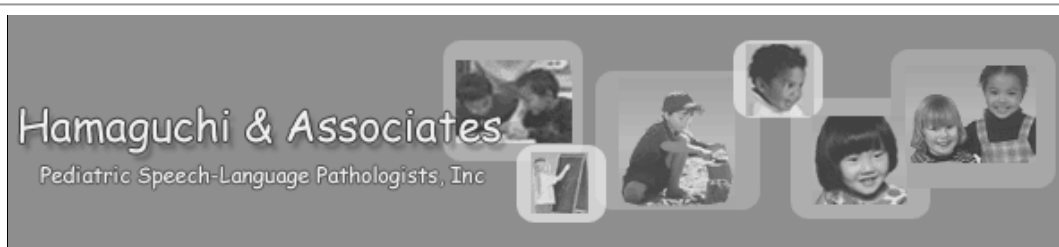
Sincerely,

Linda Walker,
Dinner Chair and OSF Vice President

Sandra James
OSF President
Mayor and Cupertino Councilmember, 1997 – 2005

Chihua Wei
OSF Founder and CEO

Many thanks to the sponsors of this OSF News edition!



20380 Town Center Lane, Suite 290, Cupertino, California 95014

Phone: 408.366.1098 • Fax: 408.366.1011 • Web: <http://www.hamaguchiandassociates.com/>

We are happy to support our very special friends at OSF!



Chihua Wei
REALTOR, Intero Real Estate Services
(408) 342-8623
cwei@interorealestate.com
<http://agent.interorealestate.com/ChihuaWei/>



PotStickerKing Restaurant
Chinese Cuisine

19634 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014
(408) 255-1600
<http://www.potstickerking.com/>

Dine-in, take-out by phone or on-line!

OSF ~ Bringing Families and Community Together

Special Conference & Festival Big Success!

Much thanks to all who participated in our 3rd Annual Special Conference & Festival on May 18-19th. It was a big success!

The Special Festival, along with OSF's missions and goals, are gaining visibility within the community and beyond. OSF is proud to have received commendations from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Congressman Michael Honda, recognizing our staff and volunteers for their work and offering congratulations on the Special Festival. Kudos, everyone!



Next year's Special Conference & Festival is planned for May 17-18th. "Building Futures" will be the theme for conference and "Building Inclusive Community" for the festival.

Summer Fun with OSF

OSF kids enjoyed another fabulous summer! During summer camp, 30 campers and 50 volunteer counselors who put into a total of 1,536 volunteer hours, played at Memorial Park, hiked at Rancho San Antonio, frolic at Cupertino City Hall fountain, and splashed in the Northwest YMCA swimming pool.



Special thanks to Cupertino Rotary Club's generous donation and Northwest YMCA's kind support, our campers much enjoyed the Y's wonderful facilities and staff-led activities.

Over the summer, OSF also organized a trip to Pump It Up in Sunnyvale. The kids (and a few adults!) jumped, climbed, slid, and bounced on giant interactive inflatable play structures. The kids worked off some of their boundless energies and everyone had a marvelously fun time.

Reflections on Volunteering at OSF

Editor's note:

One of my favorite OSFNews features is the written contributions from parents, staff, volunteers, and friends of OSF, expressing their experiences with special-needs children and with OSF. These writings-from-the-heart touch me with their passion and compassion, and lift me with their optimism and hope.

In this issue, we are pleased to have a youth minister who reflected on his volunteering experience with OSF. His reflections add a religious and philosophical dimension to the experience of meeting and working with special-needs children. Here's the excerpt from his writing:

I remember my first few days there. One question that popped up in my head is why are these kids like this? I remember one boy, who sat there, dazed, attempting to eat with a plastic garbage bag wrapped around his neck like a bib. He was spooning food into his mouth while some came out of it. He would scoop it back up slowly and put it back in his mouth. This took about 20 minutes to eat a bowl of cereal. I remember another boy, who at first scared me because I don't know how he would act or if he would throw a tantrum and hit me. Both of these kids are in their teens (one being 14 but looked 10, the other being 18) but they, both, can't speak/communicate, relate to people, act their age, go to the bathroom, clean up their mess and/or eat properly. So, I thought about God and why does this have to happen to these kids? Why do they have to be born this way? Did they do anything to deserve this? Will they ever have a chance to really know You, God? Will they ever be able to accept You and experience and know Your love? What happens to them when they die and do not know You? Is it their fault that they are born like this and that they can't possible "know" You?

I was quite disturbed and frustrated when I directed all these questions at God. I don't understand why these things have to happen. I know it's not God's fault either. Neither is it the parents'...

...And then as the weeks went by and by interacting with these kids more and more, I realize we normal humans without these diseases are the same as these kids to God. We think we're so much more but we're not. We think we're better off but we're not. We're plagued by sin. We wonder off on our own. We're no better than these kids in God's eyes. Yet, I believe God loves them as much as He loves those who are normal. God's love does not show favoritism. He loves them no matter how they are or act and I believe that they will be heaven as well, even if they cannot fully comprehend and receive what God has done for them.

These kids that I have worked with over the past few weeks helped me realize that. As a volunteer, God began to show me more of reality and Himself. During my time there I was able to meet some cool and nice people, Tai, Barry, and Lihuei. I was able to love these kids, even in spite of what they can or cannot do. And I think God does that with us; even when we're marred by sin and when we really can't comprehend or communicate with Him on the same level, He still loves us. It was a good experience for me, a blessing, actually, and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Licensures and Upcoming Workshops

OSF is pleased to announce that the California Department of Social Services has issued two Child Care Center Licenses to the OSF Integrated Learning Center – one for preschool through K, and the other for K through 17-years-old. These licensures will ensure utmost quality in our programs and move OSF toward becoming a San Andreas Regional Center (SARC) program vendor, allowing SARC to refer and directly fund young children to OSF for services.

We are also excited about our workshops for parents and caregivers. We have over 30 workshops forthcoming.

Please check our website at www.osfamilies.org for latest information and details.

♥♥♥ THANK YOU, 2007 SPONSORS (JANUARY - OCTOBER)! ♥♥♥

Diamond (10,000 and over)

Ping and Amy Chao Family Foundation
Intero Foundation

Platinum (5,000-9,999)

Lihuei & Chihua Wei
Wenli & Chad Yau

Gold (1,000-4,999)

eBay Foundation

Silver (\$500-\$999)

Cupertino Rotary Endowment Foundation
City of San Jose
Los Altos Garbage Company
Hamaguchi & Associates Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologists, Inc
Evergreen Healthy Vegetarian Association
Chinese Culture Center
Robert Adams
Dale Christman
Jennifer & Carl Yu
Catherine Chen

Friendship (to \$499)

Adobe Systems Incorporated
Ellen Chan
Joel Darnauer
Wei-Cheng & Sy-Jye Her
Nai-Hui Hsieh
Liz Kniss
Jin Kwag
Hung T. Lai
Ann & Paul Lee
Orrin Mahoney
Dolly Sandoval
Shou-Chine Shye
Linda Skarpelos
Darryl & Dorothy Stow
Ryoko & Akira Taguchi
Jason Tsai
Joanne Tsai
Naveen Vemulapati
Linda & Jim Walker
Jo Wan