



BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION FOR AUTISM

A California non-profit corporation serving children with Autism Spectrum Disorders since 1993

BIA Newsletter **Spring 2014 | Vol. XXI**

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Our Mission

BIA's mission is to significantly improve the lives of children diagnosed with Autism by providing innovative and individualized treatment.

BIA RELIES ON YOUR DONATIONS!

Your donations will go toward



Need a night out?

In honor of Autism Awareness Month, BIA is sponsoring a **FREE** Parents' Night Out on **Saturday, April 26th from 7-10pm!**

We will supply fabulous BIA staff, a snack, the gym at Head Over Heels Gymnastics in Emeryville, and a movie--You supply the kid(s)! Siblings are welcome (must be toilet trained).

Space is limited. Must be a current, early intervention BIA family. Reservation/Waiver required.

[Click to view flyer for more details.](#) RSVP by emailing info@bia4autism.org.

Fostering Lifelong Leisure Activities

by Hilary Baldi, BIA Co-Founder

"Free time". We all cherish it. Yet it means something different to each of us. While some of us choose to spend this time in social activities, ballroom dancing, spectator sports, and knitting clubs;

the purchase of specialized instructional materials that we loan to families during their time in our programs, staff development, and to the Linda Wald Memorial Fund which subsidizes tuition for children with ASD to attend the Clubhouse, our after-school program.

PLEASE consider making a tax-deductible donation TODAY!



BIA is a California 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation.



**Employee Spotlight: Bay Area!
MYUNG CHO**

Every child who comes in contact with Myung immediately lights up. Myung started as a volunteer at BIA's after-school program, the Clubhouse, in January 2011 and quickly became a rock star volunteer, forming close relationships with all the students and working tirelessly to help make Clubhouse a successful program. BIA was thrilled when Myung received his undergrad degree and joined BIA as a Program Implementer. Myung's talents enrich the lives of his clients and set a great example for

others opt for a more solitary form of leisure such as a good book, a crossword puzzle, or yoga. Free time must be choice driven. The critical need for all of us to have access to leisure activities or more commonly referred to as "hobbies", cannot be overlooked, and yet for those with developmental delays it often is.

If we, as early interventionists, took the development of potentially lifelong leisure activities, as seriously as we do the development of speech and language, we would give many more individuals with autism, an appropriate means of relaxation and enjoyment.



Through careful observation of self-selected activities, whether it be a preoccupation with letters or an unrelenting fascination with wheels on a toy car, we can begin to foster these interests into long-term leisure activities. A pre-occupation with numbers and letters can be fostered into daily crossword and Sudoku puzzles and the fascination with wheels embraced and molded into designing the latest and greatest hybrid cars.

In this issue (Healthy Hobbies for All) we feature some examples of how our families have fostered their child's interests into productive activities that can evolve throughout their lives.

Healthy Hobbies For All

For children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, everyone talks about independence, friendship, behavior...but we frequently overlook how these essential skills are built upon each child's interests, the activities that give them innate pleasure. BIA celebrates those families who have invested in developing healthy hobbies that bring about confidence, individual identity, self-regulation, and a social network.

BIA has had the opportunity to watch hundreds of children grow up and we believe that the interests that endure over time and into adulthood are those that are carefully fostered and celebrated by a child's parents.

new tutors and volunteers. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication!



**Employee Spotlight:
Fresno!
KRISTIN DEUNDIAN**

Kristin has worked with BIA since 2006. Most of that time has been in the position of Preschool Director and Teacher for BIA's preschool, The Village. Kristin has an amazing ability to connect with each and every child and embraces their unique personalities and learning styles. BIA is extraordinarily fortunate to work with such an amazing teacher.



Ben wow-ing the crowd (& his teacher) at his recital.

When BIA first met **Ben**, he could only say few words but he had an amazing ability to recall music and melodies. During those early sessions at his home, he was heard humming nursery rhymes and classical music between activities. One of them was Beethoven's 9th symphony! One day his tutor used Ben's interest in music to teach him simple melodies on his toy piano. Ben has now graduated from his toy piano to a real keyboard, and has even performed in his first recital!!



Smooth moves, Max!

Our friend, **Max**, shows off all his moves at his favorite place to go after school, the skate park. Max began skating with his dad at the age of 4. Following a shared interest between Max and his dad, the choice to pursue skateboarding was an easy one. It is a great example of how an emerging interest can be directed into a shared activity as well as a venue for social interaction, community involvement and personal identity. Max's interest in skateboarding has been capitalized on by his parents for skate park play dates, skateboarding summer camps and weekend community classes.

Resources and Hobby Ideas

- Special Olympics of Northern California
- Gymnastics (Head Over Heels in Emeryville)
- Swimming
- Martial Arts
- Computer Games
- Chess Club

Track and Field
Skateboarding
Bike Riding
Skiing
Art (pottery, drawing, painting)
T-Ball
Yoga (It's Yoga Kids)
Horseback Riding
Canine Companions
Lego Club
Hiking
Gardening Club
Photography
Cooking

BIA'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA & BENEFIT



Thank you to all who attended and supported BIA's 20th Anniversary Gala & Benefit in November 2013.

It was a very special and successful evening and wonderful to see so many old and new friends!





For those unable to attend (or those that would like to watch it again), take a moment to watch our 20th Anniversary Video.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...

HONORARY CHAIRS

Brad Berman, M.D. - Progressions: Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics

Richard & Aida Demirjian

Bryna Siegel, Ph.D. - Researcher, Author & Founder of JumpStart: Learning to Learn

Louis Vismara, M.D. - Co-Founder of UC Davis MIND Institute & Policy Consultant to CA State Senator

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Beth Sandefur of Leftwich Event Specialists, Inc

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Thank you so much to those of you who donated to us so far this year. We sincerely appreciate your support and look forward to sharing the news of our accomplishments throughout the year!

To those who wish to donate, please [click the Donate button at the top](#). We accept donations all year!

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*Donors after our newsletter release date will be acknowledged in the next issue.

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Richard Brechin c/o Tandem Salon

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