



2009 Great Chefs of Marin

Fabulous food! Fabulous wine! All around fabulous! If you haven't attended before, make this year's New Year's resolution to do just that! We are pleased to say that all of our 2008 sponsors have returned for the 2009 event: Founding Sponsor, Fireman's Fund Insurance Company; Platinum Sponsors Brayton Purcell and Brydon Hugo & Parker; Emerald Sponsor, Craford Benefit Consultants, and, new this year, the Marin Community Foundation.



Huey and Bud E. Luv confer at the event

Huey Lewis returns as chairman of the event. The fabulous **Bud E. Luv**, also known as Bobby Vickers, returns with his full orchestra. As always, we have outstanding restaurants and wineries who have been participating in the event since its inception! We've lined up some live auction items to die for! Imagine a week at Rancho La Puerta for four in a hacienda. Or how about four of you on a SeaDream Yacht Club cruise where you'll be with only 56 couples and 96 crew! Reservations to the Great Chefs of Marin can be made by calling our office.



Gigi and Giovanni, aka The Margarita King, return to pour margaritas



Marin Autism Collaborative

Coming together to support a growing community

The Marin Autism Collaborative (MAC) has been growing this winter! Reflecting their commitment to MAC, the Lifeline Board of Directors decided to support a half-time Coordinator to further promote the work of the group. Katrina Ferreyra was hired in December for this position and is based at Lifeline. She is supporting the MAC Steering Committee, working on funding proposals for MAC projects, and continuing the work on the website: www.marinautism.org.

MAC has also welcomed two new organizations as members of the Steering Committee, Rocio Smith from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities Area Board 5, and Nora Thompson from Matrix.

The Marin Autism Lecture Series, coordinated by Steering Committee member Karen Kaplan, has been a great success. With excellent speakers, each lecture has drawn crowds

of over 100 participants. The upcoming lectures include "Applied Behavior Analysis" by Melissa A. Willa, M.A., BCBA on February 18, "Autistic Learning Disabilities & Autistic Learning Styles" by Dr. Bryna Siegel, Ph.D., UCSF on March 18, "Developing Heart and Soul: The DIR/Floortime Approach to Family Focused Intervention" by Dr. Barbara Kalmanson, Ph.D., Psychologist on April 15, and "The Sensory Enriched Classroom" by Amy Buckwalter, OTR/L and Jaime Craine, Educational Specialist on May 20. For more information and to register, go the MAC website.

The importance of the work of the Marin Autism Collaborative was highlighted in the *Marin Independent Journal's* two-part article on autism on January 4 and January 5, 2009. Reporter Rob Rogers highlighted the growing number of cases in Marin and the need for greater coordination of resources and services both as children are diagnosed and also, importantly, as they reach the teen and adult years.

The President's Corner

Happy New Year! I hope all of your holidays were joyful. I began my new position as President and CEO of Lifehouse on November 1st. As I moved down the hall to my new office, I was filled with a sense of accomplishment—for myself, for our clients, and for Lifehouse. I have been with Lifehouse for almost 17 years and consider it my home away from home. I bring those years of experience with me now and know that I am fortunate to have the dedication of our staff, our Board of Directors, and our donors and funders as I embark on my new responsibilities.



2008 has been a year of change for Lifehouse. We continue to be at the forefront of service needs based on our community surveys. This led to the formation of the Marin Autism Collaborative and a new Teen Recreation Program. However, our purpose to improve the quality of life for our clients continues to be our highest priority. Like me, many of our clients and staff have been with Lifehouse for many years. For some clients we are their first experience of living away from home and their only family.

2009 will present many challenges. The economic forecast is difficult to predict and Lifehouse will need our supporters more than ever. Your belief in the importance of the work that we do is paramount to our success. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



Nancy Dow Moody

Special Thanks

Thank you again to the **English Channel Swim Team** for choosing Lifehouse as the recipient of its fundraising campaign. It was a great effort on the part of the team and an inspiration to all of us. We'll have to find out where their next adventure will take them.

Thank you to our supporters who responded so quickly to our Emergency Eblast in September during the budget crisis. Your help was most appreciated and was put to immediate use. Unfortunately, the budget crisis continues to loom as Governor Schwarzenegger suggests cutting funds for In-Home Supportive Services, which many Lifehouse clients depend on. Furthermore, once again we may be subject to delayed payments, as we were last year, for some of our services that we provide, and a program-wide 3% decrease in funding.

Lifehouse would like to acknowledge the grants we have recently received from our community:

- **Marin Charitable Association** for our teen recreation/integration program (TRIP);
- **Allensby Charity Fund Trust** for operating support;
- **Horne Family Foundation** for operating support.

Thank you to our supporters who have generously donated to the Debbie Levy Fund. Although she will not be forgotten, through your support she remains close to our hearts.

We'd also like to thank the gardening crew of Dominican University. During the week of caring and sharing in September, they were able to landscape our Corte Madera house's front yard and plant California native plants and those that require less water.



SAVE THE DATES!

On **Wednesday, May 13, Rickey's** will be hosting a fundraising dinner for Lifehouse. Rickey's is celebrating its 5th anniversary by giving back throughout 2009! Lifehouse will receive 40% of the food and beverage revenue in the restaurant that day. Inn Marin will complement this special promotion by launching a hosted (open-to-the-public) appetizer reception from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Guests will then be invited to order dinner from Rickey's regular menu. Reminders will be sent out in April. Rickey's is also one of the participating restaurants at the Great Chefs of Marin. We hope to see you all there.

Join Lifehouse in celebrating the 27th annual **Marin Human Race** on **Saturday, May 9, 2009**. The race is a 5k and takes place at the Marin Center Fairgrounds. Run, walk or roll to help us reach our goal of \$2,500. 2009 continues to be a challenging year due to the unpredictable economic forecast, and we look to friends like you who believe in the importance of the work that we do. There are many ways to participate in this fun event, join the race, assist our clients along the route, staff our booth, fundraise, or sponsor a client at \$25. You may register on line at www.cvnl.org as well as print out a fundraising form. It's a great community event that can please the entire family.

Please contact Susan Gordon, Lifehouse Development Associate at sgordon@lifehouseagency.org or call (415) 472-2373 x 320 to sign up today!

Out and About with Lifehouse

HOLIDAY PARTY

Our Annual Holiday Party was held on Monday, December 15, 2008 at the Unity Center in Marin, a more central location for our clients. Beautifully decorated, we feasted on lasagna, salad, rolls and dessert. We had special entertainment this year. A favorite performer of our Corte Mad-era ladies, Tommy Rox, played his guitar and sang. The fabulous Bud E. Luv, the new Master of Ceremonies at the Great Chefs also sang, along with sax-ophonist Elliot Bien, our own Board President.



*Bud E. Luv, Tommy Rox,
& Elliot Bien*



*Nancy Dow Moody,
President & CEO and
client Craig Collins*



*National Charity League
vounteers*



*Chris Richey receives his
present from Santa and
the cheery elf.*

YACHT CLUB PARTY



A grant from the Belvedere Cove Foundation helped cover some of the staff time at the yacht party.

Thank you to the **Marin Food Bank, St. Patrick's Church** and the **San Rafael Yacht Club** for making the holidays memorable for our clients. With their assistance, our clients in need were able to receive gifts and a holiday turkey. We also would like to thank Judy and David Epstein for reading our last newsletter and donating \$200 of gift certificates for Target and Best Buy. Lifehouse also had the honor of being chosen by Peet's Coffee & Tea for its 2008 Holiday Donations Program, held at its San Rafael location. All donations were matched by the corporate office of Peet's.

In our last newsletter we thanked the **IHEDCO Foundation** for awarding Lifehouse a grant in support of a new wheelchair accessible van. These vans are quite expensive and are used in our ICF homes where many clients are non-ambulatory and in wheelchairs.



Thanks to North Bay Counselor Bill Scott and his music connections, two of our North Bay clients were able to meet their rock legend idols.



Andrea Fitzgerald with Jonathan Cain from Journey

*Bill Loughran with Daniel Castro,
renowned Bay Area blues guitarist*



*Lifehouse slugs it
out with Cedars of
Marin and OFI
to win the 7th
Annual Softball
Championship (left)!*

*Debbie Levy
surrounded by
clients at the 2008
picnic (right)*





T R U E B L U E S U

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Dinner, Dance and Auction
Saturday, April 25, 2009

Fireman's Fund, Novato
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MARIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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Buckeye Roadhouse
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Sonoma Coast Winery
Star Lane/Dierberg Vineyards
Starry Night
ZD Wines

The Bean Coffee Company
Blue Angel Spirits
FIJI Water
The Margarita King
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Moylan's Brewing Company
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Auction Highlights

Two staterooms aboard the luxurious *SeaDream I* sailing to the Mediterranean
One week stay for four at
Rancho La Puerta
Beautifully crafted and autographed
Bob Weir guitar
Margarita party for 300
Special dinners by chefs Sean Saylor of
Saylor's Restaurant and Bar,
Munther Massarweh of WildFox,
and David Haydon of Il Davide
Chef Peter McNee of Poggio hosted by
Huey Lewis
Huey Lewis harmonica and backstage
passes to concert
One week stay in Les Saisons, Sun Valley
luxury condo

Auction Items Valued over \$500

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Amangani, Jackson Hole,
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(Great Chefs of Marin continued)

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Staff News

Lifefhouse welcomes **Barry Benda** as our new Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Benda assumes the position held by Nancy Dow Moody who was recently named as the organization's new President and Chief Executive Officer following the retirement of long-time agency head Deborah Levy.



Benda joins the staff of Lifefhouse after 29 years at the Golden Gate Regional Center in San Francisco where he served in a variety of capacities, most recently as its Chief of Community Services. A resident of Oakland for the past 32 years, Benda also worked at the Regional Center of the East Bay.

Lifefhouse Board Chair Elliot Bien, says, "Bringing Barry Benda to Lifefhouse is an important accomplishment. I have no doubt that he will strongly enhance an already extraordinary working team."

Lifefhouse welcomes **Katrina Ferreyra** as the Coordinator of the Marin Autism Collaborative which Lifefhouse began in May 2007. The new position is the latest step in the evolution of the Collaborative that was established as part of the Lifefhouse effort to help families cope with the dramatic increase in diagnoses of autism spectrum disorder. This is a Board approved position to further develop the efforts of the collaborative. Currently, one out of every 150 school children in the state of California is diagnosed with autism.



Katrina received her M.A. in International Studies from Johns Hopkins University and has a B.A. in Public Policy from Duke University.

Congratulations to **Nancy Riess**, our new Development Director at Lifefhouse. Nancy has been with Lifefhouse



for almost ten years, and previously held the position of Development Manager. Nancy has also become the Event Coordinator for the Great Chefs of Marin and will continue her work in fundraising. Prior to Lifefhouse, Nancy worked in the financial world for 25 years. Having decided she no longer wanted to commute to the city, she began at Lifefhouse. Nancy graduated from San Francisco State University with a BA in English and received an MBA from Golden Gate University.

We are proud to announce that both our **Fairfax** and **Corte Madera** homes received the highest rating of Excellence in overall service provision from the Golden Gate Regional Center after completion of its Quality Assurance Evaluation. The rating of "Excellence" is not given often. This is truly a reflection of our capable and committed staff at both these homes. Congratulations to Fairfax House Manager **Mike Sus** and Corte Madera House Manager, **Carol Loughlin**.

Congratulations to **Francis Eleazar**, **Trice Padecky** and the **staff at Sunrise I** on receiving the first ever zero deficiency report from licensing.

Congratulations to **Amanda Gracy** for winning the **2009 Anchor Award of Direct Support Professional** in the state of California. Amanda is the Assistant Administrator for Sun II and Nova as well as the Assistant Coordinator for the Teen Recreation Integration Program (TRIP). Nominated by Mike Sus, ILS/TRIP Coordinator, Amanda was chosen from 267 applicants.

Welcome to Susan Gordon, part-time Development Associate. She will assume responsibility for Lifefhouse events, work with volunteers, coordinate the newsletter, and assist in writing grants

Welcome to our Thrifftown staff: **Jackie Burgess**, coordinator; and truck drivers **Jose Bolivar Gomez**, **Robert Jackson** and **Matthew Paladini**. This is the crew that does all of the heavy lifting when picking up your donated goods. Look for our new orange color cards in your mailbox. Thank you for making their jobs easier by placing your bagged goods at the curb.



lifehouse

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Return Service Requested

**Make your reservations
for the
Great Chefs of Marin
April 25, 2009**

**Preview live and silent
auction items online at
www.greatchefsofmarin.org**

Lifehouse News

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PRESIDENT/CEO
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LAYOUT
Val Sherer

Calendar of Events

Great Chefs of Marin

April 25, 2009

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, Novato

Marin Human Race

May 9, 2009

Fundraiser at Rickey's Restaurant

May 13, 2009

Lifehouse Board of Director's Meetings

March 12, 2009 May 14, 2009 June 4, 2009

Marin Autism Lecture Series

March 18, 2009 April 15, 2009 May 20, 2009

Novato Dance (monthly)

1st Saturday Night

Larkspur Dance (monthly)

3rd Friday Night

Please contact Lifehouse for more information.