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## lifeshouse News

### President / CEO

Nancy Dow Moody

### Vice-President / COO

Barry Benda

### Director of Finance and Administration

Brent Kush

### Editor & Director of Development

Nancy Riess

### New Layout & Design

by Carole Selig

### Photography

Elliot Karlan Photography  
Paula Rieck

## Great Chefs & Wineries on April 30, 2011

If you haven't already, mark your calendars, or better yet, reserve your seats for one of the best Bay Area food and wine events! Voted a 2010 San Francisco Magazine Best of the Bay Readers' Pick for Non-profit /Gala Event, the Great Chefs & Wineries will take place at Fireman's Fund Insurance Company in Novato. We are thrilled to announce that this year there will be a sit down dinner in the dining room prepared by Duilio Valenti of Frantoio, Peter McNee of Poggio, Bruce Hill of Picco, Joseph Humphrey of Murray Circle, David Haydon of Il Davide and Ed Vigil of Vin Antico. Huey Lewis returns as Chair along with Master of Ceremonies Bud E. Luv. See page 7 for details.



(left to right) Cindy Johnson, Erica Gori, Bud E. Luv, Katie Buster and Holly James.

## Lifeshouse Annual Staff Retreat



Brent Kush and Aron Kidane

This year's Annual Staff Retreat was held at Country Club Bowl in San Rafael on September 28. Steven Hoffman of HumanSyn-ergy got the "ball rolling" by setting the theme and schedule for the day. The theme was "gratitude" with interpretations such as family, job, staff, friends, children, health and life. Each participant received a T-shirt with the Lifeshouse logo to decorate with beads, appliques and markers. The staff then feasted on 6 foot submarine sandwiches and commenced bowling. No one admitted to wanting a bumper

bowling lane. Michael Pinkerton, who has bowled regularly with his father since he was a young lad, scored 201 with the help of a "turkey". Turkey means three strikes in a row. We were all duly impressed. The finale of the afternoon was "make your own sundae". Thank you to the Retreat Committee members: Angela Abbey, Carole Selig, Nancy Dow Moody, Nancy Riess, Brent Kush, Michael Pinkerton, Anja Hansen and Lori Boll.

## The President's Corner

**H**appy New Year! I hope your holidays were joyous and spent with your loved ones. Our year ended with a flurry of activities for our clients and staff. The annual Lifehouse Holiday Party was held on December 20 and over 300 people attended! The San Rafael Yacht Club took us out for a cruise on the Bay followed by lunch, music and presents. Marin Food Bank supplied food boxes with holiday treats, St. Patrick's Parish fulfilled some client holiday wishes and the Marin Ballet donated tickets to their performance of The Nutcracker.



Our Supported Living Program continues to grow and we are pleased to have added 13 new clients this past year, providing both residential and day program services. These programs tailor to the specific needs of each individual. Seven of our new clients are on the Autism Spectrum. We are working closely with consultant Jeanne Crawford, Autism specialist to provide training and support for our new clients and staff.

Sadly, last year we lost three individuals that had been with Lifehouse for many years. With special care from our dedicated staff, Donald Smith, Robert Ritola and Christopher Breck were all able to pass away in the comfort of their homes with their family and friends around them. We also said goodbye to Marjorie Conover. She and her husband Bill were pioneers in establishing housing and services for individuals with development disabilities. Their memory stays with us through their daughter Gail who is a part of the Lifehouse family.

Big news for our 21<sup>st</sup> Great Chefs & Wineries event on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at Fireman's Fund Insurance Company in Novato! For the first time, this year's event includes a sit-down dinner in the dining room. Don't worry, we will still have those fabulous appetizers and wines in the tent. Thank you to our returning sponsors: Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, Presenting Sponsor; Brayton Purcell and Brydon Hugo & Parker, Platinum Sponsors and for the first time Union Bank, Emerald Sponsor!

We continue to work with legislatures, the Department of Developmental Services and the Regional Centers to manage the state budgetary implications to our system. Economically these are challenging times. At Lifehouse we continue to focus on providing quality services to our clients and families.

We thank all of you for your support in this important endeavor. Please know that every single donation, large or small, makes a difference. From all of us at Lifehouse, Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2011.

Sincerely,



Tracy Redig  
with Dennis  
Brown.

### Tracy Redig Volunteer Finalist for San Francisco 49ers Community Quarterback Award

Tracy Redig was recognized by the San Francisco 49ers for the volunteer work she has done for Lifehouse for over ten years, most notably as the co-chair of the Great Chefs Steering Committee. Tracy is amazing in her dedication, commitment, and passion for Lifehouse and for helping those less fortunate in our community. The Great Chefs & Wineries event is the major fundraiser for Lifehouse and Tracy's involvement is a huge part of its success and reputation. Tracy's support for Lifehouse is not limited to the Great Chefs & Wineries event. With Tracy, volunteering is a family affair and her husband Gene and other family members are usually by her side. In 2008, Tracy received the Distinguished Service Award from Lifehouse for her volunteer work. Tracy's recognition from the 49ers resulted in a prize of \$1,000 for Lifehouse. Thank you Tracy for all of your hard work and dedication to Lifehouse.

# Client Spotlight

## Meet Lissa de Monchy

By Kristen Roberts, Counselor, North Bay Community Living Program

Lissa de Monchy lives in the Muirfield Apartments in Rohnert Park and has been a part of the Lifehouse family for seven years. Lissa was born in Cambodia, around 1972. Because of the hardships that Cambodia was facing, Lissa (then known as Eyat Yon) became separated from her birth family. As a young girl, she escaped from Cambodia by joining others fleeing the tortures of the war. In 1979 she was sent to a Children's Center with about 3,000 other unaccompanied children. There she first met Margie de Monchy, who was the director of the center. Eyat stood out from the other 3,000 children, and would daily visit the Staff at the office. Soon Margie and other staff began calling Eyat "Sunshine". After three years of trying to find Eyat's family with no success, Margie adopted Eyat and took her to the United States.

In 1983 Eyat embarked on a new chapter of her life in Boston with her mother Margie. She remained there until she graduated high school at 19. Eyat then returned to Cambodia with her mother for six years and then they moved to Thailand. In the summer of 2003 Eyat moved back to the US once again and soon changed her name to Lissa Eyat Yon de Monchy.



Lissa de Monchy and her husband Joseph Stottlemeyer

Lissa joined Lifehouse and began living at Muirfield and working at North Bay Industries in the summer of 2003. Lissa was able to quickly make friends with her sunny personality. On July 4<sup>th</sup> 2004 Lissa met a special man named Joseph Stottlemeyer. After 5 years of dating, Lissa de Monchy married Joseph Stottlemeyer on May 29, 2010.

Currently Lissa still works at NBI and enjoys time spent with her husband Joseph, cooking for friends and going on long walks. Lissa is well known for her friendly attitude, good nature, and "delicious" egg rolls. We at Lifehouse are happy to have Lissa adding her "sunshine" into all of our lives.



# Congratulations Annual Awards 2010 Honorees!

### DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE

Rick & Candy Mendell  
*Rick's Wine Cellar*

### OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Robert Romano  
*Fugazi Travel*

### EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY SERVICE

Heidi Insalata Krahling  
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### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Paula Rieck

### FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

Donna Vazifdar

### OPEN ARMS AWARD

Bud E. Luv

### CHARLES L. MARTIN AWARD

Mary Jane Burke

### PHILANTHROPISTS OF THE YEAR

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### OUTSTANDING CORPORATE

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Brydon Hugo & Parker

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Cedars of Marin

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Loulouse Baptiste

*Direct Support Professional, Sunrise II*

Katrina Ferryeyra

*Coordinator, Marin Autism Collaborative*

Danita Mazzoleni

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Mario Newton

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Mike Sus

*Supervisor, ILS & TRIP*

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# Out and About With Lifehouse

**Third Annual Motorcycle Fundraiser** The third annual motorcycle fundraiser, "Lighthouse for Lifehouse Run" organized by the Golden Gate Chapter, Harley Owners Group was held on Saturday, September 11. Riders registered at the San Rafael Yacht Club and from there rode through the Marin countryside, ending at the sponsor dealership, Dudley Perkins in South San Francisco. Over 100 people attended, resulting in \$2,500 raised for Lifehouse! We are sad to report that with the closing of the Harley Davidson dealerships in Marin, the Golden Gate Chapter may not be able to repeat this fundraiser next year. Thank you to the **San Rafael Yacht Club, Noah's Bagels, Peet's Coffee & Tea** and the **myriad of raffle donors** for their support!

**Week of Caring and Sharing 2010** Lifehouse vans, kitchen cabinets and walls were attended to by groups from Fireman's Fund Insurance Company and Redwood Credit Union. As they did last year, a group from Fireman's Fund came to our Sunrise II home to wash the vans as well as clean and line all of the kitchen cabinets and drawers. Redwood Credit Union had two groups painting the interior of our Montecillo home. The Week of Caring and Sharing is organized through the Center for Nonprofit Volunteer and Leadership and enables employees to help nonprofits throughout Marin.

**Inverness Getaway** Kate O'Connor, Supervisor Marin CLP/ICF and Michelle Condit, QMRP Nova and Sun II organized an overnight trip to Inverness for clients and staff from our Intermediate Care Facilities. They stayed at the Inverness Valley Inn, roasted marshmallows, ate smores, sang and read scary stories. There was a wheelchair accessible path, hot tub and farm with goats, llamas and chickens. Although the outing required a lot of coordination, Kate said "it was great fun for everyone" and she hopes to do a similar trip in the future.

**San Francisco Marathon** Thanks to Lifehouse board member Donna Vazifdar, over \$17,000 was raised through the San Francisco Marathon. Each year the marathon selects nonprofits for its "Run for the Cause" program. Donors can choose which nonprofit they would like to support and runners can join that team. Team Lifehouse had five runners including Development Director Nancy Riess and Donna Vazifdar. Nancy calculated that Donna raised about \$648 a mile! Lifehouse is once again participating in the 2011 Marathon on July 31, 2011. Call Lifehouse if you are interested!

**Teenage Recreation Integration Program** A fun day in the park was had by those attending the picnic sponsored by the Teen Recreation Integration Program (TRIP). On October 3, parents, individuals with autism, staff from Lifehouse, OFI and Golden Gate Regional Center gathered to enjoy the beautiful Autumn weather in Piper Park in Larkspur and to learn more about the TRIP program. The TRIP program, sponsored by Lifehouse, started three years ago and offers teens with developmental disabilities an opportunity to participate in recreational activities with the support of a Mentor, who is someone their own age and "Recreation Coaches". Several young people attending the picnic signed up to participate in TRIP. The choice



Above, top: The Week of Caring Crew from Fireman's Fund Insurance Company and Redwood Credit Union. bottom: The staff and clients from Nova and Sun II enjoy their trip to Inverness.

Below, top: Nancy Dow Moody, Nancy Riess, Kate O'Connor and Michelle Condit; bottom: Donna Vazifdar at the SF Marathon



*Continued on next page*



Sheri McSweeney and Ken Irvine with the Mad Hatter

## Out and About With ...

*Continued from previous page*

of activities include swimming, bowling, going to movies, eating out, dancing and other activities of each individual's choice. If you would like more information on this program, please contact Mike Sus at 472-2373 extension 310.

**VIVA Las Vegas** Several clients and staff visited Las Vegas for a few days in October. They stayed at the Stratosphere Hotel in downtown Las Vegas. The trip

involved a lot of walking, watching the spectacular shows, dining, relaxing and of course, a bit of gambling. If you are looking for a loan, rumor has it Brian Zahl was the big winner! Next up, is a five-day cruise to Mexico in April.

**Thanks to Pat Kendall** Lifehouse Board of Director and Kaiser Medical Group Administrator, our Rohnert Park office was chosen as a project for their Corporate Day of Service. On Martin Luther King Day, January 17, Kaiser employees came to paint and assemble new furniture (which Supervisor Dori McDonnell had the pleasure of choosing). In other words, it was "Extreme Makeover". All of this was coordinated through an organization called HandsOn Bay Area (HOBA). They match corporate clients with needed projects ranging from painting to gardening, managing over 80 direct service projects a month.



Volunteer, Heather Clemons from Kaiser Medical Group

## Board Retreat September 30, 2010

The Lifehouse Board of Directors held its Annual Retreat on September 30, 2010. The focus of this year's retreat was board responsibility and involvement, facilitated by consultant Leyna Bernstein. Senior Lifehouse management staff spotlighted a client from each of their programs to help the board better understand the services we provide. In the afternoon, the board was divided into small groups and each group identified four or five issues of importance for the coming year. First and foremost, was maintaining our premier brand reputation and financial security for the agency, including reserve and endowment accounts. We will also develop a new Strategic Plan for the agency through a community wide survey of needs for our community. The Strategic Plan will be completed at the next annual board retreat. We thank all of our board members who attended for setting aside the time to participate.

## Fugazi Travel Agency Sets Sail with Lifehouse

Fugazi Travel Agency, located in San Francisco, has been partnering with Lifehouse since the early 1990's, working behind the scenes to procure exciting vacation packages offered at our Great Chefs & Wineries event. Their auction packages have ranged from safaris in Africa, to luxurious cruises and first class airline tickets to Europe. Our contact is Robert Romano, Partner, who last year received the Lifehouse Annual Award for Outstanding Community Service. He not only extends his travel expertise to Lifehouse, but two years ago also introduced us to his family's wine business, Noble Grape Wines. Robert's sister, Nancy, is now a member of the Great Chefs Wine Committee. You can learn more about it at [www.noblegrapewines.com](http://www.noblegrapewines.com).

You can be sure that an exciting travel package from Fugazi Travel awaits you at the Great Chefs event. In addition, Fugazi will offer Lifehouse supporters special rates on travel packages with the incentive of a portion of the proceeds being donated to Lifehouse. One such opportunity will be a cruise to Tahiti at a special discounted rate on the Paul Gauguin Cruise Line. More details will be available shortly. Lifehouse is honored to have this special relationship with Fugazi Travel Agency. We know that our supporters are frequent travelers and hope that you will consider calling on Bob Romano for his excellent services.

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Continued on next page

Lifehouse welcomes you to our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Black-Tie

## Dinner, Dance and Auction

Honorary Chairman: **Huey Lewis**

Master of Ceremonies: **Bud E. Luv**

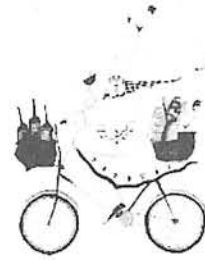
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Culinary Host: **Heidi Insalata Krahling, Insalata's & Marinitas Restaurants**

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, Novato



April 30, 2011

great  
chefs &  
wineries

a special month long event benefiting lifehouse

Artwork "Chef to Go" www.jennifergarant.com

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Information current as of February 3, 2011

### Auction Items Over \$500

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Book Passage  
Bud E. Luv  
Fugazi Travel Agency  
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## Great Chefs & Wineries

## TRUE BLUE SUPPORTERS...

Continued from previous page

### SF MARATHON

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Linda Abrahamian

In Honor Of Allan &

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In Honor Of Anne Meeker

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In Honor Of Donna Vazifdar

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IN KIND DONATIONS

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Company • Marin Community

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## The Second Annual Autism Fair

 In September 11, 2010, the second annual fair, *Connecting People to Resources: An Autism Resource and Information Fair*, was held at Dominican University. Organized by Karen Kaplan and the Marin Autism Lecture Series, the event brought together over 55 vendors who provide services and products for individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Senator Mark Leno kicked off the event, speaking about the State Autism Task Force and the critical need in our communities for more resources for those affected by ASD. Lifehouse President and CEO, Nancy Dow Moody, participated in a panel workshop titled "Addressing the Housing Needs of People with ASD." Twelve different workshops held during the day gave families the opportunity to hear from service providers and experts in our community.

## Calendar of Events

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>March 17, 2011</b>              | <b>Lifehouse Board of Directors Meetings</b><br>Meetings are held at the Lifehouse Office                                 |
| <b>June 16, 2011</b>               |   |
| <b>Saturday<br/>April 2, 2011</b>  | <b>Marin Autism Collaborative<br/>Annual Meeting</b><br>Marin County Office of Education<br>1111 Las Gallinas, San Rafael |
| <b>Saturday<br/>April 30, 2011</b> | <b>Great Chefs &amp; Wineries</b><br>Fireman's Fund Insurance Company<br>777 San Marin Drive, Novato                      |
| <b>1st Saturday Night</b>          | <b>Novato Dance (monthly)</b>   |
| <b>3rd Friday Night</b>            | <b>Larkspur Dance (monthly)</b>   |

 VISIT US ON FACEBOOK!

