



lifehouse

Summer 2011

Volume 29, Issue 3
Publication of Lifehouse

2011
Great Chefs
& Wineries
Voted 2nd
“Best Charity
Party Action”
By Readers of
SF Magazine!

Special Points of Interest

- The President’s Corner
- Election of Officers
- Client Spotlight
- Passings
- Out and About with Lifehouse
- True Blue Supporters
- Ecofair Marin

lifehouse News

President / CEO
Nancy Dow Moody

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Barry Benda

**Director of Finance
and Administration**
Brent Kush

**Editor & Director
of Development**
Nancy Riess

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Paula Rieck

Our 21st Great Chefs & Wineries Event Was a Very “Good, Good Night”

Twenty-one years is usually a time to celebrate, a coming of age. Our 21st Great Chefs & Wineries event was just that. A beautiful sunset, a glass of bubbly and the elegant sounds of a harp greeted guests as they arrived. While mingling in the tent, over 450 guests enjoyed good conversation, a dazzling array of silent auction items and a bountiful selection of gourmet food and fine wine from over forty of the Bay Area’s best restaurants and wineries.



Huey Lewis and Nancy Dow Moody

The festivities continued into the dining room where guests were treated for the first time to a sit-down dinner masterfully orchestrated by Culinary Host Heidi Insalata Krahling. Chairman Huey Lewis and Master of Ceremonies Bud E. Luv kept the evening lively with their humor and musical talents. And as always, Lifehouse dancers were excited to share an energetic performance to the sounds of the Black Eyed Peas, “It’s Gonna Be a Good Night” performed by Robert Vickers and his orchestra.

It really was a good, good night. It may sound cliché, but words cannot express our thanks to the numerous people that make the event a success. To our Sponsors: Founding Sponsor, **Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company**; Platinum Sponsors, **Brayton Purcell** and **Brydon Hugo & Parker** and Emerald Sponsor, **Union Bank**; to our Great Chefs and Wine Committees, restaurants, wineries, guests and volunteers. 🙌

Lifehouse Protests 10% Reduction in Fees



Jaryd Kalb of Nova House

On March 30th, Lifehouse staff, clients and families traveled to Sacramento to protest against the 10% reduction to the amount we receive for our Intermediate Care Facilities (“ICF”) homes approved by Governor Jerry Brown. The California State budget has now been finalized. However, the State cannot implement the 10% rate cut without approval of the Federal Government. Lifehouse continues to meet with local, state and federal government officials to explain that it is more costly to care for individuals with developmental disabilities in an institution than it is in a community setting. 🙌

The President's Corner

Dear Friends,

Our 21st Great Chefs & Wineries event was a great success! Thank you to our sponsors, guests, restaurants, wineries, donors and volunteers that make the evening sparkle. We will begin planning the 2012 event in just a few months. Please call me if you are interested in joining the Great Chefs & Wineries Committee. We'd love to have you join us if you have the time.

We are sad to report that Craig Collins, who had been with Lifehouse for over 30 years, passed away. He lived at our Montecillo House and was well-known throughout the Terra Linda community. He routinely walked to Scotty's Market, Big Five and Macy's. Craig's mother and father, DeReath and Dr. Dan Collins, were one of the founding families of Lifehouse. Although Craig was non-verbal, he had relationships with many people in our community and epitomized with grace an independent and well-lived life. Many of his community friends attended a memorial celebrating his life at the Marin Outdoor Art Club.

The California state budget has been approved by the governor. The 10% cut to Intermediate Care Facilities is still in question because any cut to MediCal funding requires approval from the Federal government and that has not been given. The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, in their March 2011 Newsletter, predicted that if the 10% cut does go through, 5% of ICF homes in the state of California will close. That would mean 330 people with developmental disabilities will be moved from their homes. Placement in a state run developmental center will cost three times what community living costs.

A new study by UCSF and Stanford of 192 pairs of twins in California suggests that environmental conditions may be at least as relevant as genes in causing autism. The study indicates that genetics account for about 38% of the risk of autism and environmental factors account for approximately 62%. This could have a significant impact on research of the condition. For more information listen to an interview by Michael Krasny with the study's lead authors at www.kqed.org, Forum, Autism New Findings.

The Lifehouse annual Spring Campaign is under way. If you have contributed, thank you. If not, we hope that you will support us in any amount that is personally meaningful to you. Your gifts help to make Lifehouse special!

I hope you will join us at our Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, September 23, 2011 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael. This is always a sell-out event as we honor our extraordinary community supporters, staff and clients.

Sincerely, *Nancy*



Election of Lifehouse Board of Directors Officers

On June 16, 2011, the Lifehouse Board of Directors elected officers for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 for a period of two-years.

Elected Officers:

**Joe Meylan, Chair • Nancy Dow Moody, President • Stephen Meeker, Vice Chair
Eric Aanes, Treasurer • Donna Vazifdar, Secretary • Pat Kendall, Immediate Past Chair**

We reluctantly said good-bye to three board members that have served their maximum term: Nancy Branigan, Tressa Breslin and Pat Kendall (pictured left to right). However, they will not stray too far. Tressa Breslin and Nancy Branigan are part of our Strategic Plan Committee and Pat Kendall remains for one year as the Immediate Past Chair. The Lifehouse board now consists of 15 members.



Client Spotlight

Meet Dina Demo

By Nancy Riess, Development Director

Dina Demo, who is part of our North Bay Supported Living Program was named “Service Person of the Week” by the Petaluma Area Chamber of Commerce. Dina has worked at CVS, formerly Longs Drug Store, for 16 years. Her job at CVS consists of restocking merchandise as well as helping customers locate items. She is known for her warm hello, sweet smile and readiness to assist.

Dina attended Piner High School in Santa Rosa and has her own apartment in Petaluma. She enjoys camping and kayaking with her family. Her parents also live in Petaluma; she has one brother, a sister-in-law, two nieces and a nephew. She likes to play bocce ball, cook and is known for her great sense of humor. Dina is also the #1 “I Love Lucy” and “Twilight” fan. Her apartment is deco-



Dina Demo (on right) with Renee Kilpatrick

rated with “Lucy” memorabilia. (If you have any Lucy memorabilia which you’ve been wondering what to do with, wonder no more! Contact the Lifehouse office.)

Dina is the third of five people to be named Service Person of the Week. Then the readers of the Petaluma Argus Courier and the Petaluma Area Chamber of Commerce will vote for the Service Person of the Year. 🙌

Passings



Lifehouse recently lost one of its oldest clients, not in age, but one who had been with the agency for over 30 years, **Craig Collins**. Craig lived at the Montecillo House. His parents, Dan and DeReath Collins, were instrumental in starting Lifehouse, then known as Marin Aid to Retarded Children. Craig was well known throughout the community and made regular excursions to Macy’s, Scotty’s Market, Safeway and LoCoco’s. He lived an independent and fulfilling life. He is missed by so many.



Above, top: Craig Collins
bottom: Jane Bracken

Wendy Aull moved to Sunrise II in 2004 and was a wonderful addition to Sunrise II. She relearned how to walk after some years of using a wheelchair. She was motivated so that she could do the laundry. She loved laundry and curlers. She entertained everyone around her with her big smiles and funny statements. She passed away in March and is sorely missed.

We also want to acknowledge the recent passing of **Jane Bracken** who worked with our Accounting Department. Although she left Lifehouse two years ago, she had been with the agency for over 15 years in our Accounting Department. She was a generous person and always remembered everyone’s birthday. 🙌



Wendy Aull of Sunrise II

Out and About With Lifehouse

United Market is Generous Community Supporter

In the April 10th issue of the Marin Independent Journal, Lifehouse was the featured nonprofit of United Market's Community Spotlight page. Shown at the right are the clients who performed at the Great Chefs & Wineries event. United Market is a generous community supporter and Lifehouse is grateful to them for their support of our annual picnic and holiday events.

Marin Human Race

As the picture indicates, Lifehouse had a large team of both clients and staff participating in the Marin Human Race on Saturday, May 7, 2011. Of course, everyone on the Lifehouse team was a winner!

Thank you again to Kate O'Connor for organizing the team and to our Board of Directors for helping to sponsor our clients and staff. We raised about \$3,000. Even though the event takes place before we have fully recovered from our major fundraiser, we believe it is an important event that merits our participation. It gives us a strong sense of our community and an appreciation of all that Marin has to offer. Plus, the pancakes are pretty good!

Below, left to right: Barry Benda, Bill Pickel, Executive Director, West Bay Housing, and Nancy Dow Moody.



Lifehouse on Hand for Opening of Octavia Court

On February 1, 2011, Octavia Court opened its doors to excited residents in San Francisco. Octavia Court is the first HUD 811 apartment complex in San Francisco reserved for individuals with developmental disabilities. Residents will pay 30% of their household income for rent and utilities combined.

West Bay Housing developed Octavia Court with support from HUD, San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, Satellite Housing, GGRC and many other partners. Barry Benda serves on the board. Lifehouse played an instrumental role in the development of what is known today as West Bay Housing. In 2001, Lifehouse recognized the need for affordable housing and formed the Developmental Disabilities Marin Housing Coalition to promote more affordable housing opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. Through a grant Lifehouse received in 2001 from the Department of Developmental Disabilities, we initiated the development of a coalition of agencies in Marin that serve people with developmental disabilities. Our model was used by the Golden Gate Regional Center to fund two other counties in their Regional Center area. In 2004, a three-county corporation was formed to work toward more affordable housing in Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo. When Nancy Dow Moody became the President & CEO of Lifehouse, Barry Benda replaced her position on the board of West Bay Housing.

Lifehouse Clients and Staff Take to the High Seas!

In April, sixteen clients and three staff went on a five-day cruise to Mexico on Carnival Cruise Lines. Ports of call included Catalina Island, Ensenada and Baja, Mexico. Supervisor Mario Newton said the clients were busy 24/7.

Continued on next page



Top photo: First row, left to right, Nonie Hall, Rachael Saenger, Fred Robertson, Anna Della Valle and Cathy Pitzak; second row, Nancy Riess, Cindy Johnson, Joan Duerson, Katie Buster and Lois Press; Last row, Greg Gazzano, Julie Burnett, Sharon Sides and Nancy Dow Moody; bottom photo: Clients and staff participating in the Marin Human Race, first row, left to right, Scott Double, John Munroe and Jenny Howe; second row, Carole Selig, Kate O'Connor, Francis Eleazar, Alice Broder, Trice Padecky and Candace Wickham

Out and About With ...



Continued from previous page

They enjoyed the variety of evening shows, participated in games, miniature golf, danced, gambled and dined on fine food including dinner at the Captain's Table. A highlight of the trip was their tour to La Bufadora, the largest blowhole in the world. The water often shoots more than 100 feet above sea level! This was the first but will not be the last cruise for Lifehouse clients.

Lifehouse Staff Member Tina Newkirk Receives Thanks From Grateful Mom

Patricia Holderman's son Danny is in our program. Tina Newkirk is his counselor. Patricia sent Nancy Dow Moody a letter expressing her appreciation and that of her family for the good job Tina has done over the years. Patricia says, "...Dan's progress has been a joy and I can't help citing it in the context of the super help he's received...It is a matter of letting people who are different be who they were meant to be. It isn't easy of course, but look what Tina has helped do for a guy several Stanford neurologists agreed would never walk or talk! (Yes, that was Daniel J. Holderman)."



**Top photo: Tina Newkirk
bottom photo: Danny Holderman**

When we say, "it takes a village", sometimes it takes time to find the right village. One person can make a difference in the life of an individual with developmental disabilities and help him navigate his village. Tina Newkirk has been chosen

twice for an Outstanding Staff Award at our annual Lifehouse banquet. Tina has been with Lifehouse for 19 years and we cherish her commitment to her clients and the agency.

San Ramon Rotary Foundation Grant

Lifehouse received its fourth grant from the San Ramon Rotary Foundation. This was made possible by Pam Double, whose son Scott lives at our Hamilton House. Thank you Pam, for recommending Lifehouse and to Barry Benda for picking up the check!

San Anselmo House Gets Painted

For the second year in a row, Boston College alumni chose Lifehouse as the recipient for their Service Day. This year their task was to paint the outside of our San Anselmo House. Steve McKeever, who works at Tamalpais Paint & Color donated the paint, and our Facilities Manager Tony Street worked with the volunteers. We have heard from neighbors that they are very pleased with the new look! 🙌



Top photo: Clients embarking on the cruise; middle photo: Barry Benda and Pam Double; bottom photo: Tony Street and the Boston College alumni

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April 30, 2011

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a premier north bay event benefitting lifehouse
Artwork "Chef to Go" www.jennifergarant.com

Honorary Chairman **HUEY LEWIS** • Master of Ceremonies **BUD E. LUV** • Culinary Host **HEIDI INSALATA KRAHLING**

Thank You for Making the Great Chefs & Wineries 2011 Lifehouse's Most Successful Event Ever!

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Boca Steak & Seafood
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Saylor's Restaurant and Bar
Tavern at Lark Creek
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TruGourmet Organic Dim Sum
WildFox Restaurant
Yankee Pier

IN THE DINING ROOM

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**Return Service
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**The First Annual Community Celebration
 To Inspire a Healthy and Sustainable Marin
 Sunday, September 4, 2011 • Marin Civic Center
 10am – 7pm**

Lifehouse is proud to be an Eco Lead Sponsor of the fair and thrilled to present one of the afternoon's featured speakers, Temple Grandin. **Temple Grandin, Ph.D.**, is the most accomplished and well-known adult with autism in the world. Her fascinating life, with all its challenges and successes has been brought to the screen, featured on major television programs and written about in many national publications. Dr. Grandin is one of the 2010 TIME 100, the magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Lifehouse, serving individuals with developmental disabilities, facilitated the formation and supports the Marin Autism Collaborative to identify and address current gaps in services to families, professionals and consumers with autism spectrum disorder. Its members include family members, service agencies, educators, non-profit organizations, medical and therapeutic professionals and government organizations. 

Save The Date!

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 4, 2011 | 
Eco Fair Marin
Marin Civic Center |
| September 23, 2011 | Annual Award Banquet
Embassy Suites, San Rafael |
| December 12, 2011 | Holiday Party
San Rafael Rec Center |
| April 21, 2012 | Great Chefs & Wineries |
| 1st Saturday Night | Novato Dance (monthly) |
| 3rd Friday Night | Larkspur Dance (monthly)
Corte Madera |

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