

new vistas

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stronger families...brighter futures...since 1957

Former Vista Hill Client Grateful for Help that Turned His Life Around



“There’s no doubt in my mind that I would be dead by now without Vista Hill. They gave me the tools and the strength I needed to save my life.”

Looking at 27-year-old Jeremy Kullman today, it’s hard to believe this confident and optimistic young man, who manages the Blockbuster Video store in City Heights, could ever have reached the bottom he found himself at in the mid-1990s.

Born to a single mother who was addicted to drugs, Jeremy had been physically abused as a child by his mom’s boyfriend. His grandmother took him away for a few years before his biological father and stepmother, also addicts, were granted custody. By his teens, Jeremy was using drugs and running with a bad crowd.

“I started with pot and then moved to the harder drugs,” he recalls. “I got arrested for things like theft or being drunk in public or possessing drug paraphernalia. The last time I was arrested, at 15, the judge said I had the choice of going to Vista Hill’s PARTS program or being incarcerated with the California Youth Authority.” (PARTS has since become SAFIR—Supporting Adolescents & Families in Recovery).

Jeremy wisely chose Vista Hill, but he was angry about having to attend yet another drug intervention program that he knew wouldn’t work. “I didn’t want to be there, so I was mad at everyone. I was depressed, and I hated my counselor. She was brutally honest. She saw through all my lies and b.s. and wouldn’t let me get away with anything.”

Things began to change when Jeremy entered his first group session.

“I was shocked because I realized everyone there was like me. They looked the same and were into the same music and culture and had all the same problems. But there was one huge difference. They were all sober. I thought maybe this was going to be different after all, and I said to myself, ‘Let’s do it!’”

Jeremy’s new attitude and Vista Hill’s support transformed his life. After giving up drugs and alcohol (he’s been sober 12 years), and successfully completing the

(continued on page 2)

Be a partner
with Vista Hill.

“Alone we can do
so little; together we
can do so much.”

—Helen Keller

inside



Connie Conard 2

Juvenile Clinic 3

Gala 2007 4

Corporate Citizens 6

Foundations Primer 8

and more . . .



www.vistahill.org

Connie Conard Has True Passion for Helping San Diegans in Need

"I'm passionate about helping Vista Hill because I know what a huge impact this organization is having on the lives of so many who would otherwise be lost. There is no better feeling than knowing that some small thing I've done has helped people



completely turn their lives around. It just makes me want to do even more."

It is hard to believe that Connie Conard could do "even more," for she's already one of the most active and caring volunteers and philanthropists in San Diego. It is truly fortunate that this dynamic and energetic woman has chosen to become so deeply involved with Vista Hill.

The El Cajon resident is currently chairing the 2008 Vista Hill Fashion Show, a job she loves and has carried out on three other occasions. She's also chaired the Gala and serves on the Friends of Vista Hill Board.

To understand why Connie has been involved with charitable organizations for more than 30 years, you have to understand that she had an amazing role model in her mother, Virginia Napierskie, a Vista Hill donor and a widely admired philanthropist.

"At an early age I saw how my mother gave back to the community and how much she enjoyed providing funds to help those less fortunate," Connie says. "I saw her pick a cause like homeless and abandoned children because it touched her heart and because she knew she could make a difference.

Today, despite a busy full-time career as an interior designer and spending time with her husband, Phil, and their four grown children and grandchildren, Connie finds time to be involved with a host of organizations besides Vista Hill. She's a member of the Grossmont Hospital Foundation Board and has chaired their gala for the past three years. She's a board member of the East County YMCA and has chaired their Branding fund raiser for the past two years and will again this year. She is also co-chairing the Gala for The Midway and The Strut For Sobriety fashion show for A New Path. Other organizations she is a member of are The Angels of Asletine and The Gold Diggers. In 2006, Connie was honored by the Salvation Army as a Woman of Dedication.

One of the reasons she's so committed to Vista Hill is that she's experienced the pain of having her son addicted to drugs as well as seeing others in her extended family battle alcoholism.

"I know the terrible impact addiction has on families, so I want to do everything I possibly can to help programs like Vista Hill's SAFIR," Connie says. "When I hear how SAFIR has helped a teenager escape a destructive and seemingly hopeless addiction, it just thrills me, and I can't wait to do more so that we can reach even more young people who are trapped in that horrible world."

Connie stresses that none of her efforts could have been accomplished without the assistance, support and commitment of the many outstanding volunteers who have served with her on various committees over the years.

Jeremy (continued from page 1)

program, Jeremy was so grateful he stayed on for several years as a volunteer counselor.

"I actually became a role model for kids coming into the program. They asked me questions and looked to me for advice and guidance, which I was happy to give. During one session, a kid pointed right at me and said, 'I'm clean and sober six weeks now because of

you.' It was amazing. For the first time in my life, I realized I could make difference in someone else's life."

Meanwhile, Jeremy was getting his personal life on track. He started out delivering for Pizza Hut when he was 18, and in the years following worked at a Coronado restaurant, a coffeehouse that he ended up managing, followed by a store

manager's position at Starbucks and his current management job with Blockbuster. He was married in December and is looking forward to family life.

"My life couldn't be better and I'm very blessed," Jeremy says. "But without Vista Hill, the great things that have happened to me would never have occurred. These are the most caring, committed people you

“Many of my best friends are the wonderful people I’ve met through all of my charitable work. I want them all to know just how much I appreciate their hard work and dedication, and that they have all played an incredibly important role in improving our community,” Connie says. “I also have to thank the remarkable Friends of Vista Hill staff for their own passion and commitment. Their enthusiasm and support make the volunteers’ job so much easier.”

Vista Hill and San Diego are fortunate that Connie has no plans to cut back on her volunteer work. She says she’s lucky to have been blessed with a “worker-bee” constitution that she says will fuel her volunteer efforts for many years to come.

“There are too many needs in our community right now for me to not keep going full steam ahead,” Connie says. “And why wouldn’t I want to do as much as I can for as long as I can? The work is important and it’s tremendously rewarding. Along with my family, helping others has been the true highlight of my life.”

will ever meet. That’s why I was honored to be invited to speak at Vista Hill’s gala last fall. I wanted to tell everyone that 10 years later I’m still clean and sober and loving life. I wanted to personally thank them and the many people who support this great organization—I wanted to let them know just how important Vista Hill has been to me.”

Juvenile Court Clinic Fills Important Gap for Young Offenders with Mental Health Issues

Last summer, 15-year-old Victor found himself in trouble with the law again, this time for joyriding. Since age 11, he had been in and out of juvenile hall for shoplifting, petty theft and increasingly aggressive behavior. Probation officials and his parents suspected Victor was bi-polar, but his family had no health insurance and could not afford the services of a psychiatrist.

Victor was lucky. Authorities referred him to Vista Hill’s new Juvenile Court Clinic where he received an intensive assessment by the program’s staff psychiatrist and was put on medication that, along with counseling, has made a dramatic difference in his behavior and attitude.

“Without this Vista Hill program, it’s very possible that Victor would have fallen into an insurance coverage gap and never received the help he needed. He more than likely would have committed increasingly serious crimes and ended up hurting himself or someone else,” says Marc Gotbaum, the clinic’s director. “Instead, we were able to stabilize Victor’s emotional and psychological issues to the point where he’s back in school and looking forward to a much more positive future.”

The Juvenile Court Clinic was created by Vista Hill in early 2007 with County of San Diego funding that originated with the passage of the California Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63). Located near juvenile court in Kearny Mesa, the program provides short-term medication stabilization and referral services for youth sent from the courts, probation department and child welfare services.

Gotbaum, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who came to Vista Hill after heading the YMCA’s Youth and Family Services mental health programs in San Diego County, leads a team that includes psychiatrists, nurse, therapist and a community liaison. Youth referred to the clinic receive up to 90 days of comprehensive assessment, evaluation, treatment and referral services.

Most people aren’t aware that up to 15 percent of the youth offenders in San Diego have some sort of mental health challenge, whether it’s bi-polar disease, attention deficit disorder, substance abuse disorders or psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia, Gotbaum says. This often causes them to make impulsive, explosive or inappropriate judgments that lead them to become repeat offenders. Those same issues also make many of them vulnerable to falling in with gangs and other negative peer groups.

“That’s why the Juvenile Court Clinic is so important,” Gotbaum says. “We can often help some of these kids before they begin to fully unravel. And for those who are already in trouble, we can determine what their psychosocial issues are and quickly get them on the correct medicine or properly adjust what they’ve been taking.

“It’s very satisfying that within a few weeks, most of the kids we see are reporting a fairly significant change in their psychiatric condition. A light seems to turn on in their heads and their minds begin to clear. They have more energy and they’re more motivated to begin addressing the issues in a way that will help them return safely to their families, community and schools.”



Vista Hill's 50th Anniversary Gala a

Thanks to everyone involved, The Big 5-0! annual gala brought in the highest profit Vista Hill has ever made: \$205,000! The team effort paid off and proceeds will help critical Vista Hill programs serving children, teens, and adults who struggle with mental illness, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities.

Following hors d'oeuvres and socializing in the foyer of the Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine, music by Diva Soul welcomed guests into the beautiful ballroom (gorgeous center pieces, white dance floor, perfectly-appointed table settings) for an exciting evening of dinner, dancing, live auction, and more.

The October 13 event featured special recognition for Audrey S. Geisel and Donald and Darlene Shiley who were given the IMBY (In My Back Yard),

Vista Hill's annual award for individuals who make a significant and very positive difference right here in San Diego County. Ms. Geisel accepted for herself and for the Shileys who were unable to attend. She gave a from-the-heart acceptance speech at the microphone letting the audience know the importance of Vista Hill programs.

Vista Hill President and CEO Robert Dean introduced a brief video tracing the history of Vista Hill. The video set the stage for Jeremy, a former Vista Hill client who had spoken at the 40th Anniversary Gala (see story page 1). At that time, he was a teenager, finally clean and sober, and on his way to a productive life. Now, at age 27, Jeremy thrilled the audience with his continuing story, a great example of the long-term success of such programs as SAFIR (Supporting Adolescents & Families in Recovery).



Dancers (l to r) Friends of Vista Hill Board members Connie Conard and Dee Ammon have fun on the dance floor with Kristy Gregg, event chair.



(l to r) Board members Jim Brown, Mark Evans, Vicki Hamilton, Cecil Steppe and John Wertz enjoyed the evening's festivities. Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Evans are the Chair and Vice Chair of the Friends of Vista Hill Board; Messrs. Brown, Steppe, and Wertz serve on the Vista Hill Board. Mr. Steppe is the Chair.

Dancing with the Grinch is Mary Alice Brady. She and Ron bought two of the Live Auction items, one of which included the Grinch.



Huge Success!

Russ T. Nailz provided auction excitement, part of which was raising \$50,000 in five minutes in honor of Vista Hill's 50 years; the dinner included macadamia coconut-crusted filet and miso Chilean seabass along with individual birthday cakes; dancing went on into the evening.

Past IMBY winners Elaine Lipinsky and Ingrid Hibbin attended along with 300 dedicated friends of Vista Hill. The Honorary Chairs were Valerie and Harry Cooper and Tamara Alter. The Gala Committee, chaired by Kristy Gregg, included Tamara Alter, Dee Ammon, Renée Bannasch, Lynn Cihak, Connie Conard, Debbie Giaquinta, Nicole Hamilton, Vicki Hamilton, Linda Jones, Debra McGinty-Poteet, Marie Miehls, Ann Mound, Rachel Mullin, Carol Powers, Susan Roth, Angela Rowe, Susan Straub, Beckie Van Houten, and Maggie Watkins.

Underwriters were Audrey S. Geisel/Dr. Seuss Fund/San Diego Foundation; Virginia Napierskie; CIGNA; KPBS; San Diego National Bank; Vista Hill Board of Directors; Thomas J. & Theodora Lynch Fleming Foundation; Vicki Hamilton/Crown Point Catering; Lynn and Fred Muto; City National Bank; San Diego County Credit Union; Elaine Lipinsky; Linda Marteeny; Judy and Alan Robbins, M.D.; Hermeen Scharaga; Fred Applegate and Laura Bradley; Donald and Karen Cohn.

Presidents: (l to r) Ron Fickle and Greg Zinser, past presidents of Vista Hill, reminisce with Robert Dean, current President & CEO, Cecil Steppe, Vista Hill Board Chair, and Jim Brown, past Vista Hill Board Chair.



IMBY (In My Back Yard) Award winners: (l to r) (2005) Elaine Lipinsky (Sheila and Jeff Lipinsky were on a trip around the world); (2007) Audrey Geisel (Donald and Darlene Shiley were there in spirit); and (2006) Ingrid Hibben are much beloved by the Vista Hill family. They have all done so much for Vista Hill and for the entire San Diego County Community.

(l to r) Tamara Alter, Robert Dean, Audrey Geisel, Kristy Gregg, and Harry and Valerie Cooper had fun and helped in many ways to make the evening successful. Ms. Alter and the Coopers served as Honorary Co-Chairs.

New Vistas is published twice a year by the Friends of Vista Hill Foundation, 8787 Complex Drive, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92123. Vista Hill is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing excellence in behavioral healthcare programs for the people of San Diego County.

www.vistahill.org

Steffi's Kitchen

Thanks to a generous bequest left to Vista Hill by Stefanie Dawn Strauss, we now have a "teaching kitchen" at Stein Education Center Chula Vista. According to Mary McIntosh, Site Administrator, "Having a teaching kitchen was number one on our Wish List. Now we can offer our students more opportunities to learn independent living skills. Cooking and safety are critical, and having fun and socializing are also important."

Steffi Strauss had a place in her heart for Vista Hill. She was a great friend and is missed by all of us. Her family and the Friends of Vista Hill board members and staff are adding some touches to the kitchen to help it have a little of Steffi's panache. Steffi's sister Tamara Alter, a member of the Friends of Vista Hill Board, is helping to guide the project.

Vista Hill Corporate Citizens: So What's the Catch? Mission Federal Credit Union Is First to Join



Vista Hill Corporate Citizens Committee members (l to r) Ann Mound, Robert Dean, Mark Evans, Renée Bannasch, John Anewalt, Vicki Hamilton and Tom Allen are strategizing about bringing more corporations into the fold. Not pictured: Enrique Hernandez and Walt Czerminski.

We are currently inviting socially responsible, local business organizations to become members of Vista Hill Corporate Citizens, a community outreach effort initiated by the Friends of Vista Hill Board. Our first members are Mission Federal Credit Union Community Foundation, Travelers Aid Society of San Diego, EzGDS, Inc., Craig R. Applefield Insurance Services, Inc., and MEA Digital.

Member benefits include listing on our website and in our Annual Report. Member company names will be included in mailings that are sent to nearly 4,500 households, and each member will receive a personalized membership plaque which we hope will be displayed proudly at their office.

So what's the catch? Truthfully, all we ask is that you take the time to learn about Vista Hill...and if you're impressed, as we anticipate you will be, just spread the word to others. To become a member or receive more information, please contact us at (858) 514-5151.

Vista Hill has been selected as a major beneficiary of the 2008 Las Patronas Jewel Ball!

**Mark your calendars... 2008 Jewel Ball
August 2, 2008**

With these funds, the Stein Education Center will receive a first-class wheelchair accessible van!!!!

Thank you, Las Patronas!!

It's a \$400,000 Touchdown!

Rob Dean was pleased to be able to thank Junior Seau in person for the outstanding support Vista Hill has received from the Junior Seau Foundation. For the past 12 years, Junior has made sure that substantial funds were directed toward Vista Hill programs...to the tune of more than \$400,000! Talk about touchdowns...!



Kudos to Darlyn and Chuck!

Combining an old-fashioned work ethic and a talent for organizational efficiency, Darlyn and Chuck Davenport have, for five years, operated the Windmill Thrift Shops* in North Park and Downtown. The shops benefit both Vista Hill and Senior Community Centers. The success of the Windmill has great value at Vista Hill in the delivery of mental health and substance abuse services to special populations; for Senior Community Centers, the funds raised make a major difference in overall support for the health and well being of seniors in need.

The Windmill, at 3081 University Avenue, is open six days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and most days Darlyn and Chuck are there. They know many customers by their first names; they're sensitive to limited budgets; and they're very respectful and accepting of everyone.

Darlyn and Chuck were honored at the 21st Annual Mental Health Recognition Dinner as Volunteers of the Year for 2007. And they continue their involvement in various causes to benefit San Diego, doing whatever they can, and always giving of themselves to help others.

**Gently used items such as jewelry, ties, dishes, antiques, small working appliances, books, clothing, etc., are needed. Call (619) 291-2415.*

Fundraising Drive for Classroom Remodeling Project Begins

With the help of Mission Federal Credit Union Community Foundation, we have launched our effort to raise \$150,000 to remodel the classrooms at Stein Education Center (SEC). Because the wear and tear on individual classrooms at SEC has begun to take its toll, we are determined to accomplish this 50th anniversary goal for the benefit of our wonderful students.

Mission Federal Credit Union Community Foundation has made a kick-off contribution of \$10,000, and the Friends of Vista Hill Board has pledged \$10,000. We're our way!

Enjoying the "handing of the check ceremony" are (l to r) Neville Billimoria, Senior Vice President of Membership, and Ron Martin, CEO, both of Mission Federal Credit Union; Gloria Cordle, Room 1 teacher; Robert Dean, Vista Hill President & CEO; Joan Richards, Ph.D., SEC Education Director; and Vicki Hamilton, Chair of the Friends of Vista Hill Board.



Four Join FVH Board



(l to r) Tamara Alter, Walt Czerminski, and Elaine Lipinsky, new Friends of Vista Hill Board members, attended their first Board meeting on January 14. Not pictured: Michael Gallagher.

In January the Friends of Vista Hill Board welcomed four new members: Tamara Alter, Walt Czerminski, Michael Gallagher and Elaine Lipinsky.

Members are volunteers who serve on committees, help raise funds, bring in new people, inform the public, do strategic planning and generally serve as ambassadors for Vista Hill. Welcome, Tamara, Walt, Michael and Elaine!

Meet our Friends of Vista Hill Staff



(l to r) Nicole Hamilton, Rachel Peniche, Sue Schulte, Ann Mound, Beckie Van Houten.

The Friends of Vista Hill team consists of five individuals who have worked at Vista Hill collectively for 35 years: Ann Mound, Sue Schulte, Beckie Van Houten, Rachel Peniche, and Nicole Hamilton.

A special welcome to the newest among the group: Rachel, events coordinator, and Nicole, administrative assistant. Both Rachel and Nicole bring years of experience and can-do attitudes to their jobs. Rachel continues to own and operate Plan It San Diego, specializing in planning and coordinating weddings, bar mitzvahs, birthday celebrations and other events.

"We range in age from 24 to 67," says Ann. "This includes the traditionalists (born before 1946), the Baby Boomers, and the Gen Xers, so we're covering all our bases!"

Where Do Grants Fit In?

Vista Hill leverages all possible means of revenue to deliver programs benefiting children and families in the areas of substance abuse, mental health and developmental disabilities: county funding, client fees or co-pays, school district and San Diego Regional Center support. *Yet, many families who need our services cannot afford even a co-payment, and government funds are not available for some of our most critical service components.* As a result, many of our programs and services rely on private support.

In addition to special event proceeds, and gifts from individuals, a significant portion of our fund-raising revenue comes from private foundations and similar philanthropic organizations. This funding comes in the form of grants, which entail a detailed application process and reporting procedures to keep the grantor informed about results of their investment.

During the 2007 calendar year, over \$700,000 in grant funding was raised to support Vista Hill programs. We are extremely grateful to the generous organizations who made this "record year" possible; many helped us accomplish important projects for our 50th Anniversary Fund for Vista Hill.

In addition to this critical financial support, grant funding from well regarded organizations (such as those on our donor list) enhances Vista Hill's credibility and encourages others to join the cause. Foundations and other grant-giving organizations come in many forms, and each has a specific role to play in bettering our community.

A few examples of grant-making organizations... *and how they help Vista Hill*

Family Foundations receive endowments from individuals or families. They usually include significant donor-family involvement, including participation on the foundation's board of directors. Several family foundations have been instrumental in launching and/or sustaining Vista Hill programs, including the **Georges & Germaine Fusenot Foundation** (supporting the SAFIR program), the **Lebensfeld Foundation** (major donors to Vista Hill's 50th Anniversary Fund), the **Galinson Family Foundation** and **McCarthy Family Foundation** (ParentCare), the **Scandling Family Foundation** (Equestrian Therapy at SEC), **Lipinsky Family Foundation** (endowment and special gifts), and the **Stein Family Foundation**, in whose honor the Stein Education Center is named.

An **Independent Foundation** usually has an endowment, and while many private independent foundations were started by wealthy families, no family members control the grant making. These foundations are highly professionalized with carefully developed grant-making strategies and criteria. Their boards of directors often consist of people who are eminent in the fields of interest to the foundation. Many of the most crucial service components at the ParentCare Center, for which no government funding is available (including psychiatric care for dually diagnosed clients, transportation services, evening programs for working parents, and specialized on-site child-care), are made possible by independent foundations including the **California Wellness Foundation**, **Alliance Healthcare Foundation**, the **Price-**

Galinson Collaborative Fund, the **Ilse, Charles and Peter Dalebrook Foundation**, the **French Fund** and **Masserini Charitable Trust**.

Corporate Foundations are entities through which a corporation organizes and channels its philanthropic giving, and their boards typically include company executives. Recently, Vista Hill received support from the **Mission Federal Credit Union Community Foundation** (see page 7); and **Mail Boxes Etc.** has supported the Stein Adult Program. Children and families impacted by the recent wildfires are receiving no-cost counseling, and other supportive services, from Vista Hill's North Inland Learning Assistance Center program, thanks to a generous recent grant from the **Union Bank of California Foundation**.

Giving Circles or **Collaborative Funds**. Recent years have seen the creation of other types of organized philanthropy, whereby individuals pool their funds and other resources to donate to their communities. Members of giving circles donate their own money into a pooled fund, decide together where to give this away, and also contribute their time and skills to supporting local causes. A local example includes the dynamic **San Diego Women's Foundation**, who recently sponsored the launch of Mother Hubbard's Cupboard (providing nutritious emergency food supplies, and nutrition education, to women and young children) at the ParentCare Center.

Community Foundations are tax-exempt public charities organized as collections of individual funds. Individuals, families and organizations establish permanent charitable funds at community foundations, which are intended for the long-term benefit of a specific geographic location; hence, "community" foundation. Both the **San Diego Foundation** and **Jewish Community Foundation** have assisted Vista Hill in many ways, including financial support, advice, technical assistance and community leadership. The very special **Dr. Seuss Fund** is a generous example.

Philanthropic Organizations and **Service Clubs** also play a key role in making San Diego a better place to live and in supporting Vista Hill programs and services. **Las Primeras** has been a loyal supporter of the Stein Center's Chula Vista program, and the **Thursday Club** and **Gold Diggers** have been good friends to the women and children who rely on our ParentCare Center. The **Art Pratt Memorial Fund/Old Mission Rotary Club**, **Las Patronas**, and **NFAR (National Foundation for Autism Research)** have been instrumental in making the Stein Education Center's main campus a much more inviting, effective, and innovative environment for our disabled students. Their gifts have supported the installation of new playground equipment, a wonderful kitchen for cooking classes, and a multi-sensory room that has become a key component of the occupational therapy program. Please also see page 6 for exciting news regarding the Stein Center's selection as a major beneficiary of the upcoming Las Patronas Jewel Ball!

50th Reunion Salutes Employees

Seeing old friends, reconnecting, laughing and crying...that was the tone of Vista Hill's Reunion held on September 21, 2007. Many employees hadn't seen each other for years; stories were told; everyone enjoyed looking over memorabilia and remembering times gone by. Special thanks to all who attended and those who brought in items from the early days. Robert Dean, President & CEO, welcomed everyone and thanked them for the outstanding contributions they had made to Vista Hill and to Vista Hill clients/patients.



50th Anniversary Fund for Vista Hill—Endowment and Special Gifts

Our Goal: \$3 million... Raised to Date: \$2,291,217... Need by June 25, 2008: \$708,783

We hope to complete our (\$3 million) 50th Anniversary Fund for Vista Hill by June 2008. We are not "there" yet, and gifts at all levels are encouraged! Please call Ann Mound at (858) 514-5151 for information about the Campaign or about our Planned Giving Program.

Three at Stein Education Center (SEC) Receive Helping Hand Awards

Congratulations to Chris Gommel, Mentor Teacher, Supervisor at the Transition Site, and a Vista Hill employee for more than 30 years; Michael Evans, Occupational Therapist at the Decena and South Bay sites and music instructor for students interested in drumming; and Paul Padgett, Community Training Specialist, who works in the Adult Program at Zion and uses photography to encourage constituents. They were honored and appreciated for their talents, enthusiasm, dedication, and outstanding work at SEC.

This annual toast to worthy SEC employees was initiated by Sam Stein many years ago. Sam felt that the employees, the backbone of SEC's success, deserved special recognition. The awards are generally given out around the time of Sam's Birthday (October 15) by Jerry Stein, Sam's son.

Sam Stein would have been 100 in 2007, and we hope to resume our annual celebration on the SEC Main Campus at Sam's Station in the fall of 2008.



From left, Paul Padgett, Chris Gommel, and Michael Evans were honored with Helping Hand Awards



Walk-A-Thon Shows Team Spirit

Teachers at Stein Education Center (and parents, too, of course!) help our students learn important characteristics like happiness, respect, determination, generosity, kindness, etc. That was the theme of our 4th Annual Walk-A-Thon in June. Each class represented one of these character traits and carried a large puzzle piece to put in place in the center of the SEC Playground.

Home Depot (pictured above) was one of several local businesses to lend a helping hand. Special thanks to these firms as well as to other donors, committee members, staff, volunteers, and student walkers. Your support helped us make a profit of \$10,000 for SEC!

It was a terrific team effort and in addition to the walk-a-thon, students enjoyed food, treats, bake sale, special booths, and prizes. Everyone had fun!

new vistas

VISTA HILL UPCOMING EVENTS 2008

Women's Council on Mental Health Spring Luncheon

Tuesday, February 26, 2008, Manchester Grand Hyatt
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

"Living to 100: Lessons in Living to Your Maximum Potential at Any Age"

Featured speaker is best-selling author and centenarian expert Thomas Perls, M.D. Please join Marjie Atwood, Ph.D., Chair, and Charlotte Nielsen, Honorary Chair, for this special event. Reservations required.

Please contact Events Coordinator Rachel Peniche (858) 514-5153 or rpeniche@vistahill.org for additional information.

17th Annual Fashion Show Luncheon

Wednesday, April 30, 2008, Manchester Grand Hyatt
10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Connie Conard and her Fashion Show Committee are hard at work on Vista Hill's 17th Annual Fashion Show/ Luncheon. "Heroes & Hemlines" pays tribute to San Diego's local and civic leaders who truly make San Diego, "America's Finest City." The runway will be a spring showcase of the latest trends in fashion and highlight vintage ware as well. Surprise production numbers and special guest models will bring their personal flair and pizzazz. Carol LeBeau, KGTV Channel 10 News Anchor and Vista Hill Advisory Board Member, returns as celebrity emcee. We are excited to have some new boutiques and more shopping time—the silent auction and boutiques will open at 10:00 a.m. this year. See you on Wednesday, April 30 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt.

If you are receiving more than one copy of New Vistas, please call Beckie Van Houten, database manager/development associate. This will help us save postage and better serve you. Call (858) 514-5152. Thank you!



Friends of Vista Hill Foundation

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