New “PROMOTE!” Program Enhances Escondido Youngsters’ Ability to Learn

What if you could spend less than an hour a week with a group of young children in a classroom and equip them with such an important set of skills it could positively influence their behavior and ability to learn for the rest of their lives?

As ambitious as that sounds, it’s actually the goal of a new Vista Hill program launched this past summer to provide those very skills to 2,000 students in 12 elementary schools within the Escondido Union School District.

“PROMOTE!” is a prevention and early intervention program that helps kindergarten through third grade students improve their social and academic skills, develop communication skills and improve their behavior with peers in the classroom and at home.

continued on page 4

Board Member and Donor Bob Graham Leaves Vista Hill With a Unique Legacy

If you want to know just how much passion Bob Graham has for Vista Hill consider this: the 80-year-old donor and member of the Board of Directors has not only devoted more than half his life to helping guide the organization, he and his wife Barbara are planning to leave a sizable portion of his estate to Vista Hill.

“I’m so proud that in my 45 years on the board I was able to play a small role in lighting a fire within this great organization—and sometimes making sure that flame didn’t go out,” Graham says. “But it’s also important to me that Vista Hill continues to grow and thrive long after I’m gone. I’ve always known the best way to accomplish that is to share my good fortune in life by remembering this wonderful organization in my will.”

As a result, when Graham retires from the board in December, he will leave behind two kinds of legacies: one rooted in his remarkable service, and one based on his generous philanthropy. Graham declines to take much credit for the former, but Vista Hill would not be the vibrant organization it is today without Graham’s sizable contributions over the years.

Graham joined the board in the early 1970s when Vista Hill was still focused on operating mental health hospitals. At the time his experience as a businessman was crucial. After attending UCLA, the Orange County native started his career in banking, left that for a decade to help Barron Hilton run several of the hotel magnate’s companies and then went out on his own as an entrepreneur, building five highly successful companies in the medical instrument and chemical specialty fields.

One of the crucial decisions Graham helped make was getting Vista Hill out of the hospital business. He help guide the organization in divesting those facilities and move instead into providing the kind of personal and critically need-

continued on page 3

Vista Hill Board Treasurer Bob Graham
We’re pleased to report Vista Hill enjoyed another outstanding year in 2015-16, with our successes coming on a number of different fronts. What they all have in common is that they’re based on the solid cornerstones we’ve laid as a foundation for Vista Hill’s continued growth and strength.

Among those cornerstones: stability and continuity. Last year, three very important programs—including Parent-Care East and Central and SmartCare—Integrated Behavioral Health-Rural and Psychiatric Consultation came up for review. We were required to submit proposals for renewed funding to the County of San Diego and we were competing against other organizations eager to replace us. We believe it was a vote of confidence in our past performance when the County approved five more years of funding for all four programs. These renewed contracts will help us maintain a critical continuum of care for the thousands of clients we will serve in these programs in the coming years.

Fiscal responsibility is another of our cornerstones and we believe we demonstrated that with the donor-supported purchase of a new building on Mission Gorge Road to house a site for our Stein Education Center Adult Program. We had lost our lease on the property that had housed the program for two decades, and as we always do these days, we look first to buy facilities for our programs rather than lease. Owning this new building will not only save us thousands of dollars on rent, we’ve acquired a property which will build our asset base for the future.

Innovation is another Vista Hill cornerstone and a brand new program we recently launched in partnership with the Escondido Union School District is a great example of that. PROMOTE! will be training approximately 2,000 students yearly in kindergarten through third grades to enhance their social, emotional and academic skills. Using a unique evidence-based curriculum, PROMOTE! has the real potential to put these children on a lifelong positive path (see story page 1).

Trust is also foundational in everything we do, and it was a critical factor in securing the contract with the County for PROMOTE! funding. For many years we’ve enjoyed outstanding partnerships with Escondido schools through our Learning Assistance Center program, but even we were surprised—and gratified—that the principals of 12 elementary schools in the district all signed a letter endorsing our proposal to put PROMOTE! in their classrooms.

Finally, integrity may be our most important cornerstone, and it’s one that overlays everything we do at Vista Hill, especially in our relationships with clients, staff, program partners, donors and government agencies.

Integrity matters in all that we do, from the Board of Directors and my office, over to the staff providing services in the field. We all feel a duty to maintain that integrity, but we nevertheless have important safeguards in place to ensure it. These high standards have helped us develop a strong reputation for integrity and trust in the community, and they’ve been crucial in carrying out our mission of helping individuals and families most in need.

Cecile H. Steppe
Chair
Robert Dean
President & CEO

Combined Statement of Financial Position
At September 30, 2015

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The financial information in this report represents a condensed version of fiscal year 2014-2015 audited financial statements. A complete set of audited financial statements, with accompanying notes and report from AKT LLP is available at Vista Hill’s main office.
How will you be remembered? Some thoughtful individuals have included Vista Hill in their will or trust so that at their demise, the funds donated go to support one of Vista Hill’s many important programs.

When updating your estate plan, consider including Vista Hill. It is really quite simple. You could give an unrestricted gift or name a special fund or a room or a building or a program. In some cases your gift could provide income for you now along with a current tax deduction.

Your generosity and planning today will help provide Vista Hill with the ability to be flexible and expand critical programs in the future, and you will be remembered as a wise and generous person who wanted to help needy children and families in a most significant way. In honor of Vista Hill’s 60th Anniversary a special 60th Anniversary Endowment fund has been created to ensure programs and services will continue for many years to come. Our goal is to raise $1 million for this endowment fund before the end of 2017.

All planned giving opportunities are available at Vista Hill. We thank you for your consideration and welcome your questions. For more information or to plan your legacy gift, call Ann Mound, Senior Development Advisor, at 858.864.9055 or email, amound@vistahill.org.

Bob Graham continued from page 1

ed outpatient mental health services it specializes in today.

There were some rocky times after the transition when it wasn’t certain Vista Hill would survive, but Graham and his fellow board members were bright and truly committed stewards of the organization and gradually their belief in the organization’s mission began to pay dividends.

“Vista Hill not only survived but has become a major success story in the community thanks to the vision and sheer hard work that Bob and others invested in those challenging early years,” says Robert Dean, Vista Hill President and CEO. “So many things come to mind when I think of Bob. He was an amazing guy, always encouraging, always inquisitive. He was financially sophisticated and influential with other board members. His support of Vista Hill was extraordinary and he kept Vista Hill’s well being in sight all those years, which helped us from making mistakes and kept us on a steadily upward path.”

“I know it’s easy to say after the fact, but I really did believe that Vista Hill would one day evolve into something like we see today,” Graham says. “I knew just how huge the demand is for helping those with mental health issues who aren’t being helped by anybody else, and I knew that the kind of compassionate and talented professionals we have at Vista Hill have the unique skills to carry out that difficult job.”

Making sure Vista Hill has the necessary resources to carry out its mission has always been top of mind with Graham. It’s why he donated money every year he was on the board, it’s why he decided to make a planned gift through his estate and it’s why he’s always urging others to become givers.

“I always tell young people coming out of college to take their first paycheck, cash it and personally donate half of it to a local charity and see how great they feel. For older folks, I really want them to consider making a planned gift to an organization like Vista Hill, and without any restrictions. Government funding doesn’t cover all of the expenses that Vista Hill incurs in doing its job. It also has to receive considerable funds from private individuals if it’s going to continue to be effective in helping as many of our neighbors in need as possible.”

Graham isn’t sure how he’s going to feel the first Monday in January when he no longer has to make the long drive to the Vista Hill board meeting from his home in Long Beach. But he does know his warm feelings for the organization will last the rest of his life.

“Vista Hill has such a huge heart and does such important work, I can say without hesitation my involvement with the organization has been the highlight of my career, including business,” Graham says. “And the reason is simple. Nothing I’ve ever done in my life will ever have the kind of impact that Vista Hill has had on so many lives. It has been a true labor of love and I will miss it tremendously.”
“PROMOTE! is one of the most exciting and innovative mental health programs Vista Hill has ever created for children,” says Vista Hill’s Annabel Mojica, Program Manager. “By improving the social, emotional and academic abilities of these students, we’re dramatically enhancing their ability to learn by improving their social, emotional and academic skills (see story page 1).

According to her supervisor, David Taylor, Ph.D., Vista Hill Senior Director, Mojica is an excellent example of the type of talented and dedicated employee that makes Vista Hill and its programs so effective at helping people with the most challenging mental health issues.

“Since joining us in 2008 as a staff therapist, Annabel has been a remarkably positive force for Vista Hill thanks to her very special ability to work well with everyone she encounters, whether it’s children, their parents, teachers or her colleagues,” Taylor says. “In addition to growing into an outstanding manager and leader, Annabel has also demonstrated unique collaborative skills that have been crucial in fostering the seamless partnership with the Escondido Union School District that is critical to ensuring PROMOTE!’s success.”

One measure of Mojica’s considerable accomplishments is that last year the County of San Diego named her Program Manager of the Year at its annual Behavioral Health Community Awards dinner, one of highest honors in the region’s mental health services field.

To understand why Mojica is so successful, you should know that she loves her job more than almost anyone you’ll ever meet; she’s thrilled to work with young children, especially those facing difficult mental health issues; and she’s never once hesitated to go the extra mile with youngsters and their parents to ensure they have the best chance to succeed.

A young client and family she helped a few years ago perfectly illustrate Mojica’s deep personal commitment to her job. The boy’s separation anxiety from his parents caused his classroom behavior to deteriorate to a point his teacher was about to give up on him. Another problem: the boy said his father didn’t want him talking to Mojica or anyone else.

“This was a tough case, but I refused to give up on this student because I knew I could help him,” Mojica recalls. “I started by meeting regularly with the child, slowly gained the trust of his mother, and she eventually saw enough progress that she was able to persuade her husband to come to a session. The

Helping Improve Young Lives: A Passion of Vista Hill Staff Member

When Annabel Mojica was growing up in Fallbrook in north San Diego County, her parents instilled in her two important lessons: to always do her best and to help as many people as possible.

Mojica has embraced those lessons for her entire life and they’ve been her guiding principles in becoming one of Vista Hill’s most skilled, passionate and compassionate staff members.

Trained as a bilingual licensed family therapist, Mojica this past summer was selected to manage Vista Hill’s PROMOTE!, an innovative new prevention and early intervention program that helps kindergarten through third grade students in Escondido enhance their ability to learn by improving their social, emotional and academic skills (see story page 1).

The program, funded through a five-year, $4.6 million grant from the County of San Diego, uses the evidence-based Incredible Years Classroom Dinosaur curriculum in which Vista Hill clinicians utilize life-size puppets, team activities, puzzles and role playing to teach the children. There’s also a training component for parents so they can contribute to their children’s progress in the program.

PROMOTE! is based in Escondido thanks to a unique partnership between Vista Hill and the school district, according to Robert Dean, Vista Hill President and CEO. Vista Hill already had enjoyed a strong relationship with Escondido schools over the years through its Learning Assistance Center, which provides mental health services to students.

“We were surprised and gratified when we heard the principals of the 12 schools all signed a letter endorsing Vista Hill’s proposal to put PROMOTE! in their classrooms,” Dean says. “It was a tremendous vote of confidence in our abilities and I’m sure it played a role in the county funding our proposal.”

Dean says the partnership has been critical in facilitating the design and implementation of all program elements.

“Vista Hill’s close working relationship with the school district has allowed us to stretch the program’s resources to cover 12 schools and add services to nearly 2,500 youth participants, including 900 in small groups, 575 in family education programs, as well as provide support to 1,500 families,” Dean says. “Thanks to this wonderful partnership, all of PROMOTE!’s services are fully integrated and coordinated into the school district’s broader spectrum of mental health, counseling and family support and education resources.”
walls then came down and I was ultimately invited to their home, and over time it was almost like I became a member of the family.

“The end result was that the boy’s behavior improved dramatically, the teacher was amazed and he went on to have a normal school experience. The key was that I had to be persistent and show the family, especially the dad, that I could be trusted, that I was personally invested in their family, and that I would stay with them as long as it took to help their son.”

It’s the kind of success story Mojica is thrilled to see over and over in her work.

“It’s the reason I’ve always loved working with young children,” she says. “They’re at an age when they’re impressionable and eager to learn. It’s so exciting to go on a journey with these children, give them the best possible guidance and then watch them overcome their obstacles and become the kind of person their parents and teachers hoped they would become.”

Mojica is particularly grateful that she can do her work at Vista Hill.

“I am so lucky the passion my family gave me to help others is exactly the same passion Vista Hill and all its employees have for assisting our clients. And it’s not just the service providers like me. Everyone at Vista Hill, whether they work in payroll, human resources, facilities, fundraising or another department, is fully engaged and working together as one big family to meet the needs of our community with the best services we can deliver. I’m truly honored to be a part of such an important effort.”

Friends of Vista Hill Staff Member Retires after 30 Years

Friends of Vista Hill Donor Database Manager Beckie Van Houten is retiring at the end of December. “Beckie’s dedication to the organization and its success has been remarkable,” says Friends of Vista Hill Executive Director Rachel Peniche. “She has been a steady, reliable and capable employee who has maintained high standards and exceptional organizational skills. She has been a valuable team member and loyal friend to Vista Hill. Our staff and our donors respect and admire Beckie for her consistent stewardship and valiant ambassadorial leadership. She is always pleasant and friendly with everyone. Vista Hill is a better place because of Beckie and her legacy will be her amazingly detailed files and records. Thank you Beckie for a job well done!”

Mojica says the program has only been up and running a few months, but it’s already huge hit with both students and teachers.

“What’s amazing about PROMOTE! is that it has the ability to cover so many different areas critical to childhood development,” she says. “It teaches academic skills and social skills, like the importance of friendship, kindness, understanding and respect, but students also learn conflict management skills that help them cope with the wide variety of challenges they face both at school and home.

“I can’t tell you how thrilled the kids are when the puppets come out. They’re so engaged you can see them already beginning to learn new behaviors and attitudes. And teachers have been quick to embrace the program because they’re beginning to see the positive change in their kids. They also know it means their job in the classroom will be made a little easier as the youngsters’ behavior improves.

“The whole idea of PROMOTE! is to plant seeds with these children so they will grow and ultimately become successful, not just academically but socially and emotionally,” Mojica adds. “We’re really giving them a wonderful foundation for becoming functioning, contributing members of society. It’s going to take 10 or 15 years to be fully realized, but I’m really looking forward to seeing the lasting impact this program will have on these students’ lives.

Viviana Bunting, an unlicensed therapist intern with Vista Hill’s PROMOTE! program, uses a puppet to teach kids during a class at Farr Elementary School in Escondido.
ParentCare Family Recovery Center*
• Infants are born healthy — 100% of infants, born to ParentCare clients, were free of illicit substances at birth (exceeding county contract goal of 85%).
• Clients attain significant improvements in stability — at discharge, 78% report being employed or enrolled in school (as compared to a contract standard of 65%); 76% have a driver’s license and 57% have a checking account.

*intensive outpatient programs for substance use disorder, co-occurring (mental health) conditions, and parenting skills training for low-income parenting or pregnant women

Incredible Families Program*
• At completion of the Incredible Years curriculum, parents demonstrated significant reductions in harsh and inconsistent discipline (62%) and physical punishment (73%) and an increase in using praise with their children (64%).
• Five year study by San Diego Child Welfare Services (2009-2014) looked at 105 families in foster care. 80% of the families had at least one parent complete Incredible Families. The findings correlate program completion with successful reunification:
  • Reunification occurred nearly two months earlier than average.
  • Upon reunification and case completion over a 12-month period, 98% maintained status outside of the system.
  • Completing Incredible Families doubled the rate of successful reunification.

*county-wide evidence-based parenting skills training, mental health treatment for children ages 3-11 in foster care and therapeutic visitation program for the entire family

Stein Education Center*
• 160 special education students were served on the Stein Education campus in 2015.
• More than 94% of student’s academic goals were fully met or showed significant progress.
• More than 88% of behavioral goals were fully met or showed significant progress.

*special education and training for children, teens and adults with autism and other developmental/intellectual disabilities and behavioral challenges

Learning Assistance Center (LAC)*
• Services were delivered to 1,763 students in San Diego County school districts.
• 98% of LAC students demonstrated improvement in at least one domain of the Children Functional Assessment Rating Scales from intake to discharge. Domains include depression, anxiety, cognitive performance, etc.
• The average GPA of all students enrolled for LAC services improved by .66 letter grades in six months.
• 86% of youth reported meaningful improvement in behavior symptoms from intake to discharge; parents reported 81% meaningful improvement in their student’s behavior over the same period.

*school-based mental health services

Lauren — Proud ParentCare Graduate

My name is Lauren and I graduated from the ParentCare Family Recovery Center in East San Diego on May 5, 2016. When I came to ParentCare I was finally desperate for change. I was pregnant with my son and didn’t want to continue the path I was on. When I looked in the mirror I no longer recognized who was looking back at me. Due to my addiction I had lost sight of what I wanted in life. I had been in and out of treatment for years.

While attending ParentCare I took advantage of everything they had to offer. I participated in individual therapy, EMDR (eye movement desensitization and reprocessing), specialized groups on trauma and parenting groups. Throughout this process I was able to realize my intrinsic value. I got in touch with what mattered to me and what I wanted out of life. My addiction was just the symptom of a larger and deeper problem. ParentCare not only provided me with the tools and foundation I needed to get clean, they also helped me work through the trauma.

In addition to treatment, I found lasting friendships and bonds with the other women at ParentCare. After graduation I continued to participate in the ParentCare Alumni Group. The connection, unity and sisterhood that it continues to provide after graduation is invaluable.

I now have three years clean and sober and I am currently in college. I am majoring in psychology. I aspire to help heal others the way I was healed at ParentCare. I have a wonderful relationship with my two children and partner. I am immensely grateful for every moment of my life today and I am incredibly thankful for Vista Hill and ParentCare.

92% of contributions go back to the community we serve.
On September 29th longtime Vista Hill supporters Sheila and Jeffrey Lipinsky hosted the Gala Patron Party in their very comfortable La Jolla home. Vista Hill Gala committee members, honorary committee members, sponsors, underwriters and Vista Hill staff gathered to celebrate the upcoming Gala and the end of another great year at Vista Hill (fiscal year end is September 30).

Our intent is to make these intimate gatherings a celebration of appreciation for the generosity of our loyal patrons. We also cherish the opportunity this provides to share our client successes and all that has been achieved in the past year with our treasured donors and special friends. That is the cherry on top!

Speaking of food, the special themed menu designed for this soiree was created by Gala Co-Chair and Crown Point Catering owner Vicki Hamilton. The fried chicken and waffles and bananas foster sure did hit the sweet spot. It wasn’t just the sugar that sweetened the enchanting event, the camaraderie among long-time Vista Hill supporters was really endearing.

“By the end of the evening, everyone became one big Vista Hill Family,” said Sheila Lipinsky, who added, “It was a true pleasure to host this event.”
Vista Hill’s 27th Annual Gala — How Sweet it Was!

Vista Hill’s 27th Annual Gala, “Celebrating the Sweet Life” held on Saturday, October 22, was filled with sugar and spice and everything nice! Vista Hill darlings Connie Conard and Friends of Vista Hill Board Chair Vicki Hamilton delightfully co-chaired the fun and fanciful evening.

One of Vista Hill’s sweethearts, Virginia Napierskie, chaired the Gala Honorary Committee and with the other honorary committee sweetie pies supported the gala by lending their names and their support. Together with the entire gala committee they created a whimsical and wonderfully successful event raising $265,000 for Vista Hill programs and services.

The 200 gala attendees enjoyed many sweet treats including delicious savory appetizers served in mini cones and cupcake wrappers, a photo booth that printed the images on cookies and surprise favors that were candy-filled balls passed out by Oompa Loompas.

Vista Hill was very pleased to bestow its highest honor, the IMBY (In My Back Yard) Award, to Jim S. and Marilyn Creson Brown for their decades of service not only to Vista Hill but the entire San Diego Community. Jim and Marilyn and their family have been sweethearts to Vista Hill for many years. They have faithfully and diligently provided civic service to the communities in San Diego, including Jim’s role on the Vista Hill Board since 1989 (serving as Chairman from 1997 to 2007) and the Sharp Memorial Hospital Board from 1998 to 2007.

The Browns have also provided service and leadership in their capacities on a number of nonprofit boards including the San Diego and Imperial County chapters of the American Red Cross, The Old Globe Theatre, the San Diego Symphony, Private Industry Council and the San Diego Chamber of Commerce. Jim is also a major contributor to San Diego State University and is a past member of the SDSU Alumni Association Board of Directors and a Rotary Club of San Diego member since 1980.

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors recognized the Browns’ dedication to fostering community participation making them valuable assets not only to the Vista Hill Foundation but to the entire community. They therefore proclaimed October 22, 2016 “Jim Silberrad and Marilyn Creson Brown Day” throughout San Diego County and commended them for outstanding service, leadership and commitment to area residents.

The entire evening came together like a piece of cake thanks to the hard working Vista Hill staff and volunteers who put together all the delectable details.
Our Gala Goody Two-Shoes Supporters:
Audrey S. Geisel/Dr. Seuss Fund
Carole Sachs
Darlene Marcos Shiley
Virginia Napierskie
Mary Alice & Ron Brady

The Vista Hill Board of Directors
Thomas J. & Theodora Lynch
Fleming Foundation
Sydney Kinsella, Arthur L. Funk & Joan A. Funk Family
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Susan Straub

We are sweet on all our Gala Sponsors, Underwriters and Donors! We couldn’t do it without YOU!
Dear Friends,

You attend our events, contribute financially, volunteer your time, make in-kind contributions and tell your friends and associates about our important work. We hope you know how much we appreciate all you do and how grateful we are for your support. **We thank you, and we salute you!**

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Mary Alice and Ron Brady/
Grimer's Impossible Journey Fund
Valerie and Harry Cooper Fund
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Barbie and Dan Spinazzola
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Anonymous (1)
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Helen Beckman*
Sheila Belinsky
H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation
Lucille* and Howard Brotman

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California Community Foundation
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First American Trust
First 5 Commission of San Diego
Thomas J. and Theodora Lynch Fleming Foundation
Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism, Inc.
Samuel I. and John Henry Fox Foundation
Estate of Thomas C. Frank
Galinson Family Foundation of the Jewish Community Foundation
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Robin and Larry Gitman
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Henry Hague
Cheryl and Howard Hassman
Betsy and Warren Haviland
Hervey Family Fund
Ingrid Hibben
Linda and Jerry Hirshberg
Diane Hollingsworth
Patricia Holmes
The James Irvine Foundation
Margaret Jackson and Neil Hadfield
Rise Johnson
Diane and William Keltner
Barbara and Neil* Kjos
Lael and Jay Kovtun

* indicates donor is deceased

Randy Schimka and Melynie Whitener are all smiles at their first Vista Hill Gala.
Las Primeras
Lipin Family Foundation
Jeffrey and Sheila Lipinsky Foundation
Marsh Risk and Insurance Services
Linda Marteenny* 
Peggy Matthews
McCarthy Family Foundation/Jane and Tim McCarthy
Ronald McDonald House Charities
Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Foundation
Ann Mound
Lynn and Fred Muto
National Foundation for Autism Research
Margaret E. Oser Foundation
Shital and Manish Parikh
Rachel Peniche
Philip Morris Company
Debra McGinty-Poteet and Larry Poteet
Art & Jeanette Pratt
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Please note: Space limitations prevent us from naming all donors, but we hope you know that every dollar contributed, all the in-kind donations and each volunteer hour spent at Vista Hill means the world to us. We sincerely apologize for any unintentional errors. Please feel free to notify us if you detect a mistake at 858-514-5151. Thank you.

* indicates donor is deceased
There’s only one thing more spectacular than the Belardo Lights Christmas Lights this holiday season, and that’s knowing the donations collected through this amazing display will once again benefit Vista Hill’s Stein Education Center.

Randy Schimka, whose son Brandon is a former Stein Education Center student, came up with the idea for the display more than a decade ago as a way to connect with his son. “Brandon has autism and was prone to tantrums during outings with the family,” his dad recalls. “But all that changed when I took him to see some local Christmas light displays. He loved it and even asked to visit a second time, which was unheard of. He was just so excited by all the lights and decorations, and to this day I’m not really sure where it all came from, but I ran with it.”

Delighted with his son’s newly found interest, Randy and Brandon started working on a holiday lighting display of their own at their home in Tierrasanta. It started off small, but over the years the display has grown to over 100,000 lights, with mostly home-built decorations, and the whole display is computer controlled, synchronized to music, and broadcast on FM 106.1 for visitors to hear.

Randy designs the display decorations and many of them are built by Brandon and Grandpa Joe Schimka in his woodshop/metal shop, with Randy doing the electrical work to bring them to life. The family has even built a full-size animated Snowman and Snow woman that move and talk.

Belardo Lights doesn’t charge admission, but does enable visitors to make donations. “We’re really excited that Belardo Lights will once again benefit the Stein Center because it’s such a wonderful community resource,” Randy says. “Stein Center has provided critically important help to Brandon and countless other children and families with autism and other disabilities for many years. We’d like to invite as many people as possible come out to see the display this holiday season and hope they’ll donate to such an important cause.”

Belardo Lights is located in Tierrasanta Norte at 5306 Belardo Drive and will be operational this year every night this holiday season from 6 to 10 p.m. through December 26th.

For more information visit the website: www.BelardoLights.com.
Vista Hill Partners with San Diego Children’s Discovery Museum

Vista Hill’s Incredible Families Program in North County has established a wonderful partnership with the San Diego Children’s Discovery Museum. Using the “Incredible Years” evidence-based parenting model, parents and children (in foster care) are involved in mental health services, parenting skills training and visitation events which take place at the museum once a week for fifteen weeks. Upon “graduating” from the program, the San Diego Children’s Discovery Museum gives a free annual Family Membership to each family. This is a great incentive and opportunity for the families to utilize the educational activities the museum provides.

Vista Hill Welcomes New Board Members

Two outstanding community leaders have been appointed to serve on the Vista Hill Board and the Friends of Vista Hill Board.

Raymond Uzeta, who has served for more than two decades as President and CEO of the Chicano Federation of San Diego County, has been named to the Vista Hill Board of Directors. Uzeta also worked for Access Center of San Diego, United Cerebral Palsy Association in San Francisco, and the Center for Independent Living in Berkeley. He has served on the boards of many local community organizations, including United Way of San Diego County, San Diego Association of Non-Profits, Access to Independence, Non-Profit Management Solutions and Health Way of San Diego.

Pam Palmer-Lowe, the newest member of the Friends of Vista Hill Board, is a Certified Interior Designer. Originally from Ohio, Palmer Lowe moved to San Diego in 1983. She previously managed restaurants for Sheraton for many years. Currently Pam volunteers at Vista Hill’s ParentCare by utilizing her creativity to create art projects for the clients. She has also volunteered for The Salvation Army Women’s Auxiliary and has been on the board of the Visions Art Museum for three years.

Vista Hill Apartments honored as County’s Program of the Year

Vista Hill Apartments was recently honored as the San Diego County Behavioral Health Services’ Residential Program of the Year for 2016! Angela Rowe, Senior Director of Vista Hill’s Family Treatment & Recovery Services, accepted the honor at a gala awards dinner. Vista Hill is grateful to Audrey Geisel for investing in this imperative program for many years.
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Friday, May 5, 2017
Vista Hill’s 26th Annual Fashion Show
Double Oh Siete – (007)
Chair: Kamaya Jane
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Saturday, October 14, 2017
Vista Hill’s 28th Annual Gala
60th Anniversary Celebration
Ambassador Award Honorees:
Gayle & Tom Allen, Barb & Charley Crew,
Debra McGinty-Poteet & Larry Poteet

Please help us celebrate Vista Hill’s 60th Anniversary in 2017!

For more information about sponsorship and underwriting opportunities or to contribute, visit www.vistahill.org or call 858.514.5151

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