



## President's Message

Dear Friends,

As we begin another new year, I can't help but be excited for what 2023 will bring. The world is starting to open back up fully, which means that our clients and staff can enjoy a little more "normalcy."

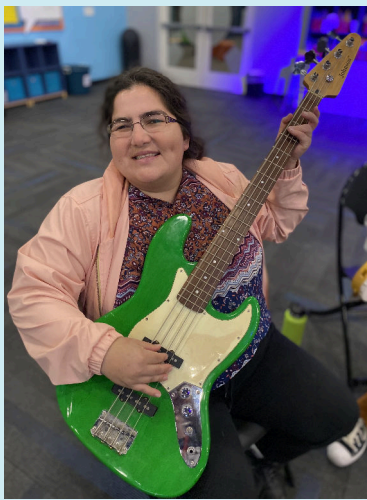
December saw the return of holiday parties for our residents, and the excitement and joy with which each person experienced their parties made it very clear that they are the reason we do this job.

In January, HGH had an extraordinary opportunity to host a free pop-rock concert for the special needs community, thanks to long-time donors and philanthropists Dave and Charlene Walker, who sponsored the event.

The night saw 2 hours of great music provided by El Cajon Mayor Bill Wells and his band, and a few memorable performances from Banding Together, a nonprofit that brings music opportunities to those with special needs in our community. They, along with Mayor Wells and his band, led a sing-along

*continued*

## A Special Concert



*A "Banding Together" musician.*

On January 14th, HGH was able to be a part of putting together a memorable night of music for the special needs community.

The "Bill Wells and His Special Friends" concert saw El Cajon Mayor Bill Wells and his band perform many popular songs like the Eagles' "Tequila Sunrise," Al Stewart's "Year of the Cat," and Neil Young's "Harvest Moon."

The nonprofit organization, Banding Together, made a special appearance on stage for two songs.

Banding Together's mission is to bring unique music opportunities to individuals with special needs in our community. Their band of musicians and singers, along with Mayor Wells and his band, brought the house down with their final joint number, Jason Mraz's "Have It All."

Toward the end of the evening, Dave Walker, along with his wife, Charlene, auctioned off two Taylor guitars signed by Jason Mraz. The proceeds from the auction went to Banding Together. The guitars were auctioned off at an incredible \$4,500 each!

The Walker Family Foundation donated the money to pay for the concert. This included payment for the special needs musicians and their families to get to and from the theater due to rising gas prices.

Despite the heavy rain and windy weather that day, droves of people came out and enjoyed a night of pop-rock and fun. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a great success!



*From left to right, Mayor Bill Wells and Dave Walker.*

# Temple Grandin



From left to right, Liane Wilson, Edward Hershey, and Dr. Temple Grandin

In December, HGH received a holiday treat with a visit from author and motivational speaker, Dr. Temple Grandin, who came to speak to our staff and clients.

Dr. Grandin is the author of “Emergence: Labeled Autistic,” which gives an inside narrative by someone diagnosed with autism.

She is a prominent author with several books and is a professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University, where she has been honored with a sculpture housed within the JBS Global Food Innovation Center on the campus.

Dr. Grandin writes and speaks on both autism and animal behavior, and is a consultant on livestock handling equipment design and animal welfare.

She won a “Proggy” award in the “Visonary” category from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals in 2004, and was named a fellow of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers in 2009.

To learn more about Dr. Grandin and her incredible work, visit [templegrandin.com](http://templegrandin.com).

# Get To Know Mary

HGH welcomes our new Chief Financial Officer, Mary Ruvalcaba.

Mary takes over the CFO position from Jan Adams, who retired at the end of last year after 26 years of service to HGH.

She is responsible for six full-time finance/accounting employees and oversees a 30- million dollar

budget. She has called San Diego home for 14- years, ten of which she has worked for Home of Guiding Hands. Mary graduated from the University of Utah with her Bachelor’s degree in Accounting, and she is a graduate of the prestigious National Leadership Consortium.

Mary enjoys reading books and watching movies in her spare time, and is a proud mother of two teenage daughters.



## President’s Message *continued*

for the final number, and it brought the house down! We also had the unique opportunity of auctioning off two Taylor guitars that were signed by Jason Mraz. The proceeds from the auction went to Banding Together, and we raised \$9,000 for them through the auction.

Finally, we had the opportunity to put on another North Park Pub Crawl in February, which was the best yet. Again, the Pub Crawl committee organized a great event, allowing us to enjoy a carefree, fun-filled day in North Park together.

As we move forward, we are committed to continuing our efforts to create positive change and make a difference in the lives of those we serve. We understand that the challenges we face are complex and require a collaborative approach. We are committed to working with you, our partners, to address these challenges and find solutions that benefit everyone.

In Service,  
Edward Hershey

# Holiday Joy

In December, Santa Ron entertained clients from Castillo Verde, Bisby Lake, and Greencastle homes. Each person was able to sit with Santa and receive a holiday gift, sponsored by the Santee-Lakeside Rotary Club.

The clients and their family members enjoyed a delicious meal from Buck Board Catering, hot

chocolate, games, and lots of laughter. After being unable to have large get-togethers like this for a while, the clients loved spending time with their friends from other homes.

These moments remind us just how important our work is at HGH. Thank you to all who made this possible!



# Crawling Through North Park



February 11th marked our 4th North Park Pub Crawl-and what a success it was! Over 180 people joined us for a few hours of drinks, food and fun!

Festivities started at North Park Beer Co., where “crawlers” enjoyed their first round of beers.

At 2:00 pm, we crawled down the street to True North Tavern, where guests enjoyed delicious food catered by the restaurant Encontro, along with another round of drinks.

Our last stop was Mike Hess Brewing. The final beers were served, pizza was eaten, the \$250 Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse raffle prize was awarded, and guests left with a shirt, a commemorative pint glass, and hopefully some new friends!

A special thank you goes out to our shirt sponsor, The Cislo Family, our pint glass sponsor, Trivant Custom Portfolio Group, and food sponsor, HUB International. Thank you also to our printing sponsors, Edward and Jessica Hershey, the USD Knauss School of Business, Judy Anderson and Jamie Nicole Events.



Home of Guiding Hands

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**13TH ANNUAL 2023**  
**Randy Jones Run/Walk For**  
**INDEPENDENCE**  
 Run, Walk & Roll  
[www.randyjonesrunwalk.org](http://www.randyjonesrunwalk.org)

**Save The Date!**  
**Saturday, April 22nd**  
**Crown Point Park**  
**9:00am**

**Board of Directors** (as of Dec 2022)

**Officers:**

- Trevor Yates  
*President*
- Cindi Harris  
*Vice President*
- Kirk Ehrhart  
*Secretary/Second V.P.*
- Michael Harris  
*Treasurer*
- Rick Doremus  
*Immediate Past President*

**Members:**

- Paul Botte
- Sam McGovern
- Debby McNeil
- Rachelle Domingo-Rogers
- Ben Trovaten

**Milestone Staff Anniversaries** (Dec-Feb)

*Thank you for your years of dedication!*

**5 YEARS**

- Jolinda Bone
- Isua Airham Camarena
- Carmen Sanchez Carboni
- Nancy Cardenas
- Madalin Garcia Robles
- Keekay Hernandez
- Kadesha Latrice Martin
- Bonifacia McNabb
- Elizabeth Pinela
- Ruben Rios, III

**10 YEARS**

- Carole Boyce
- Mary Ruvalcaba

**15 YEARS**

- Lynda Gay
- Karen Hanson

**41 YEARS**

- Steve Grieger

**48 YEARS**

- Teresa Boisvert



Please Donate

**When you give to HGH, 85.9 cents of every dollar you goes directly back to our programs and services.**  
HGH programs and services support more than 4,200 individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities each year. Be our partner in honoring, advocating for, and empowering these amazing individuals.  
Make a donation at [www.guidinghands.org](http://www.guidinghands.org)

**Our Mission:**

To improve the lives of those we serve.

**Our Vision:**

To be recognized as the premier provider of a dynamic spectrum of individualized services supporting persons with special needs.