



President's Message

Dear Friends,

As we close out this fiscal year, I want to express my gratitude for your unwavering support and reflect on our remarkable accomplishments together.

I am proud to say that this fiscal year has been one of the most successful in our organization's history. Through your support, we have profoundly impacted the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities providing them with essential services, programs, and opportunities for growth and independence. Together, we have expanded our reach, enhanced the quality of care we provide, and created a nurturing environment where everyone feels valued and empowered.

None of these achievements would have been possible without your belief in our mission and dedication to making a difference.

Your ongoing support, whether through financial contributions, volunteerism, or advocacy, has driven our accomplishments. Your commitment to our cause and trust

continued

A Magical Day



Back row from left to right: Erika Gomez, Jill Perry, Esmeralda Gomez, Aimee Morrison, and Beth. Front row from left to right: Janis, Norine, and Candace.

Recently, our dedicated team at Castillo Verde home organized a magical group trip to Disneyland, creating an unforgettable experience for the ladies who live at the home.

Our team worked tirelessly to ensure that every aspect of the trip was meticulously planned and executed. From transportation arrangements to accessible accommodations and tailored itineraries, every detail was carefully considered to ensure the comfort and enjoyment of the Castillo Verde ladies.

Our staff collaborated closely with Disneyland staff to create a truly inclusive experience, ensuring that our group could fully embrace the park's magic.

The impact of this trip on our clients was nothing short of extraordinary.

The sheer joy and excitement radiating from their faces as they walked through the gates of Disneyland was a sight to behold. For many, it was their first visit to the park, and the sense of wonder and awe was palpable. They immersed themselves in the enchantment of the attractions, parades, and characters, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Beyond the magical moments, this trip fostered our participants' sense of belonging and empowerment. It provided them a platform to showcase their abilities and navigate the park independently, enhancing their

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Meet Thom



Thom Finni, the new VP of Human Resources, has gained over 25 years of experience in HR after beginning his career in staffing and recruiting in Boston, MA.

Moving back home to California in 2002, he transitioned to HR management roles encompassing all areas of HR practice and a wide range of industries, including wholesale distribution, insurance, telecom, SaaS, online education, municipal government, and defense contracting.

Additionally, he has extensive experience as a trainer for compliance, recruiting and interviewing, resume writing, open enrollment, and HR best practices.

He has defined his career with his adherence to high ethical standards and integrity while striving to balance the needs of employees with those of the company.

Thom earned his Bachelor's degree at Vassar College, where he studied Sociology and Media Studies. In addition to winning the Rising Star Award from the Santa Barbara Human Resources Association for designing and implementing an ESL Program for Spanish-speaking employees, he is also a Senior Certified Professional in Human Resources from the Society of Human Resource Management.

13th Annual Run/Walk

On April 22nd, at the **13th Annual Randy Jones Run/Walk & Roll for Independence**, over 300 participants helped raise money for the individuals that Home of Guiding Hands serve!

Randy Jones was in full swing signing autographs and posing for the camera with several of his fans. John & Tammy of **KSON** were out supporting the event with announcements and cheers for the runners & walkers.

It was a memorable day for everyone and we're so thankful for your support!



John & Tammy of KSON pose with Randy Jones.



Run/Walk & Roll participants head off at the shotgun start!



HGH staff get ready to hand out medals to each participant as they cross the finish line.



Padres volunteers pose with Randy. Their help was invaluable this year!

President's Message *continued*

us fuel our determination to continue pushing the boundaries and striving for excellence.

I am optimistic and excited about the future as we enter a new fiscal year. Together, we will build upon the foundation of success we have established, continuously improving and expanding our services to meet the evolving needs of our community.

Once again, I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your incredible support. Through your compassion, generosity, and collaboration, we can make a difference in the lives of those we serve. We will continue to create a brighter and more inclusive future for all.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Edward Hershey

A Magical Day continued...

confidence and self-esteem.

They interacted with fellow park-goers, forming connections and breaking down barriers, promoting the inclusivity we strive for in all aspects of our work.



Essie & Beth in front of the Millennium Falcon.



Candace, Janis, and Aimee Morrison enjoying the Cars ride!



Beth loved Pixar Pier!



Essie was so excited to meet the one and only, Minnie Mouse!



Back row from left to right: Beth, Essie, Aimee, Jill, Esmeralda, and Erika. Front row from left to right: Norine, Candace and Janis.



Pirates of the Caribbean was a huge hit with everyone! Top photo: Janis and Beth. Bottom photo: Esmeralda, Jill and Candace.



Twitter Handle: @GuidingHands_
Instagram handle: homeofguidinghands

Prefer to get the newsletter via email? Let us know at info@guidinghands.org. You may also view our newsletter online at www.guidinghands.org.



SAVE THE DATE!
Friday, October 27, 2023
8:00am Registration/Check-In
9:00am Shotgun Start
Singing Hills Golf Resort at Sycuan
For more info, visit:
hghgolfclassic.org

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 (Mar-May)

Thank you for your years of dedication!

5 YEARS

Catalina Almeida
German Angulo
Alicia Antonia Ayon
Estella Betancourt
Lonnie Brugman
Adrian Carrillo
Matthew Clingan
Tomo Goda
Natalia Grau
Joselyn Hurtado
Claudia Veronica Moreno
Gina Nevarez
Magdalena Perez
Diego A. Retana
Aracelie Rosiles Tapia
Judy Villa
Katherine Wagner

10 YEARS

Rhonda Chavez
Howard Davis
Gary Gardner
Robert Jones
Rosa Vasquez

15 YEARS

Rubelyn Dela Cruz
Roxana Gores



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

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.