

Top photograph by Jurek Zarzycki



# Serra Center *Scoop*

*Look what you did!*

Because of you, the individuals we serve are living their  
*lives* to the *fullest*



Avery



Sophia



Bruce

INSIDE: *Clients* on the *move!*



# Corner

LISA SENADENOS



Every day I am so thankful for the vision of Assemblymember Frank D. Lanterman, who in 1966 co-authored legislation that is now known as the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (a.k.a. the Lanterman Act). Through Lanterman, the State of California promises to *"...accept a responsibility for persons with developmental disabilities and an obligation to them which it must discharge."*

This legislation has been instrumental in the development of California's community-based service system, empowering thousands of intellectually-disabled individuals with the choice and authority to make decisions about their own lives and live successfully in their home communities.

It's painful for me to imagine a time that existed when the extended family I have come to know through my service with Serra Center were viewed with such disregard and without rights. My experiences have been that these individuals are kind, hard-working and possess a determination to succeed beyond measure.

For all the progress that Lanterman has provided since its inception 52 years ago, the state has struggled to keep up with a financial vision that supports the Lanterman promise. Today our developmentally disabled community is facing serious challenges with rising housing costs and a work force crisis. While the state's current budget surplus is nearly \$9 billion -- the largest in 18 years -- the budget fails to fill the significant gaps between the needs and available services. A report by the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities provides a shocking awareness and understanding of the workforce crisis and its implications on the developmentally disabled community and the overall U.S. economy: <http://www.serracenter.org/2017-pcpid-full-report/>

The average salary of Serra Center's direct support workforce is \$13.00 per hour, barely keeping ahead of the rising minimum wage. Of the 65 clients who receive Independent and Supported Living Services, 80% are able to support themselves and live in the home of their choice due to a Section 8 voucher or subsidized housing benefit. While housing development is on the rise, the availability of affordable housing is declining. Many of the individuals we serve are being priced out of their home communities due to escalating rents beyond their housing benefit coverage. Our workforce and affordable housing options are vital to the operations and existence of Serra Center's services.

**What would happen to the individuals we serve if Serra Center ceased to exist?** The time to act is now. Here's how you can help:

- **ADVOCATE:** We need collective advocacy to elected officials for systemic change. <http://www.supportedliving.com/page-1646829>
- **STAY INFORMED:** <https://www.dds.ca.gov/>; <https://www.rceb.org/>
- **DONATE:** Time, talents and resources to support Serra Center's mission.

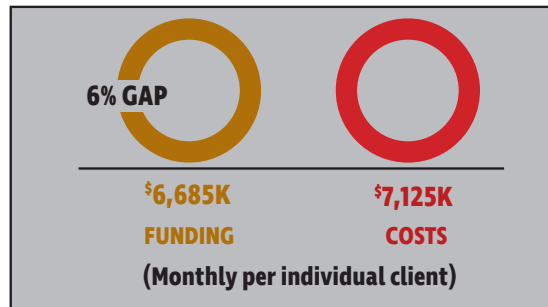
Thank you!

# You may not know...

**In 2017:**  
**You helped us provide 9,948 hours of service to our 88 clients...**  
*Keeping them safe, healthy & living full lives.*

Serra Center spends \$7,125K per month for each individual in our residential care homes to provide 24-hour room, board, personal care, habilitation, developmental, and supportive health services. This specialized care is similar to skilled nursing services where we provide an RN, an MD and consultants such as a Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Dietician, Recreation Therapist, Pharmacist.

**Government funding and program support cover just 94% of our costs.**



**That's a shortfall of \$440 per month per individual. You can help us maintain this premium care by joining our monthly giving club. Every gift will help fill this gap.**

# You can make a difference

- **Become an ambassador to help provide outreach to our community**
- **Volunteer as a client companion or visitor**
- **Help with fundraising events or admin. tasks**
- **Donate cash or in-kind gifts**

**For more information, please contact Leslie McGarry: 510-477-1000 x130 or [lmcgarry@serracenter.org](mailto:lmcgarry@serracenter.org)**

## YOU HELP US MEET OUR CLIENTS' NEEDS at EACH STEP



Meyrelen (staff) & Michelle

*As many of us care for maturing loved ones, aging with dignity while remaining safe is imperative yet not easily attained. Here's a heart-warming success story that your support made possible.*

*Michelle*, a Serra Center client for 13 years, was recently living in her own home in Hayward.

Serra Center staff provided 10 hours of services weekly and she was doing well.

Then, on one of her regular neighborhood walks, she fell. Fortunately, she was not badly hurt but her confidence was shaken. She rehabilitated in a skilled nursing facility with Serra Centers' support throughout.

As her release date neared and she was to return home, she did not feel safe living alone. Our care team came up with a solution: for her to join other Serra Center clients living in one of our residential care homes in Fremont. These homes are Intermediate Care Facilities with six clients per home and a 24-hour staff including nurses and doctors -- the gold standard of care.

Michelle was very receptive to this move for two reasons:

- She felt **safe and secure** staying with Serra Center's care team
- She wanted to live with a **community of peers** and Fremont was her home town.

Michelle handled the move like a trooper and it was certainly the right decision for her. She's adapted to her new home beautifully. It's been over a month and she's very happy to be with housemates with whom she gets along famously. She quickly became part of the family.

Aging in place is a major benefit that Serra Center can provide for our clients. Many individuals come to us at a young age and as their needs change, we're there at every juncture to meet them. We provide stability, and always with dignity, respect and choice.

**Everyone deserves this continuity and level of care!**



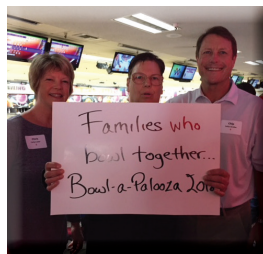
### WE HAD A BALL

It was a lively bunch -- exactly what we hoped for! Our Bowl-a-Palooza is always a hit with the clients, many of whom bowl each week. And with the Kaiser Permanente team, Fremont Bank and the Fremont Police Department on hand, the action really revved up.

Sixty guests in all were bowling, rooting, enjoying pizza and scooping up raffle tickets.



Dana & Fremont Councilmember Rick Jones & Police Captain Washington



Chris, Cathy & Chip Covell



Andris & Teo Skuja

#### SPONSORS





# UNSUNG Heroes

## BRUCE and MARY ISOBEL GREENWOOD:

Foster parents for two of the treasured people we serve -- and many more!

Bruce and Mary lived in Fremont for 50+ years, where they were foster parents to 55 children, many who were disabled (in addition to their four natural children).

These angels were blessed with Todd (*above left*) at two days old and Lori (*above right*) at three years old. In between there were many other children they loved and encouraged to triumph over life's obstacles.

Bruce (*above center*) says it was a bustling home with nine kids at the highest point.

When Todd and Lori were ready to move out, Serra Center found them affordable housing and helped with life skills such as cooking, bill paying, navigating medical and social services -- all the tasks of living on one's own.

Todd worked at Target for years and both he and Lori were in Special Olympics and active in the community.

Bruce and Todd are now moving to Utah to be with family while Lori will stay here where she has two sisters.

*Farewell Todd, we'll miss you dearly.*

**SERRA CENTER SERVICES GOT TODD WHERE HE IS TODAY, LIVING INDEPENDENTLY.** -- Bruce Greenwood

Serra Center presents



*Celebrating the talents of individuals with disabilities*

## SAVE *the* DATE

Thursday, Sept. 13, 5:30pm to 7:30pm

**Artist Place** 3888 Artist Walk Common, Fremont

**Meet the artists ♥ Art Auction ♥ Appetizers & wine ♥ Raffle**

*Culminating a 16-week art workshop for our Serra Center artists sponsored by the Olive Hyde Art Guild and the City of Fremont*



**SPONSORS TO DATE** (there's still time to join the group!)



**Dr. and Mrs. Stu Zeman & Robin Nicole Beauty Bar**

**Alameda County Supervisor Richard Valle**

**INFO: Leslie McGarry: 510-477-1000 x130 or [lmcgarry@serracenter.org](mailto:lmcgarry@serracenter.org) TICKETS/DONATE: [http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Heart\\_Soul](http://weblink.donorperfect.com/Heart_Soul)**

### SERRA CENTER

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