



Beth
Longwell
Foundation

Newsletter

January 2011

2010 Auction and Dinner



On Thursday, October 21, the Beth Longwell Foundation hosted its third annual dinner and silent auction. This year's event was at the beautiful Fremont Hills Country Club in Los Altos Hills, CA. As I drove home that evening there were three key things that I took away from the dinner: 1) people are generous, 2) the foundation is making a difference, and 3) I hope I don't get lost getting back to the freeway.

As I stood among the attendees and silent auction items, I realized that even during these tough economic times our donors' generosity was overwhelming. Not only

were there over one hundred people in attendance, there were also over one hundred silent auction items. People were enjoying themselves as they bid on a variety of silent auction items including a Paris vacation, autographed TV scripts and sports memorabilia, and San Francisco Giant tickets. It was fun to browse the items and decide what to bid on. During the last five minutes of the auction, it was like a live version of e-Bay with people staking claim to their soon to be owned items.

My second take away was that the foundation is making a difference. As we enjoyed

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• FEATURED GRANTEE •



Family Connections

Each year we are honored to award grants to organizations whose mission parallels that of the Foundation's. In 2010 we awarded a grant to Family Connections of San Carlos, a tuition-free pre-school program, that benefits hundreds of low-income families. Recently we had the opportunity to talk with Renee Zimmerman, Executive Director of Family Connections, about their organization and how they used the Foundation's grant funds.

With three locations in Redwood City, East Palo Alto, and in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, Family Connections emphasizes parent participation in education. The parents are principally English language learners, who have not completed high school and are not typically involved in the education process. A unique feature of Family Connections is their Parent Participation Pre-School Program that educates and promotes active

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Start the New Year with a Donation

Get a jump-start on the 2011 tax year by making a tax-deductible donation to the foundation. To make a donation, visit www.bethlongwellfoundation.org or you can mail a check payable to the Beth Longwell Foundation to P.O. Box 50457, Palo Alto, CA 94303



Children's Musical Theater performs at our auction night.

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a delicious meal with wine, we heard from Family Connections, the Montalvo Arts Center, singers from the Children's Musical Theater, as well as a student from San Miguel Elementary School who spoke of her love of reading. Each grantee described how they are using the awarded funds to help impact others. For example, Family Connections is directly impacting children by

providing low-income families with early childhood education. The Montalvo Arts Center is impacting children indirectly by hosting a conference to provide teachers with professional development in arts education. As I sat and listened, I appreciated the fact that each dollar is helping someone out there that perhaps would not have been helped.

My third take away was to remember to look at a map prior to venturing out to a new event venue. The Fremont Hills Country Club is in a beautifully serene area of Los Altos Hills with lots of foliage, small street signs, and very few streetlights. I loved the setting of this year's event but need to remember how to get there if the event is held there again next year.

The dinner and silent auction was a wonderful evening out. It gave me the opportunity to mingle with friends and acquaintances, take home some great auction items and enjoy a delicious meal, but for me it was what I took away and reflected on during my drive home that made it an exceptional evening. I can't wait until next year.

Our Apologies - We'd like to extend a special thank you for the lovely flowers donated by *Mills the Florist* in Palo Alto; they were inadvertently left out of the dinner program.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED TO OUR SILENT AUCTION

Jack Adler • Stella Alexandre • Alta Fine Contemporary Clothing, Menlo Park • Amici's Pizzeria, Mountain View • Bay Area Discovery Museum, Sausalito • Beach Blanket Babylon, San Francisco • Berkeley Repertory Theater • Susan Berman • Flo Braker • Brian Davino Florist, Los Altos • Lola Borrego • Buck's of Woodside • Cabot Creamery, Cabot, VT • Dotty Calabrese • California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco • Sharon Carroll • Chardonnay Sailing Charters, Santa Cruz • Cheeky Monkey, Menlo Park • Children's Musical Theater, San Jose • Children's Discovery Museum, San Jose • Classic Kids Photography, Los Gatos • Clos La Chance Winery • Shoshanah and Collin Cohen • Kate Costanza • Warren Court • Coyote Point Museum, San Mateo • de Young and Legion of Honor Museums • diPietro Todd Salon, Palo Alto • FastFrame, Los Altos • The Fish Market, Palo Alto • Louise Fiszler • Lynn Gardner • Gilroy Gardens • Gleim Jewelers, Palo Alto • GoKart Indoor Racing, Burlingame • Great America, Santa Clara • Deborah Gutof • Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, San Jose • Hawgs Seafood Restaurant, Campbell • John and Reo Haynes • Hidden Villa, Los Altos • Hobee's Restaurant, Palo Alto • Home & Garden, Menlo Park • Joel Hornstock • Hyehon Moon Photographer, San Francisco • infineon Raceway • J. Lohr Vineyards and Wines • The Jeweler, Menlo Park • Geraldine Kane • Richard A. Kashnow • The Kitchen Table Restaurant, Mountain View • Laser Quest, Mountain View • Jim and Lisa Levitas • Felecia Levy • Hildy Licht • Pauline Liebowicz • Anna Longwell • Longwell & Associates • Lucie Mates • Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca • Samara Meir-Levi • David Lee Milgram • Mills the Florist, Palo Alto • Montalvo Arts Center • Mountain Winery, Saratoga • Napastyle, Los Gatos • Marti Nice • Opera San Jose • Merle Orelove • Peninsula Box Office, Palo Alto • Robert Petersen • Pinkies Nail Salon, Los Altos • Carol and Tom Platner • Leslie Popelka • Janis Popp • Prestige, Inc. Women's Clothing, Palo Alto • Marci Proietto • The Retro Dome, San Jose • Paul and Sheri Robbins • Rosewood Hotel and Resort, Stanford • David Ross and Nancy Stern • San Francisco Ballet • San Francisco Giants • San Jose Giants • San Jose Improv Comedy Club • San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles • Pat and Clarence Santana • Diane Satoda • Arna Shefrin • Sheldon of Los Altos • Noelle Shipley • Sky High Jump, Santa Clara • Ellen Snider • Stanford Terrace Inn, Palo Alto • Shirley Stevens • Sunnyvale School District • Textures Hair Salon, Menlo Park • Theatre Works, Palo Alto • Trio Therapy, San Jose • Varisport, Inc., Northbrook, IL • Walt Disney Family Museum • Wax Museum, San Francisco • Whole Foods, Los Altos • Winchester Mystery House

(Family Connections, cont'd from pg. 1)

participation of parents in their child's learning. "By building the parent's knowledge and understanding, as well as self-esteem and self-confidence they can go into the system and feel like equal partners in the education process." We asked Ms. Zimmerman to describe for us the mission and purpose of their organization. "We prepare parents for their child's entry into the K-12 system. They are ready to be engaged, involved and to be leaders in their child's school which strengthens school districts that may not be as strong as some of the higher income districts. We hope we are transforming communities with our work." Ms. Zimmerman also gave us some insight into how their grant money from the Beth Longwell Foundation was used. "Our grant from the Beth Longwell Foundation went directly into the classroom to purchase or create teacher's classroom materials and parent education materials. We rely heavily on the foundation support that we receive every year."

Another unique feature of Family Connections is their alumni component which keeps track of all of their past students and families by contacting them once or twice a year. One alumni success story that Ms. Zimmerman is very excited about is Alex Garcia. "We're really proud of Alex Garcia, a senior at Serra High School in San Mateo. Alex and his family came to Family Connections almost fifteen years ago. They were with us for about a year and a half before Alex moved on to kindergarten. At the time, they were living in a neighborhood where the choices for school weren't the best. Alex's mom credits Family Connections with helping her to understand the importance of seeking out the best education for her child. Through Family Connections' help and guidance, she sought out a charter school and eventually he was able to receive a scholarship to a private high school."

"We're coming into some exciting times for our agency..."

Today, Alex works after school with kids at the local Boys and Girls club. He is currently looking to pursue a four-year degree at San Francisco State University in the field of education, and wants to work with special needs children."

As for the future of Family Connections, "We're coming into some exciting times for our agency. We are in the process of finishing up a three-year strategic plan. So we're ready to put together our next long range plan, we would like to see our agency grow to meet some unmet needs of the community, and possibly open a fourth location. We want to continue to strengthen our core programming and further emphasize pre-K Math and Science."

Ms. Zimmerman says she would "love to apply for a grant again in 2011." In addition, when asked how foundations like the Beth Longwell Foundation could help support them in other ways, she says, "we are always looking for volunteer support, or professionals to share their advice, expertise, and ideas in helping us to shape our programs."

Lucy and Nathan Longwell



Already five years old, Lucy and Nathan have had quite a busy year, including starting kindergarten. They love school, and are learning many new things. Both have started reading and writing, and love their books.

Outside of school, they've enjoyed learning to ice skate, swim, play AYSO soccer and learning to ride their two-wheeled bikes...fast!

They are also taking Spanish lessons after school and are becoming quite bilingual! Lucy sings songs in Spanish, and Nathan loves to order in Spanish when we go out!



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Our 2010 Grant Recipients

Last year the Beth Longwell Foundation awarded eight grant recipients. The recipients exemplify Beth's visions and hopes for advancement in non-smoking lung cancer research, support for those who have lost a loved one, education and the arts.

Children's Musical Theater, San Jose, CA

The Children's Musical Theater (CMT) was awarded a grant for its Student Audience Matinee program, making a live theater experience affordable for South Bay schools. As a third year grant recipient, CMT received a grant of \$2,500.

Family Connections, San Carlos, CA

Family Connections is a tuition-free parent participation pre-school for low-income families. At Family Connections parents learn to be active participants in their child's education while their children gain the skills they need for kindergarten and beyond. Family Connections is a first year grant recipient and received a grant of \$2,500.

JustREAD, Mountain View, CA

JustREAD's grant will be used to help underwrite the cost of developing Individualized Tutoring Plans for at-risk students who are reading and writing below grade level. The grant will honor Beth by naming Lisa Cittadino, as the recipient of the Beth Longwell Teacher Grant. JustREAD is a second year grant recipient and received a grant for \$2,500.

Kara, Palo Alto, CA

Since 1976 Kara has been providing no cost, hope, healing, and grief support for people who are coping with death and dying. Kara is a third year grant recipient and received a grant of \$5,000.

Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, CA

The Center is a non-profit arts organization dedicated to fostering community engagement through the creation and presentation of multidisciplinary art. As a first time grant recipient, the funds will be used toward the annual K-8 Arts in Your Classroom Teacher's Conference. The Montalvo Arts Center received a grant for \$2,500.

The Role Model Program, San Jose, CA

The program provides positive adult role models for youth in need. The grant will support the Community Classroom Visit program. As a first year grant recipient, the Role Model Program was awarded a \$2,000 grant.

San Miguel Elementary, Sunnyvale, CA

Grant funds were used to increase student achievement in math through the ST Math Initiative, add an additional Bookshelf Library in kindergarten, and support the development of writing through the annual Young Authors' Faire. As a third year grant recipient, San Miguel received a grant for \$3,500.

Dr. Heather Wakelee, Stanford University, CA

As an Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Oncology at Stanford University, Dr. Wakelee's research focuses on the treatment of lung cancer in non-smoking young women. She is a third year grant recipient and received a grant of \$2,500.

For additional information on our grant recipients please visit www.bethlongwellfoundation.org

Tribute Card Donations Now Available

Make a gift donation in memory of someone or to commemorate a holiday, birthday or other special occasion. A gift announcement card will be personalized and mailed to the person(s) you designate.

Order on-line or by mail. Visit www.bethlongwellfoundation.org for details. Requests by mail, should include the following:

Recipient Information

Honoree Name:

Message (10 words max):

e.g. "In honor of your birthday."

Include billing address, recipient's mailing address, and check, payable to the Beth Longwell Foundation, to P.O. Box 50457, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

Mission Statement

The Beth Longwell Foundation supports charities and organizations in the areas of childhood education, lung cancer research, grief support for children who have lost a parent, and others that honor the memory of Beth Longwell.

Board Members

Ellen Levitas, Robert Longwell, Jim Levitas, Nicole Morley, Carol Platner, Patricia Santana, Ava Yajima, Jennifer Braun, Karen Stotemyer