



Project Access E-mail Newsletter  
July 2008

## **Our Mission**

Project Access assists families and seniors living in affordable housing achieve greater self-sufficiency and independence through access to education, health and social services.

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## **The Impact of Project Access**

### **Westminster Reading Fair**



On May 31, 2008, Alpha Phi Omega of University of California, Irvine hosted the First Annual Summer Reading Fun Fair at the Project Access Stratford Place Apartments Family Resource Center in Westminster. Children from the Family Resource Centers at Tara Village in Cypress and The Palms in Rowland Heights also attended this fun and educational fair.

At the fair, each child visited various stations such as the arts and crafts station where the kids could make their own bookmarks and the games station where kids participated in engaging word and literacy activities.

Alpha Phi Omega is a nationally recognized co-ed service fraternity and has worked closely with Project Access for several years. Alpha Phi Omega created the Summer Reading Fun Fair to encourage reading and continual improvement of literacy throughout the summer. Alpha Phi Omega received a \$400 grant from their national office, in addition to fraternity funds and donations to host this event.

Thank you, Alpha Phi Omega, for hosting this fun and educational event!

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## **Project Access Continues to Expand in Northern and Southern**

# California!

## Northern California

We are excited to announce that the Project Access Family Resource Center at Azure Park Apartments, a 216-unit affordable housing complex owned by AF Evans in Sacramento, opened its doors on Monday, June 2, 2008. The programs and services will focus on after-school programs for youth, job search assistance for adults, and making available access to Internet connected computers for both youth and adults in supervised computer labs. In addition, Project Access staff will conduct a needs assessment in the community to identify additional service needs and resources the residents living there might need, and will do their best to bring onsite and/or direct clients offsite to get access to these needed services. We look forward to providing services to all of our new clients in Sacramento!



*Azure Park Apartments*

## Southern California

We are also proud to share that Project Access will begin providing services at three new affordable housing properties owned by the nonprofit organization, Bridge Housing, in Irvine on July 1, 2008. The Laguna Canyon Apartments has 120 units, Windrow Apartments has 96 units and Woodbury Walk Apartments has 150 units. These new resource centers will allow Project Access to reach even more disadvantaged members of the Irvine community.

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## Angel Stadium Mixer-for-a-Mission

We hosted our Spring Mixer-for-a-Mission at the Diamond Club at Angel Stadium in Anaheim on April 21st. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and exclusive tours of Angel Stadium including a stop at the visitor's dugout and press box. They also had the opportunity to meet Clyde Wright, former Angels player and enjoyed a great silent auction. Also in attendance were Veronica Cruz and her four daughters, a family that lives at the Hermosa Village Apartments in Anaheim, who shared how their lives have improved as a result of the services and programs that Project Access offers. We enjoyed another fun and successful event! Thank you to all who

participated and supported Project Access!



Veronica Cruz and her four daughters, Monica, Joanna, Marlisa, and Maria were honored at our Mixer-for-a-Mission.

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## Upcoming Events

### Northern California Mixer-with-a-Mission

Project Access will host our first ever Mixer-with-a-Mission in Northern California on **Monday, September 15th from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.** at Sino Restaurant on Santana Row in San Jose. Come out and join us for hors d'oeuvres, a no-host bar, silent auction, great networking and learn more about Project Access and how we are making a difference in affordable-housing complexes throughout California!

For more information regarding this event, please contact Sondra Contino at [scontino@project-access.org](mailto:scontino@project-access.org) or 949-253-6200 ext. 305.

Event Sponsor:



**Project Access and Pepperdine University Graziadio Alumni Network of Orange County (GANOC) Mixer-with-a-Mission**

Project Access is proud to announce our new partnership with the Pepperdine University Graziadio Alumni Network of Orange County (GANOC). This partnership provides GANOC members opportunities to give back to the community by volunteering time, by contributing educational supplies and by sponsoring a resource center.

We will celebrate our partnership with a kick-off Mixer-with-a-Mission on **Tuesday, July 29 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** at the Bluewater Grill Seafood Restaurant at the District in Tustin. The Project Access / GANOC Mixer will be sponsored by the Bluewater Grill ([www.bluewatergrill.com](http://www.bluewatergrill.com)).

For more information regarding this event or to purchase tickets, please contact Sondra Contino at [scontino@project-access.org](mailto:scontino@project-access.org) or 949-253-6200 ext. 305 or go to <http://www.active.com/donate/project-access>.

Event Sponsor:



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## Job Openings

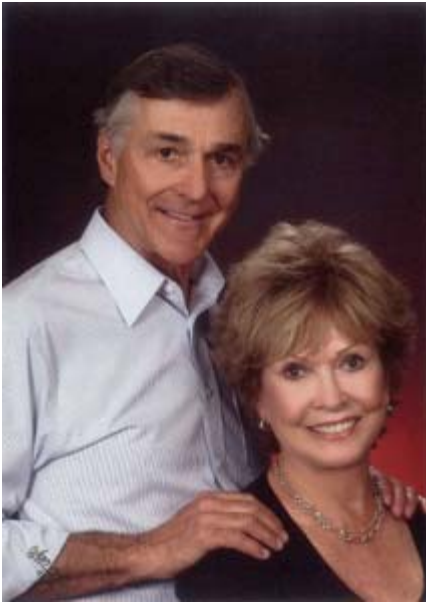
Check out our Job Openings at <http://www.project-access.org/employment.php>!

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## Save the Date!

***Third Annual Keys to Success Awards Dinner honoring Ranney and Priscilla Draper***  
**Presented by the Bascom Group**

The Annual Keys to Success Awards Dinner gives Project Access the opportunity to honor members of our community for their commitment to helping people in need, both personally and professionally, and for their dedication of instilling "giving back" in others. Our First Annual Keys to Success Dinner honored Legendary Sports Agent Leigh Steinberg, and the Second Annual Keys to Success Dinner honored Bob Campbell, President of CT Realty; last year, we net more than \$190,000 toward programs and services that help forward the lives of disadvantaged children and adults.



This year, Project Access is proud to honor Ranney and Priscilla Draper on Saturday, October 11, 2008 at the Fairmont Newport Beach with a reception at 6 pm followed by dinner at 7 pm.

Project Access is very excited to announce that the Third Project Access Keys to Success Awards Dinner will be hosted by actor/comedian Jay Mohr!



Jay Mohr is a multiple threat. Film, television, radio, writing, stand-up, and producing are all among the skill sets he has accomplished throughout a career that has spanned over a decade.

The multi-talented Mohr first received audience notice with his dead-on impressions of Christopher Walken, Ricki Lake, Dick Vitale and Sean Penn on Saturday Night Live. Soon after that, he landed his breakthrough film role as a rival agent to Cruise in the blockbuster hit Jerry Maguire and followed that up in a touching good-guy turn opposite Jennifer Aniston in Picture Perfect.

Presently, Jay can be seen starring opposite Jennifer Love Hewitt (as Professor Rick Payne) on the hit CBS television series *The Ghost Whisperer*.

We are also thrilled to announce that our Live Auctioneer will be actor Peter Jason.



Excellent, prolific and versatile character actor Peter Jason was born on July 22, 1944 in Hollywood, California and grew up in Balboa. He attended Newport Beach Elementary School, Horace Ensign Junior High, and Newport Harbor High School. He originally planned on being a football player, but fell in love with acting after playing the lead in a high school production of "The Man Who Came to Dinner."

Jason has appeared in over 170 feature films, acted in over 150 plays and more than 300 TV commercials. An accomplished baritone vocalist, Jason has sung in such musical stage productions as "The Music Man" (this is one of his favorite plays), "Stop the World, I Want to Get Off," "The Roar of the Greasepaint," and "Threepenny Opera" (as Mack the Knife).

He's been married to his wife Eileen for 33 years. In his spare Peter Jason makes his own furniture with found, recycled wood.

Presenting Sponsor:



To purchase tickets or inquire about sponsorship opportunities, call (949) 235-6200 extension 300 or email [info@project-access.org](mailto:info@project-access.org) or visit [http://www.project-access.org/donate\\_ix.php](http://www.project-access.org/donate_ix.php) and click on "Donate Online."

**2008 Keys to Success Sponsors**  
as of June 23, 2008

Presenting Sponsor

The Bascom Group

## Platinum Key

Foundation for Social Resources, Inc.

## Gold Key

Related of California  
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## Silver Key

Amies Communications  
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Steadfast Companies  
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Jim & Mary Wakefield  
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Jon and Debbie Webb

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## Project Access Supporters

### **Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation Grants \$26,000 to Project Access**

The Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation has granted Project Access \$26,000 in support of our Affordable Housing-Based Health Program at our eight Family Resource Centers in Orange County. The purpose of this program is to determine the individual and community healthcare needs of the underserved residents of the low-income apartment communities it serves and, in partnership with hospitals and other healthcare providers, addresses those needs through a variety of programs and services offered onsite, at family and senior resource centers located within the housing developments. As a result of this gift, more than 1,500 Project

Access clients will receive access to important health-related information via health fairs a their family resource center. Thank you to the Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation for your ongoing support of our health-related programs.

### **The Draper Family Foundation grants \$25,000 to Project Access**

On June 3, 2008, the Draper Family Foundation granted Project Access \$25,000 in support of our After-School Tutoring and Enrichment Program at our eight Family Resource Centers located in Orange County. This grant will play an integral role in the continuing success of these programs. This year, the After-School Tutoring and Enrichment Program will target more than 700 Orange County-based school-age youth by providing after-school tutoring and homework help, computer and Internet instruction/access and educational games, as well as productive enrichment activities, e.g. arts and crafts, physical activities, healthy snacks, character education, teen activities, service projects, and field trips. Thank you, Draper Family Foundation, for five years of continued support of our programs!

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## **Wish Lists**

Want to purchase much-needed supplies for Project Access Family and Senior Resource Centers?

Project Access has developed wish lists to make it easier for you to do just that! Simply click on the links below, add the items to your cart, check-out, and the items will be shipped directly to Project Access.

We have created these lists with Target and Lakeshore Learning and include items that are used every day at our Family and Senior Resource Centers in Southern California. These are supplies that are essential to providing programs and services to our clients.



To view our Target wish list, please [click here](#).

To view our Lakeshore Learning wish list, please [click here](#).

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## **Northern California News**

A few weeks ago Nathaniel who is 6 years old urged his Grandmother to come with him to Valley Palms Family Resource Center because he wanted her to register him in the program. Nathaniel found out about the center from the other children who frequently come to the After-

school program. The other children told him how much fun they have at the center and he wanted to be part of the fun.

At first, Nathaniel came with his Grandmother and baby sister to the Story time program and they stayed for the After-school program together. After a few days, his Grandmother stop coming with him to the center because she had to take care of his pregnant mom, but his grandmother walked him to the Story time program and he would stay for the After school program. Sometimes he would come to the center by himself, never late, always on time and waited for his older sister Jasmine 16 years old, to join him for the After-school program. When Jasmine finished her homework, she would volunteer to help the other students with their homework.

One day Nathaniel showed up to the Story time program with his father and told me that he had not seen him for a long time and he wasn't very close to him. He told his father about the Family Resource Center , what he did and learned, and how much fun he has at the center. His father wanted to come to the center with him. They read, his father helped him with his homework, and they participated in the enrichment activities. Nathaniel enjoys Dr. Seuss and loves for his father to read Dr. Seuss with him. They now bring their favorite Dr. Seuss' book to share with other students when his father visits.



A few months ago Nathaniel was extremely timid, always did what was asked of him, and always kept to himself. But now, he is very talkative, ask questions when unsure and helps and plays with other children. When Nathaniel first came to the center, he had difficulties with the alphabet, identifying colors and numbers, now with the help and encouragement of his father and staff he is able to recognize colors, numbers and knows the alphabet. Sometimes, when he doesn't get a chance to complete his enrichment activity, he will take it home so that when his father visits they can do the activity together.

Although, Nathaniel doesn't see his father often he is happier knowing that he will always be able to show him what new things he has learned. The few days a month his father sees him validates how important the bond must be nurtured between parent and child.

### **Valley Palms Health Fair**

On Saturday, May 31st, 2008, the Project Access Family Resource Center at Valley Palms

Apartments in San Jose hosted their 2nd Annual Health Fair. A total of 12 organizations were present including Alcoholic Anonymous, American Cancer Society, Breathe California, Community Health Partnership, Cancer Detection Program – Every Woman Counts, Compassionate Service Society, Girl Scouts, Next Door Solutions, Planned Parenthood, San Jose Public Library, Santa Clara County Public Health Department, and Stanford University Screen Team. The event took place from 11 am to 2 pm, and was a great success—over one hundred residents participated to take advantage of on-site medical screenings, and gain information about the different health services available in the area. There was a wide range of health information such as health and nutrition, cancer, HIV, tuberculosis, pregnancy, Tai Chi, etc. In addition, we served healthy snacks, beverages, and sandwiches to the residents that came. As for the children, they were thrilled to see a face painting booth.



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## Southern California News

### Arsenal v. D-Fenders Field Trip

The Anaheim Arsenal welcomed 85 Project Access clients for an exciting Development League

Basketball game at Anaheim Convention Center. The children had a great time and expressed extreme gratitude for being selected to participate in this field trip. For all the children, it was their first time at a basketball game. The children were spirited and participated in cheering on the Anaheim Arsenals as they caught up to the D-Fenders and took victory home. Thank you Fisher Printing for this wonderful experience.



### **Sailing Field Trip**

The Ocean Institute at the Dana Point Harbor graciously hosted 24 teens from our Hermosa Village, Malabar, Warwick Square, Park Vista and North Hills resource centers for a fabulous field trip! It was an overall wonderful experience. The group was greeted with delicious pizza that all the teens absolutely loved. The teens were taken on a tour of the center where they also had the opportunity to see and touch living sea creatures. After the tour, the sailing fun began and the sailing crew gave the teens complete ownership over the sailing vessel. The sailing took a lot of hard work, but overall it taught the teens the importance of communication and working together as a team. All of the teens described this as the experience of a lifetime and would do it again if they had the opportunity. They were all very grateful, yet ready to go to bed by the time we reached the bus!





### **Health Fairs**

The 2008 Health Fair season is off to a terrific start! To date, Health Fairs have been hosted at the Project Access Family and Senior Resource Centers in Westminster, La Habra, Garden Grove and Ventura. Approximately 300 children, adults and seniors have received valuable information related to dental care for children and adults, low-cost health insurance, nutrition, prescriptions, prenatal health, aging, arthritis, cancer, mental health, community clinics and more. In addition to educational resources, guests received free onsite health screenings including dental, glucose, blood pressure, Osteoporosis, Body Mass Index, They participated in interactive games to challenge their health knowledge and get them active! Guests at the Health Fairs received a variety of prizes including pedometers, water bottles, LA Fitness passes, first aid kits, health magazines, hand sanitizers, sunscreen, toothbrush/tooth paste/mouthwash, and cooking supplies to encourage healthful lifestyles. More Health Fairs will take place throughout the year at each of the Project Access Resource Centers throughout California.



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### **Site Spotlight**

## **Breezewood Ribbon Cutting**

Wescom Credit Union and property management firm VPM Management hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for two new playhouses on the grounds of the Breezewood Park Apartments, an affordable housing complex in Riverside, on April 11, 2008. The event featured a barbecue lunch, provided by Wescom, and activities for the 300 kids who live in the 156-unit complex.



Wescom and Pomona Valley Habitat for Humanity built the wooden playhouses and donated them to Project Access, who in turn gave the houses to the apartment complex, which had been a magnet for gang and drug activity before recent renovations transformed it into a safe, family-friendly community. Children who live in the complex helped paint, wallpaper and landscape the miniature houses.

"Project Access has been a terrific partner in finding a good home for these playhouses, which will hopefully be enjoyed for years to come," said Tom Orman, Wescom Vice President for Community and Government Affairs.

In addition to residents, representatives from Wescom Credit Union, VPM Management, Project Access, Habitat for Humanity and Riverside Housing Authority were on hand for the ceremony.

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## **How to Get Involved**

Project Access assists families and seniors living in affordable housing achieve greater self-sufficiency and independence through access to education, health and social services.

A gift to Project Access helps break the cycle of poverty through education and empowerment. If you believe in the goals of Project Access and would like to help by making a donation or volunteering, please contact us at (949) 253-6200, ext. 300 to discuss the current needs of the organization.

Tax deductible financial and in-kind donations are greatly appreciated throughout the year. Please make checks payable to: Project Access.

Mail to: 4029 Westerly Place, Suite 113, Newport Beach, CA 92660

Visa, MasterCard, American Express and stock transfers are also gladly accepted. Donations may also be made online at [www.project-access.org](http://www.project-access.org).

\*Notify us if your company has a matching gift program, and we will be happy to provide the necessary documentation.

**Thank you for your generous support.**

**Together we are changing lives.**

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The Project Access E-Newsletter is an online publication of [Project Access](http://www.project-access.org), a nonprofit organization that brings together affordable housing providers and community service agencies to offer residents the resources needed to enhance the quality of their lives.

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