

• • • people with disabilities leading the lives they choose.

a volunteer's legacy

It is a privilege to lead Abilities United and a \$534,000 bequest on December 31, 2009 made this a marked reality. This bell ringing announcement left us all elated and in awe of the generosity of our donors. But the gift became even more significant when we learned of the way it came about. In the 1980's, Palo Alto teenager Stefanie Kataoka, volunteered at the Betty Wright Swim Center and found her work to be greatly rewarding. Sadly, Stefanie died in 1989 at the age of 19. In memory of her enthusiasm about her experience at the Betty Wright Swim Center, Stefanie's parents, Alice and John Kataoka, became supporters of Abilities United (then C.A.R) and ultimately decided that part of their estate should go to the organization Stefanie had loved so much.

This gift will help us maintain our service continuity in difficult economic times. Our Board of Directors have decided to place this donation into a "rainy day" fund so we have reserves to turn to when faced with unexpected emergencies or the sudden withdrawal of support by a major funder like the State of California.

More importantly, this gift reminds me of how our work touches so many lives and how people contribute to Abilities United in innumerable ways; as volunteers, donors, board members, staff, and participants; proving once again that the services Abilities United provides is made possible by the power and the contributions of our wonderful community. We can't do it without you! Thank you!

Lynda Steele, Executive Director •

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huge thanks to the **Sobrato Family Foundation**

And your stellar response to the Sobrato Challenge grant which resulted in a total contribution of \$400,000!

thanks to our community partners

Oracle Corporation and employees for their total annual contribution of \$57,000.

Anonymous donor and our board members who provided a fall challenge grant of \$50,000 which was matched by 210 new and returning donors.

Peet's Coffee and Tea on Charleston Road for raising over \$2,000 during their annual holiday donations program.

Whole Foods, Palo Alto for their generous donation through their "Nickels for Bags" fundraiser.

Atherton Appliance for donation of a dishwasher.

Benny Points for ongoing graphic design work and consultation on our marketing materials.

Books Inc. for ongoing and generous contributions to the Authors Luncheon.

First Congregational Church for holiday gift cards to 40 Abilities United participant families.

Junior League of Palo Alto-Mid Peninsula Sustainers who managed the book sales at the Authors Luncheon.

JTS Enterprise Resiliency Group for leading us through our disaster and emergency planning process. •

volunteers...our unsung heroes

Adi Gingold and Tiffany Jenab for their energy and enthusiasm working with the children in Children's Development Services.

Alicia Kriewall, Jordan Kozal, Nicole DeMont, Prang Chaturaphat, Savate Chhoeuy for bringing enthusiasm and energy to the After School Socialization activities.

Christian Baylocq, Becky Beacom, Jane Mangold, Patricia Powell for their continual and selfless commitment to Aquatic Services.

Deborah Hayes, Maddy Klein, and Mary Bender for sharing their photography skills.

Gary Richards, Keerti Garg, Linda Vargas, and Shirley Bob for their weekly help with day-to-day operations.

Janet Dill, Tracey Jarrett, and Vicky Pavlovsky for giving back to Abilities United through their work in Adult Services.

Kenyatta Cadogan and Hellen Hsieh of Design Loft for sharing their artistic and organizational talents as art curators.

Melanie Cross, Linda Roark, Kevin Raftery, and Charlie Beckh for work in the Abilities United Heritage Garden.

Molly and Jeremy Hale for their design and construction of waterproof wheelchairs.

Susan Vaswani who leads our volunteer program. •

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mission

Abilities United champions people with developmental and physical challenges and provides the training, education, and support they need to lead the lives they choose.