



Twelveacres

Newsletter
Fall 2009

SAVE THE DATE!

You are invited
to attend

Twelveacres Annual Meeting

Sunday,
November 8, 2009,
at 2:00 p.m.

To be held at:
First Church of Christ,
Scientist, Los Gatos
238 Main Street
Los Gatos, CA 95032

Cooking at Bucknall House

Cooking is on the mind of a lot of people due to the release of the new movie *Julie & Julia*. In the movie, memoirs of the legendary chef, author and TV personality, Julia Child, are intertwined with the challenges of a modern day office worker, Julie, as she works her way through 524 recipes in 365 days, using Julia Child's *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. The two women's experiences, though differing in time and place, parallel one another as they both look for meaning in their lives, learning along the way lessons of determination, fearlessness, love and the joy of cooking.

The residents at Bucknall House have been experiencing the same joyful discovery of the delight, discipline, and delicious activity of cooking. For the past few months, the Vocational Education teacher has been cooking with the residents twice a week. It is wonderful to see the residents' joyful anticipation of this cooking experience. They arrive home from their day program, and go directly to the kitchen, waiting for class to begin. A resident who used to walk in and go to her room, now arrives joyously announcing, "Cooking today!" She then quickly puts her things away, goes to the kitchen, eager to do as much as she can: measuring, cutting, slicing, dicing, mixing, and stirring.

A resident who enjoys making milkshakes starts out by first spelling the word and talking about the ingredients. He carefully assembles everything, blends up the concoction, and helps take the canister off the blender to pour it into a glass. He loves his milkshakes and always puts a hand up for a "high five" as he says, "Good job, right?" One day a resident who was watching him, gave him a big smile, and said, "Good job!"

Another resident who loves to color, finding her inspiration to converse more readily during that happy time, is now beginning to express the same joy in cooking. She will stand at the stove stirring and adding ingredients, or at the counter mixing, with a big smile on her face. She is getting quite good at putting cookie dough on the baking sheet. Her comments confirm her active involvement in



each task. She will say things like, "Making cookies," when she is scooping out the dough, or "I like cake," or "This is soup," when she is doing those things.

One of the residents is making great progress through cooking. At first he would decline



or do one thing and then walk away. Now he is staying through the whole task. He enjoys saying he has "KP duty" and his favorite dish is "Jumpin' Jack Jambalaya." A conversation with the teacher about the Creole seasoning led to a discussion of southern accents and Louisiana. Tasting always elicits his approval, "Mmmm, yummy!" When asked about it a few days later he remarked, "I LOVE that stuff! Let's make Jumpin' Jack Jambalaya again!"

A parent happily reported that the cooking class has inspired her son to begin integrating his experience at Twelveacres and his visits home. On a recent visit home, he talked about how much he liked the cooking class and asked his mother to give him the recipe for Chinese Pot Roast because he was learning to cook and could make it at Twelveacres.

A resident, who would like to make eggs and toast everyday, is now eager to help in the kitchen with anything he is asked to do. His favorite? Cookies! And he is always ready to test them. Another

(Continued on page 4.)



“Give ...thy servant an understanding heart... (I Kings 3:9)” — A Message from the Executive Director

This was Solomon’s prayer when he became King of Israel. As King, Solomon faced many challenging tasks, including building the Temple of Jerusalem. In *I Kings*, we read that because Solomon first sought understanding, God blessed him and the Children of Israel with both wisdom and prosperity. Over the past year, Twelveacres’ Board and staff have prayerfully sought new levels of understanding to demonstrate dominion over the recent financial challenges, knowing that it is only in seeking the kingdom of God that we find true wisdom and prosperity

Like Solomon, our loving donors have always shown that they have understanding hearts; and this understanding contributes to our healing work. Our hearts overflow with gratitude for your notes of encouragement, your prayers, and your generous response to our Board President’s letter in May. We received more than \$100,000 in donations in support of our residents!

As we take the practical steps to be good stewards, your financial and prayerful support is needed and deeply appreciated! Over the past year we have found that, in addition to money we receive from the State, we need to raise \$200,000 each quarter to be able to provide care and education for our residents. As we work to overcome the challenges of reductions in funding from foundations and the State of California, we know that God is giving us the wisdom and supply to provide for those in our care.

Recently we have witnessed several other wonderful demonstrations of God’s provision of wisdom and supply. Last Spring, a member of one of our local churches volunteered to work in Twelveacres’ business office. We needed the help and he was a recent graduate of business school looking for work. Not long after he began volunteering, I was speaking with a donor who wanted to help us find new ways to financially sustain Twelveacres. As he described the qualifications of the person needed to help us with this project, I realized that God had already sent us a person with those qualifications. He was already working in our office! Shortly after that, we employed our volunteer with a grant from the donor to develop and implement strategies to

augment our income by expanding our outreach. This has led us to explore several promising ideas to help more people overcome developmental issues through Christian Science.

We are already seeing results from our efforts to achieve the highest standard of care and education, especially in our work with our local government agencies. For the first time, the San Andreas Regional Center has awarded Twelveacres a Certificate of Achievement following a recent Quality Assurance Evaluation. This recognition of our high level of care is proof of the progress that is going on at Twelveacres. At the conclusion of the evaluation, the Regional Center representatives told us how much they appreciate Twelveacres’ willingness to find ways to fulfill the requirements of the law while remaining true to our religious beliefs. This is the direct result of the prayer and loving activity of our staff, especially our Program Director, who created a procedure book to enable our staff to fulfill State requirements in ways that support our residents’ healing.

As part of our outreach, we have been prayerfully preparing the way to admit new residents. In the past, government agencies outside the Bay Area have been unwilling to endorse requests by families in their area to place Christian Scientists with developmental challenges at Twelveacres. After a year of prayerful work, with the dedicated support of Christian Science practitioners and the help of our local Regional Center, we recently admitted a new resident from Southern California. The appreciation expressed by our Regional Center for Twelveacres’ quality of care was a key factor in persuading the agency in Southern California to agree to the placement.

In *Proverbs* 4: 5-6, we read, “Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.” In dealing with the many challenges of this past year, we have been reminded time and time again that, as we seek to have an understanding heart, God prospers our healing work.

Thank you for your prayerful and financial support of Twelveacres. 🙏

Lin Watts
Executive Director



“When the heart speaks, however simple the words, its language is always acceptable to those who have hearts.”

(Miscellaneous Writings
262:10)

Fruitage

Bucknall: A resident, who is making great progress in speaking, recently talked continuously to another resident for 15 minutes using complete sentences. Later she helped mix ingredients for corn muffins with minimal prompting and put the batter in the muffin tin on her own. During a shopping trip to a local bookstore, this resident was very talkative, singing and conversing about what was in the book she chose. As she paid for her purchases and turned to leave, she said, “Thank you,” to the clerk. Another resident is growing in her capacity to be more thoughtful of others. For example, she has been saying, “Thank you,” without prompting and recently, during a call to her sister who had sent her a pair of sunglasses, the first thing she said after “Hello,” was “The sunglasses are pretty.” Recently, after attending a church service where there was an announcement about the International Reading Room Open House, a resident asked if they could attend. Another resident continues to improve his communication skills—to the amazement of his day program workers. He recently responded in a clear, polite, and engaged way when a staff member asked if anyone needed a Kleenex. He responded, “I do. I do. I need a Kleenex, please.”

AST: The AST group is enjoying “the beauty of God’s peace” (C.S. *Hymnal*, #49) as they practice and improve their abilities to see God’s love in neighbors and themselves. After prayerfully working with Christian Science practitioners to see God’s harmony, they are now seeing more and more patience and love being expressed by everyone. A resident at AST, who for a long time was more interested in saving soap and water than in cleanliness, is now volunteering to be in charge of loading the dishwasher, and when it is full, starting a load of dishes as well as keeping the kitchen clean and orderly. One of the residents has been very loving to his housemates, helping one to follow along as the residents and staff read aloud sections of the Bible Lesson, and helping another underline the words she recognized. A resident has been lovingly providing helpful reminders for a housemate regarding the importance of calling a practitioner. Several AST residents have been helping with office mailings as part of their Voc. Ed. classes. Each one takes a job folding, labeling or stuffing the envelopes, while another is in charge of using the postage meter. Their careful work has enabled us to get mailings out in a timely manner.

Braeburn: Several staff members have commented on how much they appreciate the residents helping to make dinner twice a week. They are impressed with how much each resident can do and how they seem to enjoy the meals more when they have contributed to making them. A resident, who is learning to sign “please” and “eat,” is beginning to sign “please” on his own, and with his hand in the correct position! It is evident by his expression that he is connecting what the sign means to what happens after he signs it. One of the residents has made great strides in demonstrating cooperation. He says hello or waves his hand to the staff while smiling. He has been listening to the staff and discussing issues or saying what he wants calmly and with respect. In a recent game of Monopoly, a resident clearly demonstrated his reasoning ability and self-control. He analyzed out loud why he chose a particular property to mortgage, and when the staff member complimented him on what a good job he had done in deciding, he smiled and said thanks. He did not let frustration get the better of him, but each time he landed on a property and had to pay rent he did his best to figure out what to do.

Lily: The residents of Lily House are demonstrating the spiritual qualities of patience, communicating with smiles, enthusiasm and activity. One of the residents is making progress in her demonstration of attention, observation, intuition and independent activity as she is learning to pick up balls of various colors scattered on the living room floor and then put them in the box that is held by a housemate. For the first time she is beginning to do the task without prompts and the teacher no longer needs to stand by the box. This is a huge step of progress! We are always grateful to receive letters from family members and we’d like to share this from a father of a resident who had come for a visit. “We had a wonderful 90-minute walk to the park. The weather was perfect and we both had a wonderful time. We said several prayers and listened to some Christian music from my iPhone which she seemed to enjoy. It was great. I look forward to doing this every 3-4 months. Thanks for everything your staff is doing!” 🌟



Administrative Office on Millich Drive

We are so grateful for the peaceful and beautiful location of the Twelveacres' office in Campbell, CA. From the photo, you can see the lovely and uplifting sight that greets visitors, residents and staff whenever they come to the office. Some residents come to the office for their practitioner appointments, others for Vocational Education classes; managers stop by almost daily to pick up mail for the houses, attend meetings and take care of administrative tasks; and the staff drop by occasionally with questions for our business office or to accompany a resident who



is visiting the office. The view reminds us of Mrs. Eddy's reference to how the Indians referred to a beautiful lake as 'the smile of the Great Spirit' (S&H 477:28). It is inspiring to think of our office in this way, reflecting the light of God's love to all who pass by or come through our door, and we are confident that the prayer surrounding and supporting our activity encompasses everyone in that light of God. "We are all God's children, expressions of one Mind, living in the radiance of Spirit all divine." (C.S. *Hymnal Supplement*, #460). ★

Cooking at Bucknall House (Continued from page 1.)

resident is beginning to relax into this pleasant routine and is participating more, piping in when things are nearly ready, "We get to taste it, right?" For many cooks, that IS their favorite part, and according to Chef Gordon Ramsey, it is "a chef's duty." Anyone who has seen the movie *Julie & Julia* will remember the expressions of delight upon tasting some wonderful new creation.

Once when there was nothing to be made for dinner, it happened that the next morning's breakfast was pancakes, so the activity of the class became making the pancakes for the next day's breakfast. When a staff member came in, one of the residents said, "Look, pancakes!" The staff member smiled, and said, "Good job! Thank you for making pancakes." The smile on the resident's face said it all. ♥

Thanks to Tom and Julie Denison of Activeion.com for donating an Activeion Pro Cleaner for use at Twelveacres.

*Twelveacres gratefully acknowledges donations made in the names of the following.
March – August 2009*

In Memory of:

Alaister & Consuelo Smith
Anne O. Spaulding CSB
B. J. Publicover
Barbara Wyman
Betty Johnson
Beverly Stockert
Bill and Evelyn Radcliffe
Bruce Cox
Chris Christianson
Chris Erickson
Connie Untch CS
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Robert C. Koehler CS
Russell Luerssen CS
Shannon Smith Wagner
Virginia D. Skarie CSB

In Honor of:

All Twelveacres
Amy Long
Candace & Jonathan Blas
Chris Eshbaugh
David Bullwinkle
House Staff at Lily
Jackie Leonard-Dimmick
Ken Walrod
Kendall Alisch
Laura Spaulding
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Lin Watts
Executive Director

Lisa Alomatsi
Program Director

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Design and Production
Donna Caldwell
Caldwell Communication

Published By
Twelveacres, Inc.
595 Millich Drive
Suite 104
Campbell, CA 95008
Telephone: 408.341.0400
Fax: 408.341.0411

Website:
www.twelveacres.org

