


  
**Casa Allegra Community Services**
  
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 San Rafael, CA 94903
   
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**Save the Date! Sat. 10/1/11**
  
**Casa Allegra Benefit Bocce Tournament**
  
 To request Invitation or for Court Sponsorship see Insert



Clients with their circles of support – staff, family, friends, & volunteers, Marin Human Race 2011

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 Request Bocce Invitation
   
 Court Sponsorship ..... Insert



Micheal Bruciati aims for the "jack"

**Save the Date!**
  
**Sat. 10/1/11**

## **Casa Allegra** **Benefit Bocce** **Tournament**

**Court Sponsors**
  
**Wanted**

To request Invitation or
   
 for Court Sponsorship see Insert

CACS is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit that provides supports for adults with developmental disabilities through community living, education, employment & income earning opportunities in Marin & SF counties, since 1975.

# Casa Allegra Community Services

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## The Future IS the Present



Chris & Michael at the 2010 CACS 35th Anniversary Recognition Event

**“...it is also a victory in that Michael was given the same opportunity for the same health care as those without the labels of disability...  
...What I have discovered as truth for myself and for the people we support is that the future is the present. It is right now. I also discovered that many of the people we support already know that.”**

~ Chris Bonfiglio

that Michael was given the same opportunity for the health care as those without the labels of disability. He has now come home with Hospice Care provided by Heartland Hospice and is surrounded by friends and family. He has come home to LIVE the remainder of his life.

What I have discovered as truth for myself and for the people we support is that the future is the present. It is right now. I also discovered that many of the people we support already know that. I want to live life as they do. I want to appreciate each and every day and take nothing for granted.

My daily goal is six-fold: 1) laugh, 2) learn, 3) love, 4) relax, 5) reflect, and 6) give. It is easy to look at the cup half empty in these difficult times – but if we look to the people we support as examples – we can see that it is just as easy to choose to look at the cup half full.

~ Chris Bonfiglio, CACS Executive Director

Many of us think in terms of the future – “Some day...,” “When I...,” “After..., then....” I am becoming acutely aware of the passage time as I see 60 just around the corner. My dad is 92 – wow! With my daughter out of college and my son graduated from high school, I am now officially the parent of “adult children.”

The people we support are aging, retiring, and passing on. Michael Birch has been supported by CACS for over 36 years. He is an easy going, happy and social man with inviting eyes and a warm smile. At birth his parents were told he would not live beyond early childhood and it is now 41 years later.

Michael has been in and out of the hospital the past couple of years as the effects of cerebral palsy have progressed. After a very long battle and jumping through bureaucratic hoops, our efforts at giving Michael an opportunity to have a Gastric Tube for feeding came to fruition. He was taken to radiology for a G-Tube Insertion. Unfortunately due to anatomical abnormalities, they were unable to insert the tube.

While this is a very difficult time for all, it is also a victory in



## Save the Date! Sat. Oct. 1, 2011 Casa Allegra Benefit Bocce Tournament

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. San Rafael  
Albert Park Bocce Courts &  
Rose Garden

- To request an invitation or for Court Sponsorship – see Insert
- A family-friendly day of bocce play, fabulous food, gift basket raffles, with wine & beer for purchase.
- Michael Feno & Linda Vaio 2011 Co-chairs, Lucca Ravioli Co., Inc. caterer & sponsor, other major sponsors include Brayton Purcell, Autodesk, Westamerica Bank, Marin IJ.

### WANTED:

#### Court Sponsors

- Name or business name will appear on bocce court signage, on a large sign at entry gate & in our next newsletter.

#### Your Donations or Court Sponsorship are deeply appreciated.

Together we provide supports for people with developmental disabilities to lead meaningful lives in our community.

More info including business sponsorship:

Contact Jeanne (415) 898-6525

[jeanne@casaallegra.org](mailto:jeanne@casaallegra.org)

Casa Allegra Community Services, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, provides community-based supports for adults with developmental disabilities. Since 1975 in Marin & San Francisco Counties.

### Board of Directors

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Allen Peters, Treasurer  
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Mary Ellen McCarthy  
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Director of Residential Services  
Daniel Reichling,  
Director of Day Services  
Debbie Falvey,  
Human Resources  
Theresa Eisenberg, RN  
Jeanne Santangelo,  
Development Director

### Newsletter

Editor Jeanne Santangelo  
Articles & Photos  
by Staff & Volunteers

## Kevin & Mary Ellen McCarthy Cocktail Party Benefits CACS

Kevin McCarthy stepped out of his wheelchair, leaned on Daniel Reichling's arm and walked up 33 steps of his family home and was warmly welcomed by 44 of his Circle of Friends that included many Irish cousins and natives of SF. Some of Kevin's cousins had not seen him in many years.

The gathering was for an Invitation Only benefit for Casa Allegra Community Services. The first ever CACS fundraising house party was held at the family home in the San Francisco Marina District. CACS client Dusty Dutton attended and had a great time chatting with the guests. Mary Ellen spoke movingly about the improvements CACS has made in her brother Kevin's quality of life since coming to CACS 11 years ago.

**"Kevin has a good life in the community with an apartment, a job and friends of his own thanks to the customized supports he receives and the wonderful staff at CACS."**

~ Mary Ellen McCarthy

contributions to Casa Allegra Community Services." Over the years the Amores have donated generously to CACS in honor of Kevin and in memory of his parents, Mike and Kay McCarthy. Mary Ellen said, "They have been family friends for over 40 years and have watched Kevin blossom within the CACS community." We are honored that they broke off a trip to Tahoe for the occasion. They really are an inspiration.

Kevin and Mary Ellen raised over \$7,000 including donations from those who could not attend and an employee matching donation from Bank of America. Special thanks to Mary Ellen's friends Tom and Anna Philipps (Tom bartended & Anna was an ambassador), Mary Sales (ambassador), Trixie Brennan (Chef), Tommy Spellicy, Head Chef at the Fairmont Hotel designed the cheese platters, Tammy Miller and her daughter from the Mauna Loa Bar donated a case of wine, Lynne Trump and Pat Woodward brought appetizers for the event, the mother-daughter team of Karen and Genevieve Shay, National Charity League volunteers helped pass hors d'oeuvres and greet guests.

Please contact [Jeanne@casaallegra.org](mailto:Jeanne@casaallegra.org), (415) 898-6525 if you would like to know more about how to host a house party fundraiser to benefit Casa Allegra. We will help you make it a successful fundraiser and fun event.



Barbara Amore, Mary Ellen, Robert Amore



Kevin & Mary Ellen



Dusty Dutton, Chris Bonfiglio



Cathy McCarthy Boyce, Mary Ellen, Angus McCarthy



Genevieve Shay, Trixie Brennan, Karen Shay, Anna & Tom Phillipps & Mary Sales



## WISH LIST

Contact (415) 499-1116 ext. 248 to arrange pick up of large items.

Gift Cards to Target, Old Navy, Trader Joe's, Safeway  
Gift Certificates for carpet cleaning or cleaning services  
(especially needed for Sebastian)

Quality Cookware/pots & pans  
Framed Artwork, modern, bright  
Leather Couches & Recliners

Fiorenzo & Linda Gardin  
 Ghilotti Brothers Contractors  
 Alfred & Clara Giannini  
 Daniel Goldstein  
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 Bruce Good - Auto Solutions  
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 Gary Ristow  
 John Robbins  
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 Kathleen Rogers  
 Leslie Rohrman  
 Richard Rosenberg  
 Sterling Ross  
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 Bob & Rose Schilling  
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 Cynthia Shaff  
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 Dr. Ira Simon  
 William & Kathy Sloan  
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 Lethea & Jeff Snow  
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 Steven Sunnick  
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 Kathleen Weber  
 Alvina Wegscheider  
 Paula Wehner  
 Antonio Westphalen  
 Jeff Williams  
 Loretta Wolf  
 Franklin Young  
 Sam Zelver

## Grants

Freitas Foundation

## Thank You Volunteers

We sincerely apologize if we have omitted or misspelled any names.

### HUMAN RACE

\*See page 5 for Special Thanks

### National Charity League

#### Stephanie Ortega-Kennison

Marcy Kalat  
 Marley Kalat  
 Jessica Robello  
 Karen Robello  
 Francesca Robello  
 Kathy Runyeon  
 Karen Shay

### Redwood High School JV Cheerleaders

Rachel Atherly  
 Heather Brabo  
 Emma Burke  
 Jenny Cardona  
 Sloan Cipa  
 Maria Chumbes  
 Jackie Gallegioni  
 Lauren Gaul  
 Mackenzie Hutchinson  
 Kiera Hynes  
 Tia Jansson  
 Jackie Geler Kremer  
 Ramona Lightle  
 Katie Nichols

Tal Oron  
 Nivie Oron  
 Allie Ranft  
 Any Rauchle  
 Roxanne Riouette  
 Paloma Sapien  
 Carly VanLiere  
 Natalie Vaughan

### MCCARTHY BENEFIT

\* See page 2 for Special Thanks

### OFFICE ASSISTANT

Genevieve Shay

### PATIENT PALS

#### Clipped Wings of Marin United Airlines Stewardess Alumnae & Flight Attendants

Diane Bazler  
 Susanne Kepford  
 Lillian Lessler  
 Laura Richmond  
 Ginny Sheahan  
 Jan White

### COSTCO SHOPPERS

#### Clipped Wings of Marin

Joyce Harper  
 Liz Heery  
 Barbara Lee  
 Susanne Kepford  
 Sally Morris  
 Carolyn Mueller  
 Laura Richmond  
 Stevie Serleth  
 Lorraine Urban  
 Jan White

### GRANT WRITING INTERN

Special thanks to Mary Carew and Dominican University Internship Program. Mary assisted CACS Development Team from January to May 2011.



Mary Carew,

She recently received her B.A. in Humanities and Cross-Cultural Studies.

**"I truly enjoyed learning about the development aspects of nonprofit organizations, including the challenges faced during these difficult economic times. It is my hope that my research will benefit Casa Allegra to help them continue their important work in the community"** ~ Mary Carew

Mary has worked in Human Resources Administration and Accounting for nonprofits including a community living organization for people with developmental disabilities in Vancouver, Canada.

## Thank You Donors

From Jan. 1 to June 30, 2011  
We sincerely apologize if we have  
omitted or misspelled any names.

### DONATIONS IN HONOR OF

In Honor of Michael Birch  
Barbara & James Jacques  
Louise & Harvey Birch  
Sylvain & Lorraine Borel

In Honor of Michael Bruciati  
Angelo & Phyllis Grimaldi  
Betty Mae Tambellini  
Bette Legallet

In Honor of Michael Feno  
Ron & Jeanette Bruciati

In Honor of Kevin McCarthy  
Sharon & Dale Allen  
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Bette Woodward  
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Nancy & Vincent Yalon

In Honor of Richard & Patti Somers'  
Anniversary  
Timothy & Martha Doody

In Honor of Alesa Tomsky  
Jacquelyn Aitken

In Honor of Jan White  
David & Sandie Wintz

### DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF

In Memory of Richard Chicca  
Pat Chicca

In Memory of Steven Douglas  
Ray & Ning Douglas

In Memory of John & Betty Fellows  
Rosemary Fellows

In Memory of Lloyd Paul Flatland  
Marin Joe's Italian Restaurant

In Memory of Lisa Jay  
Thomas & Mary Quinlan  
Judith Sanford  
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In Memory of Loved Ones  
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In Memory of Jack McCaffrey  
George & Linda Vaio  
Allan & Mary Farbstein

In Memory of Kay McCarthy  
Marianne Ruch

In Memory of Peter Murphy  
Jane Murphy  
Arthur & Monika Cooke  
Eric Roby

In Memory of Scott Murphy  
Jane Murphy  
Arthur & Monika Cooke  
Eric Roby

In Memory of Alma & Lee Negri  
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In Memory of Robert Peloquin  
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In Memory of Dolly Reynolds  
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Steve Osternig  
Diane Farrer  
Theresa Bell  
Joseph & Sally Garbarino  
Judith Rosa

In Memory of Jack Roche  
Jane Negri

In Memory of Eileen Sherman  
Laura Sherman

In Memory of Inez Tarpley  
Barbara & Jim Jacques

In Memory of Jerry Vaio  
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William Beck  
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Joe & Judy McGrath

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June Black

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Marcel & Beverly Fiore  
Brynda Foster  
Robert Fox  
Susan Fox  
Deidre Frain  
Eileen Frain  
Robert Friedman-CPA



### In Memory of GERALD (Jerry) WILLIAM VAIO

We thank the Vaio  
family who asked that  
donations be made to Casa  
Allegra in Jerry's memory.  
Jerry is pictured in the  
photo at left with his sister-

in-law Linda, son Gerald Jr., & brother George as The  
Four Vaio's won our CACS Bocce Tournament in 2009.  
Jerry passed away May 27th at the age of .... predeceased  
by his wife Jeanne. Jerry is survived by siblings George  
and Patty, children Gerald William, Geoffrey McCune,  
Jennifer Jeanne Holmes and 6 granddaughters. Gerry was  
a Marin Catholic High School and Cal Poly graduate. He  
was an avid golfer, member of SIRS Branch 122, and San  
Francisco 49er fan who worked as an engineer at Dahl  
Beck Electric Co. for over 40 years.

## Joe & Rich Retire by Chris Bonfiglio

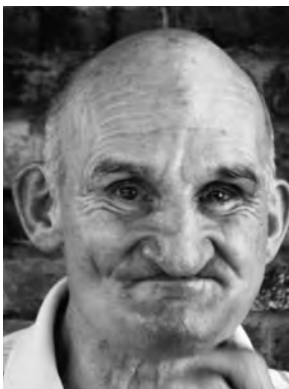


Joseph Argueta

Joe turned 70 in April and is now officially retired. His years of work at Fresh Choice and Pasta Pomodoro as a table setter are now behind him.

Joe's days are now more to his liking. He rises later, enjoys a leisurely breakfast, puts around the house then heads out for errands and visits with friends. He's got a constant smile on his face and seems quite relaxed and at ease.

Joe was born in San Francisco and is of Mexican and Salvadorian decent. He was institutionalized somewhere between 6 months and 6 years of age for many years. His memories during those years are of fear and uncertainty. In the late '60s Joe moved into a variety of group homes, one of which was forced to close due to charges of neglect. In 1987 Joe met Lisa Giraldi who became his advocate, friend, and family and introduced Joe to CACS. Starting in 1994, Joe lived with 5 others for 9 years at the CACS group home on Duran Drive in San Rafael and transitioned to an active life in the community with employment and friends who love him. Joe realized a long held dream when he moved into his own place at the age of 61 with CACS support. Joe's journey has taken him from uncertainty to security, from institutional confinement to independence and to a life of choice and self-direction.



Richard Nicholson

Richie is also 70 and recently retired. Rich, an active, energetic man has been supported by Casa Allegra for the past 25 years.

Prior to moving into Casa Allegra's home on Duran Drive in San Rafael in 1984, Rich lived at Napa State Hospital where he had been for 41 years. He was originally institutionalized at the age of 4 simply for being hyperactive.

In 2006 Rich moved to a house in Novato he shares with Bob, his long-time friend.

Several months ago Rich's day program closed and he had to move to a new one. Rich's circle of support realized that he was not adjusting well to the new day program and didn't want to be involved in the program activities.

Rich's retirement suits him well. He spends a lot of time outdoors in his backyard and takes long walks and hikes. He enjoys coffee at nearby cafés, hangs with friends and comes by the office every week to say "Hi." He is happy, healthy, and physically fit. Life is good for Rich.

## Anywhere You Live – Easy Ways to Help

CACS is listed with [www.Guidestar.com](http://www.Guidestar.com) with highest rating for transparency & accountability.



### DONATE SECURELY ONLINE AT [WWW.CASAALLEGRA.ORG](http://WWW.CASAALLEGRA.ORG)



**DONATE YOUR CAR** at [www.donateforcharity.com](http://www.donateforcharity.com) or 1-(866) 392-4483. They take care of paperwork & drive or haul away your car, van, RV or boat – running or not.

**eSCRIP – REGISTER** store & credit or debit cards at [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com) to benefit Casa Allegra Community Services. Live anywhere in the US and support us through eScrip.



**SHOP ONLINE** at [www.eScriponline.com](http://www.eScriponline.com) store with 700+ online vendors such as . Shop one time or download "AutoEarn." Includes the Apple Store, iTunes, Walmart.com



**SHOP SUPERMARKETS** in your neighborhood across the US. In Marin: Andronicos, Food 4 Less, Pak 'n Save, Scotty's Market, Mollie Stone's, Paradise Foods, & Village Markets.

### DINE OUT with eScrip DINING REWARDS PROGRAM.

Earn up to 5% for CACS when you dine out at select restaurants in your neighborhoods across the US. In Marin: Extreme Pizza, California Grill, Ciao Bella Gelato, Tomatina, Tub-Tim Thai. Registration required.

See [eScrip.com](http://eScrip.com) for security & privacy assurance.

## Workplace Donations

**UNITED WAY & COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN** for local and national government employees.– designate or write-in Casa Allegra Community Services, Inc. under Donor Choice.

CACS is awarded the Independent Charities Seal of Excellence for meeting the "highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness."



## Thank You Frank Howard Allen Realtors San Rafael Office for Matching Grants Year 2



"I'm pleased that my office again selected Casa Allegra to be the recipient – you are such a wonderful organization," said Agent Dan Bastien, Frank Howard Allen Realtors office at 700 Fifth Ave. From 7/1/11 to 6/30/12 agents will donate \$25 or more from closed transactions. Contact Dan Bastien at (415) 257-2046, [www.fhallen.com](http://www.fhallen.com).

## Clients' Support Staff Honored

CACS direct support staff professionals were honored as agents of positive change in the lives of the people they support at the CACS Annual Staff Appreciation dinner Friday, March 25th at the Terra Linda Recreation Center.

Daniel Reichling, Director of Day Services, Socorro Gallardo, Director of Supported Living and Eny Campos, Director of Residential Living, each thanked the staff. Eny said, "We appreciate all your work each and every day. Thank you for being there for the residents and going above and beyond the call of duty."

Daniel Reichling organized the delicious catered buffet donated by Sol Hernandez, owner of Sol Food restaurant in San Rafael.

"It was a fun night," said Eny. Raffles were very popular with staff. Prizes included gift cards from Target and \$20 cash per winning ticket donated by clients' family and friends.

Thank you to parents & siblings who stayed with clients so that staff could attend the party: Elia Haworth, Louise Birch Allen & Sue Peters, Jan Tremblay, Eny's husband Luis Campos, Mary Ellen McCarthy. A special thank you to Martha Watt for taking photos and helping out with clean up.



Waka Waka with CACS!

## Out & About

**Sacramento Protest** - CACS clients, service directors & staff participated in a Sacramento Budget Protest at the California State Capital South Entrance on Wednesday, March 30. The rally was organized by our colleagues at Lifehouse to "Say NO to Trailer Bill Language that would cut ICF rates by 10%." Posters read "Don't take my home away," "Keep our homes intact," "Partnership, Not Partisanship."



**Mike Bennett & Jamie Burris** who live in the Adrian home, enjoyed the music and warm weather at the Marin Art Festival June 14 with their support staff Zulma Hernandez and Candelaria (Connie) Pazos. Thank you to Tom Berns, Jenny's father, for providing tickets.

**Michael Valcour** - "As most of you know Michael Valcour is a vocalist with autism. In March Michael performed in Nashville along with Franc D'Ambrosia from Phantom of the Opera and other performers. This occurred at The SENSE Theatre in collaboration with Vanderbilt Kenndey Center and University School of Nashville Theatre Guild. Please go to youtube.com, type in Michael Valcour, and click his icon to watch the video." ~ Arnold & Kathy Valcour

**Lisa Jay Celebration of Life** - Friends joined Lisa Jay's housemates and support staff in a celebration of her life at 306 Adrian Way on March 25th Lisa's birthday. A bilingual memorial mass by Father Craig Forner, Associate Pastor of Saint Isabella, was held at the Adrian Way home at noon followed by a reception. Staff members shared their memories of Lisa. A dedication of a memory garden in Lisa's honor will follow.

**Downtown Mia Brown** - Mia has a new studio space at 35 Mitchell Blvd. Suite 9A. An Opening reception was held on May 5th to kick off her second year in Marin Open Studios from May 6 to 16. Mia was thrilled that her 90-something grandmother Gladys Moore of San Francisco attended.



Mia & her grandmother, Gladys

# Marin Human Race Sat. May 7, 2011

## Winners in Wheelchair Division

- 1st Place: Kevin McCarthy & Judith Velasquez
- 2nd Place: Cathy Adams & Maria Ramirez
- 3rd Place: Julia, Allen & Amy Peters

## Special Recognition

For extraordinary fundraising efforts: Jeanette Bruciati, Micheal Feno, Patti Somers, Louise Birch & Mary Ellen McCarthy  
 For Event Coordination & good cheer: Martha Watt

## Special Thanks by Martha Watt

Michael Feno - Our Human Race MVP, showed up at 5am to help save our spot, furnished 5 6-ft. tables, 18 folding chairs, 1 card table, provided cloth table cloths, fabricated 6 wooden lawn signs & 3 folding sandwich boards to save handicap parking spots for our vans, brought a hand truck, left-over food containers plus a bag full of tools, etc. He set up a wind break shelter on the spot for our clients as the day was cool & windy. If that wasn't enough, he rented a van to transport all of this to our picnic on his dime. He helped with set-up, clean-up & with anything else that was needed - all with a smile & a kind heart.

Additional thanks to other volunteers -  
 Jacki Anderson, Sharon & Jerry Halstrom - booth shifts  
 Louise Birch - provided all the picnic eating utensils, paper plates & napkins, cups. She made sure they were color coordinated with our t-shirts.  
 Chris Bonfiglio - Our fearless leader was a wonderful help at our event check-in table. However, she almost froze to death that morning.

Ron Bruciati - Was on site at 6am with a smile to help set up & also helped with take-down.

Donna & Dale Dutton - provided freshly-baked warm bagels with 4 types of cream cheese spreads.

Socorro Gallardo - ice chest w/ice + clean-up  
 Elia Haworth - Helped with Costco shopping days before the event & with pre-picnic food prep. She donated a big pasta salad & played staff photographer. Mary Ellen McCarthy - provided a platter of condiments plus her famous shrimp pasta salad & lots of wonderful bakery sweets. She just dove right in & helped with the picnic. PLUS, she worked a booth shift!

Larry Mason - Took a cab at 5am to help with set up. He was absolutely wonderful & participated in all aspects of the set up with a good attitude & a willing spirit. He was also instrumental in helping with take down.

Sue & Allen Peters - While Allen walked with & attended to Julia, Sue picked up 4 6-ft. Subway sandwiches, delivered them on time, helped serve them & cleaned-up after. WHAT A HIT! The sandwiches made a fantastic picnic presentation & tasted even better than they looked. Not only that, the Peters donated the Subway sandwiches!

Redwood High Cheer Squad - These girls helped turn our day into magic. Over 20 girls in uniform with a smile and pom-poms in hand helped cheer & motivate our clients & staff to persevere as they raced. They also joined our group for the picnic & after performed a special cheer made up just for CACS. I'm tearing up just thinking about it.

Barbara Rozen - picnic help  
 Karen Shay - A true National Charity League leader. She worked with me to recruit volunteers & as a result we had 11 incredibly motivated NCL volunteers to help us. She also worked our check-in booth with Chris B. and then participated in the Human Race by walking with a client.

Laura Sherman - worked our fair booth tirelessly for all the shifts!  
 Patti Somers - provided a FRESH & delicious mixed fruit salad.  
 Last on my list but certainly not the least: Jim Santangelo & Doug Watt - who helped out with whatever was needed.

That's my story & I'm sticking to it.



Johnathan, Jonathan & Christopher Holbrook



Cary Haworth, Eny Campos, Theresa Eisenberg



Joann Linn, Joelle & Patti Somers



Jared Jordan, Linda McCarron



Subs!



Redwood High JV Cheerleaders



Doug & Martha Watt



Winners: 1st Kevin, 2nd Cathy & 3rd Julia

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Michael Feno, Larry Mason