

Susan Corlett

At times like these, with war, economic decline, and state and county budget crises demanding so much of our attention, it's easy to focus on our fear and uncertainty. One of the great things about leading an organization like East Bay Agency for Children is that every day I am reminded of what we have to celebrate. When we named this year's Heart of the Matter Gala "A Celebration of Children," this is what we had in mind.



I would like you, the friends and supporters of EBAC, to join me in this celebration. And what better way to celebrate the joy, strength and resiliency of the children we help, than to reflect on their own words. These children are irreplaceable, like the middle-school boy who said of one of our Day Treatment programs, "The rules are cool, I just don't like following them." They find wisdom and strength beyond their years in times of great sadness, like the little girl in our Circle of Care grief and illness support program, who told us, "It's hard to live without your dad, but you find out you'll still live." And they are committed to making the most of what EBAC has to offer, like the student who told a teacher, "I'm never going to turn 12 so I never have to leave EBAC. And when I grow up I'm going to work here."

Of course, I understand that sentiment completely. EBAC is a very special place to work, and a place of hope and opportunity for more than 15,000 children and families in our community. Children come to us for many reasons, from emotional issues that make school a challenge, to loss and illness in their families, to simply needing a place where their safety and education, and the strength of their communities, are the top priorities.

The things that cause fear and uncertainty for us as adults right now affect the children around us more than we often know. Children are the first ones affected by cutbacks in education. At the same time, families today are under great financial and emotional stress, and entire communities are struggling to cope. It's at such times that we need to take that extra step to help those children, and to let them know that they are important to us and worth celebrating.

That's why I am so grateful to you, as a member of a valued group of supporters that has made EBAC's work possible for more than 50 years. Thank you for your time, for your financial support, and for your commitment to help children in our neighborhoods and throughout our community. This celebration belongs to you.

Susan Corlett

Save the Date for Fall Fashion, Football and Fun

On Tuesday, October 7, 2003, East Bay Agency for Children will take part in *Raiders on the Runway*, a gala fashion-show benefit at The Claremont Hotel and Spa, sponsored and organized by San Francisco Magazine and the Raiders' Wives Organization. Join us for an evening of the latest fashions, modeled by members of the Oakland Raiders and their families, along with children from some of EBAC's programs.

Funds raised at this spectacular event will help to support EBAC as we work to bring

health, hope and opportunity to more than 15,000 children in the East Bay during the coming year. Please mark this very special date on your calendar – whether you're a football fan, a devotee of fashion, or an EBAC supporter who is simply looking for a fun way to lend a hand, this event promises something for everyone. The reception begins at 6pm, with dinner and the fashion show to follow. We hope to see you there. For more information, please call Kate Lloyd at (510) 268-3770, ext. 118.

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East Bay Agency for Children (EBAC) is dedicated to bringing health, hope and opportunity to more than 15,000 children and families in Alameda County each year. Our programs provide therapeutic support for children who have suffered from abuse and neglect, prepare children to succeed in school, and help to strengthen families and communities.



Special Therapeutic and Educational Services

Providing counseling and mental health services along with a full day school curriculum, EBAC works at four program sites in Oakland and Fremont to heal and educate children who suffer from serious emotional disturbances.



School and Community-Based Programs

These programs provide comprehensive and coordinated services to children and families. Working through schools and community organizations, they promote school success and help to build stronger, safer families and communities.

To find out more about EBAC's programs, please visit our website at www.ebac.org

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Perspectives

PediatricCare Becomes Circle of Care



PediatricCare, one of East Bay Agency for Children's school and community-based programs, began 2003 with a new name, signaling the ways in which its services to families coping with illness and loss have expanded and deepened over its 21-year history. At a recent meeting of the EBAC Board of Directors, the program's new name, **Circle of Care**, was approved. The name PediatricCare marks a rich legacy that dates back to 1982, and is rooted in the program's early association with Children's Hospital Oakland and its work with children facing serious or terminal illnesses. We at EBAC are proud of the care extended to thousands of children under this name. At the same time, we felt that it was time for a new name to recognize the program's growth and evolution. Today our continued focus on supporting children coping with illness and loss is expressed in collaborations with a wide variety of community agencies and schools. We offer support groups, counseling and crisis intervention services for children and families coping with the illness or loss of adult and child family members. And our volunteer *Comfort Companions* extend our commitment to these families into their homes. The name **Circle of Care** looks back to our achievements under the PediatricCare name, while speaking to the ways in which our program has grown to address a wider variety of community and families needs, and to form a more encompassing circle of support for the families we serve. Our circle is made up of a dedicated staff and a large group of committed volunteers who donated over 2,500 hours of their time to our program last year. And of course, EBAC donors have been essential in broadening and strengthening that circle. Thank you to all who have created our **Circle of Care!**

A Celebration of Children

The Heart of the Matter



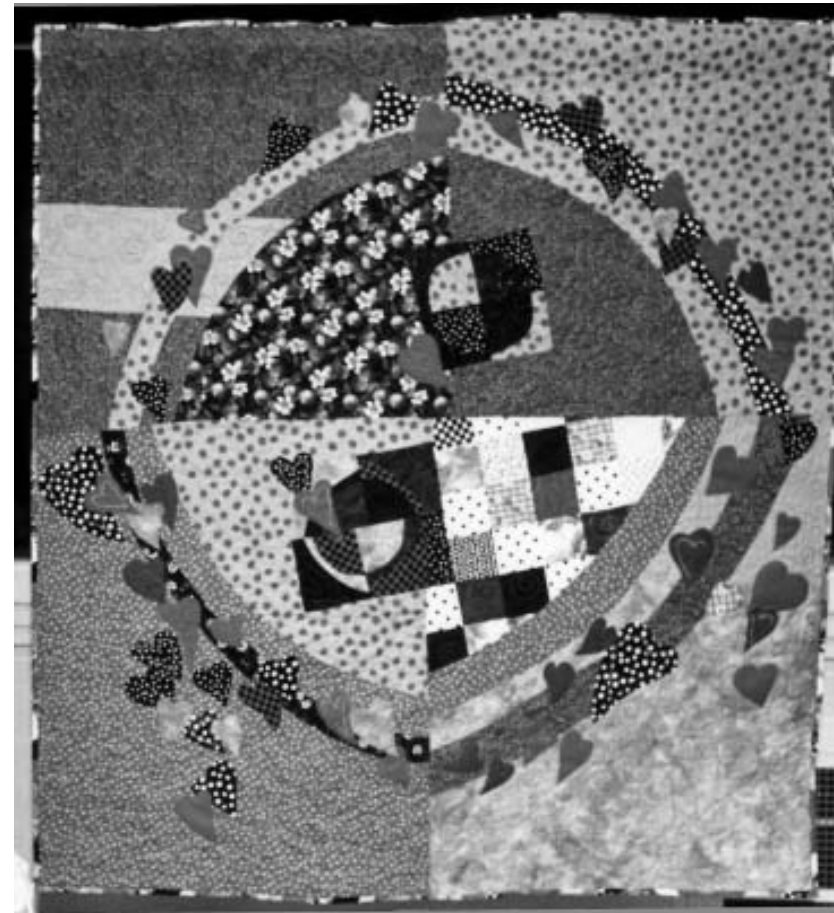
Students in the after school art program at EBAC's Sequoia Family Resource Center created one-of-a-kind art furniture for the Silent Auction. Their beautiful chair and table set was a highlight of the evening.

East Bay Agency for Children (EBAC) got off to a great start on our second half-century with the 7th Annual Heart of the Matter Gala, "A Celebration of Children." We would like to extend our deep gratitude to all those who helped us mark the occasion with such a successful fundraising event. EBAC raised over \$90,000 to support our 10 great programs that serve more than 15,000 children and their families throughout Alameda County.

This year's Gala, held once again at the Claremont Hotel Resort and Spa, featured dinner, dancing, silent and live auctions, and a chance to share touching, funny and heartfelt stories about the children and families we serve. It was also a time to reaffirm our connection with our community of supporters, including our host for the evening, Mark Curtis of KTVU News. Mr. Curtis helped us give special thanks to the Child Assault Prevention (CAP) Auxiliary, a tireless volunteer group that supports our work to keep kids safe; the individuals serving on our hard-working Board of Directors; and Oakland City Council President, Ignacio de la Fuente, who received our commendation for his commitment to children's education.

Special recognition is due to the generous individuals who made the Live Auction such an exciting and successful centerpiece for the evening. This year's standout auction item was the exclusive wine connoisseur's dinner offered by Shelly Symonds and Aaron Moore, who continued their tradition of donating this deluxe package for a fifth consecutive year. The winning bid came from a group of old friends and new faces, including former EBAC Board President Fritz Sparks; current Board President Bette McKenzie and Board members Alice Akawie and Anne Bodel; and new friend of EBAC Jeffrey Himmel. The wine connoisseur's dinner raised \$2,500, becoming once again the gold standard for auction items at the Gala.

Thanks again, on behalf of everyone at EBAC, to everyone who made this event such a success. Your support has ensured that "A Celebration of Children" means much more than one special night, but extends to all the things we do to help children every day of the year, and for many years to come.



This year's stunning new EBAC quilt, designed by master quilter Deanna Davis. The heart quilt joins last year's 50th Anniversary quilt in what we hope will become a new annual tradition for EBAC.



From left to right: Susan Corlett, EBAC Executive Director, Bette McKenzie, EBAC Board President, and Kathy Brown Ball, CAP Auxiliary member.



From left to right: Sean Marx, Give Something Back, Susan Corlett, EBAC Executive Director, Oliver Alchourron and Mike Hannigan, Give Something Back.



From left to right: Helen Mendel, CMD, EBAC Advisory Board Member, Mark Curtis, KTVU anchor and Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Susan Corlett, EBAC Executive Director, and Linda McChristian, EBAC Board Vice President for Governance.

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the generosity of our donors, many of whom contribute every year to make our dinner successful.

This event would not have been possible without the Corporate and Individual Sponsors listed below. To demonstrate our appreciation, we hope you will join us in thanking them for their support and patronize their establishments.

Thank you to all of the individuals and businesses that donate to our Live and Silent Auctions. With your support our auctions are unique and dynamic, and successfully raise funds to support EBAC's programs.

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A Warm Welcome to Our New Director of Clinical Services



Micheline Beam, Ph.D., EBAC's new Director of Clinical Services.

EBAC is proud to announce the most recent addition to our Senior Management Team, Micheline Beam, Ph.D. As Director of Clinical Services, Dr. Beam will supervise our suite of Specialized Therapeutic and Educational Services.

Born in Oakland and educated in local public schools, Dr. Beam is a graduate of Mills College and holds a doctorate from Michigan State University. She has worked in clinical programs serving children for most of her professional career. This work has taken her to New York and Detroit, MI, in settings including medical hospitals, children's psychiatric hospitals, and outpatient agencies. In 1990, she returned to California, where she has worked in a mental health agency for children and families, taught psychology students at Alliant University/CSPP in Alameda, and provided consultation and therapeutic services in a small private practice focused on children and families, psychological evaluations and clinical issues involved in adoption and foster care. Her commitment to the children EBAC serves is rooted in this professional experience, and strengthened by her role as the single parent of a bright, funny, and wonderful 7-year-old daughter, Berlynn.

Dr. Beam writes, "What drew me to EBAC was knowing that this agency provides both the type of programs for children, and the deeply-rooted commitment to the community, that I was looking for in a non-profit setting." With her extensive experience and devotion to helping children, we know that this is a commitment we share with Dr. Beam, and we look forward to the benefits of this new partnership for the children in our therapeutic programs.

Backpack Auction Helps EBAC Supporters Go the Extra Mile

Wouldn't it be wonderful if your gift to EBAC could go twice as far, supporting our great programs while directly helping one of the children we serve? This is what happened with a special item in this year's Heart of the Matter silent auction, thanks to the creativity of our Development Committee and the generosity of our supporters. EBAC purchased 40 children's backpacks, filled with essential school supplies, at a rock-bottom discount. During the silent

auction, the backpacks were sold to friends of EBAC at \$75 each. The proceeds from the sales went to support our ten great programs throughout Alameda County, while the backpacks themselves were donated to children in our school-based programs. On behalf of EBAC and the children whose school readiness got a helping hand, we would like to thank everyone who participated in this special auction event.