



# Circle of Care

**grief and illness services for children and families**

**A program of East Bay Agency for Children**



## Wonderful December Celebration!

Spring, 2006

Warmth and support greeted you as you entered the doors to our lively annual Holiday Gathering. It has become a tradition here where all the families who attend our loss and illness groups gather to enjoy an evening of great company, delicious food, desserts and fun activities for the whole family. Circle of Care welcomed over 50 families along with volunteers and staff to create an evening of community togetherness.

There were activity rooms set up with card making, quilt square making, and board game playing, but the highlight of this years party was definitely the Karaoke room. Debbie Tavella, EBAC's Operations Manager, donated her time and her professional Karaoke machine to really get the party going. At first folks were timid, but by the end of the evening everyone was an American Idol. We even did a couple rounds of "YMCA" (see photo on pg 3) and "Hakuna Matata" that got the whole room singing and dancing appreciating the excitement of the young performers. Another new addition to the gathering was the coffee & hot chocolate bar donated and hosted by our friends from

Starbucks. Jacob Rosenberg the manager at the downtown Oakland Starbucks provided pastries, coffee, and hot chocolate with fancy flavored whip cream and sprinkles. In addition Starbucks gave gift certificates to all the parents so that they could treat themselves to a warm cup of java in the near future.

The party was made possible by our caterers, Denice Haboush & Rob Hohmann, many donors from the community who provided gifts for the children, and our inimitable volunteers who staffed the activities. (see pg 2) A million thanks go out to all of you who made the Holiday

Gathering such a memorable heart warming evening. We are continuously reminded of the good in the world by your boundless generosity.

We are thankful to be able to have a gathering like this where the families we serve can feel welcome to come as they are. Many families look forward to this gathering every year where they feel safe and held by the other people in their groups and the Circle of Care community.

We would like thank everyone once again for making the 2005 holiday gathering a success and wish you all the best in 2006.

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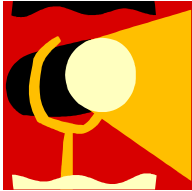
## Thinking about Volunteering?

Circle of Care is in the process of recruiting volunteers for our next volunteer training taking place March 25th & 28th. We are looking for compassionate, playful people who would like to help children and families living with grief and loss. Our support groups are facilitated entirely by volunteers who give about 4 hours of their time and their heart every other week to help support children aged toddler to 17, and their parents.

If you are someone who wants to help make a difference in a child's life or know someone who is looking for this type of volunteer opportunity, please contact Alinya Charron at 531-7551 x109 or email [alinya@ebac.org](mailto:alinya@ebac.org). She will send you more information about the program, and how to apply. Trainings are held in the Spring and Fall.

Deadline to apply for March Training: **March 10th, 2006**





## Circle of Care Quilts in the Spotlight

If you ever visit Circle of Care, you will enjoy many bright quilts that adorn the walls. These quilts are created by the families that attend our support groups and warm our space like nothing else could. The tradition of making quilts began at our Annual Holiday Gathering back in 2002.

We have continued this tradition every year since. We are proud to say that the quilts that were made last year at our 2004 gathering will be on display at the 2006 East Bay Heritage Quilt Show, "Voices in Cloth", on March 11th - 12th at the Oakland Convention Center. The two Circle of Care quilts will be displayed in the section of the show that is for quilts made by children.

If you are interested in going to see the Circle of Care quilts, along with over 200 other beautiful quilt creations, please contact Alinya Charron 510-531-7551 x109 for a FREE ticket. Tickets are limited so they are on a first call, first serve basis! And don't forget we still have quilt cards for sale, 5 cards for \$10.00. It is a great way to support Circle of Care and stay connected with your friends and loved ones. Contact Alinya for ordering information.

## ~Poetry Corner~

I still remember the loved ones are gone. But they still remain in dreams, memories of them all.

"I love you" the dying words before they went on their journey.

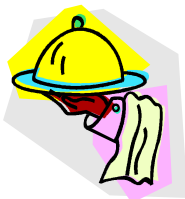
We will someday meet them again.

Jane Lee age 11, 2006  
Circle of Care Support Group Attendee



We could not have done it without YOU!

This year we were completely amazed by the way that the community came together to help make our 2005 Holiday Gathering a huge success. Your generosity is what helps us continue to provide services and gatherings for the families we serve. We thank you for supporting Circle of Care's work!



This is year #4 in the Denice Haboush & Robert Hohmann catering duo tradition. Once again we were overwhelmed by the fabulous food that they donated and prepared for our hungry tummies. Pastas, salmon, cheeses, meats, hors d'oeuvres just kept on pouring out

of the kitchen all evening to keep everyone well fed. This year Denice's friend Cheryl joined in the tradition by making an incredible spread of desserts and pastries. Starbucks also joined in with coffee, hot chocolate and cookies! Thank you all for your generosity and your annual support in making this event possible!

Each child was delighted with a gift as they left the holiday gathering. This was possible because of the many people who answered our need for toys posted on Volunteer Centers of Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco's website. Thank you to all of you who made toy deliveries in December: Amy Boxer, Stacie Sandifer, Jaynese Davis & The Lake School, Melissa Giomi, Donna Poirier, Robert Harp, Jim Mills, Tammy Feese, Andrea Harris, Beate, Julian & Katia Lohser, Jessica Michaelson & Michael Zapnider. A special thanks to Tina Delucchi and the employees at APM Terminals Pacific Ltd/Maersk for donating all the toys for our PALS school based program clients.



Thank you to the volunteer masseuses who donated 10 minute massages all evening to grateful recipients. The talented massage therapists were: Eleni Livitsanos, Esti Feller, & Mary Beth Binder.

# ~ Holiday Gathering Memories ~

12/14/05



Bounty of Food



Quilt Creating



Volunteers



The Chef



Karaoke Stars



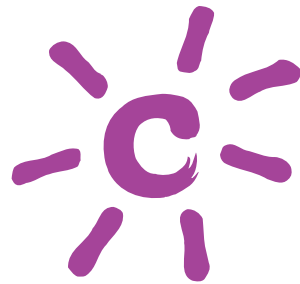
Singin' & Dancin'



Card Making



# Circle of Care



## Holiday Gathering 2005



# Spring Calendar

## March 2006

| SUN | MON | TUE             | WED                 | THU                   | FRI | SAT             |
|-----|-----|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----------------|
|     |     |                 | 1 Loss Group        | 2 Loss Group          | 3   | 4               |
| 5   | 6   | 7               | 8 Living w/Illness  | 9 Extended Fam. Loss  | 10  | 11              |
| 12  | 13  | 14              | 15 Loss Group       | 16 Loss Group         | 17  | 18              |
| 19  | 20  | 21              | 22 Living w/Illness | 23 Extended Fam. Loss | 24  | 25 Vol Training |
| 26  | 27  | 28 Vol Training | 29 Loss Group       | 30 Loss Group         | 31  |                 |

## April 2006

| SUN   | MON | TUE | WED                 | THU                   | FRI                       | SAT |
|-------|-----|-----|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----|
|       |     |     |                     |                       |                           | 1   |
| 2     | 3   | 4   | 5 Living w/Illness  | 6 Extended Fam. Loss  | 7                         | 8   |
| 9     | 10  | 11  | 12                  | 13                    | 14                        | 15  |
| 16    | 17  | 18  | 19 Loss Group       | 20 Loss Group         | 21                        | 22  |
| 23/30 | 24  | 25  | 26 Living w/Illness | 27 Extended Fam. Loss | 28 Volunteer Appreciation | 29  |

## May 2006

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED                 | THU                   | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----|
|     | 1   | 2   | 3 Loss Group        | 4 Loss Group          | 5   | 6   |
| 7   | 8   | 9   | 10 Living w/Illness | 11 Extended Fam. Loss | 12  | 13  |
| 14  | 15  | 16  | 17 Loss Group       | 18 Loss Group         | 19  | 20  |
| 21  | 22  | 23  | 24 Living w/Illness | 25 Extended Fam. Loss | 26  | 27  |
| 28  | 29  | 30  | 31                  |                       |     |     |

### Support Group Schedule

All groups meet from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Families need to be pre-registered to attend a support group.

Questions?

Call Melissa at 531-7551 x 195

- ♥ **Wednesday Living with Illness:**  
March 8 & 22, April 5 & 26, May 10 & 24
- ♥ **Wednesday Living with Loss:**  
March 1 & 15 & 29, April 19, May 3 & 17
- ♥ **Thursday Living with Loss:**  
March 2 & 16 & 30, April 20, May 4 & 18
- ♥ **Thursday Extended Family Loss:**  
March 9 & 23, April 6 & 27, May 11 & 25
- ♥ **Teen Support at WCRC:** This groups meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month.

### Up-Coming Events

Volunteers Save the Date for our  
~ Volunteer Appreciation Party ~

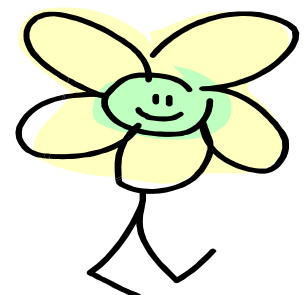
**Friday April 28th**

party for all of our volunteers to show how much we appreciate their dedication & hard work.

**Invitations will be sent late March!**

### Calendar Notes

Shaded Boxes indicate our offices are closed.



## Circle of Care

2540 Charleston Street  
Oakland, CA 94602

voice: 510-531-7551 fax: 510-531-3657

Circle of Care assists children and families coping with grief and illness through support groups, counseling and school-based programs. We collaborate with Children's Hospital Oakland, Women's Cancer Resource Center and Alta Bates Comprehensive Cancer Center. We are one of the very few programs in the county devoted exclusively to the needs of children and their families who are dealing with grief in their lives. We are supported entirely by donations from the community, foundations and the families we serve.

### Requesting Services:

If you or someone you know could benefit from individual counseling or group services, please call 510-531-7551. We conduct a brief telephone interview and get you started in our program.

### Our Staff:

Sara Marsh, Program Director, ext. 130  
Elisabeth Hopkins, Program Assistant & HIV Coordinator, ext. 165  
Alinya Charron, Volunteer Coordinator, ext. 109  
Nancy Landau, Clinical Program Coordinator, ext. 107  
Melissa Anson, Support Group Coordinator, ext. 195

**Newsletter Editor:** Alinya Charron, [alinya@ebac.org](mailto:alinya@ebac.org)



Circle of Care is proud to be a program of East Bay Agency for Children (EBAC). EBAC improves health, offers hope, and provides opportunities to children and families. Our programs, located throughout Alameda County, prepare children to succeed in school; assist families through times of crisis; and provide therapeutic support to children who have suffered from abuse and/or neglect. Founded in 1952 by local parents, we have grown from a small program serving 18 children into a comprehensive regional agency making a lasting impact on more than 15,000 children and families every year.

## Sara Says...



The blossoms are out on the trees again, and the weather report is for a cold, freezing storm. So life is brave, fragile and unpredictable, as always. In the midst of beauty and threat, we are so grateful for all the gifts that have come to our program for the families of Circle of Care. The echoes of the wonderful Holiday Gathering still ring down the halls of our building. The memory of the children and parents enjoying the cocoa from Starbucks and the wonderful food from Denice and Rob still warm our hearts.

So many examples of generosity and caring inspire us as we make our way into the new year. David Springer, along with other members that attend our living with illness group, have assembled a hugely

useful set of information and tips for families coping with life-threatening illness. Suggestions of how to prepare for the possible death of a family member include many topics from funeral preparations to financial considerations. David has worked on this project for years and we are thankful for his presence and passion for helping others. Those interested in this collection of wise ideas should call Melissa at 531-7551 x195 to receive a copy.

As the weather warms up we look forward to the annual fundraising event for East Bay Agency for Children. This festival of food and silent auction delights will be held on Friday June 2nd at Gaia Arts Center. Tickets are \$125/person and anyone interested in attending this event and supporting EBAC

can contact Tandra Debose at 510-268-3770 ext 118.

So far we have received over 80 applications from those interested joining our 06-07 student intern practicum counseling program. We thank you all for helping to spread the word about our excellent program. If you know of any licensed therapists (Ph.D., Psy.D, LCSW, MFT) who might be interested in becoming a volunteer supervisor to these students for next year please contact Nancy Landau at 531-7551 x107.

Looking ahead to Spring with the flowers in bloom, we wish you and your families the best. And we thank you again, for your part of the support that keeps Circle of Care services sustained and thriving.

