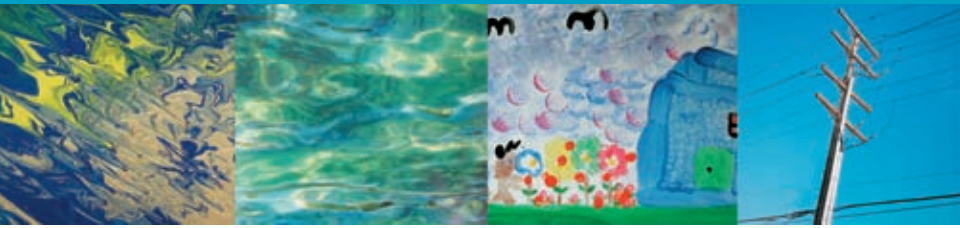


“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,  
nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”

— Dr. Seuss



Five Acres Quarterly Magazine • Vol. 97 • Summer 2009

## Everybody in the pool!

Every year the excitement builds as the kids at Five Acres notice when the weather starts to get hot. They know it’s almost time for the pool to open. Children like the pool because they can cool off, feel free and play games. Grownups think it’s great for physical exercise and promoting socialization and coping skills. It also changes lives.

In Five Acres’ swimming teacher Joe Wray’s 18 years of experience with aquatics programs he has never seen a child as afraid to be near the water as Jacob. So Joe started with Jacob very gradually. They began at the picnic table, then moved to the pool deck and inched ever closer to the water over many days of repetition, building trust and teaching skills. Jacob finally agreed to get into the

water after Joe promised to hold him and not let him go. As they moved through the water, Joe distracted Jacob from his fear by having him blow bubbles like a motor boat, kick his feet like a pair of scissors to cut the water, and relax his body like floating on a cloud. Jacob also scratched Joe’s shoulders because he was clinging so tightly.

The sessions were brief to give Jacob a chance to relax, to build trust and to give him the power to decide when he wanted to get into and out of the water. On the deck afterwards, Jacob sat shivering with big bright eyes and said “I did it – that wasn’t too scary!” When Joe asked if he wanted to get back in, Jacob would get up and say, “See you tomorrow!” And the next day he was back – eager to get into the water. The more they practiced these skills each day, the smaller the claw marks got on Joe’s shoulders. It was clear that Jacob was gaining in confidence, strength and trust. A transformation was taking place.

Before he started swim lessons, Jacob was a quiet and reserved child. With each lesson, however, he became more social and attempted new things he would not normally have tried. Everyone noticed that Jacob was growing more confident and courageous. He jumped in from the wall while holding Joe’s hand, then he jumped in for Joe to catch him, and eventually he jumped in all by himself. After four months of swim lessons, incredibly, Jacob was swimming by himself in the deep end and showing off



Thanks to  
Women Helping Youth  
from the children of Five Acres.

for his friends with flips off the diving board.

Five Acres’ pool was built in 1968 as a gift from the Cook family. After 40 years it needed replastering and safety upgrades. Women Helping Youth, a generous group of philanthropic women in Pacific Palisades, made a grant to fund the project which will be celebrated at an ice-cream social at the pool’s grand opening in May.

In this precarious time we are committed to keeping life as normal as possible for our children and protecting

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■ Dawn’s Story

■ 121st Annual Meeting

■ PMHC Second Annual Fête

■ Memorials and Tributes

visit us at [www.fiveacres.org](http://www.fiveacres.org)

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## Executive Director's Letter



### “Five Acres Gets It!”

We celebrate the wonderful teamwork between Five Acres and our many partners to achieve our mission to help families raise children to become caring and productive adults. Our reputation for collaboration and commitment to doing “whatever it takes” creates wonderful outcomes like the following.

- A dependency court *judge* in Los Angeles told parents to take their troubled son to a Five Acres group home because he said it is the only place where their son could be effectively treated and receive the assistance required for him to be reunited with their family.
- *Women Helping Youth* provided a grant to refurbish the 40-year-old swimming pool in time for the children to enjoy the opening of pool season on Memorial Day.
- *Staff* helped the children create handmade tiles to personalize the pool with their artwork and create a mosaic on the pool equipment house.
- *Parents* partner with our staff in an array of groups to support, teach and assist them to raise their children successfully.

- *Volunteers* support children every day in a variety of ways including special activities, holidays, outings, tutoring, and as special friends.
- *Board members* partner with the staff to meet community expectations and give personal support and guidance to achieve strategic goals. Their passion about their experiences attracts others to support our inspiring cause.
- *Events volunteers* create amazing fund raisers such as Swingin’ on a Star and the Golf Classic to provide critical financial support for Five Acres’ services.
- A *DCFS leader* remarked, “Five Acres gets it!” We are grateful to be seen as a true collaborator in serving children and families.

Thank *you* for being a member of Five Acres’ incredible team. Together we are making a positive contribution to the lives of children and families in Los Angeles County. ■

Robert A. Ketch  
Executive Director

## Everybody in the pool!

*continued from front page*

them from the stresses of a turbulent economy. Please consider helping to keep summer fun for them with a special gift to the Summer Activities Fund. With your help children’s lives – like Jacob’s – will be changed forever. You may mail your check to Five Acres at 760 W. Mountain View

Street, Altadena, CA 91001, or make a gift online at [www.fiveacres.org](http://www.fiveacres.org). For questions or assistance, please call Susan Silverman, director of development and marketing (626) 798-6793 ext. 2279. And thank you for your support! ■



## Good Will

**W**e all like people of good will – because they are positive, generous and uplifting to be around. They tend to be cheerful and optimistic and make life more enjoyable for others.

The term “good will” also applies to businesses and organizations. This intangible asset adds value to the more measurable aspects of facilities, products, programs and personnel. A business with good will enjoys a positive presence in the community.

The same is true of nonprofit organizations like Five Acres. We have learned that a positive reputation goes a long way toward attracting volunteerism and financial support. We want to expand our good will as far and wide as we can.

“Good will” can also apply to estate planning. We can express our good will through a good will – which is a whole lot better than a careless or faulty will. Or even no will at all.

Here is a list of items a good will can accomplish. Does your will do these things?

- Name a trusted person as executor.
- Possibly reduce or eliminate estate taxes.
- Establish a family trust to protect assets.
- Name guardian(s) for minor children.
- Designate who will receive personal items.
- Provide for special family needs.
- Benefit your community with a gift to your favorite charity.

By creating good wills, we create good will among those we honor who will remember us for our foresight, generosity and thoughtfulness.

For you, creating a good will may mean calling an attorney to make an appointment to prepare a will or to revise an existing will. If you don't know a good estate-planning attorney, your banker or accountant may have a recommendation. If you like, we will help you locate an attorney who can draft a good will.

If you would like further information about wills and estate planning, please contact Cathy Clement, director of philanthropy, at 626.798.6793 ext. 2251 or at [cclement@5acres.org](mailto:cclement@5acres.org) or visit our website at [www.fiveacres.org](http://www.fiveacres.org). ■



**F**rom time to time we share one of our youngsters' remarkable successes with you. Here is Dawn's story.

*I came to Five Acres when I was five years old, and when I was seven, my brother, Eric, and I moved to the Solita group home. Five Acres supported me throughout college, and with their help I attended art school in Italy for a summer and volunteered for nine weeks in Japan, Malta, Cyprus and Spain. I graduated from the Torrey Honors Institute at Biola University with a B.A. in intercultural studies.*

## Dawn's Story

*After college I worked as a residential counselor and as an art instructor before graduating from the master's program at Loyola Marymount University in clinical art therapy where I was awarded membership into the Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honors Society, the highest honor awarded for all programs at Jesuit institutions.*

*I am an active member of the Foster Care Alumni of America, an organization of adults who grew up in foster care. I presented at the American Art Therapy Association's national conference on FCAA and the therapeutic implications of working with youth living in foster care. I have also been invited to two other regional conferences to make similar presentations.*

*On May 23rd, I will begin an internship in Washington D.C. with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption after which I will decide among several scholarship offers to attend law school in the fall.*

*My brother, Eric, who graduated from Cal State L.A. with a B.S. in computer and electrical engineering, will be graduating this June with his M.A. in engineering.*

We congratulate and celebrate Dawn and Eric and wish them well in their future endeavors. ■



## Five Acres 121<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

**F**ive Acres held its 121<sup>st</sup> annual meeting at The Athenaeum on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. Bill Clark, the chairman of the board was one of many involved in presenting the seven Community Service Awards recognizing individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to child abuse prevention, treatment and education.

**The Person of the Year Award** was presented to **Pamela Scott** of La Canada. Five Acres met Pamela in 1992 when she joined the

Five Acres Children's Guild. She later became its treasurer and then president, not once but twice. Pamela recruited the Guild members to work on the Festival of Trees, to make our gala fund raiser, "A Night at the Academy," a success and later on the phenomenal "Swingin' on a Star," which she co-chaired in 2005.

**The Volunteer of the Year Award** was presented to **Jill Fosselman** of Pasadena. Jill began in 2005 as an after-school tutor one afternoon every week, and went on later to join the Children's

Guild and its Cottage Angels programs. Jill has participated in the Swingin' on a Star gala committee for many years and in 2007 co-chaired with her husband, John. **The Legacy Award** was presented to **Joel Sheldon of Vroman's Bookstore**. Carrying on his father's sense of philanthropy Joel has donated countless books and gift certificates over the years. In celebration of Vroman's Bookstore's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary six charities including Five Acres were selected to receive a portion of sales. A few years later in 1998, Vroman's Gives

Back was created to give 1% of sales to a charity selected by the customer. To date the program has generated in excess of \$35,000 for Five Acres.

**The Outstanding Support Award** was presented to **Pasadena Showcase House** for the Arts and was accepted by Joy Sullivan. Showcase House grants have purchased

percussion rhythm sets, recorders, keyboards, castanets, a karaoke machine, and meditation CDs to help the children feel calm and centered. All of these activities are not only inherently enjoyable, but our research department has documented their therapeutic benefit in healing young lives. **Special Services to Children Award** was presented to **Free Arts for Abused Children** and was accepted by Executive Director Karrah Lompa. For more than 20 years, 20 to 30 volunteers from Free Arts spend the day at Five Acres doing an art project with the children



*Board Member Cathy Sims and Assistant Executive Director Regina Bette.*



*Recipients of the Community Service Awards pictured left to right: Pamela Scott, Joel Sheldon, Denise and Robert Zeilstra, Brad Reaume, Jill Fosselman, Joy Sullivan and Karrah Lompa.*



*New Board Members left to right Dino White, Mee Semcken, Karen Ryan, Maggie Navarro, Bradley Mohr, John Fosselman, Nishat Ahmed, Chantal Bennett, Alex Blecksmith.*



*Pictured left to right Jill and Riley Cole enjoying the reception with Lindsay and Bill Hayden.*



on campus. Brilliantly, Free Arts finds a sponsor to underwrite each project such as Target stores. **Special Recognition Award** was presented to **Denise and Robert Zeilstra** of Pasadena. Denise and Robert Zeilstra's philanthropy stretches across the globe, from their native Holland to Pasadena. Not only do they have a soft spot for children, but their name is on a building at Huntington Hospital, and they're the major sponsors of the California Philharmonic. Robert served on the Five Acres board of directors in the 1980s before they both agreed to

become Five Acres Ambassadors in the 1990s. Most recently, Robert and Denise have made an extraordinarily generous gift to the construction of Five Acres' Research and Training Center. **Dorothy Cook Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to **Brad Reaume** of San Marino for his "extensive and consecutive leadership that made a substantial difference in the service of Five Acres and enriched its future." Brad has been heavily involved in the Golf Classic committee since 1995 and has co-chaired and chaired the event. In 1997, he joined the board of directors,

served for nine years, took a year off and re-joined the board last year. In addition to his extraordinary work on the Golf Classic, he's been vice-chair for development and served on the board affairs committee.

In addition to recognizing all of our awardees for their time and dedication, Five Acres is proud to recognize ten new board members! They are Nishat Ahmed, Chantal Bennett, Alex Blecksmith, John Fosselman, Bradley Mohr, Maggie Navarro, Karen Ryan, Pamela Scott, Mee Semcken and Dino White. ■

## Pasadena Mental Health Center's Second Annual Fête

Supporters of Pasadena Mental Health Center (PMHC) gathered at Pasadena's premiere wine and jazz bar, redwhite + bluezz, on Sunday, March 22 at their second annual *Fête*. The event netted over \$10,000 that will aid the Five Acres affiliate in providing affordable mental health services for the uninsured and underinsured population of the greater Pasadena area. Guests enjoyed the music of The Greg Poree Trio "Acoustic World Jazz" from *Dancing with the Stars*, as well as signature wine and canapé tasting presented by Sommelier Russ Meek and Head Chef Sean Bradley. The event also featured a silent auction with over thirty exciting packages, a wish tree where guests could fulfill the wish of a client, and a very special live auction item. The room quieted as one of PMHC's clients shared her powerful story of how she has been able to turn her life around thanks to the services provided by the center. It was a truly heart-warming evening, bringing community members together for an

incredible cause. For more information regarding PMHC and the services they provide contact Chanel Boutakidis at 626-798-0907 or [cboutakidis@5acres.org](mailto:cboutakidis@5acres.org). ■



*Five Acres Board Members Michelle Hall and Debi Kroman.*



*PMHC Board Members from left: Steve Horwitz, Frank DeVito, Pamela Smith, Stephanie Leiter, Chanel Boutakidis, Sybil Stevenson, Frank Taylor, Elizabeth Schirz.*



*Meredith Potter and Five Acres Board Member Alex Blecksmith.*



*Our community gives back to Five Acres and the kids!*



Elephants on the Wall.  
Where You'll Never Forget

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We strongly believe that children are truly the future and we would like to invest in their lives and education by donating back to the schools & organizations that help them achieve their dreams.

So when you, your members, your friends, family or anyone – anywhere - purchases a mural from us and selects "Five Acres" under our list of Give Back participants, **Five Acres will receive 20% of the sale. It's that easy! So start spreading the word!**

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[www.elephantsonthewall.com](http://www.elephantsonthewall.com)

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for the kids!



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Ten percent of your dinner proceeds will benefit the children of Five Acres.

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Valid through Nov. 30th, 2009; not valid with any other offers or promotions.

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A portion of every purchase goes directly to Five Acres!  
To sign up, go to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com)

# A Special Thank You to Our Donors

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*We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated a special gift. Please see our website for a complete listing of all 2009 donors.*

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our Children's  
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### Swingin' on a Star — Escape to Morocco

Sunday June 7, 2009  
One Colorado Courtyard  
Pasadena, CA  
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm  
Honoring Robert J. Floe

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Invitational Golf Classic

Monday October 5, 2009  
San Gabriel Country Club  
411 E Las Tunas Dr  
San Gabriel, CA

For more information on how to sponsor or participate in an event, please contact event manager Margaret Morici 626.798.6793 ext 2244 or mmorici@fiveacres.org

### *Corporate Matching Gifts*

Does your company match employee philanthropic contributions? Multiply your support today by giving through your company's corporate matching gift program.

### *Have you been to Five Acres lately?*

Please contact Susan Silverman to set up a tour.  
626.798.6793 ext. 2279  
or ssilverman@5acres.org



### Five Acres

The Boys' and Girls' Aid Society of  
Los Angeles County  
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Five Acres is a child and family services agency that strengthens families and prevents child abuse through treatment and education in community-based and residential programs. Originally founded as an orphanage in 1888, today Five Acres offers an array of services including residential care and education, mental health services in homes and schools, foster care and adoptions, and domestic violence prevention. In 2008, more than 5,000 at-risk children and their family members were served. Five Acres is an equal opportunity employer.

*Please remember Five Acres in your will.*

*If you would like to add a friend to our mailing list, receive multiple copies of our mailings or wish to make a donation, please call Jean at 626/798-6793 ext. 2270.*



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# Summer Activities

Please help our at-risk children in Five Acres' residential treatment center and community-based programs experience fun-filled summer activities including trips to museums, theme parks, the beach, the zoo, swimming lessons and crafts.

Many of the children we serve have never enjoyed the magic of childhood due to abuse and neglect or financial hardship. Please send a donation of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250 or more and help change a child's life!

For more information on how you can make a difference contact Susan Silverman at 626.798.6793 ext. 2279 or [ssilverman@5acres.org](mailto:ssilverman@5acres.org). You can donate on-line with PayPal at [www.5acres.org](http://www.5acres.org).



*For the kids!*