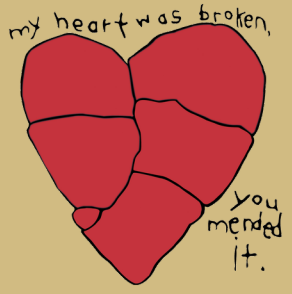


RICHSTONE FAMILY CENTER

FALL 2019

The Richstone Family Center is dedicated to treating and preventing child abuse and trauma; strengthening and educating families; and preventing violence in families, schools and communities.

2019 'AFFAIR OF THE HEART' GALA

BY TARA HUBBARD
EVENT CHAIR

The 2019 'Affair of the Heart' Gala was certainly an evening to BOND and guests took license to GIVE! Our gracious hosts, Porsche South Bay and LAcarGuy opened their magnificent facility in Hawthorne for an incredible evening of generosity. Guests mixed and mingled amongst a remarkable collection of classic Porsches while sipping on 'Shaken, Not Stirred' martinis and specialty wines and spirits poured courtesy of Bristol Farms and their partners. Over 375 guests were in attendance to celebrate our 2019 honorees - Geoff Nicoll and Bristol Farms along with Jen and Dave Caskey for their support of the Richstone Family Center and commitment to helping those in need within the community.

This year's record-setting Gala generated over $460,000 to expand program offerings for children and families in desperate need of trauma-focused treatment services.

The Silent Auction featured over 90 sought-after items including exclusive local experiences, trips and fine wine, while the Live Auction saw tremendous bidding activity with some winners giving with their hearts to fund Richstone Kids Experiences such as a trip to an Anaheim Angels Game. Other winners went home with an Italian Getaway, a BOND trip to the U.K., Dinner Parties for 10+ and even a beautiful 8-week old Puppy! Guests also embraced this year's Fund-A-Need which raised over $160,000 to support expanded prevention programs and classes in Richstone's new Everychild Healing Center. A very special thank you to Wells Fargo Capital Finance and a generous private donor for their contributions which kickstarted the campaign with a $50,000 commitment.

After the dinner festivities, the evening of bonding and giving culminated with guests kicking up their heels in the Casa Luigi Prosecco Dance Lounge.

Heartfelt thanks to our 2019 Honorees, wonderful sponsors, and supporters for making this important fundraiser a great success! We hope to see everyone at the 2020 Gala.

Visit our Facebook page (Facebook.com/RichstoneFamily) for pictures from this year's event.

Thank You for Supporting the Richstone Walk!

32ND ANNUAL RICHSTONE WALK

BY DONNA CUNNINGHAM & MARY COURTNEY-BURKE
EVENT CO-CHAIRS

Many thanks to all who joined together to make the 2019 Richstone Walk a resounding success! This year's walk launched "Heart Art" - 6 large original art pieces, painted and donated by members of the South Bay Art Collective - which lined the Walk route with unique color and design. Thanks to our fabulous Walk Committee who donated their time and talents to make this an unforgettable event, to the local businesses that set up wonderful booths at the pier, to all the dogs who entered the 2nd Annual Richstone Walk Dog Costume Contest, to our amazing sponsors, to the girl scout troops, musicians, walkers and supporters who came together to help us raise much needed funds for the Richstone Family Center. Can't wait to see you next year on April 25 for the 2020 Richstone Walk!

EMPLOYEE GIVING

EMPLOYEE GIVING is a great and easy way to help your favorite charity. Most companies are willing to give back to their communities, while encouraging and empowering their employees to do the same. This year's walk received a big boost from company teams and employer contributions. Ask your employer about gift matching programs today.

To learn more, please contact Allison at atanaka@richstonefamily.org

RICHSTONE VOLUNTEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

BY MEREDITH ZELLWEGER & DIANE
RICHSTONE MENTOR & MENTEE

I met Diane, my beloved mentee, at Richstone 6 years ago. Staff suggested she was a bright child who would thrive with one-on-one attention. And thrive she did as I challenged her with a mix of intellectual rigor and little-kid fun. During those early years I tried to make learning more interesting with Skittle rewards (not above the bribe) and my occasional victory dance when Diane got a right answer (being such a dorky dancer, this totally motivated Diane). We also had a lot of fun creating playlists of people I'd never heard of, making slime, learning to knit, crafting, cookie decorating and on and on.

My relationship with Diane has evolved as she has. I've proudly watched as she's grown from a shy little girl to a confident, smart young woman. Through the years, I continue to challenge her and encourage her to think critically. This past February I sat on the dais at her quinceañera as her godmother.

Her acceptance to Vistamar, an independent and diverse South Bay high school, was a day of happy tears for us both. As one of four Latinx to earn a nearly full four-year scholarship, Diane is truly on a trajectory that will change her life. That path started at Richstone in the Kids Club. Richstone offered Diane a safe and happy place where the importance of learning started at a young age.

Diane just finished her freshman year with nearly straight A's and is learning to lead. She's a member of the Robotics team, the feminist club and hopes to become a school ambassador in the Fall. She wants to come to Richstone with me soon to help mentor another young person. The hope is she will inspire those who come after her and lead them where she is going.

Meeting Meredith and becoming her mentee has greatly impacted my life. She is a mentor and a friend who is always there for me and encourages me to do my best. I first met Meredith the summer before fourth grade. Back then, she brought fun games to Richstone to play, and she even helped me learn my multiplication facts, which I thought was impossible. She's always known that I love to read so she's brought me many books throughout the years and my love for reading has continued to grow.

When I first met Meredith she told me about Vistamar. At first, I didn't think much of it, but as the years went by, she encouraged me to think about it as a school I may want to attend. I still wasn't too sure about going to a private school, away from all my friends, in a completely new environment. In 8th grade I applied to Vistamar and was admitted. I now feel accepted and more confident than ever before. I'm grateful to Meredith for introducing me to my school and always believing I'd be accepted even when I wasn't so sure myself. Meredith has always encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone but she's never forced me to do anything that I'm not comfortable with. I'm grateful that Richstone brought us together all those years ago and that I became her friend and mentee.

RICHSTONE CELEBRATES FIRST 5 PARENTS AS TEACHERS GRADUATES

BY LAUREN BEST

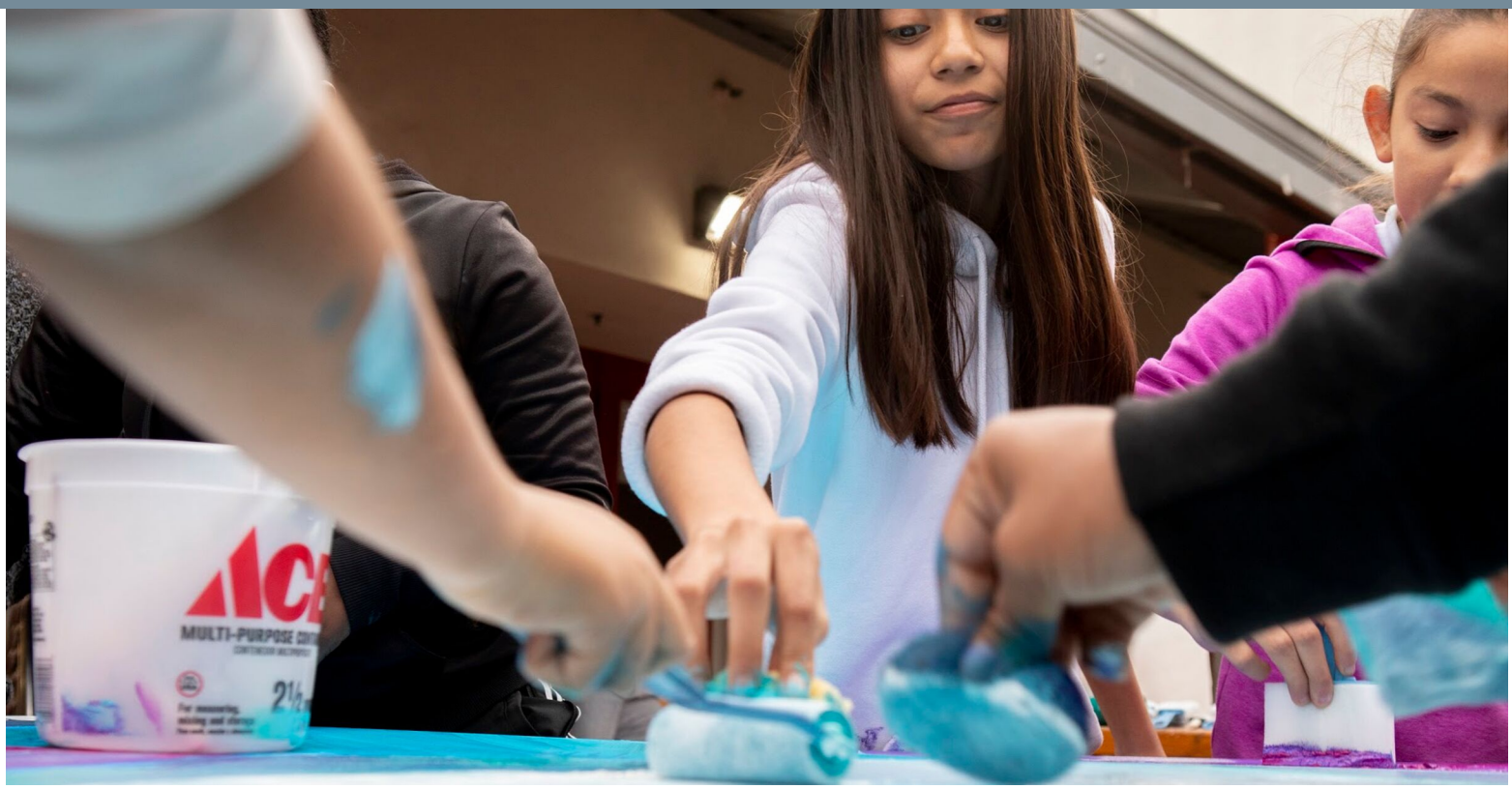
Richstone's Department of Public Health (DPH) Parents as Teachers (PAT) Home Visiting program services families in need that have children ages 0-5. Families can join on their own accord via word of mouth, agency collaborations, health fairs, etc. and are also able to sign-up through participating doctors' offices and hospitals. Through the DPH contract, Richstone is able to provide comprehensive bi-monthly home visiting services in Long Beach/South Bay and West LA/Malibu. During these home visits, Richstone's Parent Educators provide families with support via referral linkages, child development screenings, and hands-on interactive activities geared towards building and strengthening healthy attachments. Additionally, clients have the opportunity to attend monthly group connections. These group connections serve as a place for families to come together in community, engage in unique activities with their children, share a meal, and celebrate the journey of parenthood together.

In August, the Parents as Teachers programs celebrated their first three graduating families! These families enrolled in the program when their child was just a few weeks old and are successfully graduating now that their children are 5 years of age. With the guidance of their Parent Educators, these families are stronger and their children are healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

BECOME A RICHSTONE VOLUNTEER

Interested in getting involved? Volunteering at Richstone is an excellent way to connect with the community, make a positive difference... and HAVE FUN! We can help customize your volunteer experience based on your interests and schedule.

Learn more: www.richstonefamily.org/get-involved



RICHSTONE X RESIN HERMOSA

BY SONIA PARK

In April, the Richstone Kids Club completed a four week Art Program with Rafael McMaster and the Resident volunteers of the South Bay Artist Collective. Through the Collective's mission of supporting and growing the local visual arts community through teaching and inspiring youth, Richstone students learned mindfulness techniques and ways to express their inner artists. The students were inspired to experiment with different art mediums such as photography and spray paint and to create unique art pieces in a safe space that allows creativity to thrive! Our next art session at Resin Hermosa starts this Fall. Be sure to follow @RichstoneFamily on all social media channels for photos!

To ensure continuation of this and all of Richstone's art therapy programs, please consider donating at **www.richstonefamily.org/donate**.

IMPORTANCE OF ART THERAPY PROGRAMS

Art therapy is a creative process of art making to improve and enhance client's emotional well-being. At Richstone, art therapy is a useful approach for our program participants since it allows children, adolescents, and adults to explore feelings and expand self-awareness of emotions. Art therapy is also a great way for clients to express themselves through more than just verbal communications.

RICHSTONE FAMILY HEALING CENTER

BY JENNY FUKUNAGA

The Richstone Family Healing Center is nearing completion! By adding 14 new therapy rooms and a large community room for education and wellness events, Richstone will be able to further expand the breadth and depth of services offered to clients. In addition, the new courtyard and sport court will enhance outdoor play for clients of all ages.

If you'd like to make your mark on this monumental addition to the Richstone community, please visit www.richstonefamily.org/brick or contact Allison Tanaka atanaka@richstonefamily.org

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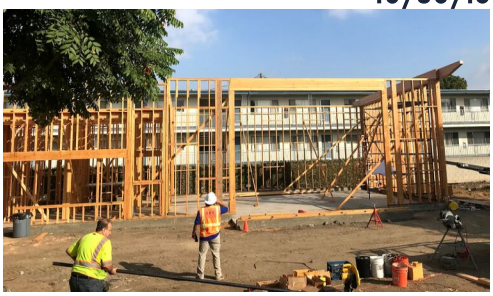

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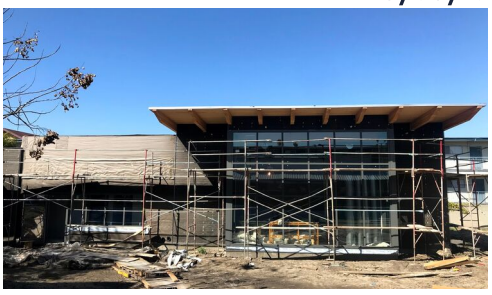
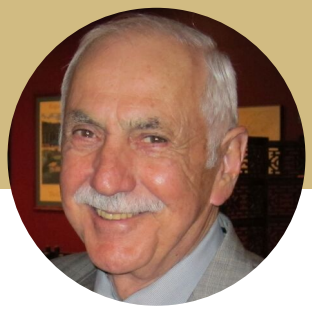


07/10/18 - Groundbreaking Ceremony

10/04/18

11/12/18 - Hardhat Luncheon

07/25/19



Remembering John Gogian
(1929 - 2019)

Philanthropist and businessman, John Jacob Gogian of Rolling Hills Estates, passed away on July 3, surrounded by his family.

In 1981, John began a scholarship program for youth in the Compton School District. The following year, he founded the John Gogian Family Foundation. To date, the Foundation has awarded over 221 scholarships totaling $1.6 million and actively supports nonprofits in Los Angeles County, serving developmentally disabled children and adults, vulnerable seniors, and abused youth. The Foundation has been an active supporter of Richstone for more than 20 years.

John had a big heart and always wanted to help someone in need. He will be missed by his family and friends, staff, Board of Directors, and all who knew and loved him.

WANT TO LEAVE A LEGACY?

Legacy gifts allow Richstone to provide care when and where children and their families need it most, regardless of race, religion, creed or political convictions.

To learn more about making a gift in your Will or living trust that will make a difference for years to come, please contact Allison Tanaka at atanaka@richstonefamily.org

UPCOMING DATES

*V=VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
Learn more www.richstonefamily.org/get-involved.

- **10.26** HALLOWEEN PARTY V
- **NOV-DEC** ADOPT-A-FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM V
- **12.21** HOLIDAY PARTY V