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### ***Time For Kids Mission Statement***

*Time For Kids is dedicated to supporting the social, emotional, and educational growth of young children in California public schools through participation in research-based early intervention programs such as the Primary Intervention Program (PIP) and others funded through the Early Mental Health Initiative (EMHI).*

*"A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark."*

*-Chinese proverb*

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## **A Message from the President**

***Scott Lindstrom***

Life is a whirlwind sometimes. Lately, it's been a really fun - sometimes stressful, but mostly fun - whirlwind for Time For Kids. The best way I can think to share the news is to step back to the early days of TFK.

Time For Kids, Inc. was originally incorporated in 1994 with the name "Friends of PIP." Our primary functions were to sell the store merchandise at the Early Mental Health Initiative training conferences, to provide a means for developing and distributing a newsletter that helped keep programs across the state connected, and to offer small grants to locally funded programs with PIP services.

In 1996, we changed our name to Time For Kids, which remains our moniker to the present. The change was driven by a desire to expand our goals and our potential sphere of influence. We had no idea that four years later TFK would take a big growth step when we began to develop legislation that would expand EMHI from serving only students in kindergarten to third grades to a K-6 program. Our learning curve was steep as we became acquainted with the legislative process, and began building relationships with legislators. Due to technical difficulties at the last minute, the legislation did not pass, but the experience we gained was invaluable.

Soon after, a budget crisis led to a proposal to eliminate all funding for EMHI! Call it serendipity, but the relationships we had begun to develop and the knowledge of the workings of the system became critical to the survival of EMHI. Since 2002-03, we have been involved in an annual process connecting with and educating our elected officials by helping them to understand what EMHI-funded programs accomplish, what they mean to elementary schools, and most importantly, what the services, and the people who provide them, mean to kids. It was a task we had not anticipated, but with the efforts of the TFK Board and TFK members, and the support of programs, school staff, families and friends of EMHI, we have successfully helped decision-makers to

*Continued on Page 4*

# Legislative Update

*by Scott Lindstrom*

The past year marked another successful year in our efforts to maintain funding for the Early Mental Health Initiative\*. 2005-06 was the fourth consecutive year in which funds for EMHI grants were proposed to be reduced. This year, the initial State budget proposal included \$10 million for EMHI. That would have allowed funding for grants entering their second and third years, but would not have provided any funding for new grants. Our goal for 2006-2007 was to achieve full restoration of EMHI funding to its pre-2003-04 level of \$15 million. With the active involvement of many, many supporters of EMHI and members and friends of Time For Kids, this goal was achieved!

The process of working with legislators was a bit different this year. As the EMHI program professes, our work with legislators is also about connections and relationships. As we began the process of visiting legislators, we were surprised to find how many recognized and welcomed us. Some who didn't remember our faces did recognize our Time For Kids organization name and logo. The ongoing relationships, paired with the quick responses in the form of letters from folks around the state, made our task much more pleasant. In one office, the legislator's staff held up a tall stack of faxed letters they had received asking for support for EMHI. Those letters make our visits fruitful (and fun) as they are visible evidence of the valuable place EMHI programs hold in schools across the state.

In the legislative hearings we were excited to notice that even those who questioned EMHI funding did not question the value or effectiveness of its programs. The questions came in the form of finding the most appropriate funding sources for EMHI. Some suggested Title 1, School-Based Coordinated Program, and Mental Health Services Act fund might be better. Our belief continues to be that these and other sources can help to fund programs, but only after their grant funding ends.

We continue to believe EMHI funding is critical for startup of school-based services. The EMHI infrastructure, which has been developed and streamlined over more than 20 years, provides the training, support and evaluation necessary to build successful programs. Most importantly, EMHI programs are evidence-based, have proven to be effective for kids at a low cost, and fill a huge gap in terms of prevention/early intervention services in California's elementary schools. EMHI has created an exemplary partnership between Education and Mental Health that ought to be emulated, not eliminated.

## **Next steps**

The \$5 million that was added in the budget for 2006-07 is considered "one-time" funding, meaning it is available for only one year. This winter we will ask for your support in an effort to have that funding become part of the baseline for EMHI in the initial budget that is proposed in January. If it is not included in the initial budget, we will again work through spring to have the funding restored. We know that many of our readers are ready to join this effort. We look forward with you to another successful year, and to a year when the importance of EMHI is recognized and funding can be expanded! \*

\*EMHI provides three-year grants to public schools for the development and provision of prevention/early intervention services. The focus of these services is to address adjustment difficulties students may have that interfere with their ability to achieve optimum success in early elementary school. For more information visit [www.dmh.ca.gov/emhi](http://www.dmh.ca.gov/emhi).

# Wine and Food Fair Raises Grant Money

## First fundraiser a big success

The 2006 Time For Kids Wine and Food Fair was a gala evening of fine wine, food, silent auction and raffle. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Elks Lodge in South Sacramento was transformed by floral centerpieces, outdoor tables, hurricane lamps, candles, and flowers, all following a red, black and white theme based on the logo of the title sponsor, Comcast. Sounds of the Chaya Jazz Trio provided a musical backdrop to the evening.



Time For Kids will give up to three \$1500 grants to schools as a result of this fundraiser. The money will be used by these schools to help maintain their EMHI programs.

## Generous sponsors and volunteers

We want to acknowledge the generous support and assistance of our sponsors, Comcast, Waterfront Creative, Tom's Printing and Laguna Creek Real Estate Services, without whom the event could not have gone on. In addition, over fifty generous businesses donated a wide variety of enticing items for a silent auction and raffle. Lucky winners took home exciting prizes such as a fishing package in Mexico, sailing trips on the Bay, hotel packages to Disneyland and Great America, and bed and breakfast packages. Artwork, winery tours, getaways and services were among the other items.

The event came together through the tremendous organizational efforts of Cindy Briggs, Director of Community Relations for Time For Kids, along with the tireless work of many dedicated volunteers.

## Bob Pachecho attends

Former Assemblyman Bob Pachecho and his wife Gayle generously found time to fly up from Southern California to join Time For Kids in celebrating its first large scale fundraiser. Mr. Pachecho was honored by the Time For Kids Board for his outspoken support for the Early Mental Health Initiative program. Time For Kids President Scott Lindstrom welcomed the crowd and thanked all for their attendance and support of Time For Kids. Scott reminded everyone about the mission of Time For Kids and what we can all do to ensure that Time For Kids is able to realize its commitment to helping children reach their full potential. \*

## Mark your calendars!

The 2007 Wine and Food Fair will be held on **Friday, April 20, 2007** at the Elks Lodge in South Sacramento. Buy your tickets early. The success of this event is dependent on many volunteers. **Please consider how you might help** including soliciting sponsorships, donations and contributions, helping with decorations, setup and at the event. Contact Debbie Wong, (916)-688-1921, [dwongoka@egusd.net](mailto:dwongoka@egusd.net) or Cindy Briggs, Director of Community Relations, (916)-354-0134 if you have items to donate or would like to volunteer at the 2007 Wine and Food Fair.



## The Power of EMHI

by Barbara Beach-Courchesne

Our EMHI coffers brim with success stories from those young people who have participated in our EMHI programs. Yet, if we delve into those treasure chests, we will discover that EMHI's influence reaches far beyond the realms of childhood.

In our program, we always include teachers in the annual training conference. The first year of our grant we enlist the help of the most enthusiastic, pro-prevention staff member in the school. Years two and three we invite teachers less passionate about "pull-out" programs and "playing." Similar to the non-directive approach of PIP, we trust in the power of the process to affect the outcome.

One year we invited one of our second grade teachers who felt strongly that students with difficulties needed to be in the classroom and definitely didn't need to be missing class time "to play." We made some specific suggestions regarding workshops, but assured the teacher that any workshops would be fine. (You're the "boss" and get to choose.)

By the end of the first day, a dramatic attitude shift had occurred. Not only did this teacher understand and embrace the value of play, she was in tears and filled with guilt about the many lost opportunities for the many children "deprived" of the chance to participate. A wonderful dialogue opened with the teacher and EMHI staff that included not only ardent support for our PIP program, but wonderful ideas to implement the PIP philosophy within the classroom setting. The need to "coax" acceptance for participation was replaced with vigorous advocacy for HER KIDS to be enrolled in the program. In addition, she became a true ambassador for EMHI at her site and in the district. Such a commitment to EMHI has resulted not only in help for students who participate, but for all the children in her classroom who "get to play" in the process of learning.

When we hear people say, "you just play with kids," we inform them "we are preparing the children to more effectively benefit from the learning experience." This is doubly true for the

students of this teacher and all the teachers she influences. The impact of this attitude is like the proverbial stone dropped in the stream, with its ripple effect.

Helen Keller was once asked if she could think of anything worse than blindness. She responded, "having sight, but no vision." Our children are richer and better prepared for the future because of the vision of this teacher. And we thought EMHI was restricted to children in grades kindergarten through grade three!! \*

*BBC is Senior Project Director in the Los Angeles County Office of Education*

### Message from President (cont from page 1)

understand the importance of EMHI and back that understanding with funds. Each of the last four years, the budget began with a reduction and ended with funding for EMHI!

As we continue all of these functions, we are now entering yet another growing point for Time For Kids. We have set our sights on broader goals in anticipation of offering more fiscal and educational support to current and past EMHI programs, and gaining a greater voice in discussions regarding development and expansion of other student support services.

Our first step in the process was to hire a staff person in an otherwise all-volunteer organization. Cindy Briggs is now our Director of Community Relations! Cindy is a wonderful person from Elk Grove, who has first-hand experience with EMHI, has a wealth of experience in business and politics, brings with her great skills, and is just an all around delight to be around. She was instrumental (along with an incredible amount of work done by volunteers) in helping TFK take a new step, which was our first large-scale fundraiser. We expect this to be only the beginning as we continue to grow toward our new goals and beyond.

So why do we do this? It honestly gives me chills when I consider this. We do this because we have the absolute joy of knowing that for every day we work toward our goals, there are children whose lives are made better. Every day.

We at Time For Kids thank our supporters for new opportunities, and continue to thank those of you who work every day to make schools a better place for kids, and to make the world a better place for everyone. \*

Contact any Board member with comments or questions



**Time For Kids Board of Directors**

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TIME FOR KIDS, INC.

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*Yes, I want to join TIME FOR KIDS, INC. in supporting children!*

Contribution for 2007 (check one)

Friend \$10\_\_\_ Advocate \$50\_\_\_ Patron \$250\_\_\_

Other (any amount is appreciated) ... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Interested in sponsorship of \$1,000 or more? Contact Cindy Briggs at 916-354-0134

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**Contributions can also be made on the Time For Kids website – [www.timeforkids.net](http://www.timeforkids.net)**

Newsletters are sent by email. Check here if you prefer to receive a copy by mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Save the date!**  
**Thursday evening**  
**January 18, 2007**  
**for**  
**Time For Kids Kick-off**  
**Conference event**  
**Details to follow**

**Let us hear from you!**  
*Please give us input and feedback about the newsletter.*

**TIME FOR KIDS, INC.**  
**P.O. Box 895**  
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**FALL 2006**