

NO LIMITS



Newsletter for the Earle Baum Center

Serving the Blind and Visually Impaired

From the Center

It is shocking how quickly time flies. Just a few blinks ago, I wrote a holiday greeting thanking staff, participants and donors for all their tremendous support and hard work. It feels too soon to repeat the words and express the gratitude and emotions that all of us at the Earle Baum Center (EBC) feel being affiliated with such a fine community of people. As I see it, it has always been about the people, dedication and sincere efforts by so many that make the Earle Baum Center such an amazing place.

This year, the EBC has grown in services and service area, variety of activities offered and expansion of the facilities. When we have heard of needs, we have done all in our power to satisfy them. Our staff has grown, client base jumped and the overall well being of the organization has improved.

Fontina, Hale, Jam, Blanche, Laker, Karissa, Doug and many more guide dogs are raving about the fantastic new dog play area.

Good news, bad news. We have run out of space. We divided some rooms so we can train more people simultaneously. The office is filled to capacity with people sharing desks. Our library has no more room for books on tape. We cannot squeeze more people into indoor gatherings. That is the bad news. The good news is that we are working hard to build a new 7500 square foot building that will house a large all pur-

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pose room, training kitchens, manual skills/ arts and craft room, participant lounge and lunch room, offices and more. As the architect designs the building and permits are prepared, the only thing we need are the funds to actually begin construction. We believe we will need about \$750,000 to com-

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ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Bring friendship, food, and good cheer, Celebrate Winter Solstice, the holidays and another great year!

There will be dancers, trumpeters, drummers and song

Bring your musical instruments, or sing along,

Friends sharing laughter, food and fun
We know holidays have begun!

WHEN: Wednesday, December 10th, 2003

WHERE: Earle Baum Center-Rms 3 & 4

TIME: 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Schedule:

11:00 -1:00: Food, Socializing, announcements and awards

1:00 -1:15: Raffle of Handmade Christmas Afghan (\$1 ea, or 6 for \$5)

1:15 to 3:00 Entertainment and FUN!

For further information regarding the holiday party or the raffle, contact: Denise Vancil or Cathy Lawson (707) 523-3222.

We look forward to celebrating with you.
Please RSVP

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plete a quality structure. The issue is very timely for another reason.

It appears likely that the EBC will be the college campus for a masters program of Rehabilitation Teaching, a program that is no longer found in the western half of the USA and the need for these professionals is great. Rehabilitation Teachers focus on independent living skills for blind and visually impaired people. The program will be taught through Florida State University and is scheduled to begin in August 2004. No pressure here to complete a training building! It will be very special for the EBC to not only train the clients, but be instrumental in training the trainers.

As time goes on, you will likely see more and more information refer to the Earle Baum Center rather than the Earle Baum Center of the Blind. There has always been confusion as to whether we only serve people who are totally blind, which is not the case. To change the name to Earle Baum Center of the Blind and Visually Impaired is cumbersome. So, we will be the Earle Baum Center with a sub heading of "Serving the Blind and Visually Impaired". We have always been referred to as the EBC, so the change is not dramatic.

Finally, I would be remiss to not make a plea for financial support. The EBC thrives because of the ongoing support we receive. Whether it is a small donation for the general fund or a large contribution to the building fund (we don't need to settle for \$750,000), we appreciate your generosity. Thank you for making the EBC all it has become. It is just the beginning.

Have a safe and healthy holiday season and a wonderful and peaceful new year.

Allan Brenner, Executive Director

A HOWLING SUCCESS!!!

On October 11, 2003, we celebrated the **First Annual EBC Dog-a-thon, A Walk for Independence.**

Our first ever fundraising event was a smashing success with a short walk followed by a breakfast at the EBC, dog games, kids activities, silent auction, tables of various organizations and many, many well behaved pet and working dogs.

Please take a look at the web site for photos of the day. The event raised awareness, brought to the EBC many new people and actually made money. We weren't sure what to expect but the day was a big hit.

Next year, watch out! We will be making the 2nd Annual EBC Dog-a-thon bigger and better. **October 9, 2004. Save the date!**

CPR and First AID Courses Designed for the Visually Impaired

January 16th and 17th Earle Baum Center is hosting First Aid and CPR courses which are adapted for people with vision impairments. The classes run from 10AM to 2PM on Friday and Saturday. The registration fee is \$35 for both courses. Registration closes December 15th. Payment must be received for registration to be complete. The classes are limited to 12 people, so be the first to register!

All checks are to be made out to:
Herrera Safety Group's In The Dark First Aid.

For more information contact Jennifer Frazier at the Earle Baum Center.

By phone: 707-284-9810
Email: jfrazier@earlebaum.org

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Denise Vancil, Rehabilitation Teacher

In September, I had the opportunity to volunteer my time at a residential adult center for the blind in Honduras, called Centro de Artesanias Industriales Para Ciegos (CAIPAC). I carried many supplies to share that were donated by our blind community. Honduras is the most under developed country in Central America and even basic aids are not available. Most blind Hondurans who use any canes use wooden sticks. It was an enlightening educational-cultural exchange.

To see the difference one can make in the lives of others presented an opportunity that has been under discussion since before the EBC opened. We have wanted to develop a relationship with a center serving the blind and visually impaired in a third world country. It was agreed we found that place.

The EBC is establishing a sister center program with CAIPAC. The purpose of this program is to allow the continual exchange of adaptive techniques, education, and supplies to promote independence among the blind and visually impaired. The first thing we need to do is help CAIPAC establish telephone/internet service to allow communication between the EBC and CAIPAC. From there, we will mutually agree on additional things that will offer cultural and educational opportunities to both centers. This may include helping supply the ongoing need for adaptive equipment and aids such as oven mitts, canes & tips, tape recorders & tapes, talking and Braille watches, slates and styli, Perkins Brailers, labeling supplies, Spanish talking calculators, etc.

If interested in contributing to the sister center project, contact Denise Vancil (707) 523-7832 or EBC (707) 523-3222. For more on Denise Vancil's experience in Honduras visit our web site: www.earlebaum.org under Honduras Exchange.

Sensory Access Foundation at the Earle Baum Center

Sensory Access Foundation is a nationally recognized program which incorporates a successfully proven service delivery model to achieve it's mission – “ to assist people who are blind or visually impaired to obtain or retain competitive employment by providing the highest quality access technology assessment, computer training, job placement and accommodation services with a goal of achieving 100% job retention.”

The opportunity of having a satellite office at the Earle Baum Center in Santa Rosa, CA allows SAF to better provide a variety of comprehensive employment related services to job seekers in Santa Rosa and the surrounding area. An example of these services includes:

- Resume writing
- Interview skills building
- Job search strategies
- Job club - support and seminars on soft skills necessary for effective self-presentation
- On-site job task analysis and evaluations for accommodations and retentions
- Access Technology customizing and scripting
- On-site task specific training
- Short term loans of access technology equipment
- Follow-up support to ensure continued employment success

Working together with the Earle Baum Center enables Sensory Access Foundation to broaden the range of clients we can effectively serve. This partnership results in helping people who are blind or visually impaired find jobs and prosper in the kind of work that best fits their abilities and aspirations.

THANK YOU !!!

Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary Club for construction of an Athletic Equipment Room

Dave Martineau Construction and the **Kawanis Club** for creating an Employee Lounge and completing a storage room.

Montgomery Village Lions for providing a Pancake Breakfast for over 200 donors.

Guide Dogs for the Blind, Coggin's Fence and Supply, Inc., and **Geared for Growing** for the creation of our new Dog Play Area.

And, finally thank you to all who have so generously donated to the Earle Baum Center this year!

Upcoming Events

Adjusting to Vision Loss

New class starts January 28, 2004

Living with Vision Loss

New class starts November 19, 2003,

Art History—To be announced

Dog-A-Thon 2004 October 9th
SAVE THE DATE!

Holiday Party—Dec. 10, 2003



EBC WILL BE CLOSED

Dec. 22nd—Jan. 2nd

We will reopen Jan. 5, 2004

Contact information: www.earlebaum.org email: ebc@earlebaum.org

Tel: (707) 523-3222

Info line: (707) 636-2769

Fax: (707) 636-2768

**FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND**



EARLE BAUM CENTER
4539 Occidental Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

MISSION STATEMENT

The Earle Baum Center was conceived and established by the blind to provide facilities and foster programs in such areas as education, technology, rehabilitation, health, fitness and recreation, to improve the personal, social and economic condition of the blind and vision impaired.