



## Newsletter for the Earle Baum Center

Serving People With Sight Loss  
(707) 523-3222 ebc@earlebaum.org

NOVEMBER 2009 VOLUME 9 ISSUE 4

### **THE EBC — TEN YEARS OF SERVICE AND COUNTING**

Just 23 years have past since the death of Earle Baum, but it seems as though many more decades of progress have been made on the old farm property that the Baum family called home for three generations. After 130 years of farming, the old homestead has become the preeminent vision rehabilitation facility between the Golden Gate Bridge and the Oregon border.

The process began in 1986 with the transfer of title to the Redwood Lions Memorial Foundation. The next decade saw the community come together to create the “learning and recreation center” that Earle Baum dreamed of. With the help of local philanthropists, service organizations and many dedicated volunteers, the Earle Baum Center opened in October 1999. The buildings were completed and furnished, faculty and staff hiring was begun, curriculums developed and contracts for service signed.

Now, as we celebrate our tenth anniversary, we can reflect on the thousands of individuals whose lives have been deeply changed. Through the programs and services offered here, hundreds have been able to successfully remain in the comfort of their own homes, numerous students have moved on to enter or re-enter the workplace, and countless others have rediscovered or re-learned new ways to pursue their favorite social and recreational activities.

Even in the best of times, the EBC has only

been able to recoup about two thirds of our operating costs from our fee-for-service billing. It is only through the generosity of individuals and organizations in the community that we have been able to continue serving this ever expanding population. These gifts provide the hundreds of thousands of dollars needed each year to continue providing critical services to those with sight loss.

Although we recognize that these are difficult financial times, we must continue to seek support from the community. With our aging population, two wars and an epidemic of sight loss from diet and lifestyle related diseases, the demand for these vision services continues to grow. As the holidays near, we ask you to consider making a gift to those with sight loss who are unable to fully enjoy living in our beautiful part of the world. Your gift to the Earle Baum Center may make the difference between staying at home or entering an institution for an elderly client, provide the necessary skills for a student to continue her education or simply provide the training that will enable someone to rejoin society as a full participant.

A donation to the EBC in the name of a friend or family member makes an exceptional holiday gift and will be acknowledged to the honoree with a special card from the EBC. Help us spread the joy of success and bring the smiles back to so many of our friends and neighbors with a gift that will continue to give for many years to come.

## **What is a Service Animal?**

UPI reports that U.S. officials anticipate new guidelines before the end of the year on what constitutes a service animal under federal disability law. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 protects accessibility rights for disabled people with service animals but the definition of service animal has become somewhat controversial.

Animals whose sole function is to provide emotional support, comfort, therapy, companionship, therapeutic benefits, or to promote emotional well-being may no longer be considered as service animals. In Washington state, for example, Daniel Greene's constant companion is a boa constrictor that gives him a slight squeeze when it senses he is about to have a seizure. Greene has been asked to leave business establishments because of the snake, which is almost 5 feet long.

The U.S. Justice Department announced plans in 2008 to modify the definition of service animals to exclude reptiles, farm animals, rabbits, ferrets, rodents and amphibians. The announcement touched off an unprecedented public reaction. The department received 4,500 messages -- more than for any other topic in recent memory. Department officials are reviewing proposed changes and public comments and anticipate issuing final ADA rules this year.

## **Silence Isn't Golden**

Since the beginning, automakers have been on a quest to make cars quieter. They have finally succeeded but that has created a different problem: They aren't noisy enough.

People listening in a lab could correctly detect a gas-powered car's approach when it was 28 feet away, but could not hear the ar-

rival of a hybrid operating in silent battery mode until it was only 7 feet away. Safety experts worry that hybrids pose a threat to pedestrians, children and others who can't hear these cars approaching. The Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act of 2009, introduced early this year, would require a federal safety standard to protect pedestrians from ultra-quiet cars.

Just as cell phones have ring tones, "cartones" may not be far behind. The Fisker Karma, an \$87,900 plug-in hybrid expected to go on sale next year, will emit a sound out of speakers in the bumpers described as "a cross between a starship and a Formula One car."

## **Light Tips**

Light travels in waves and each color in the spectrum is a different wave length. The shortest ones are at the blue end and the longest ones are at the red end. Since the blue one is the shortest it strikes your eyes the most and therefore causes glare. The red end give a softer light and less glare. Since sunlight has all the colors, you should wear UV shields when out in bright sunlight to prevent glare.

Incandescent lights give off a soft light. Florescent lights can give off different wave lengths, most of them the blue cool light. When buying a florescent bulb look for a low K (Kelvin) number such as 2700 K or a statement that says soft warm light.

Placement of lighting is also important. For the kitchen, it is important to have counter lighting. Task lighting can be directed on your work when you are reading, writing or doing any other close work. Contrast between the surface and what you are putting on it also helps you to see things better. Ask your instructor which options are best for you.

## **300 Newspapers Now Available**

The National Federation of the Blind has announced that NFB-NEWSLINE(R), the largest electronic newspaper service in the world for blind and print-disabled Americans, now gives subscribers independent access to over three hundred newspapers and magazines. This free service allows those who cannot read conventional newspaper due to a physical disability to listen to the newspaper over the telephone, on the web, or by download to a digital talking-book player. With the addition of national newsmagazines like Time and interest-specific magazines like Science News to its roster of national and local publications, NFB-NEWSLINE(R) continues to cater to the increasingly divergent interests of its subscribers. NFB-NEWSLINE(R) offers TV listings in addition to newspapers and magazines to over 69,000 subscribers through several delivery methods: a standard touch-tone telephone, a secure, text-only Web site, or by download to a digital talking-book player. To experience the NFB-NEWSLINE(R), visit [www.nfbnewslineonline.org](http://www.nfbnewslineonline.org).

## **New Braille Education Set**

The United States Mint has released a limited edition Braille Education Set, which includes a 2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar in a folder designed to highlight the life and legacy of Louis Braille, as well as the importance of Braille in the lives of blind people all over the world. Those interested in ordering a 2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar or the Braille Education Set should visit [www.braille.org](http://www.braille.org) or [www.usmint.gov](http://www.usmint.gov) or call 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468). The Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar and the Braille Education Set will only be available until December 11, 2009.

## **Last of the Summer Barbecues**

After five months of the best attended barbecues in our short history, the season closed on September 18 with a delicious tri-tip main course generously donated by Tim and Emily Webster, cooked to perfection, as always, by Don Voss, and of course, all orchestrated by Bob Cuneo. A big hit at multiple meals this year was lead volunteer Beryl Brown's broccoli salad. Just in case you can't wait until next year, here is the secret recipe.

### **Beryl's Broccoli Salad**

Place in a large bowl

1 Large Head Broccoli - cut to serving size pieces

1/2 Cup Golden Raisins

1/4 Cup Diced Onions

In a small bowl, place

1 Tbsp Italian Dressing

1 Tbsp Water

Let sit 5 minutes, then add

1 Cup Mayonnaise (I use light)

2 Tbsp Vinegar (I use rice vinegar)

1/4 Cup Sugar

Whisk to combine. Pour over broccoli mix. Refrigerate 3 to 4 hours.

Immediately before serving add

8 Slices Crispy Fried Bacon Crumbled

Optional. Add before serving

1 Cup Shredded Cheddar Cheese

1/2 Tsp Ground Pepper

This recipe keeps well in the refrigerator if you have any leftovers. Serves 6-8.

Happy cooking,

Beryl

## **Santa Rosa Paratransit Services**

To be certified or re-certified as eligible to ride Santa Rosa Paratransit, call (707) 541-7180 or TDD (707) 541-7184 to request an application and to schedule an in-person interview. Bring the application to your interview. City staff can help you complete the application at that time. Information you provide from your health care provider will be considered, but is not required.

At your interview you will be asked to assess your ability to use Santa Rosa CityBus fixed route service. If necessary, a functional assessment will be conducted to determine your physical and cognitive ability to use Santa Rosa CityBus fixed route service and under what conditions you would be eligible to use Paratransit services.

The assessment includes a simulated trip to and from the bus, bus boarding, negotiating a curb and curb cut, and crossing a street. The assessment evaluates balance, strength, coordination, and range of motion.

Your eligibility to use Santa Rosa Paratransit service is based on the information you provide; on your application, at your interview and if necessary, during your functional assessment. Interviews and functional assessments are conducted by an independent organization - C.A.R.E. Evaluators. Variables in the environment and their effect on your ability to use Santa Rosa CityBus will be considered.

You can provide the names and the telephone numbers of two professionals who are familiar with your disability or functional ability. Santa Rosa Paratransit may contact them if additional information is needed. Your eligibility to use Santa Rosa Paratransit may be conditional, which means that you may be eligible to use the service under specific conditions.

If you are not satisfied with your eligibility determination, complete the appeal form included with your determination letter. Return it to the address below within 65 days.

For more information contact Michael Ivory, Transit Planner, City of Santa Rosa  
100 Santa Rosa Avenue - Room 6  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
(707) 543-3335, [mivory@srcity.org](mailto:mivory@srcity.org)

## **Braille Institute a Winner**

The Braille Institute Library Services in Los Angeles, CA, was among five winners of this year's National Medal for Museum and Library Service for its commitment to providing quality programming and library services to its blind, visually impaired, reading disabled, and physically handicapped patrons in southern California.

Every year the hardworking staff and volunteers of the Braille Institute touch the lives of tens of thousands of people with sight loss by offering a whole host of services, resources, and cultural events geared toward their needs. Outreach efforts include several book-of-the-month clubs, a children's book club, and an annual summer reading program that promotes childhood literacy by encouraging children to continue reading even when school is not in session.

"I am pleased to see this pillar of the community receive the national recognition that is so justly deserved," said U.S. Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31). The award is sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). IMLS received 40 nominations for the library awards this year. The winners will be honored at a ceremony in Washington, DC, at a yet-to-be assigned date, however recipients can cash their \$10,000 check now.

## **Toys for the Kids**

Once again the Holiday season is almost upon us and it's time to start thinking about those kids and grandkids. The National Organization of Parents of Blind Children has made a list of toys for children with sight loss. Most can be purchased at local shops or toy stores Here are a few of their suggestions. Always check the package for recommended age levels before buying a toy.

### Two Years and Up:

Stacking and nesting toys, large balls, blocks such as magnetic blocks, Bristle Blocks, Mega Blocks, wooden Braille blocks, wooden puzzles with knobs, My Buddy doll (good for practicing zipping, buttoning, etc.), Little People and School House by Fisher-Price, musical instruments, plastic music boxes with easy to turn knobs, Floor Piano (a soft mat with "keys" you step on), Rainfall Rattle, Play Doh Fun Factory (also use with cookie cutters, small rolling pin, plastic knife).

### Five Years and Up:

Zoomball, Rocketball, Chinese Checkers, Connect Four, Tic-Tac-Toe, Feel and Find Braille Puzzle, jump rope, scooter (four wheeled, low to the ground), Slinky, Speak and Spell, Electronic music keyboard.

### Nine Years and Up:

Hop-a-Roo (large bouncing ball to sit on), Nerf Whistle Ball, tandem bike, National Geographic Really Wild Animals Set, Hula Hoop, Legos, large print or Braille playing cards, dominoes, walkie-talkies, foil art set (makes raised drawings on foil).

If you have suggestions or recommendations, contact The National Organization of Parents of Blind Children, 1800 Johnson Street, Baltimore, MD 21230-4998. (410) 659-9314 ext. 2360.

Have a wonderful Holiday season.

## **Talking Books Change Format**

Over 60 people attended the September EBC Tech Club meeting's special presentation to hear two guest speakers from the Braille and Talking Book Library discuss the conversion to a new digital format. The Library began providing books and other magazines to eligible recipients in 1904. For the first 70 years or so these materials came in the form of records, then in the 1970s, changed to cassette tapes. Now the books are slowly being digitized. This digital format has no moving parts, will be much more reliable, quicker to navigate, better audio quality and have much more storage capacity. To accommodate this new digital format, new machines are being introduced and are slowly being distributed to all eligible Talking Book recipients. The new machines are going out first to veterans, then to persons 100 years of age or older and then to the remainder of eligible recipients. For persons anxious to get their hands on one of these new players, there is a waiting list which you can sign up for by calling (800) 952-5666. It will take 1 to 2 years for all eligible recipients to receive their new players. During this period, cassette tape books will remain available. Currently there are many more books on tape than digital books. The Library wants all recipients to keep their current tape cassette players as materials are going to continue to be distributed in that format for quite some time.

## **Trader Joe's Makes It Easier**

Trader Joe's has improved the checkout experience of guests with sight loss. By adding tactile keypads to point of sale devices at all their locations, shoppers who have visual impairments or difficulty reading a touch screen can now privately and independently enter their personal identification number, protecting their financial privacy.

## From the Center

Allan Brenner, President/CEO



Ten years ago, the Earle Baum Center opened its doors. It was a long and challenging yet rewarding road leading to that milestone. Those early days established the foundation of our organization today.

There were times in the 1990's that I questioned whether the EBC would become a reality. However, even though we had little money to construct the facilities, service clubs, businesses, experts in vision rehabilitation and sighted and blind individuals pulled together and overcame the obstacles. Together, we witnessed the long overdue beginning of an organization finally able to serve so many people with unmet needs.

Our first Board of Directors was aware that we had the opportunity to accomplish something very special. That Board was comprised of a diverse group of visionary leaders that are blind or visually impaired. The most important goal was to establish a culture that would lead the EBC into a strong and well conceived future. Members of the Board held the belief that with the skills, motivation and opportunity, people dealing with vision loss can live independent lives with confidence. That view has never wavered at the EBC and we strive to provide potentially life changing opportunities to anyone in our region dealing with sight loss.

Today, under the careful stewardship of our board of directors, staff, volunteers and supporters, the Earle Baum Center has evolved into a strong, cutting edge organization offering all core vision rehabilitation services and much more. Transitioning from a volunteer based organization to one with

a staff of over 20 people, the EBC provides services in more than 6 counties. It has not been easy being the first, and in most cases, the only organization in place to provide services where there have been none. These past 10 years have seen enormous cuts to social services while the population requesting services has increased. As others have downsized, the EBC has grown. We made a commitment long ago to do all in our power to assure that no one losing sight will be alone.

Now, for a brief update of things going on. EarleFest, our Americana music festival, was a big hit. Eight groups performed on two stages from noon to nearly 7:00 PM, concluding with a big crowd dancing to Johnny Rawls. To see photos, go to our event web site, [www.earlefest.com](http://www.earlefest.com). The food and beverages were great. We look forward to September 25, 2010 for our third annual EarleFest celebration.

We were also fortunate this year to acquire a genuine farm tractor to assist us in maintaining the fields and the orchards. To house it, a tractor shed has been built thanks to another community effort lead by Leroy Carlenzoli with the support of Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary, Friedman Brothers and some great contractors. The door was installed just as the first really big storm of the season hit in October. The tractor stayed dry. Plan to have more important updates by the next newsletter.

We are now in the "Season of Giving". What a time to ask for your support! The economy is weak, so many are out of work and people everywhere are struggling. Yet, your contributions are essential if we are to continue at the present pace. If you are considering making financial contributions, we ask that you put the EBC on your

From the Center cont.

list of recipients. In addition, we ask that you consider making the EBC a part of your planned giving. We are here to discuss the possibilities. Investing in the EBC is one that will pay great dividends to our community and will improve the lives of many.

I hope that you have Healthy and Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year. Thank you for all you have done for the EBC.

Allan Brenner, President

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## **A Proclamation By the President of the United States of America**

October 15, 2009

All Americans deserve the freedom to participate in every aspect of our society and pursue their full measure of happiness. For blind Americans, the white cane is a potent symbol of that freedom—affording them greater independence and mobility. Today, we renew our commitment to provide full inclusion and equal opportunities for those among us who are blind or have low vision. As Americans, we must nurture a society that values the unique abilities and individual contributions of all its people.

Individuals who are blind or have low vision are less constrained and better integrated in our country than ever before, but much work remains to ensure they have the opportunity to reach their full potential. My Administration is committed to securing full and equal access to education and employment for blind Americans and all those with disabilities. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act substantially increased funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as well as vocational rehabilitation services, including job training, education, and placement.

For Americans who are blind or have low vision, a white cane is just one of a wide range of tools that sustain independence and productivity. In recent years, refreshable Braille displays and speech synthesis devices have given these individuals access to the Internet, unlocking a new frontier of limitless possibility. As we encourage the development of new assistive technologies, we must also improve access to existing tools. The Braille code has opened a doorway to literacy for countless individuals, but far too many blind children in our country are not learning to read it. By improving Braille literacy, we will secure a brighter future for these young Americans.

In the 45 years since White Cane Safety Day was first proclaimed by President Lyndon Johnson, Americans who are blind or have low vision have achieved substantial progress. As leaders in government and business, academics, and the arts, they have made remarkable contributions to our Nation, proving that sight is no requisite for success. We will continue to strive for a more just and equitable Nation that celebrates diversity in all its forms and promotes the full inclusion of all individuals in our communities.

By joint resolution approved on October 6, 1964, (Public Law 88-628, as amended), the Congress designated October 15 of each year as White Cane Safety Day to recognize the contributions of Americans who are blind or have low vision.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2009, as White Cane Safety Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand.

## **Tech Club Gains Subscribers**

Jeff Harrington, Technology Specialist

The Tech Club has gone digital. The October Tech Club meeting focused on email subscriber lists, and a new Earle Baum Center Tech Group email group has been established. Subscribers to this email group will receive reminders of upcoming meetings and summaries of past meetings, notification of new and improved technologies, and members will have the opportunity to post their tech related questions to the entire group as well as answer questions from others. We believe that this will also be a valuable resource for people to keep informed about technology.

The EBC Tech Club is a group of past and present students along with other interested persons who wish to discuss and learn about technology as it relates to persons with sight loss. The Tech Club meets the first Monday of each month from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM at the EBC in Room 3.

Below is a summary of the e-mail lists that were discussed. Subscribing to a list means you need to send an email to a specific address. Normally you will get an email back from the list describing the list and asking you to verify that you want to join, which means you need to reply to the message.

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To help facilitate contact among guide dog owners, puppy raisers and others with similar interests. Send a blank message to: [worldguidedogpartners-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:worldguidedogpartners-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Audyssey magazine list is dedicated to discussing games accessible to the blind. Send a blank message to: [blindgamers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:blindgamers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Blind Gardeners is a discussion list for blind and visually impaired people to discuss all

aspects of gardening. Send a blank message to:

[blind-gardeners-subscribe@egroups.com](mailto:blind-gardeners-subscribe@egroups.com)

Blind Cooks - Email: [blind-cooks-request@nfbnet.org](mailto:blind-cooks-request@nfbnet.org)

Blind iPod is a list for discussion of portable media. Email [blindipod-request@freelists.org](mailto:blindipod-request@freelists.org). Include the word 'subscribe' in the subject field

To discuss various cell phone solutions. Email [blindphones-request@mosenexplosion.com](mailto:blindphones-request@mosenexplosion.com). Include the word 'subscribe' in the subject field. Not related to any specific manufacturer.

Blind Students of California discuss student related issues in the C.S.U. and community college environment. Email [California-BlindStudents@googlegroups.com](mailto:California-BlindStudents@googlegroups.com).

For comparing screen readers, send a blank message to [comparescreenreaders-subscribe@onelist.com](mailto:comparescreenreaders-subscribe@onelist.com)

MacVisionaries discuss anything related to using a Macintosh computer as a person with sight loss. Email [discuss-request@macvisionaries.com](mailto:discuss-request@macvisionaries.com) and include the word 'help' in the body of the message.

Rockbox discusses accessible ipods and other MP3 players. Visit <http://www.rockbox.org/mail/>

For more email lists check out [blindreaders.info/e-lists.html](http://blindreaders.info/e-lists.html).

To join the EBC Tech Group, visit the web site at [groups.google.com/group/tech-at-ebc](http://groups.google.com/group/tech-at-ebc). If you have a g-mail account, you can follow the Join Link (on the web site) and subscribe yourself. If you don't have a g-mail account or don't know how to subscribe, you can contact Jeff Harrington at [harrington@earlebaum.org](mailto:harrington@earlebaum.org).

## **Helen Keller's Life Honored**

CNN WASHINGTON -- A bronze statue of Helen Keller was unveiled at the U.S. Capitol October 7 as lawmakers praised her as a trailblazer and an inspiration for those with disabilities.

"Some are still dismissed and cast aside for nothing more than being less than perfect," said Senator Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky.

The statue shows Keller, who lost her sight and hearing to illness when she was 19 months old, standing at a water pump as a 7-year-old, a look of recognition on her face as water streams into her hand. It depicts the moment in 1887 when teacher Anne Sullivan spelled "W-A-T-E-R" into one of the child's hands as she held the other under the pump. It's the moment when Keller realized meanings were hidden in the manual alphabet shapes Sullivan had taught her to make with her hands.

"W-A-T-E-R," said Alabama Gov. Bob Riley. "Five simple letters that helped rescue 7-year-old Helen Keller from a world of darkness and a world of silence. It is this defining moment that we celebrate today. And in time, this moment so vividly depicted by this statue helped the world to understand that all of us, regardless of any disability, have a mind that can be educated, a hand that can be trained, a life that will have meaning."

Keller learned to speak and earned a degree from Radcliffe College and the women's branch of Harvard University. She traveled the world as an adult, wrote 12 books and championed causes including women's suffrage and workers' rights.

More than 40 of Keller's descendants attended the ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. Students from the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind sang a medley of patriotic songs.

The statue, said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, will "always remind us that people must be respected for what they can do rather than judged for what they cannot."

The statue is also the Capitol's first depicting a child.

In 1997, a Franklin Delano Roosevelt memorial that opened near the National Mall drew complaints from disability advocates because the statue of the president, who suffered from polio, did not show him in a wheelchair. In 2001, President Clinton unveiled an addition to the memorial including a new statue of the four-term president sitting in a wheelchair.

"By placing this statue of Helen Keller in the Capitol, we appropriately honor this extraordinary American, and will inspire countless children who will come to understand that with faith and with courage, there truly are no limits on what can be accomplished, and there is no obstacle that can't be overcome." Governor Riley said.

## **Resource Center for Blind Musicians**

Many sources of materials and strategies have been developed to give people with sight loss equal opportunities for learning and enrichment in music, and to provide direct links to the music-related services of other organizations that may be useful. The National Resource Center for Blind Musicians provides information and referral services for visually impaired students of all ages, their parents and teachers; learning opportunities for blind students headed to college; and maintains a network of visually impaired musicians willing to share their expertise in Braille music, technology and coping strategies. Visit their web site at [www.blindmusicstudent.org/](http://www.blindmusicstudent.org/).

## **Names, Old and New**

As we celebrate our tenth anniversary of service to Northern California, we have seen many changes and the successful departure of many fine clients, volunteers and instructors. For those who haven't visited for a while, here is our current staff list.

- Allan Brenner, President/CEO
- Cathy Lawson, Office Manager
- Tanya Stefan, Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant
- Denise Vancil, Vision Rehabilitation Therapist
- Pat Jefferson, Vision Rehabilitation Assistant
- Jeff Harrington, Senior Assistive Technology Specialist
- Jacques Law, Assistive Technology Specialist
- Barb Potts, Assistive Technology Specialist
- Lora Monemzadeh, Orientation & Mobility Specialist
- Regina Perez, Orientation & Mobility Specialist
- Susan Hirschfield, Independent Living Specialist
- Phil Swetin, Development Director

To serve clients in more remote locations or with unusual needs, the EBC also contracts with a number of Vision Rehabilitation and Orientation and Mobility Specialists throughout Northern California to deliver services where regular EBC staff are not available.

## **Fun Facts**

Sonoma County has over 500 miles of bike trails, over 250 wineries, 1,576 square miles of land (roughly the size of Rhode Island), 138 major population centers, 13 distinct American Viticultural Areas, 11 state and 45 regional parks, and elevations ranging from sea level to 4,344 feet. No wonder we host over 7 million visitors each year.

## **Caring in Sonoma County**

In mid-September, the EBC was pleased to welcome a large group of volunteers from Agilent Technologies coming out to help paint and spruce up our campus. Designated as a "Day of Caring", September 17 saw about 15 special individuals spend most of the day sanding and repainting railings, curbs, doors, siding and window trim, giving the EBC a sparkling shine, just in time to welcome hundreds of guests attending EarleFest the following week. Through these special volunteer days, organized by the United Way of Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino Counties, as well as through the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County's Hands Across the County program, the EBC has seen our buildings washed and painted, and our orchards and fields cleaned and cleared. We gratefully acknowledge these important contributions and encourage everyone to see what they can do to help their community when the next opportunity rolls around. Check these web sites: Sonoma County Volunteer Center at [www.Volunteernow.org](http://www.Volunteernow.org) and United Way of Wine Country at [www.unitedwaywinecountry.org/](http://www.unitedwaywinecountry.org/).

## **More Kind Words**

"I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for taking an interest in my dad, and doing what you can to help him in this new journey with his low vision. I do my best, but not being trained in this arena makes it difficult for a daughter to try and help. I had tears in my eyes when I read the email about dad getting a "big smile on his face." I can just picture him! He is a wonderful, gentle man, and I thank you for helping make his life a little bit better, even if it's baby steps!"

Warmly,  
Katherine



**We thank our recent donors for their generosity**

Bothin Foundation - Carmen McReynolds - Herbert G. Feldman  
Mary Friman - Connecting Through Dance - Santen, Inc.  
John and Robin Daniel - Caren Greco - Phyllis Kowalski  
Lioness Club of Santa Rosa

Robert and Louise Armstrong  
Roy Baker  
Shannon and DeWitt Barker  
David Black  
Laurence Blaustein  
Julie Brevig  
Craig Burnett  
Mark and Linda Cohen  
Gladys Combs  
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Harry Wolff  
Richard and Charlene Yahn  
Steve and Jacqui Zwick  
Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary

**Thanks to our generous EarleFest sponsors**

North Bay Vitreoretinal Consultants  
Eye Care Institute - Christina Brenner  
Luther Burbank Savings - Kaiser Permanente - Bank of the West - North Bay Insurance

Our apologies if we've omitted your name. If you should have been listed and were not, please contact Phil Swetin at 523-3222.



**FREE MATTER  
FOR THE BLIND**

**EARLE BAUM CENTER  
4539 Occidental Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**To provide opportunities  
for people who are blind  
or visually impaired to  
improve and enrich their  
personal, social and  
economic lives.**

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**Contact us: email: [ebc@earlebaum.org](mailto:ebc@earlebaum.org) Telephone: (707) 523-3222  
Fax: (707) 636-2768 [www.earlebaum.org](http://www.earlebaum.org)**

**Holiday Schedule**

November 23 - 27, 2009  
Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 17, 2009  
Annual Holiday Party

December 21, 2009 - January 1,  
2010 Closed for Holidays

January 4, 2010  
EBC Reopens for New Year

**Support Groups**

Calistoga Low Vision Support Group  
For visually impaired adults. Meets  
monthly, 4th Thursday except Nov. &  
Dec., 1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Rancho de  
Calistoga, 2412 Foothill Blvd, Calistoga

Ukiah Low Vision Support Group  
Open to all visually impaired adults in  
the community. Meets monthly, 4th  
Monday, 10:00 A.M - 11:30 A.M. Henny  
Penny Restaurant, 687 S. Orchard Av.,  
Ukiah