



Welcome/Bienvenidos

Letter from the Director/Carta Enviada por el Director



Dear SPIN supporters,

You probably have one in your pocket right now. Here in Santa Cruz County and San Benito County, we reminisce about the days when it only took one to ride the bus or for a gallon of gas. It is one of the humblest among our mediums of exchange. It is the \$1 bill.

Sometimes we don't think to give in small amounts because we don't think it will be enough to make a difference. Giving a donation of \$1 to a cause seems almost a joke. Consider, however, an often-cited statistic in the discourse of international development and aid: "Half of the world's population lives on less than \$1 a day." This fact turns that kind of thinking on its head. \$1 can mean life, education, food, water, and health to millions of people around the world. And \$1 mobilized from each person in a community or network has the power to effect a great deal of change. (The pun, of course, is intended.)

Every dollar helps, and we are specifically asking for donations in the amount of \$1.

Special Olympics has done it, Lance Armstrong Foundation has done it. Now SPIN is doing it.

Inspired by the power of one—one person, one dollar, one day at time—you can make a difference to SPIN.

That \$1 in your pocket? It may be worth more than you think. That kind of giving could become a habit!

Thanks. If you took the time to read this, you are #1 in my book!

Estimados partidarios de SPIN,

Usted probablemente tiene uno en su bolsillo en este momento. Aquí en el Condado de Santa Cruz y el Condado de San Benito, nosotros recordamos el pasado cuando en aquellos días sólo tomaba uno para usar el autobús o para un galón de gasolina. Es uno de los más humildes entre nuestros medios de cambio. Es un billete de \$1

A veces nosotros no pensamos en dar cantidades pequeñas porque nosotros no pensamos que será suficiente para hacer una diferencia. Dar un donativo de \$1 a una causa parece casi un chiste. Considere, sin embargo, una estadística a menudo-citada en el discurso del desarrollo y la ayuda internacional: "La mitad de la población del mundo vive en menos de un \$1 al día". Este hecho voltea esta clase de pensamiento en su cabeza. \$1 puede significar la vida, la educación, el alimento, el agua, y la salud a millones de personas alrededor del mundo. Y \$1 movilizado de cada persona en una comunidad o una red tiene el poder de realizar mucho cambio. (Cambio iguala a Cambio)

Todo dólar ayuda, y nosotros pedimos específicamente donativos en la cantidad de \$1.

Las olimpiadas Especiales lo han hecho, La Fundación de Lance Armstrong lo ha hecho. Ahora SPIN lo está haciendo.

Inspirado por el poder de uno— una persona, un dólar, un día a la vez —usted puede hacer una diferencia para SPIN.

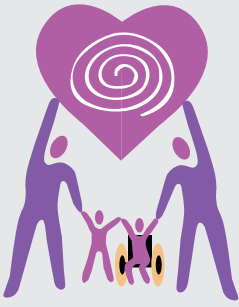
¿Ese \$1 en su bolsillo? Puede valer más de lo que usted piensa. ¡Dar de esa manera podría llegar a ser un hábito!

Gracias. ¡Si usted tomó tiempo para leer esto, usted es #1 en mi libro!

*...Nurturing
Special Kids'
Potential*



*...Nutriendo
el Potencial de
Niños Especiales*



Special Parents Information Network

SPIN is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support, information and training to the families and guardians of children with special needs.

Red de Información para Padres Especiales SPIN es una organización sin fin de lucro dedicada a proveer apoyo, información y entrenamiento para las familias y tutores de niños con necesidades especiales.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS/ MESA DIRECTIVA

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Monica Sandoval, *Parent
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Email: msandoval@spinsc.org

Parent Testimonial

Por AMANDA OWENS

Our son, James, is our firstborn, and to the outsider, he looks like an average 11-year-old boy. However, his story is so much more than average...

James was definitely a cute baby – cuter than the average baby, actually; at least to me and my husband, Tom! And as an infant in the early weeks, James even seemed average. He ate, he slept, and he pooped. Pretty average. But remember, Tom and I were new parents; James was our first child. We basically thought that babies did just this, and not a whole lot more.

So as the days went by, and James continued to eat, sleep and poop, life seemed, well...average. We were thrilled to have a little son, and started dreaming about all the wonderful things he'd do as he grew up. We envisioned play-dates at the park, Little-league, bug-collecting, science projects, football games, first dates, proms, and graduations... But when James was just five weeks old, and I joined a new mom's group, I slowly came to realize, with an awful ache in my heart, that James quite possibly was not so average. As time went by, James' peers were starting to do new things, like steadily hold their heads up, push up on their arms, and eventually sit without assistance. With aching disappointment, and even a little jealousy, I watched as James' peers were quickly making their developmental milestones, while he was not. I knew in my heart that something was terribly wrong.

James was definitely developing socially. He smiled, he cooed, and he got lots of compliments regarding his cuteness, and especially his newly developing RED hair! But physically and mentally, he was definitely lagging behind his peers. So, at six months, when it was the "appropriate" time for an objective developmental assessment (according to the doctors), Tom and I insisted on an assessment for James. He was assessed here locally in Santa Cruz, and it was quickly determined that yes, indeed, he should be seen by a neurologist, because clearly James was not typically developing. Clearly, James was indeed not "average."

So off to Stanford our little family went, only to find that James not only had a plethora of developmental



delays, he likely had a neuro-metabolic issue as well, and possibly something metabolically life-threatening. Our devastation of hearing this news could not be measured...our world immediately started to crash down around us at that moment. And it was on this day that our lives changed forever.

The weeks and months went by, and after more than two long years of searching for the root of James' issues; including multiple visits to specialists, and multiple blood tests and MRI's, we were finally graced with a diagnosis for him. We had to travel cross-country to get the diagnosis, from one of the most renowned neuro-metabolic specialists in the country, but the long trek, both physically and emotionally, was worth it to us, as this was where we were finally told James' issues were definitely not life-threatening. We now knew in our hearts that although our journey would be long, and sometimes arduous, we would still have our sweet boy by our sides.

Thankfully, along the way, I found SPIN. I just happened to see a flyer on the bulletin board at CCS, where James went for P/T and O/T each week. And at that moment, our lives changed once again...this time, thankfully, in a more positive way. To this day, I am so incredibly grateful that I found SPIN.

James is still not an average child, but he's got a good life. He's in a great school, he has a wonderfully dedicated teacher, a caring and conscientious pediatrician, a supportive extended family, friends who love and accept him for who he is, and a younger sister who adores him and is sensitive and empathetic to his not-so-average ways. And although he's not so average, he's had a lot of opportunities to participate in some pretty average things, like adapted snow-skiing, horseback riding, swimming, Boogie-boarding, riding roller-coasters, and sailing on the O'Neil Sea Odyssey. We believe these things have been made more possible because of the good work SPIN does in our community; by enlightening families, teachers, and professionals in a positive way about special needs children, and how they affect the lives of their families and people supporting them.

Testimonio de Padres

POR AMANDA OWENS

Nuestro hijo, James, es nuestro primogénito, y para cualquier persona, él parece un niño típico de 11 años. Sin embargo, su historia es más que típica...

¡James fue definitivamente un bebé precioso – más precioso que el bebé típico, realmente...por lo menos así era para mi y mi esposo, Tom! Y como un infante en las primeras semanas, James parecía típico. El comía, dormía, y hacía del baño. Muy típico. Ahora recuerde, Tom y yo éramos padres primerizos. James era nuestro primer bebé. Pensábamos que los bebés hacían justo esto, y nada más.

Así que como los días fueron pasando, y James continuo comiendo, durmiendo y haciendo del baño la vida parecida, pues...normal. Nosotros nos sentíamos estremecidos por tener un hijo pequeño, y empezamos a soñar acerca de todas las cosas maravillosas que él haría a lo largo de su crecimiento. Nos imaginamos citas para jugar en el parque, Liga de béisbol, colección de bichos, puestos de limonada, proyectos de ciencia, juegos de fútbol, primeras citas amorosas, bailes del colegio, graduaciones... Pero cuando James tenía cinco semanas de nacido, y yo me uní a un grupo para mamás primerizas, yo poco a poco empecé a darme cuenta, con un dolor en el corazón, que James quizás no era tan típico. Con el paso del tiempo, los compañeros de James comenzaban a hacer nuevas cosas, por ejemplo sostenían sus cabecitas hacia arriba, empujarse hacia arriba con sus brazos, y finalmente se sientan sin ayuda. Con desilusión dolorosa, e incluso un poco celosa, yo miré como los compañeros de James alcanzaban rápidamente sus etapas de desarrollo, mientras que él no. Supe en mi corazón que algo andaba terriblemente mal.

James definitivamente se estaba desarrollando socialmente. ¡El sonreía, balbuceaba, recibía muchos cumplidos con respecto a su monería, y especialmente por su nuevo pelo ROJO que se le estaba desarrollando! Pero físicamente y mentalmente, él se quedaba atrás definitivamente de sus compañeros. A los seis meses cuando, según los médicos, era el tiempo “apropiado” para una evaluación objetiva de desarrollo, Tom y yo insistimos en una evaluación para James. El fue evaluado aquí localmente en Santa Cruz, y fue determinado rápidamente que sí, verdaderamente, él debería ser visto por un neurólogo, porque claramente James no se estaba desarrollando típicamente. Claramente, James verdaderamente no era “típico”.

Así que hacia Stanford nuestra pequeña familia fue, sólo para averiguar que James tenía una plétora de demoras de desarrollo, probablemente algo metabólicamente mal, e incluso posiblemente algo metabólicamente que amenazaba su vida. Nuestra devastación al oír estas noticias no puede medirse...nuestro mundo comenzó inmediatamente a caerse alrededor de nosotros. Y fue en este día que nuestras vidas cambiaron para siempre.

Las semanas y los meses pasaron, y después de más de dos largos años de buscar la raíz de los asuntos de James, incluyendo múltiples visitas a especialistas, múltiples análisis de sangre, y MRIs, finalmente fuimos agraciados con un diagnóstico para él. Tuvimos que viajar a otro estado para conseguir el diagnóstico, de uno de los especialistas metabólico más renombrado en el país, pero la jornada ardua larga, físicamente y emocionalmente, valió la pena para nosotros, porque ahí fue donde nosotros supimos por último que los asuntos de James no amenazaban su vida. Ahora sabíamos en nuestro corazón que aunque nuestro viaje sería largo, y a veces arduo, seguiríamos teniendo a nuestro niño dulce a un lado.

Agradecidamente, en el camino, yo encontré a SPIN. Me cruce con un volante de SPIN en el boletín de CCS, donde James acudía para terapia física y ocupacional cada semana. Y en ese momento, Nuestras vidas cambiaron una vez más...esta vez, agradecidamente, en una manera más positiva. Hasta este día, yo estoy increíblemente agradecida por que encontré a SPIN.

James todavía no es un niño típico, pero él tiene una vida buena. El está en una gran escuela, él tiene un maestro maravillosamente dedicado, un pediatra que lo cuida y es concienzudo, una familia que lo apoya, amigos que lo adoran y lo aceptan tal y como es, y una hermana pequeña que lo adora y acepta sus maneras no tan típicas con sensibilidad y empatía. Y aunque él no es tan típico, él ha tenido muchas oportunidades de tomar parte en algunas cosas bastante típicas, como esquiar en la nieve de una manera adaptada, montar a caballo, natación, Boogie-boarding, subirse a la montaña rusa, y navegar en la Odisea del Mar de O’Neil. Creemos que estas cosas se han hecho más posibles gracias al buen trabajo que SPIN hace en nuestra comunidad; iluminando a familias, maestros, y profesionales de una manera positiva acerca de los niños con necesidades especiales, y cómo ellos afectan las vidas de sus familias y las personas que los apoyan.



New Board Member

Greetings! My name is Lisa French. I am very happy to be part of the SPIN organization. I have worked in Santa Cruz County as a bilingual School Psychologist for over 20 years. I have focused most of my work with young children, from preschool through 5th grade, for the most part of my career. I enjoy working with parents and trying to help them negotiate the system of Special Education, especially parents of preschoolers. I worked in Watsonville, for PVUSD, for 13 years before accepting a position with Santa Cruz City Schools. I live in Live Oak with my husband John and have two sons, ages 13 and 17. I strongly believe that public education is one of the most powerful vehicles for influencing our youth. I look forward to working with SPIN and would especially like to foster good working relationships between families and schools.

iSaludos! Me llamo Lisa French. Estoy muy contenta de ser parte de la organización de SPIN. He trabajado en el condado de Santa Cruz por más de 20 años. El enfoque de mí trabajo ha sido con niños jóvenes, entre las edades de 3 hasta 11, por casi toda mi carrera. Me gusta más que nada trabajar con padres, para ayudarles entender mejor el sistema de educación especial, particularmente los padres de niños pre-escolares. Trabajé en Watsonville, para el distrito PVUSD, por 13 años antes de aceptar un puesto con Santa Cruz City Schools. Vivo en Live Oak, con mi esposo John, y nuestros hijos, de edades 13 y 17 años. Tengo la creencia fuerte que el sistema de educación pública es uno de los vínculos más poderosos que hay para influir a los jóvenes. Anticipo trabajar con SPIN y me gustaría especialmente ayudar a fomentar buenas relaciones entre familias y las escuelas.

Parenting the Unique Child

Compassionate support for parents of children with neurobehaviorial challenges, and counseling for adolescents, teens, and adults.

**Parenting the Unique Child Support Group
meets Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Please call for free consultation session.

**Vivian Gratton, M.A., MFT Intern (#56728),
supervised by Amy Barton-Cayton, LMFT #25317.
831-457-6684, www.balancedmind.us**

Please remember to check out the SPIN website:

¡Recuerde visitar el sitio Web de SPIN:

www.spin-sc.org

for the latest on activities, events, support groups,
and more! **para lo último en actividades, talleres,
grupos de apoyo, y más!**



SPIN Volunteers Wanted!

Human Race Committee. We participate in this every year. We need committee members to help with this event every year. This year's event. Sat. May 9, 2009. Please get pledges and walk for SPIN our # is 213. Contact Cece (831) 722-2800. One month commitment from middle of April to middle of May yearly.

Annual Awards Ceremony Committee. Volunteers to help us with our Annual Awards ceremony every August; we need help with set up, break down, selling tickets, collecting tickets at the door, getting food and beverage donations and more. Approx. 2 month commitment mid June to mid Aug. Contact Cece Pinheiro (831) 722-2800

QUIZ NIGHT Committee. 3-4 month commitment Dec./Jan.-March each year. Help create SPIN's biggest and finest fund raiser of the year. Help with getting prize donations, soliciting sponsors, creating program, making invitations, and much more. Contact Amanda (831) 459-0979

Letter Writing Committee. 2 one month commitments. Aug. & Jan. Help draft letters for donors and potential new board members, print, fold, stuff envelopes, stamp, etc. contact Cece (831) 722-2800

Newsletter Committee. 4x per year commitments, spring, summer, fall, winter. Help with graphic design, layout, article translation, soliciting paid ads, and much more, contact Cece (831) 722-2800

Dear Friends, We are trying to save money and trees, if you have e-mail please consider having your SPIN newsletter sent electronically through e-mail. Please e-mail Elizabeth, echavez@spinsc.org to have your newsletter e-mailed instead of snail mailed. Thanks!

Queridos Amigos,

Nosotros estamos tratando de ahorrar dinero y salvar árboles, si usted tiene correo electrónico considere por favor recibir su boletín de SPIN electrónicamente por email. Por favor mande un correo electrónico a Elizabeth, echavez@spinsc.org para que le enviemos su boletín por correo electrónico en vez de el correo postal. ¡Gracias!



Human Race 2007



Awards Ceremony 2008



Awards Ceremony 2008

thank you/ gracias

QUIZ NITE 2009

Quiz Nite 2009 was a big success, thanks to everyone who made the event the best ever. Special thanks to the Quiz Nite Committee Chair Amanda Owens and her crew!"

"Quiz Nite 2009 fue un gran éxito, gracias a todos los que hicieron este acontecimiento el mejor de todos. ¡Gracias especialmente a la presidenta del Comité de Quiz Nite Amanda Owens y su equipo!"

Quiz Nite 2009 at the Seascope Golf Club on March 14th was more fun than ever, with the theme of "Somewhere in Time". Our Guests enjoyed a lovely dinner, quizzing competition, Time Capsule "surprises" and live auction. Mitchell Jackman's table received the award for "Best Costumes and Table Decoration". Pat Golditch's table received the award for "Highest Quiz Score".

Special thanks go out to the following people who made Quiz Nite such a wonderful, successful night: Our Celebrity MC, Lex van den Berghe; Bill & Sheryl Wobber & Dan Haifley, our Quiz Masters; our Board of Directors; Peg Gallagher, Ken Kulpa, Amanda Owens, Lisa French, Eileen Fuller, John Kaster, our volunteers; Cheri Bell, Drea Batteast, Heidi Lister, Jean Peterson, Kalena Allard, Dana Cox, Pat Golditch, Maggie Barr, Alan York, Becca Lister. We thank all of the parents, and other friends who came to Quiz Nite and made it the best event of the year! We hope to see you again next year!

A big thank you to the following businesses and individuals who donated to Quiz Nite!
¡Muchas gracias a los siguientes negocios e individuos quienes donaron a Quiz Nite!

*A big thank you
to the following
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Quiz Nite!*

*¡Muchas gracias
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Ace Hardware
Alex Nizenkoff
Alladin Nursery
Allison & David Amadia- Ridge
Winery

Amanda & Tom Owens

Aptos Shoes
Arteak Interiors
Artisans Gallery
Attitudes
Bambinibliss.com
Beach Boardwalk
Beauty Unlimited
Bettina & Trevor Baylis
Café Rio
Carol Foster
Carol Murphy
Cece Pinheiro
Chaminade
Chardonnay Charters

Cheri & Matt Bell

Corralitos Market
Darlene Wilcox
Debutante Clothing Boutique
Diane & Shah Kazemi
Don Jozovich

Eileen Stearman

Erin Halen
Gail Wright, Monterey Bay
Horsemanship &
Therapeutic Center



George Gaydos Construction
Goddess of Organization
Gravago Gallery
Harvey Pressman
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Home Depot
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James Carl Ashbacher
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Ladislav Pinheiro
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Lynn Lauridsen
Maggie A. Barr
Michael Fuller

Michele Baker

Miner Winery
Monica Morosin Childcare
Monterey Bay Kayaks
Om Gallery
Pasillas Tire Service
Pat & Ed Golditch
Paul & Theresa Van Der Walde
Peachwoods
Peg & John Gallagher
Pure Skin
Resort at Squaw Creek
Sanderlings
Scott Haggblade
Shadobrook
Sydney Altano Massage
The Farm Bakery
The Law Offices of -
Mitchell A. Jackman
The Tibetan Nomad
Tim Woods Painting
Tony Andrews
Victor's Carpet Care
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Wendy Laird
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www.NoMoreHighTaxes.com
Zinnia's of Scotts Valley

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Buying or Selling Real Estate? Financing a Home?

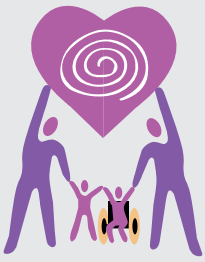
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Mention **SPIN** before the close of escrow & Ken Kulpa will donate up to \$5,000 in your name to SPIN!

Call Ken Kulpa for details (831) 684-2000

www.

LandByTheSea.com



**Special Parents
Information Network**

Mailing address/Domicilio
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Santa Cruz, Ca 95063
Email:info@spinsc.org

So. Santa Cruz Co Office
294 Green Valley Rd. Ste. 313
Watsonville, Ca 95076
Phone: (831)722-2800
Fax: (831)722-2580

No. Santa Cruz Co Office
740 Front Street, Suite 175
Santa Cruz, Ca 95060
Phone (831)423-7713

San Benito Co Office
P.O Box 2367
Santa Cruz, Ca 95063
Phone: (831) 636-3446

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—

Up-coming SPIN Events and Workshops

- 1. SPIN Earth Day Event**
Sunday, April 19th 2009
11am-3pm
Alladin Nursery, 2905 Freedom Blvd.
Watsonville
- 2. Positive Behavior Support & The Child with Challenging Behaviors 2009/ Apoyo Positivo en la Conducta y los Niños con Conductas Desafiantes**
Saturday, April 25th 2009
10-1pm, Watsonville
- 3. Sensory Integration**
Wednesday May 6th 2009
6-8pm, Live Oak
- 4. Human Race**
Saturday, May 9th 2009
9am-12pm, Natural Bridges State Park
- 5. Special Education 101**
Tuesday, May 19th 2009
7-9pm, Hollister

SAVE THE DATE
June 19, 2009, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
University Inn Santa Cruz

**Strengthening Our Services
for Youth and Fathers**

SPIN'S
**Second Community
Spinner Awards-**
Lucky 8 Ceremony

August 22nd, 2009
3:30-6:30PM
YWCA, 340 East Beach Street, Watsonville
\$15 per person

SPIN is a member of "CAFEC" – The California Association of FamilyEmpowerment Centers on Disability – www.cafec.org



Special Parents Information Network (SPIN)

P.O Box 2367
Santa Cruz, Ca 95063
Email:info@spinsc.org
Website: www.spinsc.org

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