



## Making Dreams A Reality

### *WAPADH Completes 5-Year Strategic Plan*

After digesting hundreds and hundreds of comments from families, consumers and staff and examining external factors affecting services, WAPADH's Board of Directors put a seal of approval on its Strategic Plan for 2007-2012. Broad strategic goals in the plan include:

- ✦ **Build strong communication partnerships using ideas and strategies developed through Facilitated Communication training.**
- ✦ **Recruit and train staff to reflect higher standards of education, allow staff to complete their work with competence and confidence and provide incentives for continuing improvement and performance.**



*Brothers and sisters who have experienced a family member with autism gather to share ideas*

## Autism Society Hosts 'Sibling Saturday'

### *3rd Annual Event A Big Success*

The Greater Long Beach/ South Bay/ Whittier Chapter of the Autism Society of America held its Third Annual Sibling Saturday on March 10. Siblings between the ages of 7 and 17 met to share experiences with other siblings of autistic children. Christina O'Reilly, Speech Therapist, and Morgan Saylor, Special Ed Teacher, started out on their "man on the

Happenings from the....

## Language Arts Library

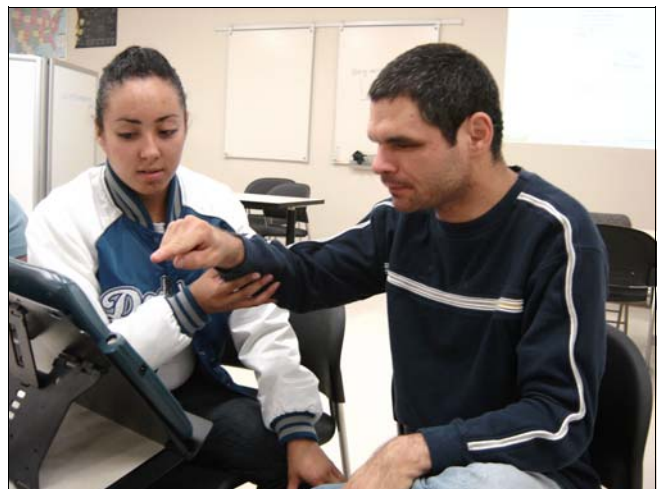
# LANGUAGE ARTS LIBRARY SPONSORS ROSEMARY CROSSLEY

As part of its ongoing activities, WAPADH'S Language Arts Library will bring Rosemary Crossley, PhD from the Deal Institute in Australia to California from July 23 to July 26. Rosemary is a fantastic practitioner of communication arts and is known internationally for her work with people with limited or no speech. WAPADH will partner with WACSEP and the Jay Nolan Center in this effort. This is a great chance for us to bring Rosemary together with consumers, families and staff to talk about innovations in augmentative communication and her continued work with facilitated communication. It's a fantastic opportunity so watch your mail or check our Web Site for specific events associated with Rosemary's visit.

SAVE THE  
DATE!

## West Coast Symposium Facilitated Communication

**July 10-12, 2008  
Radisson Hotel  
Whittier, CA**



## Strategic Plan 2007-2012 (cont.)

✍ Provide an economic environment which enriches/enhances current program services, encourages the development of prudent reserves through investment and allows for the exploration and development of new and innovative services.

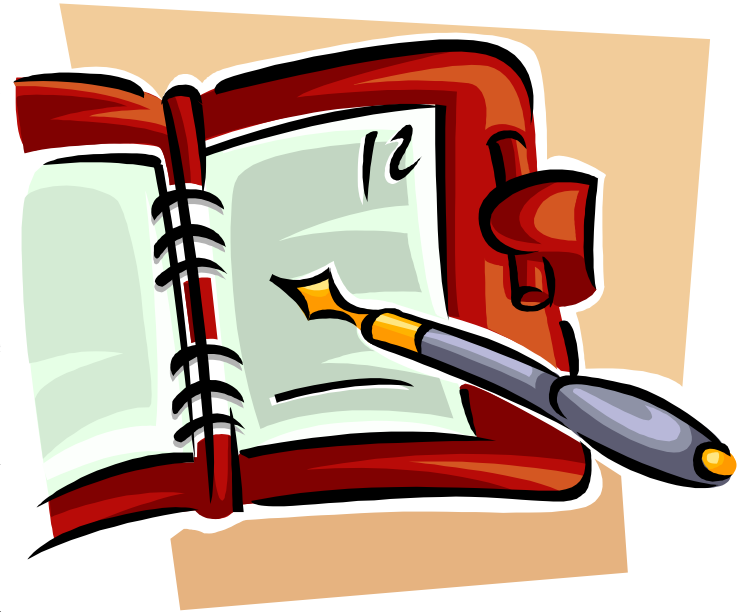
✍ Ensure the free flow of information which advocates for the users of our service, clearly defines the day-to-day experiences of people who use our services and accurately defines the strengths and needs of WAPADH.

The WAPADH board took time to dream a little in coming up with these broad and ambitious goals. The desired results of these efforts should be reflected in:

- better informed families, staff and consumers
- easier access to community services
- additional funding that integrates people into their community
- direct service staff who express confidence
- users of our service who are perceived to have more power as individuals

These are a few of the outcomes we hope to achieve.

Copies of the WAPADH Strategic Plan and the attending detail are available upon request or by going to the WAPADH web site at [www.wapadh.org](http://www.wapadh.org) and clicking on Strategic Plan.



### MISSION STATEMENT

*To Empower All Individuals  
To Maximize the Quality of  
Their Lives Through  
Membership,  
Interdependence  
And Self-Advocacy.*





**THE 10th ANNUAL "NO NAME"  
GOLF TOURNAMENT  
TO BENEFIT  
W A P A D H  
(Whittier Area Parents' Assoc. for the  
Developmentally Handicapped)**

**WHEN:** May 8, 2007  
**WHERE:** Montebello  
Country Club  
901 Via San Clemente  
Montebello, CA  
90640

**323-887-4565**  
**TIME:** 9:30 a.m.  
Registration  
11:00 a.m.  
Shot Gun Start

**After-golf awards, raffle &  
BBQ Dinner!  
Putting contest!  
Free range balls!**

**Hotel Accommodations:  
Hilton Garden Inn Montebello  
801 North Via San Clemente  
Montebello, CA  
323-724-5900**

**Cost: Green Fees and Dinner  
\$110.00.....  
plus a door prize donation**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE GOLF  
TOURNAMENT CONTACT:**

**HARRY WILSON (951) 246-1680  
Email hwilson@gates.com  
OR TOM MILLER (619) 579-9603  
Email TMillerSls@aol.com**

**\*\*Can't golf??  
Make a donation (door prize or cash)!!**

**Please send to:  
WAPADH  
9300 Santa Fe Springs Rd.  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670**

**WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU!!**

**Golf Entry Form**

**Make Golf Checks Payable  
To:  
Harry Wilson  
28241 Summit Rose  
Menifee, CA 92584**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please notify us of requested foursomes**

## 'Sibling Saturday' Successful!

street" interviews with sibs and staff, which they conducted throughout the day.

Parents and children then listened to a panel of teens and adult sibs who offered personal stories and answered questions letting the children know that others have lived through what they are experiencing and survived. Participating sibs were Liz Harrell, Oscar Alfaro, Krystal Lara, Christie Sawires, and Maureen Meza. At that point the parents and children parted ways. Jackie Leigh, WACSEP School Psychologist and Rita Rubin, ASA parent, facilitated a parent discussion group while the children chose one of the following workshops: "Act it Out" addressed issues through role playing; "Inside Me, Outside Me" was an art project where the outside of cigar boxes were decorated to represent the outer persona that the children show to the public, while the inside of the boxes were decorated with symbols of the children's personal feelings; and "How to Have Angry Feelings (Or ANY feelings!) and Not Get In Trouble" was just that.



*Christina O'Reilly conducts a "Man on the Street" Interview with a Sibling Saturday participant*

The siblings really enjoyed the day and bonded with other kids who share their daily frustrations as evidenced by many of them sitting with each other rather than with their parents. Each family will receive a DVD of the video so they can remember this special day.

### DYNAVOX VISITS WAPADH

**A**my Hlad, LA County representative for Dynavox Technologies, demonstrated one of their newest products, the VMax, in a recent visit to WAPADH. Dynavox provides augmentative communication devices to individuals challenged with disabilities. For more information please contact our Technology Lending Library.



## Did You Know?

### Recruiting Great Staff is a Challenge!

*Some Interesting Facts About WAPADH'S  
Human Resources Department*

**60** .....number of applications WAPADH receives each month.

**30** .....number of applications selected for interviews each month.

**5-7** .....number of staff actually hired each month.

**1,200** .....dollar amount WAPADH invests in screening/training each new employee.

**30,000** .....dollar amount WAPADH will spend this year for job advertising.

**CONNECTIONS**

9300 Santa Fe Springs Rd.  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
562-946-0467

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- ◇ *Virginia Leibert, Secretary*
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- ◇ *Tina Sawires*

*Ex. Officio*

- ◇ *Stephen L. Boyer, Ex. Dir.*



[www.wapadh.org](http://www.wapadh.org)

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