

HELPING FRIENDS IN NEED

The Parca Auxiliary—the community fundraising arm for Parca, a nonprofit focused on helping children and adults with developmental disabilities—is about to celebrate its 25th anniversary in style.

Since its founding, the Parca Auxiliary has raised nearly \$2 million for key programs and services that benefit developmentally disabled people and their families through Burlingame's Parca. Parca, itself, has been enriching the lives of people with developmental disabilities since 1952. The nonprofit's programs are designed to create a feeling of extended family to help people live as independently as possible and enjoy all that life has to offer. Parca provides residential programs, support for those living independently, respite care, before- and after-school childcare, and family support and advocacy services.

The auxiliary was founded to help provide funding for Parca's critical programs, including REACH (a childcare program) and Raji House (a weekend respite care program for children and teens). These programs use positive learning and recreational activities that emphasize the similarities between each person rather than the differences. All of Parca's children's programs are licensed by the Department of Social Services.

Parca's adult programs provide training and support services to assist clients in mastering self-reliance and independence to their highest personal level. Family Support Services is a resource for parents, offering support, advocacy, and information from the moment they learn they're going to have a baby with disabilities.

In honor of its milestone anniversary and the remarkable achievements of its members and corporate sponsors, the auxiliary will be breaking from recent tradition this year. Instead of hosting its signature luncheon/fashion show fundraiser, the auxiliary is presenting The Roaring 25th Anniversary Gala on May 18.

Taking inspiration from *The Great Gatsby*, this one-time, extraordinary gala will be an evening of grandeur at a private historic estate in Hillsborough. There will be Jazz-Age music, speakeasy cocktails, an elegant sit-down dinner, and a live auction. Katie Amoroso, Alison Caron, and Allison Keenan will chair the gala. ♦

For more information about Parca, visit www.parca.org or call 650.312.0730.



Parca Auxiliary 25th Gala organizers Allison Keenan, Katie Amoroso, Tara Klein, Alison Caron, and Liat Bishko