

# It's achievable



Left to right: Gary Gray, Dennis Parnell, Shayne Dalva, Vladimir Chernov & Joshua Guerrero performed at Nov. 17th benefit.

## Clinic Inspires Opera Benefit

On the evening of November 17th, five music sensations joined forces to put on an incredible opera benefit concert at St. Augustine Episcopal Church in Santa Monica to raise funds and awareness for The Achievable Clinic. The audience of Achievable supporters and opera fans were treated to stunning perfor-

mances of arias and duets from Puccini, Mozart, Handel, Massenet, Wagner and Verdi.



Shayne Dalva

Soprano Shayne Dalva shined as the featured female vocalist and as the event's main inspiration and organizer. Dalva and her husband are parents of two, including an

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## Clinic Construction Underway!

The Achievable Clinic space is located in Culver City in the same building as Westside Regional Center. Recent clinic construction tasks (pictured here) have included improving the building entryway to make it more easily accessible to individuals with mobility challenges and extensive interior remodeling to create a state-of-the-art clinic that meets the needs of our community.



## New Clinic Advisory Council Boasts Impressive Roster

We are proud and pleased to introduce Achievable's newly-formed *Clinic Advisory Council*, composed of ten highly qualified and passionate volunteers with special expertise related to providing healthcare to individuals with developmental disabilities. The Advisory Council members have a wide range of professional and community affiliations and will be instrumental in assisting Achievable's Board of Directors and staff navigate the complexities of operating a community health clinic for our unique population.

The Council convened for the first time in October and will meet quarterly going forward. We thank all of our new Advisory Council members for their commitment to supporting The Achievable Clinic. **Clinic Advisory Council Members:** **Edward A. Bloch, MD**, Medical Director of Children's Medical Services, Los Angeles County; **Keri Castaneda**, Chief Programs Officer, Ability First; **Ben Davidson**, Owner Premier Healthcare Services; **Linda Deemer, MD, PhD**, Professor of Medicine and Physiology, Vice Chair of Cardiovascular &

Vascular Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA; **Greg Facktor**, Managing Partner, GFI Health Consulting; **Mary Giammona, MD, MPH**, Chief, Managed Care Network/ Medical Administration, Los Angeles County; **Kent Graham**, Achievable Board of Directors & Retired Partner, O'Melveny & Myers LLP; **Anahita Naficy Lovelace, PhD**, Psychotherapist; **Rene Rivas**, Westside Regional Center, Board of Directors; **Pamela Wiley, PhD**, President & Founder, Los Angeles Speech and Language Therapy Center.

## Message from the President



*"If you build it,  
they will come..."*

*~ Field of Dreams*

During this season of gratitude and sharing, we at Achievable have found much to be thankful for. About a year and a half ago, I first wrote in these pages about our major initiative to provide access to health care by creating a community health clinic exclusively for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

If you're reading this, it's most likely because you've been a supporter of this work in the past. We also trust it means you are interested in what we're doing now and what we will be doing going forward to support this under-served popu-

lation. It also says you have a stake in our shared success. For that we say Thank You from the bottom of our hearts!

I am delighted to report that we are getting ever closer to reaching a major milestone in the history of our organization and it is in no small part due to the efforts of a large group of like-minded individuals. During the past year, with the help of our board, staff, grantors, funders and community volunteers we have begun to crystallize the vision of what a "patient-centered" clinic model can provide for our community. As we have gained that clarity, we have reached out to more and more foundations and organizations that are attracted to our mission and are willing to support it.

In this past year, we have received grants from private foundations, individuals and corporate donors totaling over \$700,000, including several substantial grants from various L.A. based foundations and, for the first time, a global grant

for our local clinic initiative. The Material World Charitable Foundation, based in London and founded by George Harrison in 1973, has as part of its stated purpose "to help those with special needs," and, thanks to the generous assistance of Olivia Harrison, provided a \$100,000 grant for our clinic project.

Through the efforts of all of our supporters, we have become a known quantity in the philanthropic community. As you will see in other sections of this newsletter, the generosity of individuals and organizations has enabled us to commence construction of our clinic space and hire our first two clinic employees including our clinic operations manager. We expect to have the clinic licensed by the State of California and ready for patient visits by the Spring of 2013. It's an exciting time in our history, and we thank you all for continuing to help us transform vision into reality.

*~Ted Tannenbaum*

## Clinic Inspires Opera Benefit (from page 1)

eleven year-old son, Merrick, who lives with autism. The family resides in Los Angeles where Dalva trains and sings opera. When Dalva learned, earlier this year, about Achievable's efforts to open a community health clinic for Los Angeles-area children and adults with developmental disabilities, she enthusiastically offered to lend her talent and rally fellow performers to support the project.

Along with Dalva, special guest artists Vladimir Chernov (Metropolitan Opera, Prof. of Voice, UCLA), Gary Gray (Collaborative Pianist, Santa Monica Col-

lege), Joshua Guerrero (LA Opera Young Artist Program) and Dennis Parnell (Prof. of Voice, Santa Monica College) graced the concert stage and delighted the audience with their operatic forte.

The concert program interspersed musical performances with inspiring speakers who offered personal accounts of challenges they face as individuals or parents of children with developmental disabilities. Dalva's son, Merrick, opened the program with moving words on his experience living with autism. Alan Davis eloquently conveyed the need for The

Achievable Clinic because of the lack of appropriate healthcare services available to adults who, like him, live with a developmental disability. And, Felicia Ford and Laura Luna spoke with warmth and candor, in English and Spanish, respectively, about the difficulties of meeting the complex healthcare needs of their children, a daughter living with cerebral palsy and a son living with severe autism.

David Whatley, a classically trained singer, master's degree candidate and Dalva's close friend since the two performed opera together six years ago, bigheartedly volunteered his time and expertise as event coordinator and master of ceremonies for the evening.

Thanks to the generosity of the event's two main sponsors, Los Angeles Speech and Language Therapy Center and Manufacturers Bank, all additional proceeds from event sponsorships, ticket sales and donations will go toward The Achievable Clinic, which is currently under construction and expected to be open for patient visits in Spring 2013.

*Do you have an idea or contribution for  
our next CLINIC BENEFIT EVENT? Please  
contact us at (310) 258-4256 or  
[info@achievable.org](mailto:info@achievable.org).  
We would love to partner with you!*



Left: Dalva with daughter Sophia and son Merrick. Center: Achievable's Nubia Macias translates for parent speaker Laura Luna. Right: Parent speaker Felicia Ford with daughter Faith.



## Community Partner Honors Achievable

On December 1st, Achievable was honored with a "Making a Difference" award at The Wiley Center for Speech and Language Development's (aka Los Angeles Speech and Language Therapy Center) 16th annual gala event celebrating individuals and organizations in the community who help improve the lives of



Photo by R. Scott Horn

Board member Rollins (left) accepted Achievable's award from T.V. anchor Sykes.

children with developmental disabilities. KABC Channel 7 News Anchor, Leslie Sykes, presented the award plaque to Achievable Board member, Mary Rollins at the event which took place at The Sheraton Gateway Hotel. The plaque reads "Thank you for your vision, guidance and unwavering commitment to individuals with developmental disabilities."

Wiley Center President & Founder, Pamela Wiley, PhD (also a member of Achievable's new Clinic Advisory Council), explained at the event that Achievable was chosen as an honoree for providing hundreds of camp scholarships over the years to families who could not otherwise afford to send their children with autism to specialized summer camp programs, and for Achievable's trailblazing community clinic initiative.

Along with the award plaque, Achievable received certificates of commendation and recognition from the County of Los Angeles and the State Senate and Assembly for improving the quality of life for underserved individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

## Supporter Spotlight

Thank you to **OLIVIA HARRISON** and her family, for being long-time champions of Achievable and consistently supporting our mission with several major contributions.

During Achievable's formative years, the family sponsored the *Latino Family Outreach Program*, a community educational initiative. Each year, they have supported Achievable's *Holiday Gift Card Program* to help the neediest of our population celebrate the holidays. Also, Olivia's sister, Linda Arias, previously served on the Achievable Board as a community advocate for people with developmental disabilities and remains closely involved with Achievable to the present day.

Most recently, Olivia, in her role as a Director of The Material World Charitable Foundation, shepherded a \$100,000 grant for The Achievable Clinic. In her congratulatory note to us Olivia wrote, "I hope this amount will inspire other donors to complete the project." **Thank you Olivia for being an inspiration in all that you do!**

*Feeling inspired? Learn more about how you too can support our mission at*  
[www.achievable.org](http://www.achievable.org)

## Meet the Board: Sporty PR Parent Bob Steiner

Bob Steiner, Achievable Treasurer and Secretary, joined the Board of Directors in 1998 bringing a wealth of know-how and experience, both personal and professional, to the Achievable team. Bob served for 20 years as Public Relations Director for California Sports, Inc., where he oversaw PR and promotions for the Los Angeles Lakers and Kings. His earlier sports promotion career highlights included acting as Sports Information Director at U.C. Berkeley ("Cal"), Vice President of PR for the International Track Association, PR Director for World Team Tennis and as a color announcer on Cal football and basketball radio broadcasts.

A community activist at heart, Bob served on the Board of the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games, helping Los Angeles win the bid for the 1984 Olympics, and he later joined the PR Advisory Committee for the 1984 Games. These days, Bob passionately rallies and works to ensure the success of Achievable's community health clinic for children and adults with developmental disabilities—a project that is very dear to him and his family.

Bob and wife Mary Jane were recent Cal graduates living in the Bay Area when daughters, Cathy (1962—) and Susan (1964—1968) were born with severe hydrocephalus and resulting developmental disabilities. Reflecting on his experience as a new parent to children with complex medical and developmental challenges, Bob expressed heartfelt gratitude for the doctors and nurses who helped advise him and Mary Jane on meeting their daughters' special needs. "The medical care was terrific and very personal," Bob said. ***"Our hardships were greatly lessened from what other families of children with developmental disabilities typically experience" thanks to receiving consistent care and support from compassionate and well-qualified healthcare providers.***

Bob envisions transforming his family's healthcare experience from the exception to the rule through The Achievable Clinic, and continues to pound the pavement for the clinic project. Thank you

Bob for your generous contributions (including your family's sponsorship donation and your PR assistance for the Nov. 17th clinic benefit concert) and for your endless team spirit!



Photo by Andrew Bernstein

Bob (far right) at Nov. 2nd Lakers game with (left to right) ILS case worker Barbara Mack, wife Mary Jane, daughter Cathy and Cathy's roommate Sonija.



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## With Heartfelt Thanks to All Our Supporters...

*During this holiday season, Achievable offers many thanks to all of our loyal supporters for your commitment to making a difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. We treasure every second of time volunteered, every click on our website and every penny donated. We especially want to highlight the following individuals and organizations who made remarkably generous contributions during the last few months.*

- The Material World Charitable Foundation for your substantial contribution to advancing The Achievable Clinic.
- The George Hoag Family Foundation, Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation and Carl E. Wynn Foundation for sustaining our general operations with your significant grant monies.
- PPS International LTD and Vandrick L. Turner Learning Center for your sizable corporate contributions.
- Ted Levine Drum Company and Ruby Wortham for your frequent contributions that sustain us.

• Ari Zeldin, Alicia Bazzano, Claudia Kunin, Priscilla Hoe, Lois Rollins, Dan and Joan Roman, Steve and Lucie Schlesinger, Joan McLaughlin, Lawrence Cosgrove, Marc Axelrod, Margaret Golden, Elizabeth Nielson, Naidu and Jane Permaul & John Haggerty for your considerable personal donations.

• Manufacturers Bank (special thanks to Sean Townley and Nancy Huntington), Los Angeles Speech and Language Therapy Center (special thanks to Pamela Wiley, PhD) and Bob and Mary Jane Steiner for sponsoring our clinic benefit concert. Thanks also to David Whatley, Shayne Dalva, Vladimir Chernov, Gary Gray, Joshua Guerrero, and Dennis Parnell for putting on such a great event in support of The Achievable Clinic!

• Janet Fox for donating in memory of June Ige.

• Morning Sky for creatively raising support through fashion and rummage sales.

• 24Hr HomeCare for selecting Achievable as a designated charity and contrib-



Erin Fox and Alan Davis at Nov. 17th benefit.

uting a portion of your profits on behalf of your clients.

- Karol Scotta & Options For Life for your ongoing funding support through recycling programs, car washes, barbecues and the 2012 Christmas Tree Auction.
- Carrie Griffis for continuing to champion and raise funds for our mission.

**You can help improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities by donating today at [www.achievable.org](http://www.achievable.org) or using the enclosed envelope.**