

Offerings

Empowering Communities locally and globally to build special needs programs.

THE GLOBAL WORK

The Magic of Soccer Continues on the island of Bali



to guide those chairs through soccer cones, move them closer to the hula-hoops to practice taking shots on goal and participate in wheel chair races passing a soccer ball to another just in the wheel chair next to them.

Young people with Downs Syndrome were excited to wear their new soccer jerseys back to their homes and carry their soccer balls given to them by Coach Josh to show their families. Students enrolled in the scholarship program at the non-governmental agency YKIP were excited to participate in fun and engaging soccer skills designed by Offerings sports director. Forty very differently abled children came together for a few hours interacting, accepting and cheering each other. Soccer once again performed its magic.

On the island of Bali the sport of soccer is known by all. Even children with CP, Downs Syndrome and ADHD light up when they see a soccer ball. Last year Offerings held its first integrated soccer day with great success. This summer, Offerings sports director, Joshua Fitzgerald returned to the island and facilitated an integrated soccer skills development day at the Green School on the island of Bali. It was a magical day when the children from the Green School Camp were paired up with the special needs children from the local special needs non-governmental agencies providing encouragement, coaching and support in the activities of the day. Elementary school age children who had never pushed a child in a wheel chair before, on this day, learned



Knowledge Leads to Understanding & Learning



For the past six years Offerings has responded to the needs of small local Non-governmental Organizations working to identify, educate and support children, teens and adults with special needs in Indonesia, especially on the island of Bali and Java. This summer discussion and workshop topics were 1) Thinking about Fundraising for your Non-profit, 2) Understanding Children with Autism, CP, and Downs Syndrome and Being an Effective Teacher, 3) Developing Pre-Vocational Programs in your Center. In addition Offerings was asked to hold a workshop for Occupational Therapists on Sensory Integration and for Speech & Language Therapists on Understanding the Communication Challenges of those with Autism.

Offerings was also invited to one of the leading Rotary Associations on the island and asked to present on its work during the past six years.

Workshops for Balinese Centers

Each year, before returning to Indonesia, Offerings reaches out to the special needs schools and centers requesting topics that they are interested. Then workshops are prepared in both English and Indonesian. Offerings also has a translator at every workshop to make sure that each participant understands content and can feel comfortable asking questions in their native language. Karen, Offerings director, has found that it is important to make participants at workshops feel safe. The culture of the country is that of not questioning and appearing to understand all that is presented, so they are not seen as less knowledgeable. So, first and foremost topics about what they wish to learn are chosen and secondly they are done in their native language.

The topics this summer were requested by teachers, administrators and therapists. Teachers wanted to understand more about the diagnosis and characteristics of Autism, Downs Syndrome, and Cerebral Palsy and good teaching methods. The Speech Therapists wanted to understand the Communication Challenges of those with Autism. The Occupational Therapists wanted to understand Sensory Integration. Administrators wanted to learn more about Fundraising Strategies and the Centers wanted to learn more about developing Pre-Vocational Programs.



Offerings Local Happenings

Hear Our Voices....7th annual Autism Lecture Series

Seven years of providing an eight part lecture series on Autism Spectrum Disorders came to a close with an amazing series this year called “Hear Our Voices”. Teens and adults from schools, centers and the general community formed a monthly panel for 8 months and Karen Kaplan facilitated the panel discussions. People living each day on the autism spectrum were asked to share the challenges they experience during their early school years, middle school years and finally secondary school years. Isolation, bullying and anxiety were general themes verbally expressed. Panelists were asked to share their interests, hopes and dreams which confirmed to all that these amazing individuals have the same hopes as their typical peers: attending college, driving a car, living on their own, marriage and finding a community of friends, but some still lack the skills and resources to reach their goals.

We learned that there continues to be a lack of job opportunities and living possibilities for those on the spectrum. We learned that the lack of access to effective public transportation can reduce a wide range of career connections. We learned that most must live with their families and depend on resources from the department of rehabilitation or regional center.

Most of all we learned how most are working on overcoming being de-valued and misunderstood and how they have grown to forgive those who bullied. We heard their wise advice to teachers and parents; to never give up, take time to form relationships, help build independence and to try and understand how the world feels to those living each day on the spectrum. They asked that we see them as abled, not disabled but capable.



Offerings Local Upcoming Events

October 1, 2016... The Road to Independence

One of the hottest topics in the Special Needs Community is preparing special needs to live, work, recreate and continue their education after high school. Currently communities throughout California are realizing that schools have not prepared those with challenges to be ready for adult life, vocational programs are limited in their resources, employment opportunities are greatly reduced and living possibilities few.

On Saturday October 1 from 8 to 3, at Marin County Office of Education, 1111 Las Gallinas, San Rafael, CA, Offerings will host its first one day conference “The Road to Independence”.

The conference will provide Continuing Education Units through the Regional Center. Sessions will address

building independent skills in schools, building positive adult emotions through therapeutic intervention, building communication skills through technology and Speech Therapy and Building independence through post-secondary programs. There will be a panel of adults with special needs discussing the challenges they experience in reaching independence.

Offerings is hoping to bring together parents, professionals and the special needs community to learn and share.

Conference fee \$55.00. Scholarships available, contact Karen Kaplan karensupportsu@comcast.net

Tickets: www.globalofferings.org

A is for Autism Awesomeness

April is National Autism Awareness month and Offerings partnered with Jessica's Haven and other local education, vocation, residential programs and community programs to put on Autism Awesomeness Day.

Offerings Executive Director contacted the Marin County Supervisor and a proclamation was read honoring all those programs in community for being a resource to children, families and professionals. Children and adults living each day on the spectrum demonstrated their Awesomeness by showcasing their art work, their

music ability, their writing ability, their singing ability during the event bringing the guests to tears an awe. Nicole Twitter pastor at St. Luke's Church provided the most amazing event space for our day, inviting families and people on the spectrum to enjoy services and resources in the future on her beautiful site.

The event also honored employers in Marin County for their outstanding conduct in offering people with Autism employment opportunities. Thank you Marin Mazda Subaru, Extraordinary Ventures California, Cedars of Marin and Marin Crossing Guards.

