

Welcome New Board Members

Families Forward Learning Center is proud to welcome Susan Stannard, Carie Wickers and Raymond Tabandeh to its Board of Directors. Each demonstrates strength in community and professional leadership. They are poised to share their time and talents in support of Families Forward Learning Center's mission of preparing families living in isolation and poverty to succeed in school and in life through two-generation learning programs.

Susan Stannard is a key relationship manager with First Quadrant. She brings a wealth of institutional and market knowledge to her clients keeping them abreast of the firm's research innovations and performance across all firm products. Prior to working at First Quadrant, Susan was a partner at Seneca Capital Management and Fluor Corporation. Susan earned a BS in business at California State University, Long Beach. When she is not working, Susan is involved with teaching classes at Junior Achievement, Assistance League.



Raymond R. Tabandeh is a partner in Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie's Intellectual Property practice group. He has extensive experience in intellectual property law and also holds an electrical engineering degrees along with an MBA.

Raymond specializes in helping clients with cybersecurity and Internal IP law. He has also been a visiting lecturer in the School of Engineering at the University of California, Los Angeles. Raymond lives in San Marino with his family.

Carie Wickers is the Controller with Whittier Trust Company where she manages the Corporate Accounting department. She has previously worked with Union Bank's Investment Services, Mercantile National Bank and Arthur

Anderson. Carie graduated from California State University at Northridge with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant. In her spare time, Carie is a Personal & Financial Management Counselor and the Advisory Committee's Merit Badge Coordinator for San Marino's Boy Scout Troup 355.



Helping Families Through COVID-19



On March 13, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 state guidelines, Families Forward Learning Center closed its doors. We are proud to share that while our facility has been closed during the stay-at-home order, our programs have continued. Our most impactful services are being delivered via telephone, video and messaging applications. By using platforms like Class Dojo, Facebook and Instagram, we are helping children and parents engage in early childhood learning activities together, as well as sharing vital resources and information to aid struggling families.

During this time, the sense of community Families Forward Learning Center fosters is so strong that it extends beyond the walls of our learning center. Our teachers are maintaining daily contact with their students and families, and our Family Engagement Specialist is reaching out weekly to assess families' needs and help them connect with resources. The staff has

distributed diapers, activity kits for learning at home, personalized letters from the teachers and grocery gift cards to families on a monthly-basis.

As we work on plans for reopening in the near future, we will continue to take the necessary precautions to protect and support our families and staff.

Pre-K Students Get a Special Send Off!



On June 18, Pre-K students and their loved ones got in their cars and headed to Families Forward Learning Center's first ever drive-through graduation. The event was held at the Jackie Robinson parking lot, across the street from our Center, which was lined with teacher's decorated cars.

Teachers and staff welcomed the graduates with masks and smiling faces.

Families drove their decorated vehicles through the parking lot with the children leaning out of the windows wearing their decorated caps with tassels and adorable sashes custom made by mom Teresa Aviles! They stopped at the teachers' cars and received a backpack filled with items to equip them for Kindergarten. They moved down the row of cars, cheering and waving as they passed. Elva Sandoval, our Executive Director, gave each child a diploma and a treat.



The teachers and students have only seen each other via Zoom since March so this was a wonderful experience for everyone. The graduation was a fun way to close out this year!

Power of Two Virtual Event Was a Success

The Power of Two, Families Forward Learning Center's annual fundraising event went virtual this year, resulting in a successful event for Families Forward. A big thank you to our sponsors, donors and everyone who participated in our on-line auction.



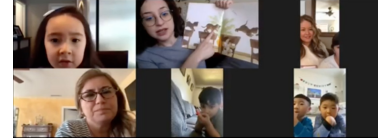
The on-line auction kicked off on Friday, May 8, 2020, and closed on Friday, May 15, 2020. Over 40 items were sold! The money raised will go towards our mission of helping families succeed in school and in life through our two-generational learning programs.

Board President, Sylvia Paz calls the Power of Two "a huge success." She goes on to say that "we exceeded our goals beyond what we hoped to achieve when we made the decision to take the Power of Two virtual."

Zoom + Teachers = Fun

At the start of 2020, Families Forward Learning Center

launched the use of ClassDojo, an education communication application and website that keeps primary teachers, students and families connected through photos, videos and messaging features that can be translated to over 35 languages. The implementation of this application early in the year aided the teachers' transition into distance learning. Teachers have shared stories, activities, and educational materials for students and families alike.



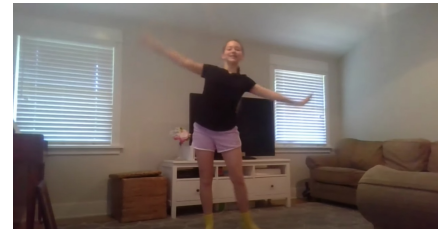
Zoom, the video conferencing application, has been another helpful tool in keeping teachers, students and families connected while physically apart. A parent reported her child often asked, "Is it Zoom day yet?" Pasadena Oak Room's Teacher Debbie shared, "Although we couldn't see each other physically, our hearts were connected throughout this time. I am glad that we had the technology to be able to connect with students on a daily basis to let them know we're here no matter what." Teachers and students maintained a sense of community and comfort in the rituals shared during virtual circle times.

A Round of Applause for Our Student Volunteers



Over the years, Families Forward Learning Center has been lucky to have a strong team of student volunteers. They have worked as classroom assistants, after-school tutors, Saturday morning Reading Class helpers, helped with administrative work and even planted a vegetable garden.

When we closed, our wonderful volunteers reached out and asked, "How can we help?" And they have been busy ever since. The girls from National Charity League have donated diapers, wipes and arts and crafts for the family kits that we have been handing out. They also put together Kindergarten ready backpacks for our graduating preschoolers and are now sending in videos featuring reading, cooking, dancing activities and more. The wonderful volunteers from Sequoyah and Westridge Schools have also been putting together amazing videos including nature walks, growing seeds and music. We received "slime" kits for the students, as well as donated items for the students and parents. We also have volunteers tutoring via Zoom. We are truly blessed to have these wonderful volunteers helping our students and families.



Our Generous Foundations

We are grateful to the Foundations who have generously supported us throughout the year. With their contributions we are able to continue our mission of preparing families living in isolation and poverty to succeed in school and in life through two-generation learning programs.

The Atlas Family Foundation
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