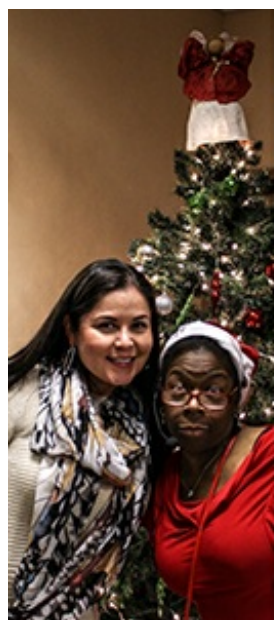


Holiday Newsletter



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A full and festive hall

**Food, Fun, Festivities
and Prizes: The
Perfect Recipe for**



SPOTLIGHT: Home for the Holidays is a Dream Come True for Felton's SCSEP Employment Facilitator Trainee Robert Lewis

For Robert Lewis, Employment Facilitator Trainee at Felton's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), this holiday season promises to be much jollier than previous years. Thanks to Felton, he has a home, a job and holiday festivities to enjoy with new colleagues! Last year, he spent Christmas sleeping on a friend's couch, fervently hoping that his fortune would change in 2015 and that years of unemployment would end.

As a child growing up in Richmond, Virginia, Robert dreamed of someday living in California, having heard his grandparents and uncle share glowing stories of our Golden State. As an

Felton's Happy Holiday Party

The red and green of poinsettia centerpieces, twinkling colored lights on the festive tinsel-covered tree, songs about Frosty the Snowman and Rudolph's red nose and the inviting aroma of delicious treats filled the air. Bright holiday decor set the mood for Felton Institute's joyful holiday celebration at Felton's Family Developmental Center on Bryant Street.



The evening gathered momentum as hundreds of party-goers arrived. Many were wide-eyed and filled with anticipation as they waited for the night's raffle--which offered the possibility of taking home valuable and coveted raffle treasures.



adult, Robert's dream came true. For decades, he worked as a legal assistant in San Francisco.

The hard times of 2009 led to a lay off for Robert. After two years of unemployment, he couldn't pay his rent and was evicted from his apartment. Robert moved to New York, but he left right after the ravages of Hurricane Sandy. His next stop was Salt Lake City, but the Bay Area beckoned him home.

Yet, once back in San Francisco, it was still tough to find work. Robert wound up on General Assistance and staying with a friend. That friend learned about Felton from another friend, and gave Robert the phone number to call. Robert sent his resume and was hired for the SCSEP program within three days!

For hundreds of participants 55 and older, SCSEP has proven to be a lifeline that helps them put their talents to use in meaningful employment and offers them up to four years of training in the program.

"Since I have been here, it has been a blessing beyond thought," Robert beams. "I have my own place. I pay my own rent."

Robert's colleagues find working with him a pleasure and consider him one of the most congenial people in the workplace.

"He never loses his sense of humor; even when dealing with difficult

Winners frequently gave heartfelt hugs of gratitude to Mistress of Ceremonies and self-proclaimed "Santa's Daughter", Receptionist Dee Randon, who gleefully teased with hints about prize winners' names and seemingly danced with holiday joy before having Santa's "Executive Elves" hand over the raffle presents.

Felton President and CEO Al Gilbert received enthusiastic applause as he thanked staff for their incredible dedication and hard work leading to Felton's successful expansion of programs and services.

Yohana Quiroz, Division Director of Children, Youth and Family Services, whose department was the official host this year with support from Administrative Staff, thanked everyone who worked to make the party a great success. She reminded all of the dynamic and groundbreaking autism program that will be launched in January.



"Santa's Daughter" and Felton's Executive Elves

Staff and family members attire ranged from holiday themed outfits to semi-formal wear and most brought hearty appetites in anticipation of the delicious appetizers, dinner and desserts.

situations. Robert brings a lot of energy, enthusiasm, and laughter to the office every day. He works hard to learn new skills, both in and away from the office.

He's respected and well-liked by his co-workers; and I know that the SCSEP participants who are in his caseload appreciate his efforts to provide them with guidance and direction while they are in the SCSEP program and looking for employment.

I also know that Robert has a deep appreciation of the services offered by Felton's SCSEP and ESI (Economic Security Initiative) programs. He's used the services offered by programs as they are intended to be used, giving himself a head start to improve his situation and advance his goals," says Gerald Joens, Acting Director of Felton's SCSEP Program.

Asked what inspires his demeanor, Robert offers, " I understand that I live in a negative world, so I insist on being positive, because, otherwise, I wouldn't be able to navigate. I make a concerted effort to be as positive as I can be. That is how I conduct my life. " Robert's trademark smile widens in positive anticipation of the days to come, especially in contrast to last year's difficulties. "Christmas is going to be wonderful this year!" ...[more](#) >>



The evening was truly a family affair! Peals of laughter filled the children's room where young ones colored pictures. For every picture completed, each boy or girl received a ticket to win a child's gift. They were also able to pick gifts to wrap for a parent or grandparent. After dinner, they received a goodie bag. The Felton Family tradition of concluding the year with a well-attended celebration of food and festivities continued with great success for 2015! ...[more](#) >>





50th Anniversary of Foster Grandparent Program and Senior Companions Celebration will be held at GAP Headquarters

On January 14, 2016, more than 150 Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions are expected to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Foster Grandparent Program and another great year for the Senior Companions Program. The festivities will be hosted at The GAP headquarters at 2 Folsom Street in San Francisco from 4:00pm – 6:00pm. It promises to be an inspirational event! ...[more](#) >>

Felton Full Circle: An Amazing Story!

In the early hours of Friday October 9, 2015, Amanda Rojas was in the middle of a typical delivery at the new Felton Research and Training office on Van Ness Ave in the heart of San Francisco. As she waited for Felton staff to confirm and sign for the delivery, she did a double take when she saw the photo hanging in the reception area.

"That's my cousin!" Amanda exclaimed, pointing to the picture in the Felton lobby.

As it turns out, Patrick S. the little boy in the arms of his mother in the picture above, benefited from the assistance of Felton Institute more than two decades ago and that is why his picture hangs in the lobby today.

Due to unfortunate family circumstances when Patrick was still young, he was removed from his mother's home and Felton made it possible for Patrick to be placed with immediate family instead of foster care. "Without the assistance from Felton/FSA, Patrick's life might be a lot different today," Amanda shared gratefully.

Patrick is now 25 years old, a resident of San Francisco and a certified nurses assistant. He aspires to become a registered nurse. What wonderful confirmation of the impact of Felton's services and to know the story of the adorable little boy in our treasured



"Kitty" Felton

Felton Fact

Imagine being forced awake at 5:12 a.m. to a 7.8 magnitude earthquake, only to face a devastating fire immediately after. Tens of thousands of San Franciscans faced exactly that on April 18, 1906.

The winter holiday season evokes warm feelings and a greater desire to help each other. It was the same way in the middle of the 1906 winter holiday season, nine months after that fateful morning. Thousands of people were thankful "Kitty" Felton had the heart to help those less fortunate. Her efforts placed those people closer to what was normal, economically and physically. Without her leadership and initiative, things might be a lot different, even in today's community landscape.

photo! [...more](#) >>



Felton's Influence & You

Felton Institute invests in multiple program divisions that serve the widest spectrum of clients of all ages and backgrounds in San Francisco, the Bay Area and our country.

In our holiday newsletter, we have highlighted the SCSEP Program and shared the story of a formerly homeless older adult who now has a home and meaningful employment, thanks to Felton Institute. We also had an update about a young Felton client who now, at the age of twenty-five is inspired to help others. Patrick and Robert are among the hundreds of thousands helped through the execution of the vision launched by Kitty Felton, upheld and expanded through strategic, dynamic, creative and thoughtful leadership and by your generosity.

In many ways, Katherine Felton's legacy influenced what is considered today's social and political norm. Within one year of the 1906 disaster, Katherine Felton:

- created the first employment agency in the United States
- was responsible for placing virtually everyone from the resulting refugee camps into shelter
- developed mental health counseling for the traumatized
- made it possible for the widowed and single mothers to remain at home with their children
- advocated foster care

Felton was also responsible for eventually drafting nearly all of California's early legislation covering welfare and relief.

In 1889, the organization was known as the "Associated Charities." Later the organization evolved into the "Family Service Agency of San Francisco" and is today known as the Felton Institute. ...[more](#) >>

Your Valued Participation

With your help, we can continue to be the answer for many men, women and children in need.

Your gift of any amount will make a

Change as you've come in contact with one or several of the programs Felton manages within the immediate Bay Area. However, we would like to take a moment to introduce this month's featured program.

Felton Featured Program

FAMILY DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER (FDC)
Dedicated to Children, Youth and Family
Since 1971, Felton's FDC has been providing child care and development services to low-income parents and parents with special needs and at-risk children.

Child care is provided to children from birth to six years old, including those who have been identified with special needs and in need of early intervention services.

FDC is known for its nurturing and inclusive environment which delivers both developmental child care and a school-readiness program for infants and toddlers, whose parents are working or in school and, therefore, financially unable to provide appropriate daycare for their children.

Our curriculum is play-based and designed to integrate developmentally appropriate activities based on age and interest. FDC also provides family support and other services to families including parenting education, family support groups, case management, nutrition/health and wellness programming. Participants are low income / at-risk families, including teen


difference to people living among us who require social services, mental health care and ongoing intensive care management.

Federal and state government resources continue to diminish. Your support can help even more people get their lives back on track. Please consider sending a tax-deductible donation to the Felton Institute today.

We thank you for being a partner and helping us pay it forward.


► Take Action

View our videos on 

 Like us on Facebook

Follow us on 

View our photos on 

Forward this email
to a friend 

and homeless families.

The program is committed to creating inclusive, positive environments that build on children's positive self-esteem and self-image. Our services reflect the cultural, linguistic and ethnic composition of the families we serve. We blend clinical and educational components including assessments, individual education plans, and a play-based curriculum.

We also provide parent education, family support, speech, occupational and physical therapy along with psychological therapy for the children as needed. The program has an on-site nurse to provide medical attention and care.