



In This Issue

[SPOTLIGHT: Uverda Harry](#)

[Teen Dads Advise Peers](#)

[Meet Felton Board Members](#)

[Felton Fact](#)

[Dr. George Davis Center Tour](#)

[Felton TAPP Mothers Graduate](#)

[Kam Felix Chak: Interpreter](#)

[Felton's Influence & You](#)

[Your Valued Participation](#)

Felton's TAPP Mothers Graduate!



Even before the first chords of the

SPOTLIGHT: Felton Institute's ESIC Coordinator



Uverda Harry

You could say Felton Economic Security Initiative Center (ESIC) Program Coordinator Uverda Harry was born a leader. The oldest of seven siblings, Uverda is a California native who attended John F. Kennedy High School in Richmond and graduated second in her class. Uverda's family strongly believed in education and, from the time she was young, she knew that college was part of her destiny.

Her scholastic journey included studies at University of California at Santa Barbara, UC Berkeley, Cal State Hayward and San Francisco State University. Originally, Uverda aspired to work as an attorney, but while at UC Santa Barbara, her passion for helping those who are facing special challenges inspired her to switch majors from political science to social science.

Ms. Harry has worked at Felton Institute for six years. She was an original AmeriCorps VISTA member brought on to implement the ESIC Program for underserved seniors.

traditional graduation march, "Pomp and Circumstance", were played, tears of joy flowed freely as 19 teen mothers or expectant mothers from Felton's Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPP) received their diplomas from Hilltop High School at the Brava Theatre on May 19, 2016.

A model public-private partnership, Felton's Hilltop Developmental Center (HDC) combines child-development education with developmental early care and education services for infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months.



Participants are the pregnant and parenting teens who are case-managed by TAPP and are enrolled in the San Francisco Unified School District's Hilltop High School, located at 2730 Bryant Street. TAPP also offers nutrition and parenting classes, nursing services and on-site breast-feeding clinics.



Mindy Chen, Gaby Cruz, Jade Porche

For the young women who faced multiple challenges when they

Her 35 years of experience include working with single parents, disabled and injured workers, and consulting with residential and community programs. She was excited to work with mature adults when she joined the Felton Family.

Uverda has a special understanding of some of the life challenges that Felton clients may face. At the age of 14, she was involved in a major accident that severely damaged her right leg. This caused problems with her left leg as well.

Uverda has undergone over 42 surgical procedures on both legs and her left foot since she was 15 years old. After using braces, canes and walkers, she faced the heart-wrenching choice of either using a wheelchair or becoming totally confined and dependent on others. "It was a difficult decision, but I had a six-year-old who required me to be available to him."



Uverda Harry instructing
ESIC Participants

"Because of my life experience as one who deals with challenges a result of physical limitations, I am constantly observing surroundings to see what obstacle may preclude one who has a physical limitation from going about their daily

realized they were going to be teen mothers, the graduation ceremony was a milestone that felt like a miracle, given the steps it took for them to reach it.

Mindy Chen offered the welcoming address in English and Gaby Cruz offered the same address in Spanish; both graduates wiped away tears in the midst of their smiles.



Jade Porche

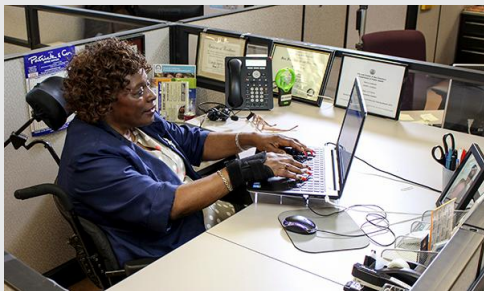
Jade Porche, who spoke on behalf of the class, noted, "Today, we are one step closer to achieving our goals for the future, like finding careers we love and are passionate about, going to college and figuring out what majors we are going to study.

We are entering new territory today...but challenges are not something new for us. Each of us has struggled to keep up with the classes or trying to find quiet time for ourselves when your child wants your attention every 10 seconds. But throughout all the struggles, Hilltop teachers, social workers and day care staff have worked hard to make these last four years easier—the challenges less challenging."

routine. Often I will speak up on behalf of someone who is being ignored."

Uverda travels to work and to many events using public transportation. "I face challenges daily on public transportation and when I travel outside of the Bay Area. Most hotel chains cannot provide shuttle service from the airports to their sites for people in wheelchairs. A recent class action suit was successful in addressing this issue."

Even as she reflects on obstacles, Uverda maintains her typical equanimity. "On a daily basis, I experience issues with public transit, elevators being out of service, other patrons blocking my access, bus lifts being inoperable. Weeks ago, the fire department had to assist me off of a MUNI bus. Accessibility is a daily norm for me, from restrooms to entry doors. I have taken the posture that it is just part of my daily routine.



"My personal motto is to live each day finding an opportunity to provide an encouraging word to those who need it, to treat all with respect and to look at every situation as an opportunity and not an obstacle."



After audience applause for her remarks abated, she continued, "I want to thank everyone in this school for being kind and supportive. Thank you to the teachers for being patient and understanding when we flipped out on them. To the day care workers that loved our kids like their own and kept us up to date on our kids' developments... without all of you, I don't think we would have made it to graduation."

The ceremony was truly a family affair. Amid the sounds of both cooing and crying babies, six graduates shared an autobiographical poem about their personal experiences.

Teen Dads Advise Peers: "It's Better to Wait"



Leo, Adrian, and Esmeralda

Adrian Fernandez remembers the moment he spotted Esmeralda. It was a beautiful San Francisco day, and he was playing soccer at a field with his cousins. Not wanting to approach her directly at first, he played with Esmeralda's little brother, then chatted with her friend before speaking to the pretty girl who had caught his eye.

She was 13; he was 15. They messaged via Facebook for a week before becoming a couple; soon, they were inseparable. That was three years ago. Today, they are the parents of a cherubic toddler named Leo who receives daily care at Felton's Family Developmental Center (FDC). Hands-on doting parents, they love their son and each other, but their advice to young teen couples is to wait, instead of becoming sexually intimate at a young age.

"It's better to wait," Adrian says in a quiet yet firm tone. "Although Leo is a blessing, it's better to wait, because if that person is meant to be with you, they will stay with you, even if you wait."



Veronica Garcia

Keynote speaker Veronica Garcia, a 2002 Hilltop High graduate, offered inspirational words. Ms. Garcia earned her BA from San Francisco State University and is currently working for the San Francisco Human Rights Commission's Policy and Social Justice Division. Last month, she was honored with the Local Heroes Award from Transitional Age Youth San Francisco (TAYSF).

For Felton Children, Youth and Family Division Director Yohana Quiroz, who first came to Felton almost 20 years ago as a TAPP and FDC client, the Hilltop Graduation Ceremony always holds a very special place in her heart. "Many of their stories of struggle, filled with drive and hope resonated with me; I, too, found it very challenging to manage the responsibilities as a young parent, but having access to wrap-around and comprehensive

Esmeralda nods in agreement. "It is much better to wait until you are financially stable. I am underage, and I can't get a job yet, but there are a lot of things that I would like to buy for my son, if I could. It really is better to wait."

When they learned that they were going to be parents, everything in their world changed. Esmeralda was even bullied by girls at the school she attended at that time.

Asked about the challenges of being a teen dad and a student, Adrian reflects, "There is a lot to do and learn. You have to learn how to cook, how to stay up and get things done."

The young couple and their son live with Adrian's parents. Remembering his parents' initial reaction, Adrian says, "My mom was shocked, but she was open, and she told us, since our baby was on its way, we could make this a blessing. My dad was upset at first, but now, especially with Leo here, he is very supportive of us."

Even with parental support, Adrian and Esmeralda consider the services provided at Felton's Family Developmental Center a critical component for healthy and successful parenting.

"The teachers are really close to the students. Leo is really attached to his teachers, Blanca and Elizabeth. They help us a lot. If Leo is constipated or gets sick during the day, they give us really great advice."

services, academic and community support such as on-site childcare and case management was life changing for me.

I have lived the mission of this agency, and now I make every effort to connect with a lot of the youth and young parents under my programs to share my own story. If by sharing my story, I can be an inspiration to them, I feel like I've done my job. In my role now, I am inspired every day to offer an array of services that meet the unique needs of young families and their children because I have come full circle and use my experiences and lens as a young parent to inform my work."

To see more of Yohana's personal story, click on the photo below.



Yohana Quiroz

By the time the last of the proud graduates received her diploma, there was hardly a dry eye in the house.

Felton Institute's Kam Felix Chak Designated Chinese Interpreter

Esmeralda smiles shyly as she remembers her son's first steps, taken just over a month ago.

When the weather is nice, and they have time, she and Adrian enjoy taking Leo to the park. At home, their little one enjoys dancing to Adrian's favorite rap songs and the Cumbia music that Adrian's mother likes to play.

"We plan to get married," Adrian says, "we are just waiting to have things a little more stable. I want to give her the wedding she deserves", he says with an affectionate glance at Esmeralda that she returns with a wide smile.

Glancing at his phone, Adrian realizes it's time for them to pick up their son, just down the hall. Hand in hand, they wind down the hallway at Felton's FDC, in eager anticipation of a happy greeting from little Leo.



Mia, Jesus, and Jalia

Jalia Arambula and Leo Fernandez don't play with the same toys at Felton's FDC, but they have a lot in common. The childcare and parental support services have positive and pivotal impact in both of their lives and in those of their parents.

for Dignity Fund Press Conference



Kam Felix Chak

On May 24, 2016, Kam Felix Chak, LSW, PsyD, a Clinical Case Manager at Felton Institute's Geriatric Services West, was invited to serve as an interpreter for Chinese press at the Dignity Fund Press Conference held at San Francisco's City Hall.



Supervisor Malia Cohen

Supervisor Malia Cohen introduced the measure known as the "Dignity Fund" to secure funding for seniors and disabled residents by setting aside a percentage of property taxes, about \$30 million annually. Supervisors David Campos and Eric

Jesus Arambula has a beaming smile, one that his daughter Jalia seems to have inherited. Jesus' smile caught Mia's eye the day they met just over two years ago at a park on Silver Avenue. Although there was an immediate attraction, they were friends first, before becoming a couple. Much sooner than they imagined, they discovered they were going to be parents.

"Mom was upset at first, " Jesus remembers, "She wanted me to put school before everything. She said she would support me to finish school and she is continuing to do that. Now that Jalia is here, my mom loves her so much, and she really enjoys buying things for her."

As young parents, Jesus and Mia have faced their challenges and are grateful for the services that Felton's FDC provides. "Before Jalia came to Felton's FDC, I missed a month of school once, dealing with daycare responsibilities. Everyone at Felton is really nice, especially Muriel. They helped us get into TAPP, (Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Program), where they offer a lot of support through case management. They helped us get benefits and baby food."

As Father's Day approaches, Jesus remembers the day he became a dad. "Being in the room where Jalia was born, I was really excited. The first time I held her, I was so happy!"

Jalia has just begun saying words like "Mama" and when Jesus hears

Mar spoke briefly and Supervisors Norman Yee and John Avalos are also supporters of what will now be a ballot measure in November.

Speaking for the Dignity Fund Coalition were Co-Chair Ramona Davies; Luisa Antonio of the Veterans Equity Center; Jesus Guillen, representing HIV Long Term Survivors; and Ashley McCumber of Meals on Wheels San Francisco.



Kam recognizes that he may be called upon for future press conferences and says he looks forward to being of service. Kam has worked for Felton for eight years, and Lisa Sosnovskaya, Office Manager at the Geriatric Services West at 6221 Geary Boulevard, is among the many colleagues who appreciate Kam's skills.

"He's so positive; he's so nice and he provides outstanding services for our Chinese speaking clients. Kam has extensive experience working with older adults, and they continually let us know how much he helps them." Senior Division Director Cathy Spensley notes that Kam is a valued member of the Felton Family.

IN MEMORIAM

Recently a long time client of Felton's Geriatric Services West

the beginnings of "Dada", he rushes to record it on his phone. When it comes to favorite moments, he has many that he treasures. "We like to have family days and go to church on Sundays. We go to the San Francisco Zoo and stop by the beach. I sing the ABC song to her."

While the 16 year old loves his family, his advice for his peers is to wait before becoming sexually active. "It's better to wait. It's kind of hard when you have to play two roles. In addition to school, I have to keep up with Jalia's WIC and doctor's appointments. I get around five hours of sleep a night now because Jalia is teething."

Jesus and Mia recently celebrated their two year anniversary with a delicious dinner at their favorite restaurant, and they plan to marry after Jesus graduates. The young dad is hopeful that the toughest times are behind them; he and Mia are very grateful for the support and services provided by Felton to help them navigate the path of parenthood.

As you can see from a photo at the top of our newsletter, another teen dad was interviewed for a radio story. Look for more info in an upcoming newsletter when the story hits air.

Meet Felton Board Members

passed away. In the midst of their grief, the family of Mrs. Xin Tam expressed great appreciation to those at Felton who had provided services throughout the years. In lieu of flowers at her memorial service, they asked that people donate to Felton Institute, so that others might benefit from Felton's services.

We were very moved by the generous legacy in Mrs. Tam's honor. Our thoughts are with her family.

Felton Featured Program

Our Senior Full Service Wellness Program (SFSWP) at 280 Turk Street in San Francisco's Tenderloin is a collaborative partnership that supports older adults in need of intensive case management, including mental health and substance abuse treatment, medical health care, housing assistance, vocational and educational support and counseling.



Following the Mental Health Recovery Model, participants have primary control over decisions about their care. This program



Terry Limpert, Chris Thiele, Dr. Michelle Clark

Each month, we invite you to learn more about the dedicated and gifted members of Felton's Board of Directors. To read more about our entire board, please visit felton.org.

Board Vice-Chair Terry Limpert joined Felton's board in September 2004, and he is a member of the Development Committee. Mr. Limpert works in private practice with corporations and small businesses, and, on a pro bono basis with non-profit agencies. He recently retired after 20 years as a partner with Mercer Delta Organizational Consulting, a management consulting firm that provides services related to the management of strategic level organizational architecture and design, organizational transition and change, leadership and process design and executive team development. Mr. Limpert is a graduate of the Advanced Program in Organizational Development and Human Resource Management, Columbia University, and has studied at the NTL Institute and Gestalt Institute of Cleveland.

Chris Thiele joined Felton's board in October 2014, and he serves as a member of the Human Resources Committee. Mr. Thiele is the Director of Diversity and Inclusion at McKesson in San Francisco. He enables organizations to connect with and grow underrepresented

includes a workforce component and referrals are made through Community Behavioral Health Services at the San Francisco Department of Public Health.



May 27, 2016, marked the third meeting of SFSWP's Breakfast Club. As Program Manager Liz Olsen explains, "It's the last Friday of the month, and everybody is broke, so we decided to treat our clients to a pancake breakfast from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Our first breakfast was held the last Friday in March. We had pancakes with syrup, scrambled eggs, bacon, orange juice, milk and coffee. One of our clients volunteered to assist; he did a wonderful job and everyone loved it. We offer breakfast the last week of every month." For some clients, the pancakes on that Friday may be their only meal of the day, or even the weekend.



Liz Olsen adds, "It is a warm and inviting event where we can all come together as people enjoying a meal together; breaking bread is

or untapped market and employee segments, globally and locally, in a respectful, authentic, and relevant manner. Mr. Thiele previously served as Director of Cultural Intelligence at Concur Technologies and as REI's Diversity Leadership Team Lead and Strategic Campaigns Program Manager. He earned his BA in Psychology at Claremont McKenna College and his MBA at the Thunderbird School of Global Management.

Michelle Clark, MD is a Forensic Psychiatrist Consultant and a Staff Psychiatrist at Traditions Behavioral Health, Inc. in Napa and is licensed in the state of California. In addition to her clinical career, which spans 40 years, Dr. Clark has held academic positions at Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School and the University of California, San Francisco. In addition to her years of experience in clinical psychiatry venues, she has earned 11 prestigious awards and fellowships spanning 30 years.

very therapeutic!"

Funders and supporters of the Senior Full Service Wellness Program are invited to attend June's breakfast on Friday, June 24, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. For more information, please call (415) 474-7310, ext. 336.

Felton's Geriatric Mental Health Programs also include:

- Case Management for Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities
- Welcoming and Affirming Services for LGBTQ Seniors
- Senior Peer Recovery Services
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman Services
- Economic Security Initiative Services
- Senior Community Service Employment Program
- Dementia Assessment and Connection to Services
- Foster Grandparent Program
- Senior Companion Program
- Geriatric Mental Health Services

For more information, please visit felton.org/seniors

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.



Katharine "Kitty" Felton

FELTON FACT: Getting to know Kitty Felton

Felton Institute's more than 35 mental health and social service programs meet needs for those of every age and at every stage of life. The comprehensive vision, impact, and expansion are true to the model of innovative care that Dr. Katharine "Kitty" Felton established.

During her 39 visionary years of running what was originally known as Associated Charities of San Francisco, Kitty Felton fashioned a standard of transformation, accountability, and integrity which lives on to this day. Her imprint in the social service sector extended beyond San Francisco and the Bay Area, throughout the state of California and the United States of America.

Katharine Conway Felton, was born on July 7, 1873, in what is now Oakland, California, to John Brooks Felton and Kate Baldwin Felton. Her father was a judge and mayor of Oakland. The Santa Cruz

With the recent emphasis on the importance of older adults being able to remain in the communities they know and age with dignity, security and high quality of life, we want to share information about some of the services Felton provides. The need for these services continues to grow, and your support and influence make a critical difference in meeting those needs.



Felton's Senior Wellness Program and Older Adult Day Support Center at 1099 Sunnysdale Avenue in San Francisco is a community integration program for older adults with mental health concerns, (including substance abuse), that offers a full range of mental health services, specializing in group therapy and assistance in becoming more connected within the community. Funding for services is provided in part by Metta Fund. Metta Fund is a philanthropic organization whose mission is to improve health in the City and County of San Francisco.



One of the new activities that the

county town of Felton, California was named in his honor.

The Felton family tradition of public service and independent thought dated back to the first Felton family member who moved from England to Massachusetts in 1633–Lieutenant Nathaniel Felton. One of Kitty's uncles was scholar Cornelius Conway Felton, who served as President of Harvard University in the mid-1860s.

Dr. Felton died of cancer at the age of 67 on August 14, 1940, at what is now the Stanford University Medical Center. The urgency for the work that she began continues as long as there is someone in need.

Dr. Davis Center Tour



On June 14, 2016, Felton's President and CEO Al Gilbert, Senior Division Director Cathy Spensley and Senior Community Service Employment Program and Economic Security Initiative Manager Derek Toliver were treated to an exclusive preview of the beautiful new Dr. George W. Davis Senior Center and Residence in San Francisco's Bayview district. Cathy Davis,

clients have enjoyed is a twelve week class that includes learning and performing Chinese dances. These seniors performed at a community outreach event designed to connect low-income older adults to broadband technology through Internet Essentials, a city pilot with Comcast.

Your Valued Participation

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

Your gift of any amount will make a difference to people living among us who require social services, mental health care and ongoing intensive care management.

With a greater demand, more resources are required. Your support can help even more people get their lives back on track. Please consider sending a tax-deductible donation to Felton Institute today.

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



Executive Director and widow of Dr. Davis, conducted the special tour for Felton Institute.

Dr. George W. Davis, a charismatic longtime activist for the Bayview community, was influential in developing ongoing relationships with local, state and federal agencies and winning support for Bayview Senior Services. The center opening is the culmination of a 20-year vision.



The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting at 1751 Carroll Street at Third Street is scheduled for June 25, 2016, 11:00 am–12:00 pm with tours to follow until 3:00 pm. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Mayor Ed Lee, former Mayor Willie Brown, and other distinguished city and state officials are expected to attend.

View our videos on [YouTube](#)

[Like us on Facebook](#)

Follow us on [twitter](#)

View our photos on [flickr](#)

Forward this email
to a friend [✉](#)