



Lives Transformed



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Remembering Bob Bennett

It is with great sorrow that we share with you the passing of our longtime colleague and friend, Bob Bennett, who died on Friday, June 2, 2017, as a result of a hit-and-run accident while walking his dog. Bob served as President and CEO at Felton for 11 years, from 2004 to 2015.



Bob Bennett

"We are shocked and saddened by the loss of our dear friend who dedicated so much of his life and heart to the mission and vision of Felton," President and CEO Al Gilbert shared. "Bob was a caring, creative leader whose life was spent loving his family and supporting mental

health and healthcare innovation. His creativity, enthusiasm and impact were inspirational and a tribute to the tradition of Dr. Kitty Felton. Our thoughts and prayers are with his beloved wife Pat, his five children, and his many friends."

At this time, arrangements regarding a memorial service have not been announced. Police and Crime Stoppers of Oakland are offering reward money for information leading to the arrest of the driver. The East Bay Times article with more information is available at [this link](#).

Bob had enjoyed a warm and wonderful day and evening with family and friends in celebration of his 68th birthday on the day before-Thursday, June 1, 2017.

Felton's CYF Director Yohana Quiroz Delivers Keynote at Hilltop High Graduation

On May 23, 2017, [Hilltop High School](#) held its annual heartwarming and inspirational graduation ceremony for teen mothers and one teen dad at San Francisco's Brava Theater. The theater was filled with families, jubilant shouts and a few baby cries. Felton's Children, Youth and Family Division Director Yohana Quiroz, a proud graduate of Hilltop's Class of '97, delivered a keynote speech filled with encouragement and strategies for success. To hear highlights from Yohana's speech, [click here](#).



May marked a milestone for Yohana. She began working at Felton 20 years ago, but before that, she was a client as a 16-year-old mother who sought assistance with Felton's



Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPP), and she and her daughter received services at Felton's Family Developmental Center.

"In celebrating my 20-year anniversary with Felton, I also celebrate a pivotal point in my life, affirming my identity as a living testimony of Felton's mission and of coming full circle. Getting pregnant was a turning point for me, and one of the most difficult moments in my life, but I was fortunate to be surrounded by individuals who through compassionate, comprehensive services supported me during my pregnancy, encouraged me to finish high school and to pursue post secondary education," Yohana smiled.

Yohana is now the mother of two, happily married and pursuing her doctorate. Her older daughter Jasmine is now a junior in college. Yohana says that Felton's early childhood program provided a strong foundation that prepared Jasmine for an even playing field. "I draw on my personal experiences as a client to guide my decisions in order to ensure that our services provide high impact and are effectively addressing the needs of our families. I consider Felton's innovation, cutting-edge approach, visionary and extraordinary leadership, exceptional," Yohana said.

Juan Carlos Guerrero from KGO (ABC 7), Tara Moriarty from KTVU (FOX 2), and Margie Shafer from KCBS Radio (740 AM/106.9 FM) covered the moving morning ceremony. For more information about Felton's TAPP and FDC services, please visit felton.org.

Felton PREP Celebrates 10-Year Milestone and is Honored by City of San Mateo

On May 25, 2017, Felton's [Prevention and Recovery in Early Psychosis \(PREP\)](#) Program celebrated the 10th anniversary of the program launch and five years of providing services in San Mateo. Felton has PREP Programs in Alameda,



Monterey, San Mateo and San Francisco counties.

San Mateo's Deputy Mayor Rick Bonilla presented a proclamation naming May 25, 2017, Felton Institute PREP Day in San Mateo; Felton PREP Division Director Adriana Furuzawa joyfully accepted the award on behalf of all of the dedicated PREP staff members and clients. A Bay Area native and resident of San Mateo, Deputy Mayor Bonilla is well known for his civic service to the community. Just before reading the proclamation, Bonilla shared a personal



lesser known fact, close to the heart of Bonilla and his wife, who attended with him.

"I can't tell you how amazed and happy I am to have such a special, and kind, and caring service just a block and a half from where I live here in San Mateo. And to honor you for your fifth anniversary is just such a wonderful occasion, because I think this is a special kind of service that you can't find anywhere anytime. You really have to look for it. I wish I would've known, because I've had experience with the issue you all deal with here with my own son years ago. My first son suffered from schizophrenia and he ended up taking his life in 2000. So this is very personal and touching for me. I'm so honored to be here and to honor you for your fifth anniversary," said Bonilla.

The open house was an opportunity to thank community partners, PREP staff and clients alike for their hard work and to provide service and information. Participants met the PREP staff and therapists from the program, heard personal testimony from a parent whose son is a PREP graduate, learned more about the evidence-based practices employed, and experienced a virtual reality mind journey created by Felton PREP Program Manager Bruce Adams.

In his opening remarks, Bruce shared that he was inspired to work in the mental health field because "my passion was to serve youth and young adults finding their identity and navigating toward their life goals."

He explained to the audience that PREP focuses on an age group that is known as transitional age youth. These teens and young adults are figuring out who they are and who they want to be, and have also experienced early signs of psychosis. Some have already received a diagnosis of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder from a mental health professional. Bruce noted that a diagnosis of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder traditionally is seen as lifelong and chronic, and is associated with a life expectancy that is 25 years shorter than that of the general population. In addition,

these mental health conditions are associated with homelessness, hospitalizations, disability, dependency and a number of negative factors.

"All these things can make somebody feel hopeless. So you've got somebody who's 16 years old and they've got this diagnosis and suddenly they feel hopeless - they just lost 25 years of their life according to treatment as usual. But we don't need to end the discussion there; PREP services change the outlook," said Bruce.

One client shared how PREP has helped him gain control over his life. "I've had a very good experience here," he said. "The people and the therapists here have been great. They've really helped me build my communication skills, fix any issues I've wanted to solve socially with my life, and have been very supportive of me continuing my wellness."

PREP has been awarded and lauded nationally and internationally. In 2014, the program received the National Council for Behavioral Health's Science to Service award. For more information about PREP, please visit felton.org.

Felton and You

With a few words in our newsletter, we share information about the life-transformative impact of Felton Institute's 45 programs and about Felton's staff and volunteers.

Your partnership and participation are needed now more than ever. We invite you to collaborate with us with a donation of any amount. It is easy and quick to text FELTON to 41444 and donate on your mobile device or to give through our website at [this link](#) on felton.org.

Thank you for helping Felton help others.

