



Lives Transformed



In This Issue:

- **SPOTLIGHT: Will Bryant, Felton Maintenance Technician**
- **Yohana Quiroz Speaks at City Hall Press Conference**
- **Board Chair Emeritus Mike Hofman's AIC Singapore Visit**
- **Felton's Senior Division's 66 Raymond Celebration**
- **Cathy Spensley Co-Authors Free the Bear**
- **Young Adult Court Hosts Lone Star Justice Alliance**
- **Felton and You: Moving Forward as We Look Back**

SPOTLIGHT: Will Bryant Felton Maintenance Technician



Will Bryant, Felton's Maintenance Technician, says he loves his work, and it shows in his dedication and attention to detail for Felton's needs.

The oldest of five, with two younger sisters and two younger brothers, Will is a native of San Diego, California, who attended elementary and middle school in southern California. As a teenager, Will moved to Richmond, California, where he attended De Anza High School and lived with his grandfather, an E-9 ranked Master Chief in the US Navy. Will's grandfather's motto was "Work Hard! Stay Humble!" The navy veteran provided a strong support system and encouraged young Will, who excelled in football and track and dreamed of a career in the National Football League.



During his senior year in high school, Will received a scholarship to Fresno State University, but his collegiate football dream was shattered when he was in a terrible car accident on January 7, 1994. "I wanted to play football on a professional level, but life has a way of placing you where you are most needed. I became a football coach and mentor for kids with similar backgrounds as myself and others in our community. I did

eventually go to junior college and got my associate of arts degree in liberal arts."

Will worked for Pep Boys at a young age, and that led him into management. He was recruited to work for AT&T in 1999, and, at age 24, became the youngest network system technician in their maintenance department. Five years later, Will faced a rough patch in his adult life that nearly rivaled some of the hard times he and his siblings faced growing up. AT&T had layoffs, and Will's beloved grandfather was diagnosed with lung cancer and died just a short time later. With a heavy heart, Will tried to find his way, and a chance encounter with a former coach became a destiny moment. The mentor convinced Will to coach youth football.

"I did coach youth football and it has been a blessing for me to help so many young people get scholarships and further their education in ways I wasn't able. In the spring of 2015, I became president of Snoop Youth Football League, a position I was nominated for because of my passion for these young kids to have an outlet besides the street. Our motto is 'A Kid on the Football Field is a Kid off the Streets.' "

Snoop Youth Football League (SYFL) is a nonprofit organization founded by entertainment icon and entrepreneur Snoop Dogg in 2005. It provides the opportunity for inner-city children to participate in youth football and cheerleading. The SYFL serves children between the ages of five and 13, teaching them the values of teamwork, good sportsmanship, integrity, discipline, and self-respect, while also stressing the importance of academics.

In December, the SYFL held championships at San Jose State University. Watch Snoop Dogg, Will Bryant, and Al Gilbert discuss the event at [this link](#).

"Although I love coaching and being president of a SYFL, this is all volunteer work. We don't get paid, and I still have my own five kids to provide for. In October of 2016, I was blessed to find a job at Felton as a Maintenance Technician. I enjoy working here at Felton, seeing all the work being put into helping people! The many programs they offer throughout the greater Bay Area are just amazing-people helping people from all walks of life! It's a beautiful thing," Will concludes with a broad smile.

Yohana Quiroz Speaks at SF City Hall Press Conference



On Monday, January 8, 2018, Yohana Quiroz, COO of Felton Institute's Children Youth and Family (CYF) and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Divisions, was invited to speak at a San Francisco City Hall press conference focusing on the importance of early childcare and education.

In her remarks, Yohana addressed the cost of early childcare and education (ECE), the difficulties young parents often have in paying for ECE, and the benefits ECE has on school success. Yohana spoke from both professional and personal experiences.

"Felton is one of the largest service-based providers in San Francisco, serving approximately 385 children from birth to six years old. We prepare children to be socially and emotionally ready for kindergarten and life while their parents work or go to school," said Yohana.



Yohana explained that more than 20 years ago, her daughter attended Felton's ECE program under the subsidized state program at no cost while she worked a minimum-wage job and attended college. She went on to say that she earned her degree and was working a better-paying job, and then, ten years later, after the birth of her second daughter, she reached out for help a second time, so that her younger daughter could also benefit from attending early childcare and education.

Supervisors Norman Yee and Jane Kim led the briefing, explaining the plans for an Early Childhood Education ballot measure for the June 5, 2018, ballot in San Francisco. Supervisors Sandra Lee Fewer, Hilary Ronen, and Aaron Peskin also support the proposed measure.

Supervisor Yee commented that 2,400 children are waitlisted for subsidized early care and education programs, and that 66 percent are under the age of three, which he said highlights the need to expand funding for more ECE programs. Supervisor Yee estimated the cost of early care and education for children in San Francisco is a "staggering \$20,000 a year" for each child.

Supervisor Kim opened her statements thanking Supervisor Yee and reiterated the importance of affordable childcare for working mothers, early education to children, and raising the salaries for ECE workers, as she announced the proposal for the ECE Ballot Measure.

"I am so excited that we are announcing this \$100,000,000-plus revenue measure to make childcare affordable for all of our working and middle class families in San Francisco. So this is an opportunity really to support families and women, and what we are proposing is an increase to our commercial receipts in San Francisco," she said.

Additional speakers at the conference included Pat Sullivan, who has worked with family childcare programs for more than 25 years, and April Leung, a member of Parent Voices and a mother of three children, ages ten, six, and two years old.

In her closing, Yohana emphasized the importance of securing funds, which would afford more children the opportunity of early care and education. She says the ECE programs, along with an increase in pay for teachers of ECE programs, are essential to this effort, and will ensure that more San Francisco children birth to four years old will have access to care and education at this very early stage of their lives.

Board Chair Emeritus Mike Hofman visits Singapore's Agency for Integrated Care



You may remember that Felton President and CEO Al Gilbert, Senior Division Director Cathy Spensley and her team hosted members of Singapore's Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) at Felton Institute last summer. In December, Felton's Board Chair Emeritus Mike Hofman, visited AIC while in Singapore. Mike and his wife Janet Moyer were warmly welcomed by AIC staff at their offices.

"It was a wonderful time, " Mike recalls. "We were all impressed with AIC's thoughtfulness and dedication to serving seniors. It's so interesting to me that their organization and Felton are working on similar issues, albeit from slightly different perspectives, but with the same goal: to improve the quality of service and life for clients. I also was quite interested in how AIC is planning for greater cooperation between private practitioners and the public health care system."

During an exchange of gifts, Mike was presented with a lovely painting from one of AIC's clients. He considers the visit one of the highlights of his trip.

The genial collaboration with the Agency for Integrated Care continues to develop. Next month, Felton President and CEO Al Gilbert and the Senior Division's Dr. Keith Wong will present at the Global Conference for Integrated Care that AIC is hosting.

Felton's Senior Division's 66 Raymond Celebration

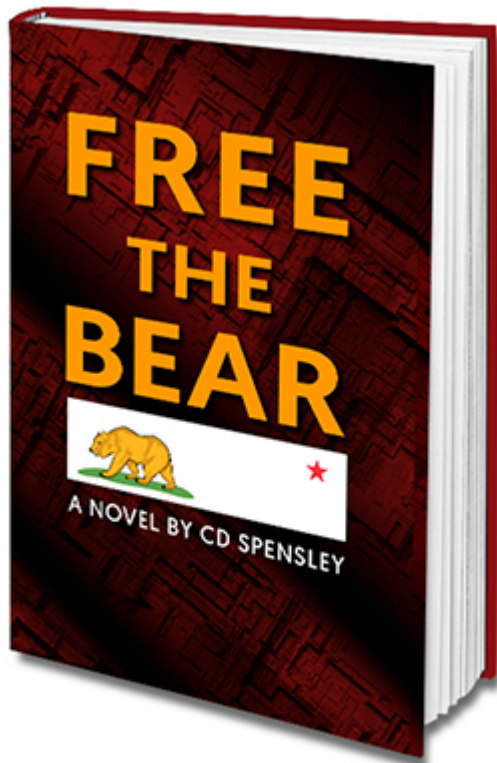


On December 2, 2017, an estimated 700 people attended the Visitacion Valley Family Center's Open House at 66 Raymond Street in San Francisco. Felton's Senior Division serves older adults and people with disabilities in the recently renovated community center.

At the lively celebration, Felton received recognition from State Senator Scott Weiner and San Francisco Assessor Carmen Chu. Felton had extensive outreach activities onsite. Participants of all generations also enjoyed Virtual Reality Experience, and music from renowned jazz pianist Rodney Franklin. Felton Senior Division Director Cathy Spensley approached Rodney to play for the community and he generously agreed. It was a wonderful day for all who attended.



Cathy Spensley Co-Authors Free the Bear



freethebearbook.com

Cathy Spensley, Senior Division Director, in collaboration with her husband, Dave Spensley, recently published a speculative fiction book called *Free the Bear*. Cathy came to Felton after a previous career in journalism and as a fiction writer. This is her first published novel.

Cathy and Dave wrote the book collaboratively, swapping the manuscript back and forth so many times that the author, CD Spensley (a combination of both of their names), has assumed one voice. They developed the project while hiking on weekends in the Bay Area and taking a number of camping and road trips around our golden state that they love. They are currently working on the second part of the trilogy.

"It's meant to be a fun read," Cathy says, "with some utopian ideas and quirky characters. But it does beg the question that some Californians have been asking: So

what if we really did secede?"

The novel, chronicled by a Quaker, details the non-lethal secession, first planned by Silicon Valley scientists and then waged by one million computer gamers. In this first book, utopian ideas lead, sentient artificial intelligence advises, and pesky human foibles continue to mess things up. The book is available on Amazon in ebook and paperback, as well as at selected independent bookstores. Cathy and Dave have done several bookstore readings, delighting many audiences. More info is available at freethebearbook.com.

Young Adult Court Hosts Lone Star Justice Alliance



San Francisco's Young Adult Court (YAC) is on the cutting edge of strategic litigation for local young adults, ages 18-25, who are first-time offenders, and others are taking notice. The YAC program, directed by the San Francisco District Attorney's office under the Superior Court system, is one of the collaborative justice programs that specifically address addiction, mental health, family treatment and other social service needs. Additional partner agencies include the Office of the Public Defender, the Department of Public Health, Adult Probation Department, Department of Children, Youth and their Families and the San Francisco Police Department.

Enter the budding **Lone Star Justice Alliance** of Austin, Texas. On Tuesday, January 9, 2018, Executive Director Elizabeth Henneke and Director of Policy and Planning, Alycia Welch, met with Felton's Director of Clinical Case Management for Young Adult Court, Atim Boykin. The recently established delegation from Austin seeks to emulate Felton's clinical case management and looks to understand how Felton partners and serves the public with the collaborative.

To prevent having Lone Star Justice Alliance reinvent the wheel, Felton can offer information regarding the most effective assessment tools and data management systems available that best suit each case.

Felton and You: Moving Forward as We Look Back



It's 2018, and we at Felton Institute are looking forward in this year to continuing to effectively serve people in San Francisco and Northern California through our innovative programs focused on mental health and social services.

Looking back at 2017, we achieved a successful year of growth, with local outreach and international reach. Our accomplishments were realized through the culmination of the hard work from our leadership and staff, the generosity from organizations and individuals who support us monetarily and through the giving of their time, and the hard work put forth from our clients, the thousands of people we humbly serve.

Some 2017 Highlights of Felton Institute's Successes and Accomplishments:

- Felton opened an additional Deaf Community Counseling Services (DCCS) site in Fremont, California, making this our fourth location in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- Felton added the Law Enforcement Assisted Division Program (LEAD) Program, a multi-agency collaborative partnership program designed to divert repeat low-level offenders at their earliest contact with law enforcement. LEAD services are an alternative to jail and prosecution for those experiencing mental health, substance abuse and co-occurring disorders.
- Felton's expansion with additional program sites brought about an opportunity to create new jobs for program leadership, teachers, therapists, support specialists and support staff.
- Our Children, Youth and Family Division grew exponentially, requiring the promotion of some of our leadership staff and the hiring of new leadership to support the growth of that division.
- Felton's Early Crisis Intervention and Eviction Assistance Program was honored by the Chronicle Season of Sharing Fund.

Felton's divisions and programs attracted international attention from organizations from around the globe.

Felton hosted the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) Delegation from Singapore, which supports seniors living in their homes and in the community. The delegation was particularly interested in Felton's Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, Felton's Foster Grandparent Program and Felton's Senior Companion Program, as well as the integration of our mental health and aging services.

From Australia, Kevin Feeney, CEO of Best Chance Child and Family Care Agency, and Dan Leach-McGill, Best Chance Service Development Manager, visited Felton's Family Developmental Center. They were especially impressed to learn that Felton had expanded with three new early childcare centers in a short period of time.

Felton also hosted a delegation from Japan in collaboration with First 5 San Francisco and a delegation from South Korea's Older Worker Development Institute.

Many Thanks for Your Generous Support

As 2018 begins, we are motivated and so very excited to serve more people in need this coming year. Felton Institute humbly thanks you, our friends and supporters, for giving so generously to our nonprofit organization. We could not accomplish any of the work we do which helps so many without YOU! We are grateful!

From all of us at Felton Institute, Happy New Year!

Your generous donations transform lives. Thank you!

