



FSA
Family Service Agency
of San Francisco

Lives Transformed



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SPOTLIGHT: Gala Eubanks-Martin Human Resources Recruiting Manager



Gala Eubanks-Martin
HR Recruiting Manager

Gala Eubanks-Martin has a warm, dynamic and engaging manner. As Felton's Human Resources Recruiting Manager, her genuine love of people shines through her daily interactions. A San Francisco native, Gala beams as she shares that she had "a great childhood" with her mother, father, and older sister.

"We didn't have much, but my parents made sure we had what we needed. My mom was a nurse and Dad was a roofer; my environment was a working class environment, neither went to college, but they had strong work ethics. My parents were certainly a great influence in my life, not by just words of encouragement but also with their actions. My mom called the shots; she was a real firecracker! My life lesson

from her was I can achieve anything I set my mind to do, because she did it with ease. My dad had a gentle soul yet he was a strong provider. His demeanor was very calm, but he roared when it was necessary.

His manhood was a great example of what a father and husband should be," Gala recalls.

Family gatherings that included extended family were frequent for Gala's close knit kin, with Gala's mom planning and organizing every event. Relatives often came to Gala's mother for support and advice and would receive sound strategies for successfully navigating life.

Her skills were part of her heritage. Gala describes her grandmother as "bright beyond her years; a little lady with a big heart." Her grandmother had seven children and was the single head of household who also planned events for the family members.

"We all were very close and shared many gatherings. Those moments together were a great foundation where I learned the value of family," Gala smiles warmly.

Gala attended George Washington High School, and when friends had conflicts, she was the peacemaker, the one in the middle. "Friends would get mad at each other and I would be the one to bring them back together. I wasn't sure of my career at that time, but people relations was a big factor for me in that era. I attended Heald Business College to gain some work skills, and following, worked various jobs in Administration. I discovered my interest in Human Resources soon after, while working for the cable industry, and a former colleague, who was the Human Resources Director. I was really fascinated by everything she represented, as a partner, mentor, trainer, mediator, problem solver, practically the go-to-guru for any type of human interaction. It was then I knew, that's what I wanted to do."

Armed with her mission, Gala earned her BA in management at St. Mary's College and sought employment in Human Resources. Before joining Felton Institute about four and a half years ago, Gala worked as a Recruiting Assistant, Coordinator, Analyst, and Recruiter. Her first experience in the nonprofit world was at the Institute on Aging. Her work there deepened her appreciation for the significance of the needs of seniors. "Knowing I will be a senior someday, it was even more rewarding to perform my recruitment to seek top quality individuals to bring compassion, care and nurturing to these clients who have a need for someone to care for them. Then I was introduced to Felton Institute, and this was an enormous eye opener, providing phenomenal early care, justice services, and mental health services to underprivileged individuals in the San Francisco Bay Area," Gala enthuses.

"Felton is exceptional for their services providing treatments and services with evidence-based best practices to their clients. As a Recruiting Manager, my job is to focus on recruiting, hiring and managing our new and existing workforce, who are committed and also compassionate about the work they do. In my interaction with many staff, they marvel about the work they do and also [the] team they collaborate with. There is a society that has a great need out there, and I am proud to be a part of an organization that has a huge impact in strengthening lifestyles and self-development. I appreciate the ability to do my job in a manner that can make a difference with a company that has much meaning to the human race."

In her time away from work, Gala, a wife and a mother, enjoys travel with her husband, family and friends. A self-described "social butterfly", she enjoys eating at new restaurants, watching sports, (especially the 49ers and Warriors) and spending time with her daughter.

She adds, "My personal motto is to know I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me; this what I live by and also instill in my young family, which I love, honor and cherish."

Wilkes Bashford Support of Felton



Jeff Garelick and Chereese Chambers

Felton Institute is still basking in the warmth of holiday generosity from Wilkes Bashford, a San Francisco institution of sartorial elegance, that held a fundraiser for a Felton family on December 13, 2018. Proceeds from customer purchases from 4:00 pm-7:00 pm on that Thursday night at the San Francisco site were designated for Felton Institute. In addition to more than \$1,500 in presents for the family, Wilkes Bashford donated \$20,000 to Felton! We are extremely grateful to General Manager and Director of Stores Jeff Garelick and his team and include a huge thank you to Joe Durst.

Fashion icon Wilkes Bashford founded his eponymous store for high-end customers in Union Square in 1966 and was a constant presence there, until his passing three years ago. The first retailer to bring many top designers from Italy into the United



Candy-Marie Wikert and Dr. Robin Ortiz

States, Wilkes was considered part of San Francisco's "local fabric" and was internationally recognized for his fashion. He was very involved in the community, hosting countless charity events and inviting entertainers, as he believed fashion and show business are inextricably intertwined. In 1999, Tyler Mitchell relocated to San Francisco to help run Wilkes Bashford. Tyler has been instrumental in transforming the Wilkes Bashford aesthetic and vision for a new generation. Wilkes Bashford also has a Palo Alto location.

"Hosting an event like tonight would be very important to Wilkes, because he deeply cared about people, and he considered his mission not only to clothe people in amazing ways, but to help those who are less fortunate and to give back.," said Jeff Garelick.

"One thing I learned being part of Wilkes for 35 years is giving back to charity....this has been really, really special. If we can change one life, we can change 100, we can change 1,000, we can change even more. So I think it's beautiful." added stylist Chereese Chambers.

"This was a truly wonderful event, " Felton Director of Business Development Robin Ortiz shared enthusiastically. "We are so honored by the incredible generosity of Wilkes Bashford and its customers toward Felton! Several customers praised the work that Felton does; we felt the outpouring of support and are grateful to Wilkes Bashford for helping to shine a light on the important work that we do."

The young Felton client and her family who received the presents from Wilkes Bashford remain amazed and deeply grateful for the donations.

Welcome to My World Celebration



On December 14, 2018, "Welcome to My World", a multi-disciplinary arts pilot program collaboration of Full Vision Arts Foundation and Felton's Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPP) and Young Family Resource Center (YFRC), completed its twelve-week pilot with a celebration and prizes for best attendance.

The program objective was to engage Felton clients who are transitional age youth and provide them with positive means of self-expression and creative options for problem solving, conflict resolution and coping skills through use of music, drama, spoken word and comedy. The sessions were conducted after Hilltop High School classes for the young mothers.



"The "Welcome to My World" participants were engaged and excited to have the opportunity to express themselves creatively and to have their children present. One mom even had her child with her on stage. I noticed that the students seemed more confident after the program," said Kate Shadoan, Division Director of Adult and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) services.

"From our perspective, the partnership with Felton is mutually beneficial and an effective means of positively engaging transitional age youth. The enthusiasm for the program is high," noted Tony Spires, Award-winning Full Vision Arts Foundation Artistic Director.

Enthusiasm was even higher when those students who had excellent attendance records received laptops and backpacks in recognition of their dedication while juggling parenting duties, school, and work responsibilities. They were truly ready for happy holidays.

Felton and You: Reflections



The New Year provides a perfect opportunity to reflect on the previous year, ponder the future, celebrate milestones reached and plan new ones. Looking back can bring about feelings of accomplishment and may also shine a light on areas that need more focused attention.

As Felton Institute plans for our future and that of our clients, we'd like to look back on a few of the 2018 achievements and to give a big thank you to our staff, Board of Directors, community partners and generous donors who have all served in helping Felton Institute reach many goals. If you don't have a copy of our annual report that was released last year, please [click here to view the report](#).

January

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

Felton hosted a delegation from Lone Star Justice Alliance in Austin, Texas, and shared information about Felton's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program.

February

Felton President and CEO Al Gilbert and Senior Division's Dr. Keith Wong presented at the Agency for Integrated Care's (AIC) Global Conference in Singapore, held February 2-3, 2018. Their topic was Geriatric Mental Health Model: Integrating Mental Health and Aging Services to Transform Systems of Care.

March

There was an open house celebration for Felton's Older Adult Service Team's (OAST) new Alameda County site in San Leandro, which provides comprehensive clinical case management and psychiatric services for older adults with mental health concerns, including substance abuse.

April

Felton hosted a delegation from South Korea on April 25, 2018. The 25 delegates were representatives who work for the government of Yongin-si in South Korea. They were interested in learning about innovative ways to better serve Korea's older population and about the economics of running all of the programs at Felton Institute. The group was especially impressed with the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs, which connect older generations with younger generations through a volunteer model.

Felton's Deaf Community Counseling Services program manned a booth at the 2018 Deaf Bay Area Expo with over 3,000 in attendance. Attendees gathered information about the many services available to Deaf and hard-of-hearing people in the Bay Area.

May

The Mayor and the City Council of San Mateo honored Felton with a proclamation acknowledging and commending Felton Institute for responding to the mental health needs of youth and adults in the community by providing forward-thinking services, treatment advocacy and support for individuals and families in San Mateo.

Felton hosted two delegations from New Zealand on May 4, 2018, which were focused on Felton's Children, Youth and Family (CYF) programs, specifically, creative ways to better engage Family Support Services and early care and education programs. The delegation was fascinated with the wide array of services that Felton offers to the public.

June

Hilltop High School Class of 2018 graduation was a celebration for many Felton clients. Graduates benefit from a wide variety of Felton programs which address the unique needs of pregnant and parenting teens, including education, preschool, childcare, nutrition, health and parenting.

July

Felton completed the video highlighting the work of Janet Moyer Landscaping and more than 40 volunteers from Genentech. Together they created beautiful outdoor spaces and playgrounds at three of Felton's early education sites, the Family Developmental Center, the Sojourner Truth Center and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center. Please [click here to view the video](#).

August

Felton's Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Division's preschool graduation Cradle to College was held August 3, 2018. Felton was honored that award-winning news reporter, sportscaster, talk show host and weather forecaster Spencer Christian was the special guest speaker. Please [click here to enjoy the video](#).

Teachers from all of Felton's Early Care and Education programs met for a day of professional development focusing on the "why" behind the work that is done for the children. In addition, the teachers discussed research from the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child published by Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child, which emphasized the first five years in terms of brain development.

Felton's San Mateo Early Psychosis and BEAM programs held their summer graduation on August 23, 2018, celebrating the achievements of 17 program graduates. To view a previous San Mateo graduation, [please click here](#).

September

Felton was represented at the third annual Aging Your Way Resource Fair on September 21, 2018. Felton's Senior Community Employment Services Program (SCESP) and Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions Programs teamed up to provide informative outreach to San Francisco Bay Area's senior adults.

Old Navy volunteer team of 20 transformed Felton's Family Developmental Center's multi-purpose room by adding a boutique and a full-service children's library, beautified the Sunshine Community Resource Center and Farmer's Market, and hosted a food demonstration at the Felton Farmer's Market. Please [click here to view the video](#).

October

Felton honored volunteers of Felton's Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs at their annual volunteer appreciation luncheon.

Felton's Director of Early Psychosis Programs Adriana Furuzawa, LMFT, represented Felton as a panelist at the International Conference on Early Intervention in Mental Health on the Spotlight Presentations Panel. She highlighted Felton's award-winning Early Psychosis Programs, with special focus on the work Felton has been developing since 2013 in predominately rural counties, such as Monterey, in the California Central Coast. Also representing Felton, President and CEO Al Gilbert was in attendance, along with Associate Director Bruce Adams and Monterey County Program Manager Anna Ballas.

On October 20, 2018, members of Felton's Children, Youth and Family Division provided outreach materials at the University of San Francisco Black Family Day with a goal to uplift black families, provide parents with opportunities to help support their students academically and engage students with resources to support them inside and outside of the classroom.

November


Members of Felton's San Francisco Law Enforcement Assisted Division (SF-LEAD) and Felton Engagement Specialist Team (FEST) along with more than 500 people attended the 2018 National Harm Reduction Conference in New Orleans, LA. SF-LEAD is a multi-agency collaborative partnership program designed to divert repeat low-level adult offenders at their earliest contact with law enforcement. FEST is comprised of engagement specialists who are skilled case managers working in collaboration with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Public Works, Homelessness and Supportive Housing and the San Francisco Police Department.

December

As noted above in our newsletter, a Wilkes Bashford fundraising event was held on December 13, 2018, to provide needed resources for one of Felton's families. Because of the generosity of Wilkes Bashford, \$20,000 was donated to Felton along with \$1500 worth of items needed by the family. Felton is grateful to Wilkes Bashford and to all of our donors for their generosity last year.

Your generous donations transform lives. Thank you!



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