



Lives Transformed



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SPOTLIGHT: Marvin Davis Felton Chief Financial Officer

When speaking of Felton Chief Financial Officer Marvin Davis, you could say that financial skills are literally in his blood. His father started the first African-American CPA firm in



Oakland, CA, shortly after moving the family from Los Angeles when Marvin was a toddler. As the middle child of a close knit family of five and a large extended family, Marvin's genial spirit and sense of humor were nurtured at an early age.

Marvin and his siblings also faced tragedy when they were young. When he was 12, his mother was diagnosed with leukemia. "Doctors told her that she had only eight months to live, as there were no potential African-American bone marrow donors, in the National Bone Marrow Registry," Marvin remembers.

Watch Marvin Davis share his source of inspiration for his work at Felton-click on the video.



"But my parents, being the fighters and role models that they were, never gave up the fight. My dad decided to sell his partnership interest from his very successful CPA firm, to head the efforts of saving my mother's life and the lives of others. In doing so, he started the Judie Davis

Bone Marrow Recruitment Program, a national non-profit organization geared toward bringing awareness and donor recruitment to the African-American community. The goal was to build the National Registry of potential bone marrow matches, from a mere few hundred donors to tens of thousands of donors, by conducting donor drives across the country."

The Judie Davis Bone Marrow Recruitment Program targeted churches, community leaders, and colleges. As the registry list of donors increased exponentially, over an eight-year span, the likelihood of matches being found and lives being saved had brought hope to many and Marvin's mother defied her doctor's prognosis, living for eight years instead of eight months.

"Unfortunately, there wasn't a match to save my mother's life, but the efforts did save the lives of many others. However, we were still fortunate that my mother's will and sense of purpose helped to extend her life, well beyond expectation- and for that, we're grateful."

Gratitude is part of the foundation of Marvin's life, and his mother's legacy helped shape his career path. "My dad, being a very successful business man and accountant, encouraged me to pursue a business career and to find my niche in the business world. And my mother, being the co-founder and the face of a non-profit organization to help others, has led me to where I am today."

Wanting to be near his mother during her final years, Marvin chose to attend California State University in Hayward, (now Cal State East Bay), where he earned his bachelor's degree in accounting. He also started his first business, a mobile DJ (Disc Jockey) enterprise that was a family affair. With his brother and two cousins as business partners, the young men earned money to pay their way through school. After college, his second business was as a partner in a nightclub, but at the age of 23, Marvin knew that he wanted a family, "so I hung up the headphones and focused on stability for my future."

Marvin joined Felton in 2004, and over the years, his responsibilities have continued to expand.

"I saw Felton as an opportunity to be part of something special. The leadership, the mission, and the staff were all key factors, when deciding to continue working here. Sentimentally, it brought me back to my roots of the "feel good" work that a non-profit affords, just as the one my parents started two decades prior. It's extremely rewarding to see all the good that we, as an agency, provide to the many communities we serve. It's really rewarding to know that our reach extends inter-

generationally, to diverse communities, with a wide range of exceptional programs and training. Serving as CFO is a dream come true.

"Of course, my role comes with a number of challenges. But as a leader, I welcome these challenges and I also enjoy strengthening the professional relationships with the staff and many of our stakeholders. I pride myself in making the best decisions possible, ensuring that I have the best interest of Felton in mind, at all times."

When he's not working, time with his wife, son and daughter are Marvin's top priorities.

"I'm very active in my kids' lives, as they are both huge soccer players. My daughter is 15, and my son is 13 years of age; both started playing at the age of eight. For the past four years, I've been coaching my daughter's competitive traveling club team. I also serve as the Director of the Competitive programs for our soccer club. Something that started off as a little hobby has turned into something much more. It has been so rewarding to help shape the lives of these young players that I've coached for years, as well as the 200 other players that are part of our program."

Marvin believes that selfless acts of helping others and making lives better, whenever you can, is what life is all about. That personal motto would no doubt make his mother proud.

Felton DCCS Fremont Open House: A Warm Welcome From the Deaf Community

They are normally known as the "golden hills of Fremont", but on this clear and sunny mid-February day, the hills were a vibrant green during the Felton Deaf Community Counseling Services Open House at 39500 Stevenson Place.

Fremont Mayor Lily Mei, DCCS founders, community leaders, Felton staff, and clients, ranging in age from five to 55+, celebrated Felton's newest site that provides innovative mental health and case management services and academic support for people who are Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, Late Deafened, Deaf-Blind and their families and partners.

Felton DCCS Program Manager Joni Teague served as MC for the short program with interpretation from Felton DCCS American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter Cathleen Riddley.

Mayor Mei's enthusiastic welcome was genuinely appreciated by attendees who filled the new site's rooms. She beamed with motherly pride as she shared that her son is learning American Sign Language (ASL).

"It's truly exciting for our staff to be surrounded by such a warm and welcoming community," said Felton President & CEO Al Gilbert. "We are

pleased to be able expand our resources to the other deaf populations in California."

Author and Ohlone College Professor Thomas K.



Joni Teague, Al Gilbert, Mayor Lily Mei, Barbara White



DCCS Staff, Al Gilbert and Miguel Mercado



Nancy Meeser and Dan Langholtz

Holcomb noted in American Sign Language (ASL), "I can't say enough about the importance of Felton's services. While a lot of deaf people have nothing inherently wrong with them, they grow up in a difficult environment where people don't give them a chance to develop communication, to develop language, to develop a career. Because of that, some deaf people really struggle understanding themselves, understanding lack of communication or acceptance within in their own family and discrimination from the community. The professional mental health services here provide access, both for short term or longer, that has not been available to deaf people for a long time."

The new DCCS site is across the street from the California School for the Deaf (CSD) and near Ohlone Community College, which has a Deaf Studies Division. Felton's other DCCS sites are in San Francisco and San Leandro.

**JOIN FELTON at STRAW on April 17, 2017!
Straw Restaurant supports Felton Institute
throughout April with Non-Profit Mondays**

Carnival inspired comfort food for a good cause is the key ingredient for Straw Restaurant's Non-Profit Monday tradition. On Mondays, 10% of all food sales at Straw, located at 203 Octavia Street in San Francisco's Hayes Valley are dedicated to a local non-profit. In April, Felton Institute will be the beneficiary of 10% of all Monday sales throughout the month. Please support Straw as it supports Felton!



On April 17th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Felton will also have an informational table to let others know about our innovative, life-transformative services and programs. We hope to see you there. Won't it feel good to know that as you dive into macaroni and cheese or munch on grilled Romaine salad that you are helping Felton help others?



Many thanks to owner Ari Feingold for his commitment to supporting non-profits in need! strawsf.com



Felton Presents at USF Child, Adolescent and Young Adult Behavioral Health Conference

Felton's Stakeholder Engagement Manager Anthony Vasquez presented to an engaged audience at the University of South Florida's Research and Policy Conference on Child, Adolescent and Young Adult Behavioral Health held in Tampa, Florida, during the first week of March.

Anthony's topic was Peer Support and Peer Involvement in Specialty Early Intervention In Psychosis: Perspectives of Program Clients.



"Anthony's illuminating insights with quotes from youth who have experienced social isolation following a mental health diagnosis presented powerful data. It sparked audience questions and dynamic dialogue," noted Felton President and CEO Al Gilbert.

A Felton toolkit created by Felton's Research Division was also distributed at the conference.



Cantonese for Clinicians

Once a month, Dr. Philip Tsui conducts ongoing training and consultation on the use of Cantonese in providing counseling, case management and psychotherapy services.

The group is hosted by the Senior Division and it meets at Geriatric Services West at 6221 Geary Blvd. Its membership is open to staff and interns in all divisions at Felton. It assists Cantonese speaking service providers in finding and formulating culturally and linguistically appropriate ways of presenting mental health terminology and descriptions of psycho-social issues and psychiatric symptoms in Cantonese. It also provides consultation to such providers in developing proper communication style and culturally relevant clinical skills in working with Chinese immigrant and senior populations.



Felton's SCSEP's Outreach at the George Davis

Annual Black Cuisine Festival



SCSEP Program Manager Derek Toliver Takes Crowd Selfie



Felton's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) participants shared information about Felton's services with at least 400 attendees at the 37th Annual Black Cuisine Festival in San Francisco's Bayview Hunter's Point on March 4, 2017.

Billed as the Bay Area's biggest soul food celebration, the free event featured a dazzling variety of food venues, a kids zone, vendors, and the group Tony Toni Tone! as the musical headliner. The delicious and popular festival, presented by Bayview Senior Services, honored the memory and legacy of Dr. George Davis and was held at the Senior Center named for him on Carroll Avenue and at Third Street Station.

Lunar New Year Celebration

On February 5, 2017, one of Felton's partners , Jenny Mai, from the Visitacion Valley Neighborhood Association, hosted a Lunar New Year party to welcome the Year of the Rooster at our new 66 Raymond Senior Center in San Francisco.

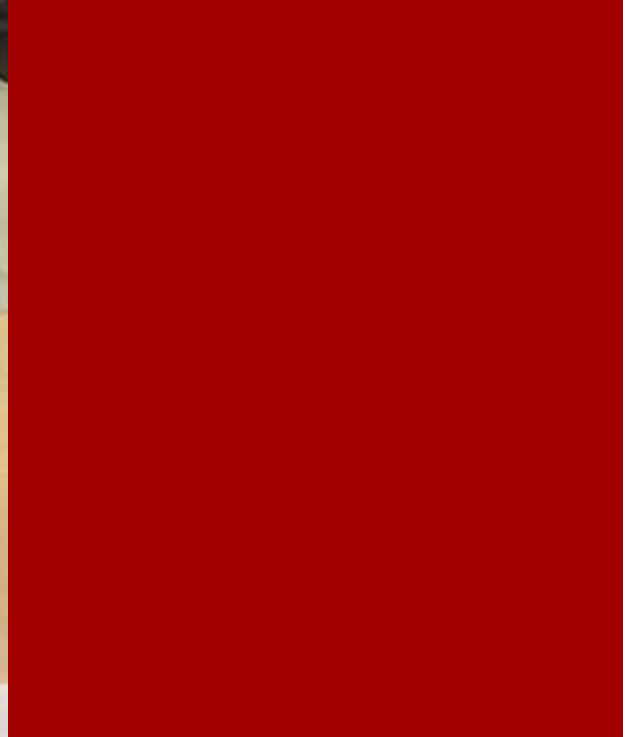
Participants in Felton's Visitacion Valley Senior Health and Wellness Program performed newly learned Chinese dances. Funding for this program has also been provided in part by Metta Fund, a philanthropic organization whose mission is to improve health in the City and County of San Francisco. David Chiu of the CA State Assembly, Scott Wiener of the CA State Senate, and Carmen Chu, Assessor-Recorder of the City and County of San Francisco and Senior Division Director Cathy Spensley attended the festive event.



Felton's FDC Little Bears Celebrate Friendship Day with Fruit for Parents

Last month, the Little Bears classroom wanted to do something special for their parents. The kids helped cut fruit to make fruit salad cups. They also helped make fruit sticks with a heart on top to give to someone special. The staff at the Family Developmental Center (FDC) at Bryant Street called it a friendship day.

This month, FDC will have Diversity Day on March 23, 2017, with a celebration potluck from 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. and a short program at 4:30 p.m. on that day.



Amazon Smile, Felton and You



Throughout our newsletter, we've shared the incredible work executed through some of Felton's 46 programs. And they are made possible through investments like yours in Felton Institute. We ask that you continue to collaborate with us in transforming lives through a donation of any amount.

It's easy to text FELTON to 41444 and donate or donate through our website; felton.org.

Thank you for helping Felton help others.

AMAZON HELPS FELTON

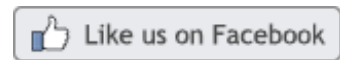
On Thursday, March 16, 2017, Amazon.com will donate 10 times it's normal percentage of qualifying purchases to Felton Institute when you sign up, sign into and make a purchase through "smile.amazon.com."

Smile.Amazon.com is FREE to sign up and benefits your favorite for-purpose organization.



Sign up and help Felton help others today by [clicking here](#)

Your generous donations transform lives. Thank you!



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