



**FSA**  
Family Service Agency  
of San Francisco

*Lives Transformed*



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## Felton Hosts IAGG Reception



The IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, held in the U.S. every 32 years, came to San Francisco July 23 to 27, 2017. On the first full day of the conference, known as the most significant worldwide on aging, Felton's Senior Division hosted a networking lunch and community reception for international conference attendees.



The event was organized by Senior Division Director, Cathy Spensley, along with The Gerontological Society of America, Environmental Gerontology Interest Group; Jarmin Yeh, UCSF PhD student; and Felton Senior Division managers. Felton's Senior Division Director, Cathy Spensley, offered welcoming remarks and introduced Felton President and CEO Al Gilbert, who provided an overview of Felton Institute and then introduced Stepping Stone Adult Day Health's Executive Director, Molly Tobias. Ms. Tobias encouraged the audience to consider taking tours of the Mabini Adult Day Health Center located within the Mendelsohn House. Amy Eisenstein from the Gerontological Society of America stated that she and her colleagues were excited to

participate in bringing researchers into the community to remind everyone "why we do this work."

The event began at the steps of Moscone Center, with Walk San Francisco leading attendees on a "street audit", reviewing pedestrian safety over the three-block walk to the reception. Older adults are the highest demographic of pedestrians killed every year in San Francisco. The reception was held in the beautiful garden at TODCO's Mendelsohn House and the Mabini Adult Day Health Center..

Sunlight glistened on the bright purple sequin gowns and multi-colored traditional Chinese attire as the exceptional Visitacion Valley Family Center Senior Chinese Dancers and Choir delighted the audience. The Visitacion Valley Chinese Senior Dancers are supported 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. The Chinese Senior Dancers are an integral part of the Senior Division's 66 Raymond Community Center and Wellness program.

Community partners tabled at the event and shared information about our city's innovative aging services. Partners included Walk San Francisco, Mabini Adult Day Health Center, TODCO, At Home With Growing Older, Community Living Campaign, and our Felton Institute programs. Networking among all the reception attendees was robust, and Felton staff members were able to make some significant new friends from around the country and from other parts of the world.

## Felton Hosts AIC Delegation from Singapore



In July, Felton was delighted to host a delegation from the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) from Singapore, which supports seniors living in their homes and in the community. Felton President and CEO Al Gilbert and Senior Division Director Cathy Spensley welcomed the group led by AIC Board Chair Dr. Jennifer Lee and AIC Executive Director Dr. Jason Cheah.



Staff members of our senior division presented engaging snapshots of the comprehensive services for seniors that Felton provides. The delegation was particularly interested in learning more about Felton's Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, which they do not have in Singapore, but would like to start. They also had many questions about our Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs, as well as the integration of our mental health and aging services. We offered to support their efforts in starting programs like Felton's and we look forward to this being a warm and wonderful start to an international collaboration.

## Australia's Bestchance CEO Visits Felton

When Kevin Feeney, CEO of Australia's Bestchance child and family care agency visited Felton's Developmental Center on July 31, 2017, one of Felton's young preschool clients grabbed his arm and greeted him like a dear familiar friend. It was one of the many highlights of Mr. Feeney's visit with Yohana Quiroz, Felton's Chief Operating Officer of Children, Youth and Family and TAY programs and three members of her CYF team, Plern Pratoomas, Kaile Thomas, and Lucia Murillo Chacko.



Mr. Feeney found Felton's rich history and current impact fascinating. He was especially impressed to learn that Felton expanded with three new childcare centers in a very short window of time last summer. Bestchance is just six years younger than Felton, having been founded in 1895. The agency has over 500 staff members and 100 volunteers who deliver a range of educational programs accredited under the Department of Education and Training. These programs include Early Childhood Learning and Development for children under the age of five and Primary Education for children with social/emotional and learning difficulties. Bestchance also provides a range of support services for parents and families like Early Childhood Intervention and Parent and Community Support. The similarity in services is what inspired Mr. Feeney to visit Felton and learn more about our programs.



All too soon, it was time for him to leave, and Felton staff and our young preschool ambassador bid him a fond farewell.

## Preschool Graduation: Cradle to College



Felton's Preschool Graduation achieved a new milestone this year. For the first time, the inspiring ceremony was held on the campus of San Francisco State University. The theme was Cradle to College.

"We wanted to give the students an experience that will help them hold the vision for attaining higher education," said Yohana Quiroz, Felton Chief Operating Officer of Children, Youth and Family and Transitional Age Youth Services. The jubilant celebration of the 66 young students clad in small purple robes and wearing mortar boards provided a powerful vision for graduates, proud parents, and all who attended.

The preschoolers from Felton's Learning Center, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center and Family Developmental Center performed essays and songs with spirited enthusiasm, eliciting cheers and tears of joy from many in the audience.

Proud mother Shermika Woods expressed her appreciation for the positive impact that Felton has had with her daughter, who began the program two years ago, at the age of three.

"It's been an amazing process for her. She's grown so much. The teachers were very adamant about every day letting me know the things that they talked about, things that she learned and things that she can improve on. And they would basically give different ways to motivate or encourage her.



"This program is an awesome program. The teachers, the organization as a whole is so structured, they made my child feel safe, they made me feel safe, and they just do amazing things. You come home every day and you just see your child in a different light, and I would encourage anyone to have their child invested in Felton."

Rosaura Diaz, Felton's Program Director of the Young Family Resource Center and Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program beamed as she watched many of Felton's youngest clients take a giant step toward their future. "It was a great team effort; we are all so happy that everyone enjoyed today's celebration."

## Visitation Valley Intergenerational Program



Felton's Senior Division is piloting an intergenerational program in Visitation Valley between older adults at our 66 Raymond community center and preschool children at Felton's Learning Center. The children walk to the community center, about eight blocks away, and engage in arts and writing projects with the seniors. Currently, they are working on photo collages from photos taken together at a nearby garden. The project is also in partnership with the Asian Pacific American Community Center, whose staff designed the program and is leading the intergenerational activities.



## Sonic Forest Concert Delights



July was a busy arts and music month for the Senior Division. In partnership with Brenda Schuman, a professional oboe player and director of the Sonic Forest ensemble, the division hosted a concert at the Curry Drop In Center in the Tenderloin and at our 66 Raymond Community Center in Visitacion Valley, pictured.

Brenda's passion is to share her ensemble's talents with seniors and people with disabilities who don't often have the opportunity to experience professional live music. A highlight of

the 66 Raymond concert was when the drummer got nearly everyone in the audience up to dance! Funding for the concert was provided in part by the Metta Fund, a philanthropic organization whose mission is to improve health in the City and County of San Francisco.

## Felton and You



For over a century, people like you have helped Felton help others in the community. One of the most heartbreaking and perpetual needs in any major city includes the homeless and the mentally ill. With help from the community, Felton works tirelessly to assist people for whom a helping hand is a lifesaver and bridge to a better life.

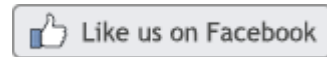
The Felton Full Service Partnership Adult Care Management program and the Comprehensive Adult Recovery and Engagement program (FSP-ACM-CARE), collaboratively are a partnership with other San Francisco community-based programs that provide direct support to low-income and homeless adults (18-60 years old), with histories of serious and persistent mental health concerns, often accompanied by chronic homelessness.

Clients receive intensive case management and other interventional assistance, designed to anticipate foreseeable problems before they become emergencies, which exhaust resources and place clients in vulnerable circumstances.

The program mandates are to assist vulnerable San Francisco adults living with persistent and serious mental health issues (including individuals with multiple diagnoses), to both stabilize their lives, housing and overall function, and to become more independent, productive and satisfied members of the community.

Thank you for helping us help others.

**Your generous donations transform lives. Thank you!**



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