

THE VISION REPORT

A Newsletter from BFF

Your Best Friend for Education and Empowerment

President's Message: A Board Committed to Excellence

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Highlights:

Among the many highlights were:

* Conley E. Broome's attendance.

*The Sharon Johnson inspired motto for the newsletter.

*The solid commitment of the Board of Directors.

The third annual meeting of the Broome Family Foundation Board of Directors was the best yet. Board members celebrated the accomplishments of 2012 and committed to supporting and moving BFF forward in 2013.

The BFF team inspired the Board with reports about how BFF teams equipped dozens of young people and families to live lives of real value and significance through its Aspire Supplemental Education, the Next Level, and Hope4Families programs.

The Aspire Supplemental Education team reported that families, impressed by Hope4Families services, also sought the services of Aspire Supplemental Education. As a result, Aspire

provided instruction to special education students throughout Southern California and helped them improve their academic success.

The Next Level team reported that about its partnership with the Holman Community Development Corporation to provide free PSAT/SAT preparation classes to students in the community. The first event was a great success. At least 30 students attended the class and 75% of the students showed improvement on post class assessments.

The Hope4Families team reported that it had its best year. It helped more special needs students and their families last year than in the two prior years combined.

The BFF administrative team reported that BFF that it had its best fundraising year. Exciting new funding relationships were established with Southern California Edison and the California Endowment.

After receiving reports, the Board elected the following committee chairs:

Margaret J. McNair – Budget and Finance Committee.

Gregory L. McNair – Strategic Planning Committee.

David M. Broome – Nomination and Governance Committee.

Conley M. Broome – Fundraising and Development Committee.

The BFF team appreciates the dedication of the elected committee chairs and the entire Board. Without them we could not serve the young people and families of Southern California.



Exciting New Investor Relationships

Southern California Edison, The California Endowment and City National Bank Invest in BFF

BFF is pleased to welcome a group of new funding stakeholders to the BFF family of investors. Southern California Edison, The California Endowment and City National Bank have invested in BFF programs.

Southern California Edison (SCE) is one of the largest electric utilities in California, serving more than 14 million people in a 50,000 square-mile area of central, coastal and Southern California. Based in Rosemead, California, the utility has been providing electric service in the region for more than 120 years. SCE's service territory includes more than 180 cities including cities served by BFF. SEC has provided a grant to support the work of Hope4Families. BFF greatly appreciates the support SCE has provided.

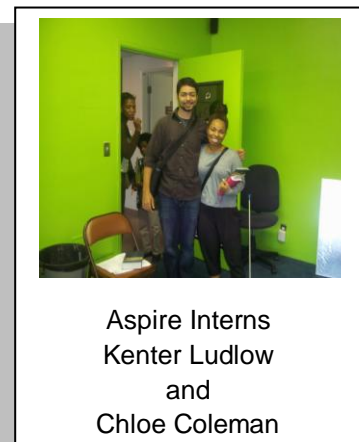
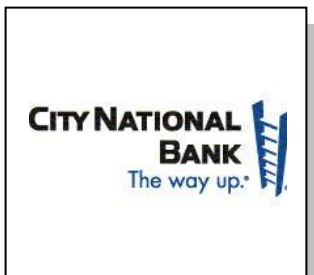
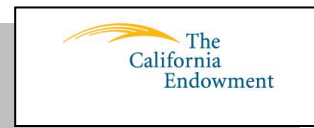
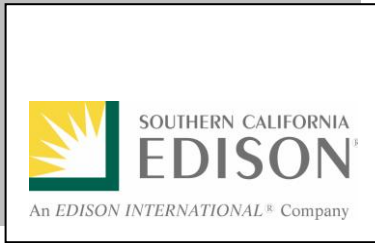
The California Endowment is a private, statewide health foundation with a mission to build a stronger state by expanding access to affordable, quality health care to underserved communities and improving the overall health of all Californians. The California Endowment has provided funding to support the second annual Hope4Families Special Education Parent Workshop. BFF greatly appreciates the California Endowment's generous support.

BFF received a "Dollars for Doers" grant from City National Bank. City National Bank offers a full complement of banking, trust and investment services through 78 offices, including 16 full-service regional centers, in Southern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, Nevada, New York City, Nashville and Atlanta. It believes that contributing to the economic and cultural vitality of communities not only has a positive, measurable impact on the growth and prosperity of the communities, but it makes good business sense for the Bank. City National Bank provided the grant in recognition of a volunteer who works for City National Bank reaching 20 volunteer hours. BFF appreciates City National Bank's support.

Aspire is Bridging the Achievement Gap

Aspire Supplemental Education is bridging the achievement gap for special needs students. Andrew is a case in point. Andrew is an intelligent young man. He attended a charter school that is considered one of the best in Los Angeles. He was performing well below grade level, however, in all core subject areas. Andrew's problem has been that for years he has missed, on average, 25% of the school year.

Andrew has hemophilia that is so severe that he was recently a "Make a Wish" awardee. It is not uncommon for relatively minor incidents to force him to stay at home to recuperate or even send him to the hospital. Aspire instructor Kenter Ludlow spent hours with Andrew teaching him reading and math and helping Andrew increase his performance. Andrew is now performing close to grade level. Aspire instructors are honoring BFF's mission to equip young people with special needs for lives of real value and significance.



Aspire Interns
Kenter Ludlow
and
Chloe Coleman

Special Education Parent Workshop

Hope4Families 2nd Annual Workshop takes place on February 23, 2013

Thanks to the generosity of the California Endowment, Hope4Families will hold its second annual Special Education Parent Workshop at the Tom Bradley Family Source Center in Los Angeles on February 23, 2012.

The workshop is intended to help parents understand the purpose of special education and recognize when their children may require special education services. It will also equip parents with skills

to work with schools and, when necessary, advocate for their children.

The workshop will feature presentations by Hope4Families Managing Attorney Margaret J. McNair who will use an interactive approach to provide an overview of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), a description of special needs assessments and an explanation of the different ways schools can provide Free and Appropriate Education

(FAPE). Courtney McNair, a California Certificated Special Education Teacher and BFF Board Member will provide the parents with the special education teacher perspective. Finally, Researcher Diana Tisnado, PhD will provide her perspective as the mother of a special needs student.

The workshop honors BFF's mission to equip families by providing parents with information they need to support their children.

Bringing Hopeful Knowledge to Southern California Communities.

Hope4Families provides professional development to agencies serving special needs students and their families though out Southern California. Among the entities recently receiving training from Hope4Families is Homeboy Industries.



Board Chairman David Broome and Hope4Families Managing Attorney Margaret McNair with Father Gregory Boyle founder of Homeboy Industries

What Is An Independent Educational Evaluation?

What is an Independent Educational Evaluation?

An Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) is an evaluation of a child that is performed by a professional who is independent of the child's school district or public charter school. The person who conducts the IEE is not an employee or associate of the district.

When should I request an IEE for my child?

An IEE is often helpful if you need more information, different information or a second opinion about your child's disability or special needs.

An IEE is the best choice if any or all of the

following circumstances apply to you and your child:

- Your child's current assessment(s) were incomplete and did not provide enough information about your child's needs.
- Your child's current assessment(s) were inaccurate, and you believe the results are false.
- Your child's current assessment(s) were inadequate, and you feel your child was not assessed in every area of suspected need.
- The District is denying your child Special Education eligibility or services because of a poorly done assessment or lack of proper

assessment.

How do I request an IEE?

You have a right to an Independent Educational Evaluation at public expense. The District is required by law to pay for an IEE if they have failed to assess your child properly.

Request an IEE by writing a letter stating your disagreement with the district's current assessments. You may state why you disagree, but this is not necessary. You can submit this letter to a school administrator or the head of the IEP team at your child's school. It is recommended that you personally deliver or mail this letter. A phone call or e-mail is **not** sufficient to request an IEE.

If you would like to learn more about professional development for your organization or IEEs, contact Hope4Families (323) 275-1161

Equipping Students to Take the Next Step

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The achievement gap devastates young people and families of color. It causes poverty, lower living standards, and increased criminality. An achievement gap refers to the disparity on a number of educational measures.

An article in the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education attributed the achievement gap on the SAT to, among other factors, disparity in income between the families of color and white families. Moreover, public schools in communities of color are "ill equipped to provide the same quality of secondary education that is offered in predominately white suburban school districts." After a yearlong

study, a council comprised of education, business and community leaders convened by then Superintendent of Schools Jack O'Connell issued a report about closing the achievement gap that came to a similar conclusion. The committee pointed to lack of access to "accelerated interventions." In other words, young people of color do not have the same access to resources like quality supplemental education services as their white counterparts.

To resolve this discrepancy, BFF's Next Level program partnered with the Holman Community Development Corporation to present a

quality SAT preparation program. The program was oversubscribed.

Attendance was supposed to be limited to 25 students, but 30 students attended the program and were accommodated.

Examinations taken by the students before and after the program revealed that the students not only performed better academically, but just as important, they increased their familiarity with the SAT exam.

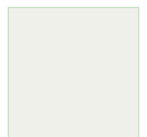
The program honored BFF's mission to equip young people by facilitating improved SAT performance and increasing their exposure to this vital exam.

Our Mission

The Broome Family Foundation exists to equip and encourage young people and families, through educational, legal, and support services for lives of real value and significance – one young person and one family at a time.



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SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS