

NO LIMITS



Newsletter for the Earle Baum Center of the Blind

From the Center

The Earle Baum Center celebrates our fourth anniversary of operations in October. The months have passed very quickly and the EBC has changed dramatically. We have seen people come and go, have had many wonderful things to celebrate, and have had sad moments with the passing of friends who helped make the EBC what it is today. And even though the time has moved so quickly, we also recognize that we are only in the beginning of the journey that we hope and expect to be long, productive and significant.

Four years ago, we had a staff of one. Today, we have ten employees and about 15 itinerate teachers. We now offer classes and individual training in six counties. Our variety of services have expanded and the EBC is helping people live independently and with a renewed spirit.

The EBC is a community center offering a range of social and recreational activities. Some of the newer programs include art history for the blind and visually impaired, a weekly drumming circle to enhance sports, TGIF barbecues, parties and outings. Our Thursday exercise classes are more popular than ever. Demand for our facilities has put us into high gear to expand. We are trying to raise funds to build a new, rather large building for training and as a gathering space. We have just added an athletic equipment building and a beautiful and

FALL 2003

VOLUME 4

ISSUE 2

rather large dog play area so the many guide dogs onsite have a space to let go of pent up energy and have some fun with their handlers. **Thanks to the many responsible for making the new facilities possible.**

As part of our anniversary celebration, **October 11, 2003** is the date for our first fund-raising event—The **EBC Dog-a-thon...A Walk for Independence**. More to follow.

I personally want to thank all who have made the EBC such a wonderful place. That includes the participants, volunteers, donors, staff, Board of Directors and particularly the visionaries who put forth so much heart and soul into the creation of the EBC.

Allan Brenner, Executive Director

EBC Dog-a-thon... A Walk for Independence

On October 11, 2003, the Earle Baum Center will celebrate four years of operation with its' first fundraising event, the **EBC Dog-a-thon...A Walk for Independence**.

The day will begin at 9AM at the intersection of Occidental and Fulton Roads (parking is available at the Santa Rosa Alliance Church). Occidental Road will be

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FUN IN THE SUN YOUTH ACTIVITIES DAY

By Denise Vancil,
Rehabilitation Teacher

Earle Baum Center (EBC) jump-started the summer with an exciting Youth Activities Day that included visually impaired & blind youth of all ages and some of their instructors. They came from five surrounding counties to experience fun, laughter, and friendship through opportunities available at the EBC.

We got into the spirit of the warmth and sunshine by starting the day's activities with an ice-breaker game, dance and movement exercises, and making paper hats through the Japanese paper folding art called Origami. The afternoon was filled with an outdoor pizza party where the older students were able to utilize their independence by serving the pizza to their teachers and/or parents. The pizza's encore was building and enjoying their own creations of banana split ice cream sundaes. The energetic enthusiasm continued in a drum circle, where everyone got to create new rhythms by drumming on drums and playing a variety of musical instruments from all over the world. Last, but certainly not least, we used our green grassy field to play a friendly competitive game of beep baseball. The day was punctuated by the shouts of excitement and sounds of laughter. Students had the opportunity to be kids, free from academic demands or restrictions and instead the focus was on developing comradery, playing hard, and having fun! All activities were lead by visually impaired and blind EBC staff members who served as positive role models.

While students participated in the action packed day, their instructors and parents

were encouraged to experience the Earle Baum Center as the clients experience it. They had their own activities including walking the Michelle Trail, drumming, and eating—all under “sleep shade” or blind fold. Although this was not the first time using a sleep shade for many, it enhanced their experience of the EBC. Both students and their instructors ended the day with smiles on their faces.

We ended the day with a closing circle, where everyone had the chance to share their reflections of their experiences while indulging in a snack of a Braille fortune cookie and lemonade. The Braille readers finally had the chance to read the fortunes of others verses having to have their print fortunes read by someone sighted. A common factor shared was how well everyone played together in spite of the age differences, and how everyone enjoyed the excitement of playing outdoors in all the activities, but especially beep baseball.

To top the day's experiences off, one student and his father brought their tandem bicycle and many anxiously awaited their turn to peddle around. All left with fun-filled memories of the thrills and laughter experienced at the EBC. We hope that this is just the beginning of what's to come and encourage youth of all ages to come and take part in all that is happening here at the EBC.

Gay Hogan is a dedicated volunteer who has been diligent in creating an extensive list of all the books on tape in our lending library, which she updates on a regular basis. Gay would like everyone to know that she has the list available in Large Print, on a disk, or in Braille. This is a great way to see if Talking Books are for you. Free from the Library of Congress - 800-952-5666.

EBC Dog-a-thon continued...

blockaded during the 2/3 mile walk west to the EBC facilities. Once at the Earle Baum Center, participants will be greeted with a pancake breakfast, entertainment and games for the dogs, a silent auction and more. Although the event is a fundraiser, it is also an opportunity for people to see the beautiful EBC grounds and buildings in its' splendor.

The Dog-a-thon is an opportunity for people to walk their pet dogs, service dogs, stuffed dogs, pretend dogs or even pretend cats to the EBC and have a lot of fun while supporting the ongoing growth of the Center. We ask participants to fill out the registration form available in print or on our web site, www.earlebaum.org, and gather donations from pledges, or pay the minimum \$20 fee which entitles the person to a commemorative shirt, breakfast and the festivities.

The silent auction will include a variety of special items with a range of value. Included in the auction is wine, dinners, membership to a health club, dog toys, exclusive items and even a 49er football jersey signed by one of the most important figures in football history, **Jerry Rice**.

Please consider joining in on the event and if you cannot make it, your support is still welcome. It is essential that the EBC can continue to grow and serve people who are blind and visually impaired.

Call or stop by to pick up pledge forms or get them online at our web site www.earlebaum.org. If interested in donating items for the Silent Auction, call the center at 707-523-3222.

Department of Rehabilitation and EBC

By DOR Counselor/Teacher
Ilene Mattison-Shupnick

The California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) works in partnership with consumers and other stakeholders to provide services and advocacy resulting in employment, independent living and equality for individuals with disabilities. As a DOR consumer, your rehabilitation program will be tailored to your particular goals and developed by you and your counselor.

Eligibility for DOR services is based on a person having a severe disability that prevents them from getting or keeping a job, or from living independently. The disability must affect you so greatly that you need DOR assistance to get and keep a job or to be able to live independently. Services for the blind and severely visually impaired are provided by the Blind Field Services Division. This division of DOR provides services for consumers who are vocationally bound as well as for consumers who are not seeking employment as long as they meet DOR eligibility requirements.

Sonoma County is very fortunate to have the Earle Baum Center of the Blind. The EBC offers all levels of rehabilitation teaching, Braille instruction, orientation and mobility training and technology training. There are also classes that deal with the adjustment to having a severe vision loss. DOR contracts for services from EBC. If the consumer requires instruction for any aspect of independent living, DOR will pay for this service for them.

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0Department of Rehabilitation

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EBC has become a fabulous resource Department of Rehabilitation right here in Santa Rosa for our severely visually impaired and blind DOR consumers.

Classes are taught in many locations throughout Sonoma County and beyond. The relationship between DOR and EBC continues to grow to better serve the consumers in this region.

If you are interested in the DOR Counselor Teacher for the Blind program, or if you know someone that might be, please call me, Ilene Mattison-Shupnick at 707 576-2261. I look forward to hearing from you.

Upcoming Events

Adjusting to Vision Loss

New class starts September 24th, 2003
12 weeks, Wednesdays 9am—11am

Art History through Touch and Sound A new class will start in September, call for schedule.

**October 11, 2003— Dog-a-Thon
'A Walk for Independence'
Fundraiser— Please Help Us Grow!**

**GW Micro will host a training class
at EBC on Window Eyes, Oct. 30-31**

Contact information: www.earlebaum.org email: ebc@earlebaum.org

Tel: (707) 523-3222 Info line: (707) 636-2769 Fax: (707) 636-2768



**EARLE BAUM CENTER OF THE BLIND
4539 Occidental Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95401**

**FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Earle Baum Center of the Blind was conceived and established by the blind to provide facilities and foster programs in such areas as education, technology, rehabilitation, health, fitness and recreation, to improve the personal, social and economic condition of the blind and vision impaired.