



## Welcome/Bienvenidos

### Letter from the Director/Carta Enviada por el Director



Dear SPIN supporters,

**I**n this issue I will try to be brief, as we have so much to squeeze into a few pages, and so much is happening!

We just completed our seventh annual Quiz Nite. I am happy to report that we met our fundraising goal and earned more than last year—slowly but surely, we are growing! Special thanks go to the members of the Quiz Nite Planning Committee for all of their hard work, particularly to Chairs Amanda Owens and Eileen Fuller. Photos from Quiz Nite are included in this issue, and please note the names of everyone who made this event possible.

I would like to take a moment to thank our wonderful Board Clerk, Madelyn McCaul. She came on board in 2006 and will be leaving us at the end of May 2008. She has brightened our Board meetings with her experience, strength, and hope, and she has brought our Board to a whole other level of professionalism and organization. We will really miss her. Madelyn's commitment to SPIN is noteworthy and she is a true SPIN supporter. On behalf of SPIN's staff, Board, and families, we thank Madelyn McCaul for her dedication to SPIN! You will be missed.

Below please read an article recommended by SPIN Board Chair Ken Kulpa written by Aptos High School student Dylan Evans. Thanks again for all you do for SPIN!

#### Ken Kulpa:

Not only as chair of S.P.I.N. but as a parent of a child with special needs, it breaks my heart when at times other children & people can act different and be mean to our children, and exclude them from "typical" activities. Though many times it reinvigorates my heart and compassion and hope in humanity when other people can see our children for "who they are" and not necessarily who they are not. To follow is an essay by Dylan Evans, a high school student at Aptos High School. *(By the way he got an "A" on his paper!)*

Estimados partidarios de SPIN,

**E**n este boletín trataré de ser breve, porque tenemos demasiadas noticias para las pocas páginas, y han sucedido demasiadas cosas!

Acabamos de completar nuestra séptima Recaudación de Fondos Quiz Nite, alcanzamos nuestra meta de la recaudación de fondos e hicimos más que el año pasado, ¡lentamente pero por seguro estamos creciendo! Gracias al Comité de planificación de Quiz Nite por todo su trabajo dedicado, especialmente a la vice presidenta de la mesa directiva se SPIN Amanda Owens y Eileen Fuller. Fotos de Quiz Nite son incluidas en este boletín, y note por favor los nombres de todos los que hicieron este acontecimiento posible.

Quiero tomar un momento para dar gracias a nuestra oficial de secretaria de la mesa directiva de SPIN Madelyn McCaul. Ella vino a bordo en el 2006 y nos estará dejando a fines de mayo del 2008. Ella ha ilustrado nuestras reuniones de la mesa directiva con su experiencia, fuerza y esperanza, y ella ha llevado a nuestra mesa directiva a otro nivel de profesionalismo y organización. Nosotros realmente la extrañaremos. El compromiso de Madelyn con SPIN es digno de mencionar y ella es un partidario verdadero de SPIN. ¡A favor del personal de SPIN, la mesa directiva y las familias damos gracias a Madelyn McCaul por su dedicación a SPIN! Usted será extrañada.

A continuación lean por favor un artículo recomendado por el presidente de la mesa directiva de SPIN Ken Kulpa y escrito por un estudiante de la escuela Aptos High School Dylan Evans. ¡Gracias otra vez por todo lo que ustedes hacen para SPIN!

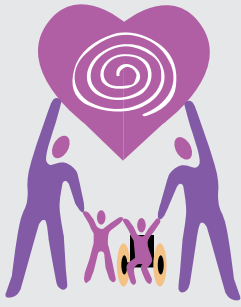
#### Ken Kulpa:

No sólo como presidente de la mesa directiva de SPIN pero como un padre de un niño con necesidades especiales, me rompe el corazón cuando a veces otros niños y personas pueden actuar diferente y ser malos con nuestros niños, y excluirlos de actividades "típicas". Aunque muchas veces me vigoriza el corazón y la

*...Nurturing  
Special Kids'  
Potential*



*...Nutriendo  
el Potencial de  
Niños Especiales*



## Special Parents Information Network

SPIN is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support, information and training to the families and guardians of children with special needs.

Red de Información para Padres Especiales SPIN es una organización sin fin de lucro dedicada a proveer apoyo, información y entrenamiento para las familias y tutores de niños con necesidades especiales.

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Ken Kulpa, *Chair*  
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## Continued From Page 1— Continua de pagina 1—

# A Great Leap Forward

BY: DYLAN EVANS  
11/6/07

Chloe Kulpa is one of the nicest people I have ever met. She is always laughing and trying to make other people happy. Whenever I see her I always want to smile because that's what she does a lot. Chloe is 10 years old. She has a twelve year old brother, Logan who is also an extremely nice kid. Clearly their parents have taught them well. Even though they are separated, they still seem to have a lot of family time together for the kids. Chloe is the type of girl who doesn't really care what people think about the way she dresses or the way she likes to run through puddles in her nice shoes. Heck she wouldn't even care if people made fun of her for lying down in a puddle. But when I hear people making fun of her it makes me really sad and angry because she is my friend, and just because she has Downs Syndrome doesn't change her in my eyes at all.

One time, about two years ago, I was skateboarding with my best friend Noah who lives across the street from Chloe's house. We were coming to the end of the street when I heard a voice that I recognized but I couldn't tell exactly who it was. Once we got to the corner I saw Chloe's Brother Logan yelling down the street to some kids. I skated over to him as fast as I could to see what was happening and he told me briefly what was going on. There were four kids who were making fun of Logan for having a sister with Downs Syndrome. I was very mad that somebody would do that, I couldn't handle somebody making fun of her so for once I actually said something. I am not usually the type

compasión y esperanza en la humanidad cuando otras personas pueden ver a nuestros niños por "quien son" y no necesariamente por lo que no son. Lo siguiente es un ensayo por Dylan Evans, un estudiante de la escuela Aptos High School. (¡El obtuvo una "A" su papel!)

# Un Gran Salto Hacia Adelante

POR: DYLAN EVANS  
11/6/07

Chloe Kulpa es una de las personas más agradables que he conocido. Ella siempre se esta sonriendo y trata de hacer feliz a otras personas. Siempre que la vea yo quiero sonreír porque eso es lo que ella hace siempre. Chloe tiene 10 años. Ella tiene un hermano de doce años de edad, Logan, que es también un niño muy agradable. Claramente sus padres los han enseñado bien. Aunque ellos están separados, ellos todavía pasan mucho tiempo juntos como familia por los niños. Chloe es el tipo de chica que no le importa realmente lo que otra gente piense de la manera que ella viste o la manera que ella quiere correr por los charcos en sus zapatos bonitos. A ella no le importa si las personas se burlan de ella por acostarse en un charco. Pero cuando oigo a personas que se burlan de ella me siento

realmente triste y enojado porque ella es mi amiga, y simplemente porque ella tienen el Síndrome de Down no la hace diferente ante mis ojos.

Un tiempo atrás, hará dos años, yo iba en mi patineta con mi mejor amigo Noah que vive al otro lado de la calle enfrente de la casa de Chloe. Íbamos llegando al fin de la calle cuando oí una voz que reconocí pero no pude distinguir exactamente quien era. Una vez que nosotros llegamos a la esquina vi al hermano de Chloe Logan gritándole en la calle a unos niños. Patiné hacia él tan rápidamente como puede para ver lo que sucedía y él me dijo brevemente lo que pasaba. Había cuatro niños que se burlaban de Logan por tener una hermana con Síndrome de Down. Me enojo el hecho que alguien haría eso, no pude soportar que alguien



# special needs/ necesidades especiales

## A Great Leap Forward/ Un Gran Salto Hacia Adelante

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2—

of person that would go up to somebody I didn't know and tell them what to do or not to do, but I was furious. I skated to where the kids were and immediately got into their faces. I kept asking them if they thought that making fun of a person with a disability made them cooler but they never answered. They kept telling me that I was stupid for hanging out with Logan because of his sister having a disability. I wanted so badly to punch them in the face but I couldn't because then I would have gotten in trouble. I told them that Chloe is one of the nicest people in the world and she would never make fun of them for being different. I finally just walked off and told them that clearly she is a lot cooler than they are. They told me that they would beat me up with a baseball bat if I ever tried to hurt them. My plan wasn't to try to hurt them it was to try to scare them and make them feel bad enough so they would shut up.

Going up to those kids and doing what I did was very hard for me. I usually wouldn't do that because I just don't have the guts, this was different though. It was my friend's little sister that I really care about so I felt like I had to. I'll tell you, when I was walking over to the kids I never had a part of my body that told me to turn back. I also knew that my good buddy Noah was behind me and would come and back me up. After I talked to the kids I couldn't believe what I just did. I couldn't believe that I just stuck up for myself, not only for myself, but for one of my friends and his sister. I was very proud of what I had accomplished and will be for the rest of my life. I felt really bad for Logan because at the time he didn't have many friends and to hear kids saying bad things about your family members really hurts. I was also very proud of Logan and how he behaved. Sure he was mad, but he didn't express his anger that much. He explained that it wasn't Chloe's fault and that he loves her the same as anybody else loves their sister. I wasn't the only one being brave. Logan was really stepping his game up, and supporting his sister for who she was. I could tell that he loved his sister and nobody was going to say bad things about it. Personally I felt very disappointed in those kids because they thought they were really cool by putting somebody else down that has a special disability. I think it gave those kids a bad reputation in our neighborhood. In a way I am glad this incident happened because that gave me a major confident boost and now I know that I should never hold back what I believe and always stick up for myself, my family, and my friends.

se burlara de ella y por primera vez dije realmente algo. Yo no soy generalmente el tipo de persona que enfrentaría a alguien para decirles que hacer o que no hacer, pero estaba furioso. Patiné hasta donde estaban los niños y me puse enfrente de sus caras. Les pregunté que si ellos pensaban que burlarse de una persona con una incapacidad los hacia mejores personas pero ellos nunca contestaron. Ellos solo me seguían diciendo que yo era un estúpido por juntarme con Logan porque su hermana tiene una incapacidad. Deseaba tanto darles unos puñetazos en la cara pero no pude porque entonces me metería en problemas. Yo les dije que Chloe es una de las personas más agradables en el mundo y que ella nunca se burlaría de ellos por ser diferentes. Por último me aleje de ellos y les dije que claramente ella era mejor persona que ellos. Ellos me dijeron que me pegarían con un bate de béisbol si algún día trataba de lastimarlos. Mi plan no era lastimarlos, solo quería tratar de espantarlos y hacerlos sentir lo suficiente mal para que se callaran.

Enfrentar a esos niños y hacer todo lo que hice fue muy duro para mí. Yo generalmente no haría esto porque no tengo el valor, pero esto fue diferente. Era la hermana pequeña de mi amigos y yo la aprecio mucho así que sentí que tenía que hacerlo. Les diré, cuando caminaba hacia los niños yo nunca tuve una parte de mi cuerpo que dijera regrésate. Yo también sabia que mi mejor amigo Noah estaba detrás de mí y que el vendría apoyarme. Después de que hable con los niños yo no podía creer lo que acababa de hacer. Yo no podía creer que acababa de defenderme yo mismo, no sólo por mi, pero por uno de mis amigos y su hermana. Estoy muy orgulloso de lo que hice y lo estaré por el resto de mi vida. Me sentí realmente mal por Logan porque en aquel momento él no tenia muchos amigos y oír que otros niños dicen cosas malas acerca de algún miembro de tu familia realmente duele. También me sentí muy orgullo de Logan por la manera en que se comporto. Claro que el estaba enojado, pero él no expresó su ira. El explicó que no era la culpa de Chloe y que él la adora al igual que cualquiera adora a su propia hermana. Yo no era el unico valiente. Logan realmente se mantuvo arriba del juego y supo apoyar a su hermana por quien ella es. Puedo decir que él adora a su hermana y nadie iba a decir cosas malas acerca de eso. Personalmente me sentí muy decepcionado de esos niños porque ellos pensaron que eran mejores por el hecho de ofender a alguien que tiene una incapacidad especial. Pienso que esto les dio una mala reputación a esos niños en nuestro vecindario. De cierta manera yo estoy contento que este incidente haya sucedió porque esto le dio un empuje a mi valentía y ahora se que nunca debo callarme lo que pienso y que debo defenderme a mi mismo, mi familia, y mis amigos.

# announcements/ anuncios

## Spin and UCSC Sports Day a Great Success!

**O**n Saturday January 19th a Sports Day was held at the UCSC East Field house area. This event was collaboration between SPIN and UCSC athletes.

Bobby Petro, who is the chair of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) rounded up athletes from the volleyball, soccer, tennis and basketball teams, he also got volunteers from a local high school.

The weather was perfect and Bobby led us in a group stretch, we then broke up into small groups and participated in basketball, tennis, soccer and volleyball.

Our kids had “Buddies” that consisted of the student athletes. They worked with them to teach them skills and also had a great time with them. The event was held from 10:30 to 1:30. We were very lucky to have Woodstock’s Pizza. Not only did they donate the pizza but delivered it as well. We also had Adam Booth at Central Coast Running donate some Gu. The parents of the participants were very pleased to see their kids engage in all the sports and it was nice for the parents to be able to take a little break and know that their kids were in good hands. We want to send a big “Thank You” to Bobby Petro for contacting us and to all the student athletes who volunteered their time on a beautiful Saturday morning and made a difference in our kids lives, You guys are awesome!



## Great Ways to Get Support!:

To get support in parenting your special needs child (any age – any disability) you are encouraged to call us at 722-2800 or 423-7713 to speak to our Parent Support Coordinators or to request a mentor or ‘buddy parent.’ OR come to the SPIN All Disabilities Support Group (Next meetings: May 7th and June 4th from 7:00-8:30. NOTE: there will be no meetings this summer.) \*NEW! We have re-started the Support Group for Parents of Hard of Hearing and Deaf Children. It meets along with the All Disabilities Support Group (see info above.)

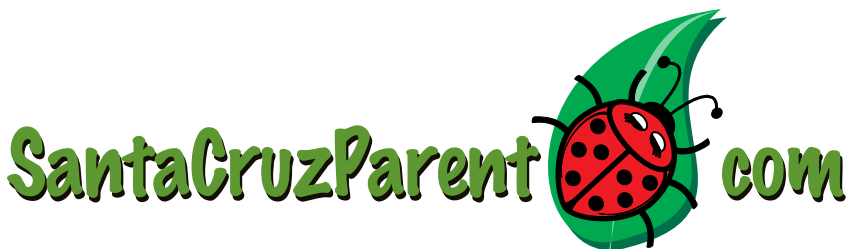
► **Please remember to check out the SPIN website:**  
**[www.spinsc.org](http://www.spinsc.org) for the latest on activities, events, support groups, and more!**

**Recuerde por favor de visitar el sitio web de SPIN:**  
**[www.spinsc.org](http://www.spinsc.org) para lo último en actividades, eventos, grupos de apoyo, y más!**

## A call for board members

### We Want You—

Would you like to give back to the community? Would you like to help families of kids with special needs & help SPIN become a stronger organization? If you want to serve on a dynamic & dedicated Board of Directors, then SPIN would like to talk to you. Please call Cece Pinheiro at 722-2800 for details.—Thank you



Online website centralizing resources for families.  
Free weekly newsletter with events and information.

## Join our new SPIN Yahoo Online Discussion Group!

We now have a yahoo group set up so families, SPIN staff, and those who are supporting special needs children can share information and provide emotional support to others on the list. To participate, go to the yahoo groups page and search for spinsc. OR go to this webpage: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/spinsc>

Follow the directions to join. Be sure to tell us your name and whether you are a parent or professional. The more who join, the more people who can give and receive support! Our group email is: [spinsc@yahoogroups.com](mailto:spinsc@yahoogroups.com)

For more info, contact Nancy at 423-7713 or [nwinans@spinsc.org](mailto:nwinans@spinsc.org)

THANKS! - Nancy

*Alone we can  
do so little.  
Together we can  
do so much.*

HELEN KELLER



*Solos podemos  
hacer poco.  
Juntos podemos  
hacer mucho.*

HELEN KELLER

# thank you/ gracias

## QUIZ NITE 2007

### Seventh Annual Fundraiser a Great Success!

¡La Séptima Recaudación de Fondos Anual Fue Todo un Éxito!

**Q**uiz Nite 2008 at the Seascape Golf Club on March 8th was more fun than ever, with the theme of Gold Rush". Our Guests enjoyed a lovely dinner, quizzing competition, gold nugget "surprises" and a silent and live auction. Mitchell Jackman's table received the award for "Best Costumes and Table Decoration". John Kaster's table received the award for "Highest Quiz Score".

Special thanks go out to the following people who made Quiz Nite such a wonderful, successful night: Our Celebrity MC, Lex Vandenberghe; Bill & Sheryl Wobber, our Quiz Maters; our Board of Directors; Peg Gallagher, Ken Kulpa, Amanda Owens, Rhea DeHart, Eileen Fuller, John Kaster, Anita Wray Pearson, Kimberly Schehrer; our volunteers Aaron Haifley, Bubba Moulton, Cheri Bell, Danny French, Debbie Menges, Drea Batteast, Heidi Lister, Jean Peterson, Jim Vossen, Kalena Allard, Lisa Zachau, Pat Golditch, Sonia Plageman, Vincent Gianotti. We thank all of the parents, and other friends who came to Quiz Nite and made it the best event of the year! We hope to see you again next year!

**A big thank you to the following businesses and individuals who donated to Quiz Nite!**

¡Muchas gracias a los siguientes negocios e individuos quienes donaron a Quiz Nite!

*A big thank you  
to the following  
businesses and  
individuals who  
donated to  
Quiz Nite!*

*¡Muchas gracias  
a los siguientes  
negocios e  
individuos  
quienes donaron  
a Quiz Nite!*

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Chardonnay Sailing Charters  
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Reed Kuratomi, DDS

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### QUIZ NITE DONORS

*Continued—*

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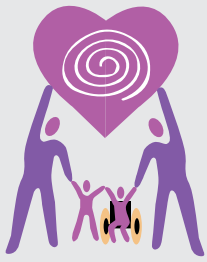
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Call Ken Kulpa for details (831) 684-2000

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**LandByTheSea.com**



**Special Parents  
Information Network**

**Mailing address/Domicilio**  
P.O. Box 2367  
Santa Cruz, Ca 95063  
Email: info@spinsc.org

**So. Santa Cruz Co Office**  
294 Green Valley Rd. Ste. 313  
Watsonville, Ca 95076  
Phone: (831)722-2800  
Fax: (831)722-2580

**No. Santa Cruz Co Office**  
740 Front Street, Suite 175  
Santa Cruz, Ca 95060  
Phone (831)423-7713

**San Benito Co Office**  
P.O. Box 2367  
Santa Cruz, Ca 95063  
Phone: (831)630-6358

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR—**

**Up-coming SPIN Events and Workshops**

**Coming August 30th 2008  
Próximamente  
el 30 de Agosto del 2008**

**Assistive Technology Symposium  
Simposio de Tecnologia Asistiva**

Sponsored by  
The Central Coast Children's Foundation



**SPIN'S  
First Community  
Spinner Awards-  
Lucky 8 Ceremony**

**August 23rd, 2008  
3:30-6:30PM**  
YWCA, 340 East Beach Street, Watsonville  
\$15 per person

**SPIN is a member of "CAFEC" – The California Association of FamilyEmpowerment Centers on Disability – [www.cafec.org](http://www.cafec.org)**



**Special Parents Information Network (SPIN)**

P.O. Box 2367  
Santa Cruz, Ca 95063  
Email: info@spinsc.org  
Website: [www.spinsc.org](http://www.spinsc.org)

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