



Children enjoy a visit with Santa at Compass' annual holiday party. Thanks to generous donors, each family took home a copy of "Olive, the Other Reindeer".

A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

We could not do the work we do at Compass without the support of our many generous corporate partners. This year, we were very lucky to be chosen by the amazing employees at the San Francisco office of GATX, a long-time Compass supporter, to be one of two beneficiaries of their annual *Fun Fun Fundraiser*.

Each year, this amazing group of coworkers participates in two weeks of scheduled games and fun activities, including a bocce tournament, a luncheon and a wine tasting.

Employees pay to participate in each event, and buy tickets for a myriad of raffles for wonderful prizes. All money raised goes to a charity chosen by the employees. The whole thing culminates with a celebration at which the raffle winners are chosen and the amount raised is revealed.

We were absolutely bowled over to learn that a total of \$52,000 had been raised! GATX really has it figured out! Their team benefitted from two weeks of fun activities that promoted camaraderie, good cheer and team spirit, while at the same time, raising funds which will make a big difference in the lives of the homeless families we serve at Compass.

Says Jeanne Sexton, one of the organizers: "Here at GATX, the *Fun Fun Fundraiser* is the highlight of the year. Compass Family Services, with its proven track record of 'Helping families find their way' was an ideal beneficiary for our 2011 campaign!"

DREAMS COME TRUE ADOPT-A-FAMILY 2011

The holiday season is about giving. Each year through our Adopt-a-Family project, hundreds of generous donors from the local community have the chance to make holiday wishes come true for Compass families. The magic of the season is reflected in the generosity of the many donors who enthusiastically buy, wrap and deliver gifts for their adopted families. Tears of joy and hugs all around are common when our client families pick up their gifts.

Thanks to an outpouring of community support, Compass adopted a record 450 families this year. In addition to dolls, Legos and lots and lots of Play-Doh, donors helped families meet some very special needs with gifts that will make a huge impact in their everyday lives.

Shoes for Emily

Reyna Diaz's wish list had a special request. "My daughter, Emily, has a

COMPASS' ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY DELIVERS GOOD CHEER

The annual holiday party is Compass' most highly anticipated event of the year. The event is the culmination of months of hard work by Compass staff and a small army of amazing volunteers.

The party offered something for every member of the family. The children loved meeting our very engaging Santa Claus, who was played by long time Compass volunteer Todd Kahl. The kids also had the chance to win great prizes at our winter carnival, organized by the staff at Compass Family Resource Center.



leg condition that requires regular physical therapy. The shoes that she needs are very expensive and not covered by insurance. We could really use help to buy her shoes.”

The last time that the family had to buy these shoes, they cost \$1,400, a fortune for them. Emily’s parents managed to pay for them by getting second jobs and borrowing money from family members.

Realizing that \$1,400 would be a tremendous amount to ask for, Reyna said she would be very happy if someone could help with even a small part of the cost. Adopt-a-Family donor Bixby Jamison and friends, however, made it their mission to try to raise the entire \$1,400. Through their generosity they were able to raise more than \$1,000, and Emily is well on the way to getting the shoes that she needs.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY THANKS

Our thanks to these groups and corporations for their many contributions this holiday season.

- BuildOn
- Children of Shelters
- Debra J. Dolch Fiduciary Services
- Deutsche Bank
- Expression Dance Troupe
- GATX
- Girl Scout Troop #31223
- Kimball Office
- Optimum Health Chiropractic
- Payless Shoe Source
- PENSCO
- Project Glimmer
- Redmond Aldrich Design
- San Francisco Giants
- SF Zen Center
- ShoeBiz
- Shreve & Co.
- SOMA Storage Facility
- The Village Well
- Western Oregon University
- Wong Family Case Car Fundraiser
- Youth Against Poverty
- Zuni Café

IN HER OWN WORDS

Listen to Dianna tell her story of losing everything and how Compass helped her family rebuild.

www.compass-sf.org/news/93-diannas-story

WHEN A FAMILY LOSES EVERYTHING, COMPASS IS THERE

Laila and her mother smelled smoke when they entered their apartment, but they were not prepared to see flames shooting out of the closet in the bedroom that the family shared. Her mom, Dianna, then eight months pregnant with her little brother, pulled Laila from the room.

Laila’s dad, home early from work for the first time in months, burst into the apartment just as Dianna was starting to worry that she would not be able to get her daughter out by herself. The three escaped unharmed, but the fire, which started in the trash chute adjacent to their apartment, destroyed everything and Laila was inconsolable at the loss of her turtle and goldfish.

The family spent the night at a distant relative’s house. The next morning Laila didn’t want to go outside, but her mom knew that Compass Children’s Center was the best place she could be that day. She knew that the center, where Laila had been enrolled since she was one-year old, would know how to help her daughter and wouldn’t care if she came in her pajamas and without shoes.

“It doesn’t matter if you have shoes,” she told Laila, “You love to play barefoot at school.”

When Laila and Dianna arrived at Compass Children’s Center that morning, staff immediately knew that something was wrong. After hearing the story and sharing many hugs, the Compass Children’s Center staff swung into action.

With the help of the center’s Family Service Coordinator, Dianna and her husband worked with the Red Cross to find temporary accommodations for the family. On-site play therapy was also immediately coordinated for Laila to help her process the traumatic event.

Laila’s primary teacher also carefully monitored her behaviors and moods

to ensure that Laila always felt secure and loved.

By the end of that first day, Laila had enough clothing and shoes for a week. Within a month, the Children’s Center staff had coordinated donations and services to ensure that the family had a safe place to live, clothing, everything that they would need for the arrival of the new baby and the ongoing support necessary to move forward.

According to Dianna, her daughter has finally started to smile again and she credits much of her family’s stability and good health to the extraordinary efforts of the Compass Children’s Center staff.

Although it will be a surprise to Laila when she graduates from the center in a few months, the staff let her parents in on a little secret that awaits her: a fat photo album of Laila and her parents throughout their years at Compass Children’s Center.



Dianna at Compass Children’s Center with a smiling Laila and baby Jacobo.

Thanks to generous donations, each family also got to take home a copy of the new holiday classic, "Olive, the Other Reindeer" which was the inspiration for the beautiful decorations created by the amazing team at Redmond Aldrich Design.

"Chef Alex" Tamburro and his staff cooked up a chili feast for the families. In addition to coordinating the meal for the holiday party for the past four years, Chef Alex also teaches a regular children's cooking class at Compass Family Shelter.

This year a record 400 parents and children attended the party. All of us at Compass are so grateful for the generosity and dedication of our community. You helped us make this event such a success!



top: The Redmond Aldrich Design team, led by Chloe Warner, has made the party beautiful for each of the past four years!

middle: Amazing baker, Rosie Monson, donated hundreds of cupcakes for the party for the second year!

bottom: Chef Alex in his natural habitat overseeing a meal that featured homemade chili and corn bread.

A FUNDRAISER FOR COMPASS WITH GLAMOUR, SPARKLE & SHINE



top: Glen Ross, President, Shreve & Co., Sloan Klein, Chair, Compass Board of Directors, Katie Traina, Compass board member and Todd Traina.

right: Guests enjoyed cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and live music. Shreve & Co. donated five percent of the evening's purchases to Compass.



Shreve & Co. and *San Francisco* magazine combined forces to host a fabulous event to benefit Compass on December 15. The red carpet cocktail party at Shreve's Post Street store generated more than \$5,000 in donations in support of Compass' six programs for homeless and low income families.

"We were thrilled to be able to support an incredible organization like Compass that is providing such important services and resources to people in need."

Glen Ross,
President
Shreve & Co.

Guests enjoyed signature cocktails by Pisco Portion and wines by Rockaway, Rodney Strong and Symetry along with live music.

NEW SHOES A GOOD FIT

Many thanks to Payless Shoe Source for their generosity that allowed 100 Compass children to get a new pair of shoes this holiday season.



A COMMUNITY RESPONDS

Several recent news pieces highlighting the soaring number of families waiting for shelter in San Francisco, and the particular challenges faced by homeless children, ignited public discussion about the issue of family homelessness. Not content to simply talk about this problem, members of the community jumped into action.

Compass is thankful for and humbled by the outpouring of support for our client families. After a Compass client shared her story on KQED's Forum, we heard over and over again, "I had to pull over because I was crying so hard that I couldn't see the road."

We truly appreciate the concern that has been shown for the particular families who had the courage to share their stories. Compass continues to work directly with these families to help them move toward long-term stability.

To read our recent news coverage, please visit www.compass-sf.org/ news.