

# AnchorLine

*the newsletter for supporters*

**Spring 2016**

**Issue #1**

published and  
distributed twice yearly

staff goodbyes  
sugar's in the kitchen  
save these dates

**Anchor Center  
for Blind Children  
teaches visually  
impaired infants,  
young children  
and their families,  
providing hope  
and a nurturing  
environment where  
children reach their  
highest potential.**

## PRESENTING **of** 2016 THE CLASS

**Anchors Away! On June 9, 2016, seven of our preschoolers threw their sailor hat up in the air as we celebrated their graduation. They are all brave, kind and sweet children who have taught us the meaning of patience, perseverance and joy. Their future is bright as they head off to public school. Congratulations, graduates and families!**



### Antonio

Through his enjoyable vocalizations and by lifting his arms, Antonio shared his enthusiasm for learning and playing here at Anchor Center. He loved circle time and orientation and mobility, as well as being around the other students. We were so fortunate to have had him in the Go Go Goats classroom this year!



### Liah

Liah will be remembered for her boisterous spirit, endless energy and loving ways towards her peers and teachers. Her skills have grown immensely over the years. We are so proud of how well she is able to advocate for her vision needs. Go Liah!

### Dani

Dani's sweet nature has endeared her to all of Anchor Center's staff and students. She is a loving, curious, and creative young lady. We wish her great success in her next adventure.



### Leo

Leo is full of life and willing to take every challenge head on. His outgoing personality always has us laughing and on our toes. He loves being around his friends and reading their names when he comes in every morning. We'll miss his enthusiasm and excitement for Anchor Center!



*continued on page 3*

# from the executive director



## Happy Sails!

These talented and outstanding team members will be dearly missed as they journey on beyond Anchor Center. We've asked several staff members to reflect and share their thoughts on each as we honor them here. Our friends and colleagues, you will be dearly missed — let this not be farewell but until we see you again!



### Angela Vanderlan

*Teaching Assistant and Certified Occupational Assistant*

"I see her as flexible, calm, intuitive, fun and having a great sense of humor."

— Donna Halffield

"Where would our spirits be without Angie's contribution to our gardens? I love it when she includes all staff in the sunflower planting tradition!"

— Gwen Borchert

"Angie's love of the children and the world of plants have taken our horticultural program to new heights. She is always ready to be at Anchor when volunteers want to come and work in the sensory gardens, plant sunflowers or create pizza and salsa gardens to help our children understand where food comes from."

— Kristine Wolfe

"The horticulture program and property would not be where they are today without her guidance, talent and vision. Thank you!"

— Zoe Morgese

"I hope as she moves into this next phase of life, she gets to take a lot of time to enjoy and smell the roses and let someone else do the pruning and weeding!"

— Mindy Doyle-McCall



### Kivanc Ozer-Afsar

*Family Specialist*

"Kivanc is caring and compassionate but also no-nonsense. I will miss her smiling face and big heart (and her wonderful Turkish accent)!"

— Mindy Doyle-McCall

"She is intuitive and an intellectual."

— Savannah Wippel

"Kivanc is always available for staff and parents – a pleasure to work with."

— Amy Marians

"She is the calm in our storms. I've seen her deal with families with calm, skill and commitment to a good solution. She is welcoming, warm and without a grain of judgement."

— Gwen Borchert



### Caroline Lemmens

*Early Childhood Teacher*

"She is a person who says 'Yes'. 'Yes' to jumping in to help wherever needed, 'yes' to learning, 'yes' to contributing."

— Zoe Morgese

"Caroline is feisty and funny — with a great laugh!"

— Savannah Wippel

"She is a natural teacher. Caroline has always amazed me. I have great respect for her talents and know she will have a significant impact in the world of early childhood special education."

— Mindy Doyle-McCall

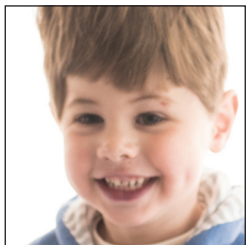
"To receive the gift of her heart, her compassion and her skills is to be fulfilled."

— Gwen Borchert

"Caroline is extremely dedicated to her students and their families. She goes above and beyond to support and advocate for them in any way she can."

— Amy Marians

# THE CLASS of 2016



## Patrick

As keeper of our hearts for the last four years, Patrick and his family will long remain with us here in spirit. He is a sweet-natured, inquisitive young man who is a friend to everyone he meets.



## Serges

A well-known force at Anchor Center, Serges is a brilliant student with a passion for success. He is a born leader and compassionate friend. Get ready world — Serges is coming your way!

## Michaela

Michaela is a social butterfly who loves being around her Anchor Center friends. She talks with her smile and eyes! This smart girl is off to a great adventure in kindergarten!



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## Sugar's in the Kitchen

*With assistance from Sarah Kim, Special Events and Development Intern*

In your typical kitchen, sugar might be a common baking ingredient. At Anchor Center, Sugar is a nearly 2-year-old yellow lab from Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) and a new guide dog for staff member Melissa Licon.

At five months old, Melissa was diagnosed with Optic Nerve Hypoplasia (underdeveloped optic nerves). After coming to Anchor Center for services, she remembers her favorite childhood memories being in the Light and Motor Rooms due to the light stimulation and fun activities.

Graduating from Anchor Center in 1997, Melissa never could have imagined then where she'd be today. In 2012, Melissa felt compelled to return to volunteer. "I started volunteering just because I really liked being here. I worked in the kitchen with Wendy Woodard, who was here when

I was a student," she recalls. Now Melissa works part-time as our Kitchen Assistant, preparing the very snack time meals she experienced as a child. "It's nice being able to work with people who taught me," Melissa shared.

In recent months, the kitchen was bustling with the sounds of learning while Melissa was hard at work. After completing research, Melissa had made the decision to get a guide dog. "I was at the point in my life where I needed one," she stated.

The in-depth GDB matching system required a seven step process, including a phone interview and written application. Following a four-hour home interview asking about personality styles, living situation and home environment, Melissa experienced the "Juno Exercise" — simulated guide work using a harness handle, to track pace and speed. All the information was entered into the GDB database in order to create the perfect match. Following her approval into the program, Melissa flew to GDB's San Rafael campus outside San Francisco for a two-week class in California. Once there, she was introduced to Sugar, where they spent hours getting to know each other. Melissa describes Sugar as "mellow, yet having enough energy to work and play."

Training started by learning the basics of how to work with a dog — commands, leash gestures and equipment. By week two there was advanced sessions in more specialized training for Melissa's individualized needs. Their time culminated with graduation day, a bittersweet moment.

Now home in Denver, Melissa commutes to work every day with Sugar by her side. A permanent addition in the kitchen, Sugar loves greeting everyone and will continue to make a difference in Melissa's life as she leads the way in a bright and independent future.





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### Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Annual Report to the Community

Anchor Center's 2013-2014 Annual Report to the Community is posted online at anchorcenter.org under the "Who We Are" link. We are deeply grateful for all of our 2014-2015 supporters who share our vision. All of our activities and accomplishments are made possible by the generosity of friends like you! Thank you for choosing to make a lasting impact on the children and families we serve.

## Upcoming Events

**June 14**  
**Annual Meeting, Anchor Center Community Room, 7 p.m.**

A celebration of 2015-16 and presentation of the Virginia Deal Williams Volunteer of the Year Award. All are welcome to attend.

**June 29**  
**ForeSight Golf Classic, Sanctuary Golf Course, Shotgun Start, 11:30 a.m.**

Many thanks to our title sponsor, Energy Corporation of America, and our presenting sponsor, RE/MAX LLC, for generously hosting the 20th Annual ForeSight Golf Classic. Don't miss your chance to play at this exclusive, world-class course. We've only got a few spots left! To register a team or individual player, contact Kristine Wolfe at 303-377-9732 ext. 114.



RE/MAX



**July 29**  
**Sunset in the Country 2016**  
**Home of Jim and Pam Crowe**

**September 24**  
**6th Annual Cherrity Pie Festival at Anchor Center**



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