

## Pre-school teacher support service joins StarVista's Early Childhood team

We are excited to announce that, beginning July 1 2012, our Early Childhood Services will offer new services to pre-schools and childcare programs serving low-income families on the Peninsula. Specially trained Early Childhood Mental Health consultants will work with teachers and families on strategies to ensure successful and appropriate peer group experiences for children with specific behavioral challenges. Early help for these kids – who may have difficulty adapting to group play and learning experiences – and screening for any development and behavioral issues that could require early intervention, is critical in ensuring a smooth transition to Kindergarten and to a life of learning.

StarVista has partnered with Jewish Family and Children's Services, who has provided this service for the past 12 years. We agreed that to improve services for predominantly Spanish speaking families we will combine them with StarVista's bilingual support services as part of our Early Childhood Team. We welcome them to StarVista!

For more information on our services for young children, visit our website at [http://www.star-vista.org/what\\_we\\_do/children/](http://www.star-vista.org/what_we_do/children/)



Volunteers from Rebuilding Together worked with Daybreak program participants to freshen up our youth house in Redwood City.

## New season means a new look as Daybreak gets a makeover

Twenty volunteers from Rebuilding Together Peninsula gave StarVista's Daybreak program site in Redwood City a "spring makeover" on Saturday April 28th. The community and corporate volunteers, joined by 10 Daybreak residents and local youth, gave a fresh coat of paint in all the rooms, spruced up the yard and garden, and repaired our garden shed.

StarVista's Daybreak program, which provides transitional housing and independent living skills training for homeless youth aged 16-21, provides a structured twelve-month program where residents are required to attend school, work, and save a portion of their paychecks. Teens are connected to medical and mental health services, and learn how to shop, cook, manage their money, find and maintain a job, and locate housing. 90% of the young people who graduate from Daybreak move on to a positive independent living situation to continue with their work experience and education after building a savings account to provide for their financial stability.

Rebuilding Together Peninsula – formerly known as "Christmas in April" – builds volunteer partnerships to rehabilitate homes and community centers for our neighbors in need. StarVista's Daybreak Program Manager Sabina LaCosse Harris said: "This was a wonderful experience for our youth, and we appreciate the community's help in creating a positive environment for the residents."

For more information on StarVista's programs for youth, visit our website at [http://www.star-vista.org/what\\_we\\_do/youth/](http://www.star-vista.org/what_we_do/youth/)

## Youth developmental assets: High expectations, high results

What's the most effective way to ensure that young people succeed?

The Search Institute, a leader and partner for organizations in discovering what kids need to succeed, has identified a set of 40 common sense, positive experiences and qualities known as Developmental Assets® that help influence choices young people make and that help them become caring, responsible, successful adults. StarVista's youth programs subscribe to these theories and practices to help create a community where all young people are valued and thrive.

The basics are simple:

**Set high expectations** Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.

**Take action** Assume that all young people want to and can achieve important goals.

StarVista's youth programs help provide support, promote positive influences and work with young people to offer the tools needed to achieve and to succeed. The outcome: 80% of youth in our residential programs continue their education, and 96% of formerly homeless youth are in school, job training, or have completed their GED.