

MEDIA KIT 2008



GET A LIFE...
FOUNDATION
PRESCHOOL • CHILDCARE • MENTORING

www.getalifechildcare.org
phone 323-829-1724

5008 Valley Ridge Ave.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90043

How the “Get A Life... Foundation” Helps families



Welcome to the “Get a Life ... Foundation”
I’m Jade Stanford, Founder and CEO



Jade Stanford
and
her kids

Message from the Founder...

Hello and thank you for your support of “Get A Life.” The academic curriculum at “Get A Life” is rich and full of all the skills needed for our children to thrive and move forward in today’s competitive school environment. In addition, to promoting cognitive development, we provide a nurturing atmosphere that embraces and supports the family dynamic caused by illness. Children are welcomed into a second family away from home. The daily routines that the center provides allows each child to feel a sense of normalcy.

Children coping with illness or loss in their family need to have this type of setting. As well, we offer mentoring to the parents who are going through this time, sharing our experience and letting parents going through illness form support with one another.

The next phase of our program is identifying each family’s particular needs based on the family’s exact crisis. This also includes referrals to resources that help them to navigate through their crisis. These referrals include... psychological counseling, insurance counseling, parenting skills, holistic and alternative healthcare and more.

These services and referrals have proven invaluable to parents and their children as they move through the family illness and the financial and mental struggles that are associated with it.

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Our Story



Who we are

The "Get A Life... Foundation" is the only organization in the nation that promotes and offers care for children whose parents are living with chronic or terminal illness. As featured on and awarded by the Emmy Award winning PBS television series "A Place Of Our Own", the foundation attempts to bring attention to the need for care of the entire family when illness and disease hits home. The California State Senate, First 5 of California and BP oil have also recognized the foundation for its exemplary work in improving child care in the state of California.

Our Story

Five years ago when my husband Robbie was faced with chemotherapy to treat his leukemia, we realized we needed help with our 2 children. So we sought part time child care.

We quickly discovered that 99% of the facilities did not offer flexible child care. Due to the number of medical bills that we amassed, we were not financially capable of sending our youngest to fulltime child care, thus, we were on our own to provide a stable environment for our children as Robbie battled cancer.

Six months of chemotherapy had physically and mentally devastated Robbie and if it had not been for the support of family and friends I would have been emotionally bankrupt. Throughout it all we did our best to create an emotional safe haven away from Robbie's illness. But just imagine, how our lives would have changed if there had been a "Get A Life..." for my children to experience as a second home and for me to count on for support.

This experience changed our lives forever. We understood that our struggle need not be repeated by others. Robbie and I pledged to help families experiencing the same physical, financial and emotional hardship we had endured. Our mission was to ensure that families facing chronic or terminal illness did not have to go it alone. Thus, the "Get A Life... Foundation" was founded.

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Mission



Philosophy

At "Get A Life" we create a warm environment, which supports the developing child in reaching his or her full potential. We believe that children are unique and should feel proud of their abilities, family, and culture. Our program encourages a family centered partnership facilitating a comfortable transition from home to school and strengthening the positive interactions between parents and their children.



Mission

"Get A Life" is dedicated to caring for children whose parents are living with chronic or terminal illness. Through providing care, love and support, we help to bring a sense of balance to everyday living.

Our mission is accomplished by providing nurturing care for the children and helping families build community networks that support their needs while living with chronic or terminal illness.

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Vision



Vision



The VISION of the Get A Life... Foundation is to create a synergy of people helping people by providing flexible, safe, affordable and nurturing child care, preschool and family counseling services to families who have a family member with a chronic or terminal illness and/or who have lost a spouse. These same families usually face financial as well as emotional trauma due to a long term chronic/terminal illness or disability.

These services include:

- 1) Safe, flexible, affirming and affordable short or long term pre-school or child care.
- 2) Mentoring for parents and children facing health crisis in their family.
- 3) Affordable mental health care for children and their parents who are struggling to cope with workplace pressure due to a devastating health crisis in their family.
- 4) Parenting classes and workshops focused especially on young parents who statistically possess fewer parenting skills and are more at risk for abuse and neglect, particularly during a crisis.

We believe that disabilities, illness and mental health issues affect the lives of all family members. Consequently, we want to increase the peer support and information opportunities for parents, brothers and sisters of people with special needs and to increase AWARENESS TO ALL.

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Facts



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YOU SHOULD KNOW

- 1 in 3 americans will have some form of chronic illness in their lives.
- The financial and emotional stress of caring for an ill family member can take a toll, leading to depression in about 60% of cases and 40% are considered major depression.
- Many children who have a parent with a chronic or terminal illness will eventually need some form of counseling because their childhood has been interrupted.
- Only 30% of all workers who have paid sick leave are permitted to use it to take care of an ill spouse, family member or child.

When a spouse or other family member becomes ill, making child care arrangements, seeking professional psychological support, and (in some cases) learning how to develop coping skills in a stressful and unpredictable home environment (and the costs associated with these services) can become overwhelming. The primary caregiver must attempt to juggle the pressure of a job, manage the finances and take on the added family responsibilities.

A parent or a child with special needs can quickly become the center of the family's attention, for better or worse. While an intensive focus on therapy and treatment can be good for the parent or child receiving them, they can often leave siblings feeling neglected and if one parent is taking on most of the burden, strain can show on the marriage as well. The good news is that help and support for individual family members and the family in general is often only a mouse-click or a phone call away. The "Get A Life...Foundation" provides that service. The children have special needs and challenges of their own, including finding their place in a family that may be preoccupied with one sick parent or child, and dealing on a daily basis with behavior that may be hard to understand.



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How you can help Get A Life... Foundation



Join us



You can help our kids to just be kids and find their place in a household that can be stressful and overwhelmed with family illness. By joining our cause, you too can help others that are devastated emotionally and financially by illness. Give your support in any way you can by spreading the word, giving a hand, donating or speaking out on behalf of "Get A Life". YOU can help champion this cause!

Donate



An online donation is a simple and secure way to help us at "Get A Life." Your contributions play a vital role in our efforts to help children and their families.

Volunteer



We are always looking for volunteers and we have many fulfilling opportunities.

Our Early Child Care and Education program provides low cost, quality care to children of families facing health crisis as well as parents facing all types of family crisis. The GAL Center serves 48 children daily ranging in age from infant to five years old and is open Monday through Friday 7:30 to 5:30. Volunteers can work in the child care center as teachers' aides. Responsibilities include reading to the children, being a mentor, helping with arts and crafts, meals, and circle time. Volunteer shifts are: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm and 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm. Some weekend and evening shifts are available. Other opportunities are available on a seasonal basis. Do you have a talent you would like to share? Whether it be art, music or dance please contact us, your contribution will be appreciated.

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