

## A Talented Young Painter Takes Form

WHEN NICHOLAS COLEY FIRST MET AT THE CROSSROADS MORE THAN TEN YEARS AGO, HE WAS, AS HE DESCRIBES, “BOUNCING AROUND FROM ONE GIRLFRIEND TO ANOTHER, WITH A DAILY HEROIN PROBLEM, REALLY DEPRESSED AND IN A CONSTANT STATE OF PAIN AND SICKNESS BECAUSE I WAS NOT VERY GOOD AT COMING UP WITH THE RESOURCES TO STAY WELL.” A LOT HAS CHANGED IN THE PAST DECADE, AS NICK HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF TO HIS PASSION FOR PAINTING. HERE, NICK REFLECTS ON WHAT IT’S BEEN LIKE TO BUILD THE LIFE HE HAS NOW, AND WHERE HE HAS COME FROM. IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO BE PART OF NICK’S LIFE OVER THE PAST DECADE.

Some kind of major psychological change happened between then and now. Somewhere in my late 20s, I stopped a lot of the self-indulgent philosophies running around in my head, the self-pitying inner voices, and cracked down. I had a mythology of pain being important for artists. I think I believed a lot of that sort of b.s. of Bukowski or so many artists, who have mythologized pain and suffering as

a necessary course. Now, I think on account of that, part of my sense of humor is built around just being clowny – making fun of myself. The back of my truck has big pink letters that say “wild about otters,” and people laugh at me all the time. I wear silly straw hats and checkered shirts and look like Howdy Doody, or a rodeo clown on the side of the road, painting freeways and stuff.

But I’ve also become much tougher on myself and raised the bar on expectations as far as my work ethic goes. You know, creativity is weird. I am not very conscious of how it works. I just know that it’s this force inside me that hasn’t ever ceased. I guess I should feel really blessed for having that. I look forward every day to painting, and ten years ago I couldn’t, because I was sick all the time or I didn’t have a residence or I didn’t have a place to keep art supplies. I think if you want to be committed to any craft of any kind, you have to be doing it all the time. I paint 5 or 6 days a week now. I can see myself developing at a rate that in my teens and 20s wasn’t happening as fast. I feel like I’m devouring the subjects that I’m tackling.

NICK Continued on Page 5

Looking back on our Anniversary year, we have much to be grateful for. In this newsletter, we highlight some of the amazing things that happened this year, and two individuals who made a big impact on ATC.



Nicholas Coley's recent painting, Freeway Pillars #3.

## From ATC's First Step to Its Bright Future

ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS SINCE TAJ MUSTAPHA LEFT AT THE CROSSROADS TO PURSUE HER MEDICAL CAREER, NONE OF OUR WORK WOULD HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT HER. THE FIRST SEED FOR ATC WAS PLANTED WHEN SHE AND FELLOW STANFORD UNIVERSITY STUDENT ROB GITIN MET AT A SAN JOSE DROP-IN CENTER FOR HOMELESS YOUTH IN THE MID-1990S. AS ATC CELEBRATES MORE THAN TEN YEARS OF REACHING OUT TO YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO, WE SAT DOWN WITH OUR “OTHER” CO-FOUNDER, NOW FOCUSED ON ADOLESCENT MEDICINE, TO GET THE SCOOP ON ATC’S PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

*When you and Rob met at the drop-in center, did you both know this was the work you wanted to do?*

Oh no. We were just kind of figuring things out. I think we both knew that we really liked the work. And then after getting to know each other a little bit, we realized that we both shared the philosophy of meeting kids where they’re at.

**The relationships ATC’s outreach workers have with kids is beyond what those kids have with almost any other service providers they meet in their lives.**

In a lot of San Francisco non-profits that lingo is talked about, but the real idea of saying to a junkie, “You know what, I’m not going to ask you to change anything, I’m just going to figure out what it is that you need in life, and figure out how to help you get there. If that involves quitting drugs then great, I’ll help you do that too, but if it doesn’t, I’m not going to make that part of my agenda” – I think in most parts of the country that philosophy is still very revolutionary.

*Do you remember what the organization was like in its first year of existence?*

Oh my goodness. First of all, our offices were essentially a desk in the corner of my studio and a desk in Rob’s converted one bedroom apartment. Which was kind of awesome, because for the first six months it was really a crash course in program development and non-profit management. And also Rob seemed like the biggest stud ever, because he was storing a thousand condoms at his house. We started doing outreach on a trial basis, and that was super fun because we were finally starting to

TAJ Continued on Page 4



# Letter from the Director

Rob Gitin

One of the things that I am proudest of about At The Crossroads is how many things have NOT changed over the past ten years. We still work with young people who otherwise would be completely on their own. We still make each client we see feel like an individual, not a statistic. Our office is still overcrowded and hideously furnished. Okay, I guess some change would not be the worst thing.

However, one change that is incredibly exciting is the increasing number of people who are involved in ATC. For our first five or six years, volunteers played a fairly peripheral role in our work, aside from their presence on outreach. They were very helpful, but we were not reliant on them. But we started to realize that there are so many people who are willing to give their time to a good cause, if you just give them a meaningful opportunity. We slowly began to create new roles for volunteers, and watched them become part of almost every aspect of ATC. In 2008, more than 400 individuals will end up volunteering thousands of hours of their time to ATC. Our organization would shut down within a few weeks without all of these amazing individuals.

These volunteers prepare the supplies that we bring on outreach, hand-address envelopes for our newsletter mailing, build our website, and in 2008, raised more than \$58,000 for ATC through our I Think I Can Campaign. They pick up sandwiches that we bring on outreach, collect hygiene items for our clients, and bake cookies and brownies for our holiday parties for our clients.

We also started in our first year with about ten people who donated to At The Crossroads. In 2007, more than 300 individuals supported our work, and with the addition of the I Think I Can Campaign donors, in 2008 we hope to have more than 1,000 people make a contribution. Individual donations make up nearly 40% of our support – we can only do our work because of the generosity of these people.

On a personal note, I find that more and more of my motivation and inspiration comes from volunteers and donors. People have difficult choices to make with their time and their money. We don't take this for granted, and are very grateful to everyone who decides to be part of ATC. Every time a check comes in the mail, or someone shows up at our office to volunteer, it is a reminder that the community values our youth and our organization. When I see that there are so many people who believe in our work and are willing to give of themselves to help us accomplish our mission, it feels like there is an enormous team of people around me, encouraging me to do the best job possible for our youth, supporting me with their collective strength.

I am grateful to every one of you who has chosen to get involved in ATC for inspiring me in my work. You don't always get to see it firsthand, but you make a valuable impact in the lives of our youth, giving them the opportunity to build the lives that they want and deserve. Thank you!

ROB GITIN  
DIRECTOR, AT THE CROSSROADS



## Staff

### Outreach Counselors

Naomi Irvine  
Brenda Covarrubias  
Kristina Chance  
Reza Harris

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Rob Gitin

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Kevin McCracken  
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*At The Crossroads is a project of Community Initiatives. If you would like a copy of one of our previous newsletters, send us an email, and we'll send it to you as long as we have some left (we have a limited supply).*

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# Mission Statement

At The Crossroads reaches out to homeless youth and young adults at their point of need, and works with them to build healthy and fulfilling lives.

## Core Values

- Prioritizing meeting the needs of our clients first
- Making services as accessible as possible
- Supporting empowerment
- Respecting individuality

# What We Do: The Basics

- ▶ ATC walks the streets four nights a week in two areas of San Francisco: Downtown and the Mission. We hand out basic necessities like food, condoms, and socks, and slowly build counseling relationships.
- ▶ We work with young people whom others have given up on, who would not get help without us.
- ▶ We meet with clients 1-to-1. We listen to them talk about anything they want, with no agenda and no judgment. We help them figure out who they want to be, and how to become that person.
- ▶ We keep working with clients after they leave the streets. We continue to support them for as long as they want, helping them build outstanding lives, not just lives of subsistence.
- ▶ We work closely with other organizations, connecting our clients with services such as jobs, housing, education, health care, and mental health services.
- ▶ We support other programs in their efforts to work with homeless youth through dialogue, trainings, and technical assistance.
- ▶ We work with city government to improve the continuum of support for all young people on the streets in San Francisco.

# Get Involved with At The Crossroads



## Make a donation to ATC

You'll experience a sense of happiness and fulfillment that you've never known. You'll want to do it again and again. In all seriousness, the future of At The Crossroads depends on the generosity of individuals who believe in our work.

**Make a credit card donation at [www.atthecrossroads.org](http://www.atthecrossroads.org). Or make checks payable to: "At The Crossroads, a project of CI."**

## Watch our documentary

In Spring 2008, Monica Lam filmed a documentary that takes you into the world of our clients and our work. You can find it at [www.atthecrossroads.org](http://www.atthecrossroads.org). It is 15 minutes long, and we promise you won't regret taking the time to watch it.

## Volunteer

### Individually

Do you have free time in the afternoon or evening? Come by our office and sort donated clothing, put away food, drive to the Food Bank and go shopping, or pitch in on a number of other tasks that keep us going. Interested? Email [getinvolved@atthecrossroads.org](mailto:getinvolved@atthecrossroads.org).

### Prep Night

Help us prepare supplies for outreach to our clients by making candy packs, bunching socks, and bagging soaps and Q-tips. Prep Nights are scheduled on the last Wednesday of every month. If you would like to join our volunteer email list, email **Rob** at [rob@atthecrossroads.org](mailto:rob@atthecrossroads.org).

### Email list

Sign up to receive emails about our monthly supply prep nights, as well as other volunteer opportunities. Email **Rob** at [rob@atthecrossroads.org](mailto:rob@atthecrossroads.org).

## Expand our network

### Share our documentary

After you watch our documentary, if you like it, invite your friends over for lunch, cocktails or dinner to check it out. An ATC staff member can join you to discuss our work. It's a great way to introduce people to ATC. Email [getinvolved@atthecrossroads.org](mailto:getinvolved@atthecrossroads.org) and let us know.

### Share our newsletter

Please let others who might be interested in ATC know about our work! If you want us to send people our newsletter, email us their names and addresses, and we'll send them copies. Email [getinvolved@atthecrossroads.org](mailto:getinvolved@atthecrossroads.org).

## Be creative

We're open to hearing your ideas for supporting ATC. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us through email ([getinvolved@atthecrossroads.org](mailto:getinvolved@atthecrossroads.org)) or phone (415-487-0691).



do what we wanted to do.

*What was it like when you first started outreach?*

So that was the big El Niño year. We were walking through floods. There were several nights where it was so rainy we were like, “Where are the kids?” And it was like, no, they find places to go in weather like this. We had three months that we designated as pilot outreach, where we didn’t have everything, and we more asked kids, what do you need? We were learning quite a bit, and we knew that we would have to.

*How did your work change over time?*

When we started, we wanted to have a physical place for kids to go. And then as we talked about the idea of physical space, then the physical space takes on a specific culture, which then necessarily excludes different types of kids. You know, it’s hard to get a kid who’s a tranny turning tricks to feel comfortable at the same place that a banger feels comfortable. But it’s not hard to be a person that those people feel comfortable speaking with on an individual basis.

*How long have you wanted to be a doctor?*

I think that the idea of some type of service work was definitely part of the plan, but whether or not it was medicine was not decided until I had worked with kids on the street for a while. Back in the day there were all these pretty significant outbreaks and illnesses getting passed from kid to kid – and not a lot of information.

For me one of the kickers was this one kid I was working with, this awesome kid, who had gone to the emergency department because he had overdosed, and on his discharge paperwork all it said under directions for follow-up was “stop using drugs.” It was like, that is the least helpful thing in the world. I just remember thinking that’s not right, there’s so much more that can be done. And I understand, because I’ve worked with doctors, where they’re coming from, because they have no experience really working with this population. But the medical detox, when that opened up, I was just amazed by how helpful medicine could be when properly utilized.

*Has your work in medicine helped re-inform your thoughts about the work of ATC?*

You know, it’s so funny, because I argue with other docs so much about the hierarchy of medicine. I’m often heard saying that it’s ridiculous that doctors have any say as to what services their patients access. Because almost always, case managers and social workers know your patients better, like they know



*Taj in her bright-eyed and bushy-tailed ATC days.*

whether or not this patient is going to benefit from a rehab program at the time. And if this person already has a case manager or social worker, you have to consult with them. This is rarely if ever done in medicine.

**It was such a privilege to be allowed into people’s lives in that way, that you really don’t get to experience in any other field, I think. Maybe priests do, priests who make house calls.**

Physicians just don’t contact the outside world, and it’s kind of crazy, because for some god-forsaken reason doctors have the power to get someone into in-patient rehab straight from the hospital. You have the power to get someone on methadone maintenance if that’s what they need. And it doesn’t make sense to make that call on your own, because you’ve know them for, what, at most a month? You’re still not going to get to know them the way someone who reaches them in their actual living environment knows them. So it’s just ridiculous.

But I think because of that, it makes me feel like the role of At the Crossroads, and organizations that work with people in need, making the effort to connect to the services that they access is so vital. The relationships outreach workers have with kids is beyond what those kids have with almost any other service providers they meet in their lives. Without the outreach workers making that foray into the clinic and saying “You know what, actually he really wouldn’t be

appropriate for that,” or he would be, these kids just wouldn’t get the appropriate care. I think that that, to me, is what time and time again strikes me as probably the most important thing that At The Crossroads does.

*Are there particular times when you reflect on the work of ATC and your time here?*

A lot of times in the hospital I’ll be working with patients and either the patient or my attending staff will remark on how I take a different approach to that patient than other people have. I’m really looking at the whole picture, accessing the whole patient, the services, and I think that really comes from the experience of being an outreach worker, where you never look at people as a single issue. You’re always looking at the whole person. All they want is the truth, all they want is information, and how to figure out how to make things better. It’s so great to be able to give that to them. And to be able to give them a pill to make their rash go away.

But in medicine, for all the awesome stuff you can do – like I can fix stuff, which is nice, like if someone comes in with an abscess I can make it go away – but I don’t get to know people that well, because people still want to please their doctor. People don’t tell me the truth. Not always, but mostly no. And then I’m seeing people in my environment, not in their environment. So it’s just not the same, I just don’t get the kind of relationships you do. It was such a privilege to be allowed into people’s lives in that way, that you really don’t get to experience in any other field, I think. Maybe priests do, priests who make house calls.

*Looking ten years down the line, how would you like to see At The Crossroads grow?*

Honestly, I think the part that’s so important – well, the two parts that are so important, and have always taken second seat to the actual counseling, as they should – have been the networking and the advocacy components. Ultimately I think it would be great if there was enough of a name for ATC so that if kids who were homeless went to San Francisco General Hospital, the hospital had the phone number of At The Crossroads, they could call and be like, one of your clients is in here, I just wanted to let you know, the way they do with other larger organizations. So that kids who go to medical detox, the case manager gets an update from the detox, how they’re doing. So that the kids are getting consistent care that is optimal for them.

When I'm working, there's a sense of progress. I feel that every time I'm painting, I'm not haunted by any kind of loneliness or sense of disconnection. When I look back at my work, there was something suffocating about the stuff I did in the '90s. What I do now is a hell of a lot less dark. I'm even kinda getting burned out on urban landscapes so I'm just painting really rough hillsides. But they're so obviously beautiful. You have to make aesthetic choices not to get cheesy, but I think there is no one who doesn't appreciate a bunch of rolling hills with oak trees or something like that.

But one of the downsides about being somebody who's kind of a workaholic and also introverted is you can get disconnected from people. I know I'm neglecting human relationships, which everybody tells me are really important. Basically, the painting is such a sense of being in touch with something and feeling complete. Talk about the ultimate medication. I don't think about anything – in fact if you saw me on the side of the road, I am usually sitting there, singing out loud with a pretty bad voice and with a silly straw hat on. I probably look like some kook who's off his rocker. But basically, it approaches a state of ecstasy sometimes, especially when the painting is really going well.

Now, I'm financially independent. I make a living selling paintings, which is pretty cool and wonderful. I am a plein air painter – it's a French phrase that means out in the open, so I go out and I paint. It's how Van Gogh painted. I drive out to places like the Bolinas Ridge and paint large diptychs of abstract hillsides and then go trail running afterwards. And then come home and bake a chicken, or make pesto. I have gotten into cooking and gardening. It's pretty dreamy, even though some people are making a lot more money than I am.

Ultimately, the people who changed the way that I saw myself, and the way I conducted my life, were the people who usually lost it on me or who accusingly stuck their finger right

**I had so few friends and so few places to go at that time and was so truly living in an existential void that sometimes it was just really nice to meet with someone at ATC twice a week, to go into a coffee shop and have some cocoa and a sandwich and have somebody listen.**

into the little mess that I was and said, "You make me sick." It took that kind of rejection of self to transform, I think.

On the other hand, I think that was a very suicidal time for me



Nick busy at work.

– in fact, I think that suicide has always been a possible escape in my mind since around 13. It's always been something that I flirted with. But I had so few

Crossroads doesn't push any concept or theory or ideology down you. It's like a support system; like having an air bubble there. The bottom line is, it doesn't constrict the imagination, it doesn't impose walls on one's decisions or thinking.

It's kind of like my relationship with religion. When you have a really fixed notion of a set of stories and tales, and a fixed face as to what God is supposed to look like, it's a lot less imaginative. I think when you're an artist, keeping everything open, having all possibilities out there is important: a custom-made kind of gospel. I like how that throws a loop in our ability to come up with anything we want, including a living and alive sense of God.

As for my goals for my future, it's one of those things I never really thought about much. I was sure I'd be dead by this point. So... I have trouble thinking about the future. I don't dream in any concrete way other than hoping that I'll be happy and have my shit together. I think I would like to definitely continue painting and develop that and become really great at it, whether that's recognized or not. I kinda think it will be. I'm pretty much gonna devote my future to honing this art thing and getting really good at it. And that's it.

To see more of Nick's work, go to [www.nickcoley.com](http://www.nickcoley.com).



Nick's painting Presidio Grove #1.

friends and so few places to go at that time and was so truly living in an existential void that sometimes it was just really nice to meet with someone at ATC twice a week, to go into a coffee shop and have some cocoa and a sandwich and have somebody listen to what must have been, sadly, some pretty boring bullshit.

I think that it's possible that without that kind of connection or without that kind of resource in my life that I would have been more open to the idea of killing myself. It was like some kind of little temporary refuge I had a couple of times a week. It was like docking my boat a little bit – which I've been doing with ATC for ten years now.

I wouldn't say it's perfect. There are still parts of me that are shut down. But it's great that At The



# Thanks for the 10-Year Memories!



Countless people pitched in to make our event a success, but we wanted to single out a few in particular. We were thrilled with all of our event materials, and got great feedback about them. Sara Butorac designed the invitations, Anna Bonner Mieritz created the website, and Kristina Batiste put together the program and other event day materials. Outlined Productions did an amazing job helping us plan the event, providing creative ideas and guidance throughout the planning process; they were a pleasure to work with. Dana Hansen has earned our eternal gratitude. Dana spent a year with ATC as an AmeriCorps VISTA, working full-time to coordinate the event. She worked many late nights (and early mornings) to make sure that everything about the event was top-notch, down to the smallest details. The success of the event was a direct result of her work ethic, creativity, and commitment. She has left a legacy that will affect ATC for many years to come. Thank you so much to all of the amazing people (including the ones we didn't have the space to mention) who contributed to this memorable night.

## Monetary Donors:

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Tom & Maureen McCracken  
The Slanted Door  
The Grove  
Therapeia Massage  
Vintage Inn  
Wish Bar & Lounge  
Yogurt Saint Benoît

*On this page, from the top: (1) 10 Years! That's something to celebrate; (2) Edna Rivera threatens Deb Kleinecke with her finger, but Deb is not intimidated; (3) We love the enthusiastic crowd; (4) Natasha Desterro checks out our silent auction items; (5) Dory, Julie, Kier and Dana look ready to greet the masses.*

*On facing page, clockwise from the top left corner: (6) ATC's staff (Naomi, Brenda, Joy & Ivan) shares a serious moment; (7) Sam Brasch, Sara Butorac, and Ben Damron look like they're enjoying themselves; (8) Saidah Grayson, Loren Taylor and Kristina Batiste share a laugh; (9) Anna Winget & Noah Greer toast to something ridiculous; (10) Mouth-watering porcetta sandwiches, donated by Delfina; (11) Board Chair Nadinne Cruz and Monica Lam, director and producer of ATC's documentary; (12) DCYF director Margaret Brodtkin, ED of SF Job Corps Anne Cochrane, and longtime Health Commissioner Roma Guy - quite the trio of ATC supporters!; (13) Jeff Gillis and Carrie Anderson, two people who know how to drink (to excess); (14) Board member Kevin McCracken delivers a memorable speech; (15) Leo Sugrue is blown away by the event, Andrew McClelland is less impressed; (16) Daniella Sirotsky and Dr. Warren LoPresti, coolest couple at the event; (17) Dana Hansen, our event coordinator, and her proud mom.*





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## Event Top Ten List

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 250 people gathered in the Great American Music Hall to celebrate ten years of At The Crossroads helping homeless youth in San Francisco build outstanding lives. Our top ten highlights:

- 1) An amazing documentary about our work, produced and directed by Monica Lam. Now anyone can get a taste of what we do directly from our counselors and clients. Check it out at [www.atthecrossroads.org](http://www.atthecrossroads.org).
- 2) 75 new people who came for the food and drink left with a real sense of ATC's work.
- 3) Absolutely delicious food donated by the best places at the Ferry Building Farmer's Market and local restaurants like Delfina and Tartine.
- 4) More than 30 emails and phone calls the next day from people saying how great the event was, and how much they learned about homeless youth.
- 5) An incredible energy, from start to finish. Everyone was having fun, meeting new people, and learning why ATC is so darn cool.
- 6) No one looked bored. Maybe they were faking, but we'll give them the benefit of the doubt.
- 7) \$68,000 raised to support ATC's work. That will pay for a new outreach counselor for a year plus twelve month's worth of socks (10,000), toothpaste (5,000), and food boxes (3,000).
- 8) Members of the ATC community got to meet each other (and learn what an attractive bunch they are), share their change-the-world ideas and revel in their collective power.
- 9) Our staff and board beamed ear to ear, and never felt prouder to be part of ATC.
- 10) 20 people who were introduced to ATC at the event have joined the ranks of ATC's awesome volunteers, inspired by the experience and maybe a little by their drinking.



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# Updates on ATC's staff

ATC has added on some great new staff members, and seen existing staff members take on new leadership roles. We're thrilled to have these talented people and are looking forward to doing our best work ever. So if you happen to stop by our office and see a lot of new faces you've never seen before, here's a little bit of info on who these fantastic people are.



*The glasses can't hide Kris' seriously talented singing chops.*

## Kris Chance, Outreach Counselor

In the waning days of August, Kris Chance joined ATC as our first ever Rover Counselor, serving both the Mission and Downtown outreach routes. Aside from a 3-year stint in Tokyo that Kris only talks about when you bribe her with candy, she was born and bred and has lived her whole life in San Francisco. She graduated from San Francisco State University in 2007 with a BA in Sociology, and has been providing support to young people and their families for the past four years. When she's not at ATC, cooking that Filipino favorite chicken adobo with bananas or yelling at the TV, Kris dreams of becoming Dr. Chance and providing mental health services to the whole world. And don't let the glasses or her obsession with anagrams fool you – Kris will have all of you know that she can still get down with the best of them on the dance floor. And just last year she had Simon, Randy and Paula listening to her sing one of her signature tunes at her American Idol audition.

## Katie Kornberg, I Think I Can Campaign Coordinator

Katie Kornberg, who is heading up our I Think I Can Campaign, comes to ATC fresh from earning a General Science degree at the University of Oregon. When she wasn't learning about urban farming by slaughtering tasty chickens or sharing stories about growing up in a loving liberal home in Memphis, Tennessee, Katie was planning her school's local Take Back the Night rally to speak out and end violence against women. She is plotting to form the ATC ballet corps rather than give up the love that has fed her soul and cramped her soles for the past 19 years. To raise money for the corps, she's considering finding a way to mass market and distribute her own genetic ability to never grow underarm hair (no really – it's both freaky and true).



*Katie likes to wear her thinking cap whenever she's working.*



*Is that a friendly face, or what?*

## Reza Harris, Outreach Counselor

Before he joined us as our newest Outreach Counselor, Reza Harris spent two years tutoring inner-city youth and working towards a degree in ethnic studies that he's going to finish up just as soon as we let him go. He likes kicking it with graffiti art (the legal kind, of course) and running his own hip-hop flavored recording studio. Basically, the dude radiates cool, broken only by the fact if the counseling thing doesn't work out, he wants to become a comic book writer. And even that he manages to make sounds not as nerdy as if the rest of us wanted it. But we hope it never gets that far.

## Tiffany Subido, Office Manager

Although she joined us the beginning of the year, we have yet to "officially" welcome our office manager Tiffany Subido through the cheeky newsletter bio tradition. Another Bay Area native, Tiffany tutored and taught karate at Real Options for City Kids in Visitation Valley. When she's not corralling goodies for our clients at the SF Food Bank, Tiffany is working towards her black belt in Shaolin Kenpo and raising her funny, energetic and loving almost 2-year-old. And when she next takes a break from making sure our office runs smoothly, Tiffany is planning to continue her extensive travels to all the places in the world she has yet to visit and can't wait to check out.



*Taming client supplies with a smile!*



*Ivan will soon become an expert on the services for youth in the city.*

## Ivan Alomar, Community Resource Coordinator

After three and a half years on ATC's staff, two years as being the lead Mission Counselor, and a year of being ATC's first ever Senior Outreach Counselor, Ivan Alomar has transitioned into his next leadership position for the organization, Community Resource Coordinator. It's a position vital to our ability to connect our clients with the appropriate resources to meet their goals and create the lives they want. (Indeed, ATC's co-founder Taj Mustapha talks about the importance of this issue in an interview in this very newsletter!) Ivan has already proven himself as a dedicated, passionate, and compassionate advocate for the hundreds of young people he has met through ATC. We're thrilled to have him take on this role and provide our clients with the support they deserve.



# Thank you to our Special Anniversary Donors!

To honor our 10-Year Anniversary, we asked our long-term individual donors to make a one-time anniversary gift in addition to their annual donation. We reached out to the people who we can count on, year in and year out, to support our work; we would not exist without the consistent generosity of these people. When we asked them to make this special gift, we were humbled by their response. 96 people made gifts totaling more than \$98000, providing us with enough money to affect the lives of hundreds of young people in 2008. We are so grateful to all of these people for their unbending belief in our work and our clients!



## Partner - \$5,000 and above

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Daniel Stone  
Mitchell Gitin

Barbara Koltuv  
Steven & Trisha London  
Lateefah Simon  
Christine Wilcox

Nadine Cruz & Larry Ulrich  
Jim Grimes  
Jordan Hiller & Jenny Stadler  
Janie Johnson  
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Avner Lapovsky  
Drs. Rahma & Tamton Mustapha  
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## Corporations

Monster Mutt LLC

## Saving our Clients from the Tyranny of PB&J Sandwiches

Since day one, ATC has been bringing PB&J sandwiches to hand out to our clients on outreach. Why PB&J's? They almost always have PB&J at the food bank, and it is easy to make and store for a long time. At this point, we've probably handed out about 30,000 – 40,000 of them, so understandably, our clients are a little tired of them, to say the least. In fact, some have threatened our lives if we don't diversify. Jay's Deli to the rescue! Jay's, owned by wife and husband Timberly Hughes and Allan Ransley, and named after their adorable son Jay, is a deli in Potrero Hill in San Francisco. Every Thursday, Jay's whips up a bunch of different sandwiches for us to bring on outreach, and two of our awesome volunteers, Piroon Bullman and Angelica Rodriguez, pick them up at Jay's and drop them off at our office. The sandwiches are delicious and creative, and our clients couldn't be more thrilled. Comments like "I can't believe it's not PB&Js," "These sandwiches are the bomb," and "Now I won't die of culinary boredom" have become common on Thursday nights. Thank you, Jay's, for liberating ATC and our clients from the shackles of PB&J!



# 2007 Donors

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### **Anonymous**

Mark Dwight\*  
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Hanna Winifred Lavin Fund\*

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## ALLY - \$500-\$999

### **Nicole & Josh Auerbach**

### **Nikki Ausschnitt**

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### **Patty Daniels**

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### **Louis R. Lurie Foundation \$46,000**

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Mental Insight Foundation\* \$20,000

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Jamieson Family Foundation \$10,000

Public Health Institute \$2,400

I Do Foundation \$12.73

## CORPORATIONS

Levi Strauss Foundation \$3,000

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Gap \$1,500

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Frog Design \$650

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### **Condom Distribution Program,**

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Crocker-Amazon School

Diwali Group

Habeas Corpus Resource Center\*

San Francisco Buddhist Center\*

## DISCOUNTED GOODS PROVIDERS

San Francisco Food Bank

## IN 2007, DONATIONS WERE MADE:

*In honor of the marriage of Ed Laurance  
and Cindy Grundy:*

Sara Dwyer

Barbara & George Dwyer

Donna & David Dwyer

Lois & Ron London

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*In honor of Lisa Cutler:*

Evelyn Ostergren

*In honor of Katina Boyd:*

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*In honor of Steve Winningham:*

Patty Daniels

*In honor of Shawn Garety:*

Wes & Evelyn Risedorph

*In honor of Brenda Covarrubias:*

Sara Broadbent

*In honor of Jane Nicholson:*

Lynne Rodezno

*In honor of the 85<sup>th</sup> birthday of Caridad*

*Estanislao Cruz O'Connor:*

Nadine Cruz & Larry Ulrich

*In memory of Martha Laurance:*

Sara Dwyer

### **Megan Laurance & Bob O'Connor**

*In memory of Denise Garety-Ruskin &*

*Roger Garety:*

Joanne & Alan Herren

Wes & Evelyn Risedorph

Bob & Irene Risedorph

Lynne Rodezno



# 2008 Donors (so far)

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Joseph Giugliano & Nick Munafo

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### **Scott & Ellen Hand**

Sandhya Kilaru

### **Barbara Koltuv**

Hanna Winifred Lavin Fund\*

Ed & Anne Lundstrom

Mark Shaw\*

Ethan Tabachnick

## ALLY - \$500-\$999

### **Nikki Ausschnitt**

Lynn Charles\*

Nadine Cruz & Larry Ulrich

Patty Daniels\*

Jeff Gillis

Dr. Michael Grabe

Malkeet Gupta & Nithya

Ramanathan\*

Jill Kwan

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### **Sandra Baron & Joel Blau**

### **Don & Jeanne Boyd**

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Julie Cochrane & Michael Heuga\*

Sarah Diehl & Clay Moltz\*

### **Jim Grimes**

Jackie Haslam

### **Stephanie Mann**

### **Steven & Honey Mann**

Bill McLeod Jr.

Ye Min\*

Julien Phillips

Ken & Betsy Plevan\*

Eduardo & Sylvia Rallo\*

Gary Rogers

Amelia Saliba

Nancy Spector

Mark Vermeulen

### **Randall Whitehead**

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Wendy Chang

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### **Linda & Dan Friedman**

Jennifer Gardner

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Winnie Gan

Todd Morris

Kerry Painter

David Pauli

## FOUNDATIONS

California Wellness Foundation

\$75,000

Anonymous Foundation\* \$45,000

### **Louis R. Lurie Foundation \$45,000**

Kimball Foundation \$40,000

Louise and Claude Rosenberg Jr.

Family Foundation\* \$25,000

## **van Löben Sels/ RembeRock**

### **Foundation \$20,000**

### **Union Bank of California**

### **Foundation \$15,000**

Morris Stulsaft Foundation\* \$15,000

Nimbus Foundation \$3,000

Bamford Foundation \$2,500

Odell/Kemp Fund \$500

Building Art for Kids \$300

## CORPORATIONS

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Bank of the West \$1,500

Energy 92.7 FM/ AT&T \$500

Asian American Women's Alliance

\$200

Manatt Health Solutions \$129

### **Monster Mutt \$100**

The Wiseman Group Interior Design

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Manatt Health Solutions

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### **Panache Destination Management**

### **Timbuk2 Designs**

Union Bank of California\*

Urban Outfitters\*

## IN-KIND DONORS

Anonymous

Kristin Bass

Wendy Chang

The Chawla Family

Nadine Cruz

Patty Daniels

Alex Echery

Tacy Gaede

Deb Gitin

Debbie Goss

Rena Ivy

Meredith Johnson

Joan Knipe

Matt Kolodny

Melinda LaValle

Jackie Leng

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Edna Rivera

Amelia Saliba

Lisa Socolow

Roxanne Somboonsiri

Mandy Stewart

Vania Tashjian

Wagner Family

Christine Wilcox

## OTHER IN-KIND DONORS

### **Condom Distribution Program,**

### **SFDPH**

Crocker-Amazon School

Diwali Group

Habeas Corpus Resource Center\*

San Francisco Buddhist Center\*

## DISCOUNTED GOODS PROVIDERS

San Francisco Food Bank

## DURING 2008, DONATIONS WERE MADE:

*In honor of Bella McCaslin's first*

*birthday:*

Stephanie Soler

Sarah Weldon

*In honor of Lisa Cutler:*

Evelyn Ostergren

*In honor of Nina Talia Gitin Brown:*

The Otters

*In honor of Marc & Megara Vogl's*

*marriage:*

Brett Cornwell

Emily Gasner

Andy Goodwin

Peter & Stephanie Vogl

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*Lapovsky:*

Agnes Bournes & James Luebbers

Nancy Cavanaugh

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Catherine Vergara

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*In memory of Jack Levar:*

### **Tom & Maureen McCracken**

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*Matched by The William and Flora*

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Marc & Megara Vogl

*Matched by Pacific Foundation Services,*

*LLC:*

Mary & Dan Gregory\*

Deborah Kleinecke\*

**Bold** indicates donors who have supported us annually, for at least five years

\* Donors who have supported us annually, for at least three years.

## 2008 I Think I Can Campaign Donors

But where are they? It's their own fault that they're not in here, because there were too many of them! Our first I Think I Can Campaign was such a success – bringing in more than 700 donors and participants – that we weren't able to fit them all in our newsletter. This is what we consider a good problem. To all of you who sponsored campaigns, please know how unbelievably important you are to ATC, that you helped hundreds of homeless youth realize their dreams with your generosity. You also gave our whole organization a lift by helping our Campaign succeed beyond our wildest dreams. So take a moment to visit our website, [www.atthecrossroads.org](http://www.atthecrossroads.org), and see the amazing donors and campaign participants who helped us raise more than \$58,000.

## No I Think I Can Campaign without You!

The 2008 I Think I Can campaign would have never happened without a number of people generously donating their time and expertise to getting it off of the ground. The fabulous website was largely developed by Chad Horn, who put in countless hours to create something out of nothing, exceeding our expectations by leaps and bounds. Randall Isaac helped put the finishing touches on the site, and Adrian Voo provided the design for the site, as well as creating the initial look for our invitation. Mallory Hasick created the final look for the invitation, doing great work with a lot of time pressure, and Hilary Smith translated it into an emailable version. Roxanne Somboonsiri, Chris Aguinaldo and Kristina Batiste helped us develop the ideas for promoting the campaign to our community. And last, but certainly not least, Phil Chan did an incredible job coordinating a campaign that included much more work than we ever imagined. As the campaign grew bigger and bigger, he kept up with the ever-increasing workload, making sure that everything ran smoothly. His kind manner and upbeat personality helped make the campaign a great experience for all of the participants whom he helped guide in getting their campaigns off the ground. Thank you, Phil, for playing a huge role in the success of our campaign!



*The essence of cool, Phil Chan was the crucial player to make our inaugural I Think I Can Campaign go off without a hitch.*



# Hop on Board the 2009 I Think I Can Campaign!

*Help us build on the huge success of our 2008 Campaign*

In January, 2008, ATC launched its inaugural I Think I Can Campaign, and didn't know what to expect. The concept was that people would identify a goal they have and get their friends to sponsor it by donating to ATC. It was a brand new idea that some people thought was a bit weird. Let's say we were cautiously optimistic at best. Three months later, we were absolutely astonished at what had occurred.

## 2008 Campaign Stats:

**43 Participants**

**\$58,000 raised**

**700 donors**

**650 donors who were new to ATC**

The money that was raised allowed ATC to reach 500 young people on the streets of San Francisco and help them move forward in their lives

What the stats don't tell is how many of the campaign participants got the motivation to achieve goals, like Christine swimming a mile, Cari decluttering her house, Ilana staving off kidney stones by drinking water, Roxanne quitting smoking, Val swearing off chocolate, Vanessa climbing Mount Shasta, and Andrew learning Chinese, to name a few.

**I was able to get a small group of people together and make an impact on something much bigger.**

– Ivan

The I Think I Can Campaign provided the extra push that I needed to work on a goal that I had been promising myself I'd pursue for some time.

– Ilana

*Yes, it was a lot of water, but with the support of her campaign Ilana got motivated to keep those kidney stones at bay by drinking two liters of water a day. And did we mention her skin tone now – wow! She raised \$698 from 21 people.*



*Sometimes the simplest ideas are the best! Mary Gregory's goal was simply to introduce 10 new donors to ATC. 57 donors and more than \$8,000 later, we'd say she did a pretty good job.*

The process of signing up and creating the web page was so simple that I don't even remember what it was like.

– Christine

*Roxanne has contemplated quitting before. But it was her campaign that provided the perfect mix of emotional support for her and financial support for a cause she believed in that got her to say goodbye to the Virginia Slims, hopefully for good! She raised \$625 from 15 people.*



**Sounds great, doesn't it?**

**So what are you waiting for? Join us in 2009!**

The 2009 I Think I Can Campaign will be even better, because we are going to get lots more people to participate. Who? You, that's who! If you fall into one of these three categories, then sign up! C'mon – it's both easy and fun:

- 1) You have a New Year's resolution you want to keep, or some other goal you want to achieve;
- 2) You like ATC and want to connect it with people you know, even if you can't think of an additional goal;
- 3) You like having your friends over for lunch, and think they'd be interested in learning more about ATC (Paula did this, and raised \$1,700 for ATC).

If you are on our mailing list, you'll get your invitation to participate in mid-December, so start thinking of ideas! You'll also get details about our Campaign kick-off party.

**To sign up or learn more about the campaign right now, go to [campaign.atthecrossroads.org](http://campaign.atthecrossroads.org)**

**Thank you to the amazing 2008 participants!** These 43 individuals did something that will affect ATC and the lives of our youth for many years: Allison MacQueen, Amanda Navar, Amanda West, Andrew McClelland, Avner Lapovsky, Brenda Covarrubias, Cari Chen, Chad Horn, Chau Yoder, Christine Solari, Dana Hansen, Deborah Gitin, Emily LoSavio, Ericka Edwards, Erin Barcellos, Ilana Golin, Ivan Alomar, Jenn Guitart, John Stassen, Kevin McCracken, Kurt Manley, Loren Taylor, Maria Paschal, Mary Gregory, Mary Howe, Molly Rhodes, Monica Lam, Nadinne Cruz, Naomi Irvine, Nikhil Paladugu, Patty Daniels, Paula Williams, Phil Chan, Rachel McLean, Rena Ivy, Rob Gitin, Roxanne Somboonsiri, Sarah Thibault, Shawn Garety, Tony Maruri, Tori Talavera, Valerie Cizek, and Vanessa Lyons.