

## WHO WE ARE

Established in 1994, East Bay Innovations (EBI) today supports more than 500 individuals with disabilities to live as independently as possible in their own homes, to be successfully employed, and to feel a sense of membership in their community.



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Check out our website at [www.eastbayinnovations.org](http://www.eastbayinnovations.org)

# EAST BAY INNOVATIONS

The INSIGHT

Spring 2018

## Game On!

Join EBI at the A's vs. Astros game on June 13th!

Just \$18/ticket for great seats in Field Reserved Sections. EBI will receive \$5/ticket.

Buy your tickets to this fundraiser at:  
<https://groupmatics.events/event/Eastbay57>

Deadline for ticket sales is May 23rd

Want 15 or more tickets? Contact EBI at [info@eastbayinnovations.org](mailto:info@eastbayinnovations.org) to buy them and the service fee will be waived.



*"Love is the most important thing in the world, but baseball is pretty good, too."*

- Yogi Berra

## BEERS WITH PEERS



March 10th brought 150 East Bay Innovations staff, friends, donors, children and dogs to Cleophus Queley Brewery in San Leandro. The Brewery, with its craft beers, sponsors monthly Saturday Socials, contributing a portion of the afternoon's proceeds to a featured non-profit. Participants agree -- the event was a "BLAST!" We applaud the Cleophus Queley Brewery's generosity and community spirit!

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## MOVING FORWARD

In January, interns in EBI's most recently developed Project SEARCH site at the Claremont Club and Spa, a Fairmont Hotel, were greeted with the welcoming hospitality and friendly reception routinely experienced by guests at this luxurious urban resort. With a booming hotel industry, low unemployment rates, and an untapped pool of motivated jobseekers, the timing was perfect for EBI to partner with the hotel to start an internship program for individuals with disabilities. Now, just three months later, it looks like this collaboration is a win-win.



Twenty years ago, individuals with disabilities who wanted to work largely found employment in grocery and retail stores. While this was a good option for many people, others wanted more choice. To that end, EBI launched its Project SEARCH internship programs, where clients learned clerical and computer skills within a healthcare or public sector setting. Fast forward to 2017, when the hospitality industry in the Bay Area was soaring and, at the same time, EBI wanted to provide options for clients in jobs that didn't require office skills. With continued growth in hospitality predicted, EBI approached the Claremont Club and Spa about their hiring needs.

Think about the many tasks that take place every day to make a resort run smoothly and its guests – young and old – happy. What does it take to keep the hotel sparkling clean, be sure that dishes are ready for service, make it possible for hotel and spa guests to have enough freshly laundered towels, to stock the locker rooms throughout the day so they're always filled with supplies, and to provide engaging childcare for the littlest guests?

EBI's eight interns at the Claremont Club and Spa are learning to complete a variety of tasks while, at the same time, providing great customer service when interacting with guests. Marquis answers phones, greets guests and provides tours of the men's spa; Alyssa is supervising young children at Kids Club; David is in charge of keeping the employee cafeteria clean and providing an inviting atmosphere; Lupita works in housekeeping doing deep cleaning throughout the hotel; Jevari provides upkeep to the pool deck and men's locker room, while offering guest services; Nina keeps the women's locker room organized and clean by replenishing the amenities while maintaining a high standard of guest services; Elizabeth sorts linens, organizes clean uniforms and processes special orders; and, Yuka maintains the guest lounge, provides towels throughout the fitness center and cleans the exercise equipment. With detailed checklists on hand, supportive co-workers serving as mentors, and experienced EBI job coaches on-site, the interns are performing multiple job duties.

The welcoming and inclusive culture at this iconic Berkeley hotel may help launch a career in hospitality for eight very hardworking, motivated interns!

## EAST BAY INNOVATIONS

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### DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## Mary Lou Breslin

and Defense Fund (DREDF); and, having participated in creation of the groundbreaking Americans with Disabilities Act. With extensive experience as a researcher and trainer on disability and civil rights topics, Mary Lou's work was key to the inclusion of accessibility requirements in the 2010 Affordable Care Act. More recently, she assisted managed care organizations to develop model disability policies and, today, is actively involved in and committed to the enactment of health care reform for individuals with disabilities.



When Mary Lou Breslin agreed to join EBI's Board of Directors in 2012, it was clear that her more than 35 years as a successful disability rights law and policy advocate would benefit the clients served by EBI. We appreciate the breadth of her contributions and the depth of her commitment to the EBI community.

Consider the scope of Mary Lou's gifts. Beyond generous financial support, she brings unique personal and historic perspective to EBI, having been on the forefront of the independent living movement; as co-founder in 1979, of Disability Rights Education

Mary Lou understands the long term process of legislative and policy change as well as the immediacy of the needs of individuals EBI serves. A powerful advocate, her strategic recommendations to EBI address both.

Mary Lou supports EBI because she believes that "from supported living to employment to helping people

move into the community from nursing facilities, EBI ensures that people with disabilities are regarded with respect and treated with dignity and that community integration, consumer choice and control, and accountability are embedded at the center of every program."

*Thank you, Mary Lou, for your generosity and confidence in EBI.*

### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



## Meet Daly McElwain

Meet Daly McElwain, EBI's recently promoted Assistant Director of Supported Living Services (SLS). Having relocated to the Bay Area from New York four years ago, Daly wanted to continue the work she'd been doing with individuals with developmental disabilities back east. She moved to Oakland, found EBI, and began working as a Community Support Facilitator in 2014.

Talk to Daly and you'll quickly see her passion for working with people and her ability to identify and respond to each of her client's unique desires and needs. With humor and patience, Daly supports the well-being of the individuals on her caseload and addresses mental health challenges that arise along the way. Whether it's exploring the reasons behind a sudden behavioral change or finding new ways to assist a client with dementia, Daly approaches each situation with respect, compassion, and a commitment to problem-solving. While she'll miss carrying a full caseload and focusing intensely on mental health issues once the transition into her new position is complete, she's pleased about the supervisory responsibilities she's assuming.

When Daly was asked what she liked best about her work, she described how it felt "to be witness to individuals making change." She also acknowledged the impact her work has had on her life outside of work and how her experiences have led her to be more tolerant in the world, at large.

A few fun facts about Daly....

At 19, she opened a coffee shop in upstate NY and was the sole owner/operator. Quite an adventure!

She enjoys "board games night" and can be quite competitive.

She's a huge classic movies fan. Anything with Humphrey Bogart or Elizabeth Taylor is right up her alley.

*Thank you, Daly, for the work you've done and will continue to do!*



### THANK YOU!

To the many individuals who so generously support EBI with monthly and periodic gifts, annual contributions, car donations, workplace giving, etc.

### THANK YOU!

To the funders, foundations, and sponsors that make our work possible.

AC Care Connect  
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Regional Center of the East Bay  
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Safeway Foundation  
Social Security Ticket to Work Program

### RAMPING UP FOR INDEPENDENCE

Funding from the Thomas J. Long Foundation is making it possible for EBI to provide a transition training series, this spring, for families and teachers of students in the Oakland Unified School District's Young Adult Program. The current series addresses the "how-to" of advocating for adult services; includes presenters from a range of day program and employment service providers; and, explores topics regarding sexuality and healthy relationships.