THE HELP GROUP’S

Advance LA
prep. launch. elevate.

CONFERENCE
For Parents & Professionals

Supporting Teens & Young Adults in their Transition to Independence

LOCATION American Jewish University | Los Angeles, CA

Advance LA is a program of The Help Group that provides individualized support services including one-on-one life skills coaching and workshops for young adults with unique challenges in their transition to adulthood.

www.thehelpgroup.org | www.advancela.org
On their journey to adulthood, many young people with social challenges, learning differences and developmental delays find it difficult to achieve success independently.

At Advance LA, we answer one of the most frequently asked questions posed by parents of these teens and young adults: “What happens next?”

Advance LA offers three highly specialized, individualized and scientifically-based programs – prep, launch, elevate – which are age-specific and focused on developing and implementing interventions that are practical, successful and accessible.

Our services include one-on-one coaching; workshops for teens, young adults, parents and professionals; social opportunities including club l.a., and college/career planning.

DIANE FLANNERY, PHD
Conference Director
Senior Director of Design & Strategy, The Help Group

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM
Opening Proceedings

BARBARA FIRESTONE, PhD
President & CEO, The Help Group
Chair, Statewide Coordinating Council of Autism Taskforces of the Calif. Senate Select Committee on Autism & Related Disorders

SUSAN BERMAN, PhD
Chief Operating Officer, The Help Group

AMY-JANE GRIFFITHS, PhD
Director of Advance LA, The Help Group

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
select one

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

1A Executive Skills in Adolescents and Young Adults: Strategies for Assessment and Intervention (Part 1)

RICHARD GUARE, PhD, D-BCBA
Neuropsychologist & Director of The Center for Learning and Attention Disorders, Seacoast Mental Health Center, Portsmouth, NH
Co-Author of Smart but Scattered, Coaching Students with Executive Skill Deficits, and the forthcoming book Smart But Scattered for Teens

COLIN GUARE
Co-Author of Smart but Scattered Teens

1B Preparing for Transition to Independence: A Mindfulness-Based Approach

LIDIA ZYLOWSKA, MD
Co-founder of Mindful Awareness Research Center at UCLA
Author of Mindfulness Prescription for Adult ADHD

1C Evidence Based Practices and Quality of Life for Young Adults with Autism

PETER GERHARDT, EdD, BCBA
Director of Education at the McCarton School in New York City, Chairman of the Scientific Council for the Organization of Autism Research
10:45 AM-12:00 PM

2A Executive Skills in Adolescents and Young Adults: Strategies for Assessment and Intervention (Part 2)
RICHARD GUARE, PhD, D-BCBA
Neuropsychologist & Director of The Center for Learning and Attention Disorders, Seacoast Mental Health Center, Portsmouth, NH
Co-Author of Smart but Scattered, Coaching Students with Executive Skill Deficits, and the forthcoming book Smart But Scattered for Teens
COLIN GUARE
Co-Author of Smart but Scattered Teens

2B Parenting Outside the Box
FRANK SHAPIRO, MFT
Director of Student Development, North Hills Prep, The Help Group, Los Angeles, CA
Author of four books including The Oppositional Teenager: A Parents’ Survival Guide and Parenting Outside the Box

2C Sexuality Instruction & ASD: What Parents and Professionals Need to Know
PETER GERHARDT, EdD, BCBA
Director of Education at the McCarton School in New York City, Chairman of the Scientific Council for the Organization of Autism Research

12:00PM-1:15PM

Lunch

LEE CHERNOTSKY, MBA
Director of Community Partnerships of Advance LA

Performance by
RIO WYLES
Rio, a rapper, performer, and composer is fast becoming the next big thing in the music industry. What makes Rio’s story so inspiring is that he is diagnosed with ASD.

DAVID WYLES & JUDITH FELDMAN
A parents’ perspective on helping your child maximize their strengths to realize their dreams.

1:15PM-2:30PM

3A The Building Blocks of Transition: Creating a Plan for Success
AMY-JANE GRIFFITHS, PhD
Director of Advance LA, The Help Group
JASON BOLTON, PsyD
Chief Psychologist, The Help Group

3B Substance Abuse and Transition: Practical Strategies for Assessment, Intervention and Support
SAVANNAH GANJE, MSW, ACSW; and JASON THOMAS
Milestones Ranch, Malibu

3C The Science of Making Friends: Teaching Social Skills to Adolescents and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders
LIZ LAUGESON, PsyD
Director, The Help Group-UCLA Autism Research Alliance and UCLA PEERS Program

2:45PM-4:00PM

4A What you Need to Know: Identifying and Accessing Resources on a College Campus
Moderator
SARITA FREEDMAN, PhD
Licensed Clinical Psychologist
Author of Developing College Skills in Students With Autism and Asperger’s Syndrome
Expert Panel
JEFF ROSS, MA
Director of Student and Support Services, Taft College, Taft, CA
ELLEN WEISS-PHELPs, PhD
Coordinator of Psychological and Career Services at the American Jewish University, Los Angeles, CA
JODI JOHNSON, Med
Director of California State University Northridge Office of Disability Resources and Educational Services, Northridge, CA

4B The Secrets to Finding and Keeping a Job
Moderator
LOU VISMARA, MD
Policy Consultant to Senator Darrell Steinberg
Board Chair, UC Davis MIND Institute
Expert Panel
DANIELLE HECK
Employment Specialist, Harbor Regional Center
RACHEL SPOONER
Program Supervisor, Best Buddies
HARVEY LAPIN, DDS
Autism Activist and Parent

4C Being Nerdy where Nerdy can be Cool: Preparing for and Surviving College 101
LARS PERNER, PhD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Marketing at the University of Southern California. Author of Delightful Reflections: Quips, Conjectures, and Pontifications as well as publications and articles on Asperger’s Syndrome and related topics.
Continuing Education

According to the guidelines set forth by the accrediting organizations, to receive credits and your certificate, you **MUST SIGN IN** prior to the first session of the morning and **MUST SIGN OUT** at the conclusion of the day. **8 total credits. NO PARTIAL CREDITS WILL BE GIVEN**

**PSYCHOLOGISTS**
The Help Group is approved by the American Psychological Association (APA) to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. This course is eligible for up to 8 hours of continuing education credits (provider #1444). The Help Group maintains responsibility for the program and its content.

**SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS**
This course has been approved for up to 8 hours of continuing education credits (provider #PDP86) by the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board.

**SOCIAL WORKERS AND MFCC/MFT**
The Help Group is an accredited provider for continuing education credits for LCSWs and MFCC/MFT (provider #PCE940). This course meets the qualifications for up to 8 hours of continuing education credits as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences.

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS**
The Help Group is approved by The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA) to assign continuing education for Occupational Therapists (provider #6193). This course is eligible for up to 8 hours of CEUs. The assignment of AOTA CEUs does not imply endorsement of specific course content, products or clinical procedures by AOTA. The Help Group maintains responsibility for the program and its content.

**TEACHERS**
Professional development hours are available.

**BCBA**
Please contact us for details at advancelaconference@thehelpgroup.org

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**Conference Location**

American Jewish University
15600 Mulholland Drive Los Angeles, CA 90077

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**Hotel Accommodations**

For a discount please let the hotel know you are with The Advance LA Conference

**LUXE SUNSET**
11461 Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90049

**COURTYARD MARRIOTT**
15433 Ventura Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

For More Information
advancelaconference@thehelpgroup.org
818.778.7140
www.advancela.org
www.thehelpgroup.org
Register online at www.advancela.org

or complete this form and mail/fax your registration and payment to

The Help Group ~ Advance LA
13130 Burbank Blvd ~ Sherman Oaks, CA 91401  PHONE 818.778.7140  FAX 818.947.5580

**Early Bird Rates** through April 13
**Standard Rates** after April 13

Please Print

FirstName__________________________________________
LastName__________________________________________
Profession(if receiving CE’s)LicenseNumber_________________
Address_____________________________________________
City_______________________ State_____ Zip Code____________
Hm Ph______________________ Wk Ph______________________
Fax__________________ Email ____________________________

**PROFESSIONALS RECEIVING CEU CREDITS**
☐ Early Bird (through April 13) .................................. $110
☐ Standard Rates (after April 13) ................................ $135

**Continuing Education Category**
☐ Psychologist  ☐ MFCC/MFT  ☐ LCSW
☐ Speech-Language Pathologist  ☐ Occupational Therapist
☐ BCBA (please contact us for information)

**PARENTS & OTHERS**
☐ Early Bird (through April 13) .................................. $75
☐ Standard Rates (after April 13) ................................ $95

**Regional Center Vendor Number: PL0230**

**STUDENTS**
☐ Early Bird (through April 13) .................................. $60
☐ Standard Rates (after April 13) ................................ $75

**Includes Breakfast & Lunch**

Make check payable to: The Help Group
Charge my: ☐ Visa  ☐ Mastercard  ☐ Amex

Card Number__________________________________________
Exp. Date______________________ Security Code ____________
Cardholder’s Name (please print)________________________________
Signature ________________________________________________

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE?
☐ Mailing  ☐ Help Group Web Site  ☐ E-mail
☐ Conference Posting  ☐ Other________________________________

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS** (select one)

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
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☐ 1B Preparing for Transition to Independence: A Mindfulness-Based Approach - Lidia Zylowska, MD

☐ 1C Evidence Based Practices and Quality of Life for Young Adults with Autism - Peter Gerhardt, EdD, BCBA

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM
☐ 2A Executive Skills in Adolescents and Young Adults: Strategies for Assessment and Intervention (Part 2) - Richard Guare, PhD, D-BCBA, Colin Guare

☐ 2B Parenting Outside the Box - Frank Shapiro, MFT

☐ 2C Sexuality Instruction & ASD: What Parents and Professionals Need to Know - Peter Gerhardt, EdD, BCBA

1:15PM - 2:30PM
☐ 3A The Building Blocks of Transition: Creating a Plan for Success - Amy-Jane Griffiths, PhD, Jason Bolton, PsyD

☐ 3B Substance Abuse and Transition: Practical Strategies for Assessment, Intervention and Support - Savannah Ganje, MSW, ACSW; and Jason Thomas

☐ 3C The Science of Making Friends: Teaching Social Skills to Adolescents and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders - Liz Laugeson, PsyD

2:45PM - 4:00PM
☐ 4A What you Need to Know: Identifying and Accessing Resources on a College Campus
Moderator: Sarita Freedman, PhD
Expert Panel: Jeff Ross, MA Ellen Weiss-Phelps, PhD, Jodi Johnson, MEd

☐ 4B The Secrets to Finding and Keeping a Job
Moderator: Lou Vismara, MD
Expert Panel: Danielle Heck, Rachel Spooner, Harvey Lapin, DDS

☐ 4C Being Nerdy Where Nerdy can be Cool: Preparing for and Surviving College 101 - Lars Perner, PhD
Since 1975, The Help Group has provided cutting edge programming for children and families with special needs. Advance LA is the next generation of ground-breaking services being offered by the largest, most innovative and comprehensive nonprofit of its kind in the United States.

At Advance LA we offer the answer to one of the most frequently asked questions by parents of teens and young adults with special needs, “What happens next?” We provide that much needed support that facilitates a greater level of independence for each of our clients based on their individual needs. The specialized and individualized nature of our program has allowed us to be successful with teens and young adults with a wide range of needs and diagnoses including: autism spectrum disorders, Asperger’s syndrome, learning disabilities, executive functioning challenges, ADHD, and emotional and/or behavioral challenges including dual diagnosis.

www.thehelpgroup.org  |  www.advancela.org