



Ask SSG

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July - August 2007

"Leading By Example" Awardees

Suzanne Afuso Sugano, Occupational Therapy Training Program - LA



SUZANNE AFUSO-SUGANO, OTR/L is a Program Manager for the Occupational Therapy Training Program (OTTP) who was hired in 2001, initially as an OT Coordinator. She is a well-respected and effective supervisor for a large unit of professional and paraprofessional staff. She is always a positive influence on staff morale and willing to listen and provide encouragement to her staff and others at OTTP. As

busy as she is, she remains cheerful, fair, considerate and patient. Many have stated that she is the best manager they've ever had. In addition to all the accolades listed here regarding her work and performance, there is another trait that seems to endear her to everyone she comes in contact with... which is her unfailing sense of humor! She has a quick wit and is never without a smile. She is an exemplary leader and role model. Congratulations Suzanne!

Alex Quiroz, Homeless Outreach Project



ALEX QUIROZ is an Assessor for the Homeless Outreach Project/ICS Milagro Project, hired in 2002. Alex is a tireless advocate and service provider to those struggling with alcohol and other drug addictions. He is strong, caring and compassionate with clients. Even when he was injured and recuperating at home, he still made sure his client groups were taken care of and provided the necessary

services. He is often contacted by past clients who voluntarily come back just to touch base with Alex and give him a report on their progress. To his co-workers and friends, Alex is well respected for his knowledge, work ethic and dedication. He is the 'go to' person when anyone has a question or needs advice. As one co-worker stated "...he is a one man program..." Congratulations Alex!

Rosie Mae Jackson, Hurting & Hungry Project



ROSIE JACKSON is the Program Director and Founder of the Hurting and Hungry Project, which started in 1985. Rosie is a long-time community advocate and is a well-known service provider, having managed City and County block grants for well over two decades. She is currently active with the L.A. County and City of L.A. Community Action Boards and has been commended and recognized by

elected officials such as Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite-Burke, Councilman Nate Holden, and Councilwoman Rita Walters. Under her direction, the Hurting and Hungry Project has developed a reputation for effectively providing food to some of the most at-risk and disadvantaged community members in Supervisorial District 2. She is well-respected and honored by her staff, volunteers and Community Advisory Board members. Congratulations Rosie!

Soyphet Sayakhot, Asian Pacific Counseling & Treatment Centers - Metro



SOYPHET SAYAKHOT is a Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist for Asian Pacific Counseling & Treatment Centers (APCTC), employed since 1977 (APCTC/SSG since 1990). Soyphet received his education from all over the world including the United States, Belgium, Japan and Prague; specializing in teaching, regional development, rural development and social planning. His global wisdom and dedication to enrich

people's lives has not changed in over 4 decades. He is the only Laotian mental health worker in Los Angeles County and has served the clients and community with exceptional effectiveness and respect. He is a team player and will always lend a hand to fellow co-workers and friends. He embodies the notion of 'going the extra mile' for all projects big and small. Congratulations Soyphet!

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE CLIENTS URBAN PROJECT

BACUP celebrated the dedication of its new *LIFE Center* on July 13th. The Life Center, which stands for *Life Independence Future Empowerment*, is a client-run center funded by the LA County Department of Mental Health to provide an array of self-help and support services to assist consumers to maintain wellness and advance their recovery. Graduation ceremonies for the participants of the current Self-Advocacy Training Program were also part of the celebration. In attendance was Dr. Marvin Southard, Director of the LA County DMH, along with Ron Fisher, representing Supervisor Burke (2nd Dist.) and previous and current BACUP staff and consumers.



I-r: Ron Fisher, Andrew Posner, Herb Hatanaka & Marvin Southard



Self-Advocacy Training Grads and BACUP Staff

HURTING & HUNGRY PROJECT

The Hurting and Hungry Project is now running all program services out of its site located at **1369 E. Vernon Ave., LA 90011** Please feel free to call them with any questions at 323-231-7026.

Asian Pacific Community Fund
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

On Thursday, June 28, 2007 at 2121 Lofts in the Artist District of Los Angeles, the Asian Pacific Community Fund (APCF) presented grant awards totaling over \$125,000 to its member agencies. APCF was founded in 1990 to establish a common vehicle through which people could donate directly to Asian and Pacific Islander and other communities in need. Most of APCF's funding come from individuals who make a pledge during Workplace Giving Campaigns and donate through payroll deductions. APCF currently conducts Workplace Giving Campaigns for employees of the City of LA, County of LA, Kaiser Permanente, LA Unified School District and others. Funds raised are then distributed to its 30 member agencies, one of which is Special Service for Groups. APCF's agencies serve hundreds of thousands of clients, the majority of whom live in low-income and immigrant Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Programs and services include after-school programs, child care, disabled assistance, health care, legal services, low income housing, senior services, violence prevention and much more. For more information on APCF and its affiliate agencies, please visit www.apcf.org.
If you would like to donate to APCF? Please contact Debra Fong at dfong@apcf.org or (213) 624-6400 ext. 2.

ASIAN PACIFIC COUNSELING AND TREATMENT CENTER

APCTC has been an active participant in the Corp. for Supportive Housing's Opening New Doors: Supportive Housing Institute. On July 26, 2007 final project presentations were made to 16 representatives of potential funding sources. APCTC's final presentation was given by Elvie Soldevilla and Eric Lee and Josh Ishimatsu from Little Tokyo Service Center, which described a new 21-unit efficiency housing construction and services project for homeless mentally ill individuals.



I-r: Eric Lee, Elvie Soldevilla, Chong Suh & Josh Ishimatsu

ASIAN PACIFIC AIDS INTERVENTION TEAM

Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team
Commemorating 20 Years

Compassion in Action

DINNER GALA
SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, October 14, 2007
5:00 p.m.

For more information, go to www.apaitonline.org

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM/ICS OPENS THE FAMILY CENTER

Services are in full swing at the HOPICS Family Center which is dedicated to providing outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment services for children, youth, and families in South LA. This site is Medi-cal certified and funded by DMH & ADPA.



HOPICS Family Center
5807 S. Avalon Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90011

Ph (323) 234-4445 & fax (323) 234-4477

Employment Opportunities

APCTC is seeking a Bi-lingual Therapist (Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Khmer) for FSP Child/TAY project at the SFV office; and a Bi-lingual Case Manager (Korean) for the Day Rehab Housing Program. Fax or email resume to (213) 252-2199 or csantos@apctc.org.

OTTP-LA is seeking an Occupational Therapist, fax resume to Suzanne Afuso-Sugano at (310) 323-1570.