



# Ask SSG

Next Issue:  
June 22

Since 1952 Service, Diversity, & Vision

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March - April 2006



## The Art of Backing SSG Human Resources Dept.

Have you given any thought to the "art" of backing your vehicle? Most of us don't because it doesn't seem to demand special attention. Backing accidents are not very spectacular. Damage to vehicles is usually slight because vehicles usually move slowly while backing. However, the potential for bodily injury to others is just as great as it is when vehicles travel at high speeds in a forward direction. The direction the vehicle is going doesn't alter the impact on the person being struck.

Why do backing accidents occur? Many of the conditions, which exist for other accidents, are not significant factors in this type of occurrence. For example, road and vehicle condition is rarely a contributing factor. There is something about backing however, which demands attention - impaired vision. Most vehicles do not provide equal visibility in the front and rear. Reduced vision to the rear of the vehicle requires a driver to turn his or her body and adjust the rear view mirror. In some cases, the driver still can't be sure of what lies to the rear. Then, the driver must get out and look behind. Even then the driver should continue to check the rear when backing up slowly. If you can park to avoid the necessity for backing, do so.

Sure, you haven't backed over anyone, but have you ever hit an unseen, inanimate object such as a lawn mower or bike? Most of us have, and we feel pretty foolish when we do. It could have been a child, your child, my child.

**Think - Check - Keep checking as you back.**



**Today - April 21<sup>st</sup>**

**OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS**

**LAST DAY TO SUBMIT INSURANCE PAPERWORK TO HR**

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO KAISER PERMANENTE**

Tongan Community Service Center and Children's Dental and Outreach Project, two SSG programs offer a special thanks to *Kaiser Permanente* who recently funded TCSC's Project Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL), providing culturally competent nutrition education and obesity prevention to the Tongan community and Children's Dental Project, providing free dental services to children in need. Thank you for your support in addressing the multiple health needs of our communities.

**NEW!**

## **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**

*Company paid benefit for all eligible employees*

CIGNA's Life Assistance Program provides 24 hours/365 days a year unlimited access to Life Assist Services and referrals for up to 3 face to face counseling sessions for behavioral issues.

1-800-538-3543

<http://cignabehavioral.com/cgi>



PLEASE RECYCLE

## PROGRAM NEWS & SSG HIGHLIGHTS

### ASIAN PACIFIC RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM

AP Residential consumers published their first quarterly newsletter *The Adams* this month. This first edition included an article and picture of their outing to see the movie 8 Below, pictures of other program events; along with stories, poems and songs that they created during Journaling class.

### ASIAN PACIFIC AIDS INTERVENTION TEAM



*Time to lace up your sneakers! APAIT is recruiting walkers for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K AIDS Walk for Minority Women and Children* on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will be our 5<sup>th</sup> year participating in the 5K AIDS Walk, which raises money for organizations serving minority women and children. Last year, APAIT sent a team of 30+ walkers and this year we hope to have even more friends and family join us. We are also excited to meet this year's 5K AIDS Walk chairman, Senator Barrack Obama! If you are interested in sponsoring our team or walking with us, please contact **Lillian Chu** in our Women's Program at (213)553-1849 or email her at [lillianc@apaitonline.org](mailto:lillianc@apaitonline.org).

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual 5K AIDS Walk for Minority Women and Children is organized by Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald and The African American Women Health and Education Foundation and will take place Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Cal State Dominguez Hills Campus.

### BENEFITS ASSISTANCE CLIENT'S URBAN PROJECT

*Congratulations to the Benefits Assistance Clients' Urban Project (BACUP)* for completing an intensive weekly staff training from July 2005-February 2006. The training focused on strengthening staff skills and improving the program's ability to effectively serve their clients. The training was conducted by three of SSG's core staff members **Carissa Lopez, Jennifer Tang** and **Yvonne Sun**. Congratulations to all of BACUP's staff on completing the training - we commend all of you on your commitment and dedication to serving the mental health community.



Back l-r: Hayley Levy, Lindsey Monroe, Le Ann Ivers, William Legere, Bob Watson, Andrew Posner, Jennifer Tang, Herb Hatanaka; Front l-r: Juanita Rubio-Griepsma, Terry Rol, Lumen Salcedo, Terri Velasquez, Carissa Lopez

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TRAINING PROGRAM - LA

Congratulations to **Wendy Newton**, MSW, and **Sarah Bream**, MA, OTR/L of OTTP who will be presenting a 2-hour workshop at the **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) Conference** on October 7, 2006. Their presentation, entitled "**Program Evaluation: Examining Outcomes of a Violence Prevention Program for At-Risk Youth**," will be in collaboration with Debra Pitts, MBA, OTR/L, Clinical Faculty of the USC Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy.

Congratulations to **Ruth Sun**, MA, OTR/L, and **Sarah Bream**, MA, OTR/L, who have been designated as *Voluntary Clinical Faculty of the University of Southern California* for their contributions to the educational programs of the Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy.

### OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM



Please save the date for the "REACH 2010: Looking Back, Moving Forward" Conference on May 17-18, 2006 at the Wilshire Grand-Los Angeles. This year's conference will focus on sharing successful strategies for eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities and developing collaborative actions to improve health outcomes. We invite you to participate in the wide range of workshop tracks including: best practices, capacity building, connecting efforts, policy and research, planning and evaluation.

Please register on-line by April 28, 2006 at <http://www.careach2010conference.org>. Or for more information you may also call SSG/Older Adults Program at 213-553-1884.

### ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE

On March 22, CAPP consumers performed their first children's puppet show at the Rosemead Public Library. Team members selected two stories to perform, "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" and "The Ant and The Grasshopper." Together they memorized lines and figured out how to work with the puppets; and with great creativity they hand-made each puppet and created the stage. Congratulations on a job well done!

## MORE NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TRAINING PROGRAM - SF

OTTP-SF has a new look and we would like to thank Ulysses Warren Painting Co. and Kelly Moore Paints for their contributions! Ulysses Warren and team donated their time to paint our offices and while he is a successful businessman now, he says that he could have used our services when he was younger. Kelly Moore Paints, our neighbor, donated the paint (lavender) and we love it! We also want to thank our staff who moved the furniture around to create an office with a more open feel, while creating more workstations for our increasing staff and student interns.



### CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

APCTC staff members **AI Choi, Jae Won Kim, Sujung Kim, Joseph Tong, Chong Ae Kim** and **Elvira Q. Soldevilla** presented at the *California Institute for Mental Health Conference* on April 6 at the Universal City Hilton. The presentation titled, **Implementing a Recovery-focused Integrated Services for Asian Pacific Islanders**, educated providers on the unique challenges and successes in serving API families and sought to assist providers in identifying program components responsive to needs of the API community. The conference was attended by 400 individuals. Congratulations to all APCTC staff for continuing to provide community education and resources to strengthen mental health services for the API community.

For more information please contact [www.apctc.org](http://www.apctc.org).



### EARTH DAY

Earth Day 2006 is on April 22. Now in its 36th year it is the day that is recognized by many as the birth of the modern environmental movement. Since its beginning, interest and participation in Earth Day has increased and spread around the world, with activities, celebrations, and events growing steadily over time and millions of concerned citizens taking part.

Some activities in and near Los Angeles this year include:  
**April 22:** 20th Annual Environmental EXPO, San Bernardino, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Earth Day Fair, San Pedro, Celebrate with us at the 2006 Baldwin Hills Earth Day Festival, Los Angeles, Earth Day Earth Spirit Movie Debut, Los Angeles, Inkwell Surf's Clean the Beach Day, Los Angeles, World Fest, Earth Day Event, Los Angeles;  
**April 23:** Children's Earth Day, Culver City.

### PRIDE IN PRACTICE CONFERENCE

On Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Los Angeles, California, hundreds of substance abuse minority treatment providers gathered to attend the **"Pride in Practice"** conference which is the first federally funded African-American treatment providers conference. It was made possible in part by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Program, ONTRACK Program Resources, Inc and the African American Alcohol and Other Drug Council of Los Angeles County (AAAOD). This year's theme, **"Shaping a New Agenda for African Americans in Treatment"** was well received not only by front line providers but also by the distinguished guests who design, operate and maintain substance abuse programs and departments across the nation. They include but are not limited to Dr. H. Westley Clark, Director of the SAMHSA - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment; Kathy Jett, Director of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Program (ADP); Michael Cunningham, Deputy Director of California Department ADP; Del Sayles-Owens, Acting Chief Deputy Secretary for Adult Programs for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); and Peter Bell, Co-founder of the Institute on Black Chemical Abuse in Minneapolis, MN. Each conference day was filled with exciting, innovative and informative workshops and plenary sessions that dealt with the present day policies, challenges, barriers and successes of substance abuse treatment for African-Americans. This conference owes its to success to the collaboration of many dedicated and hardworking individuals which includes our very own **Cheryl Branch**, Director of AAAOD, **Greg Senegal**, HOP/ICS Adult Outpatient Manager, **Veronica Kelley**, administrator of AAAOD and the many volunteers from AAAOD and HOP/ICS. Along with planning this years conference **Cheryl Branch**, FIC opened and closed the conference, presented dynamic workshops and was a panelist discussing Proposition 36. **Greg Senegal**, HOP/ICS, also brought his expertise to the two-day affair by presenting on the **"Politics of Addiction"** and **"Preparing Communities to Embrace & Support offender Transition."**



l-r: Bernard Dory, Cheryl Branch, Jayme Swan, Arquetta Collins, Rona McFadden, Dr. H. Westley Clark, Lori Williams, Nicolle Larkins, Veronica Kelley, Stan Dowells, Dr. Herbert Hatanaka