



Next Issue:
June 20

Ask SSG

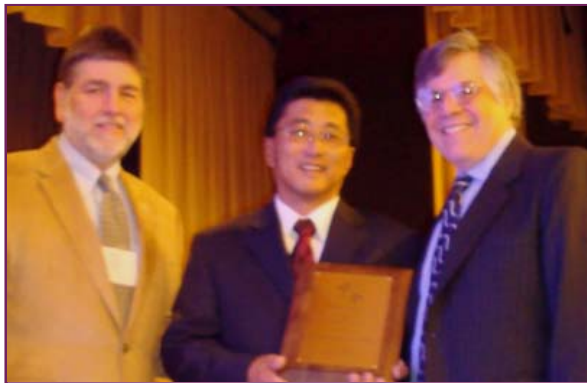
Since 1952 Service, Diversity, & Vision

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March - April 2008

SSG RECEIVES 2008 ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

On April 10, 2008, Executive Director Herbert Hatanaka accepted the **Organizational Excellence Award** from the **National Network of Social Work Managers (NNSWM)** during the 19th annual NNSWM's conference held in Los Angeles this year. The conference focused on homelessness this year - "Managing the Challenge of Homelessness" - with over 500 participants. Keynote speakers included Torie Osborn, Special Assistant to Mayor Villaraigosa and National Consultant on Homelessness, Alicia Lara, VP of Community Investment, United Way and Marvin Southard, Director of LA County Department of Mental Health (DMH). The Organizational Excellence Award "recognizes the accomplishments of an agency that best exemplifies adherence to the NNSWM Leadership and Management Practice Standards through superior management and quality services." DMH nominated SSG for this award for exemplifying the principles of recovery, community capacity-building and innovative program design within SSG's diverse mental health programs including but not limited to homeless and other disenfranchised communities.



Herbert Hatanaka (center) receiving award from Bruce Friedman NNSWM President (right)

SSG Presentation to launch our new 'Green' Initiative "Project Recover" to the Office of Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke



Naomi Kageyama, David Ryu (Deputy), Dianna Malak-Lopez, Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Cheryl Branch, Wendy Chiu, Herbert Hatanaka

SSG Co-SPONSORS CONFERENCE

On April 11, SSG co-sponsored the **Asian Pacific American Community Research Roundtable (APACRR) 2008 Research Summit** at Loyola Marymount University. The objective of the summit was "*Turning Data Into Action*", with an emphasis on building community and academic partnerships to conduct research to benefit the community. About 150 attended the all-day summit, including staff from Tongan Community Service Center, Saath, and SSG Core. Other discussions included methods for using existing agency data in research and how to find and access potential research partners. Afternoon breakout groups also discussed the next steps for a community research agenda in different arenas such as substance abuse and housing. APACRR includes representatives from more than 15 community-based organizations and universities and is currently chaired by SSG Data Manager, Eric Wat. For more information on APACRR, contact Eric at ewat@ssgmain.org.



Eric Wat

**Annual Staff & Board
Appreciation Luncheon
Friday, July 25, 2008**

**SAVE THE
DATE!**



SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Retirement Plans Available With SSG

Defined Benefit Pension Plan - 100% sponsorship by SSG

Company provided retirement benefit for all eligible employees. Eligible employees join the plan on the first enrollment date following a twelve consecutive month period of service and 1,000 hours of work. Employee must complete five years of service to be vested.

For further information, please refer to the Summary Plan Description provided during your new employee orientation or handed out during the Defined Benefit presentations in April and May. If you need extra copy of the summary plan, please contact SSG's HR Department at (213) 553-1892.

For a benefit estimate, please contact Mutual of America at (562) 983-0407.

Tax Deferred Annuity (TDA) (a.k.a 403(B) - Elective Benefit

As an employee of SSG, you are eligible to participate in the Tax-Deferred Annuity (TDA) offered by Mutual of America. This is a 403(B) retirement plan. With a TDA, federal income taxes on contributions and any interest or investment earnings are deferred until you withdraw the money. Contributions to the TDA are made from pre-tax salary through payroll deduction. If you would like an enrollment packet, please contact SSG's HR Dept. at (213) 553-1892. Please read the prospectus carefully before you decide to invest.

For more detailed information on the TDA, call Mutual of America at (562) 983-0407.

This is an elective benefit for SSG employees. SSG does not endorse or support any particular investment strategy made by employees.

Hands-Free Law

As of July 1, 2008, you must use a hands-free device when using a cell phone while driving. The new bill does not apply if calling a law enforcement agency for emergency purposes.



The Los Angeles AL-IMPICS Saturday, May 17th, 2008

Participants and Volunteers Welcome

The final orientation for Volunteers is Friday, May 9th @ 3pm.

Call Veronica Kelley Lewis at 213-236-9389 or
vkelley@ssgmain.org

GOOD-BYE, THANK YOU, AND GOOD LUCK



Tim Young

Tim Young has resigned from the *Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team* after 9 memorable years. Tim has 14 years of experience working for HIV/AIDS related causes. He became involved after his younger brother died from AIDS. Tim was first hired as Director of Prevention in 1997 where he managed HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs. He took a short break to pursue a career as a writer for the LA Times, but returned to

APAIT in October 2002 as the Director of Community Development & Research, a department that provides Capacity Building and Technical Assistance to other CBO's. Tim has been involved in the LA County Commission on HIV - Prevention Planning Committee, and a key advocate in Act Now Against Meth Coalition, and the list goes on. The one word to describe Tim is compassion. Many of us working with Tim see him as our mentor. He brings positive energy wherever he goes and he has a way of making people feel good about themselves. Tim has touched many lives and contributed so much during his time at APAIT. You'll be missed and we love you Tim!

ASIAN PACIFIC COUNSELING AND TREATMENT CENTERS

Day Rehab "Lunch" Fundraiser on May 2nd.



On May 2nd, the *Day Rehab Program at APCTC Wilshire* will be holding its 3rd in a series of lunch fundraisers; proceeds support client outings. Menu to be determined. *Place your orders in advance* by contacting Sharon Tran-Lou at 213-48303000 ext. 215.

12th Annual Immigrant Day, May 19th

On May 19th 2008, immigrants from all over California will converge on Sacramento to engage state legislators on immigrant rights policy issues. A diverse group of representatives will travel upstate by bus to advocate on behalf of their own immigrant communities and to voice concerns shared by all immigrant communities. The Tongan Community Service Center will be sending advocates to represent the Tongan and PI communities of Los Angeles. Their schedule will include a rally, a town hall event, and perhaps even a meeting with a state legislator or two!



SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

**HOMELESS OUTREACH PROJECT
INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM**

On February 28, 2008 HOP/ICS Clinical Department staff attended the **6th Annual African American Mental Health Conference**, entitled *Healing Grace: Honoring Spirit, Strength and Survival: Best practices in providing culturally competent recovery oriented mental health services to persons of African heritage*.

The conference attended by both professionals and paraprofessionals highlighted specific tools and information to enhance therapeutic interventions and practices when providing mental health services to children, families, adults,



Cornel West and Jayme Swan, HOPICS

and older adults of African heritage.

The morning keynote speaker was the world renown Dr. Cornel West, who is one of America's most provocative public intellectuals and a champion for racial justice.

ASIAN PACIFIC AIDS INTERVENTION TEAM

Gallery Verde was established in 2006 to fundraise for organizations and give local artists exposure which has raised thousands of dollars for organizations such as nomorevictims.org, Being Alive, and AIDS Research Alliance. On April 4, 2008, Gallery Verde held a silent auction to benefit Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team's Client Retreat. The Asian and Pacific Islander themed event was well attended and featured over forty artworks from twenty-four artists who graciously donated their pieces to the cause. A full range of artists participated including amateurs premiering their work to seasoned professionals. By the end of the night, the total had reached over \$1,700 making this the most successful Gallery Verde yet. APAIT is confirmed for another Gallery Verde for March of 2009. Gallery Verde and APAIT would like to thank the artists, attendees, and those who purchased the pieces. To find out more or to put yourself on the guestbook for future Gallery Verde events, to go www.galleryverde.com.



Army Cachero, APAIT enjoying artwork

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE CLIENTS URBAN PROJECT

Movies to Celebrate Wellness and Recognition that May is Mental Health Month



Movies will be showing throughout the day at BACUP, 2120 West 8th St., Ste. 210, LA 90057 For info call Karen Diliberti at 213-368-1888 ext. 13.



**ORANGE COUNTY ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
(SSG Affiliate Organization)**

On Saturday, March 15, 2008, Team Fah Roong (the sun at dawn) participated in their first *Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Race for the Cure*. Our team consisted of 11 members; 8 are breast cancer survivors with more than 50 years in survivorship. We raised nearly \$1000 in donations and registration fees and the event raised over \$500,000; 75% will go back to LA County during the next year. Our participant survivors were featured in an article in the Pasadena Weekly.



Waraporn Tiapasith, OCAPICA/SSG's Thai Community Coordinator (far left-white tee), Srinapha Vasunilashorn, PALS for Health and OCAPICA Consultant (middle- white tee), 5 Thai breast cancer survivors (pink) and, Jackie Tran, OCAPICA and Susan G. Komen for the Cure, LA County Affiliate, Board member (blue tee).