



Ask SSG

Next Issue:
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May - June 2006



Fernando Del Rio

FERNANDO DEL RIO, SSG BOARD VICE PRESIDENT HONORED

Officers of the National American Red Cross Biomedical Services Division honored **Fernando Del Rio** at its annual National Conference in Washington, D. C. on June 11 at a black tie Gala. Actors Jane Seymour and Jimmy Smits announced and presented

Fernando's award before an audience of 800 at the Gala. The individual achievement award was presented to Fernando for his dedication and efforts of greatly increasing the multicultural blood donations to the Red Cross Southern California Region.

Del Rio has been an American Red Cross volunteer since 1982. In addition, he has been a member of the Red Cross Blood Services Southern California Region since 1988. For the past two years he has been the Blood Services Chairman. As Chairman he began a recruiting campaign to diversify the Red Cross board. As a result the Red Cross Blood Services Southern California Region Board today is represented with the largest number of Pacific Asians, African Americans, women and Latinos in its board's history. Also, under his leadership there have been major blood drives in the African American and Latino communities that has increase blood donations substantially. The Blood Services Board now is more representative of the ethnic population of Southern California.



Leticia Herrera

THE LETICIA HERRERA PARENT CENTER

Leticia Herrera, was the founder and Director of SSG's Parents Neighborhood Youth Program, a 5th grade Teacher at the 28th Street Elementary School and the Coordinator of the Parent Centers at 28th Street Elementary and Jefferson High School. Leticia passed away in April 2005, but in

life her love and commitment to the community was deeply felt and on May 19, 2006 celebrated by the *28th Street Elementary School* in Los Angeles when they re-opened and re-named their Parent Center in her honor and in commemoration of her dedication to staff, students, parents and community.



SSG Employee of the Year Awards 2006!

*Nominations are now being accepted for SSG's 4th Annual 'Employee of the Year' Awards. Winners will be honored at the upcoming **SSG Staff Appreciation Luncheon**.*

The nomination form is attached. All nominations are due by 7/14/06. For additional information, contact the SSG HR Office at (213) 553-1892.

July 28th
Staff Appreciation
Luncheon



Last Day of United Way Campaign Tomorrow, Friday, June 23rd

Please have all pledge forms submitted to SSG/HR Dept.

\$50 Raffle, \$30 Raffle, \$20 Raffle

Your name is included in the raffle when your donation form is turned in within the campaign period.



July 4th is an SSG Holiday - Enjoy!

SEE SSG HOLIDAY LEAVE Q & A, PAGE 3



PLEASE RECYCLE

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS



Jennifer Tang, MSW

GOOD-BYE, THANK YOU, AND GOOD LUCK

SSG extends a fond farewell to **Jennifer Tang**, Program Analyst, who will be leaving SSG as of June 30th. Jennifer first began her work with SSG during her MSW internship in 2003 where she quickly proved herself to be an invaluable asset, expressing an immense passion, spirit and talent for the field of social work and a

genuine desire to be an active force creating positive social change in communities of Los Angeles. As an integral member of the Core Staff and the Development Team she has assisted SSG in securing numerous grant awards that have supported the growth and development of SSG programs that continue to impact the lives of individuals and families in the many communities we serve.

From all of us at SSG we thank her and wish her the best of luck in the many new adventures that lay ahead in NYC, especially as she continues on to pursue higher education. We know she will accomplish great things and continue to impact the lives of many. Best Wishes!



Arquetta Collins

CORO NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Arquetta Collins (HOP) and **Veronica Kelley (FIC)** are participants in the *2006 CORO South Los Angeles Neighborhood Leadership Program (NLP)*. On June 1st, they presented their research findings to community stakeholders along with six other team members. They have and will continue to study the logic of the Northwest quadrant of South Los Angeles. This is a six month program set to end October 2006.



Veronica Kelley

Veronica Kelley on KTLA-TV, Channel 5

Veronica Kelley (FIC) will appear on *Pacesetters*-a KTLA-TV, Channel 5 program - on Sunday, July 9th at 6:00am. The program presents a forum to discuss community issues and concerns. She was nominated by her peers in the 2006 CORO South LA NLP to represent the group and discuss the logic, issues and concerns of South Los Angeles. Tune in.



PARENTS NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH PROGRAM Congratulations to PNYP Norwood Elementary Grads!

Parents Neighborhood Youth Program salutes their *5th grade students* who will be graduating from Norwood Elementary School on June 28, 2006 with a ceremony at Mount Saint Mary's College. PNYP has honored the graduates with a special field trip on May 20th and will celebrate their accomplishments, as well as the end of the school year, with a party on Friday June 23rd. Congratulations to the Graduates!

New Volunteer Welcomed

PNYP welcomes new volunteer, **Victoria Aguilar** who has been volunteering her afternoons to the program working one-on-one with students to improve their academic skills. We welcome her to the PNYP team!

FAITH IN COMMUNITIES



Cheryl Branch

SSG Headlines at Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard's Event

On Friday, May 10th **Cheryl Branch, FIC** was the main speaker at *Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard's 11th Annual Grants Workshop* at the New California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities in Downtown Los Angeles. Cheryl addressed the entire group on the topic of Nonprofit accountability, fundraising techniques and research tips.

SAVE THE DATE

This year's *AI-Impics* will be on Saturday, September 30, 2006 at Compton Community College. Call Veronica Kelley (FIC) at 213-236-9389 for information on this event.



REACH 2010 CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

SSG congratulates **Older Adults Program (OAP)** and **PALS for Health** for their active participation in hosting the successful *"REACH 2010: Looking Back, Moving Forward"* Conference to address disparities in health among racial and ethnic communities. The 2-day conference was held on May 17 - 18, 2006 at the Wilshire Grand Hotel Los Angeles. Over 300 individuals participated in the conference, sharing successful strategies for eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities and developing collaborative actions to improve health outcomes for our communities. Congratulations on a job well done!

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE CLIENT'S URBAN PROJECT

Self Advocacy Program Goes to Sacramento

Congratulations to BACUP's staff and their self-advocacy program participants who recently completed an advocacy trip to Sacramento to educate state and local representatives about the mental health and housing services needs of consumers in Los Angeles. The advocacy team included **Andy Posner** (BACUP Project Director), **LeAnn Ivers** (BACUP), **Lindsey Monroe** (BACUP), **Don Johnson** (Self-Advocacy student) and **Merle Goodman** (Self-Advocacy student). The team also met with State Department of Rehabilitation Director, Catherine Campissi and her staff; they were impressed with our team and requested continued communication and another visit the next time we're in Sacramento. We also learned about additional DOR resources that will benefit the consumers served by the program.



Back l-r Dan Clark,
Don Johnson,
Lindsey Monroe,
Ben H. Harville,
LeAnn Ivers
Front l-r
Andy Posner,
Catherine Campissi,
Linda Kuk

Andy Posner,
Lindsey Monroe,
Merle Goodman,
Don Johnson,
LeAnn Ivers



ASIAN PACIFIC AIDS INTERVENTION TEAM

National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day/Banyan Tree Project

On May 19, 2006 **The Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team (APAIT)** and the **Asian Pacific Islander Pride Council (APIPC)** co-sponsored an open house and educational program to mark the 2nd annual *National API HIV/AIDS Awareness Day* and to highlight *The Banyan Tree Project*, a groundbreaking national campaign designed to foster acceptance and compassion towards APIs living with, or at risk for HIV/AIDS. The event was very well attended by community members, public representatives, and press. Congratulations to all the APAIT staff who worked so hard to make it a success.

In addition, **APAIT**, in collaboration with the **Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Council of Orange County**, hosted their 2nd annual *API HIV/AIDS Awareness Day* festivities at the Dragon Palace Restaurant in the City of Garden Grove on May 11. Concurring events were also held in Boston, Chicago, Honolulu, New York City, Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Jose and Seattle. APAIT staff helped coordinate the Seattle Community Forum/PSA Viewing on May 19, 2006 at Project HANDLE Neighborhood House.

Trap 2: As you cruise along a through street, a driver waiting at a stop sign suddenly pulls out in front of you.

DEFENSE: Never assume that the stop sign will automatically hold him until you've passed. He may think it's a four way stop or he may simply be daydreaming. Slow down a bit and be ready to react.

Trap 3: You are sideswiped on a freeway by a merging vehicle that tries to race you into position.

DEFENSE: In anticipation of a merging vehicle, move one lane to the left if possible, or slow down to allow space for the vehicle to enter safely.

Trap 4: As you drive straight through an intersection, an approaching vehicle suddenly makes a left turn in front of you.

DEFENSE: Never assume a signaling vehicle will yield to you until it has stopped completely. If you see a vehicle slowing down but not signaling, be doubly cautious. Slow down and have the foot poised above the brake pedal.

Drive Right - Yield if there is the slightest conflict



Employee Safety

Right Way vs. Right of Way

SSG Human Resources Dept.

Fighting for your rights on the road is a sucker's game. Even when you win, you lose. If the other driver wants the right of way, your right-of-way, let him have it. Every year nearly half of all traffic fatalities were "in the right." Good drivers can cut down that percentage.

Avoid the squeeze play. Allow a cushion of safe space around your vehicle at all times. Anticipate potential crash situations by looking ahead, sideways and backwards. Danger can come from any direction. Use your headlights, stoplights, turn signals, and horn to make your presence and intentions known to other drivers and pedestrians.

Below are four typical accident situations and defensive action to avoid them:

Trap 1: The light turns green, you start across in your vehicle and are clobbered by a vehicle running the red.

DEFENSE: Even when you have the green light, always check to see that cross traffic has stopped completely before venturing across.

SSG HOLIDAY LEAVE Q & A

Q. If an employee is absent the day after a holiday, is he/she eligible for holiday pay?

A. No. To be eligible for holiday pay, the employee **must work the day before and the day after the holiday**, except for pre-approved vacation or sick leave with a doctor's note. A copy of a doctor's note must be attached to the applicable time sheet.