



Ask SSG

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May - June 2008

HERBERT HATANAKA HONORED AT USC SOCIAL WORK RECEPTION



Herb Hatanaka

Dr. Herbert Hatanaka, Executive Director of Special Service for Groups (SSG), was among those honored at the 10th Annual Asian Pacific Islander Social Work Scholarship Reception, held Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at the University of Southern California. A USC alumnus, he was recognized for his leadership in the API community and for his service to USC, in particular, in the creation and support of the API

scholarship program. Also recognized were Dr. Robert Nishimoto, a recently retired faculty member and Dr. Frances Wu, benefactor of the Golden Age Association/Frances Wu Chair for the Chinese Elderly at USC.

WELCOME TO THE NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR AT PALS FOR HEALTH

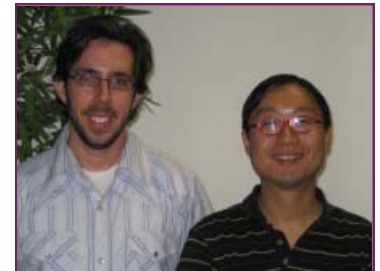
Welcome to Anita Hong-Ha Le, the new Program Director of PALS for Health. Anita comes to us from the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), where she was actively involved with improving access to services for limited English proficient individuals. Anita has a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston. We are excited to welcome her into the SSG family and are sure she will be a great success at PALS.



Anita Le

"Unsheltered" A Policy Report

This June, CD&GIS releases *Unsheltered: A Report on Homelessness in South Los Angeles*. One in a series of SSG policy reports highlighting issues important to our programs, *Unsheltered* examines a number of community-level economic, demographic and



David Howard and Eric Wat

social indicators to help explain why Service Planning Area (SPA) 6 has the highest concentration of homeless persons outside of Downtown LA. The policy report highlights a homeless population that has received little attention amid the media and policy debates surrounding homelessness in Skid Row and Downtown, and shows that homeless service providers in South LA receive disproportionately less funding than providers in other areas. The current housing crisis, which disproportionately affects this region of Los Angeles County, will only exacerbate homelessness in South LA. "Ultimately, this report aims to help policymakers, service providers and community members to better understand the conditions of the underserved in the South LA area as a way to move forward in the countywide fight against homelessness," states report author David B. Howard. The report will be available for download at www.ssgmain.org. For more information, contact CD&GIS at 213-553-1820.

Annual Staff & Board
Appreciation Luncheon
at CAL State LA

"RENEW RECONNECT RECOMMIT"

Friday, July 25, 2008

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER FOR JULY - AUGUST

- 7/4 Independence Day (SSG Holiday)
- 7/25 SSG Annual Luncheon
- 8/8 Summer Olympic Games Begin

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

2007-2008 FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS OF SSG

Thanks to the many public and private supporters of SSG!

FEDERAL FUNDING

Department of Education
 Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) - Office of Minority Health (OMH)
 Department of Housing and Urban Development
 DHHS - Administration for Children and Families/
 Administration on Children Youth and Families (ACYF)
 DHHS Administration on Aging (HAPAS)
 DHHS Substance Abuse Mental Health Services
 Administration - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (SAMHSA)
 Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP)
 - EFSP Local Board c/o United Way
 Social Security Administration
 US Department of Agriculture - Food Stamp Outreach

STATE OF CALIFORNIA FUNDING

California State Office of AIDS
 State Department of Rehabilitation

LOCAL PUBLIC FUNDING

City of Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator's Office
 City of Los Angeles Community Development Department
 Housing Authority City of Los Angeles (HACLA)
 LA County Department of Public Social Services/Community Service Block Grant (CSBG Program)
 LA County Community and Senior Services/Area Agency on Aging (AAA Program)
 LA County Community and Senior Services/Independent Living Skills Enhancement Program
 LA County Community and Senior Services/Workforce Investment Act (WIA Program)
 LA County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
 LA County Department of Health Services/Alcohol and Drug Program Administration (ADPA)
 LA County Department of Mental Health (DMH)
 LA County Department of Probation
 LA County Department of Public Social Services/CalWORKS
 LA County Human Relations Commission
 LA County Office of AIDS Programs and Policy
 LA County Office of Education (LACOE)
 LA County Sheriff's Department
 Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)
 Orange County Health Care Agency
 San Francisco Dept. of Children, Youth and their Families
 San Francisco Dept. of Public Health's Community Mental Health Services - Family Mosaic Project
 San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department/Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)
 San Francisco Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice

FOUNDATION, CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL GIVING*

American Medical Association
 Barbara Jacobs Events
 BMS Virology
 California National BankComerica Charitable Foundation
 Commercial Capital Bank Community Foundation
 Jury Candelario & John Boudreau
 Edison International & Southern California Edison
 George Jaresko, PharmD
 Gilead Sciences
 Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies
 Kaiser Permanente - San Gabriel Valley
 Kaiser Permanente - West Los Angeles
 Steve Lee, Stelee Industries
 Los Angeles Times Family Fund
 Macy's Passport (Foundation)
 Mick Sullivan, DDS
 National Institute of Health - Georgetown University
 Pacific Commerce Bank
 Queenscare Foundation
 Rachel Becker
 Susan G. Komen for the Cure Los Angeles
 Susan G. Komen for the Cure Orange County
 Laurent Sy & Chuck Smith
 Lois Takahashi & David Young
 The California Endowment (TCE)
 The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF)
 The Gas Co. & Sempra Energy
 UCLA/Center for Community Partnerships
 United Way of Los Angeles
 US Rubber Corporation
 Wells Fargo Bank
 Wells Fargo Foundation
 Weingart Foundation
 John Wirfs
 Glen Michael Wool, M.D.

OTHER

API Wellness Center
 Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)
 Childrens Hospital of LA
 Edgewood Center for Children and Families
 Family Mosaic Project
 LA Regional Food Bank
 Shelter Partnership

We also want to acknowledge the hundreds of individuals who contributed their time and money to support SSG and our many projects. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated.

Thank you!

* individual giving of \$2,500 or more listed

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROJECT

INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM - AVALON FAMILY CENTER

On April 24th, 2008, HOP-ICS Family Center held their 1st annual *Family Night and Award Ceremony*. The event recognized the program youth who successfully completed the Substance Use/Prevention program and was attended by over one hundred clients, family members and friends. Community members who's presence added to the success of the event included: Steven Luevano, current WBO Featherweight boxing champion, Ralph Mendoza, Walden House, Art Rennick, Cathedral High School Coach, Tony Zepeda, Mayor Villaraigosa's office, Enrique Mercado, Food4Less, John Garay, Beyond Boundaries, Maria Cordova, L.A. Academy, Juan Carlos, J.C. Construction, and Jose Manuel Palmas, Palmas Market. Great Job HOP-ICS Family Center!



Jose Mercado, John Garay, Tony Zepeda, Felipe Candelas



Steven Luevano & Danny Montenegro



Steven Luevano & Tim Bryant



Art Rennick, Carol Wright, Monique Acosta, Steven Luevano



Evelyn Arellano, Carol Wright, Rhonda Gray

CENTRAL MENTAL HEALTH



SSG's Central Mental Health Program was invited to attend the U.S. Probation Department's Western National Evidence-Based Practices/Treatment Services Conference on April 29 - May 1, 2008 in Long Beach. Naomi Kageyama and Hayley Levy pictured with Helene Creager (center) of the U.S. Probation Office.

NEW SSG POLICY

CELL PHONES OR PDAs AND HANDS-FREE DEVICE POLICY

Effective 7/1/08

Employees are prohibited from using cell phones or PDAs while driving in connection with company business without hands-free devices. Use of cell phones or PDAs without hands-free devices on company business is illegal and violates company policy. Failure to abide by this policy will result in disciplinary action.

Citations for failing to use hands-free devices while driving will not be reimbursed by the company.

Cellular phones or PDAs should be turned off (or the ringer silenced or set to vibrate, if possible) in meetings or other situations where noise would be disruptive. If possible, avoid replying to messages during meetings.

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.



Employee Safety

COURTEOUS DRIVING

Most of us rarely stop to analyze words and phrases which we hear and use daily. How do we define courteous driving? There is not an official definition, but we can describe it.

Driving habits that embrace courtesy should be practiced daily - not just on our good days. Some of us reserve courtesy for vacation or off-the-job trips. And some to impress the boss.

Courtesy should be part of your normal driving habits. For example:

1. Use correct procedures when making turns. This includes being in the correct lane well in advance, signaling your intentions, and checking approaching traffic.
2. Park as quickly and safely as possible so as not to block traffic.
3. Stay in the right hand lane on two-way streets except when getting in position for a left turn or passing slower traffic.
4. Drive defensively. Be alert and ready to act to prevent an accident. Even though you may be driving correctly, don't challenge the other driver—be ready to yield as necessary.

If you operate in a manner that minimizes obstruction of traffic, irritation to other drivers, and reduces the possibility of an accident, you will find driving easier, safer and more enjoyable. Don't fight it. Work at it. It pays dividends. Courtesy may not be contagious, but it is good-habit forming.

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

TONGAN COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

On May 19th, Tongan Community Service Center staff (Brian Hui and Vanessa Tui'one) joined over 600 API and Latino community advocates from all over California in Sacramento to hold Immigrant Day. This year's theme was "Immigrant Communities: Making California Strong". During this event TCSC spent the morning meeting with the offices of LA legislators: Assemblyman Curren Price Jr. (51st District) and Assemblyman Kevin de Leon (45th District), as well as State Senator (26th District) and Candidate for LA County Supervisor (2nd District) Mark Ridley-Thomas. This was a great opportunity to educate our local legislators on the specific concerns of the Tongan community, both as immigrants and as constituents. In the afternoon TCSC participated in a townhall event facilitated by state-wide immigrant rights organizers and, by chance, met a delegation from the Bay area Tongan community. Well worth 16 hours on a bus!



Vanessa Tui'one, Outreach Assistant at the TCSC, took part in this year's Immigrant Day activities.

ASIAN PACIFIC AIDS INTERVENTION TEAM

The 4th Annual National Asian Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

On May 16th, APAIT celebrated the 4th annual *National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day* in collaboration with *UCLA Fowler's MAKE ART/STOP AIDS* program. This event known as the **Banyan Tree Project** is a national social marketing campaign funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In many A&PI cultures, the banyan tree is a symbolic icon, as it was under this tree that Buddha was said to have attained enlightenment. The goal of the national awareness day is to reduce the discrimination and stigmatization associated with HIV and AIDS in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. APAIT held a press conference and reception, inviting community members to learn more about AIDS and watch a new Public Service Announcement featuring James Kyson Lee, a Korean American actor best known for his role of Ando Masahashi on the NBC television series *Heroes*. For more information or to check out the PSA please visit: <http://www.banyantreeproject.org/home.html>

Legendary Bingo Night Fundraiser at Hamburger Mary's!

On May 28th, APAIT's CARE Unit co-hosted a fun filled bingo night at Hamburger Mary's in West Hollywood. The event was a huge success, raising over \$1,500 for the upcoming women's retreat. The retreat, organized by the Mental Health's Mind Body-Spirit Wellness Program, provides a safe-space where API Women living with HIV/AIDS can provide emotional and social support while taking part in a positive community building experience. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the event!

United Homeless Health Care

HOP/ICS Homeless Services Director **Elena Fiallo** (pictured) and SSG Data/Evaluation Manager **Eric Wat** were co-presenters on South LA homeless data (including trends and policy implications) at the United Homeless Healthcare Partners - South Los Angeles (UHHP-SLA) luncheon held on April 24, 2008 at the Watts Healthcare Corporation.



BENEFITS ASSISTANCE CLIENTS URBAN PROJECT



Do you have books that need a new home? BACUP can help, they are planning an upcoming fundraiser to support activities at the LIFE Center and welcome your book donations.

Collection sites: SSG Main office and at BACUP
For further information on donating books, call Andy Posner at (213) 368-1888, ext. 12.

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER ALLIANCE

The 3rd annual Spring Dance Party was held on May 7, 2008. Some 170 clients and family members came to have fun and dance, dance, dance!

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS



Dancing to the Tune of Recovery was the theme of this year's 35th Annual Los Angeles AI-Impics event. SSG and Los Angeles County Alcohol and Drug Program Administration hosted more than 40 treatment providers and 4,000 recovering persons. The 2008 AI-Impics was inspirational and evidence that 'recovery, in all its forms is possible.'



Opening Ceremony and Parade Competition



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



Core Office Contingent

OCAPICA celebrated its 10th anniversary on May 15, 2008, at the Westminster Rose Center in Westminster, CA. The gala affair was attended by over 350 community and Board members, staff, former staff, volunteers, and partner agency staff. The event included a silent auction and presentation of *The Easter Bunny Breaks a Leg and Doesn't Have Health Insurance!* by Ethan Matsuda (9-year old author of two children's books). Proceeds from book sales are going to OCAPICA's youth, health, mental health, policy, advocacy, and education programs. Congratulations to Mary Anne Foo, OCAPICA Executive Director, and her amazing team, and here's to 10 more years serving the API community in Orange County.