



# Ask SSG

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Herbert Hatanaka, DSW

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

As I reflect on the 24 years I have been Executive Director of SSG, I am humbled by the depth and breadth of services provided daily by dedicated individuals and groups and I marvel at what we all can do collectively. I urge you to take a moment this holiday season to appreciate your co-worker, your supervisor, your support staff - give them your respect and praise. This is an agency that serves over 30,000 people in a single year.

*My New Year's message this year is short.*

Strive for EXCELLENCE and expect no less from your colleagues and this agency. Let EXCELLENCE be catching in 2007. Peace to you and yours this holiday season.

## HOMELESS CONNECT DAY 2006

HOP programs hosted the *LA Countywide Homeless Connect Day* on December 6th. Over 300 meals were served to homeless individuals and families. Other services available included pregnancy testing, HIV/AIDS testing, housing/shelter referrals, blankets, hygiene kits and assessments and information and referrals. HOP partnered with several community programs (Prototypes, Tri City, Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches, SCHARP, Shields for Families, Mini Twelve Step House Inc.). Honored guests included speaker Supervisor Yvonne Burke as well as David Janssen LA County CAO, Bryce Yokomizo LA County DPSS Director, and Rebecca Isaacs, LAHSA's new Executive Director.



Pictured (left to right): Rev. Leonard Jackson, Mayor's Office; Jeanette Rowe, LAHSA; Rebecca Isaacs Exec. Director, LAHSA; Ed Cabrera, US Interagency Council on Homelessness; Gregory Senegal, SSG; David Janssen, CAO LA County; Supervisor Yvonne Burke, District II; Cheryl Branch, SSG & LA County Commissioner; Dr. Marv Southard, DMH Director; Bryce Yokomizo, DPSS Director



Heng Foong

## A FOND FAREWELL TO HENG L. FOONG, DIRECTOR, PALS FOR HEALTH

SSG bids a fond farewell to Heng L. Foong as she embarks on a new job with the Trust for Public Land's Healthy Parks, Healthy Communities). Ms. Foong has served 12 years as Director of PALS for Health - a program of SSG

noted for innovative community strategies, committed and strong staff, and effective community service for culturally and linguistically diverse health consumers. She brought her unique brand of excellence, vision and leadership when PALS for Health was still a fledgling project with no staff in 1995. Under Ms. Foong's leadership, the ensuing decade was filled with growth and triumphs.

Back in 1995, PALS (as it was known then) had a budget of only \$67,000! From its initial core service of interpreting in HIV/AIDS settings, PALS expanded its scope of services to provide interpretation in all areas of health care, and uphold the highest standard for health care communication across language and cultural barriers through the implementation of stringent testing and training requirements. These days, PALS for Health is well-known locally and state-wide for their efforts to improve health care systems to better serve monolingual and limited English proficient communities. With an annual budget \$500,000 and a staff of 7, PALS for Health continues to innovate and grow.

Some program highlights include:

- **Creation of ALAS para tu Salud;** Spanish language counterpart to the Asian and Pacific Islander health care interpretation service.
- **"I Speak" cards;** Developed in 1999 and now a common tool used and disseminated throughout LA County and praised by healthcare facilities, community leaders and elected officials.
- **Patient's Speakers Bureau;** Propelled by the passion of clients and their interpreters, a forum for monolingual and limited English proficient persons to tell their stories about the consequences of language barriers and advocate for systems change through community level awareness. *Cont., Page 2*

PLEASE RECYCLE

## SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

### CHILDREN'S DENTAL AND OUTREACH PROJECT



The Children's Dental Project provides no-cost dental care to primary and secondary students in the East San Gabriel Valley. A special luncheon event to celebrate their *25 Years of Service to the Community* will be held at the Clinic on January 19, 2007.

#### Foong, cont. Page 1

- Health Care Interpreter Proficiency Testing, Training and Case Conference; the proficiency test, which is available in 8 languages, is a prerequisite to the 48-hour Connecting Worlds Health Care Interpreter training curriculum while case conferences provide a confidential and supportive forum for interpreters to build on their collective wisdom and effectiveness.

Ms. Foong received the APA Legal Center's **Community Partner Award** in 2004. She also received the Trailblazer Award from the AP AIDS Intervention Team (APAIT) in 2004. Numerous commendations from elected officials adorn Ms. Foong's office applauding the success of PALS for Health and honoring Ms. Foong's leadership.

Ms. Foong is presently serving on the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles County Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. She is also an Advisory Board member for several organizations such as the San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Legal Services Health Consumer Center and Care1st Health Plan. She is one of the expert panel members for the National Committee for Quality Assurance - CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) Panel. Ms. Foong is a graduate of the Southern California Leadership Network, Class XIII and is an active member of the Women's Leadership Circles - Los Angeles Activists and Artists Circle.

**Way to go Heng!** Good luck and best wishes from your many friends and colleagues at SSG. You should be very proud of your accomplishments.



### Cheers to Tessie Cleveland Community Service Corporation!

December 1, 2006 marks the 1 year anniversary of SSG's partnership with Tessie Cleveland Community Services Corporation (TCCSC). This collaboration, promoted by LA County Department of Mental Health and the Office of Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke showcased the strength, leadership and vision of both organizations, resulting in the expansion of critically needed youth and family services in Service Area 6 (South Los Angeles).

TCCSC/South Los Angeles Children and Family Services Center is a fully operational Medi-Cal certified Mental Health Provider with an excellent outpatient and field-based service system. Key community leaders and elected officials have been involved in the development and fruition of TCCSC for over a decade — in key collaboration with numerous organizations such as Kedren Mental Health and the Black Community Health Task Force. TCCSC's Moses Chadwick (Executive Director) and wife/partner Carolyn Chadwick (Chief Operating Officer) make an impressive duo — leading the charge for a growing staff currently numbering 80+.

SSG served as legal entity contractor under DMH and provided technical assistance and support in areas including but not limited to Human Resources (HR), Fiscal, Program Development, Administration and Executive Leadership. During this 1-year intensive partnership, SSG and TCCSC gained skills, understanding and respect for their respective operations - to the mutual benefit of both.

SSG applauds the continuing growth, development and success of TCCSC. We look forward to expanding current projects and developing new ones for the future. Here's to 2007!



Moses & Carolyn Chadwick, Herbert Hatanaka

### SOME DATES TO REMEMBER FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY

- 12/25 Christmas (SSG Holiday)
- 12/26 Kwanzaa begins
- 1/1 New Year's Day (SSG Holiday)
- 1/15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (SSG Holiday)
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/19 Presidents' Day (SSG Holiday)



### 2007 Mileage Reimbursement Rate

SSG Human Resources Department

IRS has announced that starting Jan. 1, 2007, the standard mileage rate for the use of a car for business miles driven will be 48.5 cents per mile.

Effective January 1, 2007, SSG will implement the new mileage reimbursement rate of 48.5 cents per mile. Should you have any questions, please call the HR Department at (213) 553-1892.

## SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

### ASIAN PACIFIC AIDS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Honoring Those 25 Years and Younger  
By Noel Alumit and Jury Candelario

2006 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AIDS. Twenty-five years ago a virus called Gay Related Immune Deficiency (GRID), dubbed the "gay cancer," made its way onto the national spotlight. GRID would later be renamed Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and go on to kill millions of people worldwide. *December 1, World AIDS Day*, is meant to observe the devastating global impact of the disease.

APAIT observed World AIDS Day in a very unique way. We acknowledged the generation in which AIDS had always been a fact of life: youth 25 years and younger.

"This generation has never known life without AIDS," said APAIT's Division Director Jury Candelario. "We must work hard to eradicate AIDS and HIV so that future generations will someday know a world without AIDS."

APAIT worked with GAMEBoi, the eighteen (18) and over, gay, Asian nightclub at Rage Restaurant and Bar in West Hollywood to provide a special evening of outreach, community awareness, games, and HIV testing. APAIT, in partnership with the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center's HIV Testing Program, "Prevention on Wheels" tested high risk youth for HIV. APAIT Clinical Manager, Dani Mejia, stated that the response for high risk youth to want to get tested was "phenomenon." He also stated that "most testing providers do not understand the cultural barriers to HIV testing within the Asian and Pacific Islander communities and until they do, most testing sites will continue to have low HIV testing within Asian and Pacific Islander communities."

### GREATER WEST HOLLYWOOD FOOD COALITION

SSG AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION

This years GWHFC Christmas Day Dinner Celebration will be held at the CBS Commissary located at 7800 Beverly Boulevard, from 12 pm - 2 pm. The co-hosts, CBS Entertainment and the Marriott Corporation will provide a holiday meal to approximately 250 homeless and hungry guests. The City of Los Angeles has chartered buses to pick up and return all guests to our Sycamore and Romaine food distribution site. Paul Sobel, a longtime GWHFC volunteer and owner of the newsstand at the adjacent Farmers' Market, has agreed to coordinate our volunteers, some 15 of them from Temple Sinai in Beverly Hills, the holiday caroling and the gift giving. CBS, will generously donate gifts again this year.

### The Joys of Giving and Receiving

SSG wishes to thank Steve Lee of Steele Industries for his generous donation to purchase toys for 1,000 children being served through the various SSG programs. This was such a special and much appreciated surprise for the children at their holiday parties.



### Recipe for a Happy New Year



Take 12 fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly cleansed from all old memories of bitterness, rancor, hate, and jealousy.

Cut these months into 30 or 31 equal parts. (This batch will keep for one year. Do not attempt to make more than one batch at a time-many people spoil the entire lot in this way.)

Prepare one day at a time as follows: Into each day, put 12 parts of faith, 11 of patience, 10 of courage, nine of work (some people omit this ingredient and spoil the flavor of the rest), eight of hope, seven of fidelity, six of open-mindedness, five of kindness, four of rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad-don't do it), three of prayer, two of meditation, and one of well-selected resolution.

If you have no conscientious scruples, add a teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

Pour love liberally into the whole, and mix with vim. Cook thoroughly in a fervent heat. Garnish with a few smiles and a sprig of joy; then serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness-and a Happy New Year is a certainty.

-from "Leaves of Gold"

### HOLIDAY PARTY AT SSG'S CORE OFFICE

