



Ask SSG

Next Issue:
February 25

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November - December 2007



Herbert Hatanaka, DSW

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

As I reflect on SSG's highs and lows for 2007, I keep circling back to the one thing that is seemingly unrelentless... technology. As everyone says, technology is essential to every business, even those that aren't considered "technology" companies. There is

an ever increasing demand for all of us to 'keep up' with the latest computer upgrades, wireless communication systems, etc. With every new level reached, another ridge of technological advances seeming appears out of nowhere.

My personal feeling is that all this technology creates more barriers than it purports to break down. I had to laugh when one of my kids told me that Merriam-Webster had unveiled the expression "w00t" as the Word of the Year for 2007. Being fair-minded, I found out that the term w00t (pronounced, and sometimes spelled, "woot") is a slang interjection used to express happiness, excitement or joy, most often expressed via the Internet. Do we really need a new high-tech version of an old fashioned high five? Maybe I'm getting old, but whatever happened to the joy of simple human contact and communication?

My hope for 2008 is that we don't forget the 'high five' as we forge ahead to develop programs and policies to fulfill the agency mission of serving and improving our communities. Let's not forget the human touch. Our profession has been built on connections between people and communities; a handshake; a promise; a hand up, not an email referral! Let's not forget to make those relationships grow and thrive in real time, with real people.

With that said, I know we cannot forsake technology. I will take my new blackberry, scratch my head and learn all the techniques so I too can hunch over, squint and be part of the tech-savvy world. W00t.



HOMELESS CONNECT DAY 2007

HOP ICS programs hosted the 2nd annual *LA Countywide Homeless Connect Day* on December 6th. The event was coordinated by Elena Fiallo, Homeless Services Director, and included the participation of 30 County departments and community service providers from SPA 6; 300 homeless individuals and families received information and services. Thirty people received immediate emergency housing, 57 received flu vaccines and over 60 people were tested for HIV. Additionally 147 people were screened by the mental health intervention team, 71 people were assisted in processing birth certificates and 80 people were given the opportunity to apply for a free CA ID.

We would like to thank Councilwoman Jan Perry (9th District) and Ron Fisher, Deputy, Supervisor Yvonne Burke's office for their support and and participation and to all who stepped up to create a successful event and support the homeless individuals and families in South Los Angeles. Go South L.A.!



I-r
Councilwoman
Jan Perry,
Cheryl Branch,
Herb Hatanaka



I-r Herb Hatanaka, Ron
Fisher, Elena Fiallo,
Cheryl Branch



HOP ICS booth

PLEASE RECYCLE

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM

2007 Reach Conference
- We met with Dr. David Satcher (16th US Surgeon General) at the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Racial Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH US) and Society of Public Health Educators (SOPHE) annual conference* in Washington DC on October 31 -



I-r David Yim, Dir. OAP and Dr. David Satcher

November 2, 2007. The **Older Adults Program** is a member of the National REACH coalition that addresses the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities. During his term, Dr. Satcher was one of the founders who addressed racial and ethnic health disparities and was published in the 1999 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report. With his vision, he is an integral part in the Healthy People 2010 initiative put forth by former President Bill Clinton. Dr. Satcher was one of the first to place Mental Health on the map as an emerging health area from the Office of the Surgeon General. During the meeting, we met to discuss the areas of and setting forth a national movement (agenda) in eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities across the U.S.



SSG's Institutional Review Board

On behalf of the SSG Institutional Review Board (IRB), **Jacqueline Tran** (OCAPICA) and **Eric Wat** (SSG) attended the *2007 Human Research Participant Protection (HRPP) conference* in Boston this month, with a generous scholarship from conference host, Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research. The four-day conference offered many insights into research ethics and responsibilities when working with community members we serve. The SSG-IRB was established in 2004 to make sure that research about our communities do not harm our community members and that research findings will be useful to our programs. One way we do this is by educating community members about research and building their capacity so they can participate in community-based research more actively. Based on what they've learned from the HRPP conference, Jackie and Eric will develop a workshop on making a research project ethical and useful to communities in 2008, for our SSG IRB members as well as our programs interested in doing research. For more information, contact Eric @ 213-553-1820 or ewat@ssgmain.org.

SSG BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING

Newest SSG Board Member **Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey** kicked off the first of the Board's strategic planning sessions on November 20, 2007 with a presentation on the needs, trends and program development issues relating to children, youth and families. Dr. McCroskey is also a First 5 Board member and USC Professor of Social Work. Board members, development and contract support staff as well as key directors and leaders attended the informative and interactive session.

The Board plans to host a series of sessions over the next year, covering a wide variety of topics and concerns relevant to the agency's growth and development. Future sessions will cover topics such as needs and trends related to services for homeless individuals and families and human resources and fiscal management. Various staff from throughout the agency will be invited to participate depending upon the topic. These sessions will provide the foundation for Board directives and goals relating to the agency's overall strategic planning process.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome! While we cannot guarantee attendance at specific future meetings, all submitted queries, comments or other remarks will be carefully reviewed as part of the strategic planning process. Please email ssg@ssgmain.org or send a fax to 213-553-1822.

Comerica Bank hosts Non-Profit Philanthropic Summit

Comerica Bank, along with Greenlining Institute and Mabuhay Alliance, Inc. hosted the *Non-Profit Philanthropic (NPP) Summit* on October 29th, 2007 in Costa Mesa. The objective of the Summit was to enhance the infrastructure of small non-profits that focus on minority economic and community development. It was a tremendous success with an attendance of over 350 individuals including representatives from 171 non-profit and faith-based organizations, 21 major corporations and 11 prestigious legal firms. SSG Board Treasurer **Donald A. Kinsey** (VP, Western Division for Comerica) was part of the host committee and involved in all phases of the Summit's implementation. **Naomi Kageyama** SSG Development Director; **Veronica Kelley**, Program Manager & Community Development Analyst; and **Veronika Geronimo**, PALS for Health Program Director were also part of the planning and outreach process for nonprofit and faith based organizations. Kudos to all.



Veronica Kelley, Donald A. Kinsey & Naomi Kageyama

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

LA County DMH Workforce, Education and Training Roundtable held on November 14th, 2007

Dr. Herbert Hatanaka, SSG Executive Director led a panel presentation on the historic 'Asian American Community Mental Health Training Center (AAMTRAC)' which was in operation from 1972 - 1982. The presentation was part of the agenda for the LA County Department of Mental Health's Workforce, Education and Training Roundtable held on November 14th, 2007 at the Cathedral Conference Center. The goal of the conference was to promote and support the mental health workforce including but not limited to consumer employment, workforce diversity and capacity development. Dr. Hatanaka's retrospective together with State Board of Equalization Judy Chu (via video) and Gladys Lee, District Chief for LACDMH was geared to link past practices and successes to new and emerging practices as mandated under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).



Herb Hatanaka at the Cathedral Conference Center.



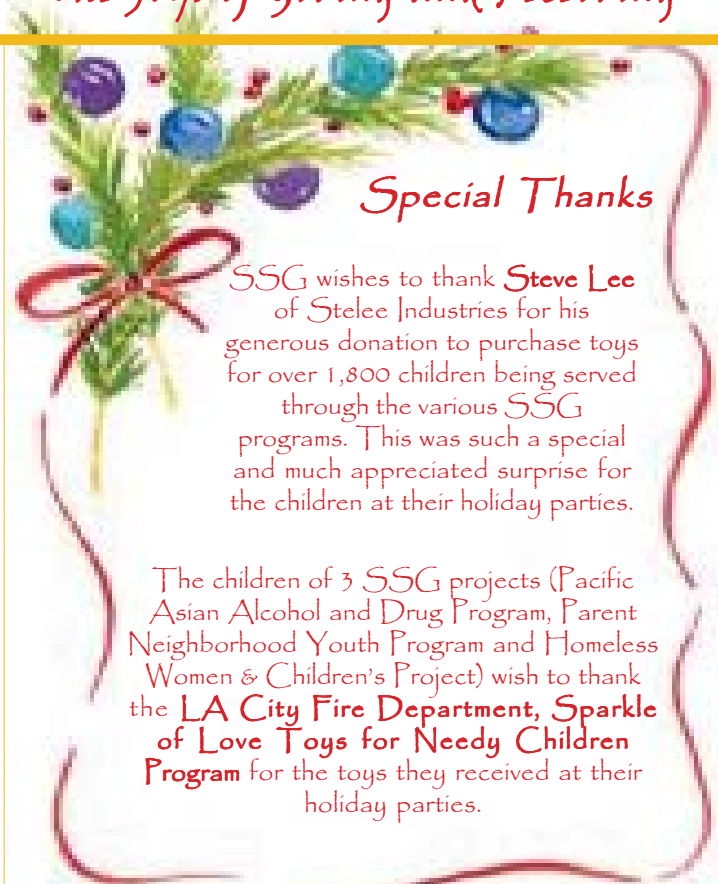
Dr. Chong Suh stepping in to provide translation services for APCTC consumers attending the Conference at the Cathedral Center.

Reading is Fundamental: Spreads new books!

This will be the 1st grant year for SSG with the nation's largest children's literacy organization: Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program. Participating SSG divisions include OTTP, APCTC, and HOP-Avalon will be receiving new books to distribute for their children and young adult population on a continuous basis. Books will be distributed throughout the school year, with the first distribution during holiday parties at the different site locations. This is a great opportunity for other sites to become more involved with fellow SSG programs. If you are interested in volunteering by assisting the sites or reading to children please contact Wendy Chiu at SSG Core for more information: 213-553-1810 or wchiu@ssgmain.org



The Joys of Giving and Receiving



Special Thanks

SSG wishes to thank **Steve Lee** of **Steele Industries** for his generous donation to purchase toys for over 1,800 children being served through the various SSG programs. This was such a special and much appreciated surprise for the children at their holiday parties.

The children of 3 SSG projects (Pacific Asian Alcohol and Drug Program, Parent Neighborhood Youth Program and Homeless Women & Children's Project) wish to thank the **LA City Fire Department, Sparkle of Love Toys for Needy Children Program** for the toys they received at their holiday parties.

GREATER WEST HOLLYWOOD FOOD COALITION



The GWHFC celebrated its 20th Thanksgiving in great, if somewhat unconventional, style this year, with 150 of its homeless clients at the Thanksgiving Day Gospel Brunch at The House of Blues in West Hollywood. Much thanks to the City of LA who provided bus transportation for all. At the House of Blues, everyone was served a full Thanksgiving Dinner while being loudly and energetically entertained by close to fifty gospel singers onstage. It was an uplifting event for all who participated. For volunteer opportunities, please call Ted Landreth, Founder of GWHFC at 323-462-7055.

GWHFC Annual 'Giveaway Event'

Saturday 12/22 @ 5 pm

Corner of Romaine and Sycamore

There will be an entire block filled with items to be given away (blankets, shoes, etc.). Each individual receives a big plastic bag that they fill with whatever they want. They will also receive a hot meal. Between 500-700 people are expected and several Hollywood stars are expected to be out and about.

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

THE OTTP- LA GARDEN PROJECT
BY MARY LAWRENCE

OTTP Garden - After walking through an elementary school garden in Long Beach, I became inspired to start up a community garden project for the OTTP youth. Further inspiration came through talking with the youth and encouraging them to communicate what they do to calm themselves. Often times a client said that they had helped a parent or grandparent in their garden and that this helped them to relax. And because so many of our youth have minimal connection to nature, I thought gardening would be a great opportunity for them to gain awareness of the natural environment and to experience the nurturing that connecting to nature brings. When I called the City of Torrance Parks and Recreation last summer, I was told that they had a plot available and the city was willing to donate the 20' by 20' plot. The plot is located in South Torrance, at Lago Seco Park, adjacent to the Palos Verdes hills. OTTP staff and the youth have planted pumpkins, carrots, onions, tomatoes and various herbs. Many of the youth have enjoyed visiting the garden and have expressed interest in returning. Hopefully we will have a rainy winter season and can have a plentiful harvest next year!

For more info about the OTTP Garden contact Mary Lawrence, COTA/C at 310-323-6887.



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"

HOPICS AVALON FAMILY CENTER



l-r Avalon Staff - Lynette Faciane, Gloria Lucas, Belen Ramirez, "JonJon", Toni Navarro. Seated, Adalyd Ramos, Allen Lipscomb.

HOP ICS Avalon Family Center hosted their 1st annual Harvest Festival. It was an afternoon of fun, snacks and crafts for program participants and their families. The event was held on-site in South LA with staff and volunteers in costume and ready to spread holiday cheer. A spooky good time was had by all ghosts and ghouls. Many parents were happy to have a safe and supportive place for their children. Teens enjoyed hot dogs and candy with a scary movie to keep them in the spirit.

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE CLIENTS URBAN PROJECT & LIFE CENTER



Bringin' in the New Year 2008 Gathering

When: Saturday, JANUARY 12, 2008
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: THE BACUP LIFE CENTER
2120 W. 8th St., #210 Los Angeles, CA 90057

Who: BACUP Participants, Families, Friends, Supporters and Providers

Desserts and drinks will be plentiful!!!

1block west of Alvarado Blvd on the South/East corner of W. 8th St. Building entrance is in the back. Park on the street.

Contact: Andrew Posner at: 213-368-1888 - ext.12

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

PALS for Health Consultant Appreciation Party

PALS for Health and ALAS para tu Salud's interpreters and translators have shown a continued commitment to serving the limited English speaking communities; often going above and beyond the call of duty.

In appreciation of our interpreters and translator, PALS for Health hosted our annual Consultant Appreciation Party and Continuing Education Seminar on December 11th at the Center for Healthy Communities. Over 45 interpreters learned how to improve their note-taking skills and increase their memory through speaker Salvador Manzano's presentation. After the seminar, consultants enjoyed a holiday lunch and a celebrated the end of the year with PALS for Health staff.



Consultant Appreciation Party during an exercise break

Congratulations



Tania Rodriguez-Trillo

Congratulations to Tania Rodriguez-Trillo, Outreach Coordinator, PALS for Health, was recognized as an individual who provides state-of-the-art and compassionate services to those at-risk and those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. She was one of three recipients of this years *2007 Outstanding Service Award* from the County of LA, Dept. of Public Health, Office of AIDS Program and Policy's (OAPP).



On behalf of the PALS and ALAS family, we wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the coming year



CENSUS DATA & GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICES

CD&GIS Data Manager Eric Wat attended the annual *Census Information Center (CIC) Conference* in Washington, D.C. this past October. The U.S. Census Bureau is gearing up for the 2010 Census. A majority of SSG's public funding for our programs depends on the demographics of the communities we serve, as they are determined by the Census. The more accurate the Census count is, the more we can ensure our communities will get our fair share of government resources. As part of the CIC network, SSG will play a critical role in making sure the Census reach out to our communities and make sure THEY COUNT!



Conference attendees.

PARENTS NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH PROGRAM HOLIDAY PARTY



SOME DATES TO REMEMBER FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY

- 12/25 *Christmas (SSG Holiday)*
- 12/26 *Kwanzaa begins*
- 1/1 *New Year's Day (SSG Holiday)*
- 1/21 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day (SSG Holiday)*
- 2/7 *Lunar New Year*
- 2/14 *Valentine's Day*
- 2/18 *Presidents' Day (SSG Holiday)*

