



Ask SSG

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November - December 2008



Herbert Hatanaka, DSW

2008

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As 2008 comes to a close I realize we are living in an extraordinary time of uplifting highs and devastating lows. How else to describe a year filled with the excitement of new political leadership at the nation's highest office countered by the tragedies of a nation at war and an economic crisis that seemingly gets worse with every passing day. A new president brings hope and optimism that our great and diverse nation will be solidified to address its problems here and abroad. However it seems with every new flash of good news there are grim reminder that too many of our young are being asked to pay the ultimate sacrifice of war, we are told of the failings of America's financial institutions, of a beleaguered auto industry and in our own human service industry, we are reminded daily that it's the people and communities we serve that are the most vulnerable victims. In California we've endured devastating wildfires, rising unemployment rates and most recently, a state of fiscal emergency declared by the Governor. It doesn't seem much like the golden state these days.

So amidst such a gloomy outlook, what will happen to nonprofits? Ironically when people are in need the most for our services, it's always the most difficult of times for us to secure the necessary resources. I'm asked daily by those inside and outside SSG, what will happen to SSG? Are we ready to rise to the challenge? Are we ready to fight for resources to empower our communities? Will our voices be heard amid fears of a crumbling economy and widespread recession?

Here's my humble response... Yes we will prevail!
This I believe will be our finest hour!

While times are certainly changing and no one can predict what exactly the future will hold, we are nonetheless an organization of dedicated, committed and competent people who will rise to the challenge of adversity. That human spirit is alive and well at SSG!

I base this not on blind faith but the agency's 56 year history of successfully working through many social and economic crises. I base this not on naiveté or arrogance but a deep seated confidence in the power of SSG people. Throughout my 25 year tenure as the Executive Director I've watched

with pride as SSG continued to overcome challenges and develop creative and effective programs. It's always been the dedication, commitment and competence of SSG staff that has led us through challenging times.

The leadership found throughout SSG leads the charge to a new horizon in 2009 and beyond. We've continued to succeed and grow with a current annual budget of over thirty-five million dollars. We are 442 staff strong. Each job and task is valued, appreciated and absolutely critical to our overall effectiveness. We will not break while the winds of change batter us. We will emerge stronger and better. I charge each of you - my friends and colleagues - to make this happen.

*"To bend like the reed in the wind,
that is the real strength" - Taoist Proverb*

SSG'S WINTER WEATHER DRIVE

Please Donate by January 23rd

**BLANKETS & SLEEPING BAGS
COATS, JACKETS, HATS, ETC.**

(NEW OR CLEAN AND IN GOOD CONDITION)

Drop off donations at SSG, Ste 740,
enter and 3rd door to your left (look for sign)

Donations will be distributed to those who are homeless
within SSG Programs

Contact: Judy Lawyer, 213-236-9393. jlawyer@ssgmain.org

Special Thanks

SSG wishes to thank **Steve Lee** of Steele Industries for his generous donaton to the annual Holiday Toy Drive; over 1,500 children received toys across SSG programs.



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** for the toys they received at their holiday parties.

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM/INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM - AVALON FAMILY CENTER

Halloween Party Festivities



Every one was there, the Mummy, Dracula, and even Minnie Mouse for a Holiday Kick off Halloween Party. With screams of delight and home made party favors the entire staff in costume, a sweet time was had by all. Our families are looking forward to the Christmas Celebration and a New Year of Peace and Harmony.



Avalon Family Center Plants an Edible Garden

On Saturday, November 22nd clients and staff from SOAR Prevention, Mental Health and Community Service came out to help plant our first edible garden at HOP Avalon. Al Renner of the Los Angeles Community Garden Council generously donated his time to teach staff and clients how to plant a garden and how to start a mulch pile to add soil to our garden. The ground was tilled, Fava beans were planted and trees were pruned. Afterwards, Jon Jon and company made sandwiches for everyone. We await eagerly our first crop. We look towards January when we will be planting our first fruit trees donated from the Fruit Tree People of Los Angeles.



HURTING AND HUNGRY PROJECT Thanksgiving Turkey Distribution

Each year just before Thanksgivings the Hurting and Hungry Project distributes turkeys to help families celebrate the holiday in style. This year, Rosie Jackson, Project Director and staff and volunteers made sure that 230 turkeys found their way to program participant's Thanksgiving table.



BENEFITS ASSISTANCE CLIENTS URBAN PROJECT & LIFE CENTER

2nd Annual 'Bringing in the New Year' 2009 Celebration



When: Saturday, January 31st
10:00 am -3:00 pm
Where: BACUP/LIFE Center
2120 W. 8th St. Ste 210,
Los Angeles, CA 90057
Who: BACUP Participants,
Families, Friends, Supporters
and Providers

Join us for great tamales, drinks & friendship!
RSVP: Zulma 213-368-1888 Ext. , 13

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM/INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM - BROADWAY

Reaching for the Stars: Regina Fair, Case Manager/Addiction Counselor in HOP Broadway HI-TOP project recently completed the prestigious *National Certification for Relapse Prevention Specialist* by Cenaps Corporation/Terrance Gorski Institute. This certification is the highest level of certification in the discipline of relapse prevention counseling offered in the nation and three other staff are also enrolled to complete this certification in early 2009: Stan Dowells, Iris Leary, MFT Intern, Ernesto Quiroz.



Regina Fair

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Homeless Connect 2008

HOP/Broadway hosted the 3rd annual *LA Countywide Homeless Connect Day* on Dec. 4th, 2008. The event was coordinated by **Tonia Johnson**, Homeless Services Mgr. along with 20+ volunteers from the community and 30 County depts. and service providers from SPA 6, as well as SSG's **Older Adult Program**. The event was held along Broadway Ave. where HOP/Broadway is located; over 290 homeless were served during this all-day event, 89 people received flu shots and 70+ people were tested for HIV. Food and clothing were distributed as well as a general health screening, 50 people were assisted in obtaining birth certificates and/or CA ID. Hygiene kits, filled grocery bags, gift cards, phone cards, bus tokens, and blankets were also distributed. **Councilwoman Jan Perry (9th City District)** attended the event to provide support. A City commendation was issued



to HOP/Broadway for their ongoing efforts in 2008. Entertainment included a clown, face painting for children and music! Congrats to the entire HOP/Broadway Team for this wonderful event.

2008 United Way HomeWalk

The HOP/ICS Homeless Women and Children Project coordinated SSG's 1st *United Way HomeWalk* on November 15, 2008. 4,000 people participated in the 5K walk around the USC campus to raise funds and awareness to prevent and end homelessness in LA County. The **WalkwithSSG Team** was led by **Lisa Perdue**, Program Manager and **Maria Granados**, Program Assistant; with 30+ members we raised over \$2,000 for the cause. Two SSG Core staff **Naomi Kageyama**, Development Director and **Carlos Moran** Program Analyst were our top fundraisers for the team. Thanks to all those who contributed and walked!



ASIAN PACIFIC COUNSELING AND TREATMENT CENTERS

International CARF Accreditation

Since 1996 the Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Centers (APCTC)/Vocational Rehabilitation Program has undergone rigorous review and training to achieve CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) international standards for quality care. APCTC has always achieved the full 3-year accreditation status. On November 24-25, 2008 APCTC underwent a successful 5th round of CARF reviews.

Part of the CARF accreditation process includes a full review of SSG's overall governance policies, leadership, fiscal and administrative practices. Interviews were scheduled with Board President, **John Eckman** as well as Executive Director, **Herbert Hatanaka** and APCTC Director, **Dr. Chong Suh**. Interviews were also scheduled with Department of Mental Health and the State Department of Rehabilitation.

The CARF surveyors included Bruce Milburn, a Rehabilitation Consultant from Kentucky and Wayne Kulick, Executive Director of Countryside Association in Illinois. They highly praised the agency as a whole for its leadership, governance, commitment to cultural competence, and community focus. They also nominated our APCTC Peer Counselor model to receive a CARF national award for being an 'innovative and exemplary practice'. This is a prestigious honor which will showcase APCTC practices at a national level.

Special thanks to Eric Lee, APCTC Housing and Employment Coordinator and SSG Analysts **Wendy Chiu** and **Carlos Moran**. Their hard work and dedication during the 3 month-long planning and preparation phase were invaluable in ensuring that the agency was presented in the best possible light. Also special thanks to APCTC consumer staff for their participation.

CARF 2008 Exit Conference



Back I-r: Thanh Huynh, Hayley Levy, Beth De Los Santos, James Choi, Wendy Chiu, Herbert Hatanaka
Center I-r: Chung Suh, Bruce Milburn, Wayne Kulick, Henry Eng
Front I-r: Naomi Kageyama, Eric Lee, Al Choi, Carlos Moran

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

PALS FOR HEALTH

On December 8, 2008. PALS for Health hosted the *Annual Consultant Appreciation* event at TCE. Tania Trillo, PALS and her son, Jared, led the group in a high energy Salsa dance break (picture). Our long-term friend and trusted facilitator Sally Jue gave an insightful presentation on Work/Life Balance for Interpreters, which resulted in some wonderful art works. Our staff and language consultants had a great time dancing and drawing.



CHILDREN'S DENTAL AND OUTREACH PROJECT The Good Dentist

By Joe Soong, Rafu Shimpō, 11/12/08



Lester Lim, DDS

"Every Wednesday and Friday morning for the last twenty years, Dr. Lim has taken time away from his Westminister private practice and volunteered his services at the community clinic. As the clinic's only dentist, Dr. Lim see 400-500 young patients a year, ninety percent of which are Hispanic." "Dr. Lim, who received his DDS in 1989 from UC, San Francisco, was recruited to the clinic by Dr. Andrew Wong, the clinic's first dentist and best friend of Dr. Lim's father." "...the needy will suffer a disproportionate impact during these difficult economic times and have few places to turn for assistance. Fortunately, there are people out there who are willing to do more than their share. Now more than ever, we need people like Dr. Lim."

REENTRY MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION

Day Reporting Center Opens in South LA

The LA County Dept. of Probation Adult Field Services Bureau just opened their new Day Reporting Center at 5811 San Pedro. St. LA 90011. SSG is proud to announce that the Reentry Maintenance Organization (RMO) Division (currently operating the Re-Entry Options Project out of HOP/Broadway) will be set up as part of the DRC operations. Through a partnership with the Dept. of Probation, SSG/RMO will provide substance abuse treatment services for transitional age male youth on probation from the Florence-Firestone area. SSG is excited to be a part of the comprehensive, wrap around services developed by the Probation Department. RMO Director Veronica Kelley may be reached at vkelly@ssgmain.org.

Reflections of an OT Intern

By Stephanie Jordan, OTI
San Jose State University

I was recently fortunate enough to work as an Occupational Therapist (OT) intern at Occupational Therapy Training Program-San Francisco (OTTP-SF) providing living skills and prevocational training to at-risk youth.

One young woman allowed me to learn the value of working with the at-risk youth population as an OT. During the assessment phase, I found that she is artistic and enjoys hands on activities; for an intervention I suggested an art-based approach to present the information learned in the assessment process. She compiled her own photos to creatively express personal characteristics and emerging identity through a digital slideshow. Through this activity, she saw herself as a capable individual and an important member of her family and community. By working together to find a method that best suited her, she learned that she was valued and respected in our relationship. She was not a passive recipient of services but an active collaborator in her own personal development.

When the presentation day arrived, my supervising OT, the client's family, and her advocate gathered to watch as she began her presentation, addressing the group with happiness and confidence. As the slideshow played a certain energy filled the room. Six individuals were gathered to not just watch an artistic compilation of words, images, and music. They gathered to celebrate what this young woman had created as a result of her time and effort and honor a life touched by depression, loss of family, and separation from important cultural traditions. She saw her own strengths, values and accomplishment reflected in the feedback given by the guests. Through occupational therapy a small community had joined to lift up one individual, elevating the group as a whole.

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 1 day at a time as follows: Into each day, put 12 parts of faith, 11 of patience, 10 of courage, 9 of work (some people omit this ingredient and spoil the flavor of the rest), 8 of hope, 7 of fidelity, 6 of open-mindedness, 5 of kindness, 4 of rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad-don't do it), 3 of prayer, 2 of meditation, and 1 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"

PERSONAL UPDATES AND SSG NEWS

In Memoriam

Maria Elena Chavez

April 26, 1951 - November 24, 2008



SSG and the Parents Neighborhood Youth Program (PNYP) remembers our cherished friend **Maria Elena Chavez** who is now at peace. Ms. Chavez was instrumental in cultivating PNYP into a community led after-school care program over 20 yrs ago. She served as a founder and long term Program Coordinator of the PNYP Trinity Elementary School site until it closed its doors in 2007. Alongside Leticia E. Herrera, who passed in 2005, she embraced the children and families of South Los Angeles with warmth and dedication. Her legacy will continue through the current gains and strengths of PNYP. She was a beloved member of the SSG family and community she so dearly served. Maria Elena Chavez is survived by husband Rafael, children Erika, Mari, Rafael Jr., Miguel, and grandchildren Jonathan, Jasmin, Valerie, Neve, Samantha, and Samuel. SSG expresses condolences to her family and loved ones.



Employment Opportunity

Reentry Maintenance Organization (RMO) has an opening for a full-time **DRC Certified Substance Abuse Counselor**. Send resume to Veronica Kelley, FAX 213-553-1822 or Email vkelly@ssgmain.org

Notes from Human Resources:



On November 24, 2008, the IRS announced that beginning January 1, 2009, the new standard mileage rate will be 55 cents per mile for all business miles.

Thus, mileage incurred on SSG business on or after January 1, 2009 will be reimbursed at the 55 cents rate.

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY

- 1/1 *New Year's Day (SSG Holiday)*
- 1/19 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day (SSG Holiday)*
- 1/26 *Lunar New Year*
- 1/28 *National Fun at Work Day*
- 2/2 *Ground Hog Day*
- 2/14 *Valentine's Day*
- 2/16 *Presidents' Day (SSG Holiday)*
- 2/17 *Random Acts of Kindness Day*

Congratulations



Congratulations to our Executive Director, **Herb Hatanaka**, on the marriage of his daughter **Melissa** to **Kurt Endo** on November 29, 2008. According to sources close to the couple, Kurt has had a crush on Melissa since the 1st grade!! We wish them a lifetime of happiness together!



On October 31, 2008, APAIT Division Director **Jury Candelario** married his life-long partner of 10-years, **John Boudreau**, during an intimate wedding ceremony, officiated by CA Assemblymember **Warren Furutani**. They married



l-r: Warren Furutani, Jury Candelario and John Boudreau

the week before Prop 8 overturned the rights of same-sex couples to marry in the state of CA, a proposition that is now in legal challenge at the state Supreme Court. Jury continues to be actively involved in marriage equality education, awareness and advocacy through API Equality-LA and the People of Color Marriage Equality Collective. For more information or to get involved with API Equality-LA, please visit www.apiequalityla.org. Congratulations!



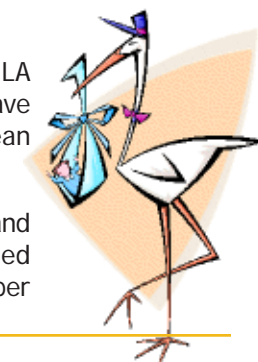
Congratulations to **Lino Raquel's**, (SSG Core Fiscal) his son, **Alwyn** was married to **Jessica Domingo** on October 18, 2008. Their wedding was held at the historic Immaculate Conception Church in Old Town San Diego.



Congratulations to **Yvonne Sun**, OAP she became engaged to **Jimmy Kim** on November 14, 2008.

Congratulations to **Crystal Dairo**, OTTP-LA and husband **Christopher Daman Daman** have a new baby boy named **Christopher Dean Daman Daman**, born October 31, 2008

Congratulations to **Luisa Lowe**, OTTP-LA and husband **Steve** have a new baby boy named **Jessie Daniel Gebhart Lowe**, born November 14, 2008.



PERSONAL UPDATES

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

October

Jane Schulman, Art Therapist, API Alliance
 Dean Tran, Integrated System Assistant, API Alliance
 Barbara Brown Haskin, Admin. Assistant II, OTTP-LA
 Arturo Orozco, Integrated Service Coordinator, API Alliance
 Kenneth Langie, Parent Partner, HOP-A
 Lucy Paz, Van Driver/Support Staff, OTTP-LA

November

Dan Thomas, Case Manager, HOP-B
 Maria Anguiano De Acevedo, Groups Facilitator, BACUP
 Louis Hernandez, Case Manager, HOP-A
 Alisa Tulua, Program Coordinator, OCAPICA
 Au Sam Ha, Client Care Coordinator, OAP
 Lakana Phal, Mental Health Rehab Specialist, APCTC
 Daniel Field, Clinical Manager/Clinical Supervisor, APAIT
 D'Noria Alexanderware, Case Manager, CMH
 Mary Dang, Mental Health Care Coordinator, AP Residential
 Julieta Spears, Rehab Specialist, OTTP-LA
 Courtney Andrews, Care Manager Trainee, OAP
 Hiromi Yamamura, MH Coordinator/Counselor, APAIT
 Tara Sellars, Housing Specialist/Case Manager, HOP-B

December

Gloria Romero, Parent Partner, HOP-A
 Yuko Ohshita, Occupational Therapist, R/L OTTP-LA

RECOGNITION OF STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

<u>November</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Date of Hire</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Danielle Trieu-Nguyen	AP Res	11/15/1995	13
Jennifer Kyomen	APCTC	11/19/1997	11
Susan Choi	PALS	11/22/1999	9
Sarah Bream	OTTP-LA	11/29/1999	9
Andrea Camba	OTTP-LA	11/1/2001	7
Jacqueline Tran	OCAPICA	11/5/2001	7
Ruth Sun	OTTP-LA	11/16/2001	7
Siu Chui Chan	APCTC	11/17/2003	5
Sun Mee Elizabeth Kim	APCTC	11/16/2004	4
Keumboon Katherine Kwon	APCTC	11/16/2004	4
Sokunnary Ung	APCTC	11/16/2004	4
Cory Taylor	OTTP-LA	11/1/2006	2
Mei Chen	APCTC	11/1/2006	2
Gloria Lucas	HOP-A	11/16/2006	2
Dolores Russell	HOP-B	11/16/2006	2
Jenny Alejo	OTTP-LA	11/16/2006	2
Peter Thach	OCAPICA	11/1/2007	1
Sharon Allen	HOP-B	11/6/2007	1
Naomi Tucker	API Alliance	11/15/2007	1
James Choi	APCTC	11/16/2007	1
Eric Gray	CMH	11/21/2007	1

<u>December</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Date of Hire</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Deetra Briggs	HOP-B	12/10/1993	15
Antonia (Tonie) Diaz	SSG Core	12/14/1998	10
Minh (Joseph) Tong	APCTC	12/16/1998	10
Waraporn (Nid) Tiaprasith	OCAPICA	12/1/2000	8
Sylvia Kimball	OTTP-LA	12/4/2000	8
Tuyet Danh	AP Res	12/3/2001	7
Nancy Torres	OTTP-LA	12/1/2002	6
Tracy Kaku	SSG Core	12/8/2003	5
Jason Tran	APAIT	12/16/2005	3
Jeffrey Schinzing	APAIT	12/1/2006	2
Armand Cachero	APAIT	12/12/2006	2
Kieu (Maggie) Ly	APCTC	12/18/2006	2
Terriyonna McMurry	HOP	12/18/2006	2
Stephanie Ohara	OCAPICA	12/18/2006	2
Horacio Sanchez-Azpeitia	APCTC	12/1/2007	1
Takinia Jones	OTTP-LA	12/1/1007	1
Savann Duong	APAIT	12/1/2007	1
Renee Williams	FIC	12/2/2007	1
John Kim	API Alliance	12/4/2007	1
Debbie Vargas	HOP-B	12/13/2007	1
Rattanak Ty	API Alliance	12/18/2007	1
David Yu	API Alliance	12/20/2007	1
Eric Jones	HOP-B	12/26/2007	1

Happy Birthday!

December

Maria Anguiano	12/05	BACUP	Raymond Abron	01/26	HOP-B
De Acevedo			Dana Plyler	01/26	APCTC
Kate Mosier	12/26	OTTP-LA	Camille Crespo	01/27	PALS
			Su Jung Kim	01/28	APCTC
			Kieu Ly	01/28	APCTC
Mary Griffin	01/01	APCTC	Evelyn Groba	01/28	HOP-B
Tseng-Ping Liu	01/02	APCTC	Cindy Kim	01/30	APCTC
Jenny Alejo	01/03	OTTP-LA	Karia Purnima	01/31	OTTP-LA

January

Jessica Barrientos	01/03	APCTC			
Jenny Nguyen	01/04	APCTC			
Rahab Duran	01/06	SSG Core	Jennifer Podoll	02/03	OTTP-LA
Alexander Trac	01/06	APAIT	Inthava Bounpraseuth	02/03	APAIT
Ernesto Vasquez	01/07	HOP-A	Michelle Huerta	02/05	OTTP-LA
Beth De Los Santos	01/08	SSG Core	Hilda Gonzalez	02/07	HOP-A
Evienia Vassiliadou-Couch	01/08	CMH	Elizabeth Carley	02/10	OTTP-LA
			Nhu Nguyen	02/11	OCAPICA
Ellen Garcia	01/09	OTTP-LA	Nick Truong	02/12	APAIT
Elizabeth Armstrong	01/11	OTTP-LA	Jessie Harris	02/12	OTTP-LA
Susan Choi	01/17	PALS	Peter Cruz	02/13	APAIT
Dick Chen	01/17	APCTC	Brian O'Connor	02/14	OTTP-LA
Noriko Kajiware	01/18	APCTC	Sonya Cha	02/15	APCTC
Hayley Levy	01/19	SSG Core	Celso Delgado Jr.	02/17	OTTP-LA
Roderick DeLos Reyes	01/19	OAP	Armine Mkrtchyan	02/18	APCTC
Jordana Carter	01/19	OTTP-LA	Osun Yoo	02/19	APCTC
Pang Yang	01/20	API Alliance	Cynthia Imamura	02/21	BACUP
			Frankii Swayzer	02/23	OTTP-LA
Ailene Kim	01/22	APCTC	Taiesha Farmer	02/23	HOP-B
Norma Quintero	01/23	OTTP-LA	Mireya Munoz	02/24	PALS
Hwa Young Kim	01/23	APCTC	Danielle Trieu-Nguyen	02/25	AP Res.
Gamaliel Polanco	01/23	HOP-A			
Janet Biswas	01/24	Saath	Helen Vu	02/25	APCTC
Angela Kang	01/25	API Alliance	Denise Peters	02/25	API Alliance
Vanessa Mota E Silva	01/25	OTTP-LA	Alex Gil	02/25	CMH
Carlos Moran	01/25	SSG Core	Christopher	02/28	HOP-B
Rosetta Steele	01/25	CMH	Ifekwunigwe		

February

