



Next Issue:  
December 21

# Ask SSG

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September - October 2007

## ASIAN PACIFIC AIDS INTERVENTION TEAM *Commemorated 20 Years of Service*

The Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team (APAIT), Southern California's largest provider of HIV/AIDS services to Asian and Pacific Islanders, commemorated its 20 year anniversary with a gala on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Festivities were held at the Music Box at the Henry Fonda Theatre in Hollywood, CA.

In 1987, APAIT started as a small volunteer driven program. Today with offices in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, APAIT (a Division of SSG) maintains a staff of over twenty people providing services ranging from preventing HIV infection to directly working with HIV positive clients to better their lives. Last year, approximately 10,000 individuals were served.

APAIT's anniversary theme was "Compassion in Action," reinforcing Compassion as a true constant in the organization's history. Honorary Committee Members for the evening included Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, LA County Second Dist.



State Board of Equalization Vice-Chair Dr. Judy Chu, Wells Fargo VP of Community Dev. Jerry Ruiz, APAIT Board Member John Wirfs, and Actor Rex Lee from HBO's hot sitcom "Entourage."

(Six-teen Candles) were on hand to present awards. Other who made the evening memorable included the presence of Vice Chair of the California Board of Equalization Judy Chu and performances by the Arpana Dance Troupe and the Three Filipino Tenors.

The evening honored founding Director Dean Goishi, the Clinical Support staff of 5P21/Rand Schrader Clinic, and the Wells Fargo Foundation for their contributions in the AIDS fight.

APAIT Board President Laurent Sy, APAIT Division Director Jury Candelario, NBC's Last Comic Standing Winner, Comedian Dat Phan, APAIT veteran Noel Alunit, and APAIT Board Member John Wirfs.



## Re-Entry Maintenance Organization (RMO) a New SSG Division

SSG is proud to announce the launch of Re-Entry Options Demonstration Project (REEODP) a partnership with the City of Los Angeles Community Development Dept. Community partners include LAM/Ex-Offenders Action Network, CCI and UAW WorkSource Centers, Friends Outside in LA County and Mums the Word. REEODP is the first funded project of SSG's Re-Entry Maintenance Organization Division (RMO).

In January 2007, the City of Los Angeles Workforce Investment Board, administered by the Community Development Department (CDD) received a 29-month grant from California State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Division of Community Partnerships. SSG-RMO is the lead community organization for the REEODP project as funded under CDD. The project effectively integrates the provision of employment, substance dependence, mental health, legal education, financial literacy and housing services to California State inmates paroling to South Los Angeles.



Top row: Mareta Papu (UAW), Allison Phillips (Mums), Gloria Gaitan (UAW), Monnie Anderson (EAN), Mary Weaver (FOS), Gale Gilliam (CCI), Anna Erro (CCI). Bottom: Susan Quigley (City of LA), Naomi Kageyama, Cheryl Branch, Tracy Carpio (CCI) and Veronica Kelley.

### Some Dates to Remember for November-December

- 11/02 Day of the Dead
- 11/04 Daylight Savings Time ends
- 11/11 Veteran's Day
- 11/12 SSG Holiday (Veteran's Day Observed)
- 11/22 Thanksgiving (SSG Holiday)
- 11/23 Day After Thanksgiving (SSG Holiday)
- 12/01 World AIDS Day
- 12/05 Hanukkah
- 12/22 Winter Begins
- 12/25 Christmas (SSG Holiday)
- 12/26 Kwanzaa begins

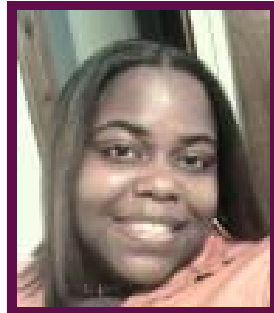
## SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

### Staff Congratulations



Cheryl Branch, SSG's Director of Community Development and Faith in Communities Director has been overseeing the re-organization of the Homeless Outreach Program/Integrated Care System (HOP/ICS) since early 2007. SSG is proud to announce that she will assume the mantle of full leadership as the designated HOP/ICS Division Director during HOP/ICS' infrastructure development. Ms. Branch can be contacted at (323) 948-0444 or email at [cbranch@ssgmain.org](mailto:cbranch@ssgmain.org)

Congratulations to Veronica Kelley, MPA of Faith In Communities (FIC). She was recently promoted as the Project Manager for the new Re-Entry Options Demonstration Project (REEODP), a collaborative project funded by the City of LA Community Development Department/Workforce Development Division. Community partners include Mums the Word, Friends Outside Los Angeles and LA Metropolitan Churches (LAM). See related story and picture on page 1.



Congratulations to Elena Fiallo who was recently promoted as the Homeless Services Director for the SSG Homeless Outreach Program/Integrated Care System (HOP/ICS) at the Broadway site. She has provided experience and expertise as an Analyst II to the SSG core office since July 2007. Her previous experience includes being a Contract Specialist and Outcomes Training Manager at the LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). She can be reached at (323) 948-0444 or [efiallo@hopics.org](mailto:efiallo@hopics.org)

Adreana Perez, is now an Accountant I in SSG's Fiscal Dept. She previously worked as support staff for FIC and SSG's HR Dept. while she was going to school.

SSG Core welcomes Monorom "Kelley" Heng as the new Accounting Assistant in the Fiscal Dept. She was previously with APCTC-Main.

Sylvia Robinson was hired as an Admin. Assistant for SSG Core. She had been working temporarily in SSG's Fiscal Dept. Welcome to the 6th floor!

Dianna Malak Lopez, MSW, a member of SSG's Development Team has been promoted to Analyst II.

### PALS FOR HEALTH

Take a trip to the tropics for dinner  
Thursday, November 15, 2007 from 5pm to 9pm

Yazmin Malaysian Restaurant  
27 E. Main Street @ Garfield  
Alhambra, CA 91801  
Tel: 626-308-2036



Fundraiser - 15% of all proceeds will go toward PALS for Health's language services.  
For more info call PALS at 213-553-1818.

### ASIAN PACIFIC COUNSELING AND TREATMENT CENTERS Shines at Conference!

Congratulations to the Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Centers (APCTC) for their leadership and participation in the *13<sup>th</sup> Annual Asian American Mental Health Training Conference* presented by the Consortium on Asian American Mental Health Training and held on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in Long Beach, California. Dr. Silvia Yan was part of the conference planning committee for this well respected and prestigious event. Dr. Brett Sevilla was the presenter for workshop 'Breaking Taboos: Talking with Asian-American Adolescents and Families About Sex' and Dr. Yan was one of the presenters for the workshop 'Issues of Relationship and Sexuality with Asian American Clients'. Congratulations to all!

#### APCTC Participates in NAMI Los Angeles County Walk 2007

APCTC has been a long-time supporter and mentor of the local Asian Pacific chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). APCTC provides staff support, meeting space, and other resources for this dedicated group. For the annual NAMI Los Angeles County Walk 2007 held on October 6, 2007 in Santa Monica, CA, Director Dr. Chong Suh and several staff participated together with clients, family members and friends. All funds raised go to support NAMI.



Members of NAMI Asian Pacific LA. Flanked by APCTC Staff Sonya Cha (front, left) and Addie Yap-Tsujiuchi (front, right).

Founded in 1979, NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of persons living with serious mental illness and their families. Many of SSG's mental health providers work with local NAMI chapters and groups.

## SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

### API ALLIANCE 7 Years and Going Strong!

API ALLIANCE hosted their 7<sup>th</sup> annual *API Alliance Sportfest* which took place on September 28, 2007 at Bolivar Park in Lakewood. Over 120 guests including staff, clients, family members, volunteers and friends attended this annual fun-filled day of sports, food, entertainment and good company. While only partially sunny, the tremendous goodwill and 'heart' of everyone involved lit up the event. Sports and games included baseball, basketball, volleyball, badminton, chess and other board games. Congratulations to API Director Dr. Trang Hoang, AP Residential Program Director Jae Son and all their staff who helped make this event such a success!

### HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM/ICS

HOPICS Family Center (Avalon) is happy to announce their new grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for their *Supporting Opportunities for Adolescent Recovery (SOAR)* project. This new project will provide evidence-based, family-centered substance abuse treatment to minority, low-income, substance-abusing youth ages 12 to 20 in Los Angeles, particularly South LA. The project aims to increase the level of abstinence from alcohol and drugs among South LA youth and increase caregiver's level of participation in their youth's substance abuse treatment.

### ASIAN PACIFIC AIDS INTERVENTION TEAM

*Save the Date: World AIDS Day is December 1<sup>st</sup>!* Check [www.apaitonline.org](http://www.apaitonline.org) for upcoming activities in commemoration.

*Project Name Change: AB2034 is now  
Central Mental Health (CMH)*

### COMMUNITY NEWS

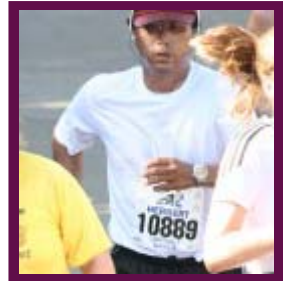


(l - r) Vaka Faletau, Tongan American Youth Foundation President; Naomi Kageyama/SSG; Jane Ka'ala Pang, retired LA County Nurse Case Manager and Pacific Islander Health Partnership (PIHP) Board Secretary and Special Projects Chair for the Pacific Islander Community Council (PICC); Elizabeth Berger/SSG; Peta Fakaseiki/SSG Tongan Community Services Center; Dianna Malak Lopez/SSG; and Penelope Lewin/SSG. (not pictured: Victor Kaiwi Pang, President (PIHP) and Director of the PICC.

Community Partnerships in Action: SSG's Development Team prepared an oral presentation to the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to advocate for continued funding of the Tongan Community Service Center. The presentation was held at the DPSS offices in the City of Industry on September 17, 2007. SSG is sincerely grateful for the community leaders who came to assist us in these efforts. Mahalo!

### Personal Accomplishments

Congratulations to Executive Director Herbert Hatanaka and daughter Tracy who both participated in the Labor Day weekend Disneyland Half Marathon held on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007. In spite of the grueling heat, both father and daughter crossed the finish line to receive their medals. Congratulations to both!



Sarah Bream, MA, OTR/L, Division Director of OTTP, is now a doctoral student at University of Southern California's Division of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy. Congratulations and Good Luck!!!



### Employment Opportunities

OTTP-LA has a full-time  
Occupational Therapist position  
Fax resume to Suzanne Afuso-Sugano at  
310-323-1570



### CALIF Celebrates 5 Years of Service

Congratulations to Lillibeth Navarro, Executive Director of CALIF - Communities Actively Living Independent and Free. CALIF celebrated their 5-year anniversary as a designated Independent Living Center (ILC) for the State of California. The original founding body of CALIF was the SSG IRAPS (IHSS Recipients and Providers Sharing) Project. CALIF is located at 634 S. Spring St. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, LA, CA 90014 (213) 627-0477. Website is [www.calif-ilc.org](http://www.calif-ilc.org)



(l to r): Tonie Diaz/SSG;  
Naomi Kageyama/SSG;  
Lillibeth Navarro/CALIF;  
Judy Lawyer/SSG