



# Ask SSG

Next Issue:  
February 22

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November - December 2004

## A Message from the Executive Director of SSG

As an agency, we faced many challenges throughout 2004. It has been a year of transitions and change as well as significant growth. We have rejoiced in the development of new initiatives and programs while maintaining our focus and mission of community service and community empowerment.

I take great pride in the agency's many successes and highlights of 2004. We are embarking on many new projects and I know we will continue to be successful in our endeavors. Any organization is only as good as its people and I am humbled by the commitment and dedication of staff throughout the agency.

Most importantly, I have had the opportunity to attend many of our project events this past year and I have seen what effective work is being done. I have seen many clients whose lives have been transformed as a result of your efforts. It is no exaggeration to say that you have saved lives and enhanced the quality of life for many others. And, in doing so you have instilled in clients self-respect, dignity and hope.

In this holiday season, I ask each of you to look at your co-workers and find the ones who toil tirelessly without fanfare or complaints - the unsung heroes of SSG. You know who they are - they may be sitting right in the next cubicle or office. Please take a moment to just say 'Thank You' Our many unsung heroes throughout the agency form the backbone of strength, integrity and quality the agency is known for. We are equally indebted to their dedication.

So, to all of you I wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy New Year! I truly thank each of you for another year of hard work and commitment. I leave you with this quote from Theodore Roosevelt - "Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." Happy Holidays! *Herb*



**Some Dates to Remember in December - February!**  
(Please refer your Payroll Schedule for a complete listing of agency observed holidays.)

- 12/25 Christmas Day (Observed on 12/24 - SSG)
- 12/26 Kwanzaa Begins
- 1/1 New Year's Day (Observed on 12/31 - SSG)
- 1/17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (SSG)
- 2/9 Chinese New Year & Ash Wednesday
- 2/10 First of Muharram (Islamic New Year)
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/21 President's Day (SSG)

## Safety in the Workplace

SSG Human Resources Department

### Be An Extra-Safe Driver

Those who drive for a living would be the first to agree it can be mighty dangerous out there on CA's crowded roads. The common factors of inexperience, recklessness, and aggressive driving contribute to many vehicle accidents, it doesn't however, explain why so many professional drivers get into accidents. A driver may be trained, experienced, & competent behind the wheel, but the very flood of vehicles competing for space on the roads today presents added danger to all drivers. Even the very best drivers must learn to operate their vehicles with life-saving EXTRAS.

Drivers should take extra care of their vehicles' maintenance by keeping them in good operating condition. Before getting behind the wheel, do a simple walk around the vehicle to insure that tires are properly inflated & have good tread, check that lights are clear and working, and see that windshields are clean and wipers blades are sharp.

Once inside the vehicle, drivers should take the extra time to check the gas gage, adjust the mirrors, seat, and seatbelt to a comfortable position and, if it's an unfamiliar vehicle, locate the lights, brakes, & wipers. Horns, flasher lights, and other warning devices are not just accessories but vital parts of the extra safety built into any vehicle, so make sure they operate properly.

On the roadways, be extra careful by driving defensively. Following the rules of the road can help you concentrate on what you should be doing...driving. Stay out of the other vehicle's blind spot and avoid tailgating. Instead, keep a safe distance from other drivers by maintaining that extra safety cushion of driving space between your vehicle and those around you. Know the condition of the weather and road and drive only as fast as those conditions allow.

Be extra cautious by staying alert and expecting the unexpected. Watch out for and anticipate other drivers, pedestrians or children on or near the road. Safe drivers scan constantly for hazards, predicting how they may be affected by a hazard and pre-determining how to avoid or reduce them.

The ever-changing variable of the road and other vehicles can make drivers instantly vulnerable to accidents. If drivers don't practice these life-saving extras on the road, they might personally discover why vehicle deaths and serious injuries now total more than all the wartime wounded and fatalities since 1776.



PLEASE RECYCLE

## DEDICATION & EXCELLENCE

### SSG Bids a Fond Farewell to Tri Huu Le

SSG bids a fond farewell to Tri Huu Le MSW, longtime Director of the SSG Asian Pacific Residential Treatment Program (APRTP) and Program Coordinator for the API Alliance. Tri is planning to relocate to Ohio and rejoin his family who moved earlier. Tri will continue his work at SSG through January 2005. A luncheon in his honor is currently being planned.



Tri leaves a long history and legacy of leadership and dedication to improve the quality of life for some of our most vulnerable population groups - severely and persistently mentally ill adults who are limited English proficient (LEP) or monolingual. With Tri's leadership, APRTP has become well known for innovative service design and competent and caring staff. APRTP provides comprehensive mental health and rehabilitation services in a group living environment.

Since 1997 Tri has also played a major role in the development and expansion of the SSG Asian and Pacific Islander Mental Health Alliance, an innovative public/private partnership that provides community-based care as an alternative to institutionalized treatment for LEP or monolingual patients. Over 100 individuals now live productive and meaningful lives in the community as a result of his work in the API Alliance.

After receiving his BA in Social Work/Criminal Justice in 1986, Tri was hired as a Community Worker for APRTP. He eventually went overseas to the Philippines to provide counseling and support to Vietnamese and Amerasian youth in the Philippines Refugee Processing Center. Upon his return in 1990 he began his MSW graduate program. During this time he continued his work with SSG as a Community Mental Health Worker for the APCTC/Indochinese Center as well as garnering further skills as a Graduate Intern with the California Youth Authority.

In 1993 Tri was hired as the Program Director for APRTP. Under this leadership, the program flourished. APRTP is a model program lauded by the Department of Mental Health and is well known for innovative services and support services that go above and beyond the basic model of service. Ever modest, Tri typically shuns the spotlight and gives full credit to his dedicated staff, volunteers and clients. SSG commends and honors Tri's many years of dedicated service to SSG. His leadership has created a lasting legacy that will continue to be honored.

### Andrew Wong Dedication



Andrew Wong, DDS

On Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, the SSG monthly board meeting was held at the Children's Dental Clinic. A plaque and photo was presented to the clinic in honor of the late Andrew Wong, DDS, Founding Dentist of the clinic and former board member. Andrew's legacy continues to thrive. Director Jane Rosser conducted a tour of the dental clinic together with resident dentist Dr. Lester Lim who spoke feelingly of the over 2500 children served every year.

### SSG Wishes Barbara Green a Happy Retirement!

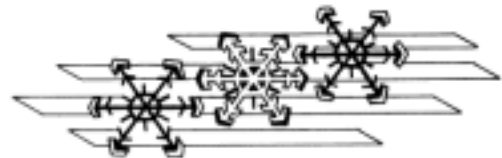


**Barbara Glen Green**, former Director of the SSG West Blvd. Child Development Center retired in 2004 after 25 years of service and commitment. Barbara was always the nucleus of the Center and SSG salutes her unwavering loyalty, dedication and commitment to the many children and families faithfully served by the Center's loyal and hardworking staff.

Hired in 1979 as a substitute teacher, Barbara quickly moved up the ranks and became Director in 1983. Supported by the LA City Community Development Department and the State Department of Education/Nutrition Program, Barbara and her team prevailed to become a well-beloved neighborhood resource and service center. The Center provides all day child care and development services for children ages 2 ½ to 5 years old. The program is geared for working poor families in the local neighborhood.

On November 1, 2004 a retirement luncheon was held for over 40 family, friends and staff at the scenic Monterey Hills Restaurant. Amid laughter and tears, guests applauded Barbara's many years of leadership. Included in the program was a special commendation from the LA City/CDD presented by Assistant Director Manet Milner of the Human Services and Family Development Division. On November 5, 2004, Barbara received a plaque and special recognition from Councilman Martin Ludlow during the City Council session.

Congratulations and a Happy Retirement to you Barbara! All of us at SSG wish you and your family all the best.



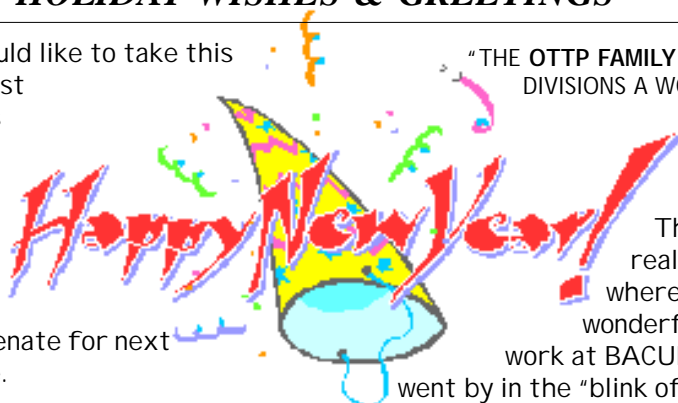
### Attainable New Year's Resolutions

[www.jestsandjokes.com](http://www.jestsandjokes.com)

1. Gain weight. At least 30 pounds.
2. Stop exercising. Waste of time.
3. Read less. Makes you think.
4. Watch more TV. I've been missing some good stuff.
5. Procrastinate more. Starting tomorrow.
6. Spend more time at work.
7. Take a vacation to someplace important: Like to see the largest ball of twine.
8. Stop bringing lunch from home: I should eat out more.
9. Quit giving money and time to charity.
10. Personal goal: Bring back disco.
11. Start being superstitious.
12. Not eat cloned meat.
13. Speak in a monotone voice and only use monosyllabic words.
14. Spread out priorities beyond my ability to keep track of them.

**HOLIDAY WISHES & GREETINGS**

The **PALS for Health staff** would like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest wishes to all our SSG colleagues for a wonderful, healthy, and happy holiday season. Everyone plays such important roles in improving the lives of many in the community. Take some well deserved time off to spend with family and friends, and to rejuvenate for next year. Peace and love to everyone.



"THE **OTTP FAMILY** WISHES ALL SSG PROJECTS & DIVISIONS A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON & PROSPERITY IN THE NEW YEAR"

Every time has its' moments. There is no perfect time I realize, but during this period where so much is in change it is wonderful to have the opportunity to work at BACUP and SSG. This year 2004 went by in the "blink of an eye". To see the good that has happened to so many people at SSG makes it easier to see the world in a positive light. Reading in the newsletter over the past year of the births and adoptions means the world is a better place. In the year ahead, **BACUP** wishes much happiness, health and prosperity to everyone! Happy Holidays. **Andy Posner**, BACUP Director



*OCAPICA Staff*

**HOLIDAY Greetings!!!**

*Thank you for all your support this past year.*

*We look forward to seeing you in 2005!*

*"We wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season and hope for peace in the new year."*

*Love, OCAPICA*

**APCTC** would like to appreciate all staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the years. Best wishes and happy holidays to all!

During this special time of the year.

When the soul feels its worth.

May God bless us with love, compassion & peace.

With Love,

**The TCSC Staff**

Lolotonga e taimi mahu'inga ko eni 'o e ta'u,

'Oku hounga'ia ai 'a e mo'ui.

'Ofa ke tapuaki'i kitautolu 'e he

'Otua'aki i' Ene 'Ofa, Nonga pea mo 'ene Melino

'Ofa 'Atu,

**Kau Ngaue TCSC**

In these times of celebration, **CD&GIS** would like to offer you some sobering statistics:

On average, people eat about 6,000 calories on Christmas day. (Most people need a maximum of between 2,000 - 2,500 calories daily.)

Aren't you glad you're not the only one?

Have a safe and tasty holiday!

**Census Data and Geographic Information Service**

The **SSG Development Team** wishes everyone at SSG and your families a healthy and joyful holiday season.

*Hayley, Elizabeth, Naomi, Judy, Jennifer, Eric, Carissa and Jorge.*

**Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team** would like to thank you ALL for the wonderful support you have contributed throughout this year. Happy Holiday greetings and best wishes to you in 2005!

*"The Older Adult Program would like to wish all the staff of SSG and their families a warm, healthy, and happy holiday season. "*



**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"

## PROGRAM NEWS & SSG HIGHLIGHTS

### PALS for Health

**PALS for Health** received the **Community Partner Award** from the Asian Pacific American Legal Center during the its 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Dinner, in recognition the programs work to eliminate cultural and language barriers faced by immigrants in their effort to obtain quality health care. Hosted by KABC anchor David Ono, other awardees included architect Ki Suh Park, the law firm of Bird Marella, Bank of America and the Chiu family. Thanks Herb, Naomi, Hayley, our interpreters and Advisory Council members for attending & celebrating with us.



Mireya, Thi, Heng, Rommony and Susan

**PALS for Health** extends congratulations to the first graduating class of its Patient Speakers Bureau training! With funding support from The California Endowment, and in collaboration with Alice Chen, MD and the National Health Law Program, the program piloted its first public speaking training for limited English proficient patients. Participants learned valuable public speaking skills, and worked as a team to develop personal stories on how language barriers affected their health care access and treatment. Some patient stories will be featured in the upcoming issue of the program newsletter.



1st Graduating Class and PALS Staff

**PALS for Health** received the **Milestone Award** from the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team at APAIT's World AIDS Day event in appreciation of PALS for Health's decade long effort to improve linguistically appropriate services for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Other awardees included Lela Hung, Nancy Shearer, and Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald.

**PALS for Health's** Holiday Open House was held on December 17<sup>th</sup> with an array of yummy multicultural food including desserts donated by the famous Porto's Bakery in Glendale. Thank you Porto's!

### West Blvd., PNYP and PAADP

Three projects offer a special **Thank You to the LA City Fire Dept.'s Sparkle of Love - Toys for Needy Children Program** for once again filling the hearts of the children being served by their programs. Gifts were distributed by firefighters during the children's holiday parties.



### OCAPICA

Reach 2010 announces the release of the **2005 API Cancer Survivor Calendar**. To get your free calendar, contact OCAPICA at (714) 636-9095. Supply limited, call early.



### Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team

On Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, the **Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team** hosted its annual **World AIDS Day celebration** at the Pacific Asian Museum in Pasadena. This year's global theme for World AIDS Day was "Women and HIV" and APAIT celebrated the theme with its own musical and awards presentation entitled, "Womyn Warriors"

At this year's World AIDS Day event APAIT staff recognized and honored the contributions women have made to AIDS research and advocacy in the context of their fight for women's rights, and recognizes their significance in a pandemic whose epidemiology is now half comprised of women. Heng Foong and PALS for Health received the Milestone Award; Lela Hung was honored with the Public Service Award; Nancy Shearer was recognized with the Community Advocate Award; and Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald received the Community Leadership Award. Several other historical Asian Pacific women were also honored through a poster presentation of their achievements - Princess Urduja of the Philippines, the Trung Sisters of Vietnam, and writer Maxine Hong Kingston were among the 11 honored womyn warriors.

Besides recognizing those women who advocate for women's rights through political and social advocacy, "Womyn Warriors" also featured an all Asian Pacific American women artist cast for the entertainment piece. Skim - a young, queer Korean woman had the audience of 75 bobbing their heads to her socially conscious yet melodic hip-hop beats. DJ L24 provided smooth and funky background music throughout the entire program. Singer Emily Angud graced the audience with her deep soulful rendition of "Beautiful" by Christina Aguilera. And the USC String Duo - both of whom who were Asian-American women - entertained the audience with beautiful live classical music. And finally, the Mistress of Ceremonies was Alison de la Cruz - a young queer Filipina performance artist kept the audience captivated and entertained with her matured improvisational and MC skills.

By spelling "womyn" with a "y", APAIT's staff hoped to spread the idea that, despite what the traditional spelling entails, womyn's autonomy and sense of being shall not be determined by men.

Although it was a rainy and cold Sunday afternoon, it didn't stop APAIT and their guests from enjoying World AIDS Day and reflecting on how important it is to remember the struggles of women in the global fight against the HIV epidemic.

### Benefits Assistance Clients' Urban Project

Deaf and hearing-impaired services available at BACUP. LeAnn Ivers is a Consumer Job Coach/Benefit Rep at BACUP and she is providing outreach to clients who are deaf and hearing-impaired. LeAnn and Andrew Posner, Project Director, will be working to make services available to this underserved population as part of BACUP's strategy for the upcoming year. LeAnn can be reached at 213 240 8601. A TTD line is being established.

**MORE SSG HIGHLIGHTS**

**Tongan Community Service Center**

**Community Forum Dinner**

On December 2; Thursday evening seventy people were invited to dine at the Alpine Village Inn, hosted by the **Tongan REACH 2010 PATH for Women Project**. We wanted to acknowledge and show our appreciation of the Tongan women who provided their time and assistance to the project. Particularly in sharing their private stories of their battle with breast cancer. We are ever grateful for their being candid.

The dinner was successful and an enjoyable evening. Food was delicious. Thank you to Auntie Terri Rotter, Alpine Village Inn Owner for the free cake!! The Alpine Village Staff, especially Charlotte for her patience.

Thank you to the Bishop Tuita Tu'i'asoa for arriving in the nick of time to say grace before dinner was served. The members of the Tongan Advisory Board for being present at the dinner and their support.

A heart warming thanks to Roderick de los Reyes for his ideas and volunteering to be our photographer for the evening. OCAPICA's Mary Anne Foo, Executive Director, Jacqueline Tran and Susan Lee. The evaluation team from UCLA and our SSG family who were able to make it to the dinner, OAP's David Yim, Program Director, Susan Choi of PALS, Elizabeth Berger, CORE; again Roderick de los Reyes, Case Manager for OAP and his lovely wife Melanie.

Malo e lava mai. Malo e 'Ofa. (Thank you for the support and love). To my colleagues at TCSC. I thank you for making this possible.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you.

'Ofa 'Atu

Peta Fakasiieiki, Program Coordinator (Tongan) PATH for Women



L to R - Peta Fakasi'ie'iki, Fiye Fehoko, Special Community Worker; Nellie A. Skeen, Acting Director for TCSC and Bernadine Leha'uli, Youth Program Coordinator.



Peta Fakasi'ie'iki



**Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Centers**

APCTC's first Bowling Tournament was held on December 3rd, the Team Championship was won by the Wilshire office and Best Player award goes to Al Choi.



**A3PCON's Prop 63 Fundraiser A Great Success - Prop 63 Passes!**

A3PCON's Prop 63 Fundraiser held on October 27th at the City Club on Bunker Hill was a great success thanks to the support and contributions of the API & Mental Health Community. The event featured moving presentations by Gladys Lee (Pacific Clinics); Mayor Mike Eng (Monterey Park); Assemblywoman Judy Chu; and Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg, the author of the proposition. **We want to thank SSG divisions who helped sponsor the event including: APCTC, AP Residential Program, API Alliance, and APAIT.** Thanks to everyone's outstanding contributions and support Prop. 63 did pass and will provide \$700 million dollars per year for mental health services in California.



**FAQ for Human Resources**

**Q.** What is the difference between General Practice, Family Practice and Internal Medicine when selecting a Primary Care Physician?

**A. General Practice**  
Practitioners have not specialized and are not certified by a Board; they are qualified to diagnose and treat general medical and surgical conditions in all body systems and regions, in people of all age groups.

**Family Practice**  
A certification by the Board of Family Practice; practitioners prevent, diagnose, and treat a wide variety of ailments in patients of all ages, placing special emphasis on the care of families on a continuing basis. They have received a broad range of training that includes surgery, psychiatry, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics and geriatrics.

**Internal Medicine**  
A certification by the Board of Internal Medicine; practitioners provide long-term, comprehensive care in the office and the hospital, managing both common illnesses and complex problems for adolescents, adults, and the elderly. General internists are trained in primary care internal medicine, which incorporates an understanding of disease prevention, wellness, substance abuse, mental health and treatment of problems of the eyes, ears, skin, nervous system and reproductive organs. All internists are trained in the subspecialty areas of internal medicine including emergency internal medicine and critical care. Internists consult with surgeons when surgical management is indicated, and often act as consultants to other specialists.