



Ask SSG

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March - April 2011

ASIAN PACIFIC COUNSELING AND TREATMENT CENTERS

Generosity and Giving for Survivors of the 2011 Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster

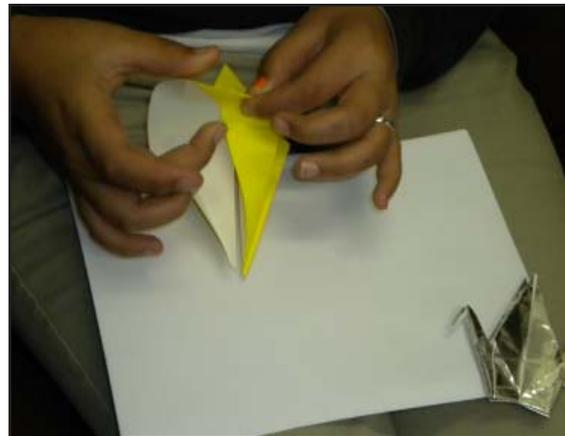
The world has watched with sorrow and heartbreak since the March 11, 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami destroyed lives, livelihoods and knocked the country to it's knees. The subsequent nuclear crisis continues to stretch the limits of strength, determination and perseverance of the people of Japan and truly the entire world.

Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Centers has stepped forward to participate in two projects to help Japan. Noriko Kajiwara MSW coordinated both of these extraordinary efforts.

10,000 CRANES: Staff, clients and families of APCTC have come together to fold 10,000 cranes. These cranes will be forwarded to the Bezos Family Foundation. For each crane received, the foundation provides \$2 to the 'Architecture for Humanity' organization - dedicated to the reconstruction efforts for the earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan. Their target goal of 100,000 cranes (received from all over the world) will be woven into an art installation - a symbolic gift to Japanese youth. The folded crane is a cultural symbol of peace, hope and longevity. While most often seen in weddings with tidings of good fortune, the 'One Thousand Cranes' is also well-known as a symbol of recovery. In the aftermath of the bombing of Hiroshima in 1945 - a young girl stricken with leukemia tried to fold 1000 cranes which were eventually buried with her when she died.



'Heart collage made with hundreds of cranes collected from all APCTC centers'



APCTC client folding a crane.

BILINGUAL DISASTER HOTLINE: Bilingual therapists from APCTC have volunteered to provide Disaster Hotline services for Japan earthquake/tsunami survivors. A dedicated group of therapists and professionals -Dana Plyler MSW, Sarah Allen LMFT, Sheila Wu PhD, Tseng Ping Liu LMFT, Jung-Im Chang LCSW, WanChae Park MSW, Hosun Kwon LMFT, Lan Nguyen Chawkins PhD, Kanako Taniguchi LCSW and Tina Tangtheinkul MFTI- have contributed their spare time to provide these services. They signed on to provide assistance to the Hotline since the disaster on 3/11/11 and continue to be on active 'as needed' volunteer service.



SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

FAITH IN COMMUNITIES



The Los Angeles AL-IMPICS
Saturday, May 14, 2011

El Camino College
Compton Center

Opening Ceremonies Begin 8:30am

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteer Orientation May 6th 3-4pm

Call Now!

Renee Williams at 213-236-9399, rwilliams@ssgmain.org
www.al-impics.org

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE CLIENTS URBAN PROJECT & LIFE CENTER

BACUP's new and user friendly website www.bacup.net went live on April 12, 2011. A lot of work and love went into creating this new site; we have revised our vision and mission to clearly show what BACUP is about and what we can do to help people. BACUP is trying to reach out to as many people as possible, so please direct those looking for help with benefits, peer support, drop in center or perhaps a place to volunteer to our site.



SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL STAFF AND BOARD
APPRECIATION LUNCHEON
JULY 29, 2011

SOME DATES TO REMEMBER FOR MAY - JUNE

- 5/8 Mother's Day
- 5/30 Memorial Day Observed (SSG Holiday)
- 6/19 Father's Day
- 6/21 Summer Begins

HOP/ICS FAMILY CENTER

First Annual Resource Fair

On March 16, 2011, USC Interns **Jasville Molina** and **Jissel Aguilar** organized HOP/ICS Family Center's First Annual Resource Fair. The purpose of the Resource Fair was to provide an opportunity for clients and families living in the community to learn about the variety of organizations, programs and businesses that provide services locally. Some of the groups who participated include: St. John's Well Child and Family Center, The Job Corps, Rita Walters Learning Complex, Planned Parenthood, LA County Voter Outreach, UMMA Community Clinic, Kabazon Waters, Mother's Nutritional Centers, local farmers and a variety of local vendors. The event was enjoyed by all and was a great success.



PALS FOR HEALTH AND ALAS PARA TU SALUD

PALS for Health staff **Anita Le**, **Mireya Munoz**, **Susan Choi**, **Camila Crespo**, and **Tina Vasinamakin** participated in the LA County Susan G. Komen Annual Race for the Cure on Sunday, March 6 at Dodger's Stadium. PALS exceeded its 2011 fundraising goal of \$1,000 and was the 95th highest fundraising team overall—a record best for PALS.



l-r: Mireya Munoz, Camila Crespo, Anita Le, Tina Vasinamak front center; Jasmine Munoz

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

TONGAN COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

"Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Youth Health and Fitness Day"

On Saturday, April 2, 2011, President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and California Commission Asian Pacific Islander Affairs held their 1st Annual "Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Youth Health and Fitness Day" on the intramural fields and Wilson Plaza of UCLA. Thanks to Hines Ward, Sefa 'Aina, Kamuela Enos, and Tana Lepule, members of the Advisory Commissions, this event was a great success! Although Hines Ward was one of the event hosts, he was perceived as a special guest whose presence along with fellow Steeler, Troy Polamalu, drew the majority of the attendants. They spoke on the importance of having an outdoors, video game-free childhood, and on the importance of being good cultural ambassadors. Special guests Jillian Michaels and Bob Harper from NBC's Biggest Loser were there to share special messages with the youth and representatives of all Pacific Islander communities.

There was a great representation of the different Pacific Islander communities - over 1000 participants. Many came with their family and friends to learn about how to improve their health and learn about how to protect their children and themselves from the lifelong health issues. In addition to learning about the issues, the organizers hosted six fitness stations and gave families the opportunity to move. The stations were flooded! It was also great to see the youth of all ages participate in the fitness activities that were conducted by volunteers.

Also, there was a health fair with booths sharing important information about health disparities such as breast and cervical cancer, providing free health and dental screening, holding blood pressure screenings, and many more. It was great to see such a diverse mixture of all Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander youth getting involved and actively participating in this event-filled day. Due to its great success, there is great confidence that this is a beginning of a great movement to improve the health of our future, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth.

TCSC co-sponsored and helped to organize this event.



Office of Samoan Affairs booth

RESEARCH & EVALUATION UNIT

On March 15th, the Research and Evaluation Unit hosted the *Build a Learning Organization (BLO) Peer Learning Convening* at the Hollywood Community Housing Corporation. As part of a two-year grant from the California Community Foundation, the R&E Unit is working with CCF grantees to build their program evaluation capacity. About 20 people from 9 grantee organizations attended the event, which was the first of a series of three peer learning gatherings for the grantees. Gabriele Burkard, Program Officer for CCF, gave the welcome and introduction for the half-day event.

At this convening, CCF grantees learned about social emotional indicators and the best methods to track them for their participants. The event gave grantees a rare occasion to reflect on the outcomes of their programs and to share evaluation tips with other grantees that have similar programs and outcomes. It was also an opportunity for our R&E staff to see where each grantee was in planning and evaluating their programs, so that they could better support these grantees in the next steps of their evaluation capacity building. The next two BLO Peer Learning Convening events will focus on data management and program sustainability.



Gabriel Burkard (standing) opens the Convening

Rosie Jackson Receives Special Recognition



Rosie Jackson, the founder and long-time Director of Hurting & Hungry Project was recognized by the El Camino Recreation District "Mona Park" for her outstanding service to the community.

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TRAINING PROGRAM - LA

Occupational Therapy Association of California 2011 Spring Symposium

OTTP-LA Division Director, OTAC Region 2 Director-Elect - **Sarah Bream** and **Paula McNamara, MS, OTR/L** and **Andrea Mendoza, LMFT** represented OTTP-LA and SSG at the TAC 2011 Spring Symposium at Disney's Paradise Pier® Hotel, on April 2-3, 2011 in Anaheim, CA. Sarah Bream was one of the presenters for "Transitioning to New Areas of Practice." The presentation explored returning to occupational therapy after being away from practice as well as transitioning into new areas of practice. Dr. Bream spoke from a mental health perspective; others include physical disabilities, home health, and pediatrics.

Paula McNamara, MS, OTR/L and Andrea Mendoza's, LMFT, presentation was entitled "Assessing Family Functioning Through Home-based Mental Health Services" which looked at the benefits and challenges of providing family-centered, occupation-based interventions in the home while integrating occupational therapy into an evidence-based community mental health model for at-risk youth.

OTTP Presents at the American Occupational Therapy Association 91st Annual Conference & Expo April 14-17, 2011 in Philadelphia, PA

OTTP-LA's **Paula McNamara, MS, OTR/L** and **Andrea Mendoza, LMFT**, presented a session entitled "Mental Health Inclusion: Preventative Services to At-Risk Youth and Families Through Home and Community-Based Services," which explores how occupational therapy has been integrated into an evidence-based community mental health model for at-risk youth, as well as the benefits and challenges of providing family-centered, occupation based interventions in the home.

Elizabeth Carley, OTD, OTR/L and **Luisa Lowe, MSW, LCSW**, presented a session "Aggression reduction for adolescents: An interdisciplinary approach," which discusses the importance of the innovative, interdisciplinary nature of an aggression replacement program for adolescents. The effects of budgetary constraints and institutional mandates on continuity and quality of services for low-income at-risk youth will also be addressed.

Ruth Sun, M.A. OTR/L and **Mary Lawrence, OTA/L** presented "Food Fitness: Healthier Eating for a Healthier Lifestyle for At-Risk Youth." The session explored the impact of obesity during adolescence as it affects mental health, social relationships and academic functioning. Food Fitness is a wellness program designed to promote the development of healthy living choices and positive habits for at-risk youth living in urban Los Angeles.

Congrats to all of the OTTP-LA presenters!

National Network for Social Work Managers

1st Virtual Mentorship Program with Dr. Southard

On February 25, 2011, the NNSWM launched the first virtual Mentorship Program hosted by Dr. Marvin Southard, Director of the LA County Department of Mental Health. Ten individuals were selected from applicants worldwide of varying social work management backgrounds and experiences. Dr. Southard and the mentees interact virtually using webcams in hourly sessions through the course of the year sharing advice and discussing various topics on professional development. Of these ten mentees selected two are SSG's own social work managers: **Jennifer Schott, MSW, Clinical Director of HOP-Family Center** and **Carlos Moran, MSW, Project Director of Families in Transition of HOPICS-Broadway**. At the completion of the program, mentees will have a private luncheon with Dr. Southard at the Network's Annual Institute and the opportunity to meet their fellow colleagues from various states and countries. We congratulate Jennifer and Carlos for being accepted to this unique and innovative program! For more information visit:

www.socialworkmanager.org



Jennifer Schott



Carlos Moran

Professional Development Webinar Series

The NNSWM hosted their 2nd web chat featuring the President and CEO of PROTOTYPES, **Cassandra Loch, LCSW, MBA** on March 10, 2011. Cassandra shared her experiences as a social work manager and answered questions on the Practical Strategies and Advice for Professional Advancement. The live web chat broadcast was hosted and facilitated by **Wendy Chiu, MSW Program Analyst, SSG** and attracted over 150 viewers worldwide. To view a recording of the webinar and details on the upcoming exclusive mentorship program with Cassandra, along with various other professional development resources visit:

www.socialworkmanager.org

Congratulations to Wendy Chiu for a job well done.



l-r: Cassandra Loch and Wendy Chiu

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Personal Accomplishments



APAIT would like to congratulate staff member **Noel Alunit**. Earlier this year, California State Senator **Darrell Steinberg** appointed Noel to the *California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs*. The Commission advises the Governor and the Legislature, as well as state agencies, departments and commissions, on issues relating to the social and economic development, and the rights and interests of APIA communities. Kudos!



Yvonne Sun, LCSW, Older Adults Program recently passed her licensing exam. Congratulations!

