

Executive Director's Message: Thank You



Herbert Hatanaka

Dear SSG colleagues, clients, stakeholders and friends.

My holiday message this year begins with a solemn reminder to count our blessings. As with the rest of the world I know we were all transfixed by the images of tropical typhoon Haiyan "Yolanda" as it directly hit the Philippines on November 8, 2013 and left a trail of wreckage across the Philippines and parts of Southeast Asia. As I watched I was reminded of how

vulnerable we are as individuals, neighborhoods, cities and even a nation. I humbly ask all of you to remember those less fortunate than you this holiday season and give generously as many of us have done - of your time and donations that you can spare.

When I reflect on this past year I think there is an unmistakable energy and drive within and across SSG to do more and better things for our communities and our people. I can see across all 24 divisions and programs of SSG that significant expansion, new and improved services and impressive outcomes are being achieved. Dedication and a sincere desire to help people in need are alive and well and continue to be the foundation of our mission.

Today, our areas of service cover a large region of Southern California as well as a thriving OTTP San Francisco division in the Bay area. We have grown significantly this past year to a staff of 685, over 200 professional consultants and 100 active multi-agency partnerships that serve to create an evolving network of service portals that can effectively serve those in need in the many communities we work in.

Looking forward to 2014 there are of course many challenges and yet many opportunities. We are very excited about the soon to be completed SSG headquarters in the downtown Wholesale District. We are embracing the future via more effective use of technology coupled with our legendary work ethic. Collectively we have worked hard to strategically

address challenges on the human services horizon and I am confident that we are well positioned to exceed our goals.

Some of you may know that we are implementing new and exciting programs in response to the changes brought forth by the Affordable Care Act. We are bolstering our behavioral health service programs and creating partnerships with primary care providers through co-location, mobile health sites, and more. We continue to expand our networks with both public and private providers especially schools, clinics, hospitals, faith based organizations, other nonprofit organizations and workforce development sites. At the same time we have continued to build upon our network of safety net programs and social services in communities for the most vulnerable such as the homeless as well as increase our array of employment, housing and independent living skills programs to youth and adults. Finally and most important, we have expanded our community capacity building initiatives in many communities through research and evaluation, training and technical assistance, fiscal management and program development.

We continue our efforts to leave no stone unturned in our successful search for funding and revenues. We continue to make sure that \$.88 of every dollar received goes directly for services. We were able to ensure that over 20,000 men, women and children were provided needed services.

Our agency's achievements would not be possible without a team of dedicated and committed individuals. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are among my many blessings this holiday season.

All the best to you and yours.

Herb



Benefits Assistance Clients' Urban Project/ LIFE Center

Andy Posner Appointed Co-Chair of Statewide Spirituality Initiative!



Andy Posner, Division Director of BACUP is the newly appointed Co-Chair of the CA Mental Health & Spirituality Initiative Steering Committee. The Initiative was created in June 2008 through voluntary financial contributions from 51 of the County Behavioral Health authorities statewide. This initiative developed from the interest of consumers and family members with a desire to find effective, collaborative means to assist the public mental health system and to understand and support all aspects of recovery. Dr. Marvin Southard, Director of LA County, DMH is a strong supporter of the Initiative and is helping with implementation throughout the mental health system in Los Angeles County. Andy states his experience working with all the Committee members, Founder Jay Mahler, and Kumar Menon, Chief Community & Government Relations, LA County, DMH has been "humbling and inspirational". Congratulations Andy!

ACTORS WORKSHOP

Under the Direction of Lui and the Halo Project, the Actors workshop met for the first time on December 7, 2013 at BACUP's LIFE Center. BACUP's Division director and clients participated in this experience. The Director stated "this kind of activity that helps build self-esteem is integral to what BACUP is about!" The workshop meets every Saturday at 1730 W. Olympic Blvd. from 10:AM - 12:00PM, and it is a collaboration between the Halo Project, SSG's BACUP, ALLIANCE, OAP, CORE and the Painted Brain. It is open to all BACUP's clients. Please contact Andy Posner at 213 368 1888 ext. 401 or aposner@bacup.net for more information!

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TRAINING PROGRAM - LOS ANGELES

5th Annual Pennsylvania Association for Infant Mental Health Conference

On October 17, 2013, Kristen Jones, LMFT of OTTP and Paula McNamara, OTR/L (a former OTTP employee) spoke at the 5th Annual Pennsylvania Association for Infant Mental Health Conference. Their presentation "Nurturing the Early Experiences: Innovatively Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Low Income Families," described the collaboration between occupational therapy and psychotherapy within the context of the evidenced based, interdisciplinary mental health model: Caring for Our Families (CFOF).



OTTP employees Kristen Jones and Paula McNamara

37th Annual Occupational Therapy Associating of California Conference

The Occupational Therapy Association of California held its 37th Annual Conference this October in Sacramento, California. This year's theme was "In Pursuit of the Vision: The Art & Science of OT." Presentations, workshops, panels, and posters covered a variety of client-centered and evidence-based approaches to meeting society's occupational needs. This included sessions on health care reform, primary care, reimbursement and research.

OTTP-LA contributed two presentations to the conference this year. Luisa Lowe, MSW, LCSW, and Kristine Carandang, MSOT, OTR/L, presented "Advancing Transdisciplinary Collaboration with Evidence-Based Practice Models." This presentation discussed how to incorporate a cutting-edge, technological and evidence-based practice model into service delivery. Jazminne Orozco, OTD, OTR/L, and Ruth Sun, MA, OTR/L, presented "Occupational Therapy Mental Health Services for the 0-5 Population." This session reviewed psychosocial and occupational needs of infants and children (ages 0-5), as well as evaluation tools and intervention approaches for addressing occupational performance.

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to Mireya Muñoz, new PALS for Health Program Director



Mireya Muñoz, Program Director of PALS for Health

SSG is pleased to announce the promotion of Mireya Muñoz as Program Director for PALS for Health, a full service language access and training program established in 1993. She will oversee all aspects of PALS including interpretation, translation, language assessment & testing, professional training and education. Languages covered by PALS include Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian/Khmer, Cantonese (Chinese), Farsi, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin (Chinese), Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Teo Chew (Chinese), Thai and Vietnamese.

Ms. Muñoz first joined PALS in 2003 to oversee the launch of the Spanish unit of PALS called ALAS para tu Salud Project. Over the last 10 years the Spanish unit of PALS has become a core unit of the program and is one of the most 'in demand' areas of PALS.

PALS is also well-known for their 40-hour Connecting Worlds Training and is recognized by the California Healthcare Interpreting Association (CHIA). Ms. Muñoz is one of the lead trainers for Connecting Worlds and is often requested as a speaker for conferences, educational institutions, hospitals and other nonprofit partners. She also one of the leaders for the PALS 'Training of Trainers' program for professional interpreter training.

Ms. Muñoz directed the pilot 'Proyecto Enlace' promotores program for the Department of Mental Health from 2/1/11 to 12/31/12. This program was a great success and PALS was lauded for their great work. Ms. Munoz was asked to present at the DMH Behavioral Health's Mental Health Summit.

Ms. Muñoz is passionate and knowledgeable about all areas of language access. She works tirelessly to improve the quality of life for Limited English Proficient (LEP) communities by providing an array of services that alleviate cultural and linguistic barriers to health care access. She is the Chair for the Inland Empire Access to Cancer Care Coalition (IEATCC), a member of the Latino Advisory Committee for the Network for a Health California-Desert Sierra Region Latino Campaign, and a member of Vision Y Compromiso. Some of her accomplishments include receiving the "Outstanding Community Partner" Award from the MEND Clinic; State Legislative Recognition at a recent California Partnership of Health Advocates Conference; Congressional Recognition from Hilda L. Solis at the 5th Annual Promotor/Community Health Worker Conference; and Senate Recognition for leadership in the Dialogue on Access to Care: Advocating to Fight Cancer in Riverside & San Bernardino Counties. Ms. Muñoz's vision for the future of PALS includes expansion and diversity of funding streams and increased training, education and advocacy in the quickly changing field of language services.

PALS for Health is located at 1730 Olympic Blvd., Floor 3A, Los Angeles, CA 90015. The Training Center is fully equipped for classroom sizes of 25 - 50 participants. www.palsforhealth.org

Thank You and Fond Farewell to Precy Salud!



SSG bids a very fond farewell to Priscilla (Precy) Salud of the SSG Core Office. Precy retires from SSG in December 2013 after 19 years! She was initially hired as an Administrative Assistant in 1994 and became an Executive Assistant in 2001. She helped maintain the Mutual of America retirement and 403(b) database and has always been unfailingly helpful to staff with questions. She also assisted with the maintenance and data management of SSG's group medical plans and maintained SSG Board information and records. She is well-known for her ready smile and caring attitude to all. Executive Director Herbert Hatanaka says "I speak for all of us at SSG in expressing how much we will miss Precy. She is a good friend to all and we wish her all the best in her retirement!"

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TRAINING PROGRAM - SAN FRANCISCO

OTTP-SF presenting “Fabulous Evidence-Based Programs for At-Risk Youth at San Jose State University’s 75th Jubilee”



OTTP-SF presenting “Fabulous Evidence-Based Programs for At-Risk Youth from Left to right: Advisory Board Chair, Katie Gordon, MS,OTR/L, OTTP-SF Program Director Colleen Devine, MS,OTR/L, Christine Haworth, MA,OTR/L, and Genevieve Cyrs, MS,OTR/L.

THE PAINTED BRAIN

Cypress Art Tunnel Exhibit



Painted Brain artists exhibited their work in the Cypress Art Tunnel in November 2013.



WEBER COMMUNITY CENTER

Harvest Festival at Weber Community Center



Weber Community Center Staff celebrating at the Harvest Festival

On Tuesday, October 29, 2013 Weber Community Center held its annual Harvest Festival. Harvest Festival is an annual tradition at Weber that allows clients and their families to enjoy a safe and enjoyable Halloween. For some of Weber clients, Harvest Fest is the only Halloween celebration available. Weber Community Center is happy to host a safe and fun filled holiday. The event was held in Weber Community Center’s main conference room with several games hosted outdoors. Clients as well as staff members were encouraged to dress up as their favorite character. A contest was held for clients for the most create costumes. Weber catered the event and once again, Harvest Fest proved to be a great success.

With Our Deepest Condolences

We extend our sincere condolences to Rayshell Chambers (SSG Core) and her family on the recent passing of her sister Katie Davidson.



Vanessa (Tuione) May of the Tongan Center on the passing of her mother-in-law, Holly Ayn May, who passed away November 4, 2013. Mrs. May is survived by her husband Jeffery May and 3 children Kristen, Jordan and Adam.

Olive Enriquez of the Fiscal Department on the passing of her grandmother, Trinidad Raymundo, at the age of 94. She is survived by 7 children, 10 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

New Cupcake Donation Program

The SSG Development Team is pleased to announce a new partnership with Big Man Bakes! Big Man Bakes is a locally-based cupcake business that has been featured on numerous media-outlets such as OWN, CNN and Food Network. In addition to their business ventures, Big Man Bakes is committed to improving local communities and is pleased to contribute to worthy causes---such as the work of our SSG programs and divisions.

We are pleased to offer SSG programs with an opportunity to participate in the new Cupcake Donation Program. Through this program, divisions will have the opportunity to request free cupcakes for special events or for regular programming. Each cupcake donation requires a small processing fee of \$5 per box for labor and packaging; and will require that each division coordinate the pick-up of all donated goods with the SSG Development Team.

Cupcake request amounts include the following processing fees:

- ▣ 100 Box of Mini Cupcakes (\$75.00 value)
-\$5.00 per box
- ▣ 36 box of XL cupcakes (\$108.00 value)
-\$5.00 per box.

We hope that you are thrilled as much as us to provide your clients and staff with this yummy opportunity. Please stay tuned for more details regarding the Cupcake Donation Program in January 2014!



APAIT

World AIDS Day

Every year on December 1st, the international community marks World AIDS Day. An opportunity to raise awareness both of the continuing epidemic here at home, as well as around the globe; World AIDS Day inspires millions to take action.

More than 34 million people are currently living with HIV around the world -- with more than 1.1 million people living with HIV in the United States. Another 2.5 million become newly infected each year (50,000 in America alone). Stigma, poverty and discrimination help to feed the epidemic everywhere. But together, we can change that! This year's theme is "Getting to Zero: Zero Discrimination. Zero New HIV Infections. Zero AIDS-Related Deaths."

Please take the time out of your busy day to get tested. It doesn't have to be on World AIDS Day, but let today serve as a reminder that HIV is still very present in our community. Straight, Gay, Black, White, Asian, Latino HIV does not discriminate. The landscape has changed dramatically within the last 32 years with different treatment plans. It's no longer a death sentence. One thing hasn't changed though; the only way to know is to get tested. Please be aware of your status. To commemorate World AIDS Day, CORE Health Center was open from 10:00a - 6:00p to offer FREE ONE MINUTE HIV Testing. Let us all remember that FREE HIV testing is available at CORE Health Center Monday - Friday from 10:00a - 5:30p. You don't have to wait until December 1st to get tested.

For more information please do not hesitate to call us at 213.375.3830 or 213.553.1847



New Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Effective January 1, 2014, any mileage incurred on SSG business will be reimbursed at the 56 cents rate.

The Agency shall pay the employee car mileage for use of the employee’s personal car in Agency work. Employee must have currently in force the minimum auto insurance required by the state for vehicle used in rendering Agency service.

Proof of current insurance and California driver license must be submitted to the Human Resources Department before an employee may receive a mileage and/or parking costs reimbursement. Mileage reimbursement request will be placed on hold if current information is not on file with the HR Department.

To ensure that mileage expenses are not disallowed by SSG’s funding sources, reimbursement requests must be submitted to the Fiscal Department within 60 days after the end of the month.

A Token of Our Appreciation



Special Service for Groups appreciates the energy and commitment you bring in making a difference in so many lives. As a token of our appreciation, we hope you enjoy the new SSG backpacks. Please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

SSG Core’s Wendy Chiu, MSW, models the new SSG backpack.



SSG WEBSITE FYI & REMINDERS

CAREERS

Place your Job postings on the Careers page on the SSG website. Limit one page in a Word document; for content questions, contact the H.R. Dept. at 213-553-1892 or email to the SSG HR Dept. at: hr@ssgmain.org.

DONATIONS

The SSG website can receive donations via credit card payments; this resource can be incorporated into your website or email campaign, contact Wendy Chiu, Dev. and Operations at: wchiu@ssgmain.org.

PUBLICATIONS

Forward publication information to: Wendy Chiu, Dev. and Operations at: wchiu@ssgmain.org. Include 2-3 sentences description of the publication, date published, and weblink or reference to the full article.

New SSG Branding Guide for Programs

Special Service for Groups is pleased to announce the publication of its first-ever branding guide. The SSG Branding Guide was developed to provide SSG’s unique divisions with assistance in communicating the SSG identity and brand to stakeholders in the communities we serve. We believe that consistently applying the SSG brand across all of our divisions will strengthen our agency internally by uniting all of us through our mission and shared values, and externally, by leveraging the SSG name for greater impact in the community. For more information about the guide, please contact Dianna Malak Lopez at 213-553-1875 or dmalaklopez@ssgmain.org.