SEPTEMBER 2017 HAS BEEN DEEMED “SSG STAFF APPRECIATION MONTH”

This is a shout-out to SSG’s wonderful staff! We are over 700 individuals strong, with a great reputation for service and excellence. Thank you, SSG staff, for your dedication and talents!

This benefit is applicable for current staff (introductory or regular status) who work regularly 20 hours or more per week. Based upon schedules and approval by supervisors, all eligible staff who have provided a minimum of 12-months service through 8/31/17 may receive a maximum of one (1) regular (8-hour) Leave with Pay day off.

Eligible staff less than full-time (40 hours) can receive commensurate (i.e. pro-rated) time off. This day may be scheduled in either September or October 2017. Staff on a formal leave of absence and staff classified as ‘temporary’ or ‘as needed’ are not eligible. Directors will be held responsible for ensuring that all eligible staff receive this benefit.
SSG CORE

Executive Director Herbert Hatanaka Honored by LA County Library Commission

Herb Hatanaka holding LA County commendation for his 18-year service record with the LA County Library Commission. Dr. Hatanaka was appointed by former District 4 Supervisor Don Knabe.

SSG AFFILIATE - A3PCON

A3PCON Mental Health Committee and LA County API Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) Join Together To Welcome New DMH Director

On July 20, 2017 the API Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) held a joint meeting with the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON)/Mental Health Committee with special guest DMH Director Dr. Jonathan E. Sherin. Dr. Sherin was appointed by the LA County Board of Supervisors on November 1, 2016.

Many of SSG’s behavioral health providers were in attendance as well as many consumers. The stories told by consumer speakers were extremely moving and impactful. High level staff from DMH were in attendance and the forum was covered by various media outlets.

Per SSG Executive Director and A3PCON Mental Health Committee Co-Chair Herbert Hatanaka, “The stigma of mental health especially in many API communities remains very much a reality. This forum reminds me that we must continue to push for ongoing reform and resources for those most in need. I am so proud of all the front-line staff who always go that extra mile to serve consumers in need”.

The forum included over 75 participants and was held in SSG’s Training Room at 905 E. 8th St. Los Angeles.

SSG AFFILIATE - A3PCON

A3PCON Annual Meeting

Special Guests Sachi A. Hamai LA County CEO & David Ryu, LA City Councilmember

The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) held their Annual Meeting on July 26, 2017 with special guests Sachi A. Hamai, LA County CEO and David Ryu, LA City Councilmember. This meeting also honored long-time A3PCON Policy Director Mark Masaoka, as well as welcomed new A3PCON Executive Director Manjusha P. Kulkarni, Esq.

Ms. Hamai is the highest ranking API professional in the LA County system. She provided details on her experiences and the road to her successful position in the public sector. Councilmember Ryu followed with a stirring talk about his path to success in the public arena as well as the importance of education, advocacy and involvement by all.

Former Policy Director Mark Masaoka was honored for his many years of service for A3PCON and received accolades from many partner agencies. He spoke movingly of the evolution of API community organizing and his work with policy change. Incoming Executive Director Manjusha (Manju) P. Kulkarni spoke of the continued need to provide a voice for the diverse API communities in LA County especially for low-income, immigrant, refugee and other disadvantaged sectors of the population.

The A3PCON annual meeting was hosted by SSG and held at SSG’s Training Room at 905 E. 8th St. Los Angeles.
Dr. Suh Retirement Event
July 31, 2017

See the May-June issue for Dr. Suh’s retirement feature.

SSG CORE

New Role and Transition for Hayley Levy
Former SSG Director of Administration & Clinical Services

Hayley Levy MA, LMFT, LPCC left her position as SSG’s Director of Administration & Clinical Services after 17 years of dedicated and outstanding service on 7/14/17.

As Director of Administration & Clinical Services, Hayley played a key role in the oversight of SSG’s largest contracts from LA County Dept. of Mental Health, as well as many other contracts. She provided valuable expertise and knowledge for contract and clinical compliance, as well as clinical billing issues. Together with Executive Director Herbert Hatanaka, Hayley served as the primary liaison with DMH forging productive ties with key leaders to ensure effective collaboration. Hayley’s leadership has always been a key component during SSG’s dramatic growth in the last 20 years.

Hayley was a key member of the Executive Management Team (EMT) and highly valued by the SSG Board and staff. She was well known for her unflagging commitment to quality of care and high standards. Per Dr. Hatanaka, “Hayley has outstanding skills in multiple areas which makes her very unique. SSG has benefitted greatly from her many years of service. I speak for all when I say she will be missed. I am grateful for her dedication in continuing to provide technical assistance to me and SSG when she can”.

SSG congratulates Hayley on her new role as Executive Director of Beit T’Shuvah, a faith-based substance abuse treatment, residential and recovery program based in West LA as of 8/1/17. http://www.beittshuvah.org
SSG/HOPICS - Trauma Recovery Center (TRC) hosted their 3rd Annual Healing Trauma Using Expressive Arts Festival on Friday, June 30th, 2017. This year, TRC targeted early childhood educators and students ages 4-7. TRC noticed the disconnect between educators and students, and found that educators were uninformed of the behavioral and physical impacts that trauma can have on individuals, including themselves. It is for this reason that TRC chose to create an interactive learning experience focusing on Trauma Informed Care.

The festival activities engaged children in face painting, mask painting, dancing, and other fun activities, while teaching fun, safe, and healthy ways to cope with traumatic experiences. The festival was not only designed to model healthy coping skills, but to also celebrate one’s resiliency.

For the educators, TRC provided coaching on how they can continue healthy coping activities at school and incorporate them into their own personal lives to promote open discussions on Trauma Informed Care. Educators also had an opportunity to win raffle items that encouraged use of expressive arts for their own self-care. TRC received positive feedback and overall satisfaction with the festival. TRC conducted a pre/post-test to capture attendees’ understanding and retention of Trauma Informed Care and healthy coping skills taught at the festival. Overall, survey results demonstrated an increase in understanding of Trauma Informed Care as well as effective identification of healthy coping skills to use when one experiences stressors.

This year’s festival was a huge success, as TRC helped to unlock the door of understanding of Trauma Informed Care in school settings.
We will miss you, Andi Sweet!

It is with deep sadness that we say goodbye to Andrea Sweet (“Andi”), who worked for OTTP for over 25 years. Andi worked as an accounting consultant for OTTP-LA and was often called the backbone of the division. Staff always described her as friendly, warm and caring with a big heart. Andi was always a significant part of the OTTP family, although less active the last few years due to illness. Andi passed on August 4, 2017. Deepest condolences to husband Phil and family. The following was submitted by Colleen Devine, MS, OTR/L former Director of OTTP-LA and current Division Director of OTTP-SF.

Andi Sweet was truly one of a kind. Tiny in stature, she was larger than life in personality. Serving as OTTP LA’s accountant from 1991 until just a few years ago, she was responsible for creating OTTP’s Cost Allocation Plan with OTTP’s Division Director, as well as tracking revenue and expenses. Sharp as a whip and extremely detail oriented, Andi stayed on top of the budget and helped shape OTTP-LA into the multi-million dollar program it is now.

In the early 1990s, OTTP was housed at Lawndale Continuation High School. We affectionately referred to our office as “the fishbowl” because of its shape. Our desks were side by side and we could easily slide from one side of the office to the other, or, better yet, call to one another with a question. Most of us were in our 20s at that time, and were not accustomed to lavish surroundings. Andi however, was an ardent decorator and interior designer. Anyone who visited her and Phil in their beautiful home could attest to her keen sense of style. For anyone else, the fishbowl would have been an eyesore. For Andi, she viewed it with joy in the comradery our close quarters afforded and the relationships she built with the youth that we served. I can recall many a young man coming to the office to visit with Andi, the mom they always wished they had. She was extremely resourceful! A young man would visit our office and share that he had an interview coming up, and the next day Andi would miraculously show up with a new pair of shoes, a clean shirt, and a tie. Andi had a unique way of making everyone she came into contact with feel special, and had a wonderful memory for personal details.

In later years, after we expanded to our new office in Torrance, Andi could often be found flitting down the hall, visiting one offices and sharing bits of wisdom (Andi’s nickname was “The Encyclopedia” because she seemed to know so much about just about everything)! One would only have to mention they were traveling out of town for the weekend, and Andi would know just the perfect hotel to stay at and the best restaurant in town, where (surprise!) the chef knew her personally and would offer the best champagne on the house. Andi was fiercely loyal. I can recall many a meeting where Andi would hurry up to the funding director and charm him or her, sharing the great work that OTTP clinicians were doing in the field. She confided that she felt that since she was not providing the direct services that she was allowed to boast on our behalf. I have often suspected that some of our contracts and funding were a result of her forming alliances with our funders.

Andi was always willing to help all her colleagues out, and she saw the best in everyone. Bright and capable, she completed her own work accurately and quickly, and then had time left over to assist others in whatever it was they needed help with. Obtaining resources, identifying new curriculum ideas, figuring out ways to get new programming funded, these were additional daily tasks for Andi, and ones she took just as seriously as her own job. That is why it was so difficult, later on, when she opted to work as a consultant rather than an employee, and had to do more of her work from home. I suspect that it was her passion for spending time with her co-workers, people she grew to love over the years, that really made her sad to work as a consultant rather than an employee, and had to do more of her work from home. I suspect that it was her passion for creating OTTP’s Cost Allocation Plan with OTTP’s Division Director, as well as tracking revenue and expenses. Sharp as a whip and extremely detail oriented, Andi stayed on top of the budget and helped shape OTTP-LA into the multi-million dollar program it is now.

Andi was the ultimate match-maker, as I am sure many can attest to. I always teased her that I would find a guy with a better name than hers, which she proudly displayed on her license (Sweet). Finally, after much searching, I did. We always laughed that it took me meeting Matt Devine to realize I was ready to settle down. I never did however, much to Andi’s regret, add my new last name to my license plate.

Andi had a profound effect on every person she met. She was certainly one of a kind, and she will be missed and always remembered fondly by all who knew and loved her at SSG and OTTP. I like to imagine her as an angel now, guiding all of us at OTTP to continue to passionately serve the most vulnerable youth that she cared so much about.

-Colleen Devine
OTTP-SF Division Director
OTTP-SF’s First Annual Young Men’s Backpacking Trip

The first annual OTTP-SF Young Men’s Backpacking Trip took place along the shores of the beautiful granite-studded South Yuba River this August. Four clients accompanied by OTTP-SF Social Worker Sean Cochrun, OTTP-SF Occupational Therapist Joe Spring, and special guest Shiva the Border Collie, struck out into the wilderness. Five miles in, the party struck camp and took in the beauty of nature without city sounds and cell phone service. Even though this was the first backpacking trip for all of the clients, they quickly took to camp setup like old hands, tended to blisters and helped prepare for dinner. Soon thereafter, everyone was cooling off in the river, swimming and taking in the peace that Mother Nature provides. For many of the youth, the hard edge of city life melted away, and the young men were able to enjoy the simplicity of the outdoors. The next two days involved more exploring, swimming, fishing, laughing, playing cards, building campfires, and seeking out constellations. All of these character building activities were things the young men had never done before. One favorite highlight was finding one of the clients staring into the stars with a look of tranquility we had never seen him wear before. Finally, it was time to return to the hustle and bustle of San Francisco. Five dusty miles later, we loaded back into our cars filled with memories and plans for a possible future trip, albeit one with a slightly shorter hike.
Korean Foster Family Initiative

**Featured on NBC News Online**

APCTC’s Asian Foster Family Initiative (AFFI) was recently featured in an NBC News article online, highlighting their partnership with Korean American Family Services (KFAM), which addresses the lack of licensed Asian-American foster care parents and common misconceptions about the process.

On July 30, 2017 the AFFI hosted an information session called “How to Become a Resource/Foster Parent.” A success story from previous foster youth, Wilson Sun was featured, and he spoke about his experience bouncing around half a dozen foster homes in LA County, in which he always felt like an outcast who was misunderstood by non-Asian foster homes. Luckily, Wilson Sun, was finally matched with a gentleman named Spencer Sun, who has become his parent and mentor. He finally felt unconditionally loved and cared for. Many Asian & Pacific Islander foster youth continue to struggle in non-Asian foster homes that lack language ability and cultural understanding. Among providing other services, APCTC & KFAM’s AFFI initiative recruits and trains foster families.

Since 2014, AAFI has recruited 39 foster parents of Korean descent. The organization’s first group of foster families of Chinese descent is approaching approval. Also in discussion, is the opportunity to incorporate Cambodian and South Asian community-based organizations, who are asking if they can partner to expand the AFFI Initiative into their communities.


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Healthy Eating + Active Living (HEAL)

API Forward Movement was thrilled to have an amazing guest chef, Jessica Nizar, lead a healthy cooking demonstration on August 17th, 2017 as part of their weekly Healthy Eating + Active Living (HEAL) Class at Koreatown Youth & Community Center. She hails from the Hollywood restaurant, Kismet, which offers Mediterranean cuisine using local produce from small farmers. With the support of our Korean translator (Dahae Hwang), Jessica taught the class how to make Chile Relleno. Participants got to peel and stuff the roasted peppers themselves, and then helped the chef pan-fry the peppers for delicious results.

Check out the full recipe at [EatFresh.org](http://EatFresh.org), a site where we regularly source recipes for our HEAL classes.

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Asian Foster Family Initiative team members, foster parents, former foster youth, community partners and supporters at the AFFI info session.
BACUP

BACUP Art Corner

“I was told about SSG BACUP, and the Art Corner by an occupational therapist at the mental health center I go to every month. I then decided that I wanted to check it out, so, I came to SSG BACUP as a walk-in. I have been coming here for close to five years. I come here to relax and do artwork. I also do artwork at home, but sometimes I like a change of scenery.

SSG BACUP and ART Corner have been instrumental in my recovery from anxiety and depression. Here I learned to be more comfortable around people, and to socialize with people. I did the Self-Portrait for a painting class final. I wanted the portrait to show a very important part of my life—which is food. I love food! I plan to start a series of paintings with food being the central theme.

The red painting is titled ENVY; it’s a high relief painting. The painting was done for the final of a painting class I took earlier this year. We had to choose one of the seven deadly sins, and create a painting of what it represented to us. To me, Envy is an enraged monster that is hard to escape from once you’re in its grasp. My portrait of the man in a military uniform was a commission I did for a woman. It was a portrait of her father. The portrait of Andy Warhol with his dog was done around the same time a video surfaced of a Hollywood studio abusing a dog by forcing the dog to swim against its will. I’m an animal lover, and I was outraged by the story. That is why I painted Andy Warhol and his dog submerged in water. The soldier and Warhol portraits are both watercolor paintings; painted in a monochromatic style.

I believe SSG BACUP, and the Art Corner are an important resource for people suffering with mental illness because sometimes, when we get stuck in a rut, we know that there is a place we can go to relax and recover.”

-Jorge Torres, BACUP Art Corner featured artist

Art Photography by Juan Burgueno

PNYP

Summer Fun

LUAU PARTY

MOVIE TIME
Development Team

Growing SSG
CONNECTING YOUR VISION TO FUNDRAISING

A Funder Feature — Capital Group
For the past two years, Capital Group has generously funded API Forward Movement’s programs in support of youth biking groups, community supported agriculture, and special events. The Development Team has been working to strengthen SSG’s capacity for private funding, and Capital Group is an excellent example of what is possible.

Capital Group is a global, investment management firm serving individuals, families, corporations, governments and non-profit organizations. Founded in 1931, the Capital Group is the home of American Funds, one of the largest mutual fund families in the United States. The organization employs over 7,000 associates in 23 offices.

Capital Group’s approach to charitable giving celebrates the passion of their associates, many of whom give generously of their time and resources to serve the communities in which they live and work. The organization supports those efforts with additional philanthropic giving in the form of Matching and Dollars for Doers Gifts, Nonprofit Grants and Community Action Days. Each year, their associates support more than 3,000 nonprofit organizations. In turn, Capital Group and The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation enhance that support with additional funding in the form of grants and matching gifts. During the past 10 years, they have contributed more than $240 million to charitable organizations around the world.

In the past few years, we have been able to cultivate a relationship with the company through Jo Chin, a Capital Group employee and dedicated Forward Movement volunteer Advisory Board member. Through a series of grant introductions and employer giving matches, SSG and Forward Movement have been able to successfully secure funding for key Forward Movement projects.

For more information, please contact devteam@sgg.org.

Grant Announcements
Since July 1, 2017, SSG has been recommended* for the following grants:

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<th>Funder</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>SSG Division</th>
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<td>Los Angeles County Emergency Food and Shelter Program</td>
<td>Emergency Food &amp; Shelter Program</td>
<td>HOPICS</td>
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<td>L.A. Care</td>
<td>LPHA Initiative—SSG Advancing Clinical Treatment and Services (ACTS)</td>
<td>HOPICS + WEBER</td>
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<td>San Francisco Department of Public Health</td>
<td>Mental Health Outpatient Treatment Services and Educationally Related Mental Health Service (ERMHS)</td>
<td>OTTP-SF</td>
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<td>Capital Group</td>
<td>Roots CSA</td>
<td>APIFM</td>
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*Note that some contracts are pending official approval.
Safety in the Field

PARKING YOUR CAR

#1
Choose a space that offers the safest walking route

#2
Park in the street and not the driveway

#3
If possible, park where you can see your car during the visit

#4
Park in the direction you want to go when leaving

#5
Be aware of dead-end streets and dark deserted parking areas

#6
Place everything you don’t need for this visit in the trunk before you leave the office or before you proceed to your next appointment

#7
Always lock your car with the keys in your hand
HACLA Section 8 Waitlist Opening for First Time in 13 Years

In late October, The Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) will have an opportunity for low income residents to participate in a lottery to get on the Section 8 wait list. This is the first time in over a decade that the waitlist has been opened. HACLA anticipates about 600,000 applicants for 20,000 slots. While the need is bigger than what is available, we want to ensure that SSG clients - especially those that face barriers to applying (e.g., limited English proficient, homeless, elderly, disabled, and/or veterans) - have ample notice and support to apply online. If your division would like to participate in an effort to get the word out to the community, host info sessions or application workshops for providers or clients, please contact Dianna Malak Lopez no later than September 10th. Dianna can be reached at dmalaklopez@ssg.org or 213-553-1875.

HEALTH, WELLNESS & YOU

SSG Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Offered Through aetna

Life Assistance Program

Achieve Work/Life Balance
- Face-to-Face Assistance (3 sessions)
- Support & Referral Services
- Discounts on Health & Wellness Services
- Confidential (information is not shared with SSG)

How to Access:
- By Phone: 855.283.1915
- Online: www.mylifevalues.com
- Website user name and password: RESOURCES

Your Name or Picture May Appear in SSG's Newsletter and Website

If you participate in an agency event and an article or picture from that event is submitted for publication, your name and/or picture may be included. If you do not want your picture or name to be included, please refrain from being photographed at events and let your supervisor know not to include your name in articles. You may also contact Tonie Diaz in the HR Dept. at adiaz@ssg.org or Leah McGowan for newsletter publishing and donation inquiries at lmcgowan@ssg.org.