Happy New Year to the SSG Family

Thank you for making 2017 another remarkable year for SSG. We had a very successful year of service to our communities and consumers, which is because of your dedication and hard work. We’ve expanded our efforts substantially across all SSG divisions and programs serving over 15,000 individuals and families in 2017. We have continued to raise the bar to serve our communities including our community based leadership in mental health, HIV/AIDS, substance use, housing, wellness, health/benefits navigation, re-entry, evaluation and capacity building. While service is our reason for existence let’s also be proud of our well recognized administrative capacity that includes our fiscal, human resources, development, evaluation, strategic planning and executive team functions. All together we are now an organization approaching 750 dedicated employees.

A special mention of the extraordinary work with the homeless being done by over 120 colleagues in the HOPICS division. Their tireless efforts are having a phenomenal impact on individuals and families who are or would be homeless if not for their services. HOPICS continues to grow their comprehensive array of services including emergency and stable housing, benefits, access to vital behavioral health and employment services. Let’s be proud of our colleagues knowing that every night over 1,100 people are in housing because of this work.

As my message for 2018, I want to suggest what should be our foundation for approaching the upcoming year. You know it is often remarked by outsiders that our mission of community capacity building and services is so broad and nondescript that we seemingly do everything that comes our way as opportunity. I differ of course in that assessment, for there is more importantly a common core of values that have guided the agency throughout its 65 year history and continues to do so today. I think it’s important to highlight and embrace those values that bind us together as an organization guiding us through 2018.

**Integrity and Ethical Leadership.** We’ll continue to work hard at maintaining trust and integrity in every aspect of our leadership and management; including working with our diverse community stakeholders, our collaboration with the hundreds of community based agencies, and most importantly, our consumers who often turn to us with no other means of support.

**Organizational and Service Excellence.** We are proud of our CARF accreditation, which is the platinum standard for nonprofit service organizations. This reflects the excellents of each level and function of the organization and we will continue to build upon our achievements. In 2018 we are again approaching a re-accreditation year and I’m proud of our ongoing collective efforts, and am confident that our CARF review will again be successful.

**Diversity, Cultural Competence and Inclusiveness.** These three will continue to be part of our core strengths in all decisions we make of who, what and how we will serve. They are at our core and I’m proud of the fact that we are often lauded by the public for our adherence to them. Looking forward in 2018, it is especially important and challenging in these times of polarizing political rhetoric of who belongs in this country and what their rights and entitlements should be. Make no mistake they will be firmly affixed in our advocacy in the political arena and in our services.

Finally, let me again say thank you for your dedication and hard work. Service is our “bottom line” and we have again exceeded our most ambitious expectations in 2017. Let’s go forward into 2018 being driven by the common core set of values that define us as SSG.

~Executive Director, Herb Hatanaka~
SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

SSG HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

APCTC

Staffs enjoyed a day of team building and lunch at Pickwick Bowl in Burbank, this past Friday, December 15th.

CORE

The Core office enjoyed a lovely holiday celebration with delicious food and games on Thursday, December 21st.

R&E & DT

Research & Evaluation Team and the Development Team had a fun door decorating contest for the holidays. We have some very creative staff in the building. This inspired the Executive Team to have a contest as well, and the entire 2nd floor at SSG Core office got into the holiday door decorating spirit.

PALS

Happy Holidays from the PALS family to yours! PALS staff celebrating the annual holiday luncheon and Secret Santa gift exchange at Luminarias in Monterey Park.
30TH Anniversary Fashion Show Gala

APAIT celebrated its 30th anniversary with its signature fashion gala that honored long-time allies Congresswoman Judy Chu, City of Los Angeles Council Member Mitch O’Farrell, and ACLU’s Deputy Executive Director James Gilliam. The fashion show opened with ANGELINO who was recently featured in the Academy Award winning film La La Land, then the Brazilian men’s swim wear designer Gil Even’s Ca Rio Ca - Sunga Company, and finished with the Hollywood glamour of Alexis Monsanto’s Alexis Atelier who was coincidentally commemorating his 30th anniversary in the fashion industry.

APAIT Ushers in New Programs and New Homes in LA and OC

APAIT continues to expand its programming as it moves to new locations this fall season. On October 26, 2017, APAIT’s Orange County office doubled the size of its Garden Grove site as it expands behavioral health services through a $2.5 million investment from the Department of Health and Human Services’ Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (DHHS/SAMHSA). Meanwhile, APAIT’s Los Angeles headquarters (APAIT-LA) relocated to its new location in the Mid-Wilshire/Koreatown area across from the landmark Bullocks building. APAIT-LA’s move is part of its expansion through a County of LA-funded Trans Wellness Center and a new youth-focused behavioral health and housing project, also additionally funded by DHHS/SAMHSA’s $1 million initiative.

THE MIDNIGHT STROLL

The 2017 Annual Homeless Count in Los Angeles identified that sixty-eight percent (68%) of transgender persons experiencing homelessness have a lifetime experience of domestic violence or intimate partner violence and forty-two percent (42%) reported being victims of sex trafficking. Many transgender women also become self-employed sex-workers to earn an income as the result of employment discrimination. This form of employment exposes them to violence, health risks, and greater interaction with the criminal justice system.

Through a partnership led by APAIT/SSG, Los Angeles City Mayor Eric Garcetti, and City of Los Angeles Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell, the implementation of the Midnight Stroll identified gaps in services that are offered to individuals during late-night hours. Patient Navigators were unable to provide immediate referral for services, and instead had to tell guests to wait until the following Monday when services reopened. This situation is less than ideal for individuals, as they will have to wait up to 48 hours before they can access referral services. Furthermore, client follow-ups are more challenging for program staff as most individuals lack a cell phone or other modes of contact.

We created an after-hours service café for homeless LGBTQ individuals and allies. With this model, APAIT and its partners will provide meals, showers, and information/referrals to ancillary services on Friday and Saturday evenings from 9pm - 6am. The Café will be located in the community room of Step Up on Vine in Hollywood, a permanent supportive housing development that houses persons with mental disabilities. By expanding the hours and available services during the Midnight Stroll, we aim to attract more homeless LGBTQ individuals and allies to its hub, and link them immediately to needed services.
Welcome to the new Food Roots, a complete rebrand of the Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement initiative Roots Food Hub. It’s been a long time coming, but we’re happy to announce our new look. We teamed up with the creatives at Giant Robot Media to develop our new brand image, language, and guidelines that will help define the Food Roots mission for the many years to come. Below is a quick walkthrough of our redesign.

The daikon radish is one of the most used Asian vegetables. Pickled, stir fried, steamed, boiled, you name it. Daikon is a widely used Asian veggie and is home to most Asian fridges. Daikon is also a root, which plays to the literal meaning of the name Food Roots. We went through several iterations with Giant Robot Media until we finally concluded on the logo you see here.

It’s important that text styles emulate the mission and values of a brand. Food Roots is all about sharing local produce with the community. The font “Pacifico” used in the logo has a retro handwritten feel, giving customers that same feeling of receiving produce grown by their local farmers. “Josefin Sans” is a sans font that pairs well with “Pacifico” and gives customers an easy font to read online and on print. The color palette for Food Roots plays on the natural colors we find in the garden. In addition, the color palette provides warmth, which echoes the brand value of family and community.

For more info on APIFM’s Food Roots work, please visit: https://www.foodroots.co/

Leo Pandac addressing print and broadcast media about the 37th Lotus Festival, showcasing the people & culture of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh, July 15-16,2017.
SSG-BACUP, particularly its Art Corner, would like to wish everyone in the SSG family a Happy Holiday as we look forward to 2018! Art Instructor, Juan Burgueño, Jr. is thankful that former BACUP Division Director, Andrew Posner, gave him the opportunity to create the Art Corner six years ago. BACUP wishes to thank SSG-Alliance for allowing its clients to participate in the Art Corner and BACUP activities this past year. We thank Herb Hatanaka, Dr. Trang Hoang, and BACUP Director Vera Calloway for their continued support of the creative arts. The Art Corner and BACUP hope to continue to grow with our participants in their recovery. It is the clients who help BACUP thrive the most.

**WEBER**

**Featured Artist**

WEBER would like to introduce Jeneva B, who has been part of the Black Vision of Wellness and UMMA Partnership Program at Weber Community Center for almost two years. She is currently homeless and staying in a shelter with her family, and believes that her faith in God and love for her family keeps her going from day to day. She has found art to be a catalyst in her personal development of coping skills. Jeneva attends weekly art therapy classes -- it was in early December that she painted these pictures with her vision for 2018.

-Interview with Jeneva B, BACUP Art Corner featured artist

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Divisions on the Move!**

ALLIANCE, APAIT, BACUP, IBHT, PALS for Health & SILVER

All SSG Divisions formerly located at 1730 W. Olympic Blvd., LA 90015 have MOVED in December 2018.

Please note the new changes:

**Alliance**
Dr. Trang Hoang, Division Director
515 Columbia Ave. Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Phone: (213) 249-9388
Fax: (213) 389-7993

**APAIT**
Jury Candelario, Division Director
3055 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 300
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Phone: (213) 375-3830
www.apaitonline.org

**IBHT**
Carmen Chacon MSW, LCSW
Division Director
515 Columbia Ave., Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Phone: (213) 553-9121
Fax: (213) 201 3395

**PALS for Health**
Mireya Munoz, Division Director
PALS for Health
515 Columbia Ave., Suite 320
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Phone: (213) 553-1818
www.palsforhealth.org

**SILVER**
Yvonne Sun MA, LCSW
Division Director
515 Columbia Ave. Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Phone: (213) 236-9394
Fax: (213) 236-9662
Cultural Holiday Food Traditions

Japanese New Year, or Shogatsu is celebrated on January 1st of each year. It’s the most important holiday celebrated by the Japanese where family members from afar travel to be with each other. The celebration of this event requires immense preparation as many Japanese honor the day with special dishes.

On New Year, the dish at the center of the Japanese family table is Osechi Ryori. The foods are layered and packed into multi-tiered lacquered boxes called Jubako. The custom of serving a feast in layered boxes or on several decorated plates has been around for at least 1,000 years, but the current form of Osechi Ryori was established in the late 19th century during the Meiji Era. The layers of the boxes represent a desire for endless wealth and happiness throughout the upcoming year. The bento-style Jubako box remains important to the Japanese because each ingredient and dish represents different elements of the Japanese culture. Osechi Ryori is arguably the most important meal of the year with each dish serving as a symbol or wish for the coming year. Osechi Ryori ingredients and foods vary from family to family. No dish is ever the same because families either make the foods themselves; nowadays some families purchase boxes already filled with food.

Osechi Ryori dishes tend to be quite sweet, salty or sour, since it is meant to last for days without refrigeration. There’s a sense that many contemporary Japanese people these days eat Osechi out of respect for its symbolism and tradition rather than because they find the food delicious. More modern festive foods such as sashimi and sliced roast beef are also now part of a typical New Year’s feast in many Japanese homes.

Regardless of the type of Osechi Ryori foods, New Year remains an important, if not the most important holiday for Japanese families both in Japan and in the United States.

Kuromame are shiny black soy beans seasoned with sugar and soy sauce. In Japanese, the word for bean, “mame,” also sounds like the word for “hard work and good health.” Eating this food is a symbol for good health for the coming year.

Datemaki is a sweet rolled omelet and is important to the New Year because of its color and how it is made. Since it is made with an object that looks like a “rolled document,” it symbolizes knowledge and academic achievement.

Kamaboko are fish cakes with a block of pink to symbolize safety from evil and a cleansing of the spirit. In addition, the shape of the kamaboko resembles the first sunrise of the New Year.

Ebi or shrimp, is a common favorite in most Osechi Ryori boxes. Because of their long antennae and curved body (like the curved back of the elderly) shrimp are a symbol of longevity.

Tazukuri are dried anchovies. Eating these tiny fish on New Year’s symbolizes a bountiful harvest.

Kazunoko are tight clusters of salted and marinated herring roe and are eaten as a wish for an abundant harvest and fertility.
Growing SSG
CONNECTING YOUR VISION TO FUNDRAISING

The Season of Giving

The end of the year and holiday season is the best fundraising opportunity of the entire year! Something about the holidays moves people to be more generous with their time and money.

Did you know?
25-35% of all charitable giving happens between Thanksgiving and New Year’s. 10% actually happens in the last three days of the year!

Donors get involved with nonprofits over the holidays for many reasons:

- They are joining the season of giving back
- To support friends and family
- To feel like they are making a difference
- To take advantage of tax deductions

Give your community a cause to give back to by donating, volunteering, or sharing the message and raising awareness.

Inspired by this info to invite people to support the good work you do at SSG? Direct them today to www.ssg.org/donate and ask them to select your division in the Designation section.

-Sincerely DT -

Grant Announcements

Since September 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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<tr>
<td>SAMHSA CSAP</td>
<td>HIV Prevention Navigator ASPIRE</td>
<td>APAIT</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAMHSA CSAT</td>
<td>TCE-HIV High Risk Populations RECLAIM</td>
<td>APAIT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaiser - Southern California Region Los Angeles Medical Center Grant</td>
<td>Midnight Stroll Expansion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Legacy Fund</td>
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<td>Nielsen Company</td>
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<td>LAHSA</td>
<td>2017 CES for Expansion for Individuals, TAY Individuals and TAY Families</td>
<td>HOPICS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaiser - West LA</td>
<td>HERO Program</td>
<td>HOPICS</td>
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<tr>
<td>California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)</td>
<td>Innovative Response to Marginalized Victims</td>
<td>HOPICS - Trauma Recovery Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles County Department of Probation</td>
<td>Youth &amp; Family Support (YFS) &amp; Service Vocational/Employment Services (VFS)</td>
<td>OTTP-LA</td>
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*Note that some contracts are pending official approval.
Wild Fire Safety Tips

Over the last few months of 2017, wildfires have devastated large swaths of Southern California. 2017 was on course to become the most destructive wildfire season in the state’s modern history. The Thomas Fire, the biggest of blazes currently burning in Santa Barbara, Ventura and other Southern California counties has torched 273,400 acres, making it the largest wildfire in the state’s history since reliable record-keeping began in 1932. The Thomas Fire has destroyed 775 single-family homes and damaged over 200 other structures. According to Cal Fire, over 18,000 structures were threatened by the Thomas Fire. Closer to Los Angeles, the Creek Fire in the San Fernando Valley and the Skirball Fire along the 405 freeway threatened homes and forced freeway closures.

A number of these wildfires have continued to burn and have affected over 100,000 Californians, many of whom have been forced to flee their homes, either through mandatory or voluntary evacuations -- with no guarantee that they will have anything left when they return. The 2017 wildfire season comes on the top of 2016, when Cal Fire reported a total of 7,349 wildfires burning an area of 560,815 acres.

Wildfires are some of the most destructive forces of nature. There isn’t much that can be done to deter a wildfire’s path. Fortunately, there are ways to help mitigate property damage and keep you and your family safe, and knowing how and when to evacuate are important steps during California wildfire seasons.

**STEPS BEFORE A WILDFIRE**

Secure your property for a wildfire and limit the fuel source.

- **Within 30 Feet from Your Home**
  - Clear combustible materials such as dried leaves and pine needles.
  - Cut down any tree limbs that are 15 feet or closer to the ground. This will help prevent the fire from spreading into your property’s tree line.
  - Remove any vines or vegetation on the side of your house or business.
  - Place any flammable lawn furniture in storage when not in use.
  - Opt for non-flammable decor, such as gravel as opposed to wood chips.

- **Within 100 to 30 Feet from Your Home**
  - Create “fuel breaks” in your property. Hopefully, these areas will help stop the spread of a fire. These can be gravel pathways or driveways.
  - Cut any trees branches that are 8 feet or closer to the ground.
  - Clear combustible vegetation.

- **Within 200 to 100 Feet from Your Home**
  - Place any stacked firewood or scrap wood.
  - Continue to clear combustible vegetation.
  - Plant trees far enough apart so their branches do not touch.

- **Outside your home**, make sure you have enough garden hose available to reach any part of your property and designate water sources such as swimming pools, ponds, lakes, wells and fire hydrants for fire officials.

- **Create an emergency escape plan.** Speak to city and town officials to learn what the evacuation route is for your area. Discuss this evacuation route with everyone in your family and your employees. Sign up for emergency text or alert messages and create an emergency kit.

**STEPS DURING A WILDFIRE**

Prepare to evacuate. Listen to emergency channels and know the status of the fire. Put emergency supplies and must-have items in the car so you can evacuate quickly. Evacuate immediately if told to do so. If you have time, there are steps you can take to help protect your property when you evacuate. These steps include:

- Moving furniture to the center of rooms and taking down drapes and curtains to prevent combustion.
- Closing all windows and doors to prevent drafts and reduce heat.
- Shutting off natural gas from its source.
- Turning on all lights in your property so that firefighters can more easily see it through smoke.

**STEPS AFTER A WILDFIRE**

Return only when it is safe. Do not go back to your property until officials declare it safe to do so. Check your house and surrounding property for hot spots and extinguish them immediately. Be on the lookout for ash pits. These are holes filled with hot ashes left by burned trees.

- Document damage, Take photos, video and make a list documenting damaged property. Contact your insurance company immediately.

**DRIVING TIPS DURING THE WILDFIRE SEASON**

Remember that driving near a wildfire should only be done in an emergency situation or under mandatory evacuation. If it’s unavoidable, make every attempt to take an alternate driving route as far away from the smoke-prone area as possible.

- Make sure you are aware of current road conditions before you begin driving, and density and direction of the smoke before driving.
- Reduce your speed for a safe stopping distance between vehicles because visibility will be lowered.
- Make sure windows, mirrors, & headlights are clear from ash and dust before you leave. Keep your windows tightly rolled up while driving.
- If you find yourself in severe smoke, emergency flashers may help make you more visible to others and do NOT use your high beams.
- If you must stop, steer off the roadway as far as safely possible. Try to avoid stopping near big bushes and trees.
- Carry items in the car with you such as a cell phone, first aid kit, and map in case of an emergency.
- Do not use driving navigation apps such as Waze unless approved by police and fire safety officials. Recently, navigation apps were instructing users to drive towards streets in areas on fire because they were less crowded at the time.