The most valuable resource young people have is what’s inside of them that indomitable part of their spirit that wants health, harmony and happiness.

“Anyone from South Central can survive and succeed, you just have to work three times harder.” So says Maynar, 17 years old.

Our job at APCH is to nurture that inner core and to help each member develop the skills, tools and motivation to overcome obstacles.

APCH is a dynamic launching pad to an atmosphere where all things are possible, but there is a lot to do to prepare a young person for that moment of lift-off. As a multi-service organization, we approach the mission from many angles simultaneously. Early educational support for our youngest members includes tutoring, homework help and literacy programs. At the other end of the age spectrum, we have a dropout recovery partnership with LAUSD, an SAT and higher education prep program, and a robust college scholarship program that sent 58 young women and men to college in September 2011; and we launched our vocational development program in 2011. Along the way, we provide young people with nourishment for the mind, body and spirit, including nutritious, fresh food and a connection with the earth in our garden; athletics and team sports; visual, dance, music and media arts programs; mental health and family counseling; and rites of passage programs for the transition into adulthood.

**APCH Calendar OF EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011</th>
<th>what</th>
<th>when &amp; where</th>
<th>details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Community Dinner and Food Distribution</td>
<td>APCH All day</td>
<td>Calling all volunteers. Please email <a href="mailto:volunteer@apch.org">volunteer@apch.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tree Lighting Ceremony and Movie Night</td>
<td>APCH 5pm – 8pm</td>
<td>Volunteer by contacting Gilbert Radillo at 323-904-4400 or <a href="mailto:rebecca@grantevents.com">rebecca@grantevents.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Tree Lighting Ceremony and Movie Night</td>
<td>6pm – 9pm The Beverly Wilshire</td>
<td>For ticket and sponsorship information please contact Rebecca Mizrahi at 312-969-4400 or <a href="mailto:rebecca@grantevents.com">rebecca@grantevents.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christmas Holiday Toy, Book and Clothing Drive</td>
<td>8pm - Midnight Skylar</td>
<td>Dress up and take part in our biggest fundraiser of the year. Please join us for our biggest fundraiser of the year as we celebrate the success of APCH youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Holiday Festival preparation</td>
<td>APCH</td>
<td>For ticket and sponsorship information please contact Rebecca Mizrahi at 312-969-4400 or <a href="mailto:rebecca@grantevents.com">rebecca@grantevents.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holiday Festival and Gift Distribution</td>
<td>APCH</td>
<td>Please volunteer to help beautify APCH. Volunteer today! Please email <a href="mailto:volunteer@apch.org">volunteer@apch.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Holiday Break</td>
<td>APCH Closed to Members</td>
<td>Donate dresses or suits Please email <a href="mailto:volunteer@apch.org">volunteer@apch.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Center reopens Monday, January 2, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>what</td>
<td>when &amp; where</td>
<td>get involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Stars &amp; Strikes Celebrity Bowling and Poker Tournament</td>
<td>6pm – Midnight PINZ in Studio City</td>
<td>For ticket and sponsorship information please contact Scott Collie at 323-232-7653 x238 or <a href="mailto:scott@apch.org">scott@apch.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Los Angeles Marathon and 5K Walk/Run</td>
<td>Morning start time TBD</td>
<td>Please check our website or contact Scott Collie at 323-232-7653 x238 or <a href="mailto:scott@apch.org">scott@apch.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>APCH Spring Break</td>
<td>APCH Closed to members, Center reopens on Monday, April 9, 2012</td>
<td>Contact Jerry Rodriguez at 323-232-7653 x239 or <a href="mailto:jerry@apch.org">jerry@apch.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 26-27</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cinderella and Prince Charmng Project</td>
<td>APCH Hours TBD</td>
<td>Volunteer by contacting Gilbert Radillo at 323-232-7653 x239</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Big Sunday (Even though it’s Saturday)</td>
<td>APCH 10am – 4pm</td>
<td>Calling all volunteers. Please email <a href="mailto:volunteer@apch.org">volunteer@apch.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>GetPower Awards Luncheon and Boutique</td>
<td>10am – 1:30pm Beverly Hills Hotel</td>
<td>For ticket and sponsorship information please contact Rebecca Mizrahi at 323-904-4400 or <a href="mailto:rebecca@grantevents.com">rebecca@grantevents.com</a></td>
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</tbody>
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**Where Young People Develop the Most Valuable Resource in the World**

**Fall 2011**

**Our Mission** A Place Called Home is a safe haven in South Central Los Angeles where underserved youth are empowered to take ownership of the quality and direction of their lives through programs in education, arts, and well-being; and are inspired to make a meaningful difference in their community and the world.

**Please use the enclosed donation card and visit our website today for more info on how to make a difference:** APCH.ORG

**Please visit our website today for more info:** APCH.ORG

**Thank you for supporting A Place Called Home**
In the coastal forests, giant redwoods, hundreds of years old, stand in circular groves whose roots are intertwined. When great winds come, or fires race through the forest, the trees hold each other up. So it is with people. Holding each other and working together, we are stronger and more resilient.

Every day at APCH, young people are learning to tap into their inner strengths and to develop vital life skills and tools for the future. With empowerment comes new possibility, new perspective and new courage to live fully.

This year we launched APCH SHARES, an initiative that recognizes the youth and families of South Central L.A. as important resources for their community and for the world. APCH SHARES brings members and staff together to make a positive impact through projects such as neighborhood clean-ups, L.A. River preservation projects, and the sharing of art with children across the nation.

Storms of unemployment, poverty and crime have left South Central battered, but not broken. The neighborhood’s young people need safety and support so they can enjoy healthy lives and develop into the leaders of tomorrow. At APCH, we are expanding our programs, and our young people are learning from the redwoods—if we stand in a circle and hold each other up, we can survive the storms and continue to grow toward the sky.

You, dear reader, can be a part of it by contributing your time, talent and treasure. Please consider getting involved as a volunteer, a partner, or a board member. It’s a decision you will never regret.

Yours in service to youth and families,
Jonathan Zeichner, Executive Director
STEPPING UP!

The dance department welcomed a very special guest visit in June, Ashlyne Huff, an up and coming pop artist and dancer, stopped by the studio on her nationwide tour to inspire, teach and give young dancers an opportunity to participate in a video in support of her new album. Ashlyne wanted to give our aspiring performers a window into the real world of a committed artist. It was an afternoon of friendly competition where out dancers were challenged with new combinations and had to step up to present themselves in a professional light. All of the APCH dancers did a tremendous job and they were proud of themselves.

Two talented girls, Nathaly Barcenas and LaShonda Washington, were selected to be in the video. Nathaly, who is just 10 years old, burst into tears when her name was called, “It was so good and it was fun! Ashlyne was really nice and cute. I learned a lot!”

This summer, LaShonda transitioned from being a youth member to being a dance intern, and she feels that the experience with Ashlyne motivated her to really go after her dream. “It inspired me to want to become a better dancer. I had a great time. I’ve never done anything like that before.”

Exposing young people to extraordinary opportunities is what we are all about!

September 30th was an especially exciting day of music and fun at A Place Called Home. Our Music Department hosted a wonderful “Listening Lounge: Sound Session” event featuring 7Lions Records Hip-Hop Rock fusion musical group 7Lions. 7Lions spent the afternoon with APCH members and other community youth, sharing stories about the business of making music. The band performed selected tracks from their latest project, getting feedback from their young audience. This exchange between the youth and professionals was further enriched when APCH Alum and artist Fernanda Gomez, APCH Staff members Charyn Harris and Joaquin Pacheco, music industry professionals Darryl Farmer, Benny Cassette, Corey Notes and others added rich discussion to the discussions. Youth were informed and encouraged to consider a number of career options related to the music industry.

Afterwards, our Bridge to the Future Department hosted another edition of APCH Teen Night, another edition of APCH Teen Night, formerly known as APCH’s Friday Night Dinner, featuring the music, dancing and fun, with hosting, DJ and sound engineering all handled by APCH members – special thanks to Nate “the Great” Hughes, George “Bringdamarz” Benitez and Amir Rosesan. It was great to see our teens applying everything they have learned at APCH in a real world event! Dozens of neighborhood youth enjoyed open mic performances and a set by independent artist Karina Nistal, with her Latin-injected R&B/Hip-Hop stylings. The whole evening was capped off with a line-dancing explosion! Can’t wait for the next one!

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES – HELPING KIDS MAKE THE GRADE

Thanks to the generosity of so many of you, the Educational Services Department at APCH is being transformed physically from the ground up, with a new beautiful floor, cooler, softer lighting, and pleasing colors, textures and sounds, we are creating a more nurturing and enriching learning environment for our members.

Learning is a lifetime adventure and all children are born with the curiosity to learn. One of our goals in the Educational Services Department is to nurture and, in some cases, revive the curiosity and love of learning in all our members. After school, our members love to participate in the other APCH departments such as Dance, Art, Music, Nutrition, and Fitness. In the Educational Services Department we also take a creative approach, but our focus is on our members’ academic growth.

This fall, our members who require extra academic support will enroll in either Academic Focus A or Academic Focus B. They will be assessed by our staff and with our new software to identify their specific areas of need. Educational Services staff will lead interactive, hands-on activities in small groups and, with the assistance of interns and volunteers, will guide our members through the process of learning and strengthening new skills. Homework assistance will be available to all who seek it and we will accommodate one on one tutoring sessions for our high school students who are preparing for higher education in just a few short years.

On Fridays, we offer a variety of classes for specific interests: Science Exploration, Poetry, a Book & Movie Club, Brain Teasers, and Forgotten Heroes.

As part of a vital, multi-service center, we embrace our role as a partner with 15 neighborhood schools and we are committed to working with them to provide exemplary service to our members and to accomplish our vision of youth empowered and inspired through education.

Our thanks go out to so many for the support, the books, the volunteer tutoring – we couldn’t do it without you!

BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE – OUR FIRST JOB READINESS TRAINING

Stefon Ginn and Rosalba Lopez Galindo

Over five weeks, participants developed skills to get a job and stay employed. Training focused on creating a mindset within participants of what it means to be a professional. Training topics included:

• Employee rights
• How to fill out a job application
• What should be on a resume
• How to professionally and successfully navigate the job interview process
• Expected professional behavior at one’s job site
• How behavior outside of one’s professional environment can affect their employment

The training consisted of instructor presentations, interactive activities and culminating mock interviews. Students prepared resumes, wore appropriate professional attire and used their newly acquired skills and confidence to successfully navigate their interviews.

“I learned that if I set my mind to it, I can accomplish many things,” explained Rosalba Lopez Galindo. “I learned not to mix up the personal and the professional. You should keep your social life out of your job.”

Stefon Ginn stated that, “Success is not just going to come to you. Having a job can help you succeed in your future and in your life. Also, you should never engage in office politics!”

Several of the workshop graduates went on to find employment over the summer and went back to school with new perspectives and ideas for what they want to do with their futures.

EDUCATION IS FOR IMPROVING THE LIVES OF OTHERS AND FOR LEAVING YOUR COMMUNITY AND WORLD BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT. – MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

ACCORDING TO LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS, NEARLY HALF OF LA’S 60,000-66,000 GANG MEMBERS LIVE IN SOUTH CENTRAL; MOST ARE 15 – 19 YEARS OLD, BUT SOME ARE AS YOUNG AS NINE YEARS OLD.
THE YEAR EVERYTHING CHANGED

By Alex Ramirez

Growing up, I was always encouraged by my parents and listening to my teachers. However, within the first month, I found myself struggling emotionally, academically, and financially. I realized that my old high school had not prepared me and I had a lot of catching up to do. Aside from that, I was undocumented and paying for tuition would be an even greater challenge. The decision to leave UCLA was heartbreaking, but I vowed I would go back. I took classes at East Los Angeles College and began working small jobs here and there to save money to fulfill my promise to myself.

At APCH, the staff there. At APCH, I found people who reminded me that the reason I was there was because I was as capable of succeeding as anyone else. If it was not for APCH, I would not be a third-year Political Science Major who one day will be someone who changes lives, as well. I know who I am.

I was just as smart as everyone else and that there was a place for me there. I knew that I had to work twice as hard and that the challenges I faced were different from most others. Although I still worry about tuition and books every quarter I know that there is one place out there that will always help me.

I am a student at the University of California, Berkeley, and experiencing the life of a college student was exhilarating and I was scared. I didn’t feel prepared. I felt out of place and didn’t feel smart enough to be there.

With time, though, I learned new things about myself as a student and as a future leader in my community of South Central. I learned that I was just as smart as everyone else and that there was a place for me there. I knew that I had to work twice as hard and that the challenges I faced were different from most others. Although I still worry about tuition and books every quarter I know that there is one place out there that will always help me.

A Place Called Home is the place there where people there who helped me and I have been simply irreplaceable during my struggle. They still are the support that allows me to keep fighting and pushing. Simply put, I could have never survived this experience without the help of A Place Called Home and the staff there.

A Place Called Home and the people there who helped me have been simply irreplaceable during my struggle. They still are the support that allows me to keep fighting and pushing. Simply put, I could have never survived this experience without the help of A Place Called Home and the staff there. At APCH, I found people who reminded me that the reason I was there was because I was as capable of succeeding as anyone else. If it was not for APCH, I would not be a third-year Political Science Major who one day will be someone who changes lives, as well. I know who I am.

APCH SHAHEEN COLLEGE SCHOLARS SPEAK UP

THE JOURNEY

By Daniel Villa

My name is Daniel Villa, and I’m a working-class Chicano from the part of the city formally known as South Central Los Angeles. I’ve been on this journey for 23 years, and have kept a constant dialogue with those that I’ve come in contact with and the world around me. On this quest I realized that making a difference and serving the community transcends any metaphysical conclusion about the meaning to live. Both our lives and the world are fragmented, and there’s a need for empathy rather than sympathy in our solutions.

It has been my decision and actions that have brought me here, but it wasn’t because I pulled myself up by own bootstraps. It was because I had guidance and support while facing adversity. It hurt when my father and teachers told me I would never amount to anything in life. I’d argue they did that because they were prescribing me with a role instead of allowing me to find one on my own. Nevertheless, inside A Place Called Home the staff and my peers believed in me, and whatever problem I posed to them I had someone to analyze and break it down with.

I was in the presence of greatness. Not just great names that solidified that our lives are not static. The past has shaped the present and it’s we who shape the future. I’m grateful that I will be able to continue my education at the University of Southern California, none of which would have been possible without the support of the APCH Shaheen Scholarship.

We faced many symptoms of social issues, and treating a symptom will never fix the root problem. Through research, practice, and the help of the community my goal is to begin to find real solutions to some of these issues (e.g., education and financial literacy).

THE APCH SHAHEEN SCHOLARSHIP

TALENTS ARE BEST NURTURED IN SOLITUDE, BUT CHARACTER IS BEST FORMED IN THE STORMY BILLOWS OF THE WORLD.

~ Paulo Freire

75% OF ADULTS IN THE CENTRAL-ALAMEDA AND HISTORIC SOUTH-CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE NOT ATTAINED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

MORE THAN 150 TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED!
THE APCH CINDERELLA PROJECT – IT’S ALL ABOUT INNER BEAUTY

True Beauty resonates from the soul, rising to the surface through words of truth, acts of kindness and sincere smiles. True Beauty is not confined to an idealized set of physical traits; it manifests in a spectrum of shades, shapes, personalities and lifestyles. The APCH Cinderella Project invites young women to think of their beauty beyond skin deep – our invitation is for girls and women to love themselves in a way that nourishes and shines from the inside out. In the classic fairytale of Cinderella, a young girl is transitioning into a woman, but her circumstances and the jealousy of others tell her she is not as beautiful as the rest – not worthy because she doesn’t look like her sisters who are all made up and dressed in the most expensive clothing and jewels. But, through Cinderella’s commitment to be true to her heart and to be helpful and giving, she is ultimately seen for her true beauty and she discovers that riches can’t buy. True Beauty transcends all negative circumstances and makes the world a better place for everyone. This past May, the APCH Cinderella Project 2011 focused on conveying the concept of inner beauty to 928 girls. Yes, the young ladies received dresses, shoes, accessories, and perfume for their upcoming proms and graduations, all the elements to dress up the outside, but the girls also received tips, guidance and opportunities for developing their inner beauty. The young ladies learned practices to boost self-confidence and inner growth and insure that on their special night (and beyond), they can be true to themselves and good to others. They were even encouraged to sign up to volunteer at APCH or some other community center. Outward beauty will fade with time. True Beauty just gets better and better.

In 2012 we will be adding Prince Charming to the event! To donate dresses and suits, contact gilbert@apch.org.

HOW THE MAGIC BEGAN

11 years ago, Dana Green had a plan to help underprivileged young women sparkle and shine at their proms and graduations. Dana’s vision has spread near and far, as Cinderella Projects and events like it can be found in many different states around prom time. The partnership with APCH has served thousands of girls in South Central and beyond, and now, with Dana’s blessing, we are taking it to a whole new level of meaning and impact. Cinderella Project 2012 will have a whole new look, and we are adding The Prince Charming Project to allow young men to receive donated suits so they can accompany their prom and graduation dates in style. To match our inner beauty theme for the girls, we are provid- ing workshops and speakers to focus on inner strength and ways to “be a man” that are all about using masculine strength to help others. Our beautiful princesses and princes will be supported in developing mutual respect and finding ways to give back and make their marks in the world.

In addition to donations of dresses, shoes, jewelry and men’s suits, we are looking for just the right corporate and small business sponsors. Please email gilbert@apch.org for more information or to get involved.

“I started the Cinderella Project as a way to give back to the young women of our community. Hopefully the young women who are this year’s beneficiaries will in turn give back to the community in some way.” – Cinderella Project Creator, Dana Green

GIRLPOWER PROJECT 2011 TAKES IT TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL

GirlPower 2011 had 14 girls enrolled, and it was inspiring to see them find their voices and develop their self respect and the respect of every- one around them. One of the important lessons they focused on was about respecting other people’s opinions and agreeing to disagree some- times. The value of really seeing each other as individuals with different perspectives brought major breakthroughs in their circle of sisterhood.

GirlPower this year also placed an emphasis on volunteerism in the South L.A. community and at APCH. The girls participated in many different service projects, including a Los Angeles River Clean-up, The Children Mending Arts Project, where they made t-shirts and backpacks for the children of Haiti and Japan, and the APCH Cinderella Project, where the GP Girls helped more than 900 other young ladies choose free dresses and accessories for their proms and graduations. Young people need help with identifying who they are inside. This year GirlPower became all about giving back to the community and taking a leadership role in helping others. Through developing inner beauty and strength, the GP Girls began to define new roles for them- selves in life. They began to express themselves and open up to each other in a new way that allowed for deeper understanding and appreciation.

At the GirlPower Awards Luncheon last May, the Girls shared the stage with our peerless host, Shondrella Avery, and five very accom- plished honorees; journalist Laura Ling, fashion pioneer Pamela Sklar-Levy, Councilwoman Jan Perry, author Katherine Schwarzenegger, and Guru Mommy Linda Meadow. In front of several hundred guests, our Girls gave voice to their dreams and aspirations, named their ho- roscopes, and declared what GirlPower means to them. Weeks and months of training in life skills, self esteem, decision making, time management, etiquette, public speaking, college and career preparation, and commu- nity awareness came together in an instant and the Girls walked off that stage differently than they had walked onto it. The world needs empowered women more than ever – and here they come!

DON’T LIMIT YOURSELF. YOU CAN GO AS FAR AS YOUR MIND LETS YOU. WHAT YOU BELIEVE, YOU CAN ACHIEVE. – MARY KAY ASH

TODAY YOU ARE YOU, THAT IS TRUER THAN TRUE. THERE IS NO ONE ALIVE THAT IS YOUNG THAN YOU. – DR. SEUSS

~ DR. SEUSS
WHAT WE DO AT A PLACE CALLED HOME

1. BACK TO SCHOOL GIVEAWAY 2011
   Youth and families receive food, clothing and needed supplies all year round.
2. ASUS COLLEGE VISITS
   We provide opportunities every day to excel and succeed.
3. ANNUAL KIDS DAY
   We want each summer with kids day at APCH—IT’S A BLAST!
4. BASKETBALL
   APCH members play hard and have fun in the basketball league.
5. MORNING YOGA
   SUMMER INCLUDES YOGA CLASSES EVERY MORNING FOR DOZENS OF CURIOUS KIDS.
6. MUSIC DEPARTMENT
   Students who excel and show dedication in our music department often receive an instrument of their very own.
7. A DAY WITHOUT ART—DOES NOT EXIST AT APCH!
8. GIRLPOWER
   Our annual Cinderella Project promotes inner beauty for hundreds of girls from across L.A.
9. A DAY WITHOUT ART—DOES NOT EXIST AT APCH!
10. COMPUTER CLASSES
    The APCH computer classes have been prepared for the 21st century every day.
11. DULCE QUIÑCENIERA
    por Maria Flores 6/10/11
    ¡Me encanta ser Nina! Antes de que te cierren las puertas
    Disfruta ser niña antes que te cierren las puertas
    Por eso Dulce Quiñcniera sigue soñando
    Nomas ce quedara una advierta
    Con el tiempo cerrando cada puerta
    Poco a poco dejando su niñez/uni00A0
    Poco a poco asiendo se mujer/uni00A0/uni00A0/uni00A0/uni00A0
    en cada dimensión
    Diferente formas de mirar la vida
    Diferente mundos de que explorar
    Diferente estilos para cada niña/uni00A0
    Como saber la que pensando
    Entre el futuro y el pasado/uni00A0
    Trapada entre mundos inexplicable
    Con cuerpo casi de mujer
    Mente de niña
    Dulce Quiñcenera
    by Maria Flores 6/10/11
12. COMPUTER CLASSES
    Our computer classes have been prepared for the 21st century every day.
13. SOCCER LEAGUE
   APCH members play hard and have fun in the soccer league.
14. COMPUTER CLASSES
    Our computer classes have been prepared for the 21st century every day.
15. SURF CAMP
   Every March APCH members and staff run the surf camp. HAPCH members learn to ride the curl!
16. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES 2
   IF YOU NEED HELP WITH HOMEWORK, APCH IS THE PLACE TO BE EVERY DAY!
17. GARDEN
   The APCH garden is thriving.
18. APCH THANKSGIVING
   EVERY YEAR APCH SERVES MORE THAN 1,000 THANKSGIVING DINNER TO OUR COMMUNITY. COME VOLUNTEER!
19. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES 3
   Our alternative education work center/dropout recovery partnership with LACD serves 100+ students every year.
20. GARDEN
   The APCH garden is thriving.
21. APCH MEMBERS PLAY HARD AND HAVE FUN IN THE SOCCER LEAGUE

APCH was overjoyed to welcome some new additions to our ever growing family. We are thankful for these beautiful gifts and for the wonderful people who support APCH and contribute to making this an awesome place for our members.

APCH Leadership Council Co-Chair, Jonathan and Breanna Hodg, and sister, Amalia welcome Eli Rose Hodg, Born May 7, 2011

APCH Leadership Council member, Jennifer Koster and her Dad welcome Tristan Alexander Koster, Born July 28, 2011

APCH Athletics Supervisor, Jeremiah Cockheran and Tamara Limasa welcome Zaia Joy Emiko Cockheran, Born July 14, 2011

APCH is an awesome place for our members. We are thankful for these beautiful gifts and for the wonderful people who support APCH and contribute to making this an awesome place for our members.

APCH Leadership Council member, Jennifer Koster, welcome Zaia Joy Emiko Cockheran, Born July 14, 2011

I’d like to fly fast
But I only have one wing
Together we fly
~ Daniel Martinez

SWEET FIFTEEN YEAR OLD

Sweet Fifteen year old
Mind of a child
Body almost grown
Trapped in different unexplainable worlds
In the present and future
Who can say what she thinks
Different styles for every girl
Different worlds to explore
Different ways to see life in every dimension
Little by little becoming a woman
Little by little leaving the girl she is
With time closing the doors
Just leaving a single one open
That’s why sweet Fifteen year old, dream all you can
Enjoy being a child before your doors close
CHANGING THE WORLD

STARTS AT HOME

CHANGING APCH STARTS WITH YOU

On Saturday morning, June 25, 2011, our first-ever Stakeholder Circle met at APCH. There were parents, members of different ages, interns, volunteers, our executive director, staff members and an APCH Board member. The goal was to convey a representative spectrum of those who care and are most affected by what happens at APCH, to get caught up on current events, share concerns, needs, desires and visions of what can be at APCH, and to come away with recommendations for APCH leadership to consider as we move forward – how can APCH be even better?

Each stakeholder shared a story about the place APCH has in his/her life. There were stories of change and pain, of challenge and hope, and of love and healing. We laughed and cried together, like families do, and then we got down to business. Participants were invited to co-vision about the future – what APCH programs need to be strengthened and added to better serve members? Highlights included:

• Create a Charter school so kids can attend all day
• Create a Teen Center that focuses on real teen issues and provides more mentoring
• Add computer classes for parents
• Add a Theater Program
• Build a Gymnasium
• Increase counseling services for the community
• Provide support groups for victims of violence

Executive Director, Jonathan Zeichner conveyed all of this to the APCH Board of Directors, and we are already pursuing some of the priorities!

Interested in getting involved? Let us know at info@apch.org.

Festival” including a Toy, Book and Clothing Drive that will distribute

APCH WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Serving on the Board of Directors for A Place Called Home requires a significant commitment of time, energy and resources. We are pleased to announce the inclusion of two new members, bringing our total board number to 22 dedicated individuals from many different backgrounds, professions and life histories, all united to support A Place Called Home in its mission to sustain, nurture and improve the lives of youth and families in South Central Los Angeles.

Dawn Taubin is one of the most highly regarded executives in entertainment marketing. After a 19-year career in marketing at Warner Bros. Pictures, Taubin recently started her own company, Cinema Vision, and she is a Professor of Public Relations and Advertising at the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at Chapman University in Orange, CA. Dawn has volunteered at APCH for years, and in 2007 she was honored at our annual APCH Gala for the Children. Dawn and her whole family have stayed involved, and Dawn says, “Being a part of A Place Called Home has been very important to our family. We’ve made a difference, and it has changed our lives and made us aware of the community around us.” Now, Dawn is on the Board and has stepped into the role of Co-Chair of the 2011 Gala. Welcome, Dawn, we are thrilled to have you!

As the Senior Vice President of Worldwide Marketing and TV & Studio Licensing at Warner Bros. Consumer Products, Maryellen Zaraskas is responsible for identifying, developing and executing marketing priorities, strategy, and plans for all WB properties worldwide.

One of her favorite quotes is from Thomas Edison: “The greatest invention in the world is the mind of a child.” As someone in the entertainment field who is fortunate enough to have been exposed to music, dance, art, etc., Maryellen says, “It is my responsibility to bring these incredible experiences to others, and especially to children—to contribute to their lives by giving them access to creating a healthy, balanced and personally fulfilling life. I cannot think of a better way to make that happen than through the wonders of this amazing APCH world.”

Interested in getting involved at a Board of Directors level? Please email our Executive Director at: jonathan@apch.org.

APCH FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS PROVIDE A COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

There is something magical about a summer night, picnic blankets spread on the ground, and the smell of popcorn breezing through the air. The lights go down, the music comes up, and right there in the middle of South Central LA, 300-400 people are transported on a journey together that makes them happy and brings them closer together. Moms and dads get a rare date night, the kids get to play, or sit and watch safely, or snuggle under a family blanket.

In a neighborhood with no movie theaters, APCH provides free family film screenings – no cursing, no bloody gun battles, just lots of laughs and great stories that offer a respite from the intrusive real sounds of sirens and helicopters that too often permeate the neighborhood.

The experience of watching a great movie outside with friends and neighbors feels like a wonderful adventure and we love providing it throughout the spring and summer. In the winter, we partner up with All People’s Christian Center and bring our equipment over to their gymnasium, where it fills up, too.

Thanks, Warner Bros., for supporting us in providing these simple, memorable, pleasurable nights for the kids and families of South Central. We look forward to many, many sequels.

APCH WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Thank you to the stakeholder circle participants:

Patricia Velez – Director of Counseling Services
Kenneth Gordon – Athletic Supervisor
Lara Ramos – School – Director of Development

Julie Flair – Board Member
Katie Tobler – Volunteer
Keith Katchen – Volunteer
Javette Guajra – Intern
Monica Roque – Parent
Shonda Michael – Parent

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS HAVE FUN AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT APCH

The A Place Called Home Leadership Council was established in 2007 to include young professionals and artists in the fundraising and strategic planning for APCH. Members of the LC learn about board development and have a voice in the long term direction of the organization. Two LC members, Doug Atchison and Julie Pilat have gone on to join the APCH Executive Board, with Doug currently helming the Board as chairman.

“Stars and Strikes” is the Leadership Council’s signature bowling and poker fundraising event, held every March (next edition, March 14, 2012: please visit apch.org for details). For 2011, the Leadership Council has developed another great event, “A Place Called Home for the Holidays Gala” which was established in 2007.

Thank you to the stakeholder circle participants:

Debbie Cerrito, Account Executive at Clear Channel Communications, “Oftentimes we are caught up in building our careers, which is great, but APCH gives us the opportunity to step back and realize there is a bigger purpose to our everyday lives.”

Would you like to learn more about the APCH leadership Council?

Please email info@apch.org with your inquiry and we’ll get back to you!

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has.

– MARGARET MEAD

Thank you to the stakeholder circle participants:

YOUNG PEOPLE CROSSED OUR Threshold PLENTY OF TIMES THIS PAST YEAR. WE SAW 3,500 UNPLIQUED MEMBERS AND THOUSANDS MORE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT SCREENINGS, FOOD AND CLOTHING GIVEAWAYS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS.

The greatest invention in the world is the mind of a child.

– THOMAS EDISON
600 celebrities and guests took to the lanes and poker tables for a jampacked night of fun to celebrate and support A Place Called Home’s 5th Annual Stars & Strikes Celebrity Bowling & Poker Tournament. The dedication and long hours put in by APCH Leadership Council superstars Zach Abo, Sixx Carter, Debbie Cerrotto, Danielle Djansezian, Liz Hernandez, Jonathan Hodge, Jennifer Koster, Alex Larson, Julie Pilat, Mallory Portillo, Lori Rischer, Louie Rubio, Maggie Venneri and Karimah Westbrook paid off as they raised more than $100,000 for A Place Called Home.

From Miley Cyrus and Cody Simpson to Cee Lo Green, RedOne and Howie Mandel, the stars were there in force. “Not only were the kids having a blast but you could tell people were passionate about contributing to such a great cause,” said LA Galaxy forward Bryan Jordan, who grew up near South Central LA. “Everyone was happy to see kids with smiles on their faces and I was glad to have the opportunity to be involved.”

We want to especially thank Whole Foods Market for donating fresh, healthy and delicious hors d’oeuvres and dinner. No fun bowling on an empty stomach!

SAVE THE DATE FOR STARS & STRIKES 2012: MARCH 14, AT PINZ!

Check our website often for opportunities to attend Stars & Strikes, the GirlPower Awards, our Gala, and many other exciting fund and friend-raisers for APCH!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JONATHAN ZEICHNER, 2010 HONOREE SERGE AZRIA, 2010 HONOREE BRODERICK JOHNSON, BOARD DIRECTOR AND 2010 HONOREE STEVE WINSTON, 2010 HONOREE ANDREW KOSOVE, BOARD CHAIR DOUG ATCHISON

On December 7, 2011 at the Beverly Wilshire, we are thrilled to be honoring CEO of Walden Media, Michael Bostick; Executive Vice President of Marketing, Motion Pictures, Walt Disney Studios, Frank Chiocchi; and Partner at Latham & Watkins and longtime APCH Board member, Peter Gilluly. Each of our honorees embraces the mission of APCH and shares a passion to ensure that the youth of South Central Los Angeles not only succeed, but soar and go on to make a difference in the world. It’s going to be another great evening full of hope, promise, fun and surprises. Please join us!

For tickets, tables, or just more information, please call our event coordinator, Rebecca Mizrahi at Grant Associates, at 323-904-4400 or visit our website: apch.org. Save the Date! December 7, 2011

FOR ONE NIGHT EACH YEAR THE FANCIEST BALLROOM IN TOWN IS TRANSFORMED INTO A PLACE CALLED HOME!
All APCH programs are free to the children and families we serve and any amount will make a difference!

HERE ARE SOME APPROXIMATE COSTS FOR THE PROGRAMS WE PROVIDE:
- Sports, Fitness, Yoga and Sportmanship activities for a child for a month: $23
- Professional Dance Instruction and equipment for a child for a month - $50
- Mental Health Counseling for a youth who needs extra support for a month - $82
- A month of Tutoring for few children who are struggling to keep up at school - $175
- Snacks and meals for ten children for a month - $320
- A Field Trip for 25 children - $300
- Academic Guidance/College Prep for 15 teenagers for a month - $1,200
- Tuition support for a young person who will be the first in his/her family to attend college - $3,500-$6,000

The amount you give is up to you. You may choose to adopt more than one family.

Please select size of recipient family and donation level you prefer:
- 1 - 2 families ($25)
- 3 families ($50)
- 4 families ($100)
- 5 families ($250)
- 6 families ($500)
- 7 families ($1,000)
- 8 or more ($5,000)
- Other

I want to Keep On Giving: Please make automatic monthly donations of: $____ with my credit card.

Payment method: □ Check □ MasterCard □ Visa □ AmEx □ Discover

I want to make check payable to A Place Called Home, 2830 South Central Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Please make a gift in memory/honor of: □ My company will make a matching gift; I have enclosed the form
Please do not include my name in any list of published donors
I am interested in naming APCH in my estate plan

Please contact me at

I am interested in contributing to the APCH Endowment
Please contact me at

I am interested in volunteer opportunities at APCH
Please contact me at

I am interested in learning more about serving on the Board of Directors or Leadership Council

Please contact me at

I would like to participate in:
- HOPE (year round essentials) □ Holiday Edition

The challenges facing our young people have never been more acute. And the resources provided by A Place Called Home and its supporters have never been more necessary.

More Americans are hungry and without homes than in any other time since the Great Depression. Unemployment stubbornly remains at record highs. And 35% of Hispanic children and 39% of Black children now live below the poverty line. These statistics are ampliﬁed in the inner city where the threats of drugs and gang violence compound economic dangers.

A recent cover story in The Atlantic described how the American middle class is disappearing. But the article also detailed measures for rescuing today’s young people from threadbare existences. Many of the prescribed remedies were ones APCH has been providing its members for years: educational support, vocational training, scholarships, and an environment of love, protection, and encouragement. APCH is a laboratory for developing new paths of success that must be forged if this country’s inner city youth are to avoid lives of despair, imprisonment, or early death.

While other non-proﬁts wither from lack of funding, APCH is growing and setting its sights on a more ambitious future. That is because our supporters recognize the profound and lasting change kindled in our members once they enter our doors and avail themselves of our broad menu of programs and services. Whenever I visit the center, I see for myself the very real progress happening in these kids’ lives. They avoid the pitfalls so many of their peers encounter. By and large, children at APCH stay in school, stay out of trouble - and increasingly go on to college. Our members are not a drag on society - but are ﬁnding work and building families of their own.

APCH and agencies like it are the answer to the ills our communities and country face. Our government alone cannot solve our problems. Nor can we as individuals always make it by ourselves.  Community centers like A Place Called Home bridge the gap between the public and private sectors by providing the essential tools at-risk kids need to develop new paths of success that must be forged if this country’s inner city youth are to avoid lives of despair, imprisonment, or early death.

Changing The World Starts At Home

Thank you for your continued investment in this vital response to our community’s challenges. Together we will help our young people overcome the perils of their environment and forge productive, prosperous, and charitable lives.

FROM DOUG ATCHISON, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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I thank you for your continued investment in this vital response to our community’s challenges. Together we will help our young people overcome the perils of their environment and forge productive, prosperous, and charitable lives.

 THANKS TO OUR REMARKABLE VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN OUR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF OUR BOARD, STANDING: L TO R: PATRICIA CONNOR, JILL GOLDMAN, DOUG ATCHISON, ROBERT ISRAEL, JONATHAN HODGE, STEPHEN WINTON, PETER GILHULY, DAWN TAUBIN AND MARSHALL WAX. SEATED: HOWARD SHERWOOD, MAYVELLEN ZARAKAS, JONATHAN ZEICHNER, STEPHANIE SHERWOOD AND LOUISE HAMAGAMI

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