



HOME FRONT



Photo Credit: Ben Miller

DOES APCH REALLY MATTER?

How do we quantify the impact of our work? That's the million-dollar question these days for nonprofits – funders want to know if they are making a good investment. Fair enough, there are a lot of things we actually can count...

80% of the families we serve live on annual incomes of under \$23,000.

We serve an average of 300 youth 8-21 years old each day (more if you count our 74 college scholars) and 900-1,000 unique individual youth annually. Over 22 years, we've served more than 18,000 youth. Our retention rate is 90% and turnover is low, so our waiting list is 500-600.

In addition to our regular programs, we serve 10,000+ community members annually via festivals, food giveaways, movie screenings, farmers markets, etc.

Our neighborhood public schools graduate around 50% of their students from high school and the rest drop out. At APCH 90% of our high

schoolers graduate.

More than 300 students from South L.A. have received APCH scholarships totaling more than \$3,000,000 for tuition, living expenses and books.

Nationally, 2/3 of minority students who are first in their families to go to college drop out in their first year. When we send a student to college we provide wraparound support. Result: 90% retention.

We serve 75-80,000 meals per year, and we distribute 5,000 bags of groceries to families in need.

Our members scan in when they arrive at APCH, so we know there were more than 77,000 visits last year and 214,000 hours of instruction, tutoring, the arts, athletics, counseling, gardening, college prep, and more.

To see more, please visit our website: apch.org and click on: THINGS WE COUNT.

IS THERE A TANGIBLE RETURN ON APCH'S INVESTMENT IN YOUTH AND FAMILIES?

What is the value of providing such an array of FREE programs for youth and families? How much do our programs prevent in social services paid out, unemployment and disability benefits? Law enforcement, justice system and incarceration costs? Graffiti abatement, property loss, violent crime? Hospitalizations, drug rehab programs, and funerals? How much tax revenue is generated when our graduates get good jobs and pay into the system? What is the value of the inventions and entrepreneurial successes our alums generate? How do we measure the results of our parenting classes, financial literacy and driver's education? What is healthy diet, safety, stability and happiness worth?

What is the value of thousands of lives turned around and aspirations realized? Lives not lost? Crimes not committed?

To be honest, we don't have those numbers... but can you imagine the cost of APCH not doing our work?

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.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Executive Director Message	2
Programs	3-9
Alum Voices	9
Community	10
Events	11
List of Donors	12-14

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Home is a place Where we can see each other's hearts

A Place Called Home is about strengthening connections between us. When we say, "Changing the world starts at home," what we mean is that change starts inside you and me and extends out to everyone with whom we interact... and beyond.

As the world gets smaller and more fragile, our destinies as human beings are more deeply interwoven every

day. How do we overcome ancient fears and scars and the barriers and wounds of modern day injustice to find "home" in each other?

At A Place Called Home we focus on nourishing shared values and aspirations. Each day we greet our members and colleagues with love and respect. We commit to intentional evolution as people and as a community. Whether in the garden, kitchen, athletic field, or dance studio,

we share a set of values:

Respect
Empathy
Accountability
Courage
Hope

APCH is a community within a community within a community, and more and more of our young people are attending far flung colleges and traveling the country and the globe. They are REACHing beyond our walls and past the horizon... and they are carrying something to make a collective impact on the world.



Jonathan Zeichner
Executive Director

*No matter where you
are coming from
Or where you are going
Home is a state of mind*

YOUTH VOICES

WITHOUT YOU

You said
Keep your eyes wide open
You might see
See that face
You
Haven't seen
In almost three years
My dear
I said
I won't have to worry
No I won't
Shed no tears
No stress
No pain
My dear
See Daddy I love you enough
To let the past go
And Daddy I can't say enough
To let you know

— by Tamia, Age 15
APCH Member



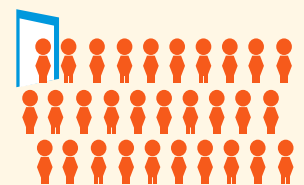
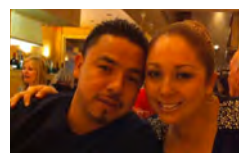
Come meet the friendly and dedicated staff at APCH. Sign up today to join one of our monthly tours: <http://bit.do/APCHTour>

APCH STAFF NEWS!

APCH is about love and family, and we joyfully congratulate our Volunteer Manager **Sarah Kimbrough** who had a baby in 2015; Dance Coordinator **Jewel Delegal** and Case Manager **Carolina Perez**, who both got engaged; Athletic Coach **Alex James** and Dance Assistant **Enid Cortes**, who both got married; and Associate Director of Teen Services **Lucretia Taylor** who got her PhD! We'd also like to welcome all our new staffers! We're fortun-

nate to attract such talented and dedicated staff and volunteers. If you're interested in working at APCH,

please visit our website and click on EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. We are growing, so check back often!



APCH has served more than 18,000 young people since we opened our doors in 1993. More than 300 members cross our threshold each day, and we have 74 APCH Shaheen scholars in college.

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS MESSAGE



sible to respond to the volume without fully embracing the small individual encounters we as staff experience with members and parents daily. That's the real story and joy of this agency. The list of accomplishments is long, exciting, groundbreaking and inspiring, but they pale in comparison to that one moment, that one conversation, that one spark when the kindling is lit and the realization sets in a young person's eyes that they can author their own dreams. So, the sacred answer to the question of what I do, and what we do, is... we inspire dreams.

There is an unbelievable team of people that lifts up this vision every day - more than I can mention in this message, but you should know the

leaders of our programs: Charyn Harris in Music, Lucretia Taylor in Teen Services, Jewel Delegall in Dance, Jorge Caughman in Nutrition, Monica Sahagun in Educational Services, Alex James in Athletics, Bernyce Talley in Art, Lorena Endara in Digital Media, and Ana Maria Perez Paulino in Membership and Parent Services. These are extraordinary community servants and it's been an honor to work alongside them. After six dedicated and extraordinarily productive years, I pass the baton and my commitment to the success of APCH for years to come.

Tarabu Betserai Kirkland
Tarabu Betserai Kirkland
Director of Programs

When asked recently what I do for a living, I rattled off the obligatory references: "I'm Director of Programs at A Place Called Home and I oversee most of the programs at our agency." Usually after I provide a little detail about those programs and services, the response is, "that's a big job." But I've realized after six years at this wonderful agency that it would be impos-

WITH GRATITUDE AND BEST WISHES

Change is part of the life cycle for all living organisms, and A Place Called Home is no different. With love and thanks, we bid farewell, but not goodbye, to two leaders at APCH. Director of Programs **Tarabu Betserai Kirkland** and Director of Communications **Scott Culbertson** have both made tremendous contributions to our work and in the lives of thousands of young people at APCH, and we will miss seeing them on campus and working with them every day... but they have both pledged to stay involved. Thank you, gentlemen. We wish you great fulfillment and joy in your new adventures. You will always have a home at A Place Called Home.



Leadership Circle: Leonardo Cuadrado, Yvonne Styles, Scott Culbertson, Tarabu Betserai, Jonathan Zeichner, Di Lam

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others
- Mahatma Gandhi

APCH 2015 - A SUMMER TO REMEMBER!



As interns this summer, we witnessed hundreds of young lives being changed, and in the process so were ours. It was incredibly inspiring both to see members discovering new and varied ways to embrace and channel their talents, and to participate with so many committed staff and volunteers who provided a positive influence and encouragement to launch the kids towards bright futures.

Members were thrilled to go on 98 extraordinary field trips, creating lasting and defining memories, and we were moved every time by the excitement in their eyes and their overjoyed voices. They dived into the waters of Catalina Island, learned to tend and ride horses, attended Dodgers games, trained with professional athletes they admired, and much more. In front of our eyes, they planted seeds and saw seedlings bursting from the soil, and they realized how tangible their dreams really could be. They got to just be kids, playing and laughing for hours and days on end with nothing else expected from them.

As we wrapped our internships, we reflected on how every child is given a voice at APCH, they are given love, they are given a chance; and they are given a home.

Jocelyn Aguirre and Marilynn Alvarado,
APCH Summer Program Interns



APCH programs and services are delivered via five core departments:
Educational Services,
Health, Nutrition & Well-being,
Creative Expressions,
Bridge to the Future, and
Community Engagement & Volunteerism



IDENTITY AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT THROUGH STORY CREATION

Creating identities! By interviewing their family members, our youth are participating in the important process of learning their own histories as a basis for developing a strong sense of identity. Members in 2nd-8th grade learned to value their families' oral histories and have seen those stories reflected in our culturally relevant curriculum, which includes established literature and documentaries, as well

as historical fiction authored by one of our instructors.

Teen scholars proudly presented family history projects set within each one's respective historical context, and then analyzed history in relation to their family context. They did this through discussions and collaborative activities in classes such as, "Forgotten History" and "The History of U.S.," which include insight into the contri-

butions of Latinos/as and African Americans. Identity is created by interaction and experience and the APCH "Be Kind-Rewind Project" offered members a student-centered, arts based opportunity to re-write, create, edit and perform for three shorts based on popular films, which were screened at the 2nd Annual APCH Moondance Film Festival.



COUNSELING GETS TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

The APCH Davidow Counseling Center provides stability and support for APCH members and staff and in the summer of 2015 our counseling team undertook a unique leadership opportunity. Under the Senior Director, the team executed a specialized training to prepare our summer VISTA volunteers to work within the APCH culture and method. This on-boarding of 18 amazingly energetic college students occurred several days in advance of launching the summer program, and the result was a seamless collaboration between our VISTAS

and our staff, enabling a summer of wonderful program and field trip support for hundreds of young people who streamed through our doors every day.

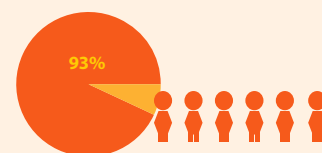
Summer 2015 also marked the second year of our Counseling Center's collaboration with the Malibu-based Experience Camp. We are heartened to report four of our children had the privilege to receive support from this specialized summer camp for grieving youth. Through this initiative, APCH members are able to meet and connect with other Southland children

who are also coping with loss and the deep challenges developing youth face when experiencing grief. This camp is free and provides a safe environment for vulnerable children to share stories about their lives, and the results were tangible as our members returned with coping skills that will endure their entire lives. We appreciate Experience Camp and all of our community partners and through our Counseling Department, APCH is committed to the emotional well being of all of our members.

OUR CONTINUATION HIGH SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP



I'm B. Baylis, the new APCH/LAUSD Alternative Education and Work Center Program (AEWC) Advisor. AEWC is an independent study program that provides an opportunity for teens who have been unsuccessful in the traditional school setting to earn a high school diploma. Using my 15 years of experience working with at-risk teens both as an instructor and an advisor, my goals for the 2015-2016 school year and beyond are to provide a supportive environment that facilitates educational achievement, help students further develop future aspirations, and provide opportunities for students to become contributing members of their community. I'm looking forward to a continued partnership with APCH in helping students achieve all their hearts' desires and our goal is to graduate 50 students in June!



In 2015, APCH membership retention reached an all time high of 93%. Unfortunately, that means 590 children are waiting for a slot so they can join A Place Called Home



WINNING IS MORE THAN A GAME



History is full of heroic victories, from the athletics field to the battlefield, sometimes against what seem to be insurmountable odds. Many factors contribute to the success of a team or an individual: training, practice, coaching, and even luck. But, while the circumstances of history's greatest wins have all been unique, one element is found throughout: belief. Belief sinks buzzer beaters; carries feet across goal lines, knocks the leather off baseballs... and moves people forward when the odds are against them.

Too many young people in our neighborhood are bombarded every day with limiting, stereotyping imagery and negative role models. Many come

to APCH having never spoken the words or even had the thought, "I believe in myself." As a result they are easily swayed by unhealthy influences and stray from their intentions and paths to success. The APCH Athletic Department works to offset this unfortunate dynamic by strengthening each of our young athlete's belief in his or herself.

The APCH South Central Sports League and all of our athletics programs nurture a core sense of self, strong values, and rooted confidence. Our members learn to believe in themselves. And, we believe in them and their ability to succeed, on the soccer field, the basketball court, and the field of life.

CREATING A HEALTHY APPETITE



Nutrition, urban ag, health & well-being continue to be critical issues in our neighborhood. Our response: we offer made from scratch meals to our APCH members and families through daily food service and groceries through our weekly Food for Families program.

Our ongoing partnership with Food Forward has allowed us to offer fresh fruits and vegetables straight from local farmers, and our three urban gardens (on our campus, at the LAPD Newton Station, and in a neighbor's back yard) give APCH members and the community the opportunity to learn about and take ownership for their own health and well being.

In a neighborhood with many more

liquor stores and fast food joints than grocery stores, our Garden Oasis curriculum provides links between the kitchen and the garden, and with classes for elementary, middle and high school students and their parents, we are seeing hundreds of our members taking their food choices back into our own hands.

In Summer 2015 we had the fun of starting a CSA fresh produce delivery service that employed a number of our youth and provided farm fresh fruits and veggies to offices across downtown L.A. If your office is downtown, please check our website and Facebook page next spring to get your APCH deliveries next summer!

APCH (AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD) IS GETTING GREENER BY THE DAY



Our Urban Agriculture Department's motto is "A Garden Anywhere!" This past June we completed a year-long project to build and plant a 2,000 square foot community garden at the LAPD Newton Police Station, only a five minute walk from APCH! We think

of it as our Cops & Community Garden and we hope the crop is a healthier, more peaceful neighborhood with improved relations between our community members and our public servants in uniform.

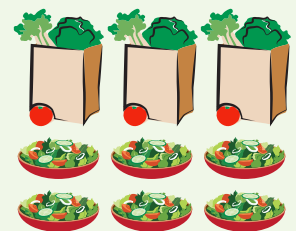
This site not only provides us with

fresh local fruits and veggies but also gives our members a place to connect to nature and provides our community with a green safe space to visit with their family. Ten raised garden plots, a compact orchard and an outdoor kitchen transformed this unused plot

of land into a community oasis. Can you say pesto for everyone?!

A garden at APCH and a police station, what next? Together with our local partner RootDown LA we built our first residential garden in the backyard of a neighbor – the only catch is that they have to share their crops with other neighbors. Our vision...

GARDENS EVERYWHERE! Mwah ha ha!!!



We serve more than 5,000 fresh, healthy meals and distribute 300+ bags of groceries to families each month.

FROM AN IDEA TO A SONG – NEW RELEASE FROM OUR RECORDING STUDIO

Our 2015 APCH album will feature longtime APCH members, Sunny Ward, singing an award-winning song “Have Another Pill,” and Tamia Staples

and Moises Jacobo on the amazing collaboration “Wake Me Up.” Telling stories of family, love and loss, these talented young artists dig deeply into

their souls and share truth and beauty in their songs.

Other notable tracks include guest artist, Sabi (Warner Bros Records) working with our Audio Recording class on a new song “One of Those Days,” and the amazing Kayley Betancourt partnering up with Tamia Staples for a song about lost love and the strength to carry on. APCH band 29 Live returns with “Unaware” voiced by APCH singer songwriter Deja Rice, and featuring the versatility of our musicians at A Place Called Home. The A Place Called Home Studio has no shortage of creative talent working on Pop, R&B, Jazz, Folk, and even some classical riffs mixed in. You can check out the talented young voices leading the way for A Place Called Home and download our albums on iTunes.



MUSIC FEEDS THE SOUL

One thing about the APCH Music Department: there is never a still moment! Movement is constant and plenty. In 2015 we tinkered with radios, building them from scratch and tuning in to our favorite AM station; our advanced band, 29 Live, hit a milestone by being voted “Most Improved” for their master class performance during the Berklee City Music Network Conference at the Grammy Museum Theater; and soon after, they landed a gig and raised the roof at the historic House of Blues on Sunset Strip, shortly before the iconic venue closed its doors.

When June arrived, we faced a dilemma: four of our band members were accepted to Berklee College of Music in Boston for the summer. This was tricky because we had performances booked into July. Fortunately, our younger band members stepped into the spotlight and saved the day! Our students continue to inspire us to bring them the best we can, while having fun. Kudos to our amazing young people and solid Music Department staff for another incredible year! Readers (that’s you!), be on the lookout for our upcoming new CD – available on disc and at iTunes



in mid-November 2015!

MOVEMENT OF BODY AND MIND

At A Place Called Home we place a strong emphasis on the importance of education. This past academic year, the Dance Department focused on connecting with the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts aka Grand Arts High School, to provide a bridge for our students who were looking to broaden their dance education and possibly pursue a collegiate or professional future in the arts.

Grand Arts is a state of the art high school dedicated to providing students with arts and academic excel-

lence. With community college classes on campus, college and career counseling, outreach and partnerships with local and national arts organizations, state of the art instructional studios and performance spaces, and a staff of dedicated arts educators, the school is ‘a dream come true’ for any aspiring young artist.

Although most of our members live outside the school’s catchment area, APCH was able to advocate with the high school’s administration and share how dedicated and special our members are. Our Dance Department was

able to assist members interested in entering the school by providing access to open houses, assistance with applications and essays, and even translation services and a carpool system for parents and members that needed it.

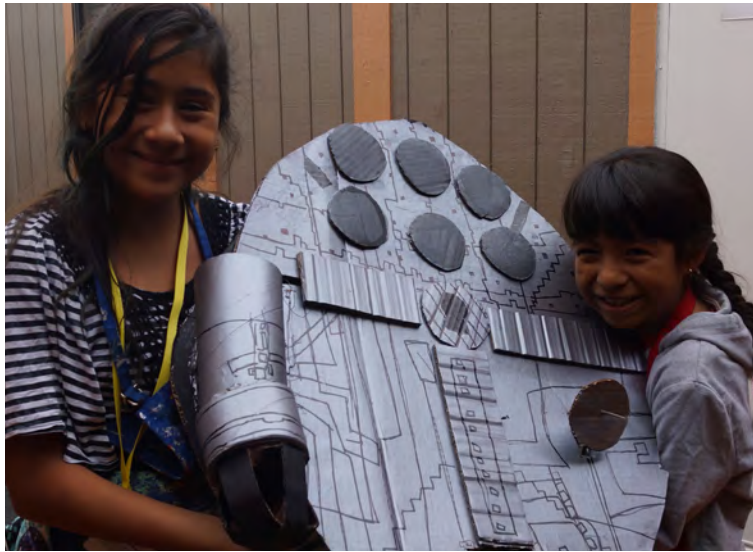
The outcome is that in fall 2015 we had five of our Dance Department members enroll at Cortines to pursue their art. With two successful Grand Arts High School graduates already, APCH will continue to provide that bridge for our talented members who are not only artists but academics, as well.



Each year at APCH our music department gives 20 performances, creates one original CD, and provides 3-5 scholarships to the Berklee College of Music summer program in Boston.



ART = LIFE!



Plunged into a world of wonder and discovery, APCH members' creativity comes to life in our art studio. This year students learned a lot about collaboration in our Food, Fun, Art and Garden class, a partnership between our Art and Nutrition departments focused on creating artwork inspired by nature, for nature, and

helping nature (ie, all projects were biodegradable or recyclable). Our young artists also joined forces with our Digital Media department, making props, costumes, and set pieces for short films. Youth designed and made helmets, spaceships, puppets, robes, masks, wands, and flying broomsticks that were featured in three films shot



by the Be Kind Rewind camp over Summer 2015. We also experimented with wool roving by creating tapestries using a wet felting process, made small quilts, and learned about textiles telling tales in our Fiber Arts class.

Throughout the year members have been exposed to impasto painting styles, printmaking techniques,

field trips to local museums, creating abstract styles through mixed media, and our first year of Saturday art classes was a hit! Our ambitious journey into the visual arts will continue into the next year with new and unique innovations.

DARING DIGITAL DOINGS



Summer 2015 was a productive time for our Digital Media Dept., as 50 middle and high school students worked on our second-annual BE KIND, REWIND program. In a partnership between our Educational Services, Music, and Art departments, we brought students together to adapt & recreate three popular mov-

ies as short films. For eight weeks students directed, produced, designed, and acted, producing films to be screened at our second-annual MOONDANCE Short Film Festival. Hundreds of parents and community audience members came to APCH to watch on the big screen and cheer the students on. With smiles on their

faces, the students were applauded for their work and they walked away with valuable skills and experiences that can be applied in many settings for the rest of their lives.

You can go online to check out the films and our amazingly talented filmmakers:

Harry Potter

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WaQSG5D6_o

Fantastic Mr. Fox

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pm5oA-dFp0>

Star Wars (New Hope)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQ3mgfRSeww>

Thank you SONY Pictures Entertainment for all the equipment and your ongoing support for this program!

BOYS

Boys, Boys, Boys
I remember when they had
cooties
When girls would run away
from them
And now...
Everyone is chasing each other

Why?

Girls have guy best friends
left and right
I would have never thought that
girls would
be like a present, given to some
to keep.

We are not that.

And I wonder what ever
happened to cooties?

— by Xochitl, Age 14
APCH Member



Each year APCH provides more than 150 fun and educational field trips to concerts, museums, hikes, sailing, horseback riding, camping and the beach! We also take kids to visit colleges all over California!



THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE 2015

- 1 - 2100+ internship hours were completed by teen members
- 2 - 200+ hours of tutoring were provided to members
- 3 - Teens Taking Action, our community service group, provided 1200+ hours of service to local organizations
- 4 - LIFE Mentoring supported 30 one-on-one mentoring relationships
- 5 - GirlPower, a peer-mentoring group for girls, celebrated 17 young women at the 2015 GirlPower Awards Luncheon, four of whom just started college!
- 6 - 14 young men completed Journey, a rite of passage program designed to help them have a deeper understanding of who they are as they age into manhood
- 7 - 9 members completed a 25-hour Driver's Education Course
- 8 - 1 teen member was accepted to Harvard University on a full scholarship
- 9 - 1 member was selected as a Gates Millennium Scholar, providing full funding throughout her undergraduate studies
- 10 - 1 member received a full scholarship to attend Berklee College of Music in Boston
- 11 - 25 teen members participated in a weekend camping trip, celebrating their completion of the 10-month GirlPower and Journey Programs
- 12 - We launched 2 peer mentoring programs, Mini-GirlPower and Junior Journey, to service boys and girls ages 12-13
- 13 - The APCH Shaheen Scholarship Program graduated 9 scholars in 2015 and is sending 74 to college this academic year
- 14 - Through our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Program, we are building and programming robots
- 15 - We launched the APCH Alumni Association, a group of former members staying involved and giving back in a meaningful way
- 16 - WE BROKE GROUND TO BUILD OUR NEW BTF TEEN CENTER WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY DOUBLE OUR CAPACITY!

MORE THAN \$3,000,000 IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED OVER 13 YEARS!

This year The APCH Shaheen Scholarship Program welcomed a new cohort of 20 Scholars going off to college and celebrated nine college graduates! We are proud of their accomplishments, and would like to highlight three of our many success stories:

Shari G. graduated cum laude from Howard University with a B.A. in African Studies. Shari has a passion for fitness, dancing, and giving back. In the spirit of "paying it forward" Shari will teach a teen fitness class at APCH this fall!

Faustino A. is starting his senior year at Bowdoin College. As the first in his family to go to college, Faustino has

set a great example for his younger siblings. This summer he worked as Teacher's Assistant in an inner-city school in Massachusetts.

Neydi Z. graduated from CSULA this past spring with a B.S. in Operations Management. We are proud to announce that she is continuing as an important member of the APCH family, working full time in our Accounting Department!

Congratulations to all of our APCH Shaheen Scholars – and love and thanks to all our donors for this program, especially David and Linda Shaheen!!



JOURNEY TO MANHOOD



Journey is a Rite of Passage program that provides weekly workshops for our 14-18-year-old boys, covering topics from manhood to career development. It is a circle of trust where boys grow and learn to become compassionate, respectful, and successful young men. In 2015 Journey and GirlPower collaborated on our first ever 3-day camping trip. Together, our young women and men enjoyed nature and reflected on the lessons they had learned in their respective programs. And, 2015 marked the first year our Journey boys escorted our GirlPower girls during our annual GirlPower Luncheon.

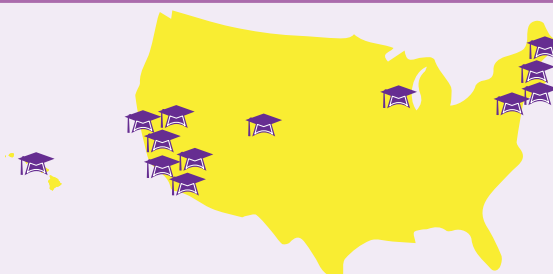
The boys went to gentleman's bootcamp and received social and dining etiquette workshops to prepare for the event, and they were stellar!

On May 27, 2015 14 proud young men participated in our 3rd Annual Journey Culmination Dinner, featuring keynote speaker, Jamie C. Zamora, M.P.A, Higher Education Advocate, Community Leader and Mentor with a message to our young men to continue pursuing their dreams and aspirations regardless of any obstacles. Each young man received a certificate of culmination and acknowledgment for their commitment and dedication to finishing the program. Bravo!

WE LOVE HIRING OUR ALUMS!

APCH prides itself in our highly motivated, professional and caring staff. We are extra proud that two of our newest staff members are APCH alumnae! Meet Michelle & Neydi – Michelle works as our Membership &

Parent Services Associate and Neydi is an Accounting Assistant. Their experiences as alumnae give them a different and insightful perspective of APCH and we are very happy to welcome them home!



In the 2015-16 academic year our APCH Shaheen Scholarship Program supported 74 students in attending colleges around the country, bringing our total to 304!



APCH ALUM VOICES: MARIA XOCHICALE



*Maria graduated in 2014
from California State University on an
APCH Shaheen Scholarship*

I lost so many friends to drugs and gang violence. I could easily have been another statistic on the streets, but when I was a junior in high school there was a counselor that kept asking what I was going to do and insisting that I check out APCH.

That's when everything changed. At APCH, everyone talked to me about going on to college. I learned so much and I had so many mentors. APCH got into my heart – and nothing will ever replace it.

Two years ago I graduated from college on an APCH Shaheen scholarship. Recently, through APCH, I started an internship with Alchemy Entertainment. In my second week, I was offered a job.

I responded with a huge smile and said, "Yes!" and I am now the Accounts Payable Coordinator.

In the future I see myself graduating from law school. It might take a while, but I will get it done.

My advice to youth is don't give up, even when you fail. Find someone that encourages you. Find mentors. And, hold on tight because the roller coaster will take curves that you don't expect.

Leadership is a huge word. In order to be a leader, you have to be your best and be the example.

All the negativity in my life actually challenged me to do my best. I did not want to be another statistic, so I did what I had to do to graduate from high school and go on to higher education.

As a teenager I did not see many people trying to help out and better the community. I had a different vision. I tutored others in high school and at college I supported undocumented students. The way APCH helped me was great, but paying it forward is even better!

L.I.F.E. MENTORING IS CHANGING LIVES

Lead. Influence. Foster. Empower.

APCH members involved with the LIFE Mentoring program, exhibit growth in behavioral and social skills, academic achievement and emotional well-being. One member came to APCH as a timid, guarded, teenager and over time, with the joint efforts of the counseling department, teen programming and LIFE Mentoring, she has flourished and allowed her confidence and charming personality to shine. She has become a strong advocate for herself and her community. With the support of APCH, this young

woman has participated in leadership programs, given back to her community and traveled across the United States. We are delighted to share that she is now enrolled as a freshman at a 4-year college.

Thanks in part to the support and encouragement of their mentors, many mentees have ventured outside of their comfort zones to pursue exciting new endeavors and expand their lives. To learn more or get involved, please email us at LIFEmentoring@apch.org.



EMPOWERED GIRLS MAKE POWERFUL WOMEN



GirlPower (GP) is a sisterhood – a safe space where girls at APCH can grow together and learn to love themselves and trust each other. Through field trips, guest speakers, and community service, GP provides extraordinary

opportunities for teen girls to mature into young adults motivated and empowered to make positive life decisions. GirlPower provides girls the opportunity to develop strengths and use their voices as they transform into

capable leaders and change-makers in their community.

In 2015 the GP Girls learned about the importance of friendships, healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, goal setting, and budgeting. They

served more than 400 meals at a local homeless shelter and gave over 150 community service hours. The GP girls also engaged with powerful female professionals who are leaders in their organizations and are making a mark in their fields.

The GirlPower program has strongly impacted the lives of our teen girls. We were proud to have three of our GP girls participate in competitive leadership programs last summer and four of our girls set off to four-year colleges this past Fall!



**1,000+ volunteers
contribute more than
22,000 hours each year.
Thank You!**



5TH ANNUAL STAKEHOLDERS CIRCLE



This May we held our 5th Annual Stakeholders Circle, a gathering for APCH members, staff, parents, interns, volunteers and directors from our Board and Leadership Council to come together and SHARE ideas about APCH, LISTEN to each other's voices, and CO-VISION about the possibilities ahead.

We reviewed developments since last year's meeting and the group's

focus turned to neighborhood transformation and the coming changes and potential impact on our community. Input and suggestions were conveyed to our Board of Directors at its annual retreat in June. APCH is a community and all stakeholders are important to the process of strengthening our work on behalf of the youth and families of South Central.

APCH MEMBER RETENTION REACHES AN ALL-TIME HIGH AS PARENTS STEP INTO LEADERSHIP ROLES

We have many families at APCH with siblings of all ages. With our retention rate at an all-time high of 93%, the population of APCH continues to mature and this past year dozens of our elementary school students advanced to middle school, making teens the largest segment of our population. We also have 74 members in college. Unfortunately, the high retention rate also means that our waiting list has grown to nearly 600 young people. We are all looking forward to opening our new Teen Center in 2016 and expanding our capacity!

Meanwhile, our Parent Partnership circle (PPC) continues to grow to rep-

resent the needs and suggestions of all APCH families. In addition to participation in nutrition and cooking classes, health workshops, and public speaking training, our parents are proudly volunteering at movie nights, teen nights, Thanksgiving, and providing critically important lunchtime support during our summer session. Parents on the PPC have also brought their points of view to our annual Stakeholders Circle and spoken at our Board meetings. Our APCH parents continue to partner with us year after year to make a difference in the lives of their children and families and in the community!

VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

We're glad that giving back is so popular and that YOU think APCH is a cool place to complete your community service, meet new awesome people, and make a difference! This past year we hosted more than 1,000 volunteers. APCH has volunteer and internship partnerships with VISTA, Stanford University, HUB Cities, A.Y.E., the Summer Youth Employment Program, USC, UOP, UCLA, CalState

Universities, Westwood College Mount St. Mary's and the amazing students and staff from Marymount High School. And, our very own APCH Shaheen Scholars volunteer and intern as part of their scholarship agreement. If you would like to join the fun and make a positive difference at APCH, please write to volunteer@apch.org. We look forward to including you!

COMMUNITY CONNECTED



APCH is in touch with its community and fully engaged in partnerships every day, whether with the youth and families at our center, other nonprofits, colleges, businesses, our Council Office, LAPD, the Mayor's office – really, just about everyone! APCH leaders attend and host many meetings every month, including the CD9 Coalition (30 local nonprofits working together),

Community Police Advisory Board, The Historic Central Avenue B.I.D. (our Executive Director is the Vice-Chair), Central Avenue Business Association, The Central Avenue Jazz Festival Committee, and many others. Throughout the year APCH produces many community events such as: The JIVE LIVE New Year's Race, The Cinderella & Prince Charming Project, The Health and Garden Expo, Community Movie Nights, The Back to School Supplies Festival, our Community Thanksgiving Dinner & Grocery Distribution, and our A Place Called Home for the Holidays Festival. APCH is committed to continual improvement and a bright future for the youth and families of South Central L.A. – we believe in CommYOUity.

ROYALTY AT APCH!

More than 800 girls and 200 boys participated in our 13th annual **Cinderella & Prince Charming Project**. Inspirational speakers presented self-improvement workshops and the teens got to "shop" in our boutique, choosing from 3,000 formal dresses and 600 suits, plus jewelry, shoes, and accessories. The LA5 Rotary Club underwrote our expenses (THANK YOU LA5!), Friar Tux provide

suits for the boys, BofA provided goodie bags and an army of volunteers, and our GirlPower Girls and Journey Boys rolled up their sleeves and hosted the event. THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS! We were also blessed to have the Center Theatre Group's cast from the hit show Cinderella teaching the Waltz to our princesses and princes, which was absolutely magical. Congratulations Class of 2015!



Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in A Place Called Home's Cinderella and Prince Charming project. I was able to get a suit that my parents couldn't afford. I learned that there are people who actually care for me and my community. It was a great experience!

– Jose, 12th Grade

2015 STARS AND STRIKES



Our 9th annual Stars & Strikes Celebrity Bowling and Poker Fundraiser was the most highly attended ever! Our members rubbed shoulders with the cast of Jane the Virgin: Ivonne Coll, Diane Guerro & Azia Tesfai as well as celebrities Jordan Sparks, R5, Eden XO, Open Air Stereo, Sofia Reyes, Lunchie Baby and many more made for a fun-packed evening of bowling and poker (for the adults) – our bowling tournament was a huge success, with more than 10 “teams” playing for prizes. Thanks to the tireless dedication of our amazing

*Leadership Council, we raised \$100,000 for APCH's FREE youth programs.

Check our website for info for the next
STARS AND STRIKES in March 2016!

2015 GIRLPOWER AWARDS LUNCHEON



Celebrating women who inspire us, we honored nonprofit professional Robyn Browning, creative executive Lisa Licht and advertising guru Maryann Walker. Our Media Role Model Award honored Jane the Virgin cast members: Gina Rodriguez, Andrea Nevado and Ivonne Coll. Alongside them, APCH celebrated a special group of inner-city teens who are learning and growing into strong young women who will make a difference in the world. Hosted by actress Shondrella Avery, the APCH Band 29Live and the APCH Dance Company entertained our guests while we raised funds for the GirlPower Project and other APCH programs.

SAVE THE DATE:
The next GirlPower Awards Luncheon will be on
May 19, 2016 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.



*The APCH Leadership Council is a group of young professionals dedicated to volunteering, raising funds, and mentoring at A Place Called Home. They are especially supportive of our programs for teens and our annual A Place Called Home for the Holidays festival. Want to get involved? Email info@apch.org and write LEADERSHIP COUNCIL in the subject line.

2014 GALA FOR THE CHILDREN RAISES \$1,000,000!



Congratulations and deepest respect to our 2014 Gala for the Children honorees Byron Allen, Austin Beutner and Terry Press. Through your efforts and our amazing Board of Directors, the Gala was a grand success in support of our FREE programs for thousands of young people at APCH. The APCH Dance Company and our band, 29Live, showcased their talents throughout the evening, and several members shared their stories of inspiration and personal transformation at APCH. THANK YOU!



2015 GALA FOR THE CHILDREN

HONORING JOSH GOLDSTINE AND KENNETH M. KARMIN

SAVE THE DATE:

November 19, 2015 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel



Thanks to YOU,
dear donors, all services
at APCH are free for
our members and their
families!



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Our deepest appreciation goes out to the dedicated individuals on the Board of Directors of A Place Called Home, who TOGETHER give and raise more than a million dollars each year.

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Solly Yamin
Seed Planter
10 Grand Hospitality

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Joan Chang
Ismael Chavez
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City Year
CLK Supplies, LLC

Clothes The Deal
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Columbo Vera
D'Addario Music Foundation
Del Rey Party Rentals Inc.
Jason Rector

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Adriana Seastrom
David and Linda Shaheen
Katie Shean

Sony DADC
Wendy Guzman Sosa
SpreadPB LLC
Sylmar High School
Tapanga Art Tile
Thank You X

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MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



and how do we insure that our programs are sustainable into the future? I am honored to be the new Chairwoman of this intelligent, passionate and devoted Board as APCH continues to strengthen and grow.

Cyrus Hadidi is one of those devoted board members. He successfully served as treasurer for five years before becoming Board Chairman in 2012. His strong and thoughtful leadership has guided our Board and helped APCH grow in a sustainable and steady way. Cyrus, on behalf of myself and my fellow directors, thank you for your commitment to the APCH community. I'm grateful that you will continue to serve as Co-Vice Chair, along with Barbara Glazer.

It is an exciting time at APCH and I

am confident that with our strong leadership and staff, involved parents and community members, and loyal donors, APCH will continue to serve and improve the lives of thousands of youth and families for many years to come.

In Service,

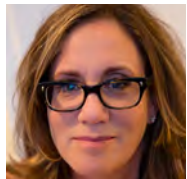
Dawn Taubin

APCH Thanks Cyrus Hadidi and welcomes Dawn Taubin as our new Board Chair!

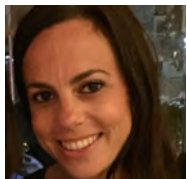
At our 2015 Retreat, the APCH Board of Directors tackled essential goals and questions for the agency - how do we best serve our members, how is the neighborhood changing and what is our role in that change,

APCH BOARD WELCOMES FOUR NEW DIRECTORS!

Stephanie Goldstine is a community activist who formerly worked in the entertainment industry. She has focused considerable time and effort on causes that matter to her most, namely hunger relief and education. She is an active supporter of Feeding America, a regular volunteer at OPCC's food pantry, and has played an active role in school fundraising projects and community outreach programs.



Amanda Plisner (APCH Leadership Council CoChair), Deputy Attorney General, California Department of Justice, Amanda represents state



agencies and elected officials in a wide range of civil litigation matters involving education and healthcare policy issues.

Walter Richardson is a financial advisor for Wells Fargo Advisors in the Los Angeles area. Walter is a strategist when it comes to wealth



management, creating opportunities for his clients. He has served as an officer for the NAACP and worked with several other non profit organizations.

Justin Woodhull (APCH Leadership Council CoChair) is Finance Director at EJM Development Co., an industrial real estate investment company,



and a Co-Chair for the Urban Land Institute's Young Leaders Group in Los Angeles.

Thanks to all our Directors for taking the initiative and contributing your time, treasure and wisdom to invest in the work of A Place Called Home and in the futures of the youth and families we serve..

Interested in learning more about serving on our Board of Directors? Please email our Executive Director: jonathan@apch.org

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS STEP UP

The APCH **Leadership Council** (LC) is a dynamic and diverse group of young professionals committed to furthering APCH's mission through fundraising and service. This past year, the LC produced its flagship events - the Stars and Strikes Celebrity Bowling & Poker Tournament and the Home for the Holidays Toy Drive - and provided volunteer support for a variety of APCH events. This coming year, the

LC is taking its engagement to a new level with the launch of a tutoring and "homework help" program at APCH to be provided by LC members coming down to our Center.

As APCH grows, and the LC continues to expand its involvement, there will be new opportunities to get involved. To learn more, please visit the APCH website and click on GET INVOLVED or call Marshall Smith at (310) 699-0814.

LEADERSHIP

Jonathan Zeichner, Executive Director
Debrah Constance, Founder

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dawn Taubin, Chairman
Cyrus Hadidi, Co-Vice Chairman
Barbara Glazer, Co-Vice Chairman
Melissa Palazzo, Treasurer
Barbara Arnold, Secretary

Doug Atchison
Robyn M. Browning
Sue Brucker
Dawn Campbell
Sister Patricia Connor, RSHM
Stephanie Goldstine
Louise Hamagami
Jonathan Hodge
Robert Israel
Alan Melina
Julie Pilat
Amanda Plisner
Alexander Pratt
Walter Richardson
Howard Sherwood
Stephanie Sherwood
Hamed Tavajohi
Sandy Walia
Marshall Wax
Justin Woodhull
Maryellen Zarakas

LIFETIME DIRECTORS

Robert Davidow
Peter M. Gilhuly, ESQ.
Kenneth Karmin
Bruce Newberg
Stephen Winston

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Amanda Plisner, Co Chairman
Justin Woodhull, Co Chairman
Marshall Smith, New Membership Officer
Maggie Venneri, Secretary
Bennett Johnson, Treasurer
Maya Shah, Social Media

Chris Ceccotti
Calvin Chan
Christine Cheung
Kate Christensen
Allison Copes
Danielle Djansezian
Sarah Duru
Marni Glick
Stephanie Gunawan
Sean Hamidi
Seana Johnson
Lisa Masters
Prophet
Garrett Torres
Kristen Vincent





YOU CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD!

Support APCH families in great need—make their holiday wishes come true! Or help year-round.

To enroll as an Adopt a-Family Donor please go to:

apch.org >GET INVOLVED
>**ADOPT-A-FAMILY**

Or, complete this form and return by fax, mail or email:

A Place Called Home
Attn: Adopt-A-Family
2830 S. Central Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90011
Fax (323) 232-0139
adoptafamily@apch.org

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I would like to participate in:

- ☐ HOPE (year round essentials)
☐ Holiday Edition

Please select size of recipient family and donation level you prefer:

- ☐ 2 - 3 (up to \$250)
☐ 4 - 5 (up to \$400)
☐ 6 - 7 (up to \$600)
☐ 8 or more (up to \$800)

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



SCAN THIS CODE TO WATCH THE APCH VIDEO ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

JOIN THE APCH FAMILY - Your donation provides immediate and long-term support to youth in South Central Los Angeles

All APCH programs are free to the children and families we serve and any amount will make a difference! HERE ARE SOME COSTS FOR THE PROGRAMS WE PROVIDE:

- Sports, Fitness, Yoga and Sportsmanship 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 five 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 - \$500
- 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

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Other \$ _____

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

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

(Please make check payable to: **A PLACE CALLED HOME**, 2830 South Central Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90011)

Name on credit card: _____ Card #: _____ Exp: ____/____/____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- ☐ Please make this 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

CHANGING THE WORLD STARTS AT HOME - THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT IN OUR YOUTH!

2015-2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015	WHAT	WHEN & WHERE	DETAILS	GET INVOLVED
AUGUST 1	BACK TO SCHOOL	APCH - 10AM-1PM	APCH distributes backpacks and school utensils to our members and community of South Central LA	Donate backpacks and school utensils info@apch.org
SEPTEMBER TBD	USC DENTAL CLINIC	APCH	Full dental service at APCH provided in partnership with USC's Ayuda program.	By appointment only. To book, contact: Ana Maria at volunteer@apch.org
OCTOBER 30	FALL FESTIVAL HALLOWEEN PARTY	APCH - ALL DAY	APCH treats the kids to a spectacular day of haunting events!	Calling all volunteers. Please email volunteer@apch.org
NOVEMBER 19	APCH GALA FOR THE CHILDREN HONORING JOSH GOLDSTINE AND KENNETH M. KARMIN	BEVERLY HILTON HOTEL 5:30PM-9PM	Please join us for our biggest fundraiser of the year!	For tickets and sponsorship information please go to www.apch.org and click TICKETS/SPONSORSHIPS or contact Rebecca Mizrahi at (323) 904-4400 or rebecca@grantevents.com
NOVEMBER 25	COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER & GROCERY DISTRIBUTION	APCH - ALL DAY	APCH distributes groceries and serves dinner for 1,200 community members and families in need.	Calling all volunteers. Please email volunteer@apch.org
DECEMBER 11	TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY & MOVIE NIGHT-HOLIDAY EDITION	APCH - 5PM-8PM	Join us for our Tree Lighting Ceremony & stay for hot chocolate and Movie Night. Make sure to bring warm blankets for the whole family!	Bring an ornament & join in the fun! Volunteers needed. Please email volunteer@apch.org
DECEMBER TBD	HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE PARTY	TBD - 7PM-10PM	A hip & fun holiday party at one of the hottest spots in LA. Admission \$20 or a new \$20 toy for our kids!	Visit www.apch.org for details
DECEMBER 16	ADOPT-A-FAMILY	9AM-6PM	Help an APCH family in need.	Visit www.apch.org for details
DECEMBER 18	APCH HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS FESTIVAL PREPERATION AND SETUP	APCH - ALL AFTERNOON	Help us decorate the Center & sort toys, books and clothing to be distributed to South LA families in need	Calling all volunteers. Please email volunteer@apch.org
DECEMBER 19	APCH HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS FESTIVAL AND GIFT DISTRIBUTION	APCH - ALL DAY	A fun & festive day for hundreds of South Central families in need.	Calling all volunteers. Please email volunteer@apch.org
DECEMBER 24-JAN 4	APCH HOLIDAY BREAK	HAPPY HOLIDAYS!	APCH Closed Center reopens Monday, January 4, 2016	HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
2016	WHAT	WHEN & WHERE	DETAILS	GET INVOLVED
JANUARY 3	JIVE LIVE - NEW YEAR'S RUN	DOWNTOWN, L.A.	Join the Race! Train up and get ready for the 4th annual Jive Live New Year's Race, with APCH as the Official Charity!	Get fit & raise funds! Register to join Team APCH. For info: www.newyearsrace.com
JANUARY 23	VOLUNTEER AWARDS LUNCHEON	APCH	Join us as we recognize our outstanding volunteers from 2015 - we love you!	For more info, contact Sarah at volunteer@apch.org
MARCH TBD	STARS & STRIKES CELEBRITY BOWLING & POKER TOURNAMENT	6PM-MIDNIGHT PINZ IN STUDIO CITY	The APCH Leadership Council's annual amazingly fun fundraising event. Don't miss it!	For tickets and sponsorship information please go to www.apch.org and click TICKETS/SPONSORSHIPS or contact Di Lam at dl@apch.org
APRIL 15 & 16	CINDERELLA & PRINCE CHARMING PAY IT FORWARD PROJECT	APCH	South Los Angeles teens learn about inner beauty & strength, and outer generosity, and go home with fabulous formal dresses & suits for Prom & Graduation	Donate dresses and suits. To volunteer, email cinderellaproject@apch.org
APRIL 30	HEALTH AND GARDEN EXPO	APCH	Bringing healthy living to South Central	Calling all volunteers. Please email volunteer@apch.org
TBD	BIG SUNDAY	APCH - 10AM-4PM	Come help beautify APCH. Volunteer today!	Calling all volunteers.
MAY 19	GIRLPOWER AWARDS LUNCHEON & BOUTIQUE	THE BEVERLY HILTON HOTEL - 10AM-2PM	This event raises funds for the APCH GirlPower Project & other APCH programs that inspire inner-city youth.	For ticket & sponsorship information please contact Rebecca Mizrahi at (323) 904-4400 or rebecca@grantevents.com

For further information on upcoming events, please visit our Events Calendar online at <http://www.apch.org/events.php>