

WORLD



REACHING FOR THE FUTURE

Like most nonprofit organizations, A Place Called Home was conceived to respond to an urgent need. In 1993, after decades of oppressive poverty, drugs, gangs and violence, South Central was reeling from the explosion set off by the Rodney King verdicts. People's futures were going up in the smoke of burned out storefronts and glowing crack pipes. Public schools were dysfunctional and dangerous and they were preparing the young people in the community to do little more than maintain the status quo. Black and brown kids were killing each other over street numbers and Jordans.

A Place Called Home was one of several agencies that sprouted from the cracked sidewalks to respond to the immediate needs. Starting with 12 teens in a church basement, our mission was straightforward: keep kids off the streets and safe from harm, out of gangs, feeling loved, and focused on

positive opportunities.

Nearly 24 years later, APCH has grown into a 30,000 square foot campus (including The Bridge, our newly opened teen and performing arts center!) daily serving hundreds of young people from eight years old into their mid twenties. Our programs range from Educational Support and Counseling, to Athletics and the Arts. We serve and distribute healthy food from our kitchen and three organic gardens; we send nearly 100 youth to college on scholarships each year, and we partner with JVS, LA Trade Tech and corporate partners to offer vocational preparation, training and job placement. We engage families and the community, too- we even help to orient LAPD officers newly assigned to the neighborhood.

Things have gotten better in South Central, but poverty and its impact still loom large and the odds are still

stacked against most young people that grow up here.

Here's what we've come to understand: responding to need and solving problems is necessary and important, but that's just where the work starts. Preparing, equipping and inspiring people to break negative cycles, get ahead of their problems and find a better way to live, that's what brings about real change. That's why we build pathways from our front door to college and good jobs. That's why we help young people develop values and a sense of importance and responsibility so they can break negative cycles and create new legacies. That's why we are growing to serve more young people and families and why we are inviting them to make change in the world while they make change in their own lives.

The best way to reach the future is to create it!

OUR MISSION

A Place Called Home provides a safe, nurturing environment with proven programs in arts, education and wellness for the young people in South Central Los Angeles to help them improve their economic conditions and develop healthy, fulfilling and purposeful lives.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I am writing this message on the eve of the U.S. Presidential election. By the time you read this newsletter, we will have a new president. Let's hope she or he is up to the task ahead during these volatile times.

As difficult and painful as the political process has been this time around, it has done a service by pulling the veil aside on so much of the

unfinished business in this country around race and class and xenophobia, and for that I am grateful. As a nation, it's important that we face these issues directly and continue to assert the dignity and rights of all people.

Whoever is in the White House, at APCH we are moving forward with growth; strengthening our commitment to helping youth access economic opportunity and equity via a new vocation/career training and placement program, adding a program to educate, empower and include youth and parents in the processes and civics of change in the neighborhood, developing a community-based police training initiative, and opening The Bridge, a new Teen & Performing Arts space that will support our visual and performing arts programs and also host a variety of cultural and community events, including dialog about the

needs and aspirations of our community.

With your support and participation, we remain intent on empowering youth of all colors and backgrounds and preparing them to step into the world equipped with empathy, values and integrity and as leaders and advocates for "those truths we hold to be self-evident."

There's a saying, "If you don't have a seat at the table, you're probably on the menu." At APCH, we want our youth not only to be at the table, but in the kitchen creating the recipes and stirring the pot!

Yours in service,



THE SUMMER FLING

YOUTH VOICES

Summer is me Summer is happy people all around Summer is heat waving to the people. Summer is parties and teens having fun. Summer is relaxing. Also summer is me in pain. Summer is people going to the hospital because of the heat wave. Summer is teens getting drunk and sick at parties. Summer is you eating a big tub of ice cream and crying for days because of a breakup.

- Stephanie

Summer dies when school comes

and it gives back the

sad new and madness.

APCH STAFF NEWS!

APCH is fueled by love, and our team is full of it! Congratulations to our amazing Dance Coordinator **Jewel Delegall**, our new Director of Operations **Julie Poulos**, and **Maria Sosyan**, our new Communications and Events Manager on their recent nuptials! In 2015 **Melody Hernandez**, our H.R. Coordinator, welcomed baby Isla to her family, and following her was **Gilbert Radillo**, Assoc. Director of Corporate Relations and Community Engagement, who welcomed baby

Vienna! **Alex James**, our Athletics Supervisor will be joining the parent club very soon! New faces bring new beginnings and we are fortunate to be growing and welcoming new staff and volunteers! If you are interested in

working at APCH please visit our website and click on our EMPLOYMENT page for job opportunities.







Maria Sosyan



Melody Hernandez



Gilbert Radillo



Alex James



DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS MESSAGE



Joining a new family is a bit like being a detective. I felt like I was doing some detective work when I first started at APCH, investigating, listening, and exploring in order to fully understand the heart and soul of the place. And what I've discovered is that APCH

is many things. APCH is first and foremost a home – a home base where you are embraced, accepted and seen. When you are here, you receive a nutritious meal and are welcomed by a team of attentive and compassionate staff members and volunteers. You are encouraged to pursue your dreams, and challenged to explore new possibilities. APCH is a home, but it is also a cheering section, a celebration, and sometimes a retreat.

APCH's spirit reminds me so much of my parents' spirits. Despite the hardships of raising five daughters on limited means, my parents' belief in me and my siblings never wavered.

Nothing was impossible if we worked hard and were kind and generous towards others. I feel privileged to be able to provide to our members a similar type of support through our programs. Every day we have the opportunity to fill their wells with messages of encouragement, so that when they encounter hardship, pain, heartbreak, they can draw on the firm sense of self-worth that they developed while they were here with us.

Christina Sánchez
Director of Programs



Bridge to the Future, and Community Engagement & Volunteerism

OUR SUMMER RUNNETH OVER! SUMMER 2016 AT APCH

We had an amazing summer at APCH, offering close to ninety field trips! Our members went surfing, fishing, sailing, hiking, camping, horseback riding, and got to see new parts of our city and region along the way. Field trips





are one of the ways we broaden our members' horizons. When we expose them to different neighborhoods, new experiences and people, they see possibilities that they may not have considered before. We visited museums, concert venues, nature preserves, farmers markets, and barns for rescued animals. And, with the help of some of our committed corporate partners, we were able to offer three all-agency field trips to the beach and to Griffith Park, where volunteers joined our members for activities and fun sports competitions. Thank you **Kelton, The** Peninsula Beverly Hills, and Hyland's!

And, every day right here at APCH our members were creating new and original work. Our Digital Media students created and screened original films for our Be Kind Rewind project. Our Art students created new 3D installations for our Family Room and delighted us with inventive body-operated puppets during our annual Puppet Parade. Our musicians and dancers created a music video for an original song (tinyurl.com/ jlzrlnq), while our recording studio students got busy working on this year's APCH album. This summer's creations, reminds us all of the amazing creativity young people are capable of manifesting when they get the chance to explore and have the support to develop their ideas and interests.

THANK HEAVEN FOR OUR SUMMER ANGELS!

Each summer when our daily hours double, we employ up to 25 Summer Associates to support an amazing array of programs, services, field trips and back-to-school prep. Here's their perspective:

As returning Summer Associates we know how crazy summer at APCH can be; crazy as in good, fun, and exciting. Our job was to keep the members safe but also to participate and interact in all the activities. This gave us the opportunity to see the members enjoy new experiences, make new friends, build new things, conquer old fears, and most importantly, have big fun! We watched them become better athletes. musicians, cooks, photographers, and fashion designers. Our summer was filled with adventures like ice skating, surfing, horseback riding, hiking, sailing, and beach trips. From water balloon fights to riding the biggest roller coaster at Six Flags, the members (and we!) had the summer of a lifetime!

Nicole Romero and **Diana Tapia**, APCH Summer Associates 2016

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

BUILDING ENGINEERS FOR THE FUTURE

The Idea of LEGO Club came from members themselves, who wanted to share their love for building, and it was supported by LEGO brick donations from individuals. Each week members have the opportunity to showcase their talents by creating new designs and structures.

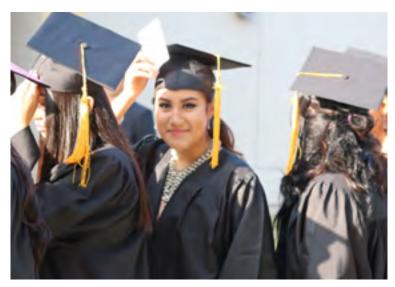
During the summer, the Ed Services Dept. provided Building for the Future, a class in which our members showcased their creativity by building challenging mazes and making characters from LEGOs. The crossover with our STEAM subjects challenged members to draw on science, technology and math and to think as if they were engineers of the future. Which, of course, they are!

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM CONTINUING IN NEW SPACE!

The 2015-2016 school year marked 14 years of continuation high school collaboration with LAUSD's Adult Education and Work Center (AEWC) program. B. Baylis joined the AEWC team at the start of the year and did a great job assuming the role of advisor. She served as a reliable and consistent liaison to APCH while she was

here, and we were able to serve 111 students who needed support to get back on track. This fall our AEWC students returned to a new AEWC Advisor (welcome **J.P. Flores**) and a newly named program, ACCT, in The Bridge, our new Teen & Performing Arts Center We look forward to another great year together!







THE GIFT OF GUIDANCE

The Davidow Counseling Center, headed by **Dr. Yvonne Styles**, continues advancing its mission to serve APCH members and families.

Whether the need is in the area of family functioning, behavioral adaptation or mental health, the counseling team is dedicated to offering prompt and reliable service to all constituents. The pace and scope of our work is always driven by the needs articulated by the community and is made possible by our generous donors who continually help the counseling team create unique opportunities to enrich

and improve the lives of our families. The annual Adopt-a-Family program has surpassed previous records and now includes over 150 families matched. We are also now offering free bi-lingual parenting classes and are providing groups routinely for our teen populations. Our team efficacy has been improved by creating a more dynamic collaborative spirit within the agency. All of these initiatives have combined to make 2016 the best year ever for the counseling professionals in THE DAVIDOW COUNSELING CENTER!



In 2016, membership retention remained at 93%.

Unfortunately, that means approximately

750 children are waiting for a slot to join A Place Called Home



OUR GARDENS ARE GROWING!

APCH is serving thousands of healthy meals each month and distributing tons of healthy groceries to families in need – much of it locally farmed and organically grown!

In summer of 2016 we broke ground on construction and installation of our third and largest community garden yet – a partnership with St. Patrick's Church on Central Ave. – stay tuned for progress reports!

In another exciting collaboration, we partnered with the nonprofit **Piece-by-Piece** on the Central Ave Garden Mosaics Project. This community art initiative, funded in part by the **L.A. Department of Cultural Affairs**, is

empowering South LA youth to work with law enforcement and community members to create a permanent mosaic art installation at our APCH / Newton Division Community Garden. In workshops throughout July 2016, APCH members and LAPD representatives and cadets took inspiration from the seal of Los Angeles and the natural world of the garden to brainstorm designs for the installation.

At the Central Ave Jazz Festival, our youth and hundreds of community participants fabricated mosaics from the designs. Stay tuned for photos of this collaborative art piece once it is installed!





ATHLETICS ADVANCE HUMANS OF ALL GENDERS



Historically, sports have been used to develop skills, fitness... and character. Leadership, confidence, teamwork and goal-setting are building blocks for a successful sports team and for successful individuals. Due to lack of access and social bias, many young girls have minimal opportunities to participate in organized sports or are not properly supported when they do. Sadly, many girls grow into women feeling that they failed at sports and so they lack confidence in themselves as physical beings and potential athletes.

According to womenssportsfoundation.org, by age 14 girls are dropping out of sports at two times the rate of boys. Lack of physical education programs in schools and limited opportunities to play sports in high school and college contribute to the reasons women turn away from athleticism. In the neighborhood surrounding APCH,

there is a shortage of sports courts and parks for anyone to regularly engage in sports.

The APCH Athletics Department fills these deficits and breaks down gender stereotypes one caught ball, touchdown, spike and free-throw shot a time. Every day we provide entry level to advanced classes and a fun, challenging and safe environment for all of our members to develop as athletes alongside each other.

Whether on our athletics field or any other program space on our campus, we welcome and encourage all our members to participate to the best of their abilities, expand their limits, and go for the gold in terms of their own personal growth. When you compete with yourself to improve on your personal best every day, you are doing more than winning, you are advancing on your path to a great life!



to youth and distribute

400 bags of groceries to families each month.

STAYING TUNED WITH THE APCH MUSIC DEPARTMENT



The Music Department is always busy with new developments in performance and programming. Over the years, we have developed many iterations of our advanced music ensemble (the APCH Band), 29 Live. With so many of our students going off to Berklee College of Music and other advanced programs this fall, we are busy developing our next group of young lions, some of whom are very serious about the arts as a career path.

Over summer 2016, we focused on introducing our younger students to alternative paths in music through DJing, beat boxing and applications in music technology. We have been further bolstering their experience by partnering with 'Give A Beat' an orga-

nization that provides DJ and percussion workshops. And, if you attended our 2015 Gala, you may have seen the debut of 'Without You,' an original song written and performed by several of our members. We have completed the music video for the piece, which is being included in an important documentary on the subject of fatherhood by U.K. based filmmaker, Ben Gregor. Joining youth from all over the U.S., several of our members will be in the film sharing their own stories, and the final product is going to be very powerful. We can't wait for the film to be completed! In the meantime, check out "Without You" at

http://tinyurl.com/jlzrlnq.

Stay Tuned!

LAYING TRACKS - NEW APCH ALBUM IS READY TO SPIN!



This year in the APCH Recording Studio our young musicians, producers and engineers have been hard at work writing, recording and collaborating on our annual original CD. Jaya Hodge's Song "Sorrow" will tell her story of loneliness, while member Anthony Rosales will share his story with the song "I Can't Make You Love Me". Returning voice Tamia Staples shares songs of strength and aware-

ness with her tunes "Life is Good" and "Take Off," and the album rounds out with work from Amor Baeza and guests Sleuth Dog, the UCLA Sax Quartet, and APCH Poetry Students, as well as a few surprises. Check out all of our original albums at **tinyurl.com/jj-9dlgq** to give you a deeper dive into the musical soul of the APCH Music Program and Recording Studio.

DANCING TO A BETTER LIFE

As with all of our arts programs, Dance at APCH provides opportunities for absolute beginners and dedicated artists and everyone in between.

The APCH Dance Company is a lead-

er on our campus. Comprising 20 dedicated young artists, our dancers inspire all APCH members to be their best and work toward excellence at APCH, in school and in the community. To earn

an invitation to join and embrace the discipline and rigor of being in the Company, members must demonstrate a commitment to dance and also to academic rigor and being exemplars and





Each year at APCH our music department gives

20 performances, creates 1 original

CD, and provides 3-5

scholarships to the Berklee College of Music summer program in Boston.

ambassadors for R.E.A.C.H., the five pillars of APCH (Respect, Empathy, Accountability, Courage, Hope).

Through focus and hard work,
Company dancers develop themselves
and forge deep friendships that build
support and community. Whatever
their ultimate aspirations and professional goals, through dance these
members develop life skills and become creators and contributors in the
world – attributes that will serve them
for their whole lives.

The APCH Dance Company performs at events throughout the City, and will continue to grow its span of exposure and partnerships. As with all of our programs, the intention is that dance will be a vehicle for inspiration and service through creative expression and manifestation of the best of humanity, with all its beauty and power.

DEEP IN THE ART OF APCH



There's always a lot going on in the APCH Art Studio! This year has been momentous, with the production of large scale and experimental art projects. Members were introduced to electronic components and got to create 3D paintings with animated elements courtesy of a small servo motor installed behind their canvases. They went EL (electroluminescent), using wire to bend and shape faux neon shapes. And, they got celestial

by creating pieces with embedded LED "stars" (light emitting diode) in a show of galaxy paintings. By collaborating with each other in groups and partnerships, our artistic members learned that sometimes big things can be accomplished together that would be a struggle or even impossible for an individual to achieve.

Summer 2016 was even more ambitious than ever. Our young artists constructed a large scale installation



in the APCH Family Room entitled, "Stories Come to Life." The youth drew, painted, cut out, and installed storybook characters leaping from giant books with pages from recycled tomes. Our annual Puppet Parade had members face their fears by building giant parade inspired puppets and also performing in front of their peers. The artists were nervous, but after the performance they expressed how much fun they had. At APCH, art has a

powerful impact on the members, teaching them that it's okay to experiment and make mistakes and it's all right to be silly and have weird ideas. After all, if not for the "creatives" among us, there would be no innovation. Every young person that crosses the threshold into our art studio is given the support and freedom to explore and develop their creativity with lots of encouragement and no judgment. Art = I ife.

MOVING PICTURES

Our Digital Media Department took things to a new level in 2016. Our Street Photographers team went on daily walks around the neighborhood and captured beauty in some of the most overlooked corners of South Central. Driven by fresh imagination and strong curiosity, our young photojournalists created strong images that were not only displayed at APCH, but got published on Zocalo Public Square http://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2016/07/07/in-south-l-a-agrowing-interest-in-urban-gardening/ viewings/glimpses/ in a series about the rich culture and changing dynamics in our neighborhood. They even



got compensated for their work just like the professional photographers that contribute to the site.

On the filmmaking front, our annual Be Kind Rewind Project crossed new boundaries as members developed their original ideas into scripts and then made 14 short films that came alive on the big screen during one of our APCH Summer Movie Nights, where an audience of 200+ community members and guests enjoyed an evening of vision, humor, and power. Check them out on our Youtube Channel (www.youtube.com/apch2830)!



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!



16 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

- 1 More than 2,500 internship hours were completed by 24 teen members
- **2** Our L.I.F.E. Mentoring Program supported 62 one-on-one mentoring relationshipsTeens Taking Action, our community service group, provided 1200+ hours of service to local organizations
- **3** We sent one teen member to study in Germany for the 2016-17 school yearGirlPower, a peer-mentoring group for girls, celebrated 17 young women at the 2015 GirlPower Awards Luncheon, four of whom just started college!
- **4** 22 young women completed the GirlPower Program, 4 of whom entered college
- **5** More than 100 individual members received tutoring services, totaling more than 3,000 hours
- **6** 13 young men completed the Journey Program
- 7 32 members celebrated completion of the 10-month GirlPower and Journey Programs with a camping trip to Pyramid Lake1 member received a full scholarship to attend Berklee College of Music in Boston
- **8** We launched MAP to the Future, a

transitional class for 8th graders to develop academic and social skills before entering high school

- **9** We hosted more than a dozen college tours statewide
- 10 The APCH Shaheen Scholarship graduated 7 scholars and sent 82 to college, totaling 89 scholars served for the year a record
- 11 The APCH Shaheen Scholarship welcomed 31 members into the program, the highest number of freshman in our history, bringing our overall total to 335!
- 12 Summer 2016 was filled with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) as we built boats, robots, roller coasters and even did some coding
- 13 100% (32) of our high school seniors graduated, 31 of whom entered college in the fall on an APCH Shaheen Scholarship
- **14** 23 (72%) of our 32 high school graduates are attending 4-year universities
- 15 We launched a new Vocational and Career Pathway program
- 16 We opened The Bridge, our new Teen & Performing Arts Center!

APCH SHAHEEN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUES TO CLIMB

In 2016 the APCH Shaheen Scholarship celebrated its 13th year by graduating 7 scholars from college and welcoming 31 freshmen, allowing us to send a total of 84 scholars to colleges across the country this fall (2016)! Hooray! Together, our newest scholars received admission offers from more than 40 institutions, including Franklin & Marshall College, University of Illinois at Chicago, Boston University, six University of California campuses, and over 16 Cal State campuses!





IT'S NOT THE DESTINATION ... IT'S THE JOURNEY

Journey is a rites of passage program for our 14-18-year-old boys that allows them to build brotherhood and true, lasting relationships with each other. All year long, workshops, guest speakers, community service opportunities and field trips support the boys as they transition to become strong, generous, goal oriented young men. Journey instills values and prepares young men to make productive lives for themselves and inspire others to do the same.

Now in its 5th year, Journey has strongly impacted more than 100 young men, teaching life skills and supporting academic rigor and personal growth. One of our Journey boys suffered a tragic family loss last year, but his Journey brothers helped him work through his anger and depression to get back on a path to health and happiness and he, in turn, became a leader and exemplar for the rest of the guys on how to overcome big challenges in life.

2016 marked the second year the young men of Journey participated during our annual GirlPower Luncheon, this time collaborating with the young women to create a powerful spoken word performance illustrating the mutual respect our young people have developed for each other through the companion programs.

We are proud of our Journeymen. Their strength and their gentleness are redefining what it means to be a man in a world that has little use anymore for limiting stereotypes.



APCH has served more than 18,000 young people since we opened our doors in 1993.

More than 350 members cross our threshold each day, and we have 84 APCH Shaheen

scholars in college.



GRAD NEWS



Faustino Ajanel graduated from Bowdoin College with a B.A. in Mathematics and Education, and is starting his Master of Education at the University of Mvassachusetts, Boston.

Rudy Cisneros, who received a B.A. in Music Performance from UC Davis, is working on his M.A. in Music Education at the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music.

Brenda Carillo and Sarai Gonzalez, both alumnae of Cal State LA, will be earning their teaching credentials there this fall.

But wait, there's more!

Over the summer, **Edwin Lopez**, a computer science major at UC Irvine, returned to APCH to teach a robotics



Brenda Carillo

and coding class, mentoring teen members along the way.

In June, **Heidi Ramos**, a freshman Women and Gender Studies freshman at San Francisco State University, delivered a moving speech at Toyota Headquarters. At SFSU, she'll be greeted by APCH Shaheen Scholar Priscilla Romero, an international relations major, who spent the summer interning for JusticeCorps and studying foreign policy in Korea at Chung Ang University!

Congratulations to all of our APCH Shaheen Scholars – and love and thanks to all our donors, especially The David and Linda Shaheen Foundation!

GOOD MEN NEEDED FOR OUR L.I.F.E. MENTORING PROGRAM! THAT MEANS YOU!

So many studies and stories remind us that when a young person has a mentor in their life on a regular basis, all things become possible. That's why we expect the caring adults who are mentors in our LIFE Mentoring program to commit for a minimum of two outings each month for a full year. And, does it ever pay off!

APCH teens in our LIFE Mentoring program exhibit accelerated growth in behavioral and social skills, academics and emotional well-being. Over the past three years, we have had great success with matching our female members (thanks to dozens of strong, generous women!), but a lot of our boys have had to wait for months due to a shortage of male mentors. This year, we were able to make just three male matches - we need to do more!

One of our mentees had no direction for his life. He often masked his fears with jokes and avoided conversations regarding his future. But then he met his mentor, a gentle giant with a heart of gold, a little toughness, and an absolute commitment to help our young fellow develop his aspirations into realities. In just a few weeks' time we saw a remarkable change in our teen - he became motivated and excited about his future and he allowed his confidence and winning personality to shine. He enrolled in college and he's working toward his goal of leading and making a difference in his community.

Think back to the adults that came through for you. Are you ready to pay it forward? Don't wait - this will change your life, too! To learn more, email us at LIFEmentoring@apch.org.



2,000+ volunteers contribute more than 25,000 hours each year. Thank You!

APCH's GirlPower (GP) program creates a sisterhood – a safe space where girls ages 14 to 18 grow together and learn to love themselves and trust each other. Through group activities, field trips, guest speakers and community service, GP provides amazing

opportunities for teen girls to mature into self aware young adults making positive life choices.

beautiful body image, the importance of friendships and healthy relationships, goal setting, and time management. They provided themed dinners at a local shelter for single moms, giving more than 180 community service hours. The GP girls also engaged with

powerful female professionals who are

In 2016 the GP Girls learned about

leaders in their fields. This year at their annual GirlPower Luncheon they debuted the GirlPower Choice Award, to be bestowed each year on a woman they meet and are impacted by during the year-long program.

GirlPower provides the opportunity for girls to grow, develop strengths, and use their voices as they transform into adult women who will be capable leaders and change-makers in their community. We were proud to have two of our GP girls participate in a competitive leadership program this year, and one embarked on a yearlong study abroad program in Germany. And, four of our girls were awarded APCH Shaheen Scholarships and began college in the Fall!

SISTERHOOD LEADS TO WOMANHOOD





6TH ANNUAL STAKEHOLDERS CIRCLE



All our stakeholders' voices are important to strengthening our work for the youth and families of South Central. Last May we held our 6th 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

the previous meeting, and the group's focus turned to Community Service and a desire for the APCH community to reach out to make more of a difference in the neighborhood through parent and studentled events. We talked about the new opportunities when our Annex opened, including having a larger stakeholders circle. Input and suggestions were conveyed to our Board of Directors at its annual retreat in June.

VOLUNTEERING AT APCH IS THE BOMB!

Hello APCH Community, I am very excited to be leading the charge for volunteerism at APCH. I am passionate about community service and it is gratifying to meet so many people who want to make a meaningful contribution to our work. I am here to serve you and share a menu of fun, impactful volunteer activities that will propel APCH's members and families

into a better quality of life. Whether you are looking to support as an individual or get your family, friends or co-workers involved, we have enough to do for everyone.

Sharon Lim, APCH Volunteer
 Coordinator. Please email me at volunteer@apch.org and I will get back to you!

FROM THE COMMUNITY CORNER AND AROUND THE BLOCK

This year APCH was blessed with abundant support for all of our community events and we were thrilled to Pay It Forward! In addition to our regular daily programs, our events served more than 10.000 community members, including some of the 700 families on our waiting list. APCH collaborates with dozens of community partners to distribute food, clothing and other household essentials, and we assist with bridging gaps between the community and the LAPD, we partner with churches and other organizations through our community garden programs, and we work with the City to bring more awareness and services to the neighborhood. In

January 2016 APCH helped launch the new Central Avenue Historic District Business Improvement District, to work on honoring the history in the neighborhood and improving the quality of life for all residents and visitors.

APCH so much more than just a charity, it is a partnership for positive change, and you can be a part of it. Join us - learn how you can help make a difference by sponsoring an event, collecting toys, cleaning up the neighborhood, providing services and materials, adopting a family in need, or building a garden. Team work. makes the dream work!

CINDERELLA AND PRINCE CHARMING PROJECT

After 14 years straight of equipping juniors and seniors for their proms and graduations, this annual spring event is hot, on the rise and an exciting experience to be part of.

APCH will host its 15th annual CPCP in April 2017 and we are looking to making it an epic event of ROYAL proportions. Every year we serve more than 1,000 teens, engaging and

empowering them with much more than gowns and tuxes. Our two days of inspirational speakers and workshops give the youth ideas, encouragement and opportunities to think beyond high school to the life path ahead. Learn how you can become an official sponsor for this life-changing event! Contact us at Cinderellaproject@apch.org.



APCH FAMILY CONTINUES TO EXPAND

Membership at A Place Called Home is thriving! With a constant enrollment of more than 600 and a waiting list of more than 750, our members are the heart of APCH and we love getting to see them grow up. So many young people who entered our doors as eight-year olds, curious, wide eyed, and barely able to reach the scanner at the door, now walk our halls with confidence, take the lead in activities and greet the next generation. And, with a 93% member retention rate, they are staying for years and we are serving whole families as they grow.

APCH Parents are a constant

source of energy, contributing to the spirit of everything at APCH. Their desire to learn has manifested in our parent nutrition classes, financial literacy workshops and an annual parent education summit with all kinds of classes designed to strengthen their connections to their children. Equally constant is their spirit of service and partnership; volunteering on campus and for our events, and this past summer a group of hardworking moms supported the kitchen in serving hundreds of meals each day, which was a huge help in getting us across the finish line!

We love our members!

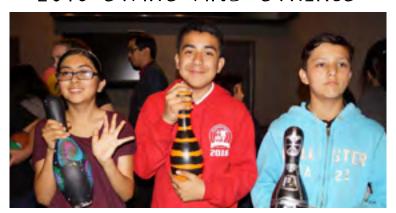
2015 GALA FOR THE CHILDREN RAISES MORE THAN \$1,500,000!





Congratulations and deepest respect to our 2015 Gala for the Children honorees Josh Goldstine and Kenneth M. Karmin. Through your efforts, our amazing Board of Directors, and more than 900 attendees, the Gala was our grandest fundraising event ever! What a brilliant show of support for our FREE programs for thousands of young people at APCH. The APCH Dance Company and band, 29Live, showcased their talents throughout the evening, and several members shared their moving stories of inspiration and personal transformation at APCH. We are so very grateful.

2016 STARS AND STRIKES



Our 10th annual Stars & Strikes Celebrity Bowling and Poker Fundraiser was the most highly attended ever! Our members rubbed shoulders with music sensation Miguel, actress Laura Marano, Serena Laurel, Justin Tinucci, Jason Drucker, Andrea Navedo, pop artists Catie Waters and Koda Corvette, Shawn Hook and many more who 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 \$110,000 for APCH's FREE youth programs.



*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.



5AVE THE DATE: November 17, 2016 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel 2016 GALA FOR THE CHILDREN HONORING JULIE PILAT AND LAURA A. WASSER



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

2016 GIRLPOWER AWARDS LUNCHEON



Celebrating women who inspire us, Thursday, May 19, 2016 was a beautiful day to honor three women who are role models in both their personal and professional lives: Terry Curtin, Head of Theatrical Publicity at DreamWorks Animation, Debra Martin Chase, CEO & President of Martin Chase Productions, and Lindsey P. Horvath, Former Mayor and current Councilmember of West Hollywood. 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 "Access Hollywood" sensation, Liz Hernandez, the APCH Band 29Live and the APCH Dance Company entertained our guests while we raised funds for the GirlPower Project and other APCH programs. We are honored by those who joined us and welcome everyone to join us next year!

SAVE THE DATE: The next STARS & STRIKES will be on March 9, 2017!

SAVE THE DATE: Check our website for info about the next GirlPower Awards Luncheon in May 2017!

WE LOVE OUR DONORS (9/1/15 - 9/30/16)

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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Jonathan Zeichner and Monica

Neydi Zenteno

We're sorry if we overlooked you, misspelled or incorrectly listed your name. Please let us know and we will gladly correct our records for future newsletters, info@apch.org

OH HAPPY DAY!





For more than a decade it was a dream... and now it's come true!

For years we've had short space and a long waiting list of young people and families that want to come in. On

November 10, 2016 APCH opened The Bridge, a beautiful 10,000 square foot facility to house our Bridge to the Future (Teen) Program with its college prep and scholarship initiative, our

continuation high school partnership, GirlPower and Journey, and a Creative Space comprising a lobby/art gallery and two large classrooms that convert into a state of the art rehearsal and performance space for our Dance, Music, and Digital Media Departments, and a soon to be added Theater Department. And, we are launching our new Vocational Pathways program to prepare our young people for good jobs.

In addition to hosting all of the APCH performing arts programs, the Annex will serve the community via concerts, theater, screenings and other cultural events, and also provide a venue for town hall meetings and nonprofit convenings of all kinds.

Over the next year we expect to make a dent in our waiting list by enrolling an additional 100 teens and a few dozen more littles and middles, too (now that there's more room on the main campus).

The Bridge also includes much needed work and storage space for our operations and facilities teams!

THANK YOU to our major donors:

Ahmanson Foundation, Florence and Serge Azria, Marion Brucker Legacy Trust, Leslie and Richard Frank, Good News Foundation, Michelle and Cyrus Hadidi, HOK Architecture, Gail and Robert Israel, LA City Facade Project, Neighborhood Improvement Fund, Jeanne and Anthony Pritzker, Joseph Sherwood, The Skylight Foundation, Faith Strong, The Theodore J Forstmann Charitable Trust, Transformation Trust, W.M. Keck Foundation. Next up, we are building a new lobby/entrance and restrooms on our main

Please come visit APCH - the tour will take a little longer now... and you can sign up at www.eventbrite. com/e/apch-monthly -tour-tickets-17235550997

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Every year as summer winds down and the new school year approaches I get energized by all the great things happening at APCH. From the looks on the faces of over 1300 young people receiving backpacks full of school supplies, to anticipating the opening of The Bridge, our much needed new center across the street that will house our Bridge to the Future/Teen program and performing arts center, I see the results of my fellow Board members' and our staff's commitment to this amazing agency.

Our Board worked hard this summer to update our mission statement and prepare and approve a new 3-year strategic plan. The primary goals of this plan include:

*Offering additional services to support a larger number of young people in our community *Assisting APCH members to participate meaningfully in defining the future of their neighborhood

*Codifying our methods for long term organization sustainability, effectiveness and replicability of APCH

I'm confident that our Board, along with APCH's strong leadership team and staff and our involved parents and community members, will be able to accomplish these goals and continue to meaningfully impact the lives of those we serve.

In Service,

Dawn Taubin

APCH BOARD WELCOMES A NEW DIRECTOR!



Welcome **Gareth Schweitzer**, a business strategist and co-founder of Kelton Global, a consultancy firm that helps businesses make better business decisions through understanding what makes human beings tick and developing services in response. He is a former journalist that covered the White House and Capitol Hill, and he was an embedded correspondent in Iraq.

Thank you to all of our Directors for sharing your incredible passion and talents with A Place Called Home!

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

YOUTH VOICES

What's my name?
My name is Mauricio.
Why did they give me this name because of my favorite uncle.
Who gave me this name my wonderful mother.
I would be red
Why bcuz red is a color you feel like when you are in love but when your love dies

you also feel red
but in a different red.

I would be a circle.

Bcuz a circle is round or like a life
cycle it starts and it always ends.

Also a circle will go on forever.

My movement is unusual probably
to most people but I don't care.

My movement is running blindly bcuz
I expect the unexpected

and when it does come
I won't be affected by it a lot
also I don't look back
in regret of anything
just live your life like it's the last.
A whisper, why because
you can't hear it much
but it says a lot.

- Mauricio



Last year, we served more than 1000 youth,
8-21 years of age, and thousands more family and community members
through distributions of food, school supplies,
dental and medical services, volunteer days,
movie screenings and Holiday Festivals.

LEADERSHIP

Jonathan Zeichner, Executive Director

Debrah Constance, Founder

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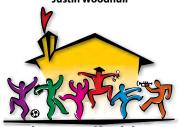
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a place called home apch.org

2016 - 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 28

Fall Festival & Halloween Party

NOVEMBER 17

APCH Gala For The Children (5)

NOVEMBER 19

Thanksqiving Food Sorting (V)

NOVEMBER 73

Community Thanksgiving Dinner & Grocery Distribution (V)(5)

DECEMBER 9

Tree Lighting Ceremony & Movie Night

DECEMBER 10

Adopt-A-Family (V)(5)

DECEMBER 16

APCH Home For The Holidays Prep And Setup (V)

DECEMBER 17

Home For The Holidays A Festival Of Free Gifts For Hundreds Of Families (V)(5)

(v) volunteer opportunities available. Please contact us at volunteer@apch.org (5) sponsorship opportunities available, please contact us at sponsor@apch.org

Visit apch.org for all the details, full calendar of programs and activities, and information on how to get involved.

Brighten the lives of families in need throughout the year and for the holidays!



Learn more about our annual Adopt-A-Family program by visiting apch.org/adopt-a-family



Scan this code to watch the APCH Video on your mobile device

JANUARY 8

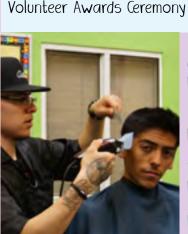
Jive Live New Years Run sign up at: http://tinyurl.com/zmx7mrr

MARCH 9

Stars & Strikes Celebrity Bowling Tournament (5)

MARCH 18

Volunteer Awards Ceremony



APRIL 7 & 8

Ginderella & Prince Charming Pay It Forward Project (V)(5)

Health & Garden Expo (V)(5)

Big Sunday (V)

MAY TBD

GirlPower Awards Luncheon & Boutique (5)



AUGUST TBD Back To School Distribution (V)(5)

SEPTEMBER TBD

USC Dental Clinic at APCH (V)(5)

JOIN THE APCH FAMILY - 1	Your donation pro	vides direct supp	ort to youth of S	outh Central Los	Angeles
Place Called Home is a 501(c)3					

- \$35 Provides a child with sports, fitness, yoga and good sportsmanship activities for one month
- \$55 Provides fresh cooked nutritious dinners and snacks for one child for one month
- \$100 Provides tutoring for one elementary or middle-school child who is struggling to keep up at school for a month
- \$250 Provides weekly gardening classes and supplies for 25 students
- \$500 Provides a summer field trip for 50 children
- \$1000 Provides Academic Guidance/College Prep for 15 teenagers for one month
- \$3500-\$6000 Provides tuition support for a young person who will be attending the first in his/her family to attend college
- □ \$35 □ \$50 □ \$100 □ \$250 □ \$500 □ \$1,000 □ \$1,500 □ \$2,500 □ \$5,000 □ Other \$ □ I want to Keep On Giving: Please make automatic monthly donations of: \$_____ with my credit card
- ☐ or I have included a voided check
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- Payment method: lacksquare Check lacksquare MasterCard lacksquare Visa lacksquare AmEx lacksquare Discover

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

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- ☐ 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 want to know about volunteer opportunities at APCH. Please contact me at ___
- $f \square$ I am interested in including APCH in my estate plan. Please contact me at $f \square$ ☐ I am interested in contributing to the APCH Endowment. Please contact me at

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