



A PLACE CALLED HOME

CHANGING THE WORLD STARTS AT HOME



LOTS OF YOUTH ARE GETTING ENGAGED ...WITH THEIR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

Some mornings when that alarm goes off you just want to stay in bed, pull up the covers and turn the music up loud or dive into a screen... escape from the world, right? Or maybe spend the day with headphones on, exercising your thumbs on your phone. It's called "cocooning" and people are doing it a lot these days. Avoiding the world and each other to reduce the constant assault on our values, the rudeness, the dangers we can't control.

At A Place Called Home we believe that if you stay in your cocoon all day you are depriving the world of your gifts, positive energy and ideas, which are needed more than ever. Also, you're depriving yourself of the chance to make new friends, learn new things, and discover new possibilities and ways to contribute. Every minute at APCH is filled with opportunities to engage with people, projects, nature, food, art, politics, and more – and to have an impact on the world around you.

Yep, we have added more capacity and programs again! Why? Because we still have a large waiting list and

there are so many urgent needs in our community and the world that our young members want to dive into. Here's what's new at APCH:

- **The Bridge**, our Teen & Multidisciplinary Arts Center, is up and running, and has increased our daily capacity on campus by 40%!
- **RISE at APCH**, an innovative integrated high school partnership with Da Vinci Schools, is designed to serve the youth at most risk in our community. RISE starts at 8:30am and dovetails seamlessly into APCH's afternoon and evening wraparound programs and services. All at The Bridge!
- A **Civics & Community Engagement** class to educate and empower young people and parents to get involved in community issues, service, local politics, and beyond. And, APCH is now a polling place!
- A **Social Enterprise & Entrepreneurship** class to teach youth to develop and market APCH products and services to the community, including homegrown flowers and produce, music, artworks, culinary treats and more!
- A **Vocational Pathways** program,

in partnership with JVS, is providing aptitude testing, training and paid internship opportunities for our teens at dozens of businesses in the community.

- Our third **Community Garden**, this one in partnership with St. Patrick's Church, includes flowers for our Social Enterprise class and an outdoor kitchen for hosting Community Harvest Dinners!
- And, coming soon, a **Theater Arts** program in our new state of the art "Aunt Marion Brucker Community Auditorium" at The Bridge.

If you've ever seen a butterfly emerge from a cocoon and take flight, you know how it evokes a sense of freedom, inspiration and new possibility. When a young person joins A Place Called Home, the world opens up for them just like that. And they fly!

We all need to cocoon once in awhile, but we invite and encourage you to get out from under the covers and turn off the screen – come join the youth at APCH in spreading your wings and exploring the possibilities. It turns out they are unlimited!

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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AT A PLACE CALLED HOME, ALL ARE WELCOME



As I write this, it is Fall 2017, an intense time in the United States and in the world. A time in which hatred has become more visible and influential than many of us have seen in our lifetimes.

And so, A Place Called Home reaffirms its commitment to love and to serving vulnerable young people and families and continually working to heal the world.

At A Place Called Home we re-

spect women. We value black lives. We embrace LGBTQI community members and all genders. We welcome immigrants and refugees. We stand with all peoples of all origins and we support people of all faiths. We dedicate ourselves to building community and we honor every human being, even those we don't agree with.

The United States is still a young country – an ongoing experiment

with many flaws and rough edges. Still, at A Place Called Home, we keep hope alive every day and we pledge allegiance to the best intentions of the United States of America. Let's keep working to take the dream closer to reality.

Some ideas about helping the young people in your life through these times:

Let them know that anger and hatred are not the same thing.

Sometimes anger is exactly what's called for, but hatred is a denial of humanity.

Share honestly about the shadows of the past, so history doesn't repeat itself.

Let them know that, paradoxical as it may seem, there is still abundant possibility and reason for hope for the future.

Engage: march and petition and speak out and sing and vote and advocate and lead for what you believe in – together we are a mighty force.

Volunteer and support: A Place Called Home and other organizations working for social justice are good places to put your energy and resources. We are not just fighting hate, we are empowering love, and we need you!

In service,

Jonathan Zeichner

WE WELCOME

ALL RACES

ALL GENDERS

ALL ABILITIES

ALL PEOPLES AND CULTURES

ALL COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

ALL BELIEF SYSTEMS

ALL SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS



**WE STAND WITH YOU
YOU ARE SAFE HERE**

apch.org

@apch2830



EVERY DAY AT APCH CAN BE A GREAT DAY

Our annual summer kickoff event has always been Kids Day, a day of pure fun to reward all the hard work our members have done during the school year. It's a joyful experience to see our youth run from activity to activity and return to get in line for their second, third, and sometimes even fourth turns!

This year we extended the opportunity to our members' parents and honestly we could not tell who was more excited, the kids or their parents! At A Place Called Home, we're fortunate to have an incredible network of parents and families who volunteer at our events and support our efforts year-round. One parent passionately thanked us for providing a safe and nurturing environment for her child. She explained the hardships that her family has experienced and how this moment - seeing her child run, cotton candy in hand and a huge smile across her face - is exactly why she brings her daughter to APCH every day.

We were pleased that after we opened The Bridge we were able to reduce our waiting list from 1,000 in 2016 to 700 in 2017, but we never forget that those kids also deserve the safety, love, joy and possibility that comes with being a member of A Place Called Home.



A SUMMER TO BE TREASURED FOR A LIFETIME

There is nothing quite like an APCH summer, and 2017 was no exception! We kicked off the fun with APCH's annual Kids Day, which saw the members enjoy a variety of games, such as an inflatable obstacle course, human foosball, and giant connect four. Our teens particularly loved the giant sumo suits! Who wouldn't?!

Field trips are a highly anticipated and favorite part of summer. As soon as spring hits, the kids start asking what trips we have planned for summer! In 2017 our members were

treated to a variety of unique and exciting experiences including museum visits, trips to Griffith Observatory, the Hollywood Bowl, fishing, surfing, camping, horseback riding, the beach and more. In total, our members were treated to 73 fieldtrips over 9 weeks of summer programming!

It's difficult to pinpoint the most interesting day or even week of summer at APCH; for some of the kids it was the day when they met a mini horse for the first time, or perhaps it was the day the mini horse

came back and brought a friend! (We miss you Pearl!). For other members, it was the day of the annual Puppet Parade, or when they went sailing or fishing and made their first catch!

The beauty of summer at APCH is that there is a wonderful moment for everyone; whether it's witnessing a member going on the trip they had looked forward to all year, a parent hearing how their child conquered their fears and stood up on a surfboard, or a staff member catching the look in a child's eyes as they witnessed the beauty of the Pacific Ocean for the first time, they are all moments to be treasured for a lifetime.

- 73 fieldtrips
- 5919 lunches
- 8180 snacks
- 1,020 popsicles
- 2 movie nights
- 1 Kids Day
- 1 Fashion Show
- 1 Puppet Parade
- 2 Open Mic Nights
- 2 mini horses
- Special Trips: Surf Camp, Fishing, Horses in the Hood



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



MAPPING THE FUTURE

In 2017 the APCH Educational Services Department covered the universe! Members learned about the Earth's ancient oceans, dinosaurs, mammals and wetlands. They went on a solar system scavenger hunt, exhibited "Dinoramas" of dinosaur habitats, and attended the 4th Annual Moondance Film Festival, which screened short films created by way of APCH members' inner space – their imaginations! Members explored the Hansen Dam, La Brea Tar Pits, Ballona Wetlands, Discovery Cube and L.A. Live! They brought poems and creative writing from the past into the present by publishing the zine,

"Donuts," to share this magic with current and future members. In fall 2017, we initiated a renewed focus on literacy, acknowledging the critical importance of the ability to read. The class, "Map to the Future," provides a solid foundation for our 8th grade members to be better prepared to transition to high school and beyond. In other classes, members analyze their favorite superhero and sharpen their strategic and critical thinking skills via planning football scrimmages. They also navigate pop culture and develop self-love care techniques to become Super APCH Members!



APCH COUNSELING IS ABOUT GROWING WITH LOVE



APCH would like to share **Veronica Hernandez's** promotion to the new Associate Director of Counseling Services. Ms. Hernandez, MFT, started at APCH as an intern about four years ago supporting behavioral interventions, clinical therapy, and psychoeducation. APCH's Counseling Department continues to grow with **Elysia Lassear**, Behavior Interventionist, and **Karen Palacios**, Case Manager.

In fall 2017 we were proud to launch a partnership with Da Vinci Schools to open RISE at APCH, an innovative continuation high school housed at The Bridge, with a focus on youth in need of focused support. The Counseling Department created

a unique on-boarding process to create an individualized plan for each member. Every member is being provided with wraparound services that consist of academic support, life skills development, internal and external resources (including vocational development), personal coaching, and more. This specific on-boarding process allows our members to receive the necessities to succeed and exposes them to an environment of unconditional love and opportunities for a better future. We are eager to see continued growth among our members as they pursue their aspirations and make wonderful lives for themselves.



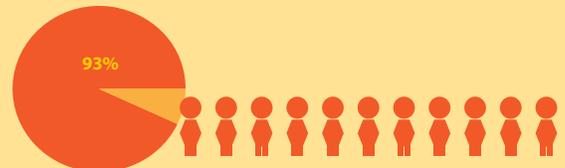
DA VINCI RISE AT APCH

Launched in August 2017, A Place Called Home is proud to announce the opening of Da Vinci RISE at APCH! Da Vinci RISE at A Place Called Home is a unique and dynamic partnership between an innovative new educational program and a proven multi-service youth and community center in South Central Los Angeles. The brain child of principal Kari Croft, APCH engaged in more than a year of brainstorming and planning with Da Vinci Schools to bring this to fruition, and as an added boost, RISE was chosen from more than 700 applicants across the country as one of 10 recipients for the XQ Prize for Super Schools.

Da Vinci RISE at APCH was created for students for whom the traditional school system is not a great fit. Here, students can recover credits, obtain

their high school diploma, prepare for the GED, participate in college and career readiness training, internships, and extracurricular opportunities, and become leaders -- all while receiving a comprehensive array of APCH wraparound services they need to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. We are excited to be able to extend these educational services to up to 80 youth in the South Central community in Year One, and we will expand that number to 150 in school year 2018/19.

If you know a youth without a stable home or who has been caught up in the system and needs a place to land for love, safety, support and a solid high school education, please refer them to The Bridge at APCH, 2901 South Central Avenue.



In 2017, membership retention remained at 93%. Unfortunately, that means 750 children are waiting to get into A Place Called Home.

CRUSHING GENDER STEREOTYPES ONE TOUCHDOWN AND SPIKE AT A TIME!



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 social bias, many girls have minimal access 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 the Women's Sports Foundation, by age 14, girls are dropping out of sports at double the rate of boys. Lack of physical education programs in schools and limited opportu-

nities to play sports in high school and college are also reasons women turn away from athleticism. At APCH, our Athletics Department advances humans of all genders.

We break down gender stereotypes one caught ball, touchdown, spike and free-throw shot at 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 their own personal

growth as they advance toward a full and great life! Our athletics classes are expanding members' ideas about athletics and supporting them if they are interested in exploring what it takes to be a collegiate or professional athlete. And, our South Central Sports League partners with All People's Community Center and a dozen other organizations to give 1,000 young athletes in the neighborhood a chance to compete at a high level

SEAWEED SNACKS FOR ALL!

APCH continues to proudly serve healthy, made-from-scratch meals to our members on a daily basis and distribute fresh fruits and vegetables to our families weekly. Our three urban gardens continue to grow, along with the varieties of plants we grow. Complementing a full spectrum of organic fruits and vegetables from parsley to passion fruit, our members are learning to cultivate and artfully arrange a rainbow of flowers. We expect to harvest hundreds of pounds of fruits and vegetables and hundreds of flowers from our gardens each year!

In our classes, members develop healthy relationships with food. Accordingly, the scope of our classes has increased from basic cooking and gardening to include environmental stewardship and sustainability. Over the summer of 2017, we got an indication that our healthy eating message is working, when a group of elementary school children created and circulated a petition to receive roasted seaweed as a summer snack. We happily met their demand!

We serve more than 5,000 fresh, healthy meals to youth and distribute 400 bags of groceries to families each month.





SOUNDS OF SUMMER FROM THE APCH MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Summer is without a doubt our busiest season. All-agency beach trips, park visits, surf camps, cultural events, and the daily bustle of 200 members learning and making music. In 2017 we quadrupled our "busyness" by hosting the 2017 MYDA* convening in Los Angeles. We hosted guest artists, designed interactive workshops, booked venues, arranged entertaining field trips, and fed our attendees like royalty! We wanted to give our 40 plus music administrators and students from around the country a true California experience. As they filtered in from Utah, Michigan, New York and Northern California, they celebrated our access to the beach, the beautiful sunsets and the picture perfect reflection of the moon on the Pacific. We bonded over a bonfire and s'mores, participated in workshops that focused on the music

business, technology and performance, visited the Grammy Museum and provided an opportunity for many of our guests to perform at the famed Central Avenue Jazz Festival.

In turn, our MYDA partners collaborated and shared their talents and passions. Our members partnered with the guests in creating new melodies, forging new friendships and catching a glimpse of the world outside South Los Angeles. (We also learned in the process that we are amazing event planners!)

Elsewhere in the Music Department, we produced our 7th annual music CD. We participated in the annual city-wide Make Music L.A. event, and we had three of our members attend the 5-week summer program at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Four of our advanced musicians celebrated their graduations



and acceptance into Berklee for the Fall semester. Members attending our music classes participated in beat-making, DJing, flamenco & mariachi guitar, crafting PSA's and a variety of other activities.

through our incredibly ambitious summer and are now looking ahead to more harmonious adventures!

*Music and Youth Development Alliance

We're excited to have made it

DANCING TO SUCCESS

With the addition of The Bridge, the dance program at APCH has grown, offering more opportunities for our members to dive into new territory and for some to engage in their passions at a much deeper level. Until now, the Dance Department primarily served elementary and middle school members, except for the APCH Dance Company, which has served only teens.

Now, we are committed to providing comprehensive classes not only to our younger members, but to giving the same opportunity to our teens as

well. The APCH Dance Company will continue to flourish, and as the year progresses we will continue to add more classes and opportunities members across the age spectrum.

We have added evening classes so teens can practice after their afternoon Bridge to the Future programming. With the assistance of APCH, many of our members are now students at the Ramon C. Cortines Visual and Performing Arts High School in DTLA, and we will continue to support all of our blooming young artists on their pathway to success.

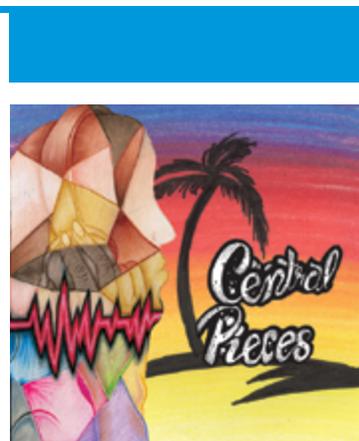


NEW VOICES AT APCH

This year the recording studio brings to the community of APCH our new album, *Central Pieces*, featuring the new voices of Tarzanxan, ADHOC, and Alisson Ibarra, alongside returning voices Moises Jacobo and Tony Rosales. Capturing the elements of the spring and summer with tracks like "Warmth of the Sun," "If You'd Love Me," "Summer Vibes"

and "Rule the World."

On *Central Pieces*, our student performers and engineers worked together and supported each other to bring an amazing collective work to life. In addition to music, the 100% original album features poetry, including "Sound," which has us thinking about what in the world around us could we consider to be music?




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.



INNER-STRENGTH AND SELF-REALIZATION THROUGH ART



In 2017 the Art Department expanded to include new teen programming at the Bridge, and the results have been fantastic! The Experimental

Art class for our older members featured a new instructor with a deep background in illustration and fine art. At the end of the spring session, the

teens' body of work was showcased for the first time in our new gallery space - literally bridging the visual arts at APCH to encompass our new teen programming.

Additionally, the elementary and middle school members took on the task of learning deeper conceptual and thematic works. Children used visual allegory during their mixed media course to create self-portraits that reflected their personalities. The textile art class created an "Icons of Art and Change" quilt, exploring the lives of activists, artists and musicians and making quilt patches featuring their portraits. Youth learned to carve linoleum and make dry point etchings in printmaking class, made paintings that glow with LEDs in Electronic Art,

and produced their first anthology in the comic book class! In summer 2017, members went above and beyond to work with a professional muralist and paint a giant 60-foot wall on our athletics field!

Members enjoyed memorable moments at the Broad Museum, performing in our annual Puppet Parade as a menagerie of characters, and creating a 3D installation entitled, "Journey Through Dreamland," a narrative of two children traveling through the four elemental realms. As always, the Art Department does its best to challenge our youth by encouraging them to think outside the box and discover that wild, unworldly, and unconventional ideas can take them places they never even knew they could go.

OUR VISIONS. OUR HEARTS. OUR STORIES.

Captured through the lens are moments of triumph, from films and photographs our youth create to the realm of unlimited possibilities. Our youth immerse themselves in the processes of developing a film by engaging in the production from thoughts on paper to production, editing and screening their films at our annual Moondance Film Festival. Over a dozen short films, snaps, and trailers are showcased for the community and our youth realize the very tangible results of hard work and dedication. From sorrow to joy, our youth create and edit photographs that represent

their reality and the world surrounding them. In 2017 our members were exposed to new classes, including Web Design, where they learned to code their own web page. Digital media and technology are growing and changing industries - thanks to partnerships with organizations like the Bresee Foundation and Film Independent, APCH continues to explore and learn with our youth so they may continue on a path of self-discovery. To experience life through the lens of our youth, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/APCH2830>



THEATER PROGRAM TO PREMIERE AT A PLACE CALLED HOME!

The excitement of opening The Aunt Marion Brucker Community Auditorium, also known as the Theater at The Bridge, has advanced APCH's plan to start a new live theater program. Theater is a powerful pathway for empowerment and social and emotional learning, and we are going to do it right! Members will engage in classes to find their own voices, express themselves with passion, and engage with their community.

We are especially excited about our

new partnership with Oregon Shakespeare Festival, which is providing opportunities for several of our members to travel to Ashland, Oregon to participate in seminars, training, and internships, with the goal of learning from the pros in the areas of artistic design and production, providing a unique pathway to a professional life in the theater. And, for APCH this means we will be able to put together a production crew for our home-grown and guest performances





CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF THE APCH SHAHEEN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This year, the APCH Shaheen Scholarship Program celebrated its 15th anniversary! Since 2002, the Scholarship Program has sent more than 360 young people to college!

In 2017 APCH is proud to include 26 new scholars and 17 new graduates in that growing number. Our graduates are jumpstarting their careers in clinical psychology, urban design, public policy, and some have gone on to enroll in graduate programs. We even have APCH Shaheen Scholars working at Apple and Google!

As a group, our Scholars have seen the world. From Barcelona to Seoul, Copenhagen to Mexico City, Vienna to Havana - these jetsetters have worked

abroad in film, music performance, and diplomacy.

Many of our current Scholars worked at law firms and tech companies this year, and more than a few came back to APCH over the summer to serve the APCH community. Edwin returned for a second year to teach a coding class. Joining him were Diana, Mariana, Matthew, Jaya, Eunice, Susana, Maylin, and a host of other scholars who served as AmeriCorps VISTAs and interns over the summer.

Our newest Scholars are making their mark as freshmen at Santa Monica College, Boston College, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, LA Trade Tech, Berklee College of Music, CSUs and



APCH has served more than 19,000 young people since we opened our doors in 1993.

More than 350 members cross our threshold

each day, and we have 81 APCH Shaheen Scholars in college.



UCs throughout California.

Congratulations to all of our APCH Shaheen Scholars -- and we offer love and thanks to all of our incredible do-

nors, especially the David and Linda Shaheen Foundation, our partners in this program since 2002!

Onward to another 15 years!

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

Journey is a peer-mentoring leadership program for our 14 to 18 year old boys, that encourages them to build brotherhood and true, lasting relationships with one another. In May 2017 we celebrated our 6th annual Journey Culmination for our 2016-2017 class. We said farewell to three of our high school seniors who were instrumental in leading Journey to new heights, but were heading off to college on APCH scholarships.

During our "Welcome Back Journey BBQ," Journey Alumni showed up to

share what this program has meant to them. They told stories and spoke about the brotherhood and deep connections they found through the program. Each Journey alumnus challenged the incoming freshman class to embrace the leadership and brotherhood that comes with being a member. Lastly, they encouraged every member to continue the Journey legacy for future members. It was a powerful, vulnerable and inspirational event that truly captured the essence of the Journey we are all on.



UNITED IN SISTERHOOD

GirlPower (GP) is a sisterhood -- a safe and brave space where girls ages 14 to 18 grow together and learn to love and celebrate themselves and each other. Through group activities, field trips, guest speakers, and community service, GP provides amazing opportunities for teen girls to mature into self-aware and empowered young adults.

This year the GP girls engaged in a social justice curriculum that included topics on self-love and acceptance, the importance of friendships and healthy relationships, sex education, and reproductive justice. This was also the first year we had

GirlPower Empowerment Day - a day of fun and empowering activities where the GP girls communed with powerful female professionals who are leaders in their fields.

GirlPower provides opportunities for girls to grow, develop their strengths, and use their voices as they transform into capable leaders and change-makers in their community. We were proud to have three of our GP girls participate in a competitive leadership program over the summer, and also to welcome home a member who spent a full year studying abroad in Germany!





INTRODUCING CHANGEMAKER\$ AT APCH! ...WHERE YOUTH CHANGING THE WORLD MAKES CENTS

In 2017 APCH launched its much anticipated Social Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (SE&E) Program. Over summer 2017 we conducted initial product development, producing goods from our gardens, including floral arrangements, boutonnieres, rose milkshakes, passion fruit Mangoneadas with chamoy, passion

fruit lemonade, potpourri, and lavender cookies. If you're interested in having APCH provide food or flowers for your event, email our Social Enterprise & Entrepreneurship Coordinator at changemakers@apch.org.

The SE&E Program will provide entrepreneurship classes to APCH members of all ages. Our change-

maker\$ class will provide elementary and middle school students the opportunity to develop a socially impactful business project of their choice, building their abilities to innovate, communicate, influence, and sell products and services. High school students will also have the chance to create their own business-

es, and will be able to pitch their ideas to potential funders.

Our youngest members got a taste of entrepreneurship by building a lemonade stand and selling lemonade during APCH Kids Day. One member, Aileen, made a carnival game and, after expressing concern that no one would want to play her game, she could not believe the endless line of members wanting to play, and exclaimed, "I'm famous!"



👍 "When APCH told me that they were starting an entrepreneurial program, I couldn't wait to hire them. I gave very little direction other than yellow, happy flowers. APCH blew me and everyone else away! The fact that they added mini take home vases for everyone to have was such a nice touch. The table settings were magical. I was beyond pleased and all night people were complimenting the flowers. I can't wait to have another party so that I can hire APCH to do the flower arrangements!"

—Lisa Licht, CMO, Live Nation

L.I.F.E MENTORING TAKES FIRST-EVER KAYAKING TEAM-BUILDING WORKSHOP



One of the key goals of our L.I.F.E Mentoring Program is to make sure members expand their horizons and have new experiences. Summer 2017 was no exception! Through support from the UCLA Marina Aquatic Recreational Center, we were able to host our first-ever Kayaking Team-Building Workshop.

Both mentors and mentees were placed in different exercises that challenged their communication skills and creativity. In one exercise, mentors were blindfolded as mentees guided them to their kayak and

helped them on-board. Once on the water, mentors were still blindfolded and directed across the marina by their mentees, using only verbal commands. At the end of the course, the blindfolds were exchanged and mentees were directed by their mentors – but this time, using only sounds.

This was an amazing and new experience for both mentees and mentors that will surely help them in navigating their way through the unknown and building trust for strong, lasting bonds.

INVESTING IN THE SUCCESS OF OUR YOUTH IN THE WORKPLACE

The Professional Readiness and Employment Program (PREP) at APCH empowers members to cultivate work experiences, skills, and professional networks they will need to pursue meaningful careers. To do this, APCH partners with Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) to provide members with paid internships and externship opportunities, job readiness support, and assistance in identifying viable career pathways.

Luis, one of the 32 APCH members currently enrolled in PREP, participated in an in-house culinary internship. Luis had this to say about his experience: "It is good training

for someone like me who has never had a job. I learned many skills, like listening, prepping and cooking."

In addition to in-house internships, PREP participants have the opportunity to gain real-world work experience through partnerships with over nineteen local employers, including: LA Superior Court; Public Counsel; Dress for Success; Served 2 Enjoy; Menos Tires and Wheels; Optimist Entertainment; Project Angel Food; All People's Community Center; Mi Centro – Latino Equality Alliance; Challenger Boys and Girls Club; Spectrum; AlSCO Inc.; The Halal Guys; Sweet Greens; Fulcrum; and the LA City Attorney's Office.



If you are an employer who is interested in partnering with APCH, please send an email to info@apch.org with the subject: PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER FOR PREP.



7TH 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 neighbor-

hood through parent and student-led events. We talked about the new opportunities when The Bridge

opened, including having a larger stakeholders circle. Input and suggestions were conveyed to our Board of Directors at its annual retreat in June.



15TH ANNUAL CINDERELLA AND PRINCE CHARMING PROJECT

The Cinderella and Prince Charming Project had its Quinceañera in 2017, celebrating its 15th year of prom and graduation royalty, with more than 1,300 participating teens! Inspirational speakers presented self-improvement and empowerment workshops and the teens got to shop in our very own boutique, choosing from more than 3,000 formal dresses and 800 suits, plus jewelry, shoes and accessories. Newcomer StyleHaul and The LA5

Rotary Club both sponsored the event; Friar Tux provided suits and formalwear for the boys; Bank of America brought tote bags, and our own GirlPower girls and Journey Boys rolled up their sleeves and hosted the event. Congratulations to the Class of 2017! We hope your culminations were memorable and that you will lead the way in making your communities and the world better places to live!



WHEN YOU VOLUNTEER APCH GROWS

At APCH, we believe in the powers of solidarity and community, and that service to others and giving back are great ways to stimulate personal growth. Volunteers have been an integral part of our mission and work for 24 years and have served as positive role models for our members. Through sharing time, talent, expertise, and sweat equity, our volunteers are investing in a strong, healthy and engaged community. With each hour of service that is put into APCH, the opportunities for our youth expand and multiply. We invite individuals and groups to join our effort and

help us provide our youth with tools and guidance to create positive change in their lives, their neighborhood and around the world. Come volunteer and help A Place Called Home grow!



COMMUNITY CORNER

APCH invites every youth and family member we serve to join us as partners in making our community a better place. Our staff leaders partner with colleagues and serve on community boards and committees, including: The CD9 Coalition, Community Police Advisory Board, The Historic Central Avenue B.I.D., Central Avenue Business Association, The Central Avenue Jazz Festival Committee, Pedestrian Advisory

Board, Safe Passages, and others. Additionally, APCH serves and engages the community through its many community events such as: The JIVE LIVE New Year's Race, The Cinderella & Prince Charming Project, The APCH Health and Garden Expo, Community Movie Nights, our Back to School Event, Thanksgiving Food Distribution and Dinner, and our A Place Called Home for the Holidays Festival. APCH is invested in our community's future and in empowering our families to participate and lead in the community development ahead of us.





2016 GALA FOR THE CHILDREN



What a magical night! Congratulations and deepest respect to our 2016 Gala for the Children honorees, **Julie Pilat** and **Laura A. Wasser**. There couldn't have been a better way to celebrate and honor these two compassionate, generous and committed individuals.

Thank you to our Board of Directors, generous donors and supporters and all of our esteemed guests for joining us at the 2016 APCH Gala for the Children and for coming together to make an immediate and impactful difference in the lives of hundreds of South Los Angeles Youth. Thank you to the incredible APCH Dance company and band, 29LIVE, for their uplifting performances, to Gavin Rosssdale for his beautiful and emotional performance, and to our very special surprise guest, Stevie Wonder, for ending the night on a magical note. We are grateful beyond words.

SAVE THE DATE: November 16, 2017
at the Beverly Hilton Hotel
2017 Gala for the Children honoring
STEPHEN BRUNO and LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

GIRLPOWER AWARDS LUNCHEON



On Friday, May 5, 2017 we held our annual GirlPower Awards Luncheon at the Skirball Cultural Center to honor the women who inspire us all. The event, hosted by **Liz Hernandez** of Access Hollywood, truly lived up to its name and was brimming with GirlPower. We honored four amazing women this year: **Kiesha Nix**, Executive Director of the LA Lakers Youth Foundation, was presented with the Community Leadership Award; **Rita Tuzon**, EVP and General Counsel at Fox Networks Group was honored with the Integrity in Leadership Award; **Cecilia Peck**, Emmy-nominated filmmaker, director and producer, was honored with the Courage in Storytelling Award; and Netflix Originals Marketing Manager, **Jennifer Weg and the Women of Soap Box**, were honored with the Women Leading the Way Award. The day connected all of us to the mission of the programs at APCH and reminded us that with hard work and dedication, we can overcome social stereotypes and create new avenues for young women to thrive. Thank you to everyone that made this day a success and came out to support the young people of A Place Called Home. Together we rise!

SAVE THE DATE:
The next GirlPower Luncheon will take place on May 11, 2018!

Check our website for info about the next
Stars & Strikes and West Coast Game Night in 2018!

STARS AND STRIKES



We'd like to extend our gratitude to our magnificent Leadership Council for putting together an amazing Celebrity Bowling Event for the 11th year in a row! Stars and Strikes 2017 featured some of the industry's biggest names and not to mention, some of LA's most skilled bowlers! Huge shout out to our Official Media Sponsor, 102.7 KIIS FM, for their continued support, as well as our Official Celebrity Ambassador, Normani Kordei. Thank you to all of our sponsors for coming out and supporting the event and our cause - you all rock! Because of your commitment to APCH, we've been able to extend our free programs to the youth of South Central Los Angeles for 25 years!

We hope you enjoyed your night as much as we did. See you next year!

WEST COAST GAME NIGHT



Introducing WEST COAST GAME NIGHT, celebrating the best of west coast culture while raising awareness about A Place Called Home and the youth of South Central Los Angeles! Thank you to everyone who came out to VIVA Hollywood on September 7, 2017 for the first-ever West Coast Game Night, hosted by our esteemed Leadership Council! The evening featured music presented by Media Partner REAL 92.3, dancing, poker, Jumbo Jenga, Connect4, Uno and other popular games and some of the industry's biggest names! Special thanks to Doc Wynter, T.I., Wale, DJ Lezlee, DJ A-Oh, DJ Amen, DJ Carisma and Nina Chantele for joining us! Last but not least, thank you to APCH's incredible Leadership Council for launching this exciting event! See you all again next year!

GRAND OPENING OF THE BRIDGE



Saturday, December 3, 2016, was a historic day for APCH. We welcomed the community to The Bridge to enjoy performances from our very own band and dance co. in our newly opened Aunt Marion Brucker Community Auditorium. Guests enjoyed members' artwork and photographs in the new gallery space, along with food and refreshments. Later that evening, we hosted a reception with some very special guests, including The First Lady of Los Angeles, Amy Elaine Wakeland, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Councilmember Curren D. Price Jr., our incredible Board of Directors, along with many of our donors and community partners. That night, the stage was inaugurated by a special performance by The Chambers Brothers. This milestone represents a beautiful and worthwhile aspiration that was conceived by Debrah Constance, founder of APCH, many moons ago and whose "time has come today." Thank you to all who helped make this space possible for the young people of South Central Los Angeles.



WE LOVE OUR DONORS (9/1/16 - 9/30/17)

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

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 Sarah Wirtz
 Wood Ranch
Nurturer
 Johnathan Aaron
 Angie Abrica
 ADT Security Services
 All Access Art & Ceramics Clay Club
 All Peoples Community Center
 Andrea Marcum Yoga

Marie Bacharach
 Libby Balsiger
 Dennis Barbie
 Barry's Bootcamp
 Angela Barton
 Bell Air Investment Advisors, LLC
 Lenise Bent
 Berklee College of Music
 Edwin Bernard
 Andrea Berry
 Sheila Boyd
 Bridge Street, Inc.
 Gary Frederick Browning
 Bruin Belles Service Association
 Elizabeth Bryant
 Laura Buck
 Bungalow 20
 Monique Bustos
 Cal Air Commercial Refrigeration
 Cal State Dominguez Hills-
 CA Stem Institute for
 Innovation and Improvement
 Spencer King
 California United Bank
 Dawn Campbell
 Trista Campbell
 Jacquie Carter
 Center for Nonprofit Management
 Yvonne Chang
 Yecenia Chavarria
 Michelle Chiklis
 Gina Cho
 Jeanifer Clarke
 Closet Therapy
 Ayana Cobb
 Joanne and Jim Cohen
 Sharon Coleman
 Ned Colletti
 Columbia Records/Sony Music
 Entertainment
 Elva Cortez
 Kayla Creightney
 Nikki Curry
 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
 Michael Dains
 Dancing Tehani
 Tracy DeFreitas
 Suzy Diaz
 Disney / ABC
 Addie Donnell
 Ben Edelstein
 Shelley Effler
 Dana Feldstein
 Stacia Fewox
 Anthony Ficalora
 Darlene Fields
 Novella Fields
 Film Independent
 Scott Finck
 Floral Art
 Yenifer Flores
 Erika Flynn and Zachary Leener
 Pfitre Pizza
 Marisa Forrest
 Jose Franco
 Beth Fraser
 Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives
 Cheryl Fudge
 G Photo Booth
 Nikki Gagnon
 Julie Gilbert
 Jenine Giusto
 Elen Goldsmith
 Taba Gonzalez
 Claudia Robles
 Chris Rock
 Kym Rodger
 Roofshoot, Inc.
 Shirley Green
 Green Ace
 Greenhaus GFX, Inc.
 GridT10
 Guess, Inc.

Lakesha Hall
 O'Charee Hamilton
 William Hardson
 Heart of Los Angeles
 Brandy Herrin
 Anna Hester
 Renee Hodge
 Home Depot
 Insurance Office of America, Inc.
 Gail and Robert Israel
 Lynda Jackson
 JAMS
 Yamel Jaramillo
 Roger Jenkins
 Seana Johnson
 Julu Sands Corporation
 just keep livin Foundation
 Kinara Skin Care and Spa
 KPMG, LLP
 La Boheme Restaurant
 Sophie Lafferty
 Kio Lance
 Jill Annenberg Lawrence
 Jessica Lawson
 Kristina Lazalde
 Mila Levkovsky
 Tamani Lewis
 Chrisy Lichtenstein
 Live Nation
 Cynll London
 Sandra Lopez
 Los Angeles Ballet-
 Power of Performance
 Tom Luer
 Macklemore, Ryan Lewis
 and Keegan Hall
 Maggiano's Little Italy
 Vanessa Mancos
 Manual Arts High School
 Jorge and Cheryl Maradiague
 Marino Ristorante
 Jabari McDavid
 Sharon McQueen
 Hanelle Culpepper Meier
 Natasha O. Mellman
 Derek Messana
 Alana Mickin
 Alana Mickin
 Moms Club of Woodland Hills
 Trina Morehouse
 Violet Morgan
 Jennifer Mumford
 Nadel Architecture + Planning
 New Mt. Calvary Missionary
 Baptist Church
 Cindy Niida
 Chimyere Nwodin
 Ashley Oliva
 Optimism Entertainment
 Paramount Pictures
 Peace Over Violence
 Zoran Penich
 Pfitre Pizza
 PMC
 Porta Via Restaurant
 Pulp Pantry
 Grace Punzalan
 Susan Purcell
 The Ralphs-Food 4 Less Foundation
 Wendy Ramirez
 Jennifer Rasie
 The Reef
 Matthew Rich
 Carrie and Ken Richman
 Jaime Rigal
 Claudia Robles
 Chris Rock
 Kym Rodger
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 Enid Roses
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 Graciela Salgado
 International Order of Rainbow for

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 Sencha Naturals
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 Soka Gakkai International-USA
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 Michelle Aquilar
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 Darya Allen Atar
 Jameelah Bealum
 Nizly Behnia
 Kristen Bell
 BOND
 Book Soup
 Linnie Bradley
 Bucks County Corp DBA
 Jenmie Cooks Catering
 Kelly Camunetz
 The Capital Group Companies
 Lisa Casas
 Chris Ceccotti
 Charles Clayton
 Lisa and Jeff Cohen
 Barbara Connors
 Katie Croxson
 Mary Davis
 Jewel Deleagall
 Patrick Diaz

Disney Channel Media Relations
 Berenice Doddoli
 Iovani Dominguez
 Isabelle Drake
 Eat Heal Play
 Edendale
 The Episcopal Church of St. Philip
 the Evangelist
 Ariella Feldman
 First Western Capital Management
 Cal Fussman and Larry King
 Gaumont Television
 Susan Lobell Ginsburg
 Mami Glick
 Natalia Gonzalez
 Google, Inc.
 Alex Gray
 Allison Hamash
 Hennes Beverage
 Charon Harris
 Sharyn Hauptman
 Maria Herman
 Virginia Hillker
 Jiang Hu
 Ina Rae Johnson
 Juicy Ladies
 Just Goods
 Janet Kerrigan
 Dagmar Kuhn-Cabrera
 Christine Kurek
 Lanore Larson
 Alice Lee
 Ashi Leone
 Claudia Lewis
 Los Angeles Football Club
 Barbara Masters
 Maria McGroory
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 Michel's Restaurants
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 Elaine Morrison
 Nil Garden
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 Jonathan Young
 Jonathan Zeichner
 and Monica Chiniund
 Stacey Zeller
 Seta Zorabian

"If we are honest with ourselves, we must admit that the only thing we truly own is our lives, and it is what we do with our lives that determines what kind of people we are."

- Cesar Chavez

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

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



It's difficult not to feel a sense of foreboding, discouragement or even depression as we look at what is going on in the world around us. Whether it be international conflicts, the aftermath of hurricanes in Texas and Florida, changes and or/abolishment to the DACA program or the overall re-

duction in government services, we see so many of our fellow citizens in need of help.

APCH is needed now more than ever and the agency is rising to the challenges of the world around us by serving more families in the community and offering new programs. The opening of our new building, The Bridge, has allowed us to reduce our waiting list. Our new partnership with RISE High at A Place Called Home provides L.A.'s most disadvantaged teens with a path to a high school diploma, and our new Vocational Pathways program provides an alternative to our College Pathways program through aptitude assessment, skill development and interview preparation to enter the workforce and pursue economic opportunity. This fall, we saw 26 freshmen receive an APCH Shaheen

scholarship to join 54 of our Scholars already in college.

At a recent board meeting, we had the opportunity to hear from 17-year old Lizet, who just returned from a year-long study abroad program in Germany that was sponsored by APCH and Rotary. Listening to this young woman animatedly describe how a whole new world of possibilities opened up to her through her experiences traveling, living with a host family and studying in a different country brought tears to our eyes. It is truly gratifying to know that, with your help and support, APCH is making this possible and together we are truly changing the future of the youth of our community.

In Service,

Dawn Taubin

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS!



As Vice President, Communications, Disney Channels, **Dana Green** is responsible for publicity and media relations for Disney Junior, the 24-hour channel for preschoolers, as well as the daily Disney Junior programming on Disney Channel, and Disney Television Animation Studios, an industry leader in the production of quality animated properties for television. Previously, she was responsible for publicity and media relations for Radio Disney, the national broadcast radio network for kids and families.

Before joining Disney Channel in 2006, Green was a Public Relations consultant in entertainment, fashion, beauty, health, Internet and non-profit industries. She was also a senior publicist at Paramount Pictures, where she developed and implemented national and local publicity campaigns for network television series.

Dana has been volunteering with us for over 10 years and is the proud founder of A Place Called Home's annual Cinderella and Prince Charming Project. She was a 2013 APCH GirlPower Award recipient, and we are pleased to welcome her to the APCH Board!



Helen Greene is a seasoned executive creative director, business owner and all-around artistic in-

dividual; Greenhaus GFX has become the perfect outlet for her to unleash her passion for the arts by producing creative, quality concepts. She began her education with an undergraduate degree in illustration. Craving more, she finessed her craft with a second BFA from Pasadena College of Art and Design. Helen started her career in theatrical marketing, managing teams of creatives for large-budget projects. Naturally, she developed her own process on how to structure an agency from the ground up. Greene's creative background is the foundation that ultimately led to the opening of Greenhaus GFX. "If you do something you love, you won't work a day in your life," are the words she lives by. Ms. Greene's creativity is welcome at APCH and is already being put to great purpose!



Susan Napier is a Vice President in the Private Wealth Management Group at Goldman Sachs, advising families, institutions and tribal governments on investments, financial planning and philanthropy. Susan joined Goldman Sachs in 2004 after graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth College with a degree in Economics and History.

Ms. Napier is committed to several community and educational improvement initiatives in the Los Angeles area. In addition to serving on the board of A

Place Called Home, she works with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Debate League, and co-chairs the Associates Board for City Year Los Angeles. Susan is also a member of the National Council for the National Museum of the American Indian and volunteers with Defy Ventures. We are fortunate to have Ms. Napier's dedication and leadership on the APCH Board.



Andrea Navedo is currently starring on the Golden Globe nominated CW series, JANE THE VIRGIN, where she has garnered glowing accolades for her role as 'Xiomara Villanueva', Jane's loving and outgoing mother in a family of strong, Latina women. She recently accepted the Imagen Award for Best Supporting TV Actress as well as the Elizabeth Pena Breakthrough Artist Award at the HOLA Awards. She has also starred in films such as SUPERFAST, ONCE UPON A TIME IN QUEENS, alongside Paul Sorvino. As well as the romantic drama, REMEMBER ME, opposite Robert Pattinson.

Navedo is a Bronx native and she knows firsthand the challenges of growing up in a tough neighborhood and overcoming the same kinds of odds and adversities that many of the young people at APCH face every day. Ms. Navedo believes in the value of self-expression as an empowerment tool, and we were pleased to recognize her with an APCH GirlPower Award in 2015. We are thrilled that Ms. Navedo has joined our Board!

LEADERSHIP

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Debrah Constance, Founder

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apch.org

2017 - 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 21

Comic Art & Literacy Expo (CALE)

OCTOBER 27

Fall Festival & Halloween Party (v)(s)

NOVEMBER 16

APCH Gala For The Children (s)

NOVEMBER 18

Thanksgiving Food Sorting (v)

NOVEMBER 22

Community Thanksgiving Dinner & Grocery Distribution (v)(s)

DECEMBER 9

Adopt-A-Family (v)(s)

DECEMBER 15

APCH Home For The Holidays Prep And Setup (v)(s)

DECEMBER 16

Home For The Holidays
A Festival Of Free Gifts For
Hundreds Of Families (v)(s)

JANUARY 7

Jive Live New Years Run (s)
sign up at: <http://tinyurl.com/zmx7mrr>

MARCH TBD

Stars & Strikes Celebrity
Bowling Tournament (s)

MARCH 17

Volunteer Awards Ceremony (s)



APRIL 20 & 21

Cinderella & Prince Charming
Pay It Forward Project (v)(s)

APRIL 28

Health & Garden Expo (v)(s)

TBD

Big Sunday (v)(s)

MAY 11

GirlPower Awards
Luncheon & Boutique (s)



(v) volunteer opportunities available. Please contact us at volunteer@apch.org

(s) sponsorship opportunities available, please contact us at sponsor@apch.org

AUGUST TBD

Back To School Distribution (v)(s)

SEPTEMBER TBD

USC Dental Clinic at APCH (v)(s)

TBD

West Coast Game Night (v)(s)



JOIN THE APCH FAMILY - Your donation provides direct support to youth of South Central Los Angeles

A Place Called Home is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation - Non-Profit Tax Identification Number 95-4427291. Charity Permit on File.

- \$35 Provides a child with sports, fitness, yoga and good sportsmanship activities for one month.
- \$55 Provides a child with fresh cooked nutritious dinners and snacks for one month.
- \$100 Provides one elementary or middle-school child who is struggling to keep up at school with tutoring for one month.
- \$250 Provides weekly gardening classes and supplies for 25 students
- \$500 Provides a summer field trip for 50 children
- \$1000 Provides 10 teenagers with academic guidance/College Prep for one month
- \$3500-\$6000 Provides tuition support for a young person who will be the first in his/her family to attend college

\$35 \$55 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$1,500 \$3,500 \$6,000 Other \$ _____

Make my gift annual. Please charge automatic annual donations of: \$ _____ with my credit card, or I have included a voided check

I am interested in joining the \$10,000 Circle of Friends. Please contact me at _____

Payment method: Check MasterCard Visa AmEx Discover

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

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- Please do not include my name in any published list of donors
- My company will make a matching gift, I have enclosed the Form
- Please make my gift in Memory/Honor of: _____
- I am interested in including 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 hosting and training APCH interns at my place of business. Please contact me at _____

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

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