

# HOME FRONT



As economic crises and social problems take their toll across the country and around the world, neighborhoods like South Central L.A. are hardest hit. We are seeing high unemployment, crime, depression, and the volatility and violence that accompany these factors. At APCH, youth and families who are facing hard times are welcomed and empowered as partners in improving their own lives, the neighborhood, and the world. Each boy and girl who crosses our threshold finds the opportunity and support to further his or her education and develop his or her skills and talents to manifest dreams and goals into reality. Every day our team of educators, counselors, artists, musicians, dancers, coaches, nutritionists and gardeners works with hundreds of young people to nourish

and inspire their minds, bodies and spirits and to develop strong values that will serve them throughout their lives.

Like many not-for-profit organizations, our budget has seen a dip in this time of economic crisis, but the need around us continues to grow. So, we are finding new ways to partner with our supporters, our members and our community to make a greater difference every day.

**A PLACE CALLED HOME  
IS NOT A CHARITY,  
IT'S A PARTNERSHIP FOR  
POSITIVE CHANGE.**

**When you share your energy and resources with APCH,** what you give is multiplied by the energy and resources that every other donor and volunteer and member brings. The Center is alive with energy, creativity and achievement and you are a part of it. We hope you will enjoy

this newsletter and that the stories will call out to you. Your partnership is needed in our new APCH Home Garden, with tutoring, music, art, fundraising, on our board of directors or at a grassroots level, and we would love to partner with you!



**PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED DONATION CARD AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY FOR MORE INFO ON HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: [APCH.ORG](http://APCH.ORG)**

FALL  
**2010**  
VOLUME 1

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

changing the world starts at home



### INSIGHTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

People consider walking on water or in thin air a miracle. But I think the real miracle is to walk on earth.

—Thich Nhat Hanh

I agree with the Buddhist monk and philosopher. Each day is overflowing with possibility, blessings and challenges - anything can happen. The stakes are high and we are called on to dig deep and tap into the best and strongest parts of ourselves.

Working at APCH is an adventure. Every day we see great bravery and resilience. This past year we mourned the untimely death of one alumnus and celebrated another's acceptance into graduate school. Funding cuts threatened to reduce our capacity to serve, and yet we danced and made music and art in abundance. We tightened our institutional belt and still we gave away more food, clothing and toys than ever before.

The energy level and commitment here are extraordinary, from our dedicated Board of Directors and Leadership Council to our hardworking staff, loyal volunteers, and the hundreds of spirited young members and families who are the lifeblood of the organization. And at the root of APCH still beats the heart that Debrah Constance, the passionate founder of the organization, planted the day we opened our doors.

At APCH we believe in the youth and families we work with and in the ability of peace and kindness and creativity to overcome adversity and challenges. This year we have revitalized our sports program, initiated a new reading curriculum, a digital media lab, gardening, cooking and recycling programs, and a new mural project.

Today will be an amazing day at A Place Called Home, not because impossible things will happen, but because what is possible will be inspiring, expansive and fulfilling beyond anything we have yet imagined. I hope you will join us, support our work, and experience the miracles that take place here every day.

In service,

Jonathan Zeichner, Executive Director



### DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

I would like to extend greetings to the families and members of A Place Called Home and our extended network of friends and supporters. As the Director of Programs I am committed to the rich and dynamic opportunities for every member of APCH to receive academic support, to gain exposure and training in music, dance, art and our newly launched digital media lab. I am privileged to work for an agency that also understands that the well being of our members, requires a holistic menu of programs that also includes nutrition, counseling, and fitness.

Last spring APCH joined forces with FilAm Arts, an arts and presenting organization, on a federally funded project to design a creative digital media laboratory. We've introduced filmmaking, digital graphics, and expanded our digital recording program through this partnership. Our music department is a national program site for the City Music Program of the Berklee College of Music. We've started a basketball league with several neighborhood youth centers and Kids In Sports LA, and we are creating a vegetable garden and working with a USC Clinical Study Program to help reduce obesity, diabetes, and heart disease in children. We are also working diligently to develop stronger relationships with each of the community schools where our members attend, and we are expanding our Shaheen Scholarship program to award 60 scholarships to members of A Place Called Home to attend colleges and universities across the country.

Our goal is to provide a safe place for our members to grow and learn the life and social competency skills to enable them to walk confidently in the world with a sense of purpose. If we can stimulate and inspire their imagination and desire to succeed through our programs, then we are honored to help jumpstart the lifelong process of discovery. The staff at APCH is committed. We invite our parents, friends and supporters to generously bring your ideas, energy, and resources and unite with us in this endeavor.

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Tarabu Betserai Kirkland, Director of Programs



Come meet Jonathan and Tarabu and all the friendly and dedicated staff at APCH – Call today to arrange a tour: (323) 232-7653 ext201

### OUT THE DOOR

by Tony Jones, 18 years old

Out the door, up the street around the corner,  
down the block what I see? Pimps, hoes, crack heads, and bums.  
Blacks and Latinos on the streets of South Central LA fighting  
to survive the struggle.

The hoe on Figueroa trying to make money for her five year old son.  
The crack head that once was a straight A student  
and the 15 year old mom with a kid on her hip, one holding her hand,  
and pregnant with another.

It hurts?

Is my spirit shattering on the floor like broken glass that glue  
won't mend, barely being put back together again.

South Central is suffocating and is yearning for a breath  
Of fresh air. It begins with one person.

With wings on my feet I'ma dance all over LA,  
and fight for peace and justice  
but someone is misled and lost in life by a mommy  
that doesn't love him, a daddy that disowns him

Only thing with open arms is a homeboy and a gun.

Shot by the wrong gun by the  
Wrong bullet at the wrong time. You're gone you're dead.  
I lost you it hurts mentally and physically.

On, the inside pain hurt sorrow and frustration  
on the outside the tears that run down my face, the blood  
That runs throughout my veins, that seeps out my skin,  
being cut by razor blade, that same blood  
that runs down my hand into a pool of sadness .  
I'm feeling better now; your outer shell finally gave in,  
Letting your spirit flow free, watching over me and  
the ones you love.



home cookin'

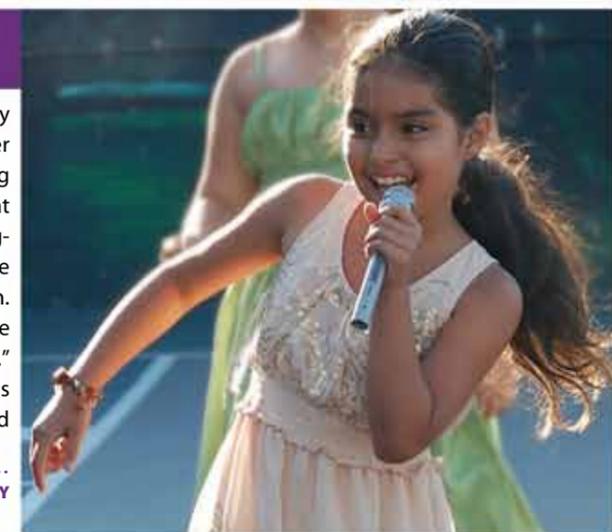
### TRANSFORMATION...

Nathaly B. started attending A Place Called Home in the summer of 2007. Nathaly did not know English at that time and had recently arrived from Honduras with her mother and four siblings. Nathaly was a very shy girl and had a difficult time making friends. Nathaly was also struggling academically. Soon after Nathaly was enrolled at APCH, she started socializing with other members and in no time she learned English. Nathaly is now in the 3rd grade and is doing well academically and socially. She has more confidence and self-esteem to take on the work of getting her education. Nathaly is now motivating other students to stay focused academically and achieve their goals. Nathaly enjoys reading; her favorite book is "James and the Giant Peach." Her favorite subject is Math and her favorite hobby is dancing. This spring she was awarded student of the month and received an award at her school. A Place Called Home is very proud of Nathaly's great accomplishments.

**IF EDUCATION AT APCH IS SOMETHING YOU CARE ABOUT, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY CHECKING EDUCATION SERVICES ON THE DONATION FORM.**

### THE APCH FAMILY GROWS! WE ARE TICKLED PINK.

We are thrilled to report that Angela Maldonado, our COO, gave birth to Sofia Mae on September 23rd. Sophia weighed in at 7 pounds, 6 ounces. Both momma and child are doing great! Congratulations to Angela, welcome Sofia Mae, and blessings on the whole Maldonado family!



bringing it home



Led by Charyn Harris, our dynamic Conductor of Music Programs, the APCH Music Department has been representing APCH on and off campus with concerts all year round!

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa welcomed our band, 29 Live, to perform for the declaration of "Ozomatli Day" to commemorate the iconic L.A. band's 15th anniversary. Our students were amazing, if we do say so ourselves!

**APCH MAKES BEAUTIFUL HARMONY WHILE BOOSTING THE TALENT AND FUTURE OF YOUNG MUSICIANS**

We are excited to expose our students to the wide world of culture, art, music and food and we love seeing them expand their horizons. To top everything off, three of our music department students attended the summer program at Berklee College of Music in Boston, and two of them, Brielle Blount and Laura Padilla, came home with full four-year scholarships to attend Berklee.

We are so proud of all of our students!



**ART DEPARTMENT – FALL 2010**

Since day one of the fall quarter, members have been flocking to the art room to participate in a variety of classes. Sewing class teaches children of all ages how to make basic stitches and to use those skills to make tissue cases and tote bags. The comic book workshop is back by popular demand with instructor Javier Hernandez, an established, published comic book artist. Hernandez is a positive influence and engages members as he teaches them the fundamentals of creating sequential art and character design.

This season APCH Art Coordinator Bernyce Talley introduced the Eco and Fiber Art class where recycled items are used to conceptualize art pieces. Cans and bottles become decoupage vases, cardboard

boxes form skeleton models and students use recycled fabrics to manipulate cloth through tie dying, weaving, and silk screening.

Thursday the Painting and drawing class students learn color theory, still life painting, and shading and rendering. They employ various mediums ranging from pastels, watercolors, and acrylic using physical subjects as their muse.

Thanks to a grant from California Consumer Protection Foundation and the Ahmanson Foundation, in conjunction with the traditional/visual art program, Bernyce teaches two graphic design classes. The beginner and intermediate students use Adobe Photoshop to manipulate artwork and photos to make collages and flyers for events at APCH.



What I love about dance is that I can be someone else. I don't have to be Marylu; I can be a different character in different styles. I love how there are no limits to dance and it makes me feel as if I, too, have no limits. Dancing is one of my passions, although sometimes I need a little break, just a little one. Dance has affected my life in so many ways- I mean dance basically is my life. Another thing I super love about dance is that it has

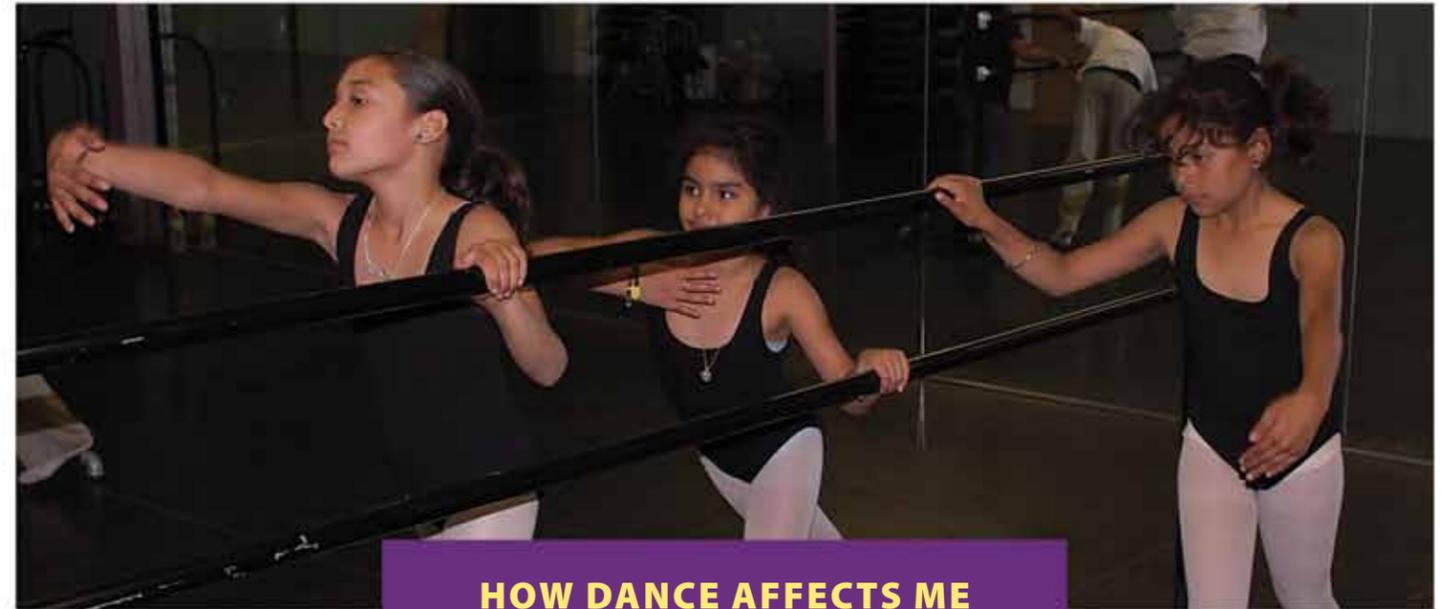
opened so many doors, doors that I thought would never be open for me, not to mention I have gone to so many super super awesome places thanks to dance. The only thing left to say is... I LOVE DANCE!!!

Dance is a way to express your feelings because sometimes your feelings are so strong and unique

that you cannot express them with words or on paper. So for me it is way easier to express them dancing.

**WHAT I LOVE ABOUT DANCE**

*by Marylu - age 12*



**HOW DANCE AFFECTS ME**

*by Tiffany Villalpando*

Dance affects me in many ways. One thing I know for sure is that dance has helped me blossom and become a stronger person inside and out. I have been dancing for 2-1/2 years. When I started dance I knew nothing (I had no coordination). As time passed I got better each day. Through dance I express what is going through my mind. It's like when I

finish. There are no thoughts about life, dancing is what brings new life to me. I am now 16, and a totally new person from when I started. Dance has shown me who I really am. I live each day as it comes, but dance comes to me naturally. dance, the bad moments flush out and I am a new person by the time

**IF ARTS EDUCATION IS SOMETHING YOU CARE ABOUT, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY CHECKING CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS ON THE DONATION FORM.**

My name is Elijah Doureseau and I am an APCH/Shahen Scholarship recipient attending Colorado College. My first year of college was incredible. I took challenging, cool classes, joined great organizations and made terrific friends. The summer break would be just as amazing...

I started my summer with a trip to Haiti with an organization that does relief work around the world. We were going to do demolition work outside of Port au Prince, traveling by 'tap-tap' in the daytime and resting in a compound in the evening. Thankfully, the earthquakes didn't completely destroy the buildings we were cleaning up. The foundations were still intact so we cleared those off so the community could make temporary homes on top of them.

We were in Haiti for ten days, working and hanging out with workers whose lives were touched by the earthquakes in January. It was May, just four months since the earthquakes, and a lot of the workers had lost family members and many were displaced from their homes and still, one could feel a strong sense of hope in their hearts. The earthquake was devastating but it could not destroy their will to get themselves and their families back on their feet. They were powerful people doing some

good for their country.

Following the trip in Haiti, I was a Warner Bros. REACH intern for the second time. It was wonderful. I was in the Feature Story Department, the library of scripts for Warner Bros. Movie screenplays get processed and are given to other departments to be developed into movies. The department also does a lot of work with the Writers Guild of America, making sure the writing credits for movies are correct and updated.

My daily tasks included making copies of scripts for other departments and movie executives and doing filing jobs for the movies the studio was producing. As a writer, I learned a lot about writing in the entertainment industry and was able to examine the development process of stories and characters. I had a blast meeting new people and it was fun to check out what was being produced on the lot.

One of the best parts of the program was the fellowship with other interns. It was motivating to work and learn alongside people my own age that were just as passionate about exploring their career paths. The summer was busy, lively and

exciting. Now I'm in my second year of college and I'm looking forward to good times!

## A SHAHEEN SCHOLAR CHECKS IN



**"The Shaheen Scholarship and A Place Called Home empower you to achieve greatness and become someone different in your community; someone that shows commitment, determination and hope. It is truly a place you can call home. It is a place of inspiration."**

— Adiel Hernandez, UCLA

As college tuition costs increase in California, no one is impacted more than young people in communities like South Central Los Angeles, where families are barely getting by. Through the leadership and steady support of David and Linda Shaheen, A Place Called Home has been providing tangible support for youth with college aspirations since 2002. Starting with just seven students the first year, the program has expanded steadily. This fall there are 58 APCH/Shahen Scholars attending schools across the country, including one in graduate school. The vast majority are the first in their families to graduate from high school and go on to college. The College Access Foundation of California recently recognized our scholarship program as the "Gold Standard" and has joined the Shaheens to help meet the tuition needs of APCH members going on to higher education. Last year a Huffington Post article raised more than \$12,000 from individuals who support the vision of first generation college attendance for students who would otherwise not have the opportunity. All told, APCH will award more than \$230,000 in scholarship and living expenses for Shaheen Scholars this year!

The demand and competition for scholarship participation continues to increase as more and more young people come to A Place Called Home to realize their dreams. Students like Elijah Doureseau at Colorado Col-

lege; Geric Preston at San Jose State University; Tania Contreras at University of California Los Angeles; Laura Padilla at Berklee College of Music; Chris Martin at Loyola Marymount Law School, and dozens more have beaten the odds and are fulfilling their dreams thanks to the Shaheen Scholarship. To date 27 students have graduated from community colleges and four-year universities. Three more will graduate this year.

For Linda and David Shaheen, the motive is simple: "Education is the most important thing – there's nothing more impactful that we can do for society than to educate our children. The most disenfranchised group is inner-city youth, that's why we choose to initiate and support the scholarship program at A Place Called Home."

We are committed to advancing the educational aspirations of young people in South Central, and the numbers and needs are growing. This year we are adding a Pathways component to our program, to provide additional practical, planning and emotional support to ensure the success of Shaheen Scholars. Following the lead of the Shaheens, and with the partnership of the College Access Foundation of California and private donors like you, a new generation of bright young minds is being prepared to become the leaders and shapers of tomorrow.

## AT APCH ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE INCLUDING COLLEGE!

My name is Christopher Martin, and I have been a member of A Place Called Home since 1998. I can honestly say that A Place Called Home was a beacon of light for me, and I am thankful that it continues to be a blessing to many other youth in South Central Los Angeles. A Place Called Home gave me an alternative to the gang violence I saw in my community, for I could easily have ended up a negative product of my environment. APCH gave me food to eat when I was hungry, introduced me to friends when I was lonely and mentored me when I needed guidance.

The Shaheen Scholarship Program has played a tremendous role in ensuring that I get through college and matriculate on to higher education. On more than one occasion I remember being down to my last dollar when that timely check that would keep me going arrived in the mail. It feels good to know that you have people in your corner who are rooting for you to succeed, not only that, but they believe that you can! Because of the Shaheen's contri-

## I AM PROOF THAT A ROSE CAN GROW OUT OF THE CONCRETE



butions to my education, I am going to law school!

I used the scholarship to apply to 25 law schools. So far, I have been accepted into Penn State, University of Louisville, Syracuse, Michigan State, Southwestern, and the Charlotte School of Law, and have been waitlisted at Notre Dame, University of Minnesota, Pepperdine and DePaul. I have even been blessed to be recruited by an Ivy League school, Cornell! Right now, I'm waiting on about fifteen other great schools, including USC. Getting my education will enable me to help the children of South Central and give back to the community like A Place Called Home and the Shaheen Scholarship did for me. If there's anything APCH has taught me, it is this—never give up because you can make it, and when you do, don't forget to help others who need help. From the bottom of my heart, God bless A Place Called Home!

*Editor's Note: Chris chose to go to Loyola Marymount Law School, and he has been volunteering at APCH all summer!*



**"In 1996 the age of nine I defied my mother's rules to never go outside and walked over to the corner building with the sign "APCH." I stayed for 12 years. With the support of APCH and the Shaheens, in June 2010 I graduated from the University of California, Riverside with a double major in the fields of Art Studio and Psychology."**

— Giselle Ruiz, UC Riverside



## WELCOME OUR NEW HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATOR SHAUN-TEKA JOYNER

We are excited to introduce Shaun-Teka Joyner; she will oversee the Shaheen Scholarship and high-education guidance counseling for high-school and college students. She is a double graduate of USC with a BA in English and a Masters in Public Administration with an emphasis in non-profit management. A native of Los Angeles, she has over 10 years of experience with "at-promise" youth and college prep programs. Shaun-Teka is the former Director of Connecting Communities to UCLA (CCU), has worked as an Undergraduate Admissions Reader for UCLA, and the founder of "A Dream Deferred" an organization that allows her to combine two of her passions, education and youth, into a unique and inspiring experience for middle and high school students who aspire to go to college.

## APCH SHAHEEN SCHOLARS

Biancamia Alvarez	Agustin Garzon	Edgar Morales	Lizzette Sanchez
Olivia Amaro	Josue Gonzalez	Abril Ojeda	Adriana Sifuentes
Lamar Banks	Raul Gonzalez	Edgardo Olivares	Ethan Smith
Berenice Bautista	Ricardo Gutierrez	Maria Perez	Victor Velez
Brielle Blount	Adiel Hernandez	Daisy Pineda	Daniel Villa
Brenda Carillo	Chanelle Ignant	Liliana Pineda	Nehemiah Williams
Lorena Casas	Tony Jones	Nancy Placencia	Maria Xochicale
Gabriela Chavez	Katie Lopez	Geric Preston	Renan Young
Tania Contreras	Bianca Maldonado	Alejandro Ramirez	Laura Zavala
Devin Crawford	Echoe Malone	Edgar Ramirez	Neydi Zenteno
Ryane Daniels	Guadalupe Marin	Jesse Ramirez	Noe Zepeda
Brenda Diaz	Gisell Medina	Rolando Rivera	Janette Zuniga
Elijah Douresseau	Cindy Medrano	Karina Rodriguez	Aidee Zuno
Teresa Estrada	Maria Mendez	Wendy Rodriguez	
Ricky Ford	Marisol Mendez	Alexandra Sanchez	

**We expect great things from you all!!!**



**IF COLLEGE PREP AND SCHOLARSHIPS ARE SOMETHING YOU CARE ABOUT, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY CHECKING COLLEGE SUPPORT ON THE DONATION FORM.**

Imagine a wholesome, old fashioned outdoor family-friendly movie. With an outdoor theatre provided by Warner Bros. Entertainment, this summer A Place Called Home inaugurated its new Family Movie Night Series on our Athletic Field, and it was a rousing success!

South Central Los Angeles is a community with no movie theaters so the "big screen" experience is a special event, and at APCH it's FREE!

## FAMILY FUN UNDER THE STARS AT APCH!

Over the summer, hundreds came to see Monsters Inc., and APCH board chair Doug Atchison's film, Akeelah and the Bee, along with the movie's stars, Keke Palmer, Sean Michael

Afable and Dalia Phillips. More screenings coming up – thank you, Warner Bros. Entertainment!!

**IF COMMUNITY EVENTS ARE SOMETHING YOU CARE ABOUT, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY CHECKING FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS AND EVENTS ON THE DONATION FORM**



At APCH we are getting healthier and treating Mother Earth with love and respect. What better way than to kick the fast food habit and start growing and preparing nutritious, delicious, fresh organic fruits and veggies?

This summer, with the generous sponsorship of Beth and Ken Karmin, and Pepsi ReFresh, and the hands-on help of the If I Can Dream cast, we created the beginnings of what will be an urban Garden of Eden right

## SETTING NEW ROOTS IN THE APCH HOME GARDEN

here on our campus! Under the guidance of Darren Butler, our Master Gardener, we brought in pristine soil from the mountains, and the kids are already planting and composting! By spring our members will be harvesting and cooking

fresh vegetables and herbs!

**IF NUTRITION AT APCH IS SOMETHING YOU CARE ABOUT, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY CHECKING THE GARDEN TO TABLE BOX ON THE DONATION FORM.**



home is where the heart is

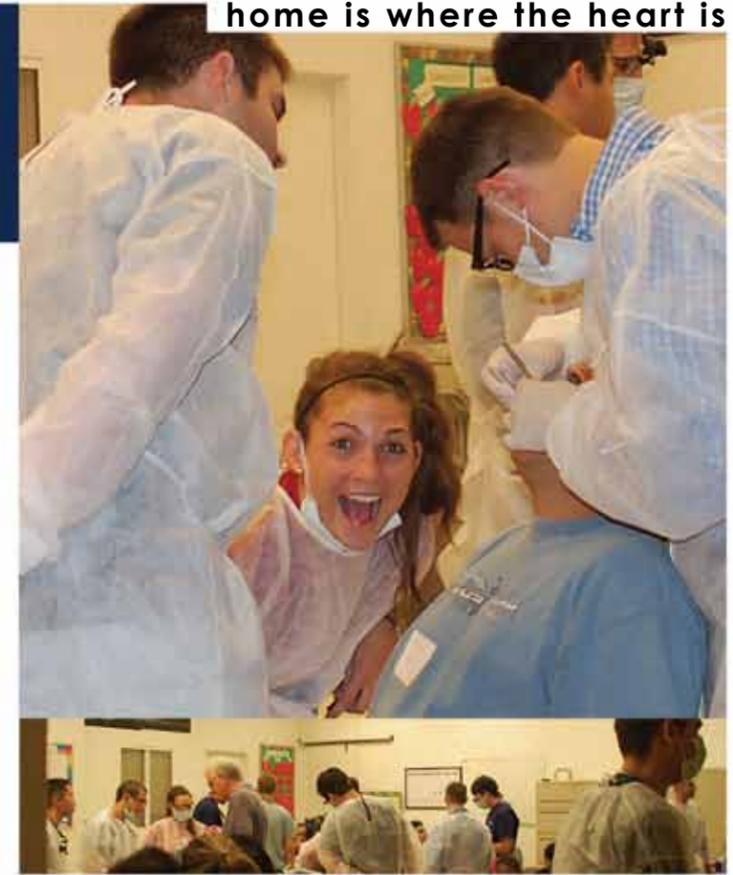
## APCH PROVIDES FREE DENTAL CLINIC FOR FAMILIES IN SOUTH CENTRAL

Again this summer, APCH partnered with the USC Ayuda Dental Clinic to provide free services to 110 members of our South Central community. APCH's 10,000 square foot facility was converted into a dental and oral surgery center for one full day. Led by Dr. Richard Done, more than 70 dentists and students from the USC School of Dentistry provided cleaning and preventative procedures. If extended care was required, patients were referred for treatment through the Ayuda Clinic on the USC campus.

In an interview on channel 22 the evening before the clinic Dr. Done mentioned treatment would be available to community members. Beginning at 6:00 in the morning dozens of our members and their siblings and other community members lined up to receive treatment, including a woman who had taken the bus from Pacoima.

We are grateful to Dr. Done, his staff and students for providing this much needed service. Thank you!

**IF HEALTH AND WELL BEING AT APCH IS SOMETHING YOU CARE ABOUT, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY CHECKING HEALTH & WELL BEING ON THE DONATION FORM.**



## APCH SPRINGS INTO ACTION WITH THE CINDERELLA PROJECT

Every year APCH partners with The Cinderella Project, a Los Angeles based organization dedicated to building the self-esteem of underprivileged teenage girls by providing them with beautiful formal wear for special occasions.

This past may, APCH and The Cinderella Project transformed nearly 600 young women from throughout Los Angeles into princesses by providing them with FREE beautiful dresses, shoes, and accessories for the 2010 prom and graduation season.

For many teens, prom and graduation are among the most special occasions in their lives. A Place Called Home is happy to be able to make it even more memorable and beautiful.

A very BIG thank you to The Cinderella Project founder, Dana Green, and the Project's 2010 supporters: Florence Azria; TJ MAXX; Forever 21; Faith 21; Famous Cupcakes; KIIS FM; S Factor; Wescom We Care Foundation; Edelman Employees; Mayor V's Office Employees; Shoe Dazzle; CBBG; Camuto Group; Joie; Bank of America; Teens In Action; Queenie Forever; Ruthe Davis; Daniel's Jewelers; CC Skye; Dana's Cleaners; Miss Me Shoes (SMAC, Inc.); The Rubicon Project.

**IF SUPPORTING THE CINDERELLA PROJECT AT APCH IS SOMETHING YOU CARE ABOUT, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY CHECKING CINDERELLA PROJECT ON THE DONATION FORM.**



\$23 PROVIDES A CHILD WITH SPORTS, FITNESS, YOGA AND GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP ACTIVITIES FOR ONE MONTH \$50 SUPPORTS TWO CHILDREN WITH PROFESSIONAL DANCE INSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT FOR ONE MONTH \$55 PROVIDES FRESH COOKED NUTRITIOUS DINNERS AND SNACKS FOR ONE CHILD FOR ONE MONTH \$64 PROVIDES ACADEMIC GUIDANCE/COLLEGE PREP OPPORTUNITIES FOR ONE TEENAGER FOR ONE MONTH \$72 PROVIDES FINE ARTS AND DIGITAL MEDIA INSTRUCTION FOR ONE CHILD FOR ONE MONTH \$82 ALLOWS ACCESS TO SOCIAL AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING FOR A YOUTH WHO NEEDS THE EXTRA SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FOR ONE MONTH



**YOUR DONATION PROVIDES  
DIRECT SUPPORT TO THE YOUTH OF  
SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES**

\$1,000 PROVIDES FILMMAKING EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUCTION FOR TEN STUDENTS FOR A MONTH OF CLASSES \$3,682 PROVIDES ANNUAL COLLEGE TUITION SUPPORT TO ONE YOUNG PERSON WHO WILL BE THE FIRST IN HIS/HER FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE \$100 PROVIDES TUTORING AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR ONE CHILD WHO IS STRUGGLING TO KEEP UP AT SCHOOL FOR A MONTH \$118 PROVIDES MUSIC INSTRUCTION FOR ONE CHILD FOR A MONTH \$250 PROVIDES WEEKLY GARDENING CLASSES FOR 25 STUDENTS \$500 PROVIDES A SUMMER FIELD TRIP FOR 50 CHILDREN \$660 PROVIDES COOKING CLASSES FOR 20 CHILDREN FOR TWO MONTHS

home is where the heart is



**THANK YOU WARNER BROS.  
ENTERTAINMENT'S IMPACT PROGRAM  
FOR THE SUMMER CARNIVAL!**

Volunteers from Warner Bros Entertainment produced a fun filled day for more than 250 APCH members. A full blown carnival sprang up on the APCH playground and all the games and prizes were run by over 30 wonderful WB volunteers. Children enjoyed playing in the Jurassic Jumper and dunking their favorite WB volunteers and APCH

staff members in a water tank. The summer heat was blistering, but that did not stop the fun, it only added to it! Water balloon toss games and face painting under the shade eased the heat. Snow cones, watermelon wedges, and cotton candy made this Summer event all the better and more fruitful!

**WHEN YOU VOLUNTEER AT APCH, YOUR GOOD KARMA MULTIPLIES!**

Success at APCH can only be reached through partnership, collaboration, and the shared talent of highly motivated volunteers. This past year more than 800 talented folks brought their hearts and hands to APCH! Get to know some of our outstanding volunteers – and let them inspire you to join us!

More than 250 volunteers joined us in May for Big Sunday, a huge countywide volunteer effort that includes cleanups, tree planting, graffiti removal and more. At APCH hundreds of gallons of paint, tile mosaics, shelving, and new backpack cubbies beautified and upgraded the Center. Herbalife came through AGAIN with dozens of employee volunteers and provided water bottles to all participants.

A week later it was Cable Cares and 200 volunteers from around the country coming out to continue the beautification, and then in June, the AGAPE Harmonious team helped us prepare for installation of new

carpeting in most of the program areas – what a difference!

In addition to helping out on our campus, we include volunteers in some of our work out in the community. In April volunteers from the University of Phoenix, Mount Saint Mary's College, Cal State L.A. and Cal State Long Beach represented APCH at the "Don't Dump on L.A." Campaign and helped the Los Angeles City Attorney's office clean up 61st Street Elementary School and the surrounding neighborhood.

USC Marshall School volunteers helped us with improving our communications and documentation systems. Westwood College gives us interns all year round. The parents of our members show up with tools, ready to help APCH with anything it needs. And the list goes on and on – we are truly blessed!

So come on down and be an awesome APCH volunteer! Contact Gilbert at 323-232-7653 ext 233 or Gilbert@apch.org.

Early in the morning on May 11th more than 200 volunteers from cable companies across the country descended on APCH to paint, build, repair and clean. Their extraordinary fundraising efforts raised \$68,000 in cash for APCH. On hand to kick off the event were Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, City Councilwoman Jan Perry, Time Warner Cable CEO Glenn Britt, APCH Board members Florence Azria & Robyn Browning, cheerleaders from soccer team Chivas USA and many more.

Volunteers painted murals and walls, renovated, assembled shelves and modernized the center's library. In addition, the Center received 100 soccer balls and nets, 20 Mac laptops, 20 Microsoft licenses, new basketball rims and 100 yoga mats. Through the donations of time, materials and financial support, this volunteer effort improves the lives of the youth in our South Los

Angeles community by giving them the opportunity to stay in school, stay engaged and stay off the streets.

Time Warner Cable recommended APCH as beneficiary for Cable Cares' annual community giving project. And... more than 50 Time Warner Cable Los Angeles employees volunteered!

Volunteer Henry Thomas sums it up best "It's inspiring seeing so many amazing people lending a hand to an extraordinary organization!"

CableCares, the cable industry program dedicated to fundraising and organizing volunteer efforts to give back to the communities it serves.

Thank you Cable Cares, the NCTA and Time Warner Cable!

**TIME WARNER CABLE  
AND CABLE CARES PUT THE HOME  
IN A PLACE CALLED HOME**

**IF KEEPING APCH BEAUTIFUL IS SOMETHING YOU CARE ABOUT,  
PLEASE LET US KNOW BY CHECKING VOLUNTEERISM ON THE  
DONATION FORM**



**FEATURED VOLUNTEER**



Maria Serrano volunteered at A Place Called Home eager to help the community by sharing her talents in the kitchen. Maria is very creative and brought a lot of great ideas to the organization like a recycling program for the nutrition department. Funds earned from recycling are returned to the Nutrition department for food and material purchases.

In culinary school she learned the importance of hygienic systems in the work place and from that training she implemented innovative

procedures for volunteers assigned to the nutrition department. "The best part about volunteering at APCH is working and interacting with the staff!" says Maria who is an easy going team player and loves the staff and members. Maria's work was so exemplary that she recently came onboard as a staff member and continues to wow everyone that experiences her delicious fare.

Thank you Maria! We love what you do!

## STARS & STRIKES BOWLING AND POKER FOR THE CAUSE



In its fourth year, the APCH Stars & Strikes event last March was a huge success! Celebrities and guests took to the lanes and poker tables for a nonstop night of fun for a cause! The dedication and long hours put in by APCH Leadership Council\* superstars Monica Ballin, Michael Bateman, Sixx Carter, Danielle Djansezian, Jonathan Hodge, Sara Karubian, Jennifer Koster, Julie Pilat, Lori Rischer, Teresa Tong and Karimah Westbrook paid off as they raised more than \$100,000 for A Place Called Home.

From Keke Palmer to American Idol's Kara Dioguardi, the stars were out for the 2010 Stars & Strikes Bowling & Poker Tournament to benefit A Place Called Home. It was a really special night! Says APCH Leadership Council president Julie Pilat, "Not only did we raise a lot of money for the Center but we made so many new friends and celebrated the REAL stars of the evening... the kids of APCH!"

We want to especially thank Whole Foods Market for donating catering services to provide fresh, healthy and delicious hors d'oeuvres and dinner to all who attended.

**\*THE APCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL IS A GROUP OF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS DEDICATED TO VOLUNTEERING, RAISING FUNDS, PUTTING ON A TOY DRIVE AND MANY OTHER GREAT ACTIVITIES FOR A PLACE CALLED HOME. INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED? EMAIL AT [INFO@APCH.ORG](mailto:INFO@APCH.ORG) AND WRITE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL IN THE SUBJECT LINE.**

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE OFTEN FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTEND STARS & STRIKES, THE GIRLPOWER AWARDS, OUR GALA, AND MANY OTHER EXCITING FUND AND FRIEND-RAISERS FOR APCH!  
SAVE THE DATE FOR STARS & STRIKES 2011: MARCH 9!**

## GIRLPOWER AWARDS LUNCHEON SUPPORTS SPECIAL INITIATIVES FOR YOUNG WOMEN AT APCH

Thank you to the honorees, event chairwomen, the Girl Power Awards Luncheon planning committee and those who attended the APCH's Girl Power Awards Luncheon at the Beverly Hills Hotel last May. Honorees Jill Goldman, Lynne Silbert, Susan Monus and Shaun Robinson were on hand and we were thrilled to bestow a very special honor, the 2010 Girl Power Legacy Award, to APCH founder Debrah Constance. Long time supporter and friend of APCH, Shondrella Avery, emceed this very special event.

The event raises funds for the Girl Power Project and other innovative programs that inspire inner-city youth to discover the strength of their minds and spirits while, while teaching them skills that will empower them to transition into adults and lead more productive lives.

**IF APCH TEEN PROGRAMS ARE SOMETHING YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY CHECKING [YOUTH/TEEN PROGRAMS](#) ON THE DONATION FORM.**



## GALA 2009 WRAP — SAVE THE DATE FOR 2010



Our Supporters Are Amazing!

APCH's 2009 Gala for the Children honored Asif Satchu, Modi Wiczuk and Ned Colletti – three amazing people who genuinely make a difference. But, the youth of A Place Called Home were the real stars that night. Our Youth Ambassadors welcomed guests and the APCH dancers and musicians put on an outstanding show! Over the course of the evening APCH families, members and alums touched the hearts of all as they shared stories about how APCH has helped them face adversity and build their lives up. The Gala raised more than \$780,000 dollars to support the programs and services we provide free of charge every day at A Place Called Home – we've reached more than 16,000 young people already and we're still going strong!

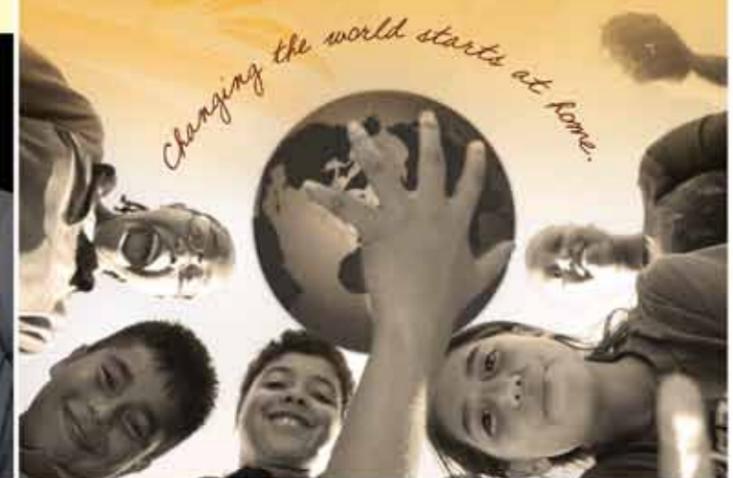


On December 8, 2010 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel we are thrilled to be honoring (pictured from left to right): Serge Azria, CEO and Creative Director of Joie, Current/Elliott, and Equipment; Broderick Johnson and Andrew Kosove, Co-Presidents and Co-CEOs of Alcon Entertainment; and Stephen Winston, Director Senior Investment Management Consultant at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. Each of our honorees embraces the



## SAVE THE DATE!

a place called home  
**GALA FOR  
THE CHILDREN**  
DECEMBER 8, 2010



mission of APCH and shares a passion to ensure that the youth of South Central Los Angeles not only succeed, but soar.

It's going to be another great evening full of hope, promise, fun and a few surprises. Please join us this year as we celebrate the success of APCH youth. For more information, please call (323) 232-7653 ext238 and ask how you can participate.

# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS FROM THE PAST YEAR, WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

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

Doug Atchison Florence Azria Robyn M. Browning Sister Patricia Connor Debrah Constance, Founder	Peter M. Gilhuly, ESQ. Jill Goldman Cyrus Hadidi Louise Hamagami Ann Irmas	Robert Israel Hannah Cox Ligouri Mark Ostroff Julie Pilat Councilwoman Jan Perry	Howard Sherwood Stephanie Sherwood Bob Thompson Stephen R. Winston Marshall Wax
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<b>COMMUNITY BUILDERS PLATINUM   \$100,000 +</b> College Access Foundation of California Florence and Serge Azria	The Faith Family Trust Ralph M. Parsons Foundation	Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary The David & Linda Shaheen Foundation	
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## HAVE YOU INCLUDED APCH IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN?

Thanks also to our hundreds of In-kind Donors of food, clothing, toys, bikes, household items and program supplies – WE LOVE YOU! 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.

## WHY OUR FAMILY GIVES TO A PLACE CALLED HOME



We feel lucky to live in such a beautiful place. Los Angeles is a large diverse city that has both tremendous wealth and very challenged neighborhoods. Our Neighborhoods change slowly, especially when a particular area begins to ascend. The schools tend to come around at a snail's pace, merchants hesitate to expand and public services tend to lag an area's needs.

South Central Los Angeles has long been a difficult place to live. A Place Called Home is a beacon of hope and safety tucked in behind heavy security and fast moving traffic. Once inside, children from the neighborhood are offered a real opportunity to progress. We have seen many a life saved, enriched and protected. A Place Called Home puts our donor dollars to work immediately and efficiently. You can feel it when you walk in the door. You can see it in the eyes of the children. But you can never give enough to satisfy the demands of the community.

It has been a privilege to have been associated with APCH. The staff has never been more motivated and the demands for their services never greater. My wife and I make a point to give annually because we know that the money is needed and well spent.

**FORMER BOARD CHAIR KEN KARMIN AND HIS WIFE BETH RECENTLY SPONSORED THE APCH HOME GARDEN AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM.**

## IN SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES THE AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD GETS BY ON LESS THAN \$25,000 PER YEAR. JOIN APCH AND ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Many APCH member families and children have acute financial needs and could use your direct support throughout the year with contributions of food, clothing and household necessities.

As a donor you may choose to purchase some or all of what is on the wish list or you may purchase gift cards to allow the family to choose their own gifts. (Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law)

The following contribution table represents suggested amounts. We encourage each donor family to do what is comfortable.

FAMILY SIZE • DOLLAR AMOUNT	
2 \$100 - \$200	3 \$200 - \$250
4 \$250 - \$300	5 \$300 - \$400
6 \$400 - \$500	

Please contact Arnold Angulo at (323) 238-2407 ext 207

### RALPH'S COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM



APCH earns every time you shop at Ralph's! Sign-up and registration is simple.

Go to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com), Services, click Community Contribution, scroll to the bottom of the page to the Participant section and click "Enroll." Follow the instructions on the screen, and every time you shop at Ralph's, a portion of the proceeds will go to help APCH! If you are already registered you will have to re-register this year.

### WE ARE THE ONES WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

There is a river flowing now very fast. It is so great and swift that there are those who will be afraid. They will feel they are being torn apart, and they will suffer greatly. The elders say we must let go of the shore, push off into the middle of the river, keep our eyes open and our heads above the water. See who is in there with you and celebrate. Gather yourselves! Banish the word struggle from your attitude and your vocabulary. All that we do now must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration.

We are the ones we've been waiting for.

—The Elders Oraibi - Arizona Hopi Nation

### FROM DOUG ATCHISON, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



As donors, volunteers, parents, community leaders, and friends of A Place Called Home, you are all shareholders in the center. The time and resources you give to APCH are an investment in your own city and the future of its children.

As Chairman of the Board of APCH, I'm happy to report that your investment is strong, growing, and paying tremendous dividends.

Even while drastic reductions in school funding are impacting our city's most under-served kids, the staff at APCH has dug deep to strengthen the level of service they offer them. This is in no small part due to the tremendous leadership of our new executive director, Jonathan Zeichner. Now one year on the job, Jonathan has built upon the center's strengths and cast a thoughtful eye to its future. Not since Debrah Constance first created the miracle that is A Place Called Home has there been a more exciting time to be a part of the APCH family.

As investors, you should know the Board of Directors is fiercely committed to the well-being of APCH. A high level of scrutiny is paid to its finances, so that the most good can be delivered to the greatest number of kids at the most efficient cost. And as we seek to conscientiously expand the center's outreach, we do so by carefully guarding the center's mission while making sure we never bite off more than we can chew.

I welcome each of you to come visit the center to see for yourself how your investment is paying off every day in the joy and accomplishments of our young members. APCH continues to be a safe place for them to dream and a loving environment in which they can grow and learn. And an encouraging space where they become the authors of their own lives – and shareholders themselves, in this community.

I thank you all for being shareholders in A Place Called Home. And I promise that the entire APCH family is taking good care of your investment.

Thanks to our remarkable volunteer Board of Directors and the young professionals in our Leadership Council

#### APCH Board of Directors

**Doug Atchison**  
Chairman

**Robert Israel**  
Co-Vice Chairman

**Howard Sherwood**  
Co-Vice Chairman

**Stephanie Sherwood**  
Secretary

**Cyrus Hadidi**  
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**Debrah Constance**  
Founder and President Emeritus APCH

**Florence Azria**

**Robyn M. Browning**

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**Peter M. Gilhuly, ESQ.**

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**Hannah Cox Liguori**

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**Councilwoman Jan Perry**

**Bob Thompson**

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#### APCH Leadership Council

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Co-Chair

**Jonathan Hodge**  
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**Danielle Djansezian**  
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**Karimah Westbrook**  
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**Michael Bateman**

**Sixx Carter**

**Debbie Cerrito**

**Jennifer Koster**

**Alex Larson**

**Mallory Portillo**

**Lori Rischer**

**Teresa Tong**

**RVLDP Intern: Maggie Venneri**

### JOIN THE APCH FAMILY — YOUR DONATION PROVIDES DIRECT SUPPORT TO THE YOUTH OF SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES

#### I HAVE SPECIAL INTEREST(S) IN:

EDUCATION  CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS  COLLEGE SUPPORT  CINDERELLA PROJECT  GARDEN TO TABLE PROGRAM  HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS & EVENTS  VOLUNTEERISM  YOUTH/TEEN PROGRAMS

\$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000  OTHER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I WANT TO KEEP ON GIVING: PLEASE MAKE AUTOMATIC MONTHLY DONATIONS OF: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ WITH MY CREDIT CARD.

PAYMENT METHOD:  CHECK  MASTERCARD  VISA  AMEX

(Please make check payable to **A PLACE CALLED HOME**, 2830 SOUTH CENTRAL AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90011)

NAME ON CREDIT CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

CARD #: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE THIS GIFT IN MEMORY/HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT APCH.

MY COMPANY WILL MAKE A MATCHING GIFT, I HAVE ENCLOSED THE FORM

PLEASE CONTACT ME AT \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE MY NAME IN ANY LIST OF PUBLISHED DONORS

I'M INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT SERVING ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

CHANGING THE WORLD STARTS AT HOME... THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Board retreat 2010 Pictured left to right: Howard Sherwood; Marshall Wax; Robert Israel; Hannah Cox-Liguori; Robyn Browning; Cyrus Hadidi; Louise Hamagami; Peter Gilhuly; Julie Pilat; Doug Atchison; Sister Pat Connor; and Jonathan Zeichner. Not pictured: Florence Azria; Debrah Constance; Jill Goldman; Ann Irmas; Mark Ostroff; Jan Perry; Stephanie Sherwood; Robert Thompson; Stephen Winston.



2830 South Central Ave Los Angeles, CA 90011-2037  
(323) 232-7653 • [www.apch.org](http://www.apch.org)



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 LOS ANGELES, CA 90011-2037  
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LOS ANGELES, CA

PERMIT NO. 30753

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**DECEMBER 8, 2010**  
**GALA FOR THE CHILDREN**  
**BEVERLY HILTON HOTEL**  
 PLEASE JOIN US! CALL (323) 904-4400 FOR DETAILS

## APCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2010	what	when & where	details	get involved
December 7	Ginger Bread House Decorating	3pm – 5pm APCH	Employees from Credit Suisse Bank will decorate Ginger Bread Houses with APCH children. There's a rumor that Santa may join them and read Merry Stories.	Join us during this fun-filled day. Contact Gilbert Radillo for more info at gilbert@apch.org
DECEMBER 8	APCH Gala for the Children	6pm – 9pm Beverly Hilton Hotel	Please join us for our biggest fundraiser of the year as we celebrate the success of APCH youth.	For ticket and sponsorship information please contact Rebecca Mizrahi at 323-904-4400 or rebecca@grantevents.com
DECEMBER 10	Home for the Holidays Toy Drive. Benefiting: A Place Called Home and Padres Contra El	9pm – midnight Skybar, Mondrian Hotel	A hip and fun holiday party at one of the hottest spots in L.A. Admission: one \$20 toy or \$20!	
December 21	Annual Holiday Toy Drive Sorting	10am – 3pm at APCH	APCH needs volunteers to help sort more than 5,000 toys	Calling all volunteers. Please contact Gilbert Radillo at gilbert@apch.org
December 22	Annual Toy Giveaway	11am – 6pm at APCH	APCH needs volunteers to help distribute toys, clothing and food to families in our community.	Get involved by volunteering or donating toys and food. Contact Gilbert Radillo gilbert@apch.org
DECEMBER 24 – JANUARY 9	APCH Holiday Break		APCH Closed to members. Center reopens Monday January 10, 2011	Contact Jerry Rodriguez at 323-232-7653 ext 239 or jerry@apch.org if you have questions.
2011	what	when & where	details	get involved
MARCH 9	"Star & Strikes Celebrity Bowling and Poker Tournament"	6pm – midnight PINZ in Studio City	This is the APCH Leadership Council's annual fundraising event. Celebrities and guests take to the lanes and poker tables for a nonstop night of fun for a cause!	For ticket and sponsorship information please contact Scott Culbertson at 323-232-7653 x238 or scott@apch.org
MARCH 19	Los Angeles Marathon 5k	Start time 8am	The official warm-up race for the Honda LA Marathon. You can take part in the festivities and raise funds for APCH.	Please check our website or contact Scott Culbertson at 323-232-7653 x238 or scott@apch.org
MARCH 20	Los Angeles Marathon	Morning Start time TBD	If crossing the finish line after running or walking 26.2 miles while helping APCH sounds like something you want to accomplish, let us sign you up!	Please check our website or contact Scott Culbertson at 323-232-7653 x238 or scott@apch.org
APRIL 18-22	APCH SPRING BREAK		APCH Closed to members. Center reopens Monday April 25, 2011	Contact Jerry Rodriguez at 323-232-7653 ext 239 or jerry@apch.org if you have questions.
May 6 - 7	Cinderella Project	2pm – 6pm Friday at APCH Saturday 10am – 2pm	REAL LIFE FAIRY GODMOTHERS TO DESCEND UPON SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES Over 600 Girls to Receive Beautiful Dresses for Upcoming Proms	Donate Dresses or Volunteer by contacting APCH at 323-232-7653 x233
May 14	Big Sunday	10am – 3pm at APCH	Help Beautify APCH for the kids by volunteering. We are looking for talented handy men and women	Please contact Gilbert Radillo for more info at gilbert@apch.org
May 19	APCH GirlPower Awards Luncheon and Boutique	10am – 1:30 pm at the Beverly Hills Hotel	The event raises funds for the APCH Girl Power Project and other innovative programs that inspire inner-city youth	For ticket and sponsorship information please contact Rebecca Mizrahi at 323-904-4400 or rebecca@grantevents.com

**WANT TO LEARN MORE AND GET MORE INVOLVED? CALL TODAY TO JOIN ONE OF OUR MONTHLY TOURS AT APCH. (323) 232-7653 EXT. 201**