



AT A PLACE CALLED HOME WE OPEN OUR DOORS EVERY DAY WITH A CLEAR MESSAGE FOR HUNDREDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE: THE WORLD IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT

We all have dreams and aspirations. As we grow up they either become more and more attainable, or less and less. When we're young we absorb messages from what we see and hear at home, at school, in the media and on the streets where we live. Our brains receive 400 billion bits of information each second, but we consciously process just 40 of them. The rest go into our subconscious, where they impact who and what we dream about and what we become. Our early picture of what's possible for us is painted mostly in the light of what happens around us.

A loving parent, an inspirational teacher, a wise mentor can shine a light so radiant that it makes a huge difference in our development.

But, just as powerful are the shadows cast by hardship, exposure to violence, and the despair of those around us whose dreams have been lost or surrendered.

The contrast between light and shadow in our lives has become increasingly stark. We live in an era of magnificent wealth alongside abject poverty, technological brilliance beside declining literacy, nutritional and medical breakthroughs along with epidemic disease and neglect. A lot of people accept this as "just the way it is."

The statistics about poverty, violence, gangs and low educational attainment in South Central Los Angeles are irrefutable, but at A Place Called Home we open our doors every day with a clear message for hundreds of young people: The world is what you make it.

And, we follow that up with meaningful support and tangible opportunities. For every negative message they receive elsewhere, kids get a positive one at APCH: You are strong, beautiful and brilliant. You are creative. If you work hard you can achieve your goals. You deserve respect and you can give it to others. You can make a plan, develop skills, get that grade, ace that test, graduate high

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FALL 2012/13

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

HOME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



INSIGHTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Like most nonprofit organizations, APCH has faced great challenges over the past four years, and it's made us stronger and more resourceful. As the needs of the young people and families we serve have become more and more urgent, we have reached out for support from foundations and corporations and individuals like you, and the response has been magnificent: millions of dollars raised, thousands of volunteers and tons of donated food, clothing, school supplies, toys, household items and more. The APCH family has grown bigger and stronger and we're making more of a difference than ever.

Good thing, too, because there are more kids and families enrolling and we have hired more program staff to provide additional counseling, educational, nutrition, arts, and life skills programs—and we have increased the number of first generation students we are sending to college! With every square inch of our facility housing classes, and every closet turned into an office, our infrastructure is busting at the seams!

At our June 2012 Board Retreat we explored ways to strengthen our

response to the needs of families in South Central L.A. and how to increase our investment in the community. I am extremely excited to share that, as we head into our 20th anniversary year, APCH is going to be growing again!

We've already taken strides to upgrade our current campus, inside and out, and we have secured a nearby warehouse space for interim expansion, while we develop a plan to construct new space that will include a Teen Haven, a Performing and Media Arts Center, a Gallery Space, and more. As I write this (September 2012) we are in the exploratory phase, but the momentum is gathering and I promise to keep you informed of our progress.

I hope you're curious and inspired to get involved. We would love to hear from you!

Yours in Service,

Jonathan Zeichner
jonathan@apch.org

Dreams are the touchstones of our character. — Henry David Thoreau



Come meet all the friendly and dedicated staff at APCH — Call today to arrange a tour: (323) 232-7653 ext 2237

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school, attend that college, get that great job!

Changing the world starts at home. YOU create the light by which to paint your self-portrait—the shadows are there, too, but you are on the path to being the change you want to see... and to shining the light for others right behind you.

When the young people at APCH succeed, we all do.

"If you can imagine it you can create it. If you can dream it, you can become it."

— William Arthur Ward



PLEASE USE THE DONATION CARD ON PAGE 18
AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY FOR MORE INFO
ON HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: APCH.ORG

APCH STAFF UPDATE

As with all big, healthy families, there are arrivals and departures, and here are just a few! We send love and Aloha to longtime Athletic Supervisor **Jeremiah Cockheran**, who moved to Hawaii, and we wish happy trails to Bookkeeper **Karl Gossot**, who rode off to Texas. We welcome new Development Director **Renee Smith**, and we happily celebrate the arrival of **Bella Lulu Martir**, born on July 13, 2012 as the newest and youngest member of the family! All of our staff are greatly appreciated! And, we are blessed to have hundreds of volunteers working with us year round. Every day is like a family reunion!



Summer MATH@APCH

26 days of fun and enrichment +
84 field trips + 10,000 sandwiches
+ 5,000 apples + 4 family movie nights
+ 1 water slide = 402
HAPPY KIDS!

A SUNFLOWER GROWS IN SOUTH CENTRAL

One of our members, a fifth grader who had recently suffered a tragic loss, asked for help with a school science project, her hypothesis being that with proper conditions i.e. adequate water, sunlight etc... a sunflower seed will bloom in one week. Since she lives on the second floor of building with no yard, she planted her seeds in a flower pot and placed it on the APCH deck. She faithfully gave her plants exactly $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of water twice daily, and, when the sunflowers began sprouting, measured their growth with a ruler and recorded the data. She designed a marvelous presentation for school describing the project in detail and, for good measure, provided a roasted sunflower seed snack for her classmates. Forgoing lunch, she excitedly transplanted her flowers in the APCH garden where she continues to care for them. They flowered several weeks later.

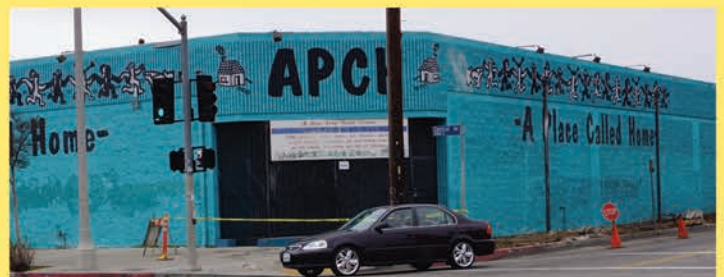
They say that working with the earth is therapeutic and we are convinced that "they" must be right. In the garden, we can cope with great loss by nurturing new life.



LET THE OUTSIDE REFLECT THE INSIDE!

We were bustin' out at the seams and it was time for a facelift. Our campus, that is! Thanks to the Community Redevelopment Agency, the Ahmanson Foundation, the Finish Line Youth Foundation, Teens in Action, the Fuserna Foundation, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, the L.A. Lakers Youth Foundation, and the many individuals who have contributed, in 2012 we were able to launch Phase One of our Campus Renovation Initiative, starting with our athletic field, basketball court and the exterior of our main building.

Check out these Before and After pics! Phase Two will include interior work, skylights, a new Welcome Lobby/Membership Center and the beginning of expansion to our APCH Annex across the street! Your support is welcome and needed!





There were many goodbyes and an equal number of introductions this year and great stories of accomplishment that filled our days with purpose and meaning. Magic happens often here at APCH and it is intentional and largely the result of the many dedicated individuals who spend hours on the front line

with our members and many more hours behind the scenes creating the design and flow of our programs and services.

The New Year began with formal academic assessments by our Ed Services Department that is providing our staff with the tools to tailor specific educational assistance for our members' needs. And how about the South Central 90011 Sports League? We've created our own sports league of community based partners and recreation centers and produced sixteen teams that participated in our basketball season last spring in three age divisions. Our teen boys and elementary school girls took home the championship trophies. We also hit a milestone this year as our Bridge to the Future department awarded a record 71 college scholarships through our APCH Shaheen Scholarship program to members pursuing higher education.

The APCH band and dancers opened for Diana Ross at Nokia Theatre in March and wow, they rocked the house. Our nine-piece horn section is amaazing! We also said goodbye to our long time Athletic Supervisor Jeremiah Cockerhan and our extremely capable Membership Coordinator, Jerry Rodriguez and we welcomed in Alex James as our new Athletic Supervisor, Xiomara Pedrasa as our new Membership Coordinator, and Natalie Romero as our new Nutrition Supervisor.

The digital recording members are producing a weekly radio segment on KPFK-FM and our Accelerated Music Program has launched on Saturdays for intermediate and advanced music students. Our theme this summer, "Camp Out at APCH," was short but sweet due to a revised LAUSD calendar. We organized each of our programs into two-week summer camps with different themes and we additionally augmented our internal programs with week-long overnight camps at Camp Max Strauss and Circle V Ranch. Did I mention 84 field trips? We're cooking with gas!

Tarabu Betserai Kirkland
Tarabu Betserai Kirkland, Director of Programs

ART HAPPENS!



The art room has a pulse, it's alive with excitement. Every day there are new artistic avenues to explore, create, develop, and grow. Occasionally, the members even teach the instructor a new skill or two to include in the lessons.

In February 2012 the children exhibited their work at Space 613 with Create Fixate's I ART U Valentine's Day showcase alongside professional artists. Directly after that event, the youth created thirty original art-bowling pins for the APCH Stars and Strikes fundraiser in March.

There is almost no downtime when the children work. They're always cranking out projects for personal development and product for our nascent social enterprise. The members are enthralled with the idea of their works on display or being sold to art appreciators who can enjoy their art. But, none have shown as much enthusiasm, passion, and determination as **Michelle Estrada**.

Michelle is a ten-year-old dynamo who loves art and researching ideas, which she always finds ways to bring to fruition. She has this uncanny tenacity to complete a project when everyone else has given up. Before summer, she read a book called "Sadako and 1000 Paper Cranes" and became obsessed with learning origami. Once she learned to successfully fold the small, delicate paper bird, she began making a slew of paper cranes of various sizes and colors. She even gathered a whole bunch of 12x12" pieces of paper and taped them together to make an enormous square sheet. She then directed four friends to fold and shape the paper to make a giant paper crane with a six-foot wingspan!

It's personal projects like this that make the art department special. A small

classroom, a beacon of creativity, and the nucleus for visual art at A Place Called Home.

AUDIO ENGINEERING IS A PASSION!



Over a year ago **Omar** first walked into our recording studio. He was a drummer trying to keep his band together. Alas, like so many rock bands, the guys ended up parting ways. Omar was torn up. He no longer had a band, but he didn't want to drift away from the Music Department. One day **Joaquin**, our Audio Engineering Instructor, invited Omar to sit in on a studio class.

Omar arrived early and eager. Joaquin demonstrated how to create drum loops and before the demonstration was over Omar asked if he could sign up. Since that time, Omar has affirmed his deep connection with music and learned to help his peers express themselves musically, as well. He always arrives early and ready to listen to and record the next song. He even wrote and recorded a dramatic audio play for his English class and got an A for it.

Omar loves the studio. He says that recording music helps him de-stress and clear his head. He has become a fixture in the studio, not only helping make music but also in the production of the new APCH Volunteer Orientation Video.

Omar has expanded his passion for recording and made many new friends who believe in him and his dream of becoming a professional Recording Engineer & Producer. Omar... you rock!

BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE SPANS A WHOLE LOT



The Bridge to the Future Department at A Place Called Home is the epicenter for our members age 14 to 21, with a focus on preparing to transition successfully into adulthood. BTF provides resources to assist young men and women via cultural enrichment, academic excellence, professional development, life skills and leadership development. Here is just some of what teens and young adults find in BTF:

- Safe haven in our cozy BTF Bungalow, with a positive, friendly environment
 - The APCH Shaheen Scholarship Program, which in 2012 awarded \$400,000 to 71 college students to further their education
 - Wrap-around services to ensure the success of our members and scholars
 - An in-house Internship Program providing professional experience and job readiness training for dozens of teens and young adults annually
 - College prep programming, including SAT Prep with the Princeton Review and college tours across California
 - Mentoring via GirlPower and Journey, providing forums for young women and men to develop socially and emotionally
 - Case management to identify and remove obstacles to success
 - Cultural enrichment and exposure to realities beyond South Central, including field trips, guest speakers and new and different perspectives
- In 2012 the Bridge to the Future team expanded to include Roger Portillo (Higher Education Counselor) and Lucretia Taylor (Pathways Coordinator). In 2013 BTF will launch a Youth Mentoring Program to include caring adults from the Los Angeles community as supporters and guides to a brave new world.

DANCE IS AN ADVENTURE!



The **APCH Dance Company** performed at Nokia Live on Thursday March 22nd for the Annual Herbalife Team Summit where they opened up for legendary artist, Diana Ross. The pressure was on as the dancers were the first act of the evening and could hear the audience anxiously waiting.

This “real world” experience wasn’t just on the night of the actual performance but also in the preparation leading up to the show. These dedicated young performers gave up Saturday mornings for rehearsals, in addition to practicing three times during the week.

A Place Called Home understands that it takes a lot of moving parts to support the success of a child. Whether it was an additional tutoring session or extra support from the counseling department, APCH staff understood and worked together to do what it took to not only put on a stellar performance but also, support our members’ needs outside the dance studio.

“I would go to tutoring sessions with Miss Yamina and then go to rehearsal because Miss Jewel says we have to keep our grades up,” said Maria, age 13.

Performing to an audience of over 5,000, having their hair and make-up done by professionals and dancing for thousands of screaming fans made all of the hard work worth it and inspired more than a few for the future.

“I want to become a professional dancer because dancing at Herbalife was so fun! Dance will give me more opportunities in life!” exclaimed Kimberely, age 11.

The APCH Dance Company works with all ages and provides instruction in Ballet, Modern, Hip-Hop, Salsa, Hula, Tap, Capoeira, Yoga and so much more!

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APCH DAVIDOW COUNSELING CENTER

The bustling summer months are always met with enthusiasm by our beloved members, and the counseling staff gears up for full days and expanded numbers to ensure that all the youngsters are fully supported.

Our Counseling Center welcomed two new staff members this year, **Mr. Manuel Martir** our counselor/behaviorist, and **Claudia Lewis**, a part time clinical counselor who has been interning with us since her graduation from Antioch University where she learned exemplary clinical skills to support APCH members and families. Manuel has had a great deal of experience, previously serving proven risk youth and families. Manuel grew up not far from APCH and has made it his career choice to serve the community. Both have quickly become valued members of the team, which stands ready to serve the needs of all our members and families year round.

In addition to support for well being via counseling and case management, our Counseling Center oversees the APCH Adopt-a-Family Program, which has directly assisted more than 150 families with acute needs in the past year. Please visit our website (apch.org) to see how you can become an Adopt-a-Family sponsor.

“WE MUST TAKE CHARGE OF OUR OWN DESTINIES, DESIGN A LIFE OF SUBSTANCE AND TRULY BEGIN TO LIVE OUR DREAMS.”

— LES BROWN

DIGITAL MEDIA IS WIRED!



So many great projects have been in the works within the **Digital Media Department** and collaboration has been one of the key elements this year. Working together in groups within APCH and beyond, sharing ideas and producing amazing pieces of digital media is our goal!

In February, The Digital Media Department's "Our Stories" class produced a 3-minute short film for Black History Month. Students researched, filmed and produced a tribute to important people and revolutionary movements, covering Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Ruby Bridges, Barack Obama, Mae Jemison, Michael Jordan, John Coltrane, Malcolm X and The Civil Rights Movement. Our video was shown for the entire Center in the Dance Studio, along with several other presentations.

In the Spring the Nutrition Department and Digital Media Department continued our collaboration to produce Season 2 of the APCH Food Network. We look forward to learning more about being health conscious in every way possible.

The Digital Media Department had a great time in April and May, linking up with Create Fixate to explore digital photography and be part of a photography exhibition in a gallery. Afterwards, we brought the framed photos back to APCH and displayed them in the Family Room!

All summer our video shorts have been showing on Family Movie Nights for big audiences and we are excited to announce that one of our key Digital Media students was named as APCH's official Digital Media Archivist – congratulations, **Tyran Bell!**

Help show your support for the Digital Department and check out our youth produced short videos at: youtube.com/apch2830. Thank you!

EDUCATION IS KEY



One of our core values at APCH is a belief that education is a critical component in empowering youth to make life-affirming, healthy and positive choices for their future.

In 2012, APCH instituted a new academic assessment program, Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), to measure students' academic proficiency at the beginning and end of each of our program sessions. MAP results assist us in providing more specific academic support for our members and we are able to track academic

development over time as we prepare our members for higher education.

Open Homework Assistance is available from opening until 4:30pm and Homework Groups are between 4:30 and 6:30pm. Our Academic Focus class is for members who need extra support as identified by their report cards or via teacher recommendation due to risk of failing an academic subject.

One-on-one tutoring is available for our high school students in Math, English and Science and we also offer Science Exploration, Poets and Forgotten History.

In 2012 the Educational Services Department collaborated with the Membership Department and the Parent Partners Circle to produce APCH's first Cinco de Mayo Festival. This successful cultural event included food, games, music and an interactive musical performance with indigenous instruments of the Americas. We look forward to planning more cultural festivals throughout the year!

THE HEART OF A HOME



It has often been said that the heart of the home is the kitchen. The APCH kitchen is a place of nourishment and growth, laughter and tears, experimentation and learning where **Natalie Romero** and her crew create "heart" for A Place Called Home.

Diet and related health issues are critical in our neighborhood. There are many convenience stores and fast food joints, but hardly any grocery stores. We are committed to exposing our members to healthy choices in our garden and in the meals we serve, which are made from scratch every day. In 2012 we examined the nutritional content of our menus and found ways to improve them. The approach we chose to take was, "HIDE THE VEGETABLES!" We took food that the children already ate and/or were familiar with and simply hid vegetables in it. Oftentimes it was through pureeing vegetables into a sauce, other times we would chop the veggies so finely that it was too much bother to fish out, and we found that putting cheese on anything makes it a kid magnet. Children at APCH started eating in record numbers, and all while getting six servings of vegetables! Of course, the true measure of success was when the kitchen began receiving letters and pictures from the children as thank you— now proudly displayed on our kitchen fridge!

Now we are empowering children to enjoy making their own food, starting with gardening and harvesting. We use kid-safe knives so that the children can gain confidence and learn good knife skills. In many cases, children who have never enjoyed a salad before, are making their own. Recently, when asked why they were all enjoying the salad they made so much, a hand shot up of a little girl with furrowed brows and an inquisitive face. Her answer: "I think ... it's because ... we made it with love."

Love is at the heart of all we do at A Place Called Home, and now it is the children who are making the kitchen the heart of it all...

OUR WELL-BEING PROGRAM PROVIDES NUTRITIOUS MEALS, GARDENING, COOKING CLASSES, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, AND ANNUAL DENTAL AND EYE EXAMS – ALL FOR FREE!

MUSICIANS... UP AT 5:30AM? REALLY???



One sleepy morning last April, if you drove past APCH at 5:30am, you would have seen 8 alert, impeccably dressed teens at our entrance and wondered, were they musicians coming home from a late night gig? (After all, they did open for Diana Ross a week earlier!) Actually, it was the APCH band, 29 LIVE, arriving for a special appearance on the KTLA Morning News.

All morning the kids were pros, ready to play on cue. Then they went to school and returned for an afternoon rehearsal for another performance. What dedication!

What else happens in the **APCH Music Department**? Our **4th original CD comes out in late 2012**, our kids produce a monthly segment on **KPFK's Soul Rebel Radio**, we have **Listening Lounge Sound Sessions** with artists like K'Naan, Benny Cassette, Dani Nicole, VV Brown, Dylan Synclaire, Prophet & 7 Lions, and more! And, we're proud to announce our new **AMP: Accelerated Music Program**, providing concentrated instruction to prepare serious music students for opportunities in higher learning.

APCH is a national partner of the Berklee City Music Network, which provides learning materials, as well as scholarships to Berklee's summer and undergrad programs. We are participating in a study conducted by Tufts University to examine how participation in Berklee City Music relates to youth development, achievement, cultural identity, leadership, resilience & social skills; and identify best practices to teach music to youth. We are excited to be included in this important project

Thanks to RedOne and the 2101 Foundation, the CCF PAT Program and the ELMA Foundation for continued support!

WHAT GROWS IN THE APCH GARDEN?



JOURNEY, A GROUP FOR BOYS GROWING INTO MEN

What does it mean to "be a man?"

Among our **Bridge to the Future** programs is Journey, a group-mentoring program for young males 14 to 18 years old. With weekly sessions and occasional group outings, Journey provides a space to explore the concept of manhood in today's world.

Journey facilitates development of social skills and life values, identifying common and different goals and aspirations for transitioning into a well-adjusted manhood.

Reflecting on his year in Journey, 14-year-old **Ronald Osorio** stated, "It's fun to have a place and time to talk about our feelings."

We all need that.



Stefon Ginn has been a member at A Place Called Home for 10 years. He's literally grown up at 2830 South Central Avenue. Over time, staff has seen him evolve into a young man, preparing to step into the real world feet first with a strong foundation.

One morning recently, Stefon arrived upset. It would be fair to say that Stefon can get hot under the collar at times. Life happens and it happens a lot here in South Central. Stefon has had more than his fair share of challenges and obstacles.

But, today was different. Instead of mad, Stefon was sad. With tears in his eyes, he pulled our Bridge to the Future Manager aside and said that he had to talk. They found a quiet spot and Stefon opened up, apologizing for being so angry so often and acknowledging that his pain comes from a deep place where his hurts and losses reside. He said he didn't want to be that angry person anymore.

We are so proud of Stefon's choice to step onto a road to positivity. Later that day, Stefon had similar conversations with several other staff. He was on a mission.

Stefon coming to this realization about himself was a huge milestone. It is exactly what we are working toward for all the young people at A Place Called Home; preparing them to step into their futures, well-adjusted emotionally and academically and professionally strong.

Food: Peas and lettuce. Tomatoes and onions. Too much chard and kale! Baby pumpkins. Bigger squash. Broccoli (it's good raw!) Radishes that feed birds when they go to seed. Figs, peaches, apples, and passionfruit. Sunflowers taller than the teacher. Mint, chives, rosemary and other herbs. And our own seeds, to plant next season! Dozens of strawberries to find and share every week.

Weeds: Always a few. Let's be honest: sometimes more than a few.

Soil: For good harvests, first we grow soil. Beneficial fungi and other microbes take care of plants much better than we do.

Bugs and animals: Compost full of earthworms. Praying mantids. Ladybugs and butterflies. A huge grasshopper. Birds leave their droppings, which fertilize plants. We even have lizards and salamanders, if you know where to look.

Our knowledge: Onions don't grow on trees; figs do. Leaves on pumpkin plants don't look like pumpkins. Don't harvest strawberries until they're red. Carrots taste good, especially when you grow them yourself!

Garden stars: How do you sow seeds, identify an aphid, or harvest fava beans? Ask Luis Rodriguez or Jessica Garcia. What lives in compost, and how do you harvest a chard plant almost as big as you are? Omar Angelino knows. Too many garden stars to mention here!

A beautiful garden: The best part of the APCH garden is you! Come out and dig with us!

"WHAT YOU LOVE YOU EMPOWER, AND WHAT YOU FEAR YOU EMPOWER, AND WHAT YOU EMPOWER YOU ATTRACT."

- AUTHOR UNKNOWN

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

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Have you included APCH in your Estate Plan? 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

APCH SHAHEEN SCHOLARS CHECK IN

TANIA CONTRERAS – UCLA, Senior, Psychology

After three years in college, I've come to see the university as an empowering tool to achieve my goals and aspirations. At first I thought college would be just another accomplishment, but the university was so different from what I was used to in South Central, that I faced many difficulties. Adjusting was difficult, but I kept my internal drive to acculturate myself and accommodate to the new experience. This opportunity given to me is one in a lifetime so I couldn't give up. Aside from doing this for my personal growth, I know that I owe it to the community who raised me to become the young passionate and resilient Latina I am today.

I've always dreamed of becoming a psychologist to provide help in a community that is often misunderstood and misjudged. As I enter my senior year, I am getting closer to becoming the person I dream to be. Anatole France said, "to accomplish great things, we must not only act but also dream; not only plan but also believe." As an innovator in my community I realize that I am viewed as a role model by many aspiring at-promise students. I intend to share my experiences as an educated Latina to generate more progress and a conscious community.

BRENDA MARTINEZ – Lehigh University, Sophomore, Journalism & English

My parents have always made my education a priority. Even as a Parmalee Elementary Lion I dreamed about being a USC Trojan. Once I began to realize that there were colleges on the other side of the country, I knew that I wanted to make my dreams come true on the east coast. With the guidance and support of APCH, I became part of the One Voice Scholars Program during my junior year in high school and that is when I began to truly weave my dreams. Traveling 3,000 miles from South Central to attend Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA was a life changing experience. I thought I had my entire life planned and knew exactly who I was because of my social background. Moving across the country allowed me to learn more about myself and who I can be.

My dreams changed drastically once I had the opportunity to expand my community, network, and way of thinking. Attending a private institution, where the other students don't look like me had many challenges academically and culturally. It was also a blessing in disguise and inspired me to direct my attention towards my

childhood passion for writing and a new passion for social activism. Now, I am taking what I learned in the streets of South Central and integrating it in South Bethlehem. What's going to happen..?

EDGAR MORALES – CSULA, Junior, Civil Engineer & Business

Being the first one in my family to pursue higher education is a dream. This is something I wish for everyone because eventually an education leads to success. During my first two years in college I had challenges, successes and, more than anything, personal and professional development. I was able to understand the importance of my majors and see that I AM the "engineer" or "businessman" that can provide support to the community and is able to inspire others.

I have been able to reach my goals and dreams through the support of many wonderful angels, which I cannot forget. This is one of the main reasons I keep going back to my community to inspire others and make them see that if I can reach my goals, they will do it too. Becoming an asset to the community is a privilege, but knowing that I am impacting our future generations creates a fulfillment that is priceless. A dream becomes a reality as long as we keep the passion and persistence.

JANETTE ZUNIGA – UCLA, Senior, Psychology

When you live in South Central, few people expect you to make it through high school, and even less expect you to go to college. Yet, here I am about to reach an end to something that three years ago seemed nearly impossible. I was lucky enough to go to college with the help of A Place Called Home. Next year I am going to graduate from UCLA and it feels like a dream come true.

When people ask me what I want to be ten years from now, I always say I want to be happy. Maybe that is not the answer people are looking for, but that is the only thing I really want. One thing I love to do that makes me happy is to help people, and being a psychology major has opened my eyes to the different possibilities that there are to help people.

The gift that A Place Called Home has given me is one that I do not yet know how to repay. They have given me the opportunity to learn, not just about the world, but also about myself.



In September 2012 we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of our APCH Shaheen Scholarship Program by sending 70 students to college. With lead support from David and Linda Shaheen and additional support from the College Access Foundation of California and many reading this newsletter, nearly 200 students have been awarded more than two million dollars in scholarships over the past decade. Most were the first in their families to graduate from high school and go on to college. *Talk about bringing dreams to reality!*

A 2011 STUDY BY THE ADVANCEMENT PROJECT GIVES THE 90011 ZIP CODE FAILING GRADES IN SAFETY, EDUCATION, RISK, AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS. "NINETY PERCENT OF CHILDREN LIVING IN HOT ZONES REPORTED HAVING WITNESSED OR BEING A VICTIM OF FELONY LEVEL VIOLENCE."

GRADUATION REFLECTION

CHANELLE IGNANT – B.A. Journalism, SF State '12



On the night of my college graduation I stood nervously behind my former radio professor waiting for my name to be called. That moment marked the end of a four-year journey from the hopes and dreams of my childhood to the reality of a degree in Radio and Television from San Francisco State University. As the first to obtain a four-year degree in my nuclear family, I am to this day overwhelmed with gratitude at the thought of being in such a place of privilege. Graduation means an opportunity to give back to those that have helped me.

As the oldest of two girls, graduation also means setting a standard for my little sister. She is now a junior in high school and approaching the same college deadlines and standardized testing pressure that I experienced at her age. My college diploma is proof that she, too, can overcome any obstacles that stand between her and academic success. From my experiences in school I want to warn her about my mistakes, but also encourage her to take the risks that will shape her own experience.

The commencement speaker offered advice about taking the education we obtained back to our community. "To make an impact", he said, should be our primary incentive and neither money nor success could match the fulfillment gained through helping someone else. With my degree, I am more than eager to take on this role.

A Place Called Home played an integral part in my academic career. It was because of the support back at home that I felt I could beat the odds. With opportunities like being able to attend the NAACP's National Convention, I felt that someone believed I, too, could amount to greatness. Being awarded a brand new laptop and receiving monthly stipends contributed directly to my well being and I could focus on my courses. I can honestly say that I would not have made it here without the love and kindness of A Place Called Home and the Shaheen family.

In response to the commencement speaker's call for us to make a difference in the world, I took a summer internship at an organization that allowed me to impact the lives of other college students through mentorship and guidance.

NEW FRIENDSHIP IS A HOME RUN

Meeting Dodgers General Manager **Ned Colletti** was a good experience. Meeting someone in his position doesn't happen that often, and finding out that he wanted to get to know me personally was a great honor. Hearing how he grew up and all the obstacles he went through was a big eye opener.

Mr. Colletti shared stories on how he has been in so many positions where he could have given up, but he was determined to make it. Growing up in South Central, too many people do not overcome tough obstacles, so I understand.

Thinking about Mr. Colletti's story gives me motivation to stay up late to finish my English class essay, read ahead to the next chapter of the book, and to go find my chances instead of sitting around waiting for a chance to come. Mr. Colletti is good person who cares. He is not only a new friend, but a great mentor as well.

THANK YOU MR. COLLETTI! – LAMAR BANKS, **APCH Shaheen Scholar**



2012 CINDERELLA & PRINCE CHARMING PAY IT FORWARD PROJECT

Our annual Cinderella Project grew into something truly magical in 2012. A PLACE CALLED HOME added The Prince Charming Project to make the event a royal success! With a focus on developing inner beauty and strength for girls and boys, we invited inspirational speakers and partnered with the PAY IT FORWARD organization to provide two days of self improvement workshops along with the beautiful dresses, shoes, suits and accessories to be distributed.

900 princesses and 100 princes took part in the event, receiving goodies for their proms and graduations and nourishment for their minds bodies and spirits. Each teen was given a Pay it Forward bracelet and encouraged to find ways to do good deeds in their community. They left dressed like royalty and ready for their special night.

The Cinderella and Prince Charming Project is made possible with the support of many donors and volunteers and our longtime partner and founder of the event, **Dana Green**. Thanks for the magic!!

GIRLPOWER PROGRAM EVOLVES

From September to May, up to 20 APCH girls from 14-18 years old meet weekly to explore different approaches to success in life, with a focus on education, healthy relationships and belief in oneself. The girls talk about everything, including the hardships that accompany poverty, family dysfunction, or lack of citizenship. Through the meetings, outings, guest speakers and goal-setting, GirlPower Girls develop life skills and autonomy so and get ready to hold the reins for their own lives.

At the end of the program, the girls step onto the stage at our GirlPower Awards Luncheon as empowered young women already taking action in their lives and communities to make the changes they want to see.

In 2012 we initiated a strong emphasis on volunteerism. For the APCH Cinderella & Prince Charming Project, the GP Girls assisted with set-up and helped other young ladies find dresses, shoes and accessories for their proms; they served food at our Community Thanksgiving Dinner; and they distributed toys at our Holiday Festival. Thousands were impacted by their efforts and the GP Girls got to experience the power of giving and how it can influence their choices in life.

GirlPower helps every girl identify who she really is inside and what she needs to create the life she wants and develop her role in society. One girl at a time, GirlPower is graduating strong, focused young women and leaders

COURAGE DOESN'T ALWAYS ROAR. SOMETIMES COURAGE IS THE QUIET VOICE AT THE END OF THE DAY SAYING,
"I WILL TRY AGAIN TOMORROW." – MARY ANNE RADMACHER

STAKEHOLDERS CIRCLE EXPANDS OUR UNDERSTANDING



On May 26, 2012, 40 parents, APCH members, staff, volunteers, interns, and leadership council/board members, participated in our second annual Stakeholders Circle.

Executive Director Jonathan Zeichner facilitated and we began with each participant sharing the impact APCH has made in his or her life. Here are a few comments:

"I had no intention of going to college, but APCH has encouraged me to want to go now." — Lamar Banks, member

"It's home and a safe place to learn." — Vanessa Hernandez, member

"I want to create a safe environment for my kids and APCH does that." — Eufrosina Hernandez, parent

"APCH got my kids off the streets and taught me that each are different, and coming here they get to develop their talents and build their self-confidence." — Emma, parent

"I love A Place Called Home. Everyone makes me feel welcome and the staff has helped me through all the stuff I'm going through." — Omar Arzate, member, volunteer

"I've had three generations of kids here- children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. It's a vast undertaking that can only be done one child at a time." — Daisy Bell, parent

"APCH is a bridge that takes kids from South Central to the rest of the world." — Lupe Marin, member

"This place gives you a choice to change your life and that's what freedom is." — Jessica Rich, Board Member

A co-visioning session identified goals for an even more relevant and responsive APCH. Areas explored included: campus expansion, especially for our Teen Center and Performing Arts programs; additional transportation for members; more social enterprise and career training; and more parent involvement.

Our annual "Flash Forward" project, to make an immediate difference, zeroed in on the need for our teens and parents to get CPR and first aid training, so that will be happening this fall!

Thanks to everyone who attended. APCH is a Learning Organization and we depend on you to teach us.

APCH IS ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY

A Place Called Home is a proud citizen of the South Central Los Angeles Community and of the world. Our goal is to inspire everyone who crosses our threshold to get involved and contribute to improving life in our community and beyond. APCH is a partner in the Sustainable Communities Coalition, the LAPD Newton Division CPAB, the Central Avenue Business Association, and we work closely with our City Council office and the Mayor's office. We love partnering with All People's Community Center and the Coalition for Responsible Community Development and we enjoy co-hosting and sponsoring community events such as our Family Movie Nights, the South Central Sports League, a Back to School Fest, Holiday Festival, Thanksgiving Dinner & Food Distribution, Dental and Eye Clinics, Legal Clinics and more! We are here for YOU!

APCH IS A GREAT PLACE TO VOLUNTEER!



The mission of our Volunteer Department is to mobilize APCH members and community volunteers year-round to address community needs and improve the world. At A Place Called Home we make work fun and there is lots of fun to be had! Each year up to 1,000 volunteers of all ages bring their hearts and hands to APCH. Many assist with our day-to-day programs, while others join us for special events. APCH volunteer opportunities can accommodate individual and group schedules to allow you to share your talents and skills.

We are pleased to recognize the amazing work that volunteers do every time they come through our doors. Recently we were able to award several volunteers with The President's Volunteer Service Award, a prestigious national honor in recognition of individuals, families and groups that have demonstrated a sustained commitment to volunteer service over 12 months. "We are extremely proud to recognize our most outstanding volunteers with the PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD," said Gilbert Radillo, Associate Director of Community Initiatives. "A Place Called Home volunteers are role models in our community and they bring us closer together as neighbors and a Nation."

A Place Called Home has a long proud history of volunteer service to meet the needs of their neighborhoods and the community. Set up your appointment today to become a valued member of the APCH family!

For more information or to apply, contact Ana Maria Perez Paulino—Volunteer Coordinator at: 323-232-7653 ext 2255 or email volunteer@apch.org

Volunteer Opportunities include:

Academic tutoring	Digital media	Fitness and Sports
Administration	Filmmaking	Nutrition
Art	Gardening	Teen Center
Computer Learning	Maintenance	
Dance	Music	

APCH HOSTS MORE THAN 800 VOLUNTEERS WHO CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN 20,000 HOURS ANNUALLY.

A CIRCLE OF THANKFULNESS



One of our favorite community events takes place every year on the day before Thanksgiving. It starts early in the morning when we distribute hundreds of turkeys and bags of groceries. Then we get busy cooking and prepping dinner for 1,000! Last year 130 volunteers of all ages joined us.

We are so grateful for the support of our dear friends at Herbalife! Also represented were Lifecrowd, Blush, ELAC, New Heights Entertainment, Inner-City Arts, KIISFM, Time Warner Cable, Great Leap, and the Actors Fund! The most fun of all is when families volunteer together, and sometimes the diners we serve turn right around after dinner and join the volunteer team! We are pleased to announce that our 2012 Thanksgiving Community Dinner and Grocery Distribution has gained a new sponsor in the Coldwell Banker Community Foundation. This is definitely a circle of thankfulness and everyone walks away feeling really full!

APCH FEST STARTS THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR OFF RIGHT!



A PLACE CALLED HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Dashing through the snow, hanging with my friends, A Place Called Home brings presents and joy at the Holidays again!

Is that snow in South Central???? You bet, and whenever the year comes to a close, thousands in our community come out to play and enjoy themselves and go home with new toys, books, clothes and other goodies. The line wraps around the corner as families wait their turn with smiles and anticipation. They knew there will be prezzies, but not until they come down our magical alley will they realize that APCH has a very special surprise in store— a Holiday Festival complete with snow, sledding, hot cocoa, seasonal music and even jolly old Saint Nick!

More than 3000 community members attend and we give away thousands of presents to infants, toddlers, elementary and middle schoolers and teens.

Thanks to the elves from Starbucks, Bank of America, HERBALIFE, our own APCH Teens, and other teams and individuals who help with decor, gift bags, refreshments, caroling, sledding, clean-up and much more. Special thanks to our amazing Leadership Council for spearheading the Gift Drive!

Has anyone seen the weather report for late December in Los Angeles...? We're just sayin....

In the largest event of its kind that we've had, APCH was pleased to be able to host more than 1,000 community members for our **2012 Annual Back to School Fest**.

We distributed more than 800 pairs of shoes and backpacks stuffed with school supplies, books and flash drives. Hundreds received emergency supply kits, and 41 of our young members received eye exams and were fitted for brand new eyeglasses — ALL FOR FREE!

Big ups and thanks to the sponsors and volunteers who made so many youngsters grin from ear to ear: **The Shoe Crew, VLADO Footwear, The Outdoor**

Recreation Group, TARGET, BIG SUNDAY, FEDEX GROUND, ING DIRECT, AMERICAN RED CROSS, KAISER PERMANENTE, TJX, The Black Pearl Book Club, VISION TO LEARN, Young Variety, WESCOM and Steve Winston.

"MAN CAN LIVE FORTY DAYS WITHOUT FOOD, THREE DAYS WITHOUT WATER, EIGHT MINUTES WITHOUT AIR, BUT ONLY FOR ONE SECOND WITHOUT HOPE." – AUTHOR UNKNOWN

BOWLING AND POKER FOR THE APCH CAUSE!



From Ryan Tedder to Akon, Jason Derulo and Howie Mandel, the stars were out in force. More than 400 celebrities and guests took to the lanes and poker tables for a night of fun at **A Place Called Home's 6th Annual Stars & Strikes Celebrity Bowling & Poker Tournament**. The dedication and long hours put in by APCH Leadership Council* superstars **Ty Bentli, Debbie Cerrito, Allison Crandall, Danielle Djansezian, Liz Hernandez, Jonathan Hodge, Jennifer Koster, Alex Larson, Lisa Masters, Tamara Muzac, Prophet, Lori Rischer, Louie Rubio, Marshall Smith and Maggie Venneri** paid off as the event raised more than \$200,000 for A Place Called Home.

A special shout-out to **Julie Pilat**, founding member of the Leadership Council and veteran of all six Stars & Strikes events. Julie now serves on our Board of Directors.

THANK YOU Whole Foods Market for donating a fresh, healthy and delicious dinner buffet. No fun bowling on an empty stomach!

SAVE THE DATE: NEXT STARS & STRIKES - MARCH 20, 2013 AT PINZ

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SERVES UNIQUE AND IMPORTANT ROLE



The APCH Leadership Council is a group of young professionals that works closely with the Executive Director and Board of Directors to support APCH and its mission. One of our goals is to serve on Board committees and stay in close touch with APCH staff, providing organizational efficiency and buttressing fund-raising efforts.

The Leadership Council's members are a diverse, young demographic with many different career paths. The intention is to bring their network to A Place Called Home's various events and fund-raising efforts. This has resulted in a younger

GIRLPOWER AWARDS LUNCHEON CELEBRATES WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Thank you to the honorees, event chairs and everyone who attended the 2012 APCH GirlPower Awards Luncheon at the Beverly Hills Hotel last May. Honorees **Louise Hamagami** and **Sydney Holland** were vibrant and we were thrilled to bestow the 2012 GirlPower Legacy Award, on **Faith Strong**. Longtime supporter extraordinaire, **Shondrella Avery**, and APCH Shaheen Scholar, **Berenice Bautista** emceed. Wow!

Of course, the young people owned the show. We are so proud of the GirlPower Girls. Elegant and poised, they shone bright and they will never forget the experience! Our dance company and band blew everybody away with their talent and professionalism.

The event raises funds for our GirlPower Project and other innovative programs that inspire inner-city youth to develop the strength of their minds and spirits, while teaching them life skills that will empower them to transition into healthy, productive adults.

SAVE THE DATE: GIRLPOWER AWARDS LUNCHEON - MAY 23, 2013



group of donors and tastemakers that otherwise may not have been aware of APCH and its mission.

Two signature Leadership Council events have become staples for the young Hollywood and young professional crowd of Los Angeles. Stars and Strikes for APCH is a premier bowling/poker event held in March of each year. 2013 will be the 7th year for this event and the Council's fundraising efforts and promotion for the APCH mission has grown each year from the outset. The A Place Called Home for the Holidays Toy Drive is the second event, held each year in winter, with a signature party event in December. The event is a celebration of the holidays and supports the mission of APCH by collecting toys and other gifts and raising awareness. It has been one of the main sources of gifts for the APCH annual A Place Called Home for the Holidays Festival toy/book/clothing giveaway held at the center each year.

It is an exciting time to be a Leadership Council member. We look forward to continuing to support and further the tremendous work APCH does on behalf of our community each and every day.

Would you like to get involved? Email: info@apch.org and write LEADERSHIP COUNCIL in the subject line.

A 2011 STUDY BY THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION INDICATES THAT 44% / 65,000 CHILDREN IN SOUTH CENTRAL LIVE IN POVERTY (ANNUAL INCOME OF \$22,113 OR LOWER FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR); AND 17% / 25,000 CHILDREN LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY (ANNUAL INCOME OF \$11,057 OR LOWER FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR).

**FOR ONE NIGHT EACH YEAR THE FANCIEST BALLROOM IN TOWN
IS TRANSFORMED INTO A PLACE CALLED HOME!**



L to R: Walden Media CEO Michael Bostick; Latham & Watkins Partner Peter Gilhuly; Gala Host Shondrella Avery; APCH Executive Director Jonathan Zeichner; Disney Executive Vice President of Marketing Frank Chiochi; APCH Board Chair Doug Atchison

Frank Chiochi, Michael Bostick and Peter Gilhuly – three amazing and committed people who genuinely make a difference – were honored at APCH's 2011 Gala for Children. As always, it's the youth of A Place Called Home who were the real stars of the evening. Our Youth Ambassadors warmly welcomed guests, and the APCH dancers and band put on an outstanding show! Over the course of the evening APCH families, members and alums touched the hearts of all with stories about how APCH helps them face adversity and build up their lives. The 2011 Gala raised more than \$900,000 dollars to support our programs for thousands of young people, families and community members throughout the year!



On December 5, 2012 at the Beverly Wilshire we are thrilled to be honoring three amazing honorees, including longtime APCH Board member, **Robert Israel**. It's going to be another great evening overflowing with hope, fun and surprises. Please join us! For more information, please call Rebecca Mizrahi at Grant Associates, at 323-904-4400 or visit our website: apch.org.
Save the Date! December 5, 2012.

SAVE THE DATE!

GALA

FOR THE CHILDREN

2012

DECEMBER 5, 2012

The Beverly Wilshire

"WHATEVER YOU CAN DO OR DREAM, YOU CAN BEGIN IT. BOLDNESS HAS GENIUS, MAGIC AND POWER IN IT. BEGIN IT NOW."
- GOETHE



Heidi gets a guitar from L.A. Women in Music - thanks! • Summer Surf Camp!

WHAT WE DO!

HIKE in Eaton Canyon • APCH loves the Dodgers! • PROJECTS in our Educational Services dept.

3D MOVIE NIGHT was cool • Summer fun at the Santa Monica Pier! • Getting out of the City!

Going for that dunk! • Beating the heat at swimming class • Soloing in a sailboat

COOKING is fun • Concert pianist in the making • Horses in the Hood • Wheeeee!

APCH YOUTH AMBASSADORS - beautiful!

HOME FOR WORDS

POETRY BY OUR MEMBERS

RECIPE FOR A FRIEND

1 gallon of funny
10 cups of cool
1 gallon of nice
1 quart of awesome
1,000 cups of playful
3 quarts of careful
100 gallons of respect
10 teaspoons of helpful
90 spoons of love

Mix together for 9 months
And enjoy for a lifetime

– Liliana

Your Appearance to me seems natural
Your eyes shine
Bright as the stars.
Your Mouth is smooth
As a baby's skin
Haven't seen you lately.
It seems you have disappeared
Just like silhouettes do in the fog
When you walk
And walk and walk
Until you fade away.
This is the time
When I need you here to keep me
company
& support me
When I'm down.
Inspire me
To do better in life
People have been saying
That you have inspired them.
Your actions in life
Have been special to me.
I just want to say
Thank you

– Cindy Torres

We are not used to courage
We are banished from happiness
We all live in the same place as
loneliness
Love makes us happier
When we get it
It helps us bring life
Into our world

– Lilian Z.

MOVE

A lot of people
Can't feel what I feel today
They are different

I feel like flying fast
But I only have one wing
Together we fly

People move a lot
Like black ants and buzzing bees
Learn to stop in life

Running fast and slow
Trying to stop in one place
Where is that live place?

That place is right here
The magical place you are
To live and die there

– Daniel Martinez

I'm Ice, you are cream
I'm In you and you in me
We are sweet, we are nice
We are kind, we are soft
We are so innocent, like pillows
That help us sleep tight at night
Like you and me my sweet
Nice, kind, soft, tasty
Ice cream
We don't hurt each other
And that is
Right

– Maria Aguilar

I wanna win you over like when the
Dodgers beat the Yankees.
I wanna love you crazy like Romeo did
Juliet
Forever like the stars in the sky
Steady like the sun
Complicated like algebra
And blind like Helen Keller
That's how I wanna love you

– Kimberly Z. & Evelin F.

ENLIGHT

When times get hard
Always look to the stars
Follow your dreams
And you will get far
Open your eyes and you will see
That we are not blind
All we need is enlightenment
From there we will fly
If your soul is heavy
With discouragement
Remember this
Always reach for the sky
That's when we will all fly

– David O.

I saw her on the train
I made a plan
And sang her a song
She loved it all
Both of us were thieves
I stole her heart
And she stole mine
No police reports
Burglars in love

– Ashy Boy

It's like a game
Taking everything like a joke
Making people laugh like
If they had laughing gas
Grow up to the future
It won't be the same
As it comes upon you
All your fears of being a
Grown up are almost here.
Marrying someone you love
And playing with the little people
With grape bodies
And their little feet and hands
That,
That's the next level.

– Juan Hernandez

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

With deep appreciation, we honor two extraordinary men as they transition off the APCH Board of Directors:

Peter Gilhuly, Partner in the law firm of Latham & Watkins, joined our Board in 1997 when his firm began providing legal support. As Chair of the Board and Strategic Planning Committee, Peter has overseen APCH's evolution, including the development of our partnership with the Berklee College of Music. At our 2012 Gala, Peter was recognized for his devotion to APCH and the thousands of youngsters whose lives are better because of his leadership. Thank you, Peter, Namhee and your whole family, for your outstanding commitment to APCH.

Stephen Winston, Director of Wealth Management, Senior Investment Management Consultant at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, supports many local and national charities, and he has been a champion in raising resources to sustain APCH as it has grown. Joining the Board in 1998, Steve launched

our first Gala for the Children in 2001 and in 2011 he was honored for his leadership and philanthropy at APCH. Thank you, Steve, Jan and your whole family for coming through for the youth and families of A Place Called Home.

We welcome Peter and Steve as Lifetime Trustees, a title reserved for longtime directors who have served with distinction. We love you guys!

WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Jessica Rich has been a senior advertising executive for Sony Pictures and 20th Century Fox. Her advocacy for improving quality of life and education for young people led her to A Place Called Home, where she is already making a significant impact with her contribution of time, energy and resources in support of our work and growth.



Alan Melina is President of New Heights Entertainment, an internationally-renowned personal management company working with many of the most awarded and in-demand producers and songwriters on the global music stage, including RedOne, Adam Anders and OFM. During Melina's 40-year career in music his clients have sold over 1 billion records, from David Bowie and Sade to Lady Gaga. Melina is active in numerous charities and foundations including the Neil Bogart Foundation for Pediatric Cancer Research and RedOne's 2101 Foundation.

JOIN THE APCH FAMILY - YOUR DONATION PROVIDES IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT TO YOUTH IN SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES

All APCH programs are free to the children and families we serve and any amount will make a difference!

HERE ARE SOME APPROXIMATE COSTS FOR THE PROGRAMS WE PROVIDE:

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

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

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

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

(Please make check payable to **A Place Called Home**, 2830 South Central Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90011)

Name on credit card: _____ Card #: _____ Exp: / /
Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

- ☐ Please make this gift in memory/honor of: _____
- ☐ My company will make a matching gift, I have enclosed the form
- ☐ Please do not include my name in any list of published donors
- ☐ I am interested in naming APCH in my estate plan. Please contact me at _____
- ☐ I am interested in contributing to the APCH Endowment. Please contact me at _____
- ☐ I am interested in volunteer opportunities at APCH. Please contact me at _____
- ☐ I am interested in learning more about serving on the Board of Directors or Leadership Council

Changing The World Starts At Home THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Support APCH member families and children with acute financial needs with contributions of clothing, household staples, toys and food.

To enroll as an Adopt-a-Family Donor, please complete form and return by fax or mail.

A Place Called Home
Attn: Adopt-a-Family Case Manager
2830 S. Central Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90011
fax (323) 232-0139

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____

I would like to participate in:

- ☐ HOPE (year round essentials) ☐ Holiday Edition

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

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

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

Over
51 million Americans
go hungry each year.

In South Los Angeles
more than a third
of families live
below the
Federal Poverty Line.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY
a place called home



FROM DOUG ATCHISON, OUTGOING CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Serving as the APCH Board Chair for three years has been an extraordinarily gratifying experience. I have been witness to the work of so many extremely talented and dedicated people as they've revitalized the mission of the agency, expanded our outreach, and solidified our financial support – resulting in the further empowerment of the underserved young people of South LA.

With complete confidence, I pass the baton to our new Board Chair, Cyrus Hadidi, who for the past five years has distinguished himself as our outstanding Treasurer. Cyrus is a dedicated, compassionate, and resourceful leader, who always puts the needs of APCH's kids first. As Treasurer, Cyrus oversaw the necessary steps we took in 2008 to streamline our budget and weather the country's financial storm. More recently, Cyrus helped guide the Board to approve a budget restored beyond our 2008 levels -- because he recognized that the robust leadership of our executive director Jonathan Zeichner, the effectiveness of our staff, and the keen oversight of our Board has allowed APCH to grow in a smart and sustainable way.

I'm confident that growth will continue with Cyrus helming our Board and Jonathan continuing to run the center in an exemplary fashion. At our last Board Retreat, we were able to begin planning the physical expansion of the center, so that we will soon be able to help even more young people in South LA finish school, find work, and lead productive and satisfying lives.

I will continue to serve on the APCH Board as a Co-Vice Chair, alongside Dawn Taubin. I also look forward to working with our stellar new Treasurer, Ann Irmas, as well as Maryellen Zarakas, who brings her talents to the role of Secretary.

In this time of transition and growth, what remains the same is the APCH Board of Directors' unflagging commitment to the young people of A Place Called Home and the cause of social justice in South Los Angeles.



FROM CYRUS HADIDI, NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

A Place Called Home was built on dreams that began with Debrah Constance, who saw an opportunity to create an oasis of hope for the South Central community. Over time, that dream has been nurtured by many people who contributed what they could to enrich and nourish APCH. From the incredible staff at the center, who forgo other opportunities to dedicate themselves to serving others, to the many volunteers who spend precious hours in service, to the donors who make giving back a priority, the dream of APCH has been made a reality.

Doug Atchison has been devoted to this dream for a decade. Starting first as a mentor at the center, he took the initiative to develop the Leadership Council, an adjunct advisory committee to the Board. He helped start Stars and Strikes, now one of APCH's most important (and certainly most fun) fundraising events. After joining the Board of Directors, his commitment to the members and devotion to the APCH dream made him a natural choice for Board Chair. For the past three years, Doug has set an example of patient and loving leadership that will be difficult to follow. All of us who care about APCH owe Doug a debt of gratitude. Doug, thank you for your service, and for your continuing guidance as Vice Chair.

This is an exciting time for APCH. We are committed to both increasing the number of members we serve and expanding the breadth of the programs we offer. Given the continuing challenging economic environment, this will not be easy. This environment, however, only makes the task more important. Let's continue building on Debrah's beautiful dream, together.

Debrah Constance

Founder

Jonathan Zeichner

Executive Director

APCH Board of Directors

Cyrus Hadidi

Chairman

Doug Atchison

Co-Vice Chairman

Dawn Taubin

Co-Vice Chairman

Ann Irmas

Treasurer

Maryellen Zarakas

Secretary

Florence Azria

Robyn M. Browning

Debbie Cerrito

Sister Patricia Connor, RSHM

Hannah Cox

Jill Goldman

Louise Hamagami

Jonathan Hodge

Robert Israel

Alan Melina

Julie Pilat

Jessica Rich

Howard Sherwood

Stephanie Sherwood

Marshall Wax

Lifetime Directors

Robert Davidow

Peter M. Gilhuly, ESQ.

Kenneth Karmin

Bruce Newberg

Stephen Winston

APCH Leadership Council

Debbie Cerrito

Co-Chair

Jonathan Hodge

Co-Chair

Danielle Djansezian

Secretary

Allison Crandall

Sarah Duru

Ashley Evans

Jennifer Koster

Alex Larson

Lisa Masters

Tamara Muzac, MBA

Prophet

Lori Rischer

Louie Rubio

Marshall Smith

Maggie Venneri



2830 South Central Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90011-2037

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COMING SOON:
STORIES FROM HOME
An APCH Original CD
Check apch.org for details!

APCH Calendar OF EVENTS

2012	what	when & where	details	get involved
OCTOBER 26	Fall Festival/Halloween Party	APCH All day	APCH Treats the kids to a spooktacular day of haunting events!	Calling all volunteers. Please email volunteer@apch.org
NOVEMBER 21	APCH Coldwell Banker Community Dinner & Food Distribution	APCH All Day	APCH Distributes Groceries and Serves Dinner for 1,200 community members in need.	Calling all volunteers. Please email volunteer@apch.org
DECEMBER 5	APCH Gala for the Children		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 7	Tree Lighting Ceremony & Movie Night	APCH 5pm – 8pm	Join us for our Tree Lighting Ceremony & stay for hot chocolate & Movie Night. Make sure to bring warm blankets for the whole family!	Bring an ornament & join the fun! Volunteers needed, please email volunteer@apch.org
TBD	Christmas Holiday Toy, Book & Clothing Drive	An amazing party venue TBA	A hip & fun holiday party at one of the hottest spots in L.A. Admission: \$20 or a new \$20 toy	Visit www.apch.org for details
DECEMBER 19	A Place Called Home for the Holidays Festival Preparation	APCH	Help us decorate the Center & sort toys, books & clothing to be distributed to South LA families	Calling all volunteers. Please email volunteer@apch.org
DECEMBER 20	A Place Called Home for the Holidays Festival & Gift Distribution	APCH	A fun & festive day for hundreds of South Central families in need	To volunteer, email volunteer@apch.org
DECEMBER 24 – JAN 1	APCH Holiday Break		APCH closed to Members Center reopens Wednesday, January 2, 2013	
2013	what	when & where	details	get involved
JANUARY 5	Jive Live New Year's Run	Downtown L.A. 7th Street & Grand Avenue	Join the Race! Train up and get ready for the first annual Jive Live New Year's Race, with APCH as the Official Charity!	Help raise funds and get fit! Register to join APCH's team. Get more info: http://www.newyearsrace.com/partners-charities
JANUARY 21	Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service Volunteer Awards Ceremony	APCH	Join us as we recognize our outstanding volunteers.	For more information contact Ana Maria at volunteer@apch.org
MARCH 20	Stars & Strikes Celebrity Bowling & Poker Tournament	6pm – Midnight PINZ in Studio City	The APCH Leadership Council's annual fundraising event. Celebrities & guests take to the lanes & poker tables for a nonstop night of fun for the cause!	For ticket & sponsorship information please contact Scott Culbertson at 323-232-7653 x2238 or scott@apch.org
March 16 & 17	Los Angeles Marathon (3/17) & 5K Walk/Run (3/16)	Morning start time TBD	If crossing the finish line after running or walking 5K or 26.2 miles while helping APCH sounds like something you want to do, let us sign you up!	Please check our website or contact Scott Culbertson at 323-232-7653 x2238 or scott@apch.org
MARCH 25 - 31	APCH Spring Break		APCH Closed to Members. Center reopens on Monday, April 1	
APRIL 12 - 13	Cinderella & Prince Charming Pay it Forward Project		South Los Angeles teens learn about inner beauty and strength, and outer generosity, and go home with fabulous dresses & suits for Prom & Graduation.	Donate dresses or suits. To volunteer, email: cinderellaproject@apch.org
	A PLACE CALLED HOME Celebrates its 20th Anniversary!			
MAY 5	Big Sunday (Even though it's Saturday)	APCH 10am – 4pm	Calling skilled handy men and women to help beautify APCH. Volunteer today!	Calling all volunteers. Please email volunteer@apch.org
MAY 23	GirlPower Awards Luncheon & Boutique	The Beverly Hills Hotel 10am – 2pm	This event raises funds for the APCH GirlPower Project & other APCH programs that inspire inner-city youth	For ticket & sponsorship information please contact Rebecca Mizrahi at 323-904-4400 or rebecca@grantevents.com

WANT TO LEARN MORE AND GET MORE INVOLVED? CALL TODAY TO JOIN ONE OF OUR MONTHLY TOURS AT APCH. (323) 232-7653 ext. 2237