

HOME FROM THE FRONT



apch.org



A PLACE CALLED HOME CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF LOVE AND COMMUNITY THE PATH AHEAD IS INSPIRED



Like all parents, the mothers and fathers of South Central want the best for their children— safe streets, good schools and opportunities for healthy and productive futures. For two decades APCH has been helping South Central families overcome adversity by providing safety, support, and pathways to success. More than 17,000 young people have crossed our threshold as we have grown from a church basement to a 25,000 square foot community hub for youth from 8-21 years old.

Every day APCH provides dynamic, engaging programs in education, nutrition, counseling, the arts, athletics, college and vocational preparation and mentoring. In 2013 we assisted 82 students from South Central L.A. to attend college – 80 of them first in their families to do so! We celebrate them and thousands of other beautiful young people who have overcome great odds in the neighborhood and gone on to become teachers, artists, engineers, leaders and contributing citizens who are making the world a better place.

**THE VICTORIES HAPPEN DAILY, ONE YOUNG PERSON AT A TIME,
ONE CLASS AT A TIME, ONE BREAKTHROUGH AT A TIME.**

"I saw a story about a girl involved with gangs who found help there and the very next day Nia, Ethan and I walked into A Place Called Home. We learned about all the programs, and my kids' eyes lit up. From then on we were there every day. Nia danced and did homework. Ethan joined the gang prevention program and told me, 'Mom, I don't have to go through what Raymond and Joshua did.' That was nine years ago." — Barbara Ivory Jackson

Barbara found APCH after her two older sons joined gangs and one was shot and the other imprisoned. Her two younger children are APCH members. Ethan is an APCH Shaheen Scholar who recently got his engineering degree, and Nia continues to dance toward her future at APCH.

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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.

changing the world starts at home

2013/14
a place called home

INSIGHTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

20 years ago, A Place Called Home didn't exist, except as a dream in the heart of Debrah Constance, who had been battered and bruised and had struggled her whole life to find a safe place where she could truly belong. And, then APCH became real... and the rest, as they say...



Four years ago when I accepted the post of Executive Director here, I convened a circle of APCH members, parents, staff and volunteers to learn more about the needs in the neighborhood and the aspirations of our diverse APCH community. The Stakeholders Circle has since become an annual tradition that informs a lot of what we do as an agency.

In the Circle, everyone "talks story," we get to know each other, and what emerges are everyone's concerns, needs and ideas, which are transformed into action plans.

It's an inspirational day and I am always reminded that facing great obstacles doesn't stop people from envisioning a better life and aspiring to greatness... unless they lose hope.

At 20 years old, Place Called Home does many things: education, the arts, counseling, nutrition, athletics, college, job preparation... the list goes on and on. But, at the end of the day, the intention today is the same as it was in 1993 and the recipe is indelibly imbedded in our DNA:

- Start with pure love, vision, dedication and joy,
- Create a safe, warm, fun and dynamic environment,
- Add multidisciplinary programs that really work and can grow,
- Find, train and entrust talented, passionate staffers who genuinely care,
- Open the doors to include as many young people and families as you can fit in,
- Invite everyone to bring their dreams and aspirations,
- Empower them as partners in creating change and making the world a better place.
- Add hope. Mix thoroughly. Work hard and watch closely...
- As dreams become realities.

And, don't forget to celebrate! When the children at A Place Called Home succeed, we all do.

Yours in Service,

Jonathan Zeichner
P.S. Debrah, congratulations, your baby is 20 years old— you did it – we love you!!



WHEN IN DOUBT CHOOSE LOVE

>>> continued from page 1

"My home was a violent place. The staff at APCH were role models for me – they still are. I wanted to be that grownup that was helpful to everyone, who had a good job and made a difference. I began to take extra classes and stay after to help, partially so I wouldn't have to go home, but also because I had a new reason to excel. I had hope." — Gisell

Gisell joined APCH at 8 years old. She is now a college graduate and aspires to be a teacher or a counselor. In summer 2013, she worked at APCH and was a role model for hundreds of youngsters on the path to a better life.

"One time I stole from a teacher—I was kicked out of school. I was always mad and the only future I could see was joining a gang and making it as a criminal. Now, at APCH, I have found a space for the part of me that wants to do art, that wants to accomplish my goals, that wants to be a man who says something and then does it.

That's what success would look like for me." — Omar

Omar was on the verge of being a gang statistic in South Central. At APCH he is fighting the odds and making better decisions about his life and future.

Sadly, gun violence is still a present danger for every child in South Central, street gangs still prey on vulnerable youth, and the options for making a better life are elusive. As we begin our 21st year, we are as committed as ever. APCH serves 300+ young people every day, and we have a waiting list of 200 more. We are determined to continue growing our capacity, expanding our offerings, and deepening the impact of our programs on the lives of the young people and families we serve. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOYALTY AND SUPPORT!**



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

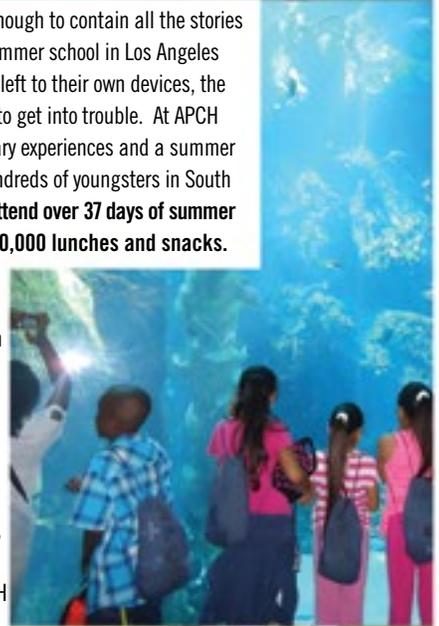


2013: ANOTHER MEMORABLE SUMMER AT APCH



Truthfully, this newsletter is not big enough to contain all the stories of a summer at APCH. With no public summer school in Los Angeles anymore, thousands of young people are left to their own devices, the streets, all-day TV and all kinds of ways to get into trouble. At APCH we provide all-day safety, fun, education, challenge, extraordinary experiences and a summer that creates lifelong beautiful friendships and memories for hundreds of youngsters in South Central. Here's a peek at how we do it: **More than 500 children attend over 37 days of summer fun for: Hundreds of classes; 82 field trips; 3 beach trips; 20,000 lunches and snacks.**

Our Art Studio keeps members in a perpetual state of creativity, making sculptures, building puppets, creating wood carvings, and designing and screen-printing! In the Education Services Department, our members learn about geology, the food pyramid, and anatomy. Our Dance Studio pumps out a steady beat of Latin, Hip-Hop, Jazz, & Pop tunes accompanied by stomping feet, clapping hands, and rhythmic moves all day long! In our Music Studio, members play steel drums, djembe drums, guitar, and piano, and the APCH Band performs weekly, while the Athletics Department has kids in constant motion with soccer tournaments, basketball games, Parkour, and APCH Olympics training! Peaches and strawberries from the Garden, smoothies from the Kitchen, bandaids from the nurse... this is summer full speed!!!



*"I love seeing the Members grow through their team effort, self development, and leadership in summer sailing –APCH Volunteer
"I loved Horses in the Hood. It was fun riding the horses." – APCH member, Sariya
"Surf Camp is awesome—we play at the beach all day and get to ride the waves. It's great!" – APCH member, Kayla*





DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

After close to four years of service as the Director of Programs at A Place Called Home, I join the APCH community in witnessing a blossoming of many efforts that were planted over the past few years, but seeded twenty years ago with the founding of this institution. First and foremost is the addition and retention of an

extremely talented, committed, and energized group of program staff members who have consistently brought their excellence and loving skill to this community of youth. Their efforts and generosity of spirit cannot be acknowledged enough. 2013 marked our first annual Health and Garden Expo, with five hundred community participants in attendance and an abundance of clinics, presentations, entertainment, and exhibitors. 2013 also saw a dramatic increase in our parent participation, and our competitive sports leagues have grown to include full seasons in basketball, soccer, and flag football. Our Education Services Department has initiated assessments that allow us to more specifically assist our members in areas where they may be academically deficient, and our Bridge to the Future teen department has almost doubled its daily attendance and expanded teen centric classes, college tour opportunities, mentoring and leadership development. In 2013 our APCH Shaheen Scholarship program hit a milestone with more than 80 students participating, and our Music Department had an abundance of performances, including a presentation at City Hall celebrating Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's farewell, with special guests, President Bill Clinton and Stevie Wonder.

We still have many growth opportunities to fulfill, and with clear goals and a strategic focus, our twenty years of service to this community are the roots and and we are enthusiastically starting the next twenty. Join us! We need you!

Tarabu Betserai Kirkland
Tarabu Betserai Kirkland, Director of Programs



GOT HEART?

Each day a group of students eagerly waits outside our **Art Studio**, just itching for the door to open so they can burst in and become superstar artists in search of new creative mediums and opportunities. Last fall, we partnered for the third time with CreateFixate, to showcase our artwork at Lot 613 alongside works from professional artists. Soon after, Omar Aquino's t-shirt design was chosen for the inaugural 2013 New Year's Race 5K Run. This spring we offered a new teen fashion design class, where students learned pattern drafting, assembly and styling. We visited the L.A. Fashion District to select supplies for our projects, and it all culminated with a fashion show!

One humungous opportunity this year was the chance to collaborate on a new mural with world famous street artist David Choe. Sixteen APCH members from 8-18 years old contributed sketches and David showed them how to turn their creations into larger than life public art. Using acrylic and spray-paint, the APCH/Choe team completed an amazing 40-foot long mural on one of our athletic field walls, where it will be enjoyed and appreciated for years to come.

Daily inspired and emboldened, our students are growing more and more ambitious and creative in their endeavors. Whether learning new printmaking techniques or how to create soft sculptures with scrap fabric, or making jewelry with the cool guys from Bead Relief, APCH artists are always on the lookout for new ways to activate their heARTS!

APCH HOMEFRONT STAFF NEWS!



APCH is all about the love, and we joyfully congratulate Bridge to the Future Manager **Lucretia Taylor**, and Associate Director of Community Initiatives **Gilbert Radillo** – both married in the summer of 2013 (not to each other), and Music Department Coordinator **Charles Kim**, who got engaged! We'd also like to welcome all our recent new staffers, and our three fantastic VISTA volunteers: **Nivia Alvarado**, **Sarah Kimbrough**, and **Patrick Duffy**. We're fortunate to be able to attract such talented and dedicated staff and volunteers. If you're interested in working at APCH, please visit our website and click on EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. We are growing, so check back often!

LET THERE BE LIGHT!



Did you know that we have a steady waiting list of 200+ young people who we just don't have the capacity to serve? That's why we keep growing and making improvements throughout our campus. In 2013, thanks to the support of the Ahmanson Foundation and a number of private donors and guests at our 2012 Gala, we upgraded our restrooms and installed skylights throughout our main building– what a difference to have daylight streaming in!!! On the drawing board: adding new restrooms and converting our warehouse into a Teen Center and Performing Arts/Gallery Space. There is so much more to come! Please be in touch if you would like to help us expand and improve even more!

BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPS TEENS' LIFE SKILLS AND OFFERS ACCESS TO A WORLD OUTSIDE SOUTH CENTRAL

20 FACTS ABOUT BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE:

1. Our Teen Center daily welcomed an average of 60 APCH members aged 14-21, and worked to help them successfully transition into adulthood.
2. GirlPower celebrated 15 young women who completed an 8-month rites of passage program that culminated with the GirlPower Awards Luncheon.
3. 14 male teens participated in Journey, a rites of passage program for boys who are becoming men.
4. Our teens visited 17 colleges up and down the California coast.
5. We launched L.I.F.E Mentoring, a program that pairs members with caring adults in the community for one full year of interaction and inspiration.
6. SAT preparation courses were provided in the Fall and Spring, serving 40 students who are preparing to apply to college.
7. We offered daily tutoring in Language Arts, Math and Science.
8. We sent nearly 90 young people to college!
9. We launched an Independent Living Skills class in the fall.
10. 35 teens received financial literacy education.
11. 20 teens received 30 hours of job readiness training.
12. 32 APCH members participated in our in-house paid internships.
13. Two of our students traveled to Japan for the summer.
14. Teen workshops included: Anti-Bullying, Drug Abuse Prevention, Sex Education, Personal Hygiene, Writing, and many more, all designed to help teens make positive choices in life
15. We offered a weekly speakers' series to expose members to different career paths.
16. Members visited professional workplaces to learn firsthand about different career opportunities.
17. We provided college preparation support, including selecting courses, applying to college, financial aid, and tutoring.
18. We launched a new teen boxing and esteem building program.
19. More than 20 teen members participated in CAHSEE and GED preparation so they could successfully graduate from high school.
20. Our teens participated in weekly community service projects.

INDIVIDUALIZED IN-DEPTH CARE FOR OUR MEMBERS AND FAMILIES

In addition to our daily program opportunities, **Counseling and Case Management** are essential components of our service delivery in the South Central L.A. community. **The APCH Davidow Counseling Center** provides ongoing individualized counseling for members and their families, and our case manager connects them to vital resources within the community.

When a family has acute needs, our case manager may include them in our **Adopt-a-Family** program, which activates generous donors to provide aid for more than 100 impoverished families each year. APCH member families are supported with contributions of clothing, household furniture and appliances, toys and, very importantly, fresh food. The program began several years ago with a focus on the winter holidays, but is now running year-round. To become a donor, simply visit our website and click on GET INVOLVED and then ADOPT-A-FAMILY. There is a form to complete and you can also send an email or call for assistance! Of course, once you adopt a family at APCH, you become part of the APCH family!



AND THE BEAT GOES ON!!!

Every day our recording studio is filled to capacity with young people who have stories to tell... through music! Together we take songs all the way from idea to finished product by composing, playing, singing, arranging, producing, recording and engineering. In 2013 our **Audio Recording and Music Production** class is producing a new original album with the eclectic artistic stylings and technical chops of a couple dozen APCH members, and guest partners such as Nick Bailey & Ryan Ogren from the awesome band Runner Runner, and the amazing Eric Bellinger who has written songs for Usher and Jennifer Hudson. At APCH, music is written in the key of life (nod to Stevie!) and we are opening doors to college and music careers by teaching professional skills and work ethics. On a regular basis we have world class artists, technical geniuses and the hottest producers in the house, and our young people are like sponges, soaking in the knowledge and the inspiration. Amazing! As always, thanks to our main man for his support, RedOne!! To catch our vibe, check out our original CD's at apch.org or on iTunes!



DIGITAL MEDIA - APCH IS ON THE CUTTING EDGE

The **Digital Media Department** is having so much fun! Thanks to the strong support of Sony Pictures Entertainment over the past few years, we have built a great equipment inventory for digital filmmaking and photography and in 2013 we launched a Teen Digital Photography class, which filled up immediately. Along with filmmaking and digital design, our computer lab is full all the time.

Most of the students had never used a high quality digital camera before. Every Tuesday for two hours, the teens learn an extra tidbit of technical and conceptual information relating to photography and life – and then they take photos... of themselves, each other, the other kids, APCH, the garden, the neighborhood, etc. In Spring 2013 our teens curated their first Digital Photography Show! As the Young Creatives for Create:Fixate, our Teen Digital Photography Class: Amanda, Angelica, Francisco, Jose, Melissa, Sesileia, Xelha and Yolanda were able to hang their photos alongside professional artists in a real gallery. Five of the eight moved on to college in Fall 2013, so this was truly an experience to remember.



JOYFUL NOISE AT APCH

While most middle and high schoolers may be sleeping in on Saturday mornings, our APCH Music students are rehearsing new music and prepping for complex performances. Among the many highlights in 2013, this year's musicians can brag about playing on the same stage as Stevie Wonder and jamming with L.A.'s outgoing Mayor Villaraigosa during his historic farewell event at City Hall.

The Music Department wishes seven seniors from our band well, as they head off to college, two of them to our partner, the great Berklee College of Music! (And three more were able to attend Berklee's 5-week summer program in Boston.)

The Music Department continues to melodically burst at the seams in more ways than one. Our talent pool is increasing, which increases our need for space and instruments (we are teaching 15 instruments now!). We continue to upgrade our music and production technology and are teaching students cutting-edge computer music production applications and software. Our fourth original CD will be released in Fall 2013 and can be purchased on our website and at iTunes – check it out!

We are looking forward to another grand year of recitals, exciting community performances, and daily enriching experiences for our students. A huge shout out to our amazing instructors who bring non-stop talent and commitment every day. We also thank our generous program sponsors, volunteers and interns who provide the support to make sure we can deliver the best to our students.

Come join us for an event or just stop by and hang out. Feel free to jam if you like. The students would love to have you! And, if you have a working instrument collecting dust somewhere, please consider donating it to APCH so we can polish it up and bring it back to life!



MOVE YOUR BODY... OPEN YOUR MIND

The Dance Department at APCH takes pride in supporting its members by exposing them to opportunities they may not receive at just about any other youth center. Whether it's a field trip to see a college dance company or learning some of the world dance styles available here in Los Angeles, APCH Dance is a portal to a new world and for many it's the beginning of a new creative life.

In 2013, through the generosity of the Los Angeles Music Center, APCH dancers participated in three different events with the nationally acclaimed Alvin Ailey Dance Theater. The first event was Rocka Your Soul LA, held at Grand Ave. Park, where members learned choreography from the iconic dance masterpiece "Revelations" that has been performed on stages worldwide. Next, was a live Ailey workshop in the dance studio at A Place Called Home, where 60 young dancers participated in a modern dance class taught by legendary Ailey dancer, Renee Robinson. The grand finale was a sold-out matinee at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion where 20 APCH dancers witnessed the main company on stage – inspirational! As our dancers absorb all these influences, we are seeing the results in their moves and in the way they think about the whole, big world out there...

Not all of our dancers will become professional performers, but the skills, discipline and confidence they develop in our dance studio will be art of them for the rest of their lives.

APCH = LEARNING HOW TO LEARN

Our Educational Services Department has been reconfigured and expanded this year, and now provides more than 20 offerings, including: 4 Homework Groups, 2 Academic Focus Classes, 2 Math/Language Arts Focus Classes, 1 Computer-Based Homework & Special Projects Group, 5 One-on-One Tutors, 8 Friday classes, and homework assistance for up to 175 members during daily Drop-In Homework sessions. The new structure has allowed us to meet our goal of maintaining class size at 20.

Our new Homework Coordinator assists with computer-based homework and special school projects, a group that is always full! Our new Language Arts Tutor assists with homework and personal statements for college applications and leads CAHSEE (California High School Exit Examination) prep classes. On Fridays, members enjoy classes such as Poets, Forgotten History, Art of Creation (music and literacy), Agents of Discovery (study skills) and Around the World in 20 Days (geography).

Our 1-year anniversary of administering MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessments has produced a Spring 2012 – Spring 2013 academic growth chart for a cross-section of our members, providing essential documentation to further fine tune our academic programs to support APCH members in their academic goals. Thank you members, parents and staff for getting this done!



As leaders in APCH's Learning Community approach, our Ed. Services staff has participated in trainings for culturally relevant/responsive education, Visual Thinking Strategies, arts integrated learning, and Bilingual Education professional development, as well as trainings on classroom management, student engagement and parent communication. Our staff is committed to extending APCH's institutional knowledge and tool base with which to build a constructivist, learner-centered, collaborative, arts integrated curriculum to address areas of academic need for our members, as we prepare them to excel.

Finally, our APCH Library will soon be visible online as we re-organize with our first web-based Library system. Our culturally relevant Library continues to develop and will soon boast 20 sections for greater diversity and accessibility. Got books? If they are in good shape and appropriate for our 8-21 year-olds, we want them!



CARE + EXERCISE + EDUCATION + FUN = HEALTH!

The **APCH Athletics Department** occupies the largest area of our South Central oasis. With dozens of members on the basketball court and athletic field every afternoon, there is never a dull moment. Did you know that A Place Called Home hosts the South Central Sports League, including great organizations like All Peoples Community Center, Heart of Los Angeles, LAPD Newton Division/PAL, the Challengers Boys & Girls Club and a growing list of community partners? Like everything at APCH, joining our sports league is **ABSOLUTELY FREE**, and includes Soccer, Basketball and Flag Football! The cost to participants is a string work ethic and regular attendance on the part of the players **AND** the parents.

This year we added Field Hockey, Golf, and Volleyball to our activity roster, and the APCH Running Club represented in the JiveLive New Year's Half Marathon and 5k Run.

Soon to come: Olympic shot-put, track & field and rugby.

At APCH we provide nourishment for the mind, spirit and body, and physical fitness includes more than exercise. Through nutrition and anatomy classes, our students are taking responsibility for their own bodies and health maintenance. Through being part of a team, our members learn about partnership and leadership. Consider 12-year old David—until he was chosen as a co-leader in our New Year's Run, David had shown no interest in athletics. Now he is an APCH Superstar and has become a fitness role model for his peers.

At APCH we provide members with a safe place to play, dedicated staff to watch over them, and quality equipment to enjoy. Your support for our Athletics Department is welcome!

APCH GETS REAL ABOUT FOOD

With diet and health issues continuing as urgent issues in our neighborhood, our **Garden to Table** concept is committed to exposing APCH members to healthy choices via our organic garden and the 4,000+ made-from-scratch meals our APCH Casa Herbalife serves in an average month. We are constantly examining the nutritional content of our recipes and developing innovative ways to keep our menus healthy and tasty for young people. And we will be increasing our commitment to empowering children to enjoy making their own foods with a new **Urban Garden Oasis** program about to launch from the drawing board into the real world with several new classes to roll out over the next year.

First, the **APCH Edible Garden** for elementary and middle school members will teach essential life skills and support academic learning through hands-on classes in the organic garden and kitchen classroom. Students will learn firsthand how food choices affect their health, the environment and their communities, and will participate in growing, harvesting, and preparing nutritious, seasonal produce, sharing the fruits of their labor around a communal table.

Second, our new **Food Justice** class for teens will be committed to dismantling racism and classism in the food system, and asserting all people's right to access to healthy and culturally appropriate food, produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, locally and globally.

These and other components will start up in fall 2013, and evolve as our nutritional staff, members, horticulturist, interns, and community partners focus on making the APCH Urban Garden Oasis a sustainable program that will last year after year.

Chef Jorge and the kitchen staff are proud and happy that the kitchen is often referred to as "the heart of the APCH home." We are committed to the children's nourishment and growth and will continue to nourish the joy of making and eating healthy food, starting with gardening and harvesting. A'Sante – to your health!

PLANTS AND CHILDREN GROW IN APCH GARDEN

My name is Carter Wallace, and I'm the new Garden Manager at APCH. I'm so excited to join the APCH community, and have loved getting to know so many members who really care about growing organic food and tending nature at APCH.

The Garden is bursting with opportunities for learning, and of course tasting, too! The main feature right now is the massive passion fruit vine that seems to be overtaking the world. The vines are dripping with green fruit that will be ripe when it turns a deep purple. We've let the vine grow unfettered because it's a great demonstration of one of our favorite garden lessons: growing food is like printing your own money! Those passion fruit would cost a pretty penny at your local store, but if you have the space and a little sun, you can grow your own!

Also in the garden, we have a TON of mint, strawberries, onions, towering sunflowers, and various herbs. We have a few fruit trees (fig, mulberry, orange, peach, nectarine, apricot, and apple) that provided delicious bounty in the spring. In particular, we had one very happy peach tree whose peaches were eagerly consumed by more than 100 children!

APCH members are excited to taste fruits and veggies they've never encountered before, including artichokes, apricots, mulberries and cabbage. Each week members go home with plants and seeds to start their own gardens, and we are looking forward to expanding our home garden and nutrition partnership in the coming months.

I'm a UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardener (translated, I'm here to help you grow food!), a radio show host on KPFK 90.7, and a co-founder of the Institute of Urban Ecology. You can find out more about great garden resources at www.instituteofurbanecology.org. Let's keep planting seeds of positive growth in our community, and share in the joy of cultivating a better tomorrow!

To get involved with the APCH Garden, write to volunteer@apch.org



CHEF JORGE'S NUTRITION ALERT: SYNTHETIC FOOD COLORS HARM CHILDREN

Synthetic food colorings are used almost exclusively in foods of low nutritional value, such as hot cheetos, soda, cake icings, and candy. Synthetic food coloring is a mixture of lab chemicals combined with petro-chemicals, and many contain cancer-causing substances.

You can find these dyes in canned green beans, children's cereals, ice cream, dairy products, and even produce, where they are used to create consumer "eye appeal."

Although the FDA does not mandate warning labels for dyes, FDA memos have stated that "for certain susceptible children with ADHD and other behavioral

problems the data suggest their condition may be exacerbated by substances in food, which includes food coloring dyes." Since there are no warning labels, it's our job as parents and mentors to take precautionary steps to make sure our children stay healthy both mentally and physically. Read the ingredients on all food before you purchase and stay away from sulfites, red dye #40, and yellow dye #5. Eat healthy, fresh snacks and home cooked meals, and stay away from junk food! Chef Jorge says... **IT'S YOUR ONLY BODY, PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!**

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

Barbara Arnold Doug Atchison Robyn M. Browning Debbie Cerrito	Sister Patricia Connor, RSHM Barbara Glazer Jill Goldman Louise Hamagami	Cyrus Hadidi Jonathan Hodge Robert Israel Alan Melina	Melissa Palazzo Julie Pilat Howard Sherwood Stephanie Sherwood	Dawn Taubin Hamed Tavajohi Marshall Wax Maryellen Zarakas					
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FORWARD THINKERS \$250 - \$499 Accessor Eyes Michael Aguirre Jeff Alperin Ann Soh Woods and Mel Woods Alisa Applegate Ayoa Charitable Foundation Lauren Bahar Andrea Ballas Ryan Basford Michael Bateman Be The Change, Inc	Tarabu Betserai Kirkland Amrita Bindra Greg Black Amy Blackman Borrowed Bling Ronald Boutelle Priscilla Brehm Gregory Brody Robyn Browning Buddha Jones, LLC James Burrows Flaven Butler Charles Cale Dolores Casey Rosemary Clubb Coalition for	Responsible Development Lisa and Jeff Cohen Joanne and Jim Cohen Marjorie Cohn Michael Collins Joseph Contreras Marsha Converse Scott Culbertson Barbara Delury Wayne Drake Nancy Edwards Craig Erwich Richard Feldman Susan Finesman Elina Freer	Gibson International Charitable Fund Robert Gilhuly Kelly Gilmore Alan Gindi Allan Golad Marilyn and Allen Golden Vernon Goldschmid Jeremy Goldstein Howard Gordon Dorian Graham Norton Grancell Marsha Grant Laurie Grah Roshone Harmon Katherine Hamrick	Charyn Harris Michele and Schuyler Havens Ryan Heegenberger Andrea Hein Paul Hi Hzaussen Loren Hill Elliott and Sofia Horowitz Peter Hufaker Eileen Ige-Wong Ann Irmas Robert Irmas Erika Jackson Judith Jones JP Morgan Chase & Co. Joel Kantor	Renee Keralian Masae Kodani Barbara Kordek Gary Krausz Judy Kravitz Barbara Lackman Mark LaFontant Barbara Leidenfrost Drew Lerner Gary Lichtig Oren Lieber Stacy Lifton Ed Lin Dawn Linrow Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust	Elaine Malouf Sal Maricaci Robert Marshall Elisbeth McGowan Mehta & Mann Nancy Meyer Jeffrey Mirvis Menoua Mirzakhanyan Nancy Myers National Philanthropic Trust Erin Truett Neighbor to Neighbor, Inc OrthoMatters, Inc. Cheryl Paller Kathleen Phillips	Loren Plotkin Steve Pollard Gilbert Radlino Sandra Rapke Ron Rappoport Rayna Lesser Hannaway and Kevin Hannaway Kevin Rhein Carla Roberts Darren Rose Safeco Insurance Sally Szegzer and Omid Sakhal Derrick Sawyer Michael Schenkman Lucinda Schriff	David and Linda Shehadeh Gilbert Radlino Shava Shakkhattai John Shane Collette Shelton Stuart Shikari Sidley Austin LLP Luce Silver-Greenberg Jocelyn Silverman Brian Sirtutz Lisa Smith Ben Snyder Margaret Spalenka Gary Spaz Spar Charles Stewart Linda Stone	Jane Strouse Lita Tavakoli Reva Shakkhattai Hillary Thomas Time Inc., Time To Give Back Campaign William Tully Margaret Venneri Robert Wade Walsh Charitable Fund Bunny Wasser Rachel Weber Ortiz Geoffrey Wharton Mirinda Wilson Karen and Rick Wolfen Brenda Zamaypa Judith Zaylor

APCH SHAHEEN SCHOLARSHIP REACHES TWO MAJOR MILESTONES!

When David and Linda Shaheen visited A Place Called Home in 2002, it fueled their desire to impact the lives of youth in South Central in a meaningful and permanent way. Partnering with APCH, the Shaheens began funding a scholarship program to give the youth of this at-risk community a doorway to higher education and opportunities to break generational cycles of poverty and limited life options.

Eleven years later, in 2013 we surpassed 200 APCH Shaheen Scholars! And, with additional support from the College Access Fund of California, California Community Foundation, Teens in Action, the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation and Dodgers General Manager, Ned Colletti, we awarded more than 80 college scholarships to new and returning students—the most ever in one year!

At APCH we understand that getting a student to college

is not enough – the goal is for them to graduate! A full-time Higher Education/Scholarship Coordinator and a Pathways Coordinator now support the students year round and assist students with acute needs and challenges, big and small. APCH Shaheen Scholars are required to maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA, complete 40 hours of community service and 80 hours of internship experience, attend mandatory summer intensive sessions, and stay connected with the APCH Shaheen Scholarship Program.

The APCH Shaheen Scholarship is a source of inspiration and represents a goal that hundreds of our younger members aspire to attain. Our 2013 Scholarship Luncheon was the biggest ever! Are you interested in getting involved as a scholarship application reader and interviewer? Please email our Higher Education Coordinator, at Scholarships@apch.org.

WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR 2013 GRADUATES

Tania Contreras
UCLA - Psychology

Daisy Pineda
Cal State Northridge - Journalism/Spanish

Laura Zavala
Cal State Dominguez Hills - Sociology

Janette Zuniga
UCLA - Psychology

Elijah Douresseau
Colorado College - English

Adriana Sifuentes
Cal State Dominguez Hills - Criminal Justice

Noe Zepeda
Cal State Northridge - Business/Finance



APCH PARTNERS WITH LAUSD TO GET LAPSED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BACK ON TRACK!

There are so many factors at APCH that contribute to the success of our members, and education is an essential one. With a high school dropout rate of 50% in our neighborhood, we are committed to providing an effective way for students to re-enter school and attain a high school diploma or GED certificate.

Now entering its 14th year, our APCH/LAUSD partnership **Alternative Education and Work Center** serviced 200 students between the ages of 16 and 18 over the 2012/13 academic year. A staff of three instructors, four teaching assistants, and five volunteers works with AEWC students from 8AM to 12PM, Monday through Friday, to support each student in completing 20 assignments weekly. We provide computer access and classes from 12:30PM to 3:00PM Monday through Thursday. Best of all, every student has full access to all the programs and services at APCH!

In 2012 we welcomed new AEWC leader, **Jose Alvarez**, whose dedication is encouraging students to achieve their academic goals and to take full advantage of this unique partnership. 32 students graduated this year, with 10 earning their GED certificates and the other 22 receiving High School diplomas from the LAUSD Adult Education Division. APCH is proud of our longtime collaboration and we look forward to the upcoming academic year!

LIFE MENTORING LEAD. INFLUENCE. FOSTER. EMPOWER.

In 2013 we launched our new **LIFE Mentoring** program at A Place Called Home. Through matching our teens in one-to-one relationships with responsible, caring adults in the community, we are providing positive role models, encouragement and support for our members to reach their greatest potential.

Matches meet twice a month for a minimum of one year to participate in fun, educational and meaningful activities at APCH and around Los Angeles.

Thanks to the first group of amazing mentors that have stepped forward—**WILL YOU BE NEXT?** Please visit our website and go to **GET INVOLVED:LIFE MENTORING** to find out more. When the young people at A Place Called Home succeed, we all do!





GIRLS + POWER = GIRLPOWER!

At APCH we believe in “intentional evolution,” which is another way of saying we are always growing and changing and improving what we do and how we do it. Our **GirlPower Project** is a perfect example. With its concentrated and multi-faceted support for girls transitioning into womanhood, including opportunities to interact with professional women, visit a variety of workplaces and cultural sites, and participate in community volunteerism, the program has built a reputation to the point that just about every girl at APCH expects to be a part of it when they hit 14. We have to work on the capacity challenges, but for this year we had to cap enrollment at 15 girls between the ages of 14 and 18 years old.

How amazing to witness these girls, so dedicated to attending weekly meetings, listening to and supporting each other, participating in community events, and opening their hearts and minds to new ideas. The running themes for GirlPower in 2013 were, finding your voice, setting goals, and giving back to our community.

Initially many of the girls were timid. Although they attended A Place Called Home on a regular basis, many of them didn't know each other. The trust and safety of the GirlPower circle was essential for many of the girls who were going through personal hardships and challenges in life and school. The reassurance of her GirlPower sisters let each girl know that she was not alone. The girls shared and created bonds that will last a lifetime for many.

Some girls started out clueless as to what the future might hold for them and what their role in society would be. Over the course of eight months, they began to take ownership and responsibility for their lives, they found their voices, and at the culminating luncheon, they all had strong statements about who they are and who they want to become.

In their own words, GirlPower is hope, love, confidence, strength, compassion, unity, dreams, phenomenal, inspiring, family, independence and sisterhood.

Now we just have to figure out how to accommodate the dozens of girls who already want to sign up for the next session!

BOYPOWER, TOO!

In Spring 2013 our Bridge to the Future department launched a Rites of Passage component called **Journey**, an 18-week leadership and mentoring initiative to support the development of boys 14-18 years old as they transition into manhood.

Like our established GirlPower program, Journey takes a multifaceted approach, including motivational guest speakers, educational workshops and community-based activities and opportunities designed to expand boys' personal and worldviews. Through exploring gender issues and what it means to “be a man” in our culture, Journey enables boys begin envisioning themselves as the men they aspire to be—men who can be strong and masculine, while developing their capacities for kindness, empathy, and caring for others.

Our first annual Journey Culminating Dinner at Mercado La Paloma was honored to include guest speaker, Coach Frank Thomas, Executive Director of Positive Alternatives for Youth and author of “Rise: Even Death Can't Stop Me.” Mr. Thomas spoke about the ideals of manhood and many of our young men stated that they identified with his story.

There is so much more ahead for Journey, and with GirlPower and the launch of the APCH LIFE Mentoring program, APCH is creating pathways and bridges that extend beyond our campus to stay connected and support young people as they begin new chapters as active and empowered citizens of the world. You can get involved! volunteer@apch.org





OUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSET: STAKEHOLDERS

Each year our Executive Director hosts a STAKEHOLDERS CIRCLE gathering for parents, members, staff, volunteers, and members of our Board of Directors and Leadership Council, to LISTEN to the voices of the youth and families we serve; SHARE updates and new directions for APCH; increase UNDERSTANDING of APCH and gather NEW IDEAS; and create SHARED VISION and encourage INVOLVEMENT in APCH's future

On May 11, 2013, our circle included five parents and 10 members ranging in age from middle school through college. The remaining 14 were a mix of staff, volunteers, Board members and facilitators. We introduced ourselves and reviewed progress over the preceding year. Then we split into mixed focus groups to discuss community needs and ideas for improvements at APCH. Here are a few key suggestions that were put together to present to the Board of Directors:

- Stronger academic tracking for students to determine tutoring needs
- Expand LIFE Mentoring program to include middle school students
- More peer to peer mentoring and older members mentoring younger ones
- More nature programs and field trips out of the City
- Have current college scholars give college counseling in the community
- Career counseling for youth
- Expand hours to allow for evening study time
- Make parent involvement mandatory
- Create an annual event for APCH families to perform a large-scale community service project

And, for the third year in a row, a FLASH FORWARD Committee was formed to come up with a short term important special APCH project. Conditions: must cost under \$1,000 and must be completed before next year's Stakeholders Circle. Last year the group produced a CPR training event for teens and parents and certified more than 15 attendees! Check the next HOMEFRONT to see what they came up with!



AT APCH, PARENTS ARE PARTNERS

Parent involvement is a key factor in a child's development, and at A Place Called Home we are committed to involving parents and guardians in our work and strengthening their relationships with their children. Through parent trainings, leadership opportunities and our Parent Partnership Circle, we are developing a foundation for ensuring student success by supporting our parents in becoming the strong leaders and advocates they are meant to be.

The APCH Parent Partnership Circle comprises parents and guardians that meet twice a month, and in 2013 its membership grew from just 15 parents to 40 committed, loving individuals who take time out of their full schedules to partner with APCH in making a positive difference in our community. These parents are not only participating in the Circle, but many also volunteering their time in the APCH kitchen, at community events, and with fundraising. Perhaps the most impressive aspect of our Parent Partnership Circle is the fact that all APCH parent programs are now being designed by the parents themselves, including our 2013 Zumba and Computer Literacy classes. And the Circle has decided to address a broader spectrum of important issues in South Central.

Our new Parent Summit is a conference to be held twice a year at APCH. Launched in Spring 2013, our inaugural Parent Summit was a vivid testament to the effectiveness and tenacity of our parent leaders. With three guest speakers and eight APCH staff leading and supporting, it featured classes with titles such as: The Reclassification Process of English Language Learners, How to Support Academic Achievement at Home, The Path To College, and Knowing Your Rights As Parents Within the School System. Dozens of APCH parents left the Summit with valuable tools and resources to better support their children on their educational and developmental paths.

The Parent Partnership Circle went on to host a Financial Literacy class in the summer, thanks to a partnership with City National Bank; and is hosting a Fitness Certification Class in the Fall with help from Jubilee Consortium. Two of our mothers, Maria Sanchez and Maria Pineda, have begun an initiative to assess the needs of the families served at APCH. They will be invited to bring their findings to our annual APCH Stakeholders Circle, which convenes parents, staff, youth members and volunteers to discuss ways to strengthen APCH's approach to serving the community.

APCH believes in leading and serving by following its constituents, and in partnering with parents we are working to create a community that includes strong families empowered to raise healthy, directed and fully supported young people. If you are an APCH parent, please ask our Membership staff how you can get involved!

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The APCH Leadership Council (LC) is a diverse group of young professionals who engage in community involvement and service through APCH, and manage several important events and special initiatives in support of the organization, including our annual Stars & Strikes Celebrity Bowling and Poker Tournament, and the A Place Called Home for the Holidays Toy Drive. In 2013, LC member Kate Christensen spearheaded an initiative that supported two of our APCH teens in going to Japan for six weeks!

Service on our Leadership Council is also a stepping stone and learning opportunity for young professionals interested in ultimately serving on the Board of Directors at A Place Called Home.

Right now the LC going through an exciting evolution that will increase its impact in the community that APCH serves. The Executive Service Corps has come aboard to consult with Co-Chairs Debbie Cerrito and Jonathan Hodge, in formulating a more structured approach and helping to define the LC's long term goals in alignment with our exciting new Strategic Plan.

As APCH continues to grow, so will the LC be growing its membership and outreach. To learn more about the LC and how YOU can get involved, please visit our website and click on GET INVOLVED.

BACK TO SCHOOL FESTIVAL!

What better way to end a fantastic summer and welcome another exciting school year than with our annual Back to School Festival! Thanks to SPONSORS All APCH Members receive school supplies for the new school year, including backpacks, notebooks, pens, and pencils. And, thanks to the awesome Shoe Crew, for the second year in a row, hundreds of South Central youngsters got brand new shoes!!

To support our amazing Summers and Back to School support for children, please visit [GET INVOLVED](#) or [DONATE](#) on our website: [apch.org](#)



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EVENTS

A Place Called Home is a vibrant community hub, with activities for the families we serve and the surrounding community all year long! We work closely with our Council District 9 office and community partners such as All People's Community Center, CD Tech and the Coalition for Responsible Community Development. APCH represents on the Sustainable Communities Coalition, the Pedestrian Advisory Board, Safe Pathways to Schools, the CD 9 Coalition, The South Central Mobility Committee and the Central Avenue Business Association. In 2013 our Associate Director of Community Initiatives, Gilbert Radillo, was voted president of the Newton Community Police Advisory Board, with a focus on helping community members become self reliant. Throughout the year we produce numerous events that are open to our entire community, including:

•CINDERELLA & PRINCE CHARMING PROJECT

In April 2013 850 girls and 200 boys from South Central and greater L.A. attended self-improvement and empowerment workshops at APCH and learned about ways to make a difference in their own communities. After which they all received FREE formal attire for their proms and graduations!



•COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

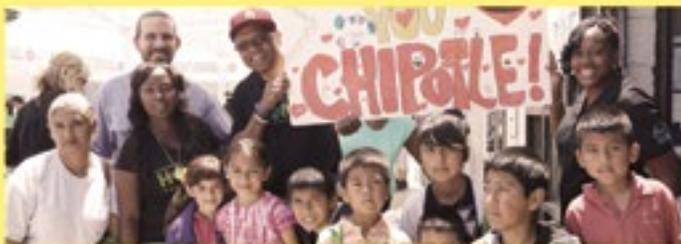
Once again, in 2013 APCH served up a feast to more than 1,000 community members, and sent most home with bags of groceries, too! Thank you Coldwell Banker and Whole Foods Market for providing the dinners, groceries and décor, and thanks to all our volunteers!!

•BACK TO SCHOOL FEST

New shoes and a backpack filled with the right supplies can make all the difference when you're starting back at school, and in 2013 APCH again made sure that our students and hundreds more from the community around us had everything they needed! Thank you TJX and Herbalife for your strong support for this event!

•HEALTH & GARDEN EXPO

Emphasizing nutrition, fresh healthy food, and taking control of one's own well being, our first annual event in 2013 was a big hit, with more than 20 community partners represented and more than 500 in attendance. Thank you Chipotle and United Health Care for your sponsorship and the yummy burritos!



VOLUNTEER FOR JUST ONE DAY

Every day, volunteers walk through the doors at APCH not knowing what to expect, and each day they find out what just one day can do – it can put a smile on a child's face by encouraging them in art or sports, it can deliver meals to hungry families for Thanksgiving, and it can certainly challenge any preconceptions about the lives lived in South Central Los Angeles.

At APCH, the mission of the volunteer program is to mobilize those that want to help and get them to have fun, work hard and take on community needs through volunteerism. With over 21,000 hours clocked in the past year, our volunteers sure do deliver! By getting involved in every department on our campus, these dedicated individuals get to see firsthand the effect they have on every APCH member's life. Each volunteer story is unique and yet all share the spirit of giving generously and feeling the glow that comes from making a difference.

By spending just one day at APCH, this volunteer discovered her own joy through helping:

"One of my favorite experiences with A Place Called Home was... when I got to lend a hand helping with the Cinderella & Prince Charming Project... The girls we saw on Friday were a variety of shapes and sizes, all bringing with them their own personalities and insecurities... One young girl, seven months pregnant, had experienced so much frustration and was feeling so fed up that it took nine volunteers to find her a dress, but when they did, the whole room was elated. We all cheered her on as she looked in the mirror and saw a beautiful young woman looking back."

No matter your background, every person can offer passion, experience and talent that will make a difference at APCH and expand our family. What will your special contribution be? volunteer@apch.org

STARS FILL THE HOUSE FOR STARS & STRIKES CELEBRITY BOWLING AND POKER FUNDRAISER

The Wanted, Nick Cannon, Will.i.am, Akon, Jason Derulo and Howie Mandel were among more than 400 celebrities and guests that took to the lanes and poker tables for a night of fun at A Place Called Home's 7th Annual Stars & Strikes Celebrity Bowling & Poker Tournament. The dedication and long hours put in by APCH Leadership Council* superstars, Debbie Cerrito, Allison Crandall, Kate Christenson, Danielle Djansezian, Jonathan Hodge, Simi Dube, Sarah Duru, Jennifer Koster, Alex Larson, Lisa Masters, Tamara Muzac, Prophet, Louie Rubio, Marshall Smith, Maggie Venneri and Imer Vigil paid off, as the event raised \$150,000 for A Place Called Home's free programs for youth and families!

A special shout-out to Julie Pilat, founding member of the Leadership Council and veteran of all seven 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 will be on March 20, 2014 at PINZ.



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

2013 GIRLPOWER AWARDS CELEBRATE WOMEN IN PHILANTHROPY, SOCIAL CHANGE AND BUSINESS INNOVATION



More than 350 friends and supporters joined APCH at the Beverly Hills Hotel in May 2013 to honor our APCH GirlPower Honorees. Led by Co-Chairs Robyn Browning, Louise Hamagami and Jill Goldman, the event raised \$248,000 for APCH's FREE programs and services.

Dana Green received the 2013 Legacy Award, in recognition of her founding the Cinderella Project (now the Cinderella & Prince Charming Project) at APCH 11 years ago. Ms. Green is the Executive Director of Media Relations at Disney Channels.

Amy Ziering, award winning documentary director and producer whose most recent film, *The Invisible War*, is a groundbreaking investigation into the rape epidemic in the U.S. military, was honored with our 2013 Social Change Award.

Susan Feldman and **Alison Picnus**, co-founders of One Kings Lane, received the 2013 Innovators Award for their innovation, entrepreneurial success and philanthropy.

The APCH GirlPower 'twens' and teens were featured honorees, too, and the GirlPower show was co-hosted by actress and longtime supporter, Shondrella Avery, and APCH Shaheen Scholar, Berenice Bautista. APCH's band, 29 Live, and our Dance Company rounded out the dynamic program.

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

SAVE THE DATE: The next GirlPower Awards Luncheon will be on May 22, 2014.

**AT OUR ANNUAL GALA FOR THE CHILDREN
THE FANCIEST BALLROOM IN L.A. BECOMES
A PLACE CALLED HOME!**



Three remarkable individuals who are making a difference in the world and at APCH were honored at APCH's 2012 Gala for Children – Show business dynamo, **Nick Cannon**; long time board member and entrepreneur, **Bob Israel**; and our beloved Director of Counseling at APCH, **Dr. Yvonne Styles**. The Beverly Wilshire felt like A Place Called Home as our Youth Ambassadors warmly welcomed guests, and the APCH dancers and band put on another outstanding show! Throughout the evening, APCH families, members and alums touched the hearts of all with stories about how APCH empowers them to overcome adversity and build up their lives. The Gala raised a million dollars to support our FREE programs for the thousands of young people, families and community members we serve throughout the year!

On December 11, 2013 at the Beverly Wilshire, A Place Called Home will celebrate 20 years of love and service to our community. This year we are thrilled to be honoring three amazing honorees, including longtime APCH supporter, **Jack Suzar** and **Sister Patricia Connor, RSHM and The Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary**. It's going to be another great evening overflowing with hope, celebration, fun and surprises. Please join us and EmCee **John Salley**! For more information, please call Grant Associates, at 323-904-4400 or visit our website: www.apch.org.

SAVE THE DATE: December 11, 2013

**SAVE THE DATE!
DECEMBER 11, 2013**

**GALA
FOR THE CHILDREN
2013**

THE BEVERLY WILSHIRE



Jack Suzar, Honoree



Sister Patricia Connor, RSHM
Honoree



John Salley, EmCee

IT ALL STARTED WITH A DREAM...



A VISIT WITH APCH FOUNDER, DEBRAH CONSTANCE 20 YEARS LATER...

HOMEFRONT: How and why did you start A Place Called Home?

DEBRAH: I started A Place Called Home after I saw that movie "Stand & Deliver" and I was so moved by Jaime Escalante and his teaching of the children in South Central, and then two weeks later I saw a full page ad in the L.A. Times about Roland Ganges, who taught at Jefferson High School. At that time I was Vice President of Jon Douglas, one of the largest real estate firms in California, and I was in charge of marketing and public relations.

I went to Mr. Douglas and I said, "Why don't we fund this teacher in the inner city?" He said, "What good will that do?" I said, "That will give you great PR because you'll be helping so many children." He said, "OK." So, I had



MEET SISTER PAT A HEROINE AT APCH

HOMEFRONT: How were you initially introduced to A Place Called Home?

SISTER PAT: I had been out of the country for 10 years and when I came back to the United States, the community that I belonged to, the Religious Sacred Heart of Mary, gave me the opportunity for a Sabbatical. I spent the first 4 months at Boston College and I had the green light to do volunteering in South Central Los Angeles for the second part. I heard about APCH and when I met Debrah Constance she said, "What can you do?" I said, "Well I'm a teacher so I would imagine I could tutor," and she signed me up right away. It's now been 16 years and I've done just about everything at APCH at one time or another.



Snookie's Cookies and milk delivered to Roland Ganges for his class, and one day I got a call and he said, "This is Roland Ganges and I don't want money, I want your time. I want you to come down here." I thought he could be nuts.

But, I went to South Central and I walked into Roland's classroom and life as I had known it was over. I instantly fell in love with his kids and he said, "These children have never been out of South Central." So I involved them with all my charity work. I was on the board of Alternative Living for the Aging, and the National Council of Jewish Women, and the Clare Foundation. We did "workouts for the homeless." I had the children sent out to different gyms all over California and they handed out T-shirts and collected money for the homeless. Everybody's life changed. I started a hike-a-month program, and a mentoring program and I got the real estate brokers from Jon Douglas involved. One day the Jon Douglas attorney said, "You can't do this. A broker could get shot in South Central, the kids could get harmed, anything could happen!"

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HF: What was the community like back in the mid-90s?

SP: There had been a lot of neglect in the area, which caused a lot of frustration among people. There were a lot of influences that were destructive: gangs, drugs and youngsters dropping out at a high rate. Some of those same influences continue of course. There have been a lot of positive changes in the neighborhood as well. But at that time, it was difficult.

HF: What impact did APCH have on the young people who attended?

SP: I could see the pull that certain influences had on their life. We've had some very tragic situations, a few with young people I've been very close to. One of them was like a son to me, Abel, who was killed on 28th street. It was devastating and I don't think there's a time I ever come down here that I don't think of Abel. He tried to cut the ties that he had, but I began to see that if we really want to help youngsters out of that downward spiral they need to have education and the possibility of being able to work. That changes them. Once they're able to work and earn money, their whole self-esteem changes. They're able to give to their family and it just makes all the difference. I think that APCH was making a great difference then, certainly as it has over the years and it is doing tremendously today. They got interested in other things and they are drawn in by dance, music, mentoring or the AEWC program with LAUSD and they learn life skills and can get an education. It is great for them to have a place to go.

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HOME FOR WORDS

POETRY BY OUR MEMBERS

SandCastles

By: Sharay Valencia

Fighting with a friend just isn't cool
You feel like you're drowning in a pool
You feel like you're trapped
In a room with no happiness
When you fight with your best friend
You feel like you've just lost everything
Like a train just hit you
Leaving you there with no one to help you

You remember all that you just lost
Like that one time
When she gave up going to six flags
Just to come to your house
Cause of an insignificant problem you had
Or when she gave you her sandals
At the waterpark because you lost yours

All that swept away now
Like when the wave swept away
Our beautiful sandcastle we made
I just wish that never would've happened
But it did and now
You're just not yourself.

The Weed

By Isaias Estrada

In a field so beautiful
in a meadow of roses
lies a disgusting weed
it has grown among the beautiful roses

The weed was never noticed
it was always overshadowed by the roses
it had done nothing but want to be among them

One bad day the sun shined too bright
It burned the many of the roses
those who were left screamed and blamed the weed

The gardener found the weed
and without hesitation killed it

The weed never did any harm
the weed did nothing
but because it was there
disgusting
making the garden ugly
taking up room

The life of a weed ends sadly
never being able to do anything
always being the disgusting,
ugly weed that took up space
being the only flower to be hated

Even it knows it's for the best
for a life which is hated
is a life not worth having

Summer

By Jesus Rodriguez

What does it mean?
It's going to the beach,
Watching movies on Friday
Hanging out with friends
Playing sports
Painting
Drawing
And dancing
No need to worry
Problems here melt like ice cream
It's like Disneyland, happiest place on earth
Playing like a rockstar
Piano
Flute
And recording,
Filming like a pro
It's free time, no school.
It's fun and friends
Where is this you might ask?
It's not back home
But here
At APCH
It's all here
At APCH

Mom

By Jesus Rodriguez
12 years old

Personality always bright
Hair Black as can be
Works everyday to show us the light

Cares about us everyday
Feeds us love
Always there to show us the way

There when we are blue
Always there for us
Whenever we need a talking to

There to fight
The One I love
Always doing what's right

Sad when I do something bad
Sad when something bad happens
But always finds a way to be glad

Always wanting me to have fun
She could be anyone
But she is my mom

Encouragement

By Daniel Ortega

When times get hard
Always look to the stars
Follow your dreams
And you will get far
Open your eyes
You will see
That we are not blind
All you need is enlightenment
From there we will fly
If your soul gets filled with discouragement
Remember this always
Reach for the sky
We will all fly

Future

By Anonymous

My hope is that I find you
Sitting on my porch
Or sitting in my desk at school
My hope is that it's easy
Like breathing air
Or watching sunsets
My hope is that you're cool
Like fireworks in July
Or the new iPhone coming out next year
My hope is that you allow me to help
My hope is that you grow and be great
My hope is that you make my family proud
My hope is that my future is all these things
That I become what I see in me
I am the future
And I will be Amazing.

Nature

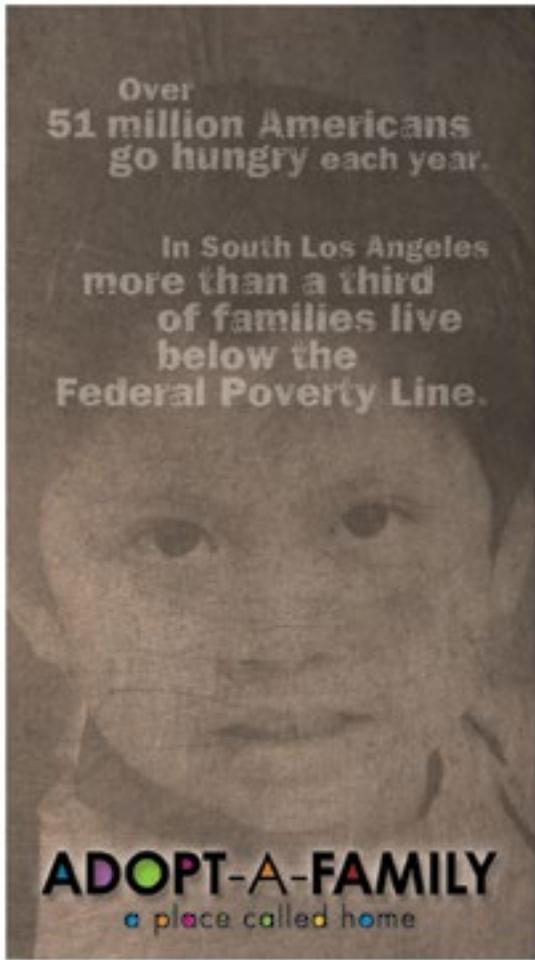
By OM

I saw the hills today
they swayed back and forth
Sun was warm and the wind blew
it felt amazing

I walked a small road of dirt
every step my shoes got dirtier
But I didn't care
I felt like that's what I was meant to do
get dirty

I looked up
a flock of birds flew across
I want to be one of them
I bet they feel that wind all the time
I bet their wings feel awesome
I want that feeling of freedom

I saw the hills today
they swayed back and forth
today was beautiful



YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Support APCH member families that our Counseling Department has identified as having urgent needs. You can make their Holidays special and/or help all year-round.

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

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

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

Place Called Home
Attn: Adopt-A-Family
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.

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I didn't listen. I never listen. I'm not good at following rules; everybody knows that. I met with David Crippens, who was Vice President of KCET. He said, "Debrah what do you want to do with the rest of your life?" I said, "All I want to do is help the kids at Jefferson High School. But, I can't. I don't have a high school diploma. I never graduated from anything." David said, "You can do this. Make a list of what you want to do and what you need and get your nonprofit status."

So, I resigned, and Jon Douglas gave me \$50,000 in severance pay, which is what I used to start APCH. I went around to look for property and I found Bishop Richardson, who welcomed me and the kids to his church. At one point we had hundreds of gang members running up and down the stairs and that's when we decided we needed a bigger space.

I had already been through cancer, child abuse, spousal abuse, alcoholism, drug addiction, and drug dealing. When I started A Place Called Home, I used all these experiences as gifts and we created a dream family. My whole life and my whole love are those children. When I looked at the gang members, they were children to me. I could always see God when I looked in their eyes and that's how it is with all the children at A Place Called Home. It was just pure love and that's what it is today.

Thank you, Debrah, for planting and nurturing the seeds of APCH – we love you. It's been an amazing 20 years, and there is so much more to come! To read the full interview and learn more about Debrah, go to our website (apch.org) and click on: ABOUT US : FOUNDER

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HF: How has being involved with A Place Called Home affected your life and work?

SP: If anything I've become more convinced of certain values that I have- how important it is to invest in our children and when I say invest, I mean with all the resources that we have – time, experience, knowledge, financially if one can. I believe the children need us, they need caring adults and they need someone to listen to and to be able to verbalize a lot of the frustrations they experience, a lot of the alienation that they're picking up. I can honestly say that my life has been so enriched by the children and the families of A Place Called Home. They give me such life. Whenever I come down here, whenever I'm talking to them, whenever I'm meeting them, whenever I see them achieve a goal that they wanted to achieve, to becoming more of the person that they hoped to become, I just find it so tremendously fulfilling and purposeful. I carry A Place Called Home with me whatever I'm doing, wherever I'm going.

To read the entire interview with Sister Pat, please log on to apch.org and go to: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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!



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Many things go into making an organization successful, whether it's public, private or not-for-profit. Certainly, the dedication of employees, the leadership of management, and the focus of purpose are critical for any organization to succeed. In addition, however, the leadership provided by the governing body is of paramount importance in setting and achieving the entity's long term strategic goals.

A Place Called Home is very fortunate and blessed to have an outstanding Board of Directors. I recently had the pleasure of attending our annual Board of Directors Retreat, which is a two-day session devoted to thinking about APCH's role in the community, current strengths and weaknesses, and future goals. When I had a chance to reflect on the event, I was so proud of my fellow directors for the clear passion they shared for the organization, as well as the thoughtful and intense discussions that demonstrated the responsibility they feel to help APCH thrive and grow.

The culmination of the 2013 Board Retreat was the approval of APCH's next Strategic Plan, which will allow the center to both deepen the opportunities for members of APCH, and expand the number of members we can serve. All of us who care about APCH will have significant work to do to bring this plan to fruition, but for now please join me in thanking my fellow directors for the contributions they have made to the ongoing improvement of a great organization.


Cyrus Hadidi

Debrah Constance

Founder

Jonathan Zeichner

Executive Director

APCH Board of Directors

Cyrus Hadidi

Chairman

Doug Atchison

Co-Vice Chairman

Dawn Taubin

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Jonathan Hodge

Robert Israel

Alan Melina

Julie Pilat

Howard Sherwood

Stephanie Sherwood

Hamed Tavajohi

Marshall Wax

NEW DIRECTORS JOIN APCH BOARD AT EXCITING TIME



As APCH moves into a period of growth and expanded services, we are pleased to welcome four outstanding new Board Directors, all of whom have already hit the ground in motion!

Barbara Arnold is a retired Vice President with Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. where she worked in its Legal and Corporate Responsibility group as well as Human Resources. A recent graduate of the Riordan Leadership Institute, which develops business professionals for lifelong service in the nonprofit community, as well as a current and prior member of other non-profit boards.



Barbara Glazer is an experienced and respected creative advertising executive in the entertainment business, and cofounder of The Ant Farm, an entertainment marketing firm; managing partner of Picture Head, a Hollywood based post production company; partner in Howling Entertainment, a music publishing and production company; and a Managing Member Of AngelVision Investors. She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



Melissa Palazzo is an executive with over 20 years' experience in media across the entertainment industry. She is currently President and Chief Operating Officer of The Ant Farm, a leading entertainment advertising agency working on award winning campaigns for some of the biggest names in entertainment. She has held leadership positions at Ketchum Public Relations, USA Networks, Sony Pictures and Miramax Films.



Hamed Tavajohi migrated to the United States from Iran in 1987 and settled in California. While attending California State University Fullerton, he got a part time job working as bank teller which began his career in banking, and he is now Regional Business Banking Manager at Bank of the West, where he oversees the Southern/Central California & Las Vegas Markets.

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

Kate Christensen

Allison Copes

Allison Crandall

Danielle Djansezian

Simi Dube

Sarah Duru

Bennett Johnson

Jennifer Koster

Alex Larson

Lisa Masters

Tamara Muzac, MBA

Amanda Plisner

Louie Rubio

Marshall Smith

Maggie Venneri

Imer Vigil



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(323) 232-7653 • www.apch.org



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2013-2014 APCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2013	what	when & where	details	get involved
OCTOBER 25	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 27	Community Thanksgiving Dinner & Grocery Distribution	APCH All Day	APCH Distributes Groceries and Serves Dinner for 1,200 community members in need, and attempts to set a Guinness Book World Record!	Calling all volunteers. Please email volunteer@apch.org
DECEMBER 6	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
DECEMBER 10	Holiday Toy Drive Party	TBA - check our website for updates 7PM - 12AM	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 11 (subject to change)	APCH Gala for the Children – it's our 20th Anniversary!	Beverly Wilshire Hotel 6PM – 9PM	Please join us for our biggest fundraiser of the year as we celebrate 20 years of success for APCH youth.	For ticket & sponsorship information please go to apch.org and click on TICKETS/SPONSORSHIPS or contact Rebecca Mizrahi at (323) 904-4400 or rebecca@grantevents.com
DECEMBER 20	A Place Called Home for the Holidays Festival Preparation and SetUp	APCH Afternoon	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 21	A Place Called Home for the Holidays Festival & Gift Distribution	APCH All Day	A fun & festive day for hundreds of South Central families in need	To volunteer, email volunteer@apch.org
DECEMBER 22 – JAN 1	APCH Holiday Break		APCH Closed. Center reopens Thursday January 2, 2014.	
2014	what	when & where	details	get involved
JANUARY 4	Jive Live New Year's Run		Join the Race! Train up and get ready for the 2nd annual Jive Live New Year's Race, with APCH as the Official Charity!	Get fit & raise funds! Register to join Team APCH. Get more info: www.newyearsrace.com
JANUARY 25	Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service APCH Volunteer Awards Ceremony		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, 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 visit apch.org and click on TICKETS/SPONSORSHIPS or contact Scott Culbertson at (323) 232-7653 x2238 or scott@apch.org
APRIL 14-18 (subject to change)	APCH Spring Break		APCH Closed to Members. Center reopens on April 21.	
APRIL 11-12	Cinderella & Prince Charming Pay it Forward Project		L.A. teens learn about inner beauty and strength, and outer generosity, and go home with fabulous dresses & suits for Prom & Graduation.	Donate dresses, suits, shoes, purses, jewelry, ties, shirts and belts. To volunteer, email: cinderellaproject@apch.org
APRIL 26	APCH at William Shatner's Celebrity Horse Show	L.A. Equestrian Center	Come enjoy an amazing horse show, silent auction, dinner & music with Captain Kirk and friends, all to benefit APCH and other worthy charities!	For ticket information, please visit apch.org and click on TICKETS/SPONSORSHIPS
MAY 16-18	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 17	GirlPower Awards Luncheon & Boutique	The Beverly Hills Hotel 10AM – 2PM	This event honors women who inspire us and 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