



Los Angeles  
Child Guidance  
Clinic

SUMMER 2006

# in touch



## American Psychiatric Association Honors Clinic with National Award

The Clinic is pleased to announce that its First Steps Program has received the American Psychiatric Association's 2006 Award for Advancing Minority Mental Health. This prestigious award is made annually to honor psychiatrists and direct service programs that undertake innovative efforts to raise awareness of mental illness in underserved minority communities and increase access to quality mental health services in those communities. The award was presented to Clinic board member Dr. Quinton

James at the Association's annual meeting in Toronto, Canada on May 20, 2006.

First Steps is a home visiting program which increases access to early intervention mental health services for families with infants and toddlers experiencing multiple stressors, including poverty, language or cultural differences, isolation, mental health problems, domestic violence and/or substance abuse.

Parents/caregivers engaged in treatment are able to successfully demonstrate improved interaction styles with their infants and toddlers. They also demonstrate improved understanding of the developmental needs of their



Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Burke (far right) presents a resolution in honor of the Clinic receiving this national award. Pictured with the Supervisor are (L-R): Clinic board member, Martha de la Torre; Executive Director, Betsy Pfromm; Clinic board member, Dr. Quinton James; and Clinic Director of Early Intervention & Community Wellness, Dr. Barbara Stroud.

children and the importance of parent/caregiver interaction in promoting positive developmental outcomes, which greatly contributes to reducing future mental health problems for children. Most significant, children evaluated demonstrate improvement in their social and emotional functioning, as well as their developmental level.

The First Steps Program is one of six programs of the Clinic's Early Intervention and Community Wellness Division, serving as an important element in the continuum of early intervention and treatment services provided to over 1,400 children under the age of five, and their families, annually.



# Message from Chairperson: Two Years of Challenge and Reward

**A**s my term comes to a close, I would like to highlight some of the many exciting challenges and accomplishments that I had the honor of sharing in during my tenure.



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**ADVOCATING FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES** - The Clinic was actively involved in a) Securing the passage of the Mental Health Services Act, which will provide new mental health services to communities throughout California, and b) County and statewide efforts to promote the benefits of funding early intervention services for at risk populations of children five and younger.

**BUILDING CAPACITY** - With the goal of increasing service quality, productivity and overall effectiveness, we embarked on the multi-tiered process to purchase and install a Clinic Management Software System. A team of board members and staff conducted a comprehensive assessment, hired a consultant to serve as the project lead, determined specific software needs to develop an electronic chart system and solicited bids from technology vendors. This past March, we finalized a contract with UniCare and the implementation phase is underway.

**HOSTING STATEWIDE CONFERENCE** - With over 650 people in attendance, the Clinic hosted its second *Because We Care: An Early Intervention Mental Health Services Conference*. Dr. David Satcher, 16th Surgeon General of the United States, delivered the keynote address for the event which focused on reducing the impact of childhood trauma on children 0-5.

**RESPONDING TO CHANGING NEEDS** – Sadly, the Board made the decision to close the Burton Green School. We have taken great pride over the past 24 years in our nonpublic school’s special education services; however, we also recognize the changing funding landscape in which we operate and have decided to re-direct resources to serve larger numbers of children.

**INCREASING EXPERTISE** - To increase our capacity to effectively treat children and families who are experiencing multiple and ongoing traumas in their lives, the Clinic established a relationship with The Trauma Center in Boston to train staff Clinic-wide in an emerging model for treating complex trauma.

**NATIONAL RECOGNITION** - The First Steps Program was honored with the American Psychiatric Association’s prestigious *2006 Advancing Minority Mental Health Award* (see cover story); and in recognition of the Clinic’s use of professionally approved standards and practices in the delivery of job development services, the Life Learning Program received a three-year CARF accreditation.

My heartfelt thanks to fellow board members, advisory board members and staff for their efforts and dedication these past two years as we worked together to fulfill the Clinic’s mission. My deep appreciation to our many patrons – public funders, foundations, corporations, individuals, and collaborating agencies – who have joined our cause and helped to make a difference in the lives of countless children and families.

Michael W. Stoddard  
Chairperson of the Board

# Special Thanks



## New Supporters

- ♥ **Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)**  
Through the County Wraparound Approach Services Program, the Clinic will provide intensive team services to children at risk for out-of-home placement and their families/caregivers. This is an integrated, community-based approach to service delivery that is committed to doing “whatever it takes” to bring about the best possible outcomes for children and their families.
- ♥ **Our Weekly - \$850 In-Kind Value**  
The Los Angeles-based newspaper *Our Weekly* generously donated a quarter-page advertisement in honor of the Clinic receiving the American Psychiatric Association’s *2006 Advancing Minority Mental Health Award*. This publication reaches over 150,000 Los Angeles readers each week.

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## Old Friends

- ♥ **Chapman & Associates Charitable Foundation - \$20,000**  
Generously increasing their contribution to the Clinic this year, grant funds will be used to support the First Steps Program, serving families with infants and toddlers.
- ♥ **UniHealth Foundation - \$75,000**  
Providing a second year of grant funding to support the First Steps Program, at-risk families will receive critical support to help improve the developmental, social and emotional outcomes of their children.
- ♥ **Flora L. Thornton Foundation - \$25,000**  
Grant funds will be used to support the Stepping Up to School Readiness Program, providing mental health and supportive services to children, parents and teachers at 12 local Head Start Preschool Centers.



**The mission of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic is to provide quality mental health services to a community in great need by ensuring easy access and promoting early intervention.**



(L-R): Dr. Kay Song, Associate Vice President of USC Civic and Community Relations, Clinic's Executive Director, Betsy Pfromm, board member Dr. Quinton James and his wife Marcia.

## USC Honors Clinic Board Member

In recognition of his many years of community service as an advocate and provider of children's mental health services, Quinton James, M.D. was selected to receive the University of Southern California (USC) *2006 Good Neighbor Volunteer Award*. Each year, this award honors individuals for their commitment and work to enhance the quality of life for the people who live and work in the neighborhoods surrounding USC.

For over 45 years, Dr. James has pursued his passion to help children and families in Central and South Los Angeles. This has been realized through many endeavors, including his work with LAUSD as a child psychiatrist, serving as Chief of Child and Adolescents Services at King/Drew Hospital and Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at USC School of Medicine.

Dr. James' partnership with the Clinic began in 1961 when he served as a Fellow in Child Psychiatry at the Clinic through the USC School of Medicine collaborative and then a few years later became a Clinic staff psychiatrist. In 1991 Dr. James joined the board of directors and has been an integral part of the agency's leadership for the past 15 years, including serving as Chairperson. We are greatly appreciative for Dr. James' invaluable guidance and direction in the development and implementation of innovative programs and services that bring quality mental health care to children and their families.

### Did you know?

According to a National Institute of Mental Health study – an alarming 65% of boys and 75% of girls in juvenile detention have at least one mental disorder. We are incarcerating youth with mental disorders, some as young as 8 years old, rather than identifying their disorders early and intervening with appropriate treatment.

### We provide a solution:

The Clinic's *After-School Day Treatment Program* provides a nurturing and therapeutic child-friendly setting in which at risk children ages 5-10 feel safe working with treatment staff on their disruptive, impulsive, aggressive and socially maladaptive behaviors to become more skilled to develop healthy attachment, regulate their emotions, and learn new competencies. Program staff also partner with parents and collaborate with school personnel to effectively support children in reaching their individual goals. In addition to Clinic-based treatment, services are provided at school sites and in families' homes as needed.

Intensive, five days per week treatment includes:

- Individual, group and family therapy
- Skill-building activities
- Parent support



*Duffy the Clown and his son pair up to make balloon art for kids.*



*USC KidWatch (above) and USC School of Dentistry (right) provided support and services to event attendees.*



## 8th Annual Family FunFest

The Clinic held another successful Mental Health Awareness Fair, on May 20, 2006. The *Family FunFest* provided families in our surrounding neighborhoods with a free, fun and easily accessible event to learn about the continuum of mental health and supportive services available for children and their families. Clinic staff, board members and community partners welcomed over 600 children and families who enjoyed food, games

and crafts, balloon art, interactive workshops, pony rides, health screenings and many opportunities to learn about a variety of community health, social service and safety resources.

Thank you to the following organizations that helped the Clinic host this fun and informative day for families: PACE/Head Start, LAPD, USC Explorers, USC Kid Watch, USC School of Dentistry, *El Clasificado/Al Borde/Auto Plaza*,

West Torrance High School Key Club, Harvard-Radcliffe Club of Southern California, Jumbo Shrimp Circus Academy, Washington Mutual Bank, KCET, the EPICC (Expo Park Intergenerational Community Center) Teen Program, Crystal Stairs, and California Telephone Assistance Program.



*Shirlye Brox (far left), Assistant Vice President and Manager of the new Leimert Park Washington Mutual Bank teamed up with some of her staff to have cotton candy ready for kids at the FunFest.*



*Fran Wilson, (left), of Harvard-Radcliffe Club of Southern California and Fátima Vélez, of El Clasificado newspaper, volunteered to host the popular popcorn machine.*

# Bike Ride

On Saturday May 13th, 24 Clinic supporters geared up and joined board member John Liebman for the 11th Annual Le Tour de l'Orange Bike Ride. These dedicated bikers raised \$1,000 by completing the 44-mile scenic ride from Chatsworth to Santa Paula. Great thanks to "long time" riders of the event, as well as the many new Clinic supporters that joined this year for the first time.



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# e-news Update

This past April, the Clinic launched its first e-News Update, a brief electronic communiqué highlighting Clinic news and providing easy access to online donating and the Clinic Web site. To sign up to receive these periodic updates, send an email to [enews@lacgc.org](mailto:enews@lacgc.org).

**Come check us out at:  
[www.lacgc.org](http://www.lacgc.org)**

**Celebrating over 80 Years of  
Service to the Community!**

**Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic  
Established 1924**

**University Park Office**  
*Child and Youth Development Center  
and Administrative Offices*  
3031 South Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
(323) 373-2400

**Exposition Park Office**  
*The Harriet and Charles Luckman  
Building*  
3787 South Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
(323) 766-2345

**Leimert Park Office**  
4401 Crenshaw Boulevard, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90043  
(323) 290-8360

Access to voicemail for all three offices:  
(323) 766-2360

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Elizabeth W. Pfromm, M.S., MPA

- Affiliate of USC Keck School of Medicine, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
- Accredited by The Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission for Job Development and Placement Services
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**in touch**  
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