

in touch

Clinic Honors Contributions to Children's Mental Health and the Well-Being of Families



Clinic Board member Dr. Quinton James and California State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas.

With 200 people in attendance, on April 13th the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic hosted its inaugural Awards Luncheon, establishing *The Quinton James Award for Making A Difference*, which honored California State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas; and *The Evis Coda Award for Building Hope for Families*, which was awarded to Areta Crowell, Ph.D. The awards recognized Senator Ridley-Thomas and Dr. Crowell for their many years of service which have greatly improved the quality of life for families in underserved communities. NBC news reporter Ted Chen served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event, and was also recognized for his strong interest and support of the healthy well-being of our community.

As a Los Angeles City Councilmember, Senator Ridley-Thomas provided tremendous support in helping to establish the Clinic's Child and Youth Development Center which provides intensive mental health services to over 1,200 children and their families each year. As a member of the State Assembly for two terms he was actively involved in ensuring the effective implementation of the Mental Health Services Act, a State initiative designed to promote the mental health of children and families.

In this capacity he was appointed to the State Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, wherein he appointed the Clinic's Executive Director, Betsy Pfromm, to chair a special Mental Health Committee to solicit the input and counsel of various local mental health

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(L-R) Dr. Evis Coda, Dr. Areta Crowell, Betsy Pfromm, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic and David Ryu, Legislative Deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Burke.



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Message from Chairperson

This is a year of many *new* activities for the Clinic, transitioning and transforming us to be better equipped to do “whatever it takes” to help children and families feel hope and optimism as they partner with staff to reach their greatest potentials.

First, we have secured *new* funding through the Mental Health Services Act to increase our capacity as a service provider in a community with great need. We are well underway with the planning, design and training phases connected with the implementation of our *new* agencywide Clinic Management Software System. This electronic chart system will greatly increase our ability to track client data and outcomes, as well as improve the efficiencies of many internal systems.

Another *new* event that I am pleased to report on is that following a highly competitive application process, the Clinic was selected as one of 15 organizations across the country by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to be supported by their Caring Across Communities Initiative. A multi-year grant will support school-based mental health services for uninsured immigrant students attending a local elementary school. In addition to spearheading a local collaboration that will support the delivery of these services, Clinic staff will have the opportunity to participate in a national network to learn more about best practices and share their findings and experiences connected with school-based services.

And finally, in celebration of over 80 years of excellence in serving the community and in recognition of exceptional contributions in the field of children’s mental health, the Board of Directors established two *new* service awards. (See page one for details.) For many years to come, we look forward to honoring community leaders who demonstrate their commitment to finding ways to improve the quality of life for families in underserved communities.

Thank you for your support and partnership as we continue across our *new* horizons this year.




Thomas F. Trott, M.D., Ph.D.
Chairperson of the Board

Mental Health Month

On Tuesday, May 8, Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Burke called a press conference to promote May as Mental Health Month and help to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. Clinic staff joined with other leaders in the mental health service community to address the tragedy of the Virginia Tech shootings and promote the availability of mental health services in Los Angeles.



Photo caption: (L-R) Dr. Berta Ortiz from Kedren Community Mental Health Center; Mariko Kahn, Executive Director for Pacific Asian Counseling Services; Kita Curry, Executive Director of Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center; Nancy Carter of NAMI Urban Los Angeles; Betsy Pfromm, Executive Director of Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic; Herbert Hatanaka of Special Services Group; and Dr. Marvin Southard, Director of County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health receive proclamation from Supervisor Yvonne Burke (far right).

Special Thanks



New Supporters

♥ **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation - \$300,000**

Through its national initiative *Caring Across Communities*, grant funds will support trauma-informed, school-based mental health services for uninsured immigrant students attending Norwood Elementary School. Clinic staff will partner with school personnel, other service providers and parents to help children address issues and concerns that are barriers to their learning and success in the classroom.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans and works with a diverse group of organizations to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change.

♥ **Michael Niemeyer – Ceramic Tile Art**

Mr. Niemeyer has generously donated *My Red Boots*, a colorful raku-fired ceramic tile art piece created by artist Nina Kellogg. Many thanks to Clinic board member Robin Moody for facilitating this wonderful gift.

Old Friends

♥ **The Atlas Family Foundation - \$3,000**

The Foundation underwrote the presentations of nationally recognized early intervention experts at a daylong training conference. 130 local service providers including mental health professionals, social workers, nurses and daycare providers attended the event in April.

♥ **California Community Foundation – \$12,500**

♥ **Crail-Johnson Foundation – \$15,000**

Grant funds will support the First Steps Program, a home-visiting project that helps at risk families with infants and toddlers to build strong parent-child attachments by developing effective partnerships with parents.



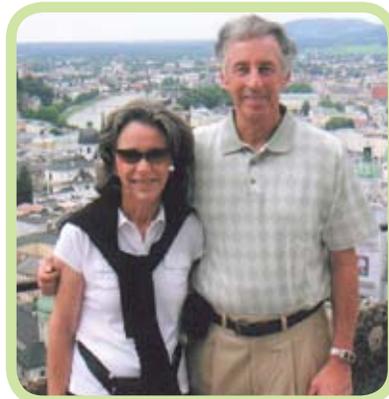
The mission of the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic is to provide quality mental health services to a community in great need by ensuring easy access and promoting early intervention.

Donor Profile: Sue Hochberg

Sue Hochberg grew up in the same Los Angeles neighborhood as Clinic board member David Hirsch, where their mothers were best friends. Over the years they have stayed in touch. In 1988, Sue's late husband, Steve Neuman, accepted an invitation from Mr. Hirsch to join the Clinic's board of directors. During his two-year term of service, Mr. Neuman recruited two new board members, Robert Brachman and Eugene Friedlander, who continue to serve on the board.

When Steve Neuman died in 1990, Mr. Friedlander and Mr. Brachman created the Steve Neuman Special Fund to honor his memory. Sue's family and friends donated generously to the Fund, creating a legacy which provides special event programming and unique experiences for youth served by the Clinic.

Since Sue and Larry Hochberg were married seven years ago, the Clinic has been the recipient of their generosity as they requested that family and friends make gifts to the Steve Neuman Special Fund in honor of their marriage. Further, each year they make generous contributions to the Fund. And, in recognition of her 70th birthday, Sue recently requested that her friends and family make a contribution to the Clinic. To date, 54 gifts totaling \$11,640 have been donated to the Steve Neuman Special Fund in honor of her birthday. The Clinic is grateful for having such dear friends like Larry and Sue Hochberg who have continued their interest and support of our efforts over so many years.



Sue and Larry Hochberg



Did you know?

There is a common misperception that young children do not suffer from mental health problems. In fact, Mental Health America estimates that more than 6 million children and adolescents across the country may suffer from a mental disorder that severely disrupts their ability to function at home, in school or in their community.

We provide a solution:

The Clinic offers easy access to an array of comprehensive mental health services designed to address the specific needs and barriers faced by children. Treatment strategies and models that strongly embrace themes of optimism, self-determination and inclusion in the community are employed, and Clinic staff partner with clients and their families to work towards healing, health and wholeness.



Board member Robin Moody (left) and artist Nina Kellogg with *My Red Boots* donated by Michael Niemeyer. Kellogg, a psychologist, has been creating colorful ceramic wall installation for the past 13 years.

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NBC News Anchor Ted Chen receives certificate of appreciation from Clinic's Executive Director Betsy Pfomm.

stakeholders so that the Senator could better understand the specific mental health issues, concerns and needs in South Los Angeles.

Areta Crowell, Ph.D., has been a strong and innovative leader in California's mental health system for over 40 years, influencing public policy and service delivery systems to ensure the best possible practices in the field. She served in the State of California Department of Health Services, as the Director of San Diego

County Mental Health Services, and as the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

Dr. Crowell also served on many critically important planning and advisory bodies, including: the Healthy Families Advisory Panel, Mental Health America (formerly the National Mental Health Association) and the California Institute of Mental Health.

Drs. James and Coda, for whom these awards are named, are both child psychiatrists who have worked with children and families in Los Angeles since the 1960s, and are longtime Clinic supporters.

Generously underwritten by the Clinic's Board of Directors, the Awards Luncheon was part of a daylong professional development training for local service providers that work with children to help improve their social

and emotional well-being. With support from The Atlas Family Foundation, experts in the field of early intervention, Patricia Van Horn Ph.D. and Chandra Gosh Ippen, Ph.D., presented on the topic of *Parent-Child Psychotherapy With Culturally Diverse Families*.



(L-R) Director of the Department of Mental Health Dr. Marvin Southard, Dr. Evis Coda, Dr. Quinton James with David Hirsch, Chairperson of Clinic's Development and Community Relations Committee.

Wells Fargo Honors Clinic Board Member

Providing tremendous support to its employees, Wells Fargo has established more than 75 different Team Member Resource Groups devoted to professional growth and education, community outreach, recruitment and retention, and customer insight. Individuals connected by a shared background, experience, or other affinities organize each Resource Group.

The Los Angeles Latino Team, which goes by the name Amigos, invited Clinic board member Martha de la Torre to make the keynote address at their annual kick-off event in March. Ms. de la Torre, founder and president of *El Clasificado*, a free, Spanish classified publication that



(L-R) Amigos representatives Alan Yabar and Julio Sanchez; Clinic board member Martha de la Torre; Debbi Winter, Clinic's Director of Development; and El Clasificado's Gabriela Martin del Campo, Senior Manager of Strategic Operations and Melvin J. Ortiz, New Media Development Manager.

reaches over 1,000,000 readers each week, shared with Amigos members many of her experiences and lessons learned around perseverance and overcoming obstacles as she created a business that would become a Hispanic Business 500 Company. She also described her deeply held values and passion for supporting the work that others do to improve the quality of life for families and children and spoke about her involvement with the Clinic since 1990. Ms. de la Torre generously donated the speaking honorarium she received from Amigos to the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic.

Clinic Staff Present at National Head Start Conference

For the past five years, the Clinic's Stepping Up to School Readiness Program has partnered with the Pacific Asian Consortium for Employment (PACE) to provide on-site services for children, parents and educators at 11 Head Start Centers operated by PACE. Clinic staff and Center staff work with children with or at-risk for emotional and behavioral problems, and their parents, to address a range of issues, preparing children to enter school ready to learn.

In April, Clinic and PACE staff presented at the 34th Annual Head Start Training Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Their presentation addressed best practices developed through the partnership between the Clinic and PACE, which provides direct services to children and parents; and training, consultation and support to preschool teachers and personnel. Over 3,000 early childhood educators, care providers and administrators from across the nation's Head Start systems attended the conference.



Celebrating over 80 Years of Service to the Community!

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Established 1924**

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